Record Nr. UNINA9910458838203321 Autore Walter James <1949-> Titolo What were they thinking? [[electronic resource]]: the politics of ideas in Australia / / James Walter with Tod Moore Sydney, : University of New South Wales, 2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-74223-248-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (490 p.) Altri autori (Persone) MooreTod 320.9/94 Disciplina Soggetti Political science - Australia - History Electronic books. Australia Politics and government History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references (p. 354-373) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Cover; About the author; Title; Copyright Page; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Part I: The way we live now; 1: A seismic shift?; Part II: Democracy by degrees; 2: 'Really respectable settlers' or 'most furious democrats'?; 3: Defining interests; Part III: The 'new liberal' agenda; 4: A true Commonwealth?; 5: Parallel visions: the settlement in question?; 6: A civic order; Part IV: Reconstructions: policies for prosperity; 7: Building the 'modern' nation; 8: Unintended consequences: Part V: The American songbook: 9: Life is not meant to be easy: 10: A veto on politics Part VI: Reconsiderations: the way we live now, reprise11: Conclusion: political reasoning and political action; Guide to sources; Notes Challenging conventional ways of thinking about politics, this Sommario/riassunto ambitious history of 20th-century Australian political thought explains how several of the most well-established Australian political ideas, such as franchise and the welfare state, came to be. By examining the impact of these ideas and the ways they have inspired individuals and movements from before the first prime minister, Edmund Barton, all the

way to current incumbent Kevin Rudd, this robust study makes what

often seems arcane or abstract come to life.