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[Graham, Bruce Desmond](#)

Description

This book analyses the social and economic factors which led to the rise of the Country Parties in Australia, and shows that they were related to the agrarian parties of the Canadian Prairie Provinces and the American Mid-West. All these movements, Dr Graham

suggests, reflected the social insecurity of the countrymen as well as their determination to improve their economic status and to gain a more secure position in the political structure of their community. The marketing and price controls...[\[Show more\]](#) introduced during World War I had a direct effect on the agricultural and pastoral interests of Australia, and members of this faction entered politics with the object of forming efficient and vigorous pressure groups and country parties in Parliament. By 1920, such parties had been formed in all but the Tasmanian Parliament, and the National and Labor Parties found themselves experiencing the utmost difficulty in coping with the new arrival. In their first years, the Country Parties experimented with a variant of the balance-of-power strategy, used by several of the Labor Parties before the war, but by 1923 they had adopted the policy of co-operating with the Nationalists in government and parliament. A new balance had been achieved within the Australian party system, but this book suggests that the ease with which the Country Party was tamed has been exaggerated, and that the new role was not accepted without dissent by the Country Parties.

Collections [ANU Press \(1965-Present\)](#)

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There have been many political parties in Australia named Australian Country Party, Country Party of Australia or simply Country Party either nationally or in one state. Some have been formally registered under those names, and some only informal groups. These have included: Australian Country Party (1920), renamed to the National Country Party, then the National Party of Australia. Australian Federation Party, registered as the Australian Country Party from 2015 to 2020. The National Party of Australia, also known as The Nationals or The Nats, is an Australian political party. Traditionally representing graziers, farmers, and rural voters generally, it began as the Australian Country Party in 1920 at a federal level. It later adopted the name National Country Party in 1975, before taking its current name in 1982. Federally, and in New South Wales, and to an extent in Victoria and historically in Western Australia, it has in government been the minor party in a centre The Country Party was founded in 1920 by a group of state-based Country Party members who had been elected to federal parliament the previous year. In the next federal election, the party gained 14 seats and the new party secured the balance of power. They aligned themselves with the Nationalist Party — the forerunner of today's Liberals — a coalition that has continued to this day. BD Graham, The Formation of the Australian Country Parties, ANU Press, Canberra, 1966. Ellis, Ulrich, A History of the Australian Country Party, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1963. Updated: 15 April 2020. Return to Top. Show. The National Museum of Australia acknowledges First Australians and recognises their continuous connection to country, community and culture. There have been many political parties in Australia named Australian Country Party, Country Party of Australia or simply Country Party either nationally or in one state. Some have been formally registered under those names, and some only informal groups. These have included: Australian Country Party (1920), renamed to the National Country Party, then the National Party of Australia. Australian Federation Party, registered as the Australian Country Party from 2015 to 2020. The National Party of Australia, also known as The

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