

## Summary of a collection of Keynote Speech and Presentations

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This is a collection of papers presented to the Symposium “Australian History Wars: from White Australian, Aboriginal and Asian (NESB) Point of Views”, held at the National Museum of Ethnology Osaka, as a part of the annual National Convention of the Australian Studies Association of Japan on the 12th of June in 2004. The idea of this symposium was inspired by the book, *‘The History Wars’*, by Professor Stewart Macintyre, Melbourne University, written in 2003, with Anna Clark.

Since the 1980s, the so-called “Black Armband Histories” began to appear in Australia, and have challenged traditional orthodox Australian histories which tended to praise the developments of white Australian settler colonies and the Commonwealth of Australia, while paying little attention to the historical destruction of Aboriginal societies in Australia. Black Armband Histories are written mainly by white Australians who have realized the devastating effects of white Australian colonial developments over Aboriginal Australians. These writings began to show the dark side of Australian History, and tried to persuade white Australians to apologise and compensate for what they have done to Australian Aboriginal people during the past two centuries.

However, in the 1990s, Prime Minister Howard began to challenge the legitimacy of the Black Armband Histories. This was because he felt uneasy about the main assumptions developed in the Black Armband Histories which, he thought, tend to deny the historically great efforts by white Australians to develop Australia. He also does not like the Black Armband Histories because they have been encouraged by the former Prime Minister Keating, who wanted to change Australia’s national identity from a colonial and monarchical, mono-cultural dependent identity to a more independent, multicultural and republican postcolonial national identity.

The former republican PM Mr. Keating, on the one hand, was heavily dependent on Manning Clark’s critical historical accounts of Australian history. PM Howard, on the other hand, has been heavily reliant on Geoffrey Blainey’s more orthodox accounts. In Macintyre’s book, only conflicts between white settlers’ history and Aboriginal history are dealt with extensively. Therefore, the presentors decided to add Asian NESB peoples’ point of views to the History Wars. Professor Fujikawa presented a paper from a white Australian point of view, and Professor Matsuyama from an Aboriginal point of view, Associate Professor Murakami from mainly Chinese and Japanese point of views, and Professor Sekine delivered a paper based on the critical arguments of the Post WWII Australian history of immigration policies and multiculturalism provided by the former Lebanese refugee, Professor Ghassan Hage of Sydney University.

We hope this symposium will give guidance to Japanese scholars of Australian Studies to participate into the History Wars in Australia.