

Leaky Boats Documentary Viewing Questions

To view the documentary, just google <leaky boats documentary>. Choose the documentary that lasts exactly 57:25 so that my occasional annotations linked to the time elapsed will coordinate with what you are viewing.

What kind of a boat was it that was shown sinking in August 2001?

From where did the order come that went to the captain of the potential rescue ship to not change course to rescue the sinking boat?

Narrator: "this is more than a story about politics. It's about ____."

To what group did Australia open itself to during WWII, "transforming itself into a multicultural society"?

What was the political significance in Australia of the year 2001?

Prime Minister Howard said "I do not like _____ coming here and _____."

The word "cue jumping" refers to those who jump ahead of others in line, in this context ahead of others who have applied for refugee status in the Australian Embassy in a particular country. How is the term "cue jumping" misleading as it applies to Afghanistan and Iraq?

As such, were political asylees from Afghanistan and Iraq technically "illegal" under Australian law?

In what type of site does most true illegal immigration take place in Australia?

What was the political opportunity offered by the Tampa that was not available if Australian ships were involved in rescue operations? Explain.

What was the dilemma that the captain of the Tampa faced, after rescuing the refugees?

Where did the first boatload actually end up?

What new dilemmas were raised with the arrival and the behavior of the second boat?

What are "SIEVs"?

How much did the Australian public really know about what was going on with the boats? Explain why.

The woman who was head of the Public Affairs Office, Department of Defence was told that there was to be nothing in the public forum which would "_____ these people.

The brigadier: "they wanted to portray that these are not _____ people.

Explain how the events of Sept 11, 2001 affected public perceptions of Muslims and Australian national security.

In the weeks after Sept 11, what happened to the public perception, as measured by the polls, of the Howard government?

Summarize the parallels to a wartime election and what was happening with the Howard government. What are the four words that political researcher Stephen Mills uses to describe what tends to rule

election choices in such a setting? (at around 28 minutes)

By what name was SIEV 4 eventually known as? How did this play into the dehumanization theme remarked about earlier?

Of the first four SIEVs, how many was the Australian Navy successful in turning back?

What made the Navy personnel continue to not initiate a rescue of the people from SIEV 4 was it was breaking apart and sinking?

What story remained the hottest story in the country, even the day after the big rescue had been done by the Australian Navy?

What important voice mail was “lost”?

“People will see what they want to see” is a fairly common expression for explaining how various people will see the same evidence and have different understandings of what the evidence means. How is this illustrated here? (I am referring to the part of the documentary that begins with the TV interview done by a journalist of the Defence Minister) Explain.

Summarize the orders that the crew of the Adelaide had regarding communications with the media and others during and after the rescue effort. (section begins around 39 minutes)

Summarize Mike Scrafton about giving advice to higher ups...

Security or politics? Summarize the material found between 41 and 42 minutes.

What specifically does Ali Alamein say about the communication that the refugees had with the outside world in the island camp that was shown?

What was the new “get tougher” strategy announced about the SIEVs announced just three weeks before the election?

How did the SIEV passengers respond in kind?

When the Navy communicated their concerns about the perverse incentives caused by the new tougher policy to Canberra (the Howard Administration), how were these concerns received?

What happened just three days before the election?

What did Mike Scrafton say about all of this, and what was Prime Minister Howard’s response?

What happened to the standing in the polls of the Howard led government subsequent to the events raised in the previous two questions?

Remember the material earlier that in fact the arrival of the people on boats was not illegal under Australian law? Comment on Howard’s remark that begins around 50:45. Why does he keep using this seven letter word?

What did Abdul find particularly emotional about the woman he was next to on the boat that had its engine blow up?

Before the first boat had arrived, what was the standing of Howard with regards to the election? Ten

weeks later, after all that had happened with the leaky boats, what was the outcome of the election?

What were the causes (at least 3), post-election, of the decline and eventual stoppage (for awhile) of the leaky boats disembarking to Australia?

What share of all of the boat people were eventually classified as refugees? How many of them was this, and what share of them now live in Australia?