

# **The Tragedy of Eureka Stockade: The Influence of Gold Rush on Australian Political system**

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## **ABSTRACT**

At first, Australia functioned as a penal settlement, but it had changed its function with the find of gold. This had encouraged people to come to Australia to search for gold. This what was called the gold rush in the history of Australia. Gold rush had great influence on all aspects of human living, such as economy, social life, culture, and politic. The tragedy of Eureka Stockade was one of the bad impact of the gold rush in a matter of politic. This research aims to examine the background and the influence of Eureka Stokade.

The background of the tragedy of Eureka Stockade was the gold mining labours' upset of the government who was not cared about the labours' welfare. The labours was also upset of the government's imposition of high taxes to them. Last but not the least, this tragedy was instigated by the Charles Hotham government's protection to Bentley who had killed one of the labours. At 2 December 1854, the government military attacked Eureka Stockade which became the fortress for the labours. Majority of the labours originated from Ireland, headed by Peter Lalor. Many labours were killed at this attack and Peter Lalor escaped. Apart from that, this tragedy had positive impact as the British government sent its team to investigate this Eureka Stockade tragedy. This team came to conclusion that Charles Hotham was guilty and accordingly, suggested the government to eliminate the licence. As the follow up, the government just required the labours to pay 5 shilling a year. The government also gave a legislative seat to Peter Lalor. It can also be said that Eureka Stockade is the early birth of Labour Party.

*Kata Kunci: Eureka Stockade, Gold Rush, Labour Party, Australia.*