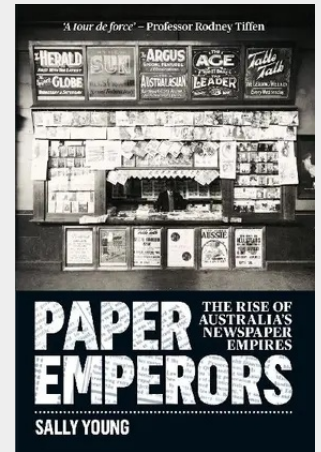


Paper Emperors

The rise of Australia's newspaper empires

Before newspapers were ravaged by the digital age, they were a powerful force, especially in Australia – a country of newspaper giants and kingmakers. This magisterial book reveals who owned Australia's newspapers and how they used them to wield political power. A corporate and political history of Australian newspapers spanning 140 years, it explains how Australia's media system came to be dominated by a handful of empires and powerful family dynasties. Many are household names, even now: Murdoch, Fairfax, Syme, Packer. Written with verve and insight and showing unparalleled command of a vast range of sources, Sally Young shows how newspaper owners influenced policy-making, lobbied and bullied politicians, and shaped internal party politics. The book begins in 1803 with Australia's first newspaper owner – a convict who became a wealthy bank owner – giving the industry a blend of notoriety, power and wealth from the start. Throughout the twentieth century, Australians were unaware that they were reading newspapers owned by secret bankrupts and failed land boomers, powerful mining magnates, Underbelly-style gangsters, bankers, and corporate titans. It ends with the downfall of Menzies in 1941 and his conviction that a handful of press barons brought him down. The intervening years are packed with political drama, business machinations and a struggle for readers, all while peddling power and influence. - It's an ambitious media and political history, the likes of which haven't been undertaken before in Australia. - Explores some of the most interesting and important episodes and relationships from the birth of the Australian newspaper industry to the 1940s. - Newspapers purport to hold the powerful to account but are rarely held to account about their own history and influence - Sally Young is one of Australia's leading media historians, and this is a magisterial work - Packed with colourful detail, ambitious, grasping characters

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