THE MACMILLAN DICTIONARY OF

**AUSTRALIAN
POLITICS**

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AUSTRALIAN

POLITICS

FOURTH EDITION

Dean Jaensch & Max Teichmann

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Contents

Preface *vi*

Preface to the Second Edition *vii*

Preface to the Third Edition *vii*

Preface to the Fourth Edition *viii*

Appendices

1: A Chronology of Australian Politics 229

2: Election Results since 1963 237

3: Governors-General of Australia 238

4: Prime Ministers of Australia 239

5: Leaders of the Opposition 240

6: Premiers of the Australian States since 1901 241

7: Referendum Results 245

Preface

This is a dictionary of Australian politics — quite possibly the first of its kind. There have been many dictionaries of politics, of economics, of political thought and of political history, but none taking Australia as its principal motif. The problem here, of course, has been what to put in and what to leave out, decisions influenced in turn by how large or how small this dictionary should be. Our judgement was that such a book should be portable, succinct, comprehensive, and desirably inexpensive.

There will doubtless be missing entries which individual readers would like to have seen included, and if it transpires that such feelings are in any way widespread, then future editions will doubtless incorporate such items. Although this is primarily a dictionary of political terms, the authors take the view that the boundaries between political institutions, political theory, political history and political economy, while convenient, even necessary, in their right place, do not correspond to the loosely textured and overlapping character of the socio-political process. There have therefore been incorporated a wide range of economic terms in general usage, together with terms drawn from political theory, and a register of the principal historical events, both domestic and international, which have helped to produce our contemporary Australian polity.

As politics also embraces our relations with other countries and with international institutions, such relations being sometimes political, sometimes economic, a largish number of items have been devoted to these fields.

There is a necessarily brief selection of biographical notes on the main political actors since Federation, the brevity being on the ground that this is not intended to be a dictionary of Australian biography, of which there are now a number. Statistical tables have been cut to a minimum, in the belief that such information is usually, though not invariably, available from government publications.

D. H. J. & M. E. T.
September, 1979

Preface to the Second Edition

This is the first revised edition of the *Macmillan Dictionary of Australian Politics*. Quite frankly, neither of the authors had realized just how comprehensively this work would have to be restructured. There has been a quiet revolution in our political institutions and practices in Australia, and a whole reordering of the political agenda. The Whitlam, Fraser and now the Hawke régimes can be used as benchmarks but there have been underlying those dramas considerable changes in our economic, legal and social affairs: there has been a long recession; levels of unemployment are the highest since the Depression; there has been a slow collapse in the manufacturing industries; a great leap forward has taken us into the computer and silicon chip age; and so on. The international political and military environment has also altered dramatically, for the worse. Single issue politics has returned to the important role it enjoyed in the late 1960s. Some of these events and processes have found their way into this revised dictionary in the shape of hundreds of changes to existing items and a large number of new ones. In order to make way for these expansions and in the light of the original declaration of intent — for the book to be ‘portable, succinct, comprehensive, and desirably inexpensive’ — we have had to omit the political biographies. The only consolation is that many of the actors of four and five years ago now appear distinctly passé and it could be that our various political leaders are not nearly as important as they might believe. Issues, concepts and processes survive much better and longer.

D. H. J. & M. E. T.
February, 1984

Preface to the Third Edition

This second revision of the *Macmillan Dictionary of Australian Politics* has been necessary only three years after the 1984 revisions. The rapidity of political change has been amazing. In 1987, Labor holds all mainland governments except Queensland; the Liberal Party is in government only in Tasmania; the end of the hegemony of Johannes Bjelke-Petersen was announced. The Labor Party everywhere, at least a majority of it, had moved firmly to the right; the Liberal Party had factionalized and was searching for an identity; the coalition had split then reformed; the Australian Democrats had been returned to a balance of power in the Senate. The international political and economic environment had altered dramatically; single issue politics had intensified; the stock market had collapsed; Australia's international credit rating had been demoted; privatization was debated in the Labor Party. These are just some of the constellation of changes over three years. The result has been a restructuring of this dictionary to an extent surprising even to the authors — the omission of items no longer on the political agenda; the inclusion of a surprising number of issues and institutions which have emerged since 1984.

D. H. J. & M. E. T.
December, 1987

Preface to the Fourth Edition

The fact that this Dictionary has moved into its fourth edition in 12 years is a confirmation that the book does meet a need in the community. The state of politics over the last decade has prompted unprecedented interest in what politics is doing for and to the public. A very positive development has been an increasing involvement in and a search for information about politics. We hope this new edition will help in this process of change.

The second reason for a fully-revised edition is the continuing rapid change in Australian politics. Since the Third Edition in 1987, most parliaments have been transformed into hung parliaments; the Greens had major success in Tasmania; Royal Commissions in unprecedented numbers are in session; there have been significant electoral changes, and the traditional party system has become eroded. The economy has changed significantly and new terms of political economy have come into common usage. These and other changes are reflected in this Fourth Edition.

D. H. J. & M. E. T.
May, 1992