

Worksheet: Origins of Engagement with Asia by 1949

Consolidation and analysis

The foundations of post-war engagement: the American pivot, a contradictory relationship with Japan, and the first signs of an independent regional policy.

Q1. Explain how the Fall of Singapore reshaped Australia's foreign-policy alignment.

Q2. Why was Australia's role in the occupation of Japan significant for its future relationship with Asia?

Q3. What was Evatt's role in establishing the United Nations, and why did the Chifley government's support for Indonesian independence mark a change?

Q4. "By 1949 Australia had begun to see itself as part of its region rather than simply as an outpost of Britain." To what extent do you agree? Support your answer with evidence.