



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The Beginning of the Quarrel: Monopoly is neither private nor enterprising. exists to prevent private enterprise. And that system of trust or monopoly, that complete destruction of property would still be the present goal of all our progress, if there were not a Bolshevik in the world... When I say "Capitalism" I commonly mean something that may be stated thus: "That economic condition in which there is a class of capitalists roughly recognizable and relatively small, in whose possession so much of the capital is concentrated as to necessitate a very large majority of the citizens serving those capitalists for a wage... Now the capitalist system, good or bad, right or wrong, rests upon two ideas: that the rich will always be rich enough to hire the poor; and the poor will always be poor enough to want to be hired..."*
- *"The Outline of Sanity"* by G.K. Chesterton

A FEAST FIT FOR A PIG by Jeremy Lee:

An interesting and ominous brochure has been dropped in Queensland letter-boxes by the Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Government. It gave Queenslanders "An important warning about feeding animals. Food scraps may contain exotic animal disease viruses like Foot and Mouth Disease".

It goes on: "Do not feed food scraps containing any meat or imported dairy products to livestock".

All of which raises some repellant possibilities. As one with a few chooks which live on the contents of a daily scrap bucket, I now fear for their future. If the scraps from my table are a threat to my chooks, why would they not equally be a threat to my family? Why the mention of "foreign" products? Is this a subliminal message from the Queensland Government that "foreign" food sold in Australia does not meet traditional Australian standards? And why Foot and Mouth? There has been no evidence of the disease in Australia in recent times. Do the authorities fear that one of the prices we must pay for a level playing field in a global free market is a borderless world as far as diseases are concerned?

Our traditional view that "If it's good enough for us, it's good enough for our chooks" has been shattered!

In times past Australia has been vigilant in quarantine programmes that kept us free of exotic human and animal diseases endemic in other parts of the world. It was the late Sir Raphael Cilento, a world-renowned expert in tropical medicine, who warned that Asian immigration - and by implication large numbers of refugees - could re-introduce into Australia diseases previously eliminated.

But the issue goes further. Large-scale factory farming and monoculture, with the elimination of rotational cropping and the fallowing of land, breaks down soil structure and health, which in turn results in depleted food.

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C.H. Douglas addressed this problem long before the epidemic of de-natured food and soil destruction we see round the world today. He wrote: ".... At the bottom, there is little doubt that there are two irreconcilable ideas in conflict. The first of these is that the world in which we live is an organism and that men and animals have intricate relations with the earth – not amorphous but specific and infinitely varied, which can only be disregarded at the peril both of men and the earth they live on. I do not mean in the least by this that a universal back to the land movement is either necessary or even desirable, but I do think that the idea that the earth is merely something to be exploited and 'lived on' is quite fatal.

"The second and antithetic idea is that the world is merely the raw material for a factory, that the nearer agriculture approximates to Mr. Ford's conveyor belt principles, and towns emulate Stalingrad, the better we shall be. I do not think I am unduly squeamish, but I have to plead guilty to a wave of real nausea at the description as progress, of egg factories in which hundreds of thousands of hens are kept under electric light from birth to death, confined in little boxes, never allowed out, laying eggs. I don't want to eat those eggs, and I have a strong conviction that they are not good to eat, whatever their superficial taste may be. The idea – the Encyclopaedist idea – that everything can be put into a nice watertight compartment, ar card indexed, is the philosophy of a frozen Hell." (*The Land for the Chosen People Racket*)

Writing of the great agricultural scientist, Sir Albert Howard, *The New Times* (June 3rd, 1955) commented: "Policies in all fields stem from philosophy and unfortunately most of the policies of planning the earth today – big-scale flood control dams, more and more deadly chemical sprays, which provide 'full employment' in industries developed to make these soil-poisoners, are based upon a philosophy of materialism. The more individuals accept large-scale centralized planning in one field, the easier it becomes for the advocates of centralized planning to impose totalitarian policies in other fields. The fight for genuine freedom must be fought on all fronts. The soil is the very basis of life and therefore control and management of soil and water concern the control of life itself. The importance of this matter cannot be too strongly emphasized...."

I am therefore going to continue, suicidal though it may be, in passing my scraps on to my chooks. They are given time for grazing and scratching each day, and I hope they pick up enough minerals to fortify their immune systems.. I will certainly attempt to save them from imported food; and hope, in consequence, that I live as long as they do!

BUSH GOING BACKWARDS: Dare we hope that a faint gleam of sanity is beginning to break through in world affairs? There is a belated backlash against the idea of declaring war on Iraq, and blasting another lot of women and children into oblivion

The latest *Weekend Australian* Newspoll (17-18/8/02) shows 50 percent of Australians opposed to Australian involvement in another Iraqi war, 30 percent strongly. Unless another disaster such as the Twin Towers happens again, the war rhetoric is wearing thin. Even Prime Minister Howard is toning down the belligerence, while Alexander Eiderdown, the Rambo warrior of Foreign Affairs, has had to do a couple of somersaults. Tony Blair in Britain is running into stiff resistance in Parliament, including from his own party.

The Australian Financial Review ((20/8/02) under the heading RAMBO'S HAVING A DOWNER said: "Foreign Minister Downer was 'hung out to dry' yesterday by Prime Minister John Howard, in view of his parliamentary colleagues.

"And just in case Downer, whose clumsy intervention in the Iraq debate has caused the Government all sorts of problems, failed to get the message Howard used a reference to Rambo rhetoric in answer to a question on corporate governance to add to the Foreign Minister's discomfort.By yesterday Downer, who manifested the hang-dog look of someone who has been taken to the woodshed by his superiors, was sounding like someone who had suddenly lost all his earlier enthusiasm for any sort of military adventure...."

We can only speculate on the sigh of relief that must be going up in Saddam Hussein's bunker! But it was Howard who started the war-talk in the first place. The possible loss of a \$800 million wheat market, and the antipathy in Australia to more war, has obviously had some impact.

US DEBT AND THE MONEY-SUPPLY: Even George Bush is muffling the war-drums, although he is still under pressure to go to war, for a number of reasons: firstly, the Zionists in his Cabinet – notably Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle – support Ariel Sharon's need for a diversion in Iraq to cover his intended expulsion of the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Secondly, the Carlyle Group, which includes Bush himself, Dick Cheney and such unlikely characters as former British PM John Major, have major vested interests in armaments and Middle East oil; and, thirdly, Bush needs something – *anything* – to get a stagnant and sinking American economy moving again.

The US Budget position tells its own story:

<u>THE CHANGING US BUDGET</u>			
(in billions of dollars)			
	<u>Bush Estimate</u>	<u>Bush Estimate</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	<u>April 2001</u>	<u>February 2002</u>	<u>in estimates</u>
Outlays	1,961	2,052	91
+ plus/Deficit	+ 231	- 1063	37
<u>Gross Federal Debt</u>	5,664	6,137	473

These figures show that we are looking at trillions of dollars. The American federal budget is now over \$2 trillion. This has fallen short of expenditure by \$337 billion in the last twelve months. The nation is running a massive trade deficit of over \$300 billion annually. The US National Debt (government debt) now exceeds \$6 trillion, rising by almost \$500 billion in the last 12 months, which is an increase of over \$500 million per hour!

BEHIND THE FIXATION WITH THE DEMOCRATS: The enormous publicity given to the internal wrangling in a minor party, the Democrats, is out of all proportion to its real importance. What's behind it?

Could it be that a long-term manipulation is taking place to remove any obstacle to the sale of the rest of Telstra? We recall Meg Lees being wined and dined overseas by the Rockefellers. At least one other Democrat has been courted by Deutschbank while out of Australia. The Democrats all pledged – including Meg Lees – prior to the last election that they would oppose the sale. If they stuck to their guns the Howard Government would be stymied. Obviously, the media blow-torch is being applied to what is really a shallow and sordid squabble. It will be interesting to see how things transpire.

THE 'KEY' IS TO SEE THEM AS HUMAN BEINGS: There is much ferment within certain Jewish circles over the treatment meted out to the Palestinians by the Israelis. Those with a sense of right and wrong are questioning and protesting at the barbaric treatment these people are being subjected to. The following letter appeared in YellowTimes.org – August 10th, 2002:

Dear Steven Salaita,

I read your piece, "*From the other perspective*" in YellowTimes.org. As an Israeli, I wanted to send you some words of hope. No doubt, the situation is dark beyond belief – my country's actions are horrifying and I'm deeply ashamed, as a human being, as a Jew, and as an Israeli.

I've always felt and known that the key to reconciliation is for Israel to be able to see the Palestinians as human beings. It's that simple, yet the hardest task of all.

The degradation of the other to a lesser status is the root of all evil, in the life of the individual and the life of a nation.

Atrocities can only be done to those whom you don't consider as human as yourself. There's a Jewish saying that speaks to that simple truth: "Love thy fellow man as you love yourself." This is the principle my country has wished to forget because of fear, greed, confusion, the heavy burden of moral responsibility, and because of ignorance.

But how shall we again awaken this realization in the hearts of my brothers and sisters? How shall we remind them of their moral obligation? How shall we help them repent?

I don't claim to have the answers but I deeply feel that weaving new ties between Palestinians and Israelis – ties of respect, humanity, and love – has to be done by individuals in Israel, in Palestine, and all over the world.

Only by reaching out to one another as human beings can we hope to counter our 'leaders' hatred with our love of life.

It is for this reason that I write to you: to strengthen your heart, to beg you not to lose hope, and to assure you that there are many open hearts among Israelis who yearn to do the same. We must find each other. This is our only hope and not a moment too soon. I beg for your forgiveness for all the wrongs done to your people in my name.

With respect and hope, Haggai Kupermintz, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado – United States.
kupermin@colorado.edu

IN RESPONSE: The following letter is YellowTimes.org columnist Steven Salaita's response to Haggai Kupermintz:

Dear Professor Kupermintz,

Thank you very much for this lovely message; it is warmly appreciated. I was in tears as I read it. I can't imagine anybody making a more beautiful statement, and I pray to God that what you desire comes true.

I am in the run-down computer lab in the Shatila Refugee Camp in Lebanon. I called over some of my students – kids and teenagers – to read your message. They were extremely touched. They just asked me to tell you that they send God's blessings to you and your family. You are always welcome here, they say.

"He is really from Israel?" they keep asking me. "Of course," I answer. "Inshallah, he will be your neighbor one day."

It's difficult for them to get past the idea that all Israelis are aggressive. There are two main reasons:

- because that's generally what Israel has shown them of itself; and
- because that's what they are taught from the moment of birth.

You did a great service to us all by showing them a human face. It's impossible for Arabs to do it with our own words. The taboo is especially strong in refugee camps. Please don't send apologies. You have no need to. If we all were compelled to apologize for the actions of our nations, then humanity would never get past the word "sorry".

My warmest regards to you. Thanks again for taking the time to write and share such personal thoughts. Salaam and Shalom, Steven Salaita, YellowTimes.org columnist ssalaita@YellowTimes.org

Readers could send messages – Readers might like to send messages of encouragement to both correspondents.

Haggai Kupermintz wrote: "Only by reaching out to one another as human beings can we hope to counter our 'leaders' hatred with our love of life.

Wouldn't Australians of good will say *amen* to that?

Steven Salaita wrote: "If we all were compelled to apologize for the actions of our nations, then humanity would never get past the word 'sorry'."

Steven, 'nations' don't commit atrocities ... that is an abstraction. People, human beings, those who have the power to do so, and abuse that power, choose to do so.

But individuals can put out their hands in friendship: to strengthen our hearts, to beg others not to lose hope, and to know let it be known there are many open hearts among Israelis who yearn to do the same. You are right Professor Haggai Kupermintz: "We must find each other."

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