



ORIGIN-HISTORY OF ABORIGINES IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. M. Padmaja

Assistan Professor, UGC Centre for Southeast Asian & Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517 502.

ABSTRACT

Aborigines had walked to continent 38,000 years before. When the first fleet arrives, perhaps as many as 3, 00000 aborigines lived in Australia and they spoke about 300 different languages. Aborigines means 'Audi' the first human race natives of Australia. The present paper focuses its attention on origin and History of aborigines stolen generation and cultural and political status of aborigines.

KEYWORDS :

Introduction

World is composed of human beings. The life on earth started with unicellular amoeba to multicellular Homo sapiens sapiens, the evolution process has undergone changes from homogeneity to Heterogeneity and primitive to advance and simple to complex forms. Human origin has begin in Pleistocene Ice age. Man is a social political and thinking animal (Aristotle). The taxonomic order to which we belong primate has been mined extensively by anthropologists, biologists, psychologist and philosophers, among authors in the search for insights into what binds humans together with our primate cousins and at the same time what makes us uniquely human (Katherin C. Mackinnon and Agustin-fuentes, 2012, p.67). They are believed to be descendants of the first group of humans to migrate out of Africa about 60,000 years ago. Being the first humans to arrive in Australia about 50,000 years ago; the Aborigines discovered Australia. They were the first human inhabitants of Australia. This study, however, is not the first to contradict the popular theory that modern humans came from a single out-of-Africa migration wave into Europe, Asia, and Australia. Captain James Cook in 1717 discovered Australia. The convicts form European were sailed in a prison ship and settled at Australia and they are known as White people and Aborigines are known as natives. The white people have dominated the natives and has stolen their land, their offspring and each and everything. They had separate the generations and named as 'Stolen'. Australia is surrounded with Eucalyptus trees, and Christmas bush, Birds and Kangaroos, Marsupials. Australia is a major export of Coal and several metals like gold, copper, and Bauxite. Australia is most valuable agricultural resources and sheep graze pastoralism.

Human Rights and Stolen Generation

Michael Bachelard, aboriginal affairs Correspondent and former Press Gallery journalist opined n his book, *"The Great Land Grab"* (1998). The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) at its 54th session (March 1999) brought down highly damaging findings against the Australian Government (P. Munirathanam Reddy, 2009, P.49). Michael Dodson, a prominent Aboriginal Advocate was appointed its first Commissioner in 1993 for a term of 5 years. After Native Title Act came into existence, the Social Justice Commissioner has responsibility under that Act to report annually on the operation of the Act and its effect on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights of indigenous Australians. The Commissioner's annual reports were tabled in Federal Parliament.

Aboriginal Protection Acts formulated by the States and Territory governments of Australia, since the later part of 19th century, intended to assimilate half-caste Aborigines into the White society, made Chief Protectors of Aborigines as legal guardians of indigenous children under 21 years of age. White adaptive parents, or to special 'half-caste' or assimilation homes for care, control and training to become useful source of cheap labour. The policy and practice of Aboriginal 'child removal' had not been identified as a discrete historical problem until Peter Read published his seminal

essay, *"The Stolen Generations"* in 1981 (Manne, 2001, Pp. 28-29). Aboriginal people frequently refer the 'child removals' as 'taken' or 'stolen'. Read who examined the files concerning New South Wales Aboriginal child removal figure of 5625 believed that in Australian there may be 1,00,000 people of Aboriginal descent who did not know their families or the communities from whence they came (Read, Peter, , 1982). Howard Government nominated Senator Ridgeway in 1999 to represent Democrats on CAR. It also included 'national apology' and described Aborigines as 'owners and custodians of traditional lands and waters' (Sanders W, 2002 Pp. 7-8). On 10 May 2000, CAR's final 'Declaration towards Reconciliation' which was submitted earlier to federal government was revised by John Howard saying that his government did not like the words such as 'self-determination' and apology and finally it was made public on the next day. On May 22, Howard announced that a 'Reconciliation Square' would be built as a national movement in the Parliament Triangle in Canberra, saying that this would 'place the reconciliation process physically and symbolically at the heart of Australia's democratic life and institutions (Calley, R (1964)).

Socio Cultural Life of Aborigines

Aborigines believe that the mythic beings, which wandered across the land during the Dreamtime, left traces on earth in the form of invisible paths. These paths still exist and Aboriginal people follow these paths while hunting and collecting food. The content of many songs, which are an important part of aboriginal culture deal with these paths. Totemism in an essential part in Aboriginal culture. Aborigines usually have more than one totem. Totem is a group of Clans. Aborigines are the people who learn the civilized people to draw tattoos on body, these tattoos are associated with religious, customs and beliefs. Aborigines are very good at crafts like weaving baskets, hats and rock paints.

Unemployment is one of the major problems facing Aborigines today. Many Aborigines are employed in the public sector or by organizations working for Aborigines such as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) or the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). Alcohol and other drugs were introduced into Aboriginal culture very suddenly when European settlers arrived. Among young Aborigines petrol sniffing has become more frequent. In recent years even cases of Aboriginal heroin addicts have been reported especially among the urban population. A doctor from the Aboriginal Medical Service in the Red Fern district in Sydney prognoses that the number of Aborigines consuming heroin with even increase in the future years. The crime rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people is far higher than the crime rate of the total population. At present the aborigines are obesity in nature and carrying diabetes and Psychosomatic Diseases. Many Aboriginal children, especially those in the more remote desert areas suffer from the blinding eye disease, trachoma. The Aborigines who lived in urban areas some of them are having achieved socio economic status. Some people act as teachers, clerks and journalists, very few of them are doctorates, soft ware engineers and doctors. Majority of Aborigines lived in low socio economic

class and engaged with menial jobs.

The Aboriginal band "Tjapukai" for example, which performs regularly at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Cairns could be heard quite frequently in Australian radio stations with their song "proud to be Aborigine" some years ago. Another field where successful Aborigines are frequently found is the field of arts. When Albert Namajera became popular as an Aboriginal artist in the 1950's and 1960's many Indigenous people discovered that it was possible to make a living with Aboriginal art. In some communities in Australia up to 80% of the Indigenous population depends on the art industry. Generally one can say that Aboriginal art has become increasingly popular in recent years, but this process has unfortunately also been in connection with commercialisation of the Aboriginal culture. Boomerangs are hunting instrument. Some hallow wooden sticks are used.

Political Status of Aborigines

Indigenous Australians who have been members of Australian Legislatures—Federal, State or Territory. This list does not cover those elected to local councils (including mayors), Governors/ Governors- General, leaders of political parties (outside of parliament), Indigenous Australians actively involved in political institutions and those who have run unsuccessfully for office. There have been 38 Indigenous members of the ten Australian legislatures, beginning when Neville Bonner entered the Australian on 15 August 1971. Of these, 22 have been elected to the Northern Territory assembly, eight to the Australian, four to the parliament of Western Australia, three to the parliament of Queensland and one each to the parliaments of Tasmania and New South Wales and one to the Australian Capital Territory assembly. Out of the 38 Indigenous Australians elected to any Australian Parliament, 14 have been women.

Eight Indigenous Australian people have been members of the Parliament of Australia (the Federal Parliament), six in the Senate and two in the House of Representatives.

S.No	Name	Party	Chamber	Constituency	Origin	Term start	Term end
1	Neville Bonner	Liberty	Senate	Queensland	Jagera	15 Aug 1971	4 Feb. 1983
2	Aden Ridgeway	Democrats	Senate	New South Wales	Gumbaynggirr	1 Jul. 1999	30 Jun 2005
3	Ken Wyatt	Liberal	Senate		Noongar Wangai Yamatji	21 Aug 2010	Incumbent
4	Nova Peris	Labor	Senate	Northern Territory	Gija (WA) Iwaidja Yawuru (WA)	7 Sep. 2013	9 th May 2016
5	Joanna Lindgren	LNP	Senate	Queensland	Jagera Mununjali	21 st May 2015	2 nd Jul 2016
6	Patrick Dodson	Labor	Senate	Western Australia	Yawuru	28 th Apr. 2016	Incumbent
7	Linda Burney	Labor	House	Barton (NSW)	Wiradjuri	2 nd Jul 2016	Incumbent
8	Malarndirri McCarthy	Labor	Senate	Northern Territory	Yanyuwa	2 nd Jul 2016	Incumbent

Source: *Condolences Bonner, Mr Neville Thomas, 1999, Biography for RIDGEWAY, Aden Derek, 2005. "Ken Wyatt makes Australian political history, 10 September 2011. Kennedy, (Andrew) David, Retrieved 22 August 2015.*

Aborigines Lawyers and Judges

1. Lloyd McDermott - first Indigenous lawyer
2. Bob Bellear – first Indigenous judge
3. Sue Gordon – magistrate
4. Pat O'Shane – magistrate
5. Matthew Myers – magistrate

6. Rose Falla – magistrate

The above lists both political and advocate status indicated aboriginal achieved status. These political leaders are standard pillars of support for aborigines' growth and progress. Let us hope much better bright future to Australian Aborigines.

Conclusion

There is a clear picture about origin and history of aborigines. Aborigine the word remember us clan, totem, tattoo, boomerang, rock painting, dream paths and music. Aborigine has lost their generation child rearing and family bonds, which is called stolen generation and faced many difficulties. Such aborigines some of them grew as famous lawyers and great politicians and achieved their status. But some of them are drug addicts and petrol snipers and seeking for employment. The native aborigines lost their nature and rights and again captured it by achieving their socio cultural economic and political status.

References

1. Calley, R "Pentecostalism Among the Banjalang" in M. Reay (ed.), *Aborigines Now: New Perspectives in the Study of Aboriginal Communities*, Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1964.
2. Condolences Bonner, Mr Neville Thomas, AO". Parliament of Australia. 1999. Retrieved 10 September 2011.
3. Katherin C. Mackinnon and Agustin-fuentes, 'Primate Social Cognition, Human Evolution and Niche Construction: A core Context for Neuroanthropology' Daniel H. Lende and Greg Downey (eds.), *The Uncultured Brain an Introduction to Neuroanthropology*, The MIT Press (Pub.), London, 2012, p.67
4. Ken Wyatt makes Australian political history. Special Broadcasting Service. 2010. Retrieved 10 September 2011.
5. Kennedy, (Andrew) David – Parliament of Victoria. Retrieved 22 August 2015.
6. Manne, In Denial: The Stolen Generations and the Right, Melbourne; Black Inc, 2001, Pp.28-29
7. Neville Bonner's great-niece Joanna Lindgren appointed Queensland senator by LNP. The Sydney Morning Herald, 2015-05-21. Retrieved 21 May 2015.
8. Nick Bryant (September 2013). "Mal Brough crashes through". *The Monthly*. Retrieved 22 August 2015.
9. Nova Peris elected as first Indigenous woman in Federal Parliament, ABC News, 9 September 2013.
10. P. Munirathanam Reddy, *Indigenous Australians and Empowerment: An Insight into the Ongoing Aboriginal Movements*, Emerald Publishers, Centre for Southeast Asian & Pacific Studies (pub.), ISBN: 978-81-7966-274-8, 2009, P.49
11. Read, Peter, *The Stolen Generations: The Removal of Aboriginal Children in New South Wales (1983-1969)*, Occasional paper No.1, Sydney: NSW Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, 1982
12. Sanders W. *Journey Without End: Reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and Settler People*, Discussion Paper No. 237/2002, CAEPER, ANU, Canberra (<http://www.online.anu.edu.au>), 2002 Pp.7-8