# GEOS2105: Final Exam Notes

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(1) **Antecedents**

A. **Australia pre-1788**

1. **Theories of First Australians**
   - Indigenous Australians believe human origins in dreamtime = no migration to Australia
   - DNA suggests ancestors left Africa ~75bp and appeared on continent ~50bp
     - Mungo Man found and dated to ~50-46bp

2. **Dispersal**
   - Most Continent settled ~30bp – was peopled landscape upon settlement in 1788
   - Unclear how it was settled:
     - Radial Model
     - Coastal Model
     - Mixed Model

3. **Population Size**
   - As many as 2.5 billion Aborigines lived and died.
   - 1788 population ~0.3-1.5M

4. **Environmental Impact**
   - Quaternary megafauna extinction (~50-45 bp) – unclear what the cause was:
     - Climate
     - Fire regime change
     - Overkill hypothesis
     - Or combination?
   - USA has clear evidence of Indigenous megafauna hunting – Australian evidence is patchy (Cuddie Springs evidence of coexistence).
     - Difficult to find sites of coexistence
     - Latest evidence suggests that climate change not to blame

5. **Livelihoods**
   - Traditional idea of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer – being challenged (see e.g. Dark Emu: Black Seeds by Pascoe who argues for more permanent patterns of agriculture
     - Lake Condah – economy based on trapping eels, permanent stone huts made out of stones and straw.
     - Anecdotal evidence from European explorers personal diaries of Aboriginal Villages
     - Evidence of networks of exchange across nation (pearl shells from WA-Victoria)

B. **Discovery of Australia (6 Stages)**

1. **Terra Australis Incognita**
   - Aristotle claimed circa. 350BC ‘there must be some region bearing the same relation to the southern pole as the place we live in bears to our pole’

2. **Dawn of the Age of Discovery**
- Medieval trade dominated by maritime states (e.g. Venice) in partnership with Arabs
- Sailing close to coast with landmarks used to navigate – land routes to Asia hostile
- Technological advancements enabled oceanic exploration (ships, cartography etc.)

(3) **Doctrine of Discovery (1455)**
- Doctrine of Discovery referred to law which enabled colonial powers to lay claim to land belonging to Indigenous People during European Age of Discovery
- Started with 1455 Papal Decree – could seek out lands unknown to Christians & one Christian national could not establish domain over lands previously dominated by another Christian nation → can see doctrine of discovery demarcation in contemporary geography

(4) **Peace of Westphalia (1648)**
- Notion of nation state emerged from Peace of Westphalia which created modern system of nation states in Europe and marked the end of the European wars
- Allowed states to have exclusive authority within their borders & could not interfere with internal affairs of other states
- Hunter-gatherers were regarded as unimproved with no recognisable form of government or property rights & available for appropriate (terra nullius) – ‘Law of Nations’

(5) **Dutch Interest (1606)**
- Free-for-all era by major maritime powers – were interested in commodities (not land)
- First landing in 1606 by Janszoon near Weipa – lots of interactions.
- Dutch sailors mapped west coast of Australis when using roaring forties winds to Java but did not give good report of Australia (Carstensz 1623 & Tasman 1640)

(6) **British Interest Possession**
- Cook was sent to observe Venus transit in Tahiti then to search for *Terra Australis Incognita* – sighted in 1770 and took possession of east Coast of Australia on 22/8/1770
  - Had good perception of Australia with greenery in Botany Bay
- Claim needed strengthening so sent back by 1788 to settle – trading post, convicts, strategic
(2) Settlement of Australia

A. Indigenous Changes
(1) 1788
• Settlement very different to contemporary Australia – dense in North which is now sparse
• ~0.3-1.5M in 1788

(2) Post-Contact
• Over time, rapid decline in Indigenous Australians – fewer than 100,000 in 1901

(3) Rapid Increase (1970s)
• Indigenous people recognised as ‘people’ and counted in Census after RDA passed in 1975
• Identification therefore led to rapid increase in population count
• Also issues now with identification – social reasons etc.

B. Non-Indigenous Changes
(1) 1788-1840
• Australia just a colony during this time
• Big geographic barrier was Blue Mountains – opened up large area for grazing followed by a closer settlement and farming

(2) 1840-1901
• Gold Rush in 1850s was a time of rapid growth
• Population settlement driven by transport networks like rail systems

(3) Change in Distribution
• Linear pattern of settlement – Coastline with fewer rural towns sustainable
• Reduction of small towns linked to transport – been key driver of change over past 100 years
• Population much more concentrated now with distinctly urban and coastal population
• Population centre moving north-west driven by migration

C. Components of Change
(1) General Characteristics
• One of the fastest growing developed countries (1.57% cf. 0.29%)
• Key characteristics:
  o Highly urbanised (89.3%)
  o Low population density (3/km2)
  o Moderate fertility (1.92)
  o High life expectancy
  o Moderate ageing
  o High percentage of migrant stocks (27% cf. 14.4% USA 2014)

(2) Ageing
• Population has moved from being relatively young to increasingly aged
• Average Australian is 37 year old woman married & living with husband and two children in suburb of one of Australia’s capital cities cf. 100 years prior → 24 year old Australian born farmer
(3) **Fertility**
- Four key changes in fertility:
  - Great Depression – low fertility;
  - Baby Boom 1945-1961 – high fertility (return from WW2 and economic boom; social change → people married very young)
  - Baby Bust 1966 -1980 – low fertility
  - Low Fertility 1980s-onwards
- Fertility differentials (variation of fertility of different groups/classes in population)
  - Brisbane – closest to CBD lowest, regional areas highest
  - Driven by Life Cycle of Suburbs – people move through life and place of living change
  - Other patterns also override this – e.g. compositional, contextual and neighbourhood

(4) **Mortality**
- Effect of higher life expectancy on pensions (not expected to live much longer than 60-65 in 1920s)
- Gap between males and females:
  - Men die at younger ages – risk-taking behaviour, occupation etc.
  - Male babies die more than female
  - Oestrogen has protective effect and men are more susceptive to range of diseases
- Large gap between Indigenous & non-Indigenous
- Spatial Distribution:
  - Capital cities have lowest mortality of country
  - Driver of patterns likely related to healthcare access, occupational danger, Indigenous composition & socio-economic status...

(5) **International Migration**
- Big upswing in migration in first decade of 21st Century:
  - Temporary migrants are counted (e.g. backpackers, student visa, Visas associated with resource boom etc.)
  - Olympics (put Australia on world stage) & Mining Boom
  - Media focus on refugees but is very small percent of growth - ~2.5%
- Refugees
  - Largest refugee populations actually in places like Pakistan, Iran and China
  - Distortion in press – many coming by plane etc.
- Most international migrants settle in capital cities (opportunities, pre-existing networks etc)

(6) **Internal Migration**
- Four major patterns:
  - South/East to North/West
  - Inland to Major Cities
  - Major Cities to High Amenity Coastal
  - Within cities to urban fringes and towards urban core (TODs)

(7) **Indigenous**
- More disadvantaged, more mobile, more crowding in housing
- Indigenous People mostly urban (NT population mostly rural)