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Jayne Persian, *Fascists in Exile: Post War Displaced Persons in Australia*

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Jayne Persian, *Fascists in Exile: Post War Displaced Persons in Australia* (London and New York: Routledge, 2024), 182pp. Paperback. US\$75.95. ISBN: 978-0-3676-9696-2.

Australia is a nation of migrants, and immigration is a strong recurring theme throughout much of the political discourse of the Twentieth and early Twenty-First centuries. From establishing a 'White Australia', through the resettlement of displaced peoples in post war environments, to the vexed refugee debate, it has undoubtedly been pivotal in Australian policy and thought.

Jayne Persian's latest book *Fascists in Exile: Post War Displaced Persons in Australia*, continues her research into the Eastern European wave of migration which occurs immediately after World War Two. Her critically acclaimed first book, *The Beautiful Balts*, highlighted the immigrant experience for those displaced people from the Baltic States, people whose lives were shattered firstly by Nazi and then Soviet occupation. In this book, Persian looks at the political affiliations of those migrants who came to Australia in the wake of the war but analyses their political affiliation and involvement within Nazi structures in World War Two. She outlines the challenges in identifying those who were affiliated with crimes against humanity, and the challenges of respecting their human rights in a post-war landscape. She then analyses their influences in Australia, many of whom were welcomed due to the large post-war infrastructure projects such as the Snowy Mountain Scheme; Australian migration laws were modified to allow the entry of 'white' workers into the country. Finally, Persian attempts to track the efforts of Australian officials to investigate and identify possible war criminals in Australia; in the wake of the Eichmann trial, this became a global imperative to bring perpetrators to justice. Persian is an excellent researcher, and it shows with an impressively researched book. Her use of source material and archival resources are sublime and add true depth to the discussion of the book.

However, the length of the book poses a challenge to the reader. It is truly informative, and provides a solid background to the reader, but also lacks a little depth and detail that one would hope for. Considering the ongoing legacy of this wave of immigration, including incidents like those which occurred at the Croatian Club, it would be important to maybe expand upon the ongoing influence in this space. This falls outside the original remit of the book but would certainly benefit modern scholars examining the far right and their influence on the Australian political landscape. It would be an excellent addition to future editions of the book. Overall, this book is an excellent read. It is an important piece of scholarship in the space and should be considered for anyone interested in political extremism in Australia. Jayne Persian has produced an excellent tome, and should be proud of her efforts.

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