



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"In spite of this universal loathing of war, the situation is daily developing to a clash of nations on a scale which may destroy civilisation. The reason is simple. War does not threaten. We are at war. There is not a person alive who has known peace... This private international financial monopoly by its complete control of monetary systems has complete power over entire communities and over governments. It is a tyranny. And step by step it is entrenching itself more strongly with the clear objective of establishing an open world-tyranny of finance, and the destruction of even the limited national sovereignty of states which exists..."*

What we have to realise is that persons who have this power - and you cannot dissociate persons from the system - are relentlessly pursuing their objective, even though men, women and children are being driven mad, and are experiencing the most terrible suffering as a result of their administration, even though the world is in danger of going up in flames and civilisation being destroyed for centuries."

- "The Nature of Social Credit" by L.D. Byrne, June 24th, 1936

THE POLITICS OF REVENGE by Jeremy Lee:

The world is aghast at events in the US. The demolition of the World Trade Centre and part of the Pentagon is sending out ripples which will ensure our world is never the same again.

It would be impossible to give an adequate summary of the history leading to this attack in *On Target*. A condensed survey will appear in *The New Times Survey* for September, currently at the printers (\$2 a copy posted, from The Heritage Bookshop, Box 1052J, GPO, Melbourne, 3001). To begin to understand, two questions must be asked: firstly, *Cui Bono?* (Who benefits?). And secondly, what response is to be fashioned?

The first question has been analysed in the *NTS*. We will address the second here.

Within hours of the tragedy the headlines of America's major dailies pronounced, almost without exception, "IT'S WAR!" And we should make no mistake, war is intended. Far from being a new development, war has been the objective for a number of months, and the most likely starting point is the Middle East. To say that the events in New York and Washington have "legitimized" the programme is true. To say that they were deliberately stage-managed as part of the programme may be as fanciful

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as it would have been to claim that Pearl Harbour was "stage-managed" in 1941. Any suggestion of such an idea would have outraged the American people at the time.

Yet subsequent revelations have shown that both Churchill and Roosevelt had prior knowledge of the impending attack on Pearl Harbour, due to the cracking of Japan's transmission code, and could have saved the heavy loss of life involved by passing the information to naval commanders at Pearl Harbour.

Roosevelt, who had campaigned for office earlier on the promise that he would not allow the United States to be dragged into the war, was able to change direction after Pearl Harbour on the crest of the indignant wave of anger and thirst for revenge among the American people.

The same wave of anger, understandably, is evident now. With no clear understanding of the history behind current events, there is a reaction in America, Europe and Australia against anyone of Middle Eastern descent.

There are now a number of nuclear powers in the Middle East and Asia. Israel, Pakistan and India have "the bomb". In addition, China, Russia and North Korea, which are nuclear powers themselves, have been supplying such clients as Iran and Syria with nuclear missiles and surface-to-air rockets. What the situation is in the Sudan, Syria, Libya and Egypt with regard to nuclear weapons is not openly known. In addition, China has forged links with the Taliban in Afghanistan and is running a number of projects there.

There is a complex link-up between militant groups in the Middle East, including bin Laden's Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, Harakat ul-Mujahaddin in Pakistan, and the Hezbollah, active in the Palestinian territories and the Lebanon. All are said to have links with Osama bin Laden. It is certain that they also have links with elements within such countries as America, Canada, Europe and Australia. We should remember we now have about a million Australians of Arab or part-Arab descent in Australia. Without in any way decrying the genuine refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq who have been arriving on our shores – created in part by the economic sanctions imposed by the West, including Australia, on their home countries – we would be naïve indeed if we imagined that the influx did not also include militant elements.

Neither is it comfortable to remember that the anguish suffered by the American people at this time has been the lot of the Palestinians for years, as their homes, industries and families have been bombed and attacked day after day. All too often the anguish of people in faraway countries is something to which, by its continued repetition, we become indifferent, while the same thing closer to home is insupportable.

If the culture for revenge and retribution is exploited to the full, and directed against real or imagined opponents without any regard to civilian populations already suffering badly, the capacity for future catastrophe is greater than anything in history. The sheer potency of military technology will ensure that.

While every effort should obviously be made to identify and neutralize the terrorists behind the recent attacks, what is needed now is an honest appraisal of the factors over almost a century which have turned much of the Islamic world into an implacable enemy of the West. There is no doubt that much of this has crystallized into the protracted war following the dispossession of the Palestinian people in 1948, the subsequent refugee crisis, and the one sided war being fought between American-armed-and-financed Israel and today's Palestinians.

In a rare article on this subject in *The Australian* (14/9/01), Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor of the London *Times*, told something of the reasons for Islamic reaction:

"Often I have sat in Palestinian refugee camps of ordinary, moderate Arabs and heard of America's unstinting support for Israeli occupation and Israeli sentiments. Islamic radicalism draws its strength from a burning sense of injustice. Any glance at the history of the Middle East and the Muslim world beyond shows that, since Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, barely a decade has passed without some Muslim area in Asia or Africa being lost to the Western Christian powers, or Muslims fighting against the encroachment of these powers"

The huge financial backing of Israel by the United States, currently running at about \$19 billion annually, including the armaments used daily against the Palestinians, is evidence of this point of view, and disqualifies America from any impartial brokerage between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel's refusal, supported by the US, to consider any sort of international arbitration in the conflict, simply confirms the Islamic perception of reality.

To reinforce the fact that this perception is shared throughout Islam, *The Australian Financial Review* (14/9/01), in an article by Tim Dodd in Jakarta, reported:

" Even mainstream opinion in Indonesia is expressing the view that America is suffering the consequences of its pro-Israel, anti-Iraq policies.

"Its role as Israel's major financial backer and arms supplier and its insistence on continuing sanctions against Iraq are widely viewed in Indonesia as unfair and even reprehensible"

Indonesia, the largest Islamic country in the world, with 85 percent of its 211 million population Muslim, also harbours organizations openly associated with Osama bin Laden.

AN EYE FOR AN EYE: In a service of prayer and remembrance broadcast from New York since the destruction, the words of a black cleric stood out. If the West was going to adopt the policy of revenge – "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" – the future for the world was hopeless. The time had come to adopt the principles of the Sermon on the Mount, based on forgiveness and a refusal to render evil for evil.

That is now the issue facing the once-Christian West. If we follow Ariel Sharon's call for massive retaliation, we stand on the edge of World War Three. It will be the war to end all wars, and much of humanity.

An acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinians to their own home, and a lifting of sanctions against Iraq, which have resulted in some 6,000 needless deaths of women and children each month in the ten years since Desert Storm, might just provide the needed atmosphere for a turning away from war.

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS TO INCREASING CHAOS: The Prime Minister has returned from the ravaged US, stepping from his Qantas flight into domestic chaos. Following hard on the collapse of Australia's biggest insurer, the 65-year-old Ansett is no more. With the possible loss of a further 60,000 jobs, and severe disruption in the travel and tourist industries, and severe disruption in regional Australia, the weeks ahead leading to the federal election look like being turbulent. The last session of Federal Parliament is now in session. Every funding crisis in Australia will be pushed before electors.

The boat people issue and his position in supporting the US have changed Howard's fortunes, with a rise in support that could tip him over the edge into re-election. Sadly, a strong military stance has often proved an election winner. Look at Margaret Thatcher and the Falklands.

But, as the saying goes, a week is a long time in politics. Howard will be doing everything he can to keep boat people and terrorism in peoples' minds. But what will he do about the latest boatload, who have forced their way onto Ashmore reef?

Beazley, on the other hand, will be highlighting every financial crisis. We can expect a further increase in vindictiveness and personal abuse. It will be an exceedingly dirty election.

REPUBLICANS MANOEUVRING INTO THE LIBERALS: Following the news that Malcolm Turnbull is now a Liberal heavyweight, the latest is that the current chairman of the Australian Republican Movement, Mr. Greg Barnes, is seeking Liberal preselection. It seems clear that republicans don't expect John Howard to be around too long after the election, and that with Treasurer Costello tipped to succeed him as leader of the Liberal Party, it will be a good vantage point for aspiring republicans.

No matter whether Labor or Coalition win, the whole republican issue will be rearing its ugly head again. The more independents we can get into office – particularly the Senate – the better.

SYCOPHANTIC MULTICULTURALISTS by Ann Crosson:

Today I watched the National Press Club luncheon broadcast on the ABC. The speaker was one Stephen Kerkysharian, a spokesman for a multicultural organisation. His discourse explained to us how much more civilised the world will be when we divorce citizenship from national identity, place of birth, race, religion and ethnicity.

I don't know Mr. Kerkysharian's nationality, but I'd guess probably Armenian. And I don't suppose there are too many people rushing to take up Armenian citizenship. Which may explain Mr. Kerkysharian's casual attitude.

The sycophantic reporters at the luncheon of course fed him neat questions that led him into replies that were full of good tips for we backward Aussies on how to lead the world in this bold new vision by sharing our nation with all comers regardless of race, colour or creed.

But what really floored me was his nonchalant reference to the "New World Order". And the fact that the press didn't roll around the floor laughing when it was mentioned. Raising the subject of the New World Order at rural rallies in the eighties and nineties was guaranteed to bring ridicule on the speaker and raise a laugh in the papers. Reporters and cartoonists had great fun. And by the same token, how come the court can invoke Magna Carta to support the cause of illegal immigrants when time after time victims of the rural clearances who sought to invoke its protection were told, on the 'best' legal authority, that the provisions of Magna Carta no longer applied?

Many of the reporters at the Press Club beano have been around a long time. Is memory loss an occupational hazard for reporters? *From Neil Baird's e-mail.*