

The main aim of the thesis is to describe the development of immigration policy and immigration in Australia since the first colonization of the country up to the present. Individual waves since 1778 are analyzed, i.e. from the colonization of British settlers and immigration associated with gold rush to non-British immigration after the World War II. The work describes the shift from discriminatory White Australia policy which was abandoned mainly after Migration Act 1958 to multicultural policy. There were two different approaches to multiculturalism: assimilation of immigrants during the 1950s and their integration in the 1960s. Gaugh Whitlam government finally abolished the White Australia policy in 1973 replacing both previous positions with multicultural policy. Governments of prime ministers and changes of their approaches to multicultural policies since 1970s up to the present are discussed. Current migration and humanitarian program as well as special Department of Immigration and visa system are also part of this work.