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SOURCE TWO

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Extract from a letter written by James Cook on his exploration of Australia, 1770
(PRO ref: ADM 55/40 f.160)

Having satisfied
myself of the great probability of a passage thro' which I intend going
with the Ship & therefore may land no more upon this Eastern Coast
of New Holland & on the Western side I can make no new dis-
covery, the Honour of which belongs to the Dutch Navigators
but the Eastern Coast from the Lat. of 38° down to this place I am
confident was never seen or visited by any European before
and notwithstanding I had, in the Name of His Majesty, taken
possession of several places upon this Coast I now once more hoist
English Colours & in the Name of His Maj. King George the
Third, took possession of the whole Eastern Coast from the above
Lat. down to this place, by the Name of New South Wales toge-
ther with all the Bays, Harbours, Rivers & Islands situated upon

How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in Australia. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- Where was Cook sailing?
- Why did Cook claim this land for Britain? (Compare this source with Cook's instructions in [source 1](#) of this case study.)
- Do you get the impression he was pleased with what he had done?
- Would you say Cook was patriotic?
- What does this source suggest was Cook's main interest in travelling to Australia?
- What clues does this source provide about why the British became empire builders in Australia?

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