



How is it that one of wealthiest states in one of the wealthiest countries detains a respected community leader from amongst its minority indigenous peoples and transports him in conditions in which he is cooked to death? How is it that this tiny minority of less than 4% of the population constitute 40% of the State's prison population? How is it that in their own country these peoples are all too often condemned to literal homelessness?

Jeannine Purdy's chronology of Western Australia 1629 – 1992 is a powerful witness to a history of colonisation which shapes relations between Aboriginal and other Western Australians. An introduction and postscript give the background and standpoint of the chronology and update it to the present.

The volume portrays how what is said and what is done fail to coincide – questioning the dominant society's claim to be civilised.

Since obtaining her doctoral degree in law and legal studies from La Trobe University, Victoria in 1995, Jeannine Purdy has had a varied career, working in areas including native title, homelessness, prisons inspections and law reform as well as being a legal academic, researcher and writer in Australia.

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