

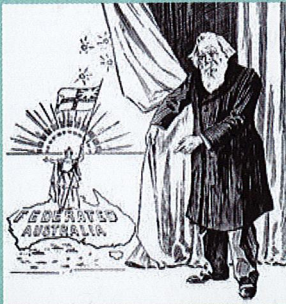
Why Federate?

After developing separately, the Australian colonies became more unified during the 1870s and 1880s. Better shipping and the development of the rail network and telegraph lines improved communication, so officials and politicians had more contact with each other. There was increased cooperation in the management of immigration, postal services and lighthouses.

Increased unity came at a time of change. Colonies no longer relied on convicts for labour. Many immigrants who had come to New South Wales and Victoria during the gold rushes in the 1850s and 1860s had stayed. Convicts and ex-convicts were now a minority of the population.

The new arrivals had come from freer societies, and demanded more say in how the colonies were run. As a result, colonial parliaments gradually became more powerful than the governors and landowners who had ruled the colonies. Better education also made people more aware of advances in other countries, and they wanted the same benefits.

For Federation

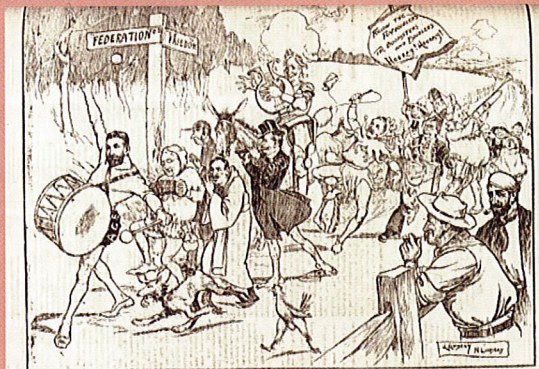


This cartoon, called "The Father of Federation", shows Sir Henry Parkes 'unveiling' his vision of a united Australia. Parkes was the NSW Premier for much of the period leading up to Federation, and a speech he gave in Tenterfield in 1891 is regarded as starting the Federation movement.

The reasons commonly put forward in favour of Federation are listed below.

- There was a growing sense of Australian identity, helped by improved communication and increased contact between the colonies.
- A combined defence force was necessary to protect Australia from invasion.
- Immigration policies could be made the same so only British people could come to Australia.
- Tariffs (taxes on goods brought into a colony) were seen as expensive and inconvenient.
- All the colonies had a common background, and spoke the same language, and sporting teams had already represented all of Australia.
- Australian school children learned patriotic songs and stories.
- Writers such as Henry Lawson were making the idea of the 'Australian bush' popular.

Against Federation



THE BOODLER'S BAND OF HOPE.

This cartoon shows a band of odd-looking musicians, led by Alfred Deakin, passing along 'Federation' Street away from 'Freedom' Street. The message is that 'sensible' people (like the men on the right) will not be fooled by the 'razzamatazz' of the Federationists.

The reasons commonly put forward against Federation are listed below.

- The colonies would lose the right to make their own laws about things such as immigration.
- New South Wales and Victoria were larger and wealthier than the other colonies, and may dominate the new nation.
- Each colony already had its own parliament, and its population had developed patriotic feelings.
- Federation would be expensive to set up, and running another parliament would also be expensive.
- Tariffs charged by the colonies protected industries in the smaller colonies against goods imported from the larger colonies.