



Australia as the Antipodal Utopia

European Imaginations From Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century

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A discursive history of Australia's utopian place in the Western imagination

Australia has a fascinating history of visions. As the antipode to Europe, the continent provided a radically different and uniquely fertile ground for envisioning places, spaces and societies. 'The Antipodal Utopia' evaluates this complex intellectual history by mapping out how Western visions of Australia evolved from antiquity to the modern period. It argues that because of its antipodal relationship with Europe, Australia is imagined as a particular form of utopia – but since one person's utopia is, more often than not, another's dystopia, Australia's utopian quality is both complex and highly ambiguous. Drawing on the rich field of utopian studies, 'The Antipodal Utopia' provides an original and insightful study of Australia's place in the Western imagination.

Key selling points

- Maps largely uncharted academic territory in its discussion of forgotten and understudied utopian texts
- Synthesises existing scholarship through a novel theoretical perspective based on utopian theory
- Provides an innovative and comprehensive study that is placed at a highly productive interdisciplinary juncture of a number of different academic disciplines, such as utopian studies, Australian literature and colonial history

Contents

Foreword by Bill Ashcroft; Introduction; Arcadia Australis; The Civilising Mission; Antipodal Inversion; The Antipodal Uncanny; Antipodal Monstrosity; Conclusion; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Daniel Hempel holds a PhD in English literature from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, and an MA in European literature from the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. He is interested in the various ways in which utopian thinking structures our perception of the world.

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