

THE HUMANITARIANS

Spanning six decades from the formation of the Save the Children Fund in 1919 to humanitarian interventions during the Vietnam War, *The Humanitarians* maps the national and international humanitarian efforts undertaken by Australians on behalf of child refugees. In this longitudinal study, Joy Damousi explores the shifting forms of humanitarian activity related to war refugee children over the twentieth century, from child sponsorship, the establishment of orphanages, fundraising, to aid and development schemes and campaigns for inter-country adoption. Framed by conceptualisations of the history of emotions, and the limits and possibilities afforded by empathy and compassion, she considers the vital role of women and includes studies of unknown but significant women humanitarian workers and their often-traumatic experience of international humanitarian work. Through an examination of the intersection between racial politics and war refugees, Damousi advances our understanding of humanitarianism over the twentieth century as a deeply racialised and multilayered practice.

JOY DAMOUSI is Professor of History and Director of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Australian Catholic University.

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THE HUMANITARIANS

Child War Refugees and Australian Humanitarianism
in a Transnational World, 1919–1975

JOY DAMOUSI

Australian Catholic University



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In memory of Donna Merwick Denning
(1932–2021)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACISS	Australian Council of International Social Service
ALP	Australian Labor Party
CORB	Children’s Overseas Reception Board
CPA	Communist Party of Australia
ML	Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NER	Near East Relief
NLA	National Library of Australia
PLAN	Foster Parents Plan
PROV	Public Records Office, Victoria
RAC	Rockefeller Archive Center, New York (Near East Relief Committee Records)
RSL	Returned and Services League of Australia
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SCFA	Save the Children Archive, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
SCIU	Save the Children International Union
SLNSW	State Library of New South Wales
SLV	State Library of Victoria
UMA	University of Melbourne Archives
UNAC	United Nations Appeal for Children
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
URI	University of Rhode Island, Newport, Rhode Island
WEA	Workers’ Educational Association
YA	Youth Aliyah

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