



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"In a party-political system already fast becoming wholly discredited, Prime Minister Blair stands out as a 'leader' perhaps even more dangerous than Margaret Thatcher. As he struts the world stage with the assumed grandiloquence of a world statesman, one is reminded that he has no practical experience of leadership within the meaning of the term, and has never run a business in his life."*

"Playwright Harold Pinter has expressed the opinion that Blair 'loved bombing Serbia' during the illegal United States-driven campaign in the Balkans, in 1999. Professor Noam Chomsky mailed us at the time, 'When I catch him on BBC TV somewhere, or see a picture, he reminds me of nothing more than a slightly crazed six-year old with a big grin while he plays with his new star wars gun that can wipe out everyone in sight'."

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WAR IS ALWAYS THE EXCUSE by Jeremy Lee:

The suspension of traditional liberties is invariably the first thing that happens in a war situation. It is almost uncanny how recent legislation in Australia anticipated George Bush's requirements for the "international war against terrorism".

First, there was legislation that Australian troops could be used against the civilian population, including the power to shoot to kill. This flies in the face of the tradition that the armed forces are for defence against an external enemy, and that the police deal with domestic law and order. It once was true that the police were not to be armed – but that has gone.

President Bush has demanded international co-operation in the freezing and confiscation without trial of the assets of suspected criminals – another huge attack on basic freedoms which say that we are innocent until proven guilty.

"Oh yes," Prime Minister Howard can say. "We passed such legislation shortly before the New York/Washington tragedy. The drug trade was the excuse. But we can use the new powers against terrorism just as easily."

Surveillance is reaching new heights, with demands for DNA samples, iris screening at airports,

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phone-tapping, tax file numbers etc. While lip service is still paid by politicians – especially at election time – to our traditional freedoms, the truth is they are all under attack.

It was well summed up in an article in the IT section of *The Australian* (2/10/01) which said:

"In today's information age, everybody leaves an electronic trail in their wake. With every credit card purchase, ATM transaction, telephone call and internet log-on, you create an electronic portrait of themselves that grows clearer at every step. Perhaps the only items that are still untraceable are peoples' clothes, cash and day-to-day movements. But with the introduction of Hitachi's new mu-chip, even these could become common knowledge"

The article went on to describe this new chip, small enough to be embedded in paper without detection. It can be woven into designer-labels on clothing, money, official documents or any personal effects. Cost of production? About 16 cents. The article continued:

".... by definition, privacy means not being watched, or known about, or listened to. These new chips may therefore constitute a direct infringement of personal privacy"

Another article in the same issue had this to say:

".... US Attorney-General John Ashcroft is under siege from political colleagues demanding legislation to control encrypted software."

"His Australian counterpart, Darryl Williams, spoke last week of plans to increase electronic surveillance powers. Anticipated changes to legislation will give agencies the right to tap phones and monitor internet-based communication to help detect a wide range of crimes"

AFFECTING THE INTERNATIONAL HIGH-AND-MIGHTY: Well, CHOGM has been postponed, as have the Annual bashes of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which were due to be held in Washington about now. The only one still on the drawing-board is the November 9th-13th get-together of the World Trade Organisation, to be held in a Persian Gulf desert (Doha, Qatar), out of the reach of aspiring protesters. It seems that even the global power brokers are a little nervous of something as unpredictable as terrorism.

Does this mean the plans for centrally-controlled free-trade globalism are being abandoned? The reverse is the case, and we can be sure that the "global emergency" will be used wherever possible to speed up the plans for world government.

BRITAIN AND THE EURO: The terrorist attacks have also, apparently, slowed down the movement towards the Euro. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is frantic for Britain to join. *The Australian Financial Review* (2/10/01) said:

"Supporters of Britain joining the European single currency are concerned that the economic impact and political diversion of the international war against terrorism could delay a referendum on British entry into the Euro With only 92 days to go until euro notes and coins enter circulation in the Eurozone, the major pro-euro lobby group, Britain in Europe, has accused the Government of "dithering" over euro entry and called for decisive political leadership."

It was once remarked that only under war or threat of war could the British people be induced to give up their freedoms. Our guess is that some pretext will soon be found – either 'threat of war' or

economic crisis - for Britain's entry into the eurozone without the referendum that Blair promised when elected.

FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN: The situation in Afghanistan goes from bad to worse. On top of what looks like being a massive boost to the already out-of-control refugee crisis, major efforts are being made to destabilize the Taliban regime, forcing it to disgorge the demonized Osama bin Laden. Aid in the form of weapons and personnel, injected from the States of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with Vladimir Putin's permission, is reaching the Afghani opposition. It is certainly the US intention to topple the Taliban and install a 'friendly' regime.

In addition, there has been a massive boost to Russia's oil output. *The AFR* (2/10/01) said:

"...Russia's oil output has surged this year by some 500,000 barrels a day, while the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has slashed production by about 3.5 million barrels a day. Next year output from Russia, the world's second biggest petroleum producer, is expected to rise by another 350,000 barrels a day, bringing its output near that of world leader Saudi Arabia"

Temporarily, world oil prices look set to fall. There is no doubt that Russian competition will put added pressure on Islamic nations, from Nigeria, through North Africa to the Middle East. The ramifications for the future are extremely uncertain, and anything could happen.

AN HISTORICAL TIME WARP by Betty Luks:

A number of readers took umbrage with my article "From Freedom to Servitude" (September 14th OT), accusing me of taking too much licence with the interpretation of the story of Joseph in Egypt. I would like to respond to the readers by referring to the work of men such as Israel Shahak, *Jewish History: Jewish Religion – the weight of three thousand years*, and Douglas Reed, *Controversy of Zion*, both of whom had a clearer understanding of the forces shaping our world, from ancient times to now.

Shahak wrote, "A great deal of nonsense has been written in the attempt to provide a social or mystical interpretation of Jewry or Judaism 'as a whole'. This cannot be done for the social structure of the Jewish people and the ideological structure of Judaism have changed profoundly through the ages. Four major phases can be distinguished. While it is impossible to deal in any depth with these phases in (the) OT (Old Testament) they can be summarised:

- The ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah until 587BC.
- The phase of the dual centres, Palestine and Mesopotamia, 537BC 500AD.
- The phase defined as *classical Judaism*.
- The modern phase, characterised by the breakdown of the totalitarian Jewish community and its power and by attempts to reimpose it, of which zionism is the most important. This phase begins in Holland in the 17th century..." writes Israel Shahak.

The profound ideological changes:

Those who fail to grasp the profound ideological changes are at a great disadvantage when they try to understand what is happening in the world around them. A religion generates a *philosophy* and *policies* stem from a philosophy. History is crystalised politics! That is why "religious information and interpretation take on an extra dimension of interest and importance, when set in proper relationship with historical developments" observed Reed.

Douglas Reed:

That is why Reed could inform his readers, *Controversy of Zion*, "Dr. Kastein, (History and Destiny of the Jews 1933) a fervent Zionist, ... holds that the Old Testament was in fact a political programme, drafted to meet the conditions of the time, and frequently revised to meet changing conditions."

Writing at the peak of his career, Reed could say, "I have seen more of the events of our century and of the secret perversions of national purposes than most, and have discovered through this experience that it was not all chance, but design."

"The start of the affair: The sect which attached itself to and mastered the tribe of Judah took this concept of one-God of all-peoples and embodied it in its Scripture only to destroy it, and to set up the creed based on its denial. It is denied subtly, but with scorn, and as the creed is based on the theory of the master-race this denial is necessary and inevitable...The creed which was given force of daily law in Judah in 458BC was then and still is unique in the world..."

Eric Butler:

That is why Eric Butler *Censored History* could write, "Practical Christianity is the complete answer to the exploitation of human beings by the exponents of centralised power, whoever they may be. The real tragedy of the Jews, irrespective of their racial background, is that they have suffered more than most from the imposition of the philosophy of centralised power."

Those who believe in the 'myths' presented today as history are at a great disadvantage.

FREEDOM AND SLAVERY by Antonia Feitz:

The winners who think globalisation is 'inevitable' are slaving at the thought of the world returning to the ancient norm of masters and servants kept in their place. But human beings have an instinctive knowledge that they should be free and in the main, they've never meekly accepted servitude.

Epictetus did, but he was a philosopher and was eventually freed any way. His master was himself one of Nero's freedmen and so valued freedom. Slaves of high intelligence and professional skills were valued and treated with respect in the ancient world but still they desired and valued freedom. Contemporary poor bondsmen in India complain of their servitude, as do the slaves in Africa.

The freedoms we enjoy today were won only with much suffering and bloodshed over many centuries, even millennia. Thomas Jefferson reputedly said, "Yes, we did produce a near perfect Republic. But will they keep it, or will they, in the enjoyment of plenty lose the memory of freedom. Material abundance without character is the surest way to destruction."

Clearly Jefferson would weep to see how morally degraded Americans and other Westerners have become. People aren't even expected to develop character any more. As a substitute for a good character they profess woolly, feel-good 'values' such as tolerance. It's just too bad that the people who profess tolerance demonstrate repeatedly that they can't practise it.

But even if we are entering a new Dark Age, globalisation's winners will have to cope with an unchanged human nature that's perennially subversive.

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