A New History of Harbin-Route Russians

Dr Jayne Persian
Beautiful Balts
From Displaced Persons to New Australians
Russian and Jewish immigration to Australia via the “China” route in the wake of the Second World War and its impact on post-war Australia

**Australian Research Council Discovery Project**

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Ms Mara Moustafine, author of *Secrets and Spies: The Harbin Files* (2002)
Russians in China
Emigres
1945-49

Transition

Immigration

Chinese Communist Revolution

‘Displaced Persons’
“WHITE RUSSIANS” IN CHINA WANT TO ENTER AUSTRALIA

BRISBANE, October 14.—Facing death or slavery if the Chinese Communist forces win the civil war, about 10,000 “White Russians” in China are applying to enter Australia as immigrants.

Some claim to have as much as £10,000 and most of them want to settle on the land. They are making application through the Russian and European Christian Mission in Australia.

The director of the mission in Brisbane (Mr A. Clark) said today that he could not overestimate the dangers facing these people. The present cost of living in China was so high that they were being ruined and if they returned to Russia they faced death or slavery. He had received many applications from the mission’s Shanghai office and was forwarding them to the Immigration Department.

Mr Clark said that he had examined all the applications carefully and had returned any about which there was any doubt. During the war many of the applicants had worked with the United States forces. Mr Clark himself is a naturalised British subject. He was born in the Ukraine under the family name of Krauchenko. He entered Australia nine years ago from China, to which his family fled after the revolution. His wife and two brothers at Harbin were killed by the Soviet.