



# Reconciliation and Colonial Power

Indigenous Rights in Australia

Damien Short, University of London, UK



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In 1991 Australia instigated a national reconciliation project between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Despite being the longest-running reconciliation process, there has been no authoritative study of Australian reconciliation to date. *Reconciliation and Colonial Power* is the first book to analyze Australian reconciliation as a process, filling a significant gap in theoretical and empirical understanding. Damien Short offers a sociological interpretation of this process which suggests that, rather than being a genuine attempt at atonement, Australian reconciliation is perhaps better understood as the latest stage in the colonial project. He considers the relevance of acknowledgement and apology, restitution and rights, nation building and state legitimacy to the reconciliation project. This work compliments the burgeoning literature on reconciliation theory and practice and provides fertile material for comparisons with reconciliation processes in other countries such as Chile and South Africa.

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Introduction; Contribution and engagement; Reconciliation and land; Reconciliation and land II: the Wik case; Reconciliation and the 'stolen generations'; Reconciliation and non-indigenous Australians: the CAR and the 'Peoples Movement'; Indigenous people and Australian reconciliation; The political functions of Australian reconciliation; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

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