

# The New Criterion

## Features

January 2007

### The nation & the intellectual Left

by [Keith Windschuttle](#)

On the changing relationship between the Left and the nation state.

In December 2005, some of Sydney's surfing beaches were sites of what politicians and the press called "race riots." After a gang of Lebanese Muslim youths had assaulted a volunteer lifeguard at Cronulla Beach, a gang of Anglo-Australian youths tried to assault a number of young Lebanese men, but police arrived in time to minimize the violence. The following night, a convoy of one hundred cars driven by Lebanese Muslim youths drove across the city to Maroubra Beach where they spent a considerable time vandalizing property and parked vehicles. Police arrested many of the Anglo-Australians but very few of the Lebanese rioters. Indeed, the police hierarchy told its officers not to interfere with the Lebanese motor convoy lest their actions inflame the situation. Nonetheless, the immediate police response at Cronulla did mean that the violence was contained to three days and never extended beyond the beachfronts of two suburbs. Compared to ...

**Keith Windschuttle** is an author and publisher who is a frequent contributor to *The New Criterion* and *Quadrant*. He is author of *The Killing of History: How Literary Critics and Social Theorists Are Murdering Our Past*, which is now in its fourth edition from Encounter Books, and five other books on contemporary social issues. His book *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History, Volume One, Van Diemen's Land 1803-1847*, will be published by Macleay Press, Sydney, in November. He is publisher of Macleay Press, Sydney. He is a graduate in history from the University of Sydney and in politics from Macquarie University. He is a former academic who taught history, social policy and media studies the University of New South Wales and other Australian universities. His principal research interests are in historiography, especially of Australian and American history, and in the theories of history produced in the last two hundred years.

[more from this author](#)

This article originally appeared in *The New Criterion*, Volume 25 January 2007, on page 15

Copyright © 2009 The New Criterion | [www.newcriterion.com](http://www.newcriterion.com)

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/The-nation---the-intellectual-Left-2558>