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PRFU: H02L01UN070120200001



National Conference on
Mapping (In)Security in Western and Postcolonial Spaces
April 26-27,2022

The Australian Aborigines: Pre-colonial Belonging, Colonial and
Postcolonial Exclusion and Cultural Insecurity.

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Abstract

This paper sheds light on the Australian Aborigines and the effects of British colonization on their spatial and cultural belonging and security. Pre-colonial Australia was a safe and secure haven for the Aboriginal people. It is estimated that they occupied the continent for more than 65 000 year ago. This way, they maintained a continuous, persistent, and consistent existence. However, the arrival of the British First Fleet on Australia in 1788 in order to establish the continent as a penal colony marked a malign threat to Aboriginal belonging and security. The aggressive displacement of the Aboriginal people from their native terrains, their exclusion, and “othering” led to cultural insecurity. Turning attention towards this issue is indeed vital for showcasing how past colonial misconducts affected the cultural belonging and security of the subjugated people. Through analysing a set of historical sources, the paper probes how the colonial and post-colonial cultural insecurity of the Aboriginal people is the outcome of displacing them from their lands and preventing them from pursuing their old usual way of life and culture.

Key words:

The Australian Aborigines, belonging, exclusion, cultural in/security, British colonialism.

