

(Free and download) The Fatal Shore

## The Fatal Shore

*Robert HUGHES*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



#596603 in Books 1987PDF # 1 #File Name: B002A48C1S | File size: 54.Mb

**Robert HUGHES : The Fatal Shore** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fatal Shore:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. History, Feeling, and Creativity.By DouginNC"The Fatal Shore" delivers precisely what the subtitle promises: "the Epic of Australia's Founding."The reader, like the convicts of the time, is "transported" to this land. The risks taken to begin white settlement were beyond comprehension - - perhaps like a decision today to colonize another planet. But there is more to the history of this place than itself. This book also taught me few surprising bits about America around the time of the Revolution, and a great deal about the English, Scots, and Irish, as Hughes recreates the period of time in Great Britain that gave birth to this movement of man.The hardships of early antipodean life would be all that you could ask humans to endure if they had only to endeavor each day to secure food and shelter. But these folk had to perform those basics while managing a state of criminals, governing a budding nation, and dealing with rules made by persons nearly a year distant by the best means of travel available.The almost unimaginable conditions are carefully and vividly detailed by Hughes. His task was particularly difficult given the parsimonious records from 18th and 19th centuries that survived, and the apparent lack of interest in the Australian past that existed for the first 150 years after settlement. The author clearly worked on a labor of love and a penchant of need he felt to write this story.You read this book for its history but relish much more. There is a range of vocabulary employed which stretches your mind. There are individual stories that sometimes chill you to the bone and other times make your heavy heart warm.One story he recounts is of William Charles Wentworth, born upon arrival in the new colony, "went to school in England and came back to New South Wales in 1810. ... In 1816 he set off to England again to study law. His aims were large: He would study the British Constitution so that he could draft

one for Australia ...". That's a mission statement few would subscribe themselves to achieve. The "fun" of this epic is that the Wentworth story is seasoned with a phrase from Hughes that makes the reader's mind perk up and take notice. He says Wentworth "wound up his law studies in London and went to Cambridge. This was merely to brown the crust, as he did not work for a degree." I enjoyed a great many entertaining passages in this ilk. When finished with this epic, you'll have all the facts you need to know: -Why Australia evolved the way it did -England's environment that effected colonization -How it started: The First Fleet -The workings of the Assignment System of convict labor -The central or interesting roles played by (a) common criminals; (b) political/societal criminals; (c) Aboriginies; (d) the Irish; (e) bushrangers; (f) English Governors of Australia Plus you get acquainted with other noteworthy people, historical views of the colonization system, and lasting influences of the early Australian experience. Devour this book slowly and judiciously, letting the writing give you both knowledge and feeling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A sad but well-told story of imperial exploitation By Aswin Kongsiri This account of the first 100 years after England began transporting its convicts to Australia is based on original sources and careful research and convincingly demonstrates the cruelty and ruthlessness of this penal experiment, both for the prisoners and for the original occupants of the land chosen for this purpose. It perhaps contains too much detail on the sufferings of the unfortunate people involved, which makes it a harrowing chronicle and rather bleak to read in many places. Nevertheless one cannot escape the conclusion that after Australia's mineral riches had been uncovered in the 1850's, the Aborigine population had been suppressed to such an extent that they had no chance to share in the cornucopia. A sad but well-told story of imperial exploitation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Transportation to Australia - a terrible fate! By Laurence R. Cousins A fascinating, if at times slightly tedious, history of British attempts to lower their prison population by shipping ('transporting') convicts to Australia. The British justice system in the 18-19th century and its role in over-crowded prisons is interesting in itself. The sadism of the 19th century penal system is breathtaking; at times the narrative verges on torture porn. If you are interested in the topic, check out 'Port Arthur prison' on Google. You will be astonished and perhaps horrified.

Book of the founding and history of Australia.