

European arrival in australia history essay



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A thousand years ago, Australia was already populated by the aborigines. Living primarily along the foreshores of the harbor, they fished and hunted in the waters and hinterlands of the area, and harvested food from the surrounding bush. In the 18th-century the British explored with the aim of increasing the size of their Empire. The British then sent convicts to the Australian continent because their prisons were extremely overcrowded, and the US colonies were no longer accepting British prisoners. Over a period of time, the aborigines progressively decreased in number.

This paper is motivated by a need to understand that the European arrival in Australia is an invasion. As more and more Europeans came to Australia to settle, the settlers did not have enough space. As they wanted to enlarge their settlement, they took over more Aboriginal land. The Aboriginals were not happy with what the settlers were doing. They didn't like how they were being treated and how the land was just taken away from them.

Dissatisfaction with the loss of land deepened day by day. At last Aboriginals and Europeans attack each other.

The aim of this paper, therefore, is to argue that the coming of Europeans to Australia was a white invasion not a settlement. European immigration to Australia caused the aborigines to have no land to live in and to suffer the loss of population through disease. The scope of the paper is confined in three ways: first, the period in this discussion is the first 100 years of settlement. Secondly, it concerns the [persecution by the Europeans to aborigines as well as unexpected outcome]. Third, only those who came to Australia are discussed.

To achieve this aim, the paper is structured as follows. The paper examines three key issues: first, the simple life of aborigines before the settlers came to Australia; secondly, the atrocity carried out by the Europeans on the aborigines; and thirdly, the diseases passed from Europeans to aborigines. The paper ends with a discussion of the horrible effects the Europeans give to the aborigines.

Life before the Europeans

The first point I would like to make is before Europeans came to Australia, aborigines had a really peaceful life. For example, up to 45, 000 years ago, aborigines have existed at Keilor near Melbourne [Broome, R.(1994): pp9]. They came because of warfare, famine or curiosity. At that time, there was no technology for them to construct their life. Perhaps for this reason, the environment shaped their semi-nomadic life. The men hunted for the larger game or marine creatures such as turtle or crocodile because these required stamina and speed. When the men were hard working, the women supplied the food to them, they brought in yams, fruits, vegetables, small animals or seeds for bread-making. Even the children collected fruits and small

opposition which would allow the convicts to defend themselves. Clearly, Europeans had done a lot of research to find which part of world is the best to develop their settlement. Faced to Australia, they would be so excited because there was least resistance and weak sense of self-protection. In 1788, the permanent settlement began comprised around 1350 people including ship crews, British officers, marine guards and their families, and convicts [<http://www.convictcreations.com/research/identity.htm>]. Perhaps the European settlers had been told to treat the natives with respect. However, most of the settlers were convicts who acted rough and brutal, they disobeyed the rule. This is why so many aborigines killed in the massacres. Aborigines were forced to retreat surrender to take out their land. When the Europeans settled on the land close to an aboriginal tribe, the aborigines had to moved to another land to protect them pushing away or being killed[Canberra: AGPS, 1974]. By the end of the nineteenth century the white men had settled on most of the livable land in Australia. As a result the Aboriginal population in Australia had dramatically decreased. From the statistic: There was below 1000 Aborigines in Victoria, below 5000 in Western Australia, below 25000 in Northern Territory, below 10000 Aborigines in New South Wales and there was less than 100 in Tasmania. These numbers have decrease from numbers of more than 100000 Aborigines as settlers took over Australia. [<http://socyberty.com/history/the-arrival-of-europeans-to-australia/>] We should have an option that Europeans were not just a settlement but a white invasion. Despite their original idea is not mean to cause a huge massacre and they want to share with natives, the aborigines were overrun by the white Europeans, they had nearly all their land taken away from them and very many of them were killed in massacres. <https://assignbuster.com/european-arrival-in-australia-history-essay/>

To aborigines, settlement brought these horrible things which finally lead us to conclude that Europeans were invaders.

Disease and health issues

Third, and most importantly, it is that Europeans not just bring the massacre but also bring the diseases to aborigines. The Australian environment was very harsh for a community without any technology, but they adapted very well. Their technology was not advanced, but it served them pretty well, and bred up their population somewhere between 200, 000 and 500, 000. Before Europeans came to Australia, the aborigines of Australia were a strong and healthy race of hunters and gatherers whose active lifestyle promoted good health[Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991: 3]. There were little evidence could be found that aborigines were illness or have disease, as a result it is no chance that they suffered diabetes, renal failure, coronary heart disease, cancer[Canberra: AGPS, 1988: 1-2]. Also aborigines had strong oral pharmacopoeia transfer from generation to generation[Alice Springs: IAD Press, 1995: 44-72]. It is no doubt that Europeans don't came to Australia, aborigines can have a healthy and non-illness life and free from disease, although they have not got any technology. However, things not just happen in our expected. After the European settlers arrived in Australia, aborigines began to suffer badly from diseases, to which they had no natural resistance. In particular, two plagues of small-pox in 1792 and 1822 swept through the Aboriginal populations and wiped many of them out [Canberra: AGPS, 1988: 1-2]. Tuberculosis, smallpox, venereal diseases and leprosy had disastrous effects, while influenza, measles, whooping-cough and the common cold could be just as deadly to a people with no previous contact with them. In

their family to offer their spiritual land to these savage. This loss reduced their chance for normal hunting and gathering, further affect their food supply and diet balance. The loss of land also reduced aborigines of their self-confidence and spirit. They thought giving their land is the only thing they can do, but they cannot realize that most of their lives would be also taken away. Diseases robbed aborigines of their spirit and ability to survive. Just several decades ago, disease were already being felt in the settled areas of southern Australia, then the aborigines groups breakdown rapidly. The impact of disease on the social structure of aboriginal groups and on population was profound.

Conclusion

To sum up, European arrived in Australia is totally damage the natives, the aborigines suffer great loss of the land and population. Generally, Europeans' settlement evolve to an invasion.