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## White Christ Black Cross. The emergence of a black church

By Noel Loos. Published by Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2007. Paperback, 216 pages with index. ISBN 13 978 085575 553 9. RRP \$4.39.95.

**Reviewed by Gavin Mooney**

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In Aboriginal health policy in this country, I have become more and more convinced of the need to recognise the relationship between culture and health. Such recognition is not one that comes easily to a health economist (which is my discipline). Monoculturalism in both health and economics dominates – no, monopolises most discourse. QALY's rule or at least Western health economics wants them to. The monoculturalism of welfarism (in essence the belief system of the market place) and of extra welfarism (the 'new' health economics paradigm that allows us to believe fundamentally that health care is about only health and that QALY's measure that) are the altars at which we as health economists worship.

But what of belief systems at a more cultural level? How do they affect health?

When I was asked to review this book I was hesitant. I suspect for any non-Aboriginal person to grapple with Aboriginal culture and Christianity is tricky (but then the author is non-Aboriginal); for an agnostic rational economist yet more so. But the book is partly about Yarrabah and I have happy memories of a visit there about 15 years ago and meeting some lovely, strong Aboriginal people such as Lesley and Mercy Baird. So I agreed.

My ignorance of the relations between Christianity and Aboriginal people has previously led me to think none too highly of the impact of the former on the latter. Missionaries and missions may well have been well meaning but my impression had been that there had been little attempt by the Christians to recognise – and recognise the value of – Aboriginal culture.

I would not suggest that that picture is wholly false but Loos as a minimum has got me rethinking my position.

The book I found less accessible than I would have ideally wanted. It remains unclear to me at whom it is directed. It is primarily a history of the interactions of three groups of people: Aboriginal people; missionaries; and the people 'who sat in the pews in the churches and their priests and bishops who formed committees ... [etc] in cities sanitised from the reality of the lives of Aboriginal people and the reality of the missions' (p ix).

The often conservative, sometimes racist church was at times capable of being much more progressive than society and governments. Loos writes of how Frank Coaldrake, the chair of the Australian Board of Missions which was the official voice of the missions of the Anglican Church of Australia, developed in 1967 a new policy entitled 'Acceptance: The Next Step Forward'. Its aim was 'the acceptance of Aborigines as Aborigines by

white Australians and the acceptance of white Australians by Aborigines'. Up until then, as Loos states, the situation was very different with the 'acceptance of Aborigines as inferiors living in an inferior culture that needed to be replaced ... This had not only blamed the victims, but had also absolved most white Christians from having to confront their participation in the process' (p 138).

Loos suggests (p139): 'the policy of "Acceptance" might seem very small beer, but its adoption by a conservative church, ahead of government policy and general community thinking, was in fact its great leap forward.'

More recently the Anglican Church, as Loos reports, has been active in calling on governments to recognise and address better the problems that have beset the Stolen Generations.

Christianity has been a mixed blessing for Aboriginal Australia. This book is clear that it is a mix but that on balance it has got better over time. The voices of the churches matter in social policy and in influencing social attitudes. In so far as the Anglican church of Loos' account can succeed, as it seeks to further reconciliation, then that must contribute positively to Aboriginal health. In so far as being a member of 'a club', here the Anglican church, can contribute to social capital then individual Aboriginal involvement in the Christian church can promote good health. The worry remains for me however that this is white Christianity and that as such it results in – even if it does not aim at this – the erosion of Aboriginal culture and their health.

But let Loos have the final word on this. He lists and names Aboriginal people (including Lesley and Mercy Baird!) who with 'many like them are living the faith the white man brought.' He argues: 'Yet it is their faith. For them, increasingly, a black man looks down from a black cross.'

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## Handbook of Injury and Violence Prevention

Edited by Lynda S Doll, Sandra E Borzto, David A Sleet and James A Mercy. Published by Springer Science + Business Media, New York, 2007. Hardback, 576 pages. ISBN 0387259244. RRP \$109.00.

**Reviewed by Pam Albany**  
*NSW Health Department*

I'm not normally a reader of introductions, but I discovered the introduction to this new book contained an important statement. It quotes the National Academy of Sciences/National Research thus: "Injury has been described, until recently, as the "neglected disease" because it occurs in such great numbers but has been tacitly accepted as a normal occurrence of living in a modern society". The introduction then suggests that the use of a public health approach, similar to that used for other diseases, would lead to a significant reduction in injury. Thus the editors of this recently published book set out a case for a more intelligent management of one of the most severe burdens on the health system and on the economics of society.

# White Christ Black Cross The Emergence Of A Black Church

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## **White Christ Black Cross The Emergence Of A Black Church:**

*White Christ Black Cross* Noel Loos, 2007 This book frames the Church of England's missionary outreach to Aboriginal people within the reality of frontier violence government control segregation and neglect As missionary control diminished Aboriginal people responded more overtly and autonomously Some regarded white Christianity as irrelevant while others adopted it in culturally satisfying ways Through the Australian Board of Missions ABM the Church of England sought to convert Aboriginal people into a Europeanized compliant sub caste The separation of children from their families was the first step The book also shows how the ABM found itself increasingly embroiled in emerging broader social issues and changing government policies requiring it to rethink its own policies *Empires of Religion* H. Carey, 2008-11-13 A sparkling new collection on religion and imperialism covering Ireland and Britain Australia Canada the Cape Colony and New Zealand Botswana and Madagascar Bursting with accounts of lively characters and incidents from around the British world this collection is essential reading for all students of religious and imperial history *The Contest for Aboriginal Souls* Regina Ganter, 2018-05-29 This book covers the missionary activity in Australia conducted by non English speaking missionaries from Catholic and Protestant mission societies from its beginnings to the end of the mission era It looks through the eyes of the missionaries and their helpers as well as incorporating Indigenous perspectives and offering a balanced assessment of missionary endeavour in Australia attuned to the controversies that surround mission history It means neither to condemn nor praise but rather to understand the various responses of Indigenous communities the intentions of missionaries the agendas of the mission societies and the many tensions besetting the mission endeavour It explores a common commitment to the supernatural and the role of intermediaries like local diplomats and evangelists from the Pacific Islands and Philippines and emphasises the strong role played by non English speakers in the transcultural Australian mission effort This book is a companion to the website *German Missionaries in Australia* A web directory of intercultural encounters The web directory provides detailed accounts of Australian missions staffed with German speakers The book reads laterally across the different missions and produces a completely different type of knowledge about missions The book and its accompanying website are based on a decade of research ranging across mission archives with foreign language sources that have not previously been accessed for a historiography of Australian missions A remarkable intellectual achievement compelling reading Dr Niel Gunson The range of knowledge on display here is very impressive indeed Professor Peter Monteath ***Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South*** Mark A. Lamport, 2018-06-01 Christianity has transformed many times in its 2 000 year history from its roots in the Middle East to its presence around the world today From the mid twentieth century onward the presence of Christianity has increased dramatically in Asia Africa and Latin America and the majority of the world's Christians are now nonwhite and non Western The *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South* traces both the historical evolution and contemporary themes in Christianity in more than 150 countries and

regions The volumes include maps images and a detailed timeline of key events The phrases Global Christianity and World Christianity are inadequate to convey the complexity of the countries and regions involved this encyclopedia with its more than 500 entries aims to offer rich perspectives on the varieties of Christianity where it is growing how the spread of Christianity shapes the faith in various regions and how the faith is changing worldwide *The Routledge Companion to African American Art History* Eddie Chambers,2019-11-12 This Companion authoritatively points to the main areas of enquiry within the subject of African American art history The first section examines how African American art has been constructed over the course of a century of published scholarship The second section studies how African American art is and has been taught and researched in academia The third part focuses on how African American art has been reflected in art galleries and museums The final section opens up understandings of what we mean when we speak of African American art This book will be of interest to graduate students researchers and professors and may be used in American art African American art visual culture and culture classes The Historical Handbook and Guide to Oxford: Embracing a Succinct History of the University and City from the Year 912 ... James J. Moore,1878 **The History and Character of Calvinism** John Thomas McNeill,1923 This is a masterful historical portrait of the whole movement of Calvinism for general readers and scholars alike **A Catholic History of Great Britain** Ethel Mary Wilmot-Buxton,1921 *History of the town and county of Wexford, ed. by P.H. Hore* Philip Herbert Hore,1900 *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, Giving the Derivation, Source, Or Origin of Common Phrases, Allusions, and Words that Have a Tale to Tell* Ebenezer Cobham Brewer,1900 **History and Genealogy of the Pearsall Family in England and America** Clarence Eugene Pearsall,1928 **The New Larned History for Ready Reference, Reading and Research** Josephus Nelson Larned,1923 Collections for the History of the Parish of Speen, in the County of Berks Walter Money,1892 **Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, Giving the Derivation, Source Or Origin of Common Phrases, Allusions, and Words that Have a Tale to Tell... . To which is Added a Concise Bibliography of English Literature** Ebenezer Cobham Brewer,1910 Sessional Papers Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons,1906 *Parliamentary Papers* Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons,1906 **Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline** ,1906 **The Cross in Tradition, History, and Art** William Wood Seymour,1898 This work discusses the cross throughout history from prehistoric times to modern day Found within are chapters entitled cross before the Christian Era and in prehistoric times types of the cross early form and use of the cross legends of the cross true cross and its traditionary history title of the cross doctrinal teaching of the crucifixion cross and crucifix in early Christian art various types of crosses varieties of the cross objects with the cross on them sign of the cross Puritan objections to the cross and miscellaneous crosses B N **The Sacristy** ,1871 The Oxford Magazine ,1913

## **White Christ Black Cross The Emergence Of A Black Church** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become much more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**White Christ Black Cross The Emergence Of A Black Church**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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