

It was the end of cricket as we knew it - and the beginning of cricket as we know it.

In May 1977, the cricket world woke to discover that a 39-year-old businessman called Kerry Packer had signed thirty-five elite international players for his own televised World Series Cricket. The Cricket War, now published with a new introduction and afterword, is the definitive account of the split that changed the game on the field and on the screen.

In helmets, under lights, with white balls and in coloured clothes, the outlaw armies of Ian Chappell, Tony Greig and Clive Lloyd fought a daily battle of survival. In boardrooms and courtrooms, Packer and cricket's rulers fought a bitter war of nerves.

A compelling account of top-class sporting life, The Cricket War also gives a unique insight into the motives and methods of the tycoon who became Australia's richest man.

In his preface to this new edition, Haigh examines how the reverberations of WSC continue to play out today, particularly in terms of the power that international players now enjoy and also in the way that the administrators respond to the continuing threats to their control of the game. It was Packer who first made the unthinkable thinkable: that players would play for money rather than just national pride and now authorities have ears cocked for the bump in the night of other private promoters. Haigh's fascinating book explains how it all happened, thirty years ago.

'A fascinating account, in masterly detail, of an extraordinary episode in Australian cricket. Highly Recommended.' Peter Roebuck

'Cricket reading could scarcely be more compelling and while the game's authorities steadfastly reject the WSC performances, the players themselves will surely be grateful for what is also an extensive ball-by-blow document of their play.' The Herald Sun

About the Author

Gideon Haigh is the author of Game For Anything: Writings on Cricket, The Big Ship: Warwick Armstrong and the Making of Modern Cricket, Mystery Spinner: The story of Jack Iverson, and The Border Years, and has edited Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack Australia. He covered the 2005 Ashes series for the Guardian newspaper in the UK. His other books include the award-winning Asbestos House, and Bad Company.

Cricket War: The Inside Story of Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket

30th Anniversary Edition

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