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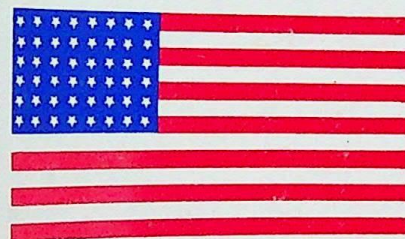
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UNEQUAL ALLIES

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UNEQUAL ALLIES



Australian-American Relations and the Pacific War

Roger J. Bell



This study of the American-Australian alliance against Japan explodes the still common belief that Australia and the United States had some extraordinary bond, forged by the Labor government in 1941. Using documents recently declassified in Washington, Canberra and London, the author throws new light on the diplomatic, military and economic war-time relations between the two countries. He argues that there was nothing exceptional about the alliance, though it was reasonably effective, and that the U.S. consistently made concessions to Australia only in so far as this furthered its own interests. Despite their common need to defeat Japan, they could not agree over such crucial issues as whether to smash Germany or Japan first. Despite the importance of Australia to the U.S.'s Pacific operations, Australia's participation in decision-making was limited, and its attempts to achieve a prominent role in Pacific affairs had little success. This is essential reading for students of international relations and Australian foreign policy from 1941 to 1946.