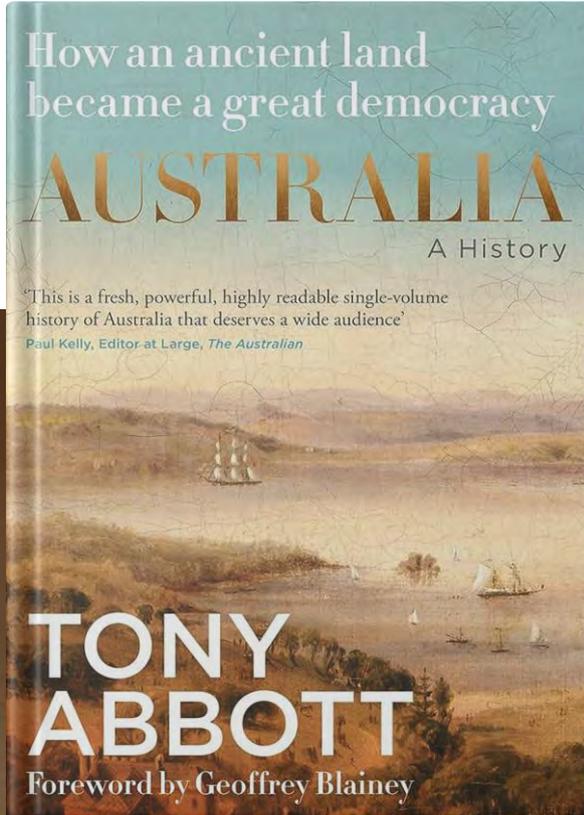




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India's First Global Policy School



You are cordially invited to participate in the

BOOK LAUNCH

How an ancient land became a great democracy

AUSTRALIA

A History



CHIEF GUEST

**MR. TONY
ABBOTT AC**

Former Prime Minister of
Australia



PRESIDED BY

**MR. NAVEEN
JINDAL**

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH 2026

RECEPTION: 5:00 PM | BOOK LAUNCH: 5:30 PM

JGU INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, MEZZANINE FLOOR, 1, MANSINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI

RSVP: Mr. Raghav Dua, +91 +98960 28027, raghav.dua@jgu.edu.in

PROGRAMME



Welcome Address
**PROFESSOR (DR.)
C. RAJ KUMAR**

Vice Chancellor
O.P. Jindal Global University

5:30 PM - 5:40 PM



Presidential Address
**MR. NAVEEN
JINDAL**

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

5:40 PM - 5:50 PM

5:50 PM - 6:05 PM

REFLECTIONS ON THE BOOK IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIA-AUSTRALIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



**PROFESSOR (DR.)
SREERAM CHAULIA**

Dean, Jindal School of
International Affairs
O.P. Jindal Global University



**DR. POOJA
BHATT**

Associate Professor, Jindal School of
International Affairs
O.P. Jindal Global University



**PROFESSOR (DR.)
MOHAN KUMAR**

Dean, Strategic & International
Initiatives, Office of the Vice Chancellor
O.P. Jindal Global University

RELEASE OF THE BOOK

How an ancient land
became a great democracy
AUSTRALIA
A History



Introducing the
Chief Guest
**DR. JAGVINDER
SINGH VIRK**

Chairman, India-Australia
Strategic Alliance

6:05 PM - 6:10 PM



Author's Address
**MR. TONY
ABBOTT AC**

Former Prime Minister of
Australia

6:10 PM - 6:25 PM



Concluding Remarks
**MR. PETER
TREVASKIS**

Dean, Naveen Jindal Sports Academy
O.P. Jindal Global University

6:25 PM - 6:30 PM



Moderator
**DR. SWASTI
RAO**

Associate Professor
Jindal School of International Affairs
O.P. Jindal Global University

ABOUT THE BOOK

Australia is one of the world's great success stories: a land long hidden from outsiders, chosen as a convict dumping ground, where - since 1788 - people from many backgrounds have built one of the freest, fairest and most prosperous countries on earth.

By the standards of a harsher time, the early governors tried to respect the original inhabitants and to encourage the convict outcasts of the British Isles to make a new start to a better life. This Indigenous heritage, British foundation and immigrant character have shaped the land of the 'fair go' especially for those willing to 'have a go'. It's not perfect, even now, yet mostly we have a history to be proud of. Within a century of settlement, Australia had not only the world's highest standard of living but had become a global pioneer for democratic freedoms such as the secret ballot, the payment of MPs and voting rights for women.

A country largely created by settlement and negotiation has evolved from 'White Australia' at the time of federation into one of the world's most colour-blind societies and has managed the transition from an old 'Anglo' identity to a civic patriotism based on an overriding commitment to Australia and its values.

This book is intended to give anyone interested - as every Australian should be - an account of our past that's positive, while not oblivious to our mistakes and imperfections as a nation. If to be an Australian is still to have won the lottery of life, the history that's produced us is surely something to savour.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Tony Abbott

Tony Abbott (born November 4, 1957, London, England) is an Australian politician who served as a member of the Australian House of Representatives (1994–2019), leader of the Liberal Party of Australia (2009–15), and prime minister of Australia (2013–15).

Abbott attended the University of Sydney, where he earned a B.A. in economics (1979) and a law degree (1981). While there he served as president of the student government and frequently wrote about conservative political causes for local and national publications. He next studied at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, earning an M.A. in politics and philosophy. Returning to Australia, he entered St. Patrick's Seminary (1984–87), but the allure of politics and his own journalistic curiosity drew him away from the priesthood. Abbott, by then a regular contributor to the Australian newsweekly *The Bulletin*, became a full-time journalist after taking a short break to work as a manager at a concrete-mixing plant. He wrote for *The Australian*, one of the country's top-circulating news dailies, before taking a job as press secretary for Liberal Party leader John Hewson in 1990. When the Liberals were defeated in 1993 in an election that they were widely expected to win, Hewson became a pariah within the party, and Abbott found himself out of work. From 1993 to 1994 he served as executive director for Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy, an organization dedicated to preserving Australia's historical and political ties to the British crown.

Having viewed Australia's political system from both inside and out, Abbott successfully campaigned for a parliamentary seat of his own in 1994, representing the constituency of Warringah, New South Wales. When Liberal Party leader John Howard was elected prime minister in 1996, Abbott was appointed parliamentary secretary to the minister for employment, education, training, and youth affairs in the new government. He changed portfolios in 1998, becoming minister for employment services. In 2001 he was elevated to the cabinet, retaining much of his previous portfolio while also serving as leader of the House of Representatives.

Abbott was named minister for health and aging in 2003, and it was in that role that he faced his most controversial challenge as a member of the government. In 2006 he exercised his veto power as health minister to prevent the drug RU-486, which induces abortion during the early weeks of pregnancy, from being made available in Australia. In response a broad coalition of members of the House of Representatives forced a free vote that stripped Abbott of his regulatory power over the drug, and it was made available to Australian hospitals the following year.