

Comparing cultures

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Abstrak

Australia in Asia: Comparing Cultures provides a sophisticated analysis of the cultural differences that exist between Australia and the various countries of the Asian region. Leading specialists in Australian and Asian studies have been brought together to produce this timely and provocative book. As practical as it is theoretical in its approach, it includes chapters on issues that are of vital importance in Australian Asian relations: business ethics, human rights, education, labour relations, democracy, national security, the media, citizenship and government.

As Australia's involvement with Asia deepens, many Australians have taken comfort in the belief that the various value systems of the region are converging to produce a 'global' culture, in which liberal democracy, multiculturalism and the English language will dominate. Australia in Asia: Comparing Cultures reassesses this belief and illustrates the complexity of Australia's relationship with the countries of the Asian region. It both acknowledges the dangers of parochialism and warns against the tendency to stereotype, demonstrating that Australia's engagement with Asia is a process that requires Australians to look as closely at their own culture and values as at those of their Asian neighbours.