Political myth: the political uses of history, tradition and memory

Peter Ricketson
University of Wollongong

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
COPYRIGHT WARNING

You may print or download ONE copy of this document for the purpose of your own research or study. The University does not authorise you to copy, communicate or otherwise make available electronically to any other person any copyright material contained on this site. You are reminded of the following:

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this work may be reproduced by any process, nor may any other exclusive right be exercised, without the permission of the author.

Copyright owners are entitled to take legal action against persons who infringe their copyright. A reproduction of material that is protected by copyright may be a copyright infringement. A court may impose penalties and award damages in relation to offences and infringements relating to copyright material. Higher penalties may apply, and higher damages may be awarded, for offences and infringements involving the conversion of material into digital or electronic form.

Recommended Citation
NOTE

This online version of the thesis may have different page formatting and pagination from the paper copy held in the University of Wollongong Library.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

COPYRIGHT WARNING

You may print or download ONE copy of this document for the purpose of your own research or study. The University does not authorise you to copy, communicate or otherwise make available electronically to any other person any copyright material contained on this site. You are reminded of the following:

Copyright owners are entitled to take legal action against persons who infringe their copyright. A reproduction of material that is protected by copyright may be a copyright infringement. A court may impose penalties and award damages in relation to offences and infringements relating to copyright material. Higher penalties may apply, and higher damages may be awarded, for offences and infringements involving the conversion of material into digital or electronic form.
POLITICAL MYTH
The Political Uses of History, Tradition and Memory

A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
For the award of the degree

Doctor of Philosophy
From
University of Wollongong

by

Peter Ricketson

Department of History and Politics
2001
Chapter 3 Collective Memory

1. Introduction 172
2. Collective Memory 173
   2.1 Conceptualising Collective Memory 173
   2.2 Memory and History 187
3. Representations of the Past 201
   3.1 A Useable Past 202
   3.2 Competing Memories 208
   3.3 Memory and Identity 214
   3.4 Heritage and Nostalgia 223
   3.5 Media and Memory 231
4. Conclusion 237

Chapter 4 Memory Sites

1. Introduction 242
2. Monuments and Memory 245
3. Monuments to National Memory and the National Dead 263
4. Primal Memories 274
5. Relics and Memory 284
6. Museums as Memory Sites 393
7. Conclusion 301
Chapter 5 Tradition

1. Introduction 303
2. Persistence of Tradition 304
3. Conceptualising Tradition 313
4. Tradition, Memory and Continuity 329
5. Tradition, Social Cohesion and Identity 339
6. Conclusion 351

Chapter 6 Commemoration

1. Introduction 356
2. Commemorative Ritual and Collective Memory 358
3. Commemorative Ritual
   3.1 Defining Ritual 364
   3.2 Ritual as Cultural Management 370
   3.3 Ritual as Symbolic Communication 374
   3.4 Ritual as Performance 378
4. Ritual Space 383
5. The Commemorative Process
   5.1 Commemorative Narrative 388
   5.2 Master Commemorative Narrative 390
   5.3 Commemorative Density and Political Myth 392
   5.4 Contested Commemorations 399
6. Conclusion 402

Chapter 7 Political Myth and Legitimacy

1. Introduction 408
2. The Importance of Legitimation 412
3. The Problematic Nature of Legitimating Rationales 422
   3.1 Political Myths as Compensatory Sources of Legitimation 422
   3.2 The Emergence of a ‘Symbolic Void’ 426
      3.2.1 Opinion as a ‘Justifiable’ Source of Authority 428
      3.2.2 The ‘Limits of Legitimacy’ 432
   3.3 ‘Rolling Back’ the State 438
4. Legitimating Criteria
   4.1 Legitimacy Derived From Rules 442
   4.2 Legitimacy Derived From an Authoritative Source 445
      4.2.1 Divine Sanction 445
DECLARATION

I, Peter Ricketson, declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Doctor in Philosophy, in the Department of History and Politics, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Peter Ricketson
Special thanks to my supervisor Stephen Reglar who guided me through the whole process of researching, writing and editing a thesis.

My personal thanks to Pamela Ricketson who encouraged and supported me to keep going, acted as my intellectual 'sounding board' and was invaluable in the difficult task of editing.