



PM GLYNN
INSTITUTE

Monograph
Series

Politics,
policy and
philosophy

 **ACU**
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Politics, policy and philosophy

These books comprise a series of short studies of some of the major strands of political philosophy in Australia and how they inform the practice of politics.

POLITICAL THOUGHT

The first three authors were specially commissioned by the PM Glynn Institute to offer their reflections on liberalism, conservatism and social democracy in Australia.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The final book in the series offers a critique of the first three from the perspective of Catholic social teaching.

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Together, they offer a range of perspectives on the direction that Australian politics might take in future.

PUBLISHING ACROSS THE DIVIDES

The PM Glynn Institute is committed to working across the political divides to encourage public policy for the common good.

FORMER LEADERS DEBATE

It has published a range of former Australian politicians who have served at the most senior level, including Tony Abbott, John Fahey, Kevin Rudd and Ursula Stephens.

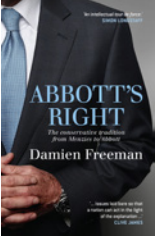
ENGAGING CURRENT POLITICIANS

This is matched by its commitment to publishing work by a range of current federal politicians including Andrew Bragg, Terri Butler, Luke Gosling, Dean Smith, Amanda Stoker and Tim Wilson.

PROMOTING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Their perspectives are complemented by those of a range of social, political and legal commentators published under its imprint, the Kapunda Press, including Frank Brennan SJ, Emma Dawson, Michael Easson, Anne Henderson, Paul Kelly, Peter Kurti, Parnell Palme McGuinness, Greg Melleuish, Shireen Morris, Leanne Smith, Marc Stears, Scott Stephens, Tom Switzer and Anne Twomey.

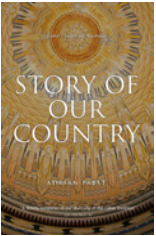
In the public square



ABBOTT'S RIGHT

In 2016, Damien Freeman was appointed as a Visiting Fellow of the PM Glynn Institute to write a short book about the conservative tradition in Australia.

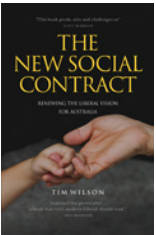
He is currently the Principal Policy Advisor at the PM Glynn Institute and General Editor of the Kapunda Press.



STORY OF OUR COUNTRY

In 2018, Adrian Pabst was appointed as the Sir Peter Lawler Visiting Fellow of the PM Glynn Institute to write a short book about Catholic social teaching and the Australian Labor Party.

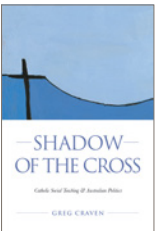
He is currently Professor of Politics at the University of Kent.



THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

In 2019, Tim Wilson was appointed as a Visiting Fellow of the PM Glynn Institute to write a short book about the future of liberalism in Australia.

He is currently the Member for Goldstein in the Australian Parliament.



SHADOW OF THE CROSS

In 2021, Professor Greg Craven was appointed as a Distinguished Fellow of the PM Glynn Institute upon his retirement as Vice-Chancellor and President of Australian Catholic University (ACU).

His essay on Catholic social teaching as a resource for public policymaking in Australia offers a critique of Freeman's account of conservatism, Wilson's account of liberalism, and Pabst's account of social democracy.

Abbott's right

The conservative tradition from Menzies to Abbott

DAMIEN FREEMAN

Melbourne University Press (2017)
Paperback, 216 pages, \$27.99 RRP
ISBN 9780522871883

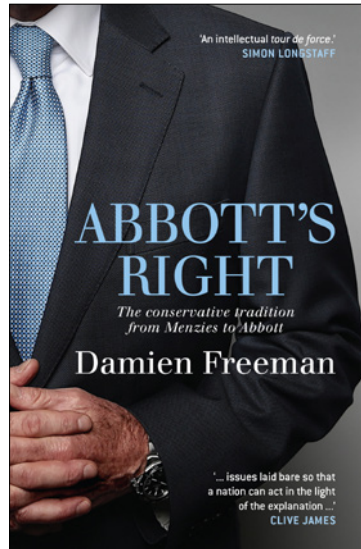
Tony Abbott may have been a Rhodes Scholar, but some commentators are convinced that he offered nothing more than three-word slogans.

Abbott's Right challenges this perception and presents Abbott as someone who rejoices in the political battle of ideas.

It looks at how the contemporary conservative voice that Abbott champions was fashioned by Sir Robert Menzies, Malcolm Fraser and John Howard, and reflects on what it means to be conservative in modern Australia.

It argues that the Liberal Party should return to its conservative roots as a centre-right party and signals how, as such, it might address the public policy challenges in the years ahead.

Tony Abbott responds to Freeman's analysis in an afterword, and sets it in the context of the questions that Donald Trump's ascendancy poses for conservatives and Labor alike.



“an intellectual tour de force”

Simon Longstaff

“issues laid bare so that a nation can act in the light of the explanation”

Clive James

Story of our country Labor's vision for Australia

ADRIAN PABST

Kapunda Press (2019)
Paperback, 220 pages, \$32.95 RRP
ISBN 9781925826593

Paul Keating once remarked, “We at least in the Labor Party know that we are part of a big story, which is also the story of our country”.

Story of Our Country unpacks that big story and Labor's place in Australia's narrative.

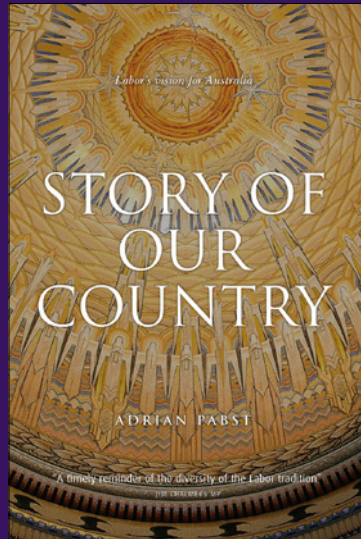
It explains why the ALP's purpose and character make it unique among centre-left parties in America, Britain, and Europe.

Central to Labor's purpose is its promise to offer people a “share in those things that make life worth living” – the common good.

Labor's vision of the good life is anchored in the everyday experience of working people. This gives Labor its distinctive strength – a paradoxical character that is at once progressive and conservative.

Adrian Pabst argues that to gain and retain power, Labor needs to build coalitions between its traditional working-class base and middle-class voters.

Labor can achieve this by deploying its distinctive strength to tackle the most critical issues facing Australia: inequality, precarious jobs, the care crisis, climate change, and emerging foreign powers.



“A timely reminder of the diversity of the Labor tradition to help us consider and counter the challenges ahead”

Jim Chalmers

“incisive, thoughtful, and well-researched”

Lindsay Tanner

“a guide to how Labor might revitalise itself”

Gerard Henderson

The new social contract

Renewing the liberal vision for Australia

TIM WILSON

Kapunda Press (2020)
Paperback, 240 pages, \$32.95 RRP
ISBN 9781922449030

A new generation of Australians are walking away from the liberal promise and embracing socialism in a way that was unthinkable before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The New Social Contract offers a powerful proposal for restoring liberalism's appeal to Australian voters.

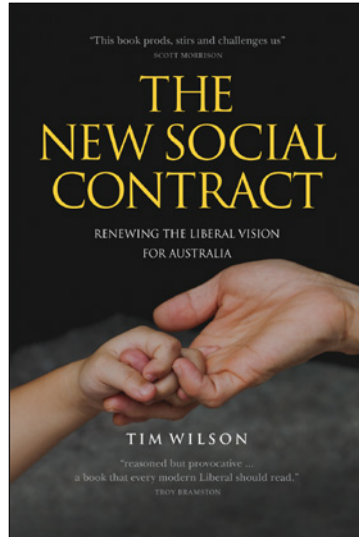
It situates Australian liberalism today broadly within the British, American and European tradition, but also explains what is distinctive about Australian liberals.

At the core of Australian liberalism is a commitment to the interests of the individual. These interests include the freedom of the individual, but they also extend beyond it to include participation in an open and just society.

Only when liberal politicians demonstrate a genuine commitment to policymaking that advances the full range of interests of individuals will they enjoy the confidence of Australian voters.

Tim Wilson argues that it is time for liberals to offer Australia a new social contract that places the interests of the individual at the core of the Government's policy agenda.

Central to achieving this will be reforms that depart from the neoliberal era of equity extraction, and instead concentrate on decentralising power and increasing homeownership, in order to address the needs of Australia's changing demography.



“this book prods, stirs and challenges”

Scott Morrison

“Wilson junks ‘popcorn politics’ for the real issues”

Amanda Vanstone

“informative and instructive, reasoned but provocative, contemporary yet draws on classical philosophy”

Troy Bramston

Shadow of the cross

Catholic social teaching and Australian politics

GREG CRAVEN

Kapunda Press (2021)

Paperback, 150 pages, \$29.95 RRP

ISBN 9781922449740

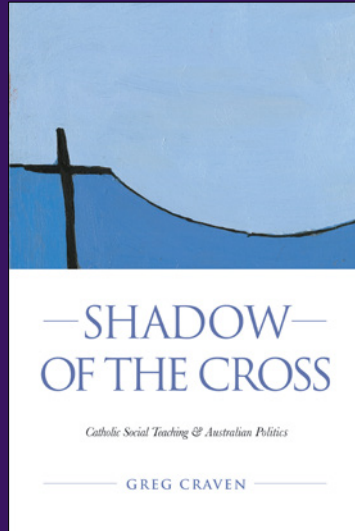
Catholic social teaching had a venerable influence on Australian political history, but does it still have anything to offer?

Greg Craven argues that it remains an important resource for addressing the central challenges of Australian politics.

In doing so, he considers the case put forward by Tim Wilson in *The New Social Contract* for liberalism, Adrian Pabst's analysis of Labor's unique approach to social democracy in *Story of Our Country*, and Damien Freeman's account of conservatism in *Abbott's Right*.

His critique of liberalism, social democracy, and conservatism from the perspective of Catholic social teaching offers a vision for how Australian political debate might be done better.

Five essayists, including Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott, offer their own thoughts on the future of politics and policy, and the utility of Catholic social teaching as a resource for policymaking in their responses to Craven's analysis.



“Catholic social teaching provides ongoing assistance for those of us committed to taking on the big political challenges confronting the planet and every nation”

Kevin Rudd

“however refined and elaborated, even by the great Saint John Paul II, I’m still sceptical of the extent to which Catholic social teaching can take us from worthy principles to practical policy”

Tony Abbott

The PM Glynn Institute was established by Australian Catholic University (ACU) in 2016 as a public policy think tank to analyse issues of concern to the Catholic Church and the wider Australian community. Its focus is public policy for the common good.

pmg@acu.edu.au

pmglynn.acu.edu.au

Cover image: Father Maurice Keating OP, *St. John the Evangelist*; c.1965 - 1967 (detail).
Glazed ceramic tiles. Australian Catholic University Art Collection.

Disclaimer (October 2021): Information correct at time of printing. The University reserves the right to amend, cancel or otherwise modify the content without notice.