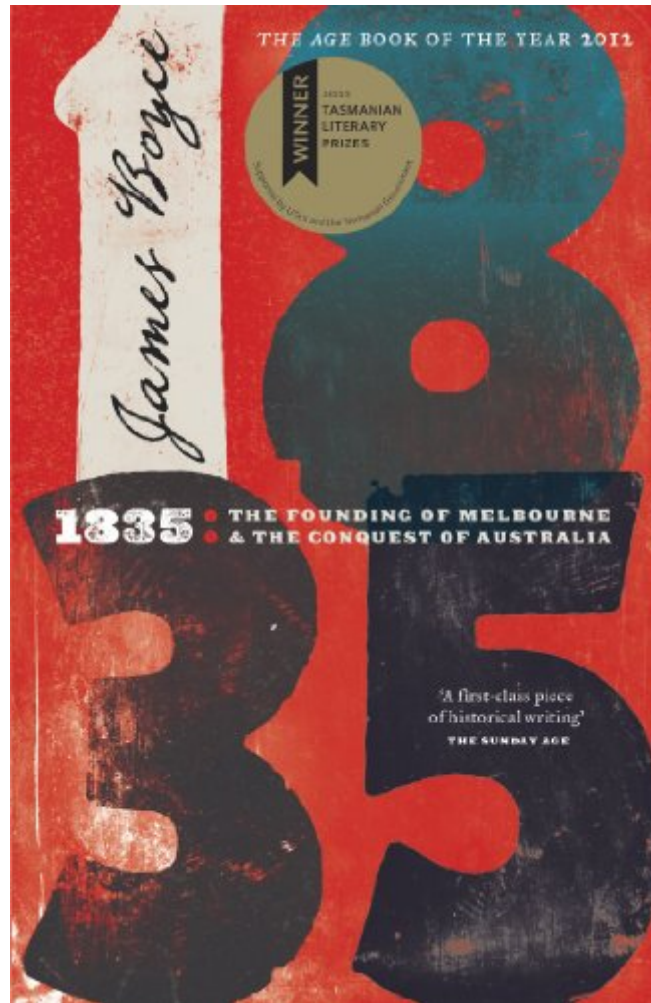


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1835: The Founding Of Melbourne & The Conquest Of Australia



Synopsis

Winner of the 2012 Age Book of the Year Award and the 2013 Tasmania Book Prize With the founding of Melbourne in 1835, a flood of settlers began spreading out across the Australian continent. In three years more land – and more people – was conquered than in the preceding fifty. In 1835 James Boyce brings this pivotal moment to life. He traces the power plays in Hobart, Sydney and London, and describes the key personalities of Melbourne’s early days. He conjures up the Australian frontier – its complexity, its rawness and the way its legacy is still with us today. And he asks the poignant question largely ignored for 175 years: could it have been different? With his first book, Van Diemen’s Land, Boyce introduced an utterly fresh approach to the nation’s history. “In re-imagining Australia’s past,” Richard Flanagan wrote, “it invents a new future.” 1835 continues this untold story. “Anyone who calls Melbourne home – in fact anyone who calls Australia home – should read this book.” “Peter Mares “An eloquent and thought-provoking book.” “Australian Book Review “1835 is the best book on Australian history I have read since Van Diemen’s Land. James Boyce is on a roll.” “Good Reading Shortlisted, 2012 Prime Minister’s Literary Award Shortlisted, 2011 West Australian Premier’s Book Awards Shortlisted, 2012 Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards Shortlisted, 2012 Queensland Literary Awards James Boyce is the multiple award-winning author of Born Bad, 1835 and Van Diemen’s Land. He has a PhD from the University of Tasmania, where he is an honorary research associate of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not Australian, but I've always been interested in Australian history, so I decided to give this book a shot when I saw that it was published by a great independent publisher and was book of the year for The Age (an Australian newspaper) and won the Tasmania Book Prize. I'm glad I did. It's clearly written, extensively researched, and aims to tell a story much bigger than just the founding of Melbourne. Boyce's goal in this book is to describe the moment that Australia shifted from a policy of controlled, concentrated settlement to a policy of encouraging relatively free and open growth of its frontier. The founding of Melbourne is emblematic of this shift because it began it. The first people who settled the city did so illegally, and it was the government's decision to sanction their actions that basically opened Australia's frontier. For Boyce, the founding of Melbourne is a way to examine the entire history of conquest of Aboriginal Australia. Boyce has two main messages about this conquest: first, he argues that it was a pretty terrible business – one that was violent, brutal, and devastatingly unfair to aboriginal people. He wants to emphasize this because (apparently) recent histories of Australia have attempted to look for signs of indigenous agency and cross-cultural blending in frontier Australia. Boyce reminds us that searching for these things is an admirable goal, but that we should not overestimate aboriginal power or resistance in the course of this search. Secondly, Boyce lays responsibility for conquest at the feet of the government: It was government policy that created the frontier rush by sanctioning it. By tacitly endorsing settlement, the government made it safe for capital (mostly in the form of sheep) to be invested in the frontier.

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