

ASSIGNMENT 3

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CLASS: OPEN FOUNDATION AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

QUESTION: HOW EFFECTIVELY DID ABORIGINAL PEOPLE RESIST
THE EUROPEAN INVASION OF THEIR COUNTRY?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Broome R. Aboriginal Australians. Black Response to White Dominance 1788-1980 Sydney 1987
2. Reynolds H. Aborigines and settlers, The Australian Experience 1788-1939 Sydney 1972
3. Reynolds H. 'Violence, The Aborigines and the Australian Historian' Meanjin. Vol. 31, No. 4, 1963

If Aboriginal resistance to the European invasion was effective we could assume it would bring some benefit to their race.

Not a sentence [The Aboriginal people who at the early stages of the fledgling colony held the upper hand against the Europeans. Not only did they out number them, but they also knew the land and how to survive in it. Aboriginal weapons were equal to the unreliable flintlock rifles and pistols used by the settlers However, -

Had they known the implications the arrival of these strangers would have for the future they may have met the intruders more frequently with violence and less often with curiosity. ¹

It wasn't long before the Aboriginals realised the invaders intended to drive them from their hunting grounds and take over their lands. Aboriginal food raids on squatters' live stock were viciously repulsed. Other forms of resistance was used by the Aboriginals. This ranged from telling the Europeans to leave their land to operating "guerilla warfare" ² against them. This included the burning of crops and the killing of European's live stock. During this time many massacres and killings occurred on both sides. Broome puts Aboriginal casualties at 20,000. Contrasted to this, the settlers losses are put around 1500. ³

Furthermore the Aboriginal heritage and tribal organisation made it impossible for them to organise treaties and conditions to assist their race. As the white population increased the Aboriginals lost their self-reliance and realised easy tucker could be obtained on the outskirts of white settlement.

'Aboriginal resistance did significantly increase the economic and human cost of settlement in Australia.'⁴ Nevertheless this resistance though longterm and violent was not effective enough to gain long term rights for their race.

1. R. Broome Aboriginal Australians Black Response to White Dominance 1788-1980, Sydney, 1987 p36.
2. H. Reynolds 'Violence, The Aboriginals and the Australian Historian Meanjin, Vol. 31 No. 4, 1963 p473.
3. R. Broome Aboriginal Australians p51.
4. H. Reynolds Violence, The Aboriginals and the Australian Historian p 474. Meanjin.

*A rather brief answer, David.
Avoid me sentence paragraphs
& abbreviations*

*Aboriginal - noun
Aboriginal - adjective*

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Mary