

Научно-исследовательская работа

Иностранный язык

Colonial Conquest of Australia. Was It Peaceful?

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Introduction

Topic: «The colonial conquest of Australia. Was it peaceful? » Our research work begins with the history of colonization of Australia and then talk about the military conflicts with Aborigines during colonization.

The aim of the research is:

to study the facts or refutation that the colonization was peaceful.

The tasks of the research are:

1. to study how the colonization of Australia took place;
2. to view military skirmishes and conflicts with Aborigines during the colonization of Australia.

History of Australian colonization

The **English colonial empire** made of a variety of overseas territories colonized, conquered, or otherwise acquired by the former Kingdom of England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries.

The first English overseas settlements were established in Ireland, quickly followed by North America and the West Indies and by trading posts called "factor ies" in the East Indies, such as Bantam, and in the Indian subcontinent, and territories in North Africa and Bombay in India.

With the loss of its American colonies in 1783, the British Government sent a fleet of ships, the «First Fleet», under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, to set up a new criminal colony in New South Wales. A camp was set up and the flag was raised at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson, on 26 January 1788, a date which became Australia's national day, Australia Day. Phillip sent exploratory missions in search of better soils, fixed on the Parramatta region as a promising area for growth, and moved many of the convicts from late 1788 to set up a small township, which became the main center of the colony's economic life.

Seventeen years after Cook's landfall on the east coast of Australia, the British (1775–1783), Britain lost most of its territory in North America and considered setting up replacement colonies. In 1779 Sir Joseph Banks, the eminent scientist who had followed location James Cook on his 1770 voyage, recommended Botany Bay as a suitable location for settlement, saying that "it was not to be questionable that a Tract of Land such as New Holland, which was larger than the whole of Europe, would provide Matter of advantageous Return".

Georg Forster, who had sailed under Lieutenant James Cook in the voyage of the HMS *Resolution* (1772–1775), wrote in 1786 on the future possibility of the British colony: "New Holland, an island of enormous extent or it might be said, a third continent, seem to be, nevertheless promises in a short time to become very important."

Britain claimed territory including all of Australia eastward of the meridian of 135° East and all the islands in the Pacific Ocean between the latitudes of Cape York and the southern tip of Tasmania. The western limit of 135° East was set at the meridian separating *New Holland* from *Terra Australis*, as shown on Emanuel Bowen's *Complete Map of the Southern Continent*, published in *Voyages and Travels* (1744–1748, and 1764). It was a vast claim which revealed emotion at the time: the Dutch translator of First Fleet officer and author Trench's *A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay* wrote: "a single province which, over all questions, is the largest on the whole area of the earth. From their definition it covers, in its greatest extent from East to West, almost a fourth of the whole circumference of the Globe."

A British settlement was set up in 1803 in Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania, and it became a separate colony in 1825. The United Kingdom formally claimed the western part of Western Australia (the Swan River Colony) in 1828. Separate colonies were carved from parts of New South Wales: South Australia in 1836, Victoria in 1851, and Queensland in 1859. The Northern Territory was founded in 1911 when it was excised from South Australia. South Australia was founded as a "free province"—it was never a criminal colony. Victoria and Western Australia were also founded "free", but later accepted transported convicts. A campaign by the settlers of New South Wales led to the end of convict transportation to that colony; the last convict ship arrived in 1848.

Military conflicts in Australia

The Aboriginal answer to the incoming European settlers was mixed, but unavoidable hostile after the presence of the settlers led to resource difficulty and land occupation. European diseases reduced the number of local population, and the occupation, or destruction, of land and food resources sometimes led to hunger. By and large, the clashes between the settlers and the aborigines were not organized, which led to the formation of unsystematic wars. Sometimes, however, the border war included the participation of a British soldier, and later mounted police. Not all Aborigines had a negative attitude towards encroachment on their lands by Europeans; at that time, many of their number served in mounted police units and were involved in attacks on other tribes.

The clashes between the colonizers and the Aborigines were localized, because the groups of the latter were a confederacy, not able of resisting. Thanks to this there was not a single war, instead, there was, rather, a series of violent clashes and mass killings on the territory of the continent. Organized or not, the picture of border clashes began at the beginning of the XVIII century and ended at the beginning of the XX century. This war contradicted the popular view of a peaceful settlement in Australia. When faced with the settlers, the Aborigines responded with violence

that sometimes turned into massacre, the most striking example of which is the Battle of Pinjarra, which took place in Western Australia in 1834. Such incidents were not sanctioned by the authorities, and after the Mayall Creek massacre (New South Wales) in 1838, seven Europeans were hanged for their part in the murders.

The clashes continued for more than 150 years, and they depended on the choices of the British, who settled Australia. Starting in New South Wales, where the first settlers set foot in May 1788, they continued to Sydney and its environs until 1820. The border of the wars moved towards the rarely populated territories in western New South Wales in the 1840s. Active fighting in Tasmania took place mainly from 1804 to the 1830s, and in Victoria and the southern part of South Australia, the largest part of the violence happened in the 1830s and 1840s. In the south-west of Western Australia, the wars were in 1829-1850. The Queensland War began near Brisbane in the 1840s and continued until the 1860s, with the focus moving to central Queensland and then moving north in the 1860s and 1900s. In Western Australia, along with the movements of the settlers, the war began to accompany them, reaching the Kimberley District by 1880, along with the continuous clashes that ended in the 1920s. In the Northern Territory, especially in central Australia, the conflict lasted from the 1880s to the 1930s. According to rough estimates, 2,500 people died on the part of the Europeans, compared to 20,000 people from the aborigines. A much more devastating effect on the latter was caused by diseases that came to the island along with the settlers, which significantly reduced the local population by the XX century (this fact is one of the reasons that limited the resistance forces on the part of the aborigines).

Now I'll give you a couple of examples of Aboriginal murders and massacres:

1849 - Butchers ' tree massacre of Aborigines near Bruarrina, along the Barwon River and on the Narranyu River.

18 December 1832 - Joseph Berryman, overseer of Sydney Stephen's land at Murramarang, near Bowley Point, shot four Australian Aborigines in retaliation for spearing cattle. Two of those killed were an elderly couple and another pregnant woman.

1838 - In July 1838, men from Bowman, Ebden, and Yaldwin stations shot and killed 14 Aborigines at a camp near the confluence of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers in New South Wales in search of stolen sheep.

1854 - The East Ballina massacre. About 40 Aboriginal people were killed and many more traumatized during the native police raid.

There were many more such incidents during the colonization of Australia than the above examples.

Conclusion

In this research work, we looked through the processes and conflicts between Australian aborigines and the English settlers that happened during the colonization of Australia. And based on all the facts provided, we can say that it is still controversial because not all cases of colonization were violent. However, it doesn't change the fact that a large number of Aborigines were killed alongside with the lots of colonizers. Hence, the only possible conclusion that can be drawn from our research work is that the colonization of Australia cannot be called peaceful.

Sources of information

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