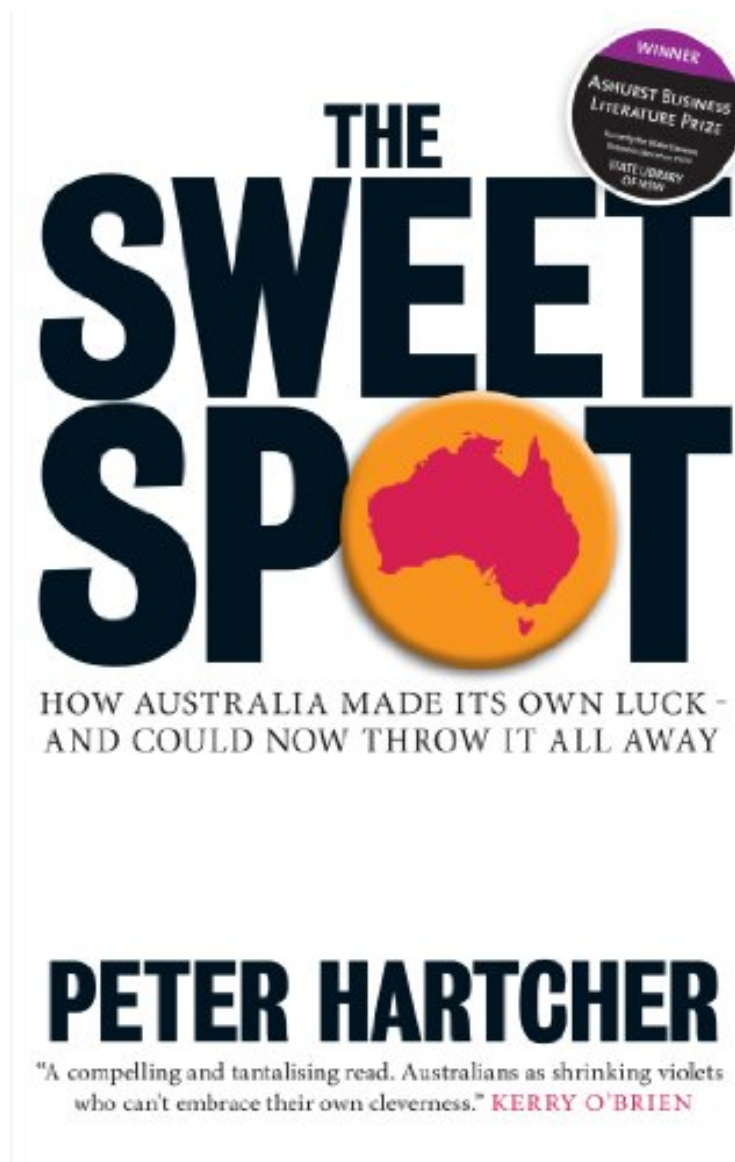


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The Sweet Spot: How Australia Made Its Own Luck - And Could Now Throw It All Away

Peter Hartcher

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Peter Hartcher : The Sweet Spot: How Australia Made Its Own Luck - And Could Now Throw It All Away before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sweet Spot: How Australia Made Its Own Luck - And Could Now Throw It All Away:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Definitely informative, but...By Souvik MitraFor those of us that do not follow the goings-on in Australia with a keen eye, this book definitely packs a lot of information. Such information

paints a very cogent picture of Australia, at least politically economically speaking in the current situation. It covers a great deal of substance on policy - macroeconomic for the most part -, sets, in my mind at least, a great example to follow for many countries which are continually failing its citizenry by bickering over party politics trying to gain political mileage consequently. The few decades leading up to to the current one, in the Australian context at least, are an example in nation building driving economic reform. Further the book dwells on Australia's colonial past, covers swiftly the history of its early white settlement until the 1980s in a bit of a whirlwind tour, pausing every now then to celebrate many Australian achievements like the right of women to vote such. It also addresses elements of culture the manifestation of such culture. In the passing, it mentions some of the things that Australia is yet to get right but by large, this is a story of how Australia took what it had made the best of it, such best, by current comparisons with contemporaries, is, at least, very good. So by reading this book, you can a good idea of Australia's current successes the reasons behind it. However, unfortunately, this book reads like a rebuttal for the most part. It is written as if to make a point in a congress of nations to specifically challenge statements made about Australia, or sentiments perceptions, justified or otherwise, that are held about the country. There are entire chapters dedicated to falsifying/making points about "a lucky resource rich country", "not too right, not too left", the "Australian model of running a country" - all of this in response to something someone said at some point in time. When the author talks about "throwing it all away", all he is talking about is populism in politics - as an outsider, it is a little hard for me to believe that if there is one problem that any given country has to solve, it is that of populism in its domestic politics. It just doesn't ring true seems rather utopian. This book does not cover the indigenous people, their history in the land, or their current integration in Australian culture - I think that's a glaring lacuna in this book. I'll have to say that I definitely learned a fair bit by reading this book, though I was disappointed with its structure its focus. @souvikstweets0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A 'must read' for all Aussies By Gavin Donald I liked it so much I plan to buy a paperback to lend to friends. Australian history is analysed for its influence on government policy at key times, showing how the right economic balance was finally achieved between free market forces and social equity. The convict colony was a great start by shedding the class system of Britain. The gold rush and the Eureka Stockade were pivotal and the Hawk-Keating labour government brought in major economic reform with bi-partisan support. That could never have been achieved by a conservative government against labour union opposition. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Those who ignore history... By Alistair Atkinson I greatly enjoyed this book's readable, compact coverage of Australia's economic history and the clear way in which it places Australia's current circumstances in both historical and current-day global context. If found it illuminating with regards to the last two decades of national politics, and also puts the current mining boom in it's proper context. And given the book's subject matter, it manages to be anything but dry or boring. Highly recommended.

Winner of the 2012 Ashurst Business Literature Prize This book will change the way you think about your country... Australians now officially have the best living conditions in the world. Our country is both fair and free and the only developed nation to have avoided a recession in the past twenty years. So how did it happen and why don't we care? In The Sweet Spot Peter Hartcher takes readers on a vastly entertaining and thought-provoking tour through Australian politics and history. He shows how a convict colony could have become a banana republic but didn't, how Australia came through the global financial crisis - it wasn't just the mining boom - and how we could now throw our success away if we don't recognise our strengths and demand true leadership of our politicians. Hartcher argues that Australia's prosperity was not built on dumb luck. In a time when the authoritarian success story of China is strong, Australia offers a better model: a democratic success story. Is it perfect? Of course not. But on some of the most important and apparently intractable problems of the modern world, Australia, believe it or not, is as good as it gets. And the beaches aren't bad either. Longlisted, 2012 Walkley Book Awards A compelling and tantalising read. Australians as shrinking violets who can't embrace their own cleverness, and risk blowing the chance of a golden future. - Kerry Orsini A book to promote thought and argument. - Agel A 21st-century reply to Donald Horner's classic The Luck Country. - Bookseller + Publisher A thoughtful analysis of Australia's success. - Herald Sun Peter Hartcher is an award-winning journalist and author, and is currently the political editor and international editor for the Sydney Morning Herald.

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