Australia 1920’s

Aboriginal Australia: Massacres, Control and Protest
- Aboriginal ex-soldier men denied war service benefits; nothing had changed for their people.
- Land was taken from the aboriginals in order to house it for whites. This land was promise to the indigenous forever.

Stolen Children
- Increasingly Protection Boards were empowered to remove aboriginal children from their homes.
- Half – caste children were taken under the government’s custody.
- Between 1912 – 1938 1400+ children taken in NSW.
- One foreground was education. However, Aboriginal parents who attempted to enrol their kids in school were dismissed.
- The practice of removing reached height 1930’s.
- To remove a non-aboriginal from their home, evidence of neglect and abuse had to be proved. This was not a criterion for Aboriginal children. Many of these children removed suffered abuse in their foster care.

Discrimination and Oppression
- Discrimination varied between the older and more settled area in the east and west.
- Vic/NSW lives less controlled, still suffered prejudice. Lack of education, health care and denied rights and paid less.
- 1930’s: plight worsened due to State Government Policies. Aboriginal unemployed denied access to relief work, forced back into reserves so dole could not be received. Reserves seriously overcrowded.
- North/West discrimination far-reaching, often involving violence. Treated like prisoners.
- Many not in reserves, exploited in cattle work by low wages, brought back in chains if ran away.
- Used as cheap labour

Racism and Violence
- Worst cases of Racism were widely publicised.
- Massacres of random killings. Coniston Massacres. 1 police constable/8 white men deliberately killed 30 Abo. People. Federal government concluded this necessary. People in the cities were outraged by news.

The growth of the protest movement
- Police atrocities, by late 1920's alerted public.
- In WA, Abo farmer, William Morris formed a unions to fight for Aboriginal rights, legal equality, right for Abo’s to live own way of life.
- William Cooper formed Australian Aboriginal League, Melbourne 1932. Demanding better conditions and an Aboriginal representative in parliament.
- NSW, William Ferguson, Aboriginal shearer formed Aborigines’ Progressive Association, campaigned for citizenship.

The Day of Mourning
The AAL and APL decided the 150th anniversary of white settlement should be observed as a day of mourning. The manifesto pointed out that 26th Jan marked the anniversary of 150 years of Aboriginal suffering.