

Governor Macquarie was very keen to make improvements to the colony. He was determined to make it a better place to live by building many new roads and public buildings. He was also determined to bring the people of the colony together by making ex-convicts the equal of free settlers.

The governor:

- had the right to control judges and the courts
- made ex-convicts equal to free settlers (this included the right to be able to become lawyers and magistrates)
- introduced taxation to pay for roads and buildings.

Macquarie wrote on the rights of ex-convicts:

My principle is, that when once a man is free, his former state should no longer be remembered, or allowed to act against him.

Ex-convicts:

- many were pardoned (freed)
- Macquarie gave them good government jobs, eg as architects, surgeons and magistrates.

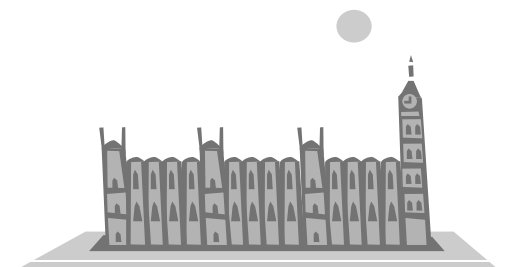
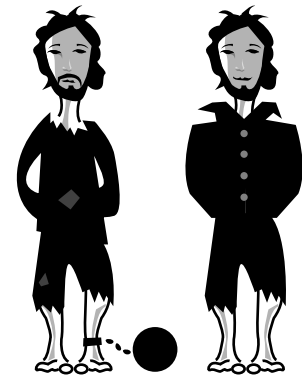
Free settlers:

- had the same rights as ex-convicts
- were taxed to pay for Macquarie's buildings but had no say in how the taxes were spent
- had no part of the government or the running of the colony
- could not stop good government jobs being given to ex-convicts.

Free settlers felt that in his attempts to restore rights to ex-convicts Macquarie often took the law into his own hands and acted in ways they thought unjust.

The British Government on Macquarie

The British Government was happy with the growth of the colony but was worried about the freedom he gave to convicts and ex-convicts.



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