



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The Cultural Heritage: A society's industrial power... consists of its artistic and scientific capabilities. This is the chief hereditament of civilization; it consists of a precious complex of talents bred into a race. It is an intellectual estate in which every member of society has equitably an undivided interest. This estate in the solid things of the mind is by rights a good half of the common wealth of the people. And [every man] should be a sharer in the usufruct of this invaluable transmitted and accumulated power... The root of social iniquity is in the embezzlement from the mass of the people of their right and interest in the artistic and scientific competencies – the intellectual estate that has accumulated in the race."*

– "Charles Ferguson: Herald of Social Credit" by Michael Lane, 2002

INAPPROPRIATE 'OVERKILL' by Jeremy Lee:

Remembering the casualties of war and terrorism obviously has its place. But the welter of emotional sentimentalism that has sought to live every second of the tragedy has been made into a wake surpassing anything seen before. Contrast the media excesses we have seen over the past few days with the silence of the voluntary assembly at Gallipoli in the dawn of the Anzac service, which makes the pure notes of the "Last Post" penetrate so deeply.

Mark Day, writing in the "Media" section of *The Australian* (12-18/9/02) put the question that many have been asking:

".... In designing their anniversary coverage, I wonder if any of our newspaper or TV current affairs editors considered the possibility that what they were about to do would actually turn people away? The 'I will not watch' syndrome was building last week and being freely expressed by the weekend. Special newspaper sections, lavishly researched and presented at great cost, were put aside unopened.

"And last night on television three channels went head-to-head, non-stop for 20-plus hours of programming on the same subject. This was on top of special previews building up all week, including one on CNN, centred on where-were-you-when-the-planes-went-in?, which gratuitously showed the moments of impact a dozen times in 15 minutes

"Why the overkill?...."

All this, with an equally overplayed build-up to the immanent war against Iraq. Was one to prepare the emotional seed-bed for the other? So gross is the propaganda of the times that one can suspect anything..

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PRESS CENSORSHIP ABOUNDING: Sally Jackson, in the same issue, described the government manipulation of the press concerning current wars in sundry places:

".... On Radio National's **Media Report** last week two very different media venerables, Walter Cronkite and Hunter S. Thompson, expressed identical frustrations over what they see as an unprecedented curtailment of press freedom by the Bush administration.

Cronkite, whose 60-year career has spanned a battery of wars, described restrictions on the reporting of US military action overseas as "incredible censorship".

"This is contrary to every war we have fought in this country," he said, adding: "The press itself has not been aggressive enough in fighting for these rights."

Gonzo journalism pioneer Thompson said the US was the most paranoid and insecure he had ever seen it. "Overall, American journalism has been cowed and intimidated by the patriotic orgy the White House keeps whipping up," he said. Although there was plenty of room for dissenting voices, "People just aren't taking the risk.

Locally, the ABC's Uechtritz expresses similar concerns, accusing the Howard Government of virtually blacking out media coverage of this country's contribution to the US-led military coalition.

Specifically, he complains that we have seen only heavily-censored pictures of Australian troops in Afghanistan and heard nothing about their reported movements in Central Asia or about what RAAF pilots and planes are doing at the US airbase on the island of Diego Garcia. "I think Australians and the Australian media have been too accommodating in allowing this to happen," he says

To demonstrate the danger of accommodation, Uechtritz cites the destruction by US forces of a Red Cross building in Kabul last October

"The Pentagon dismissed [the story] as lies and propaganda – until the pictures confirming this were satellited out by Al Jazeera [the Qatar-based Arabic TV channel] he says. Pentagon officials later confirmed a US warplane had mistakenly dropped 450kg bombs on the warehouse. "In America particularly, but also in Australia, journalists sometimes get accused of being unpatriotic for daring to report objectively such stories.""

The selective "management" of news is now an art-form. Some of the biggest stories of all never appear. The story of Mossad (Israeli Intelligence) involvement in events before and after the Twin-Tower bombing *almost* slipped out through Fox News last December – but was quickly bottled up. How many journalists are acquainted with the story, but have never dared to repeat it, is an interesting question.

One result of this 'shut-down' of the mainstream media is an absolute frenzy of material on the websites. Zionists contend with Palestinians. Top journalists release the findings they can't get published in the normal manner. As people become more suspicious they turn from their papers and TV to "the net". And they're not disappointed.

WHY DO THEY HATE? Missing out of almost all the columns in the big media is any honest appraisal of the reasons for the hate of the West so palpable in the Arab world. Only marginalized 'rebels' are allowed to ask the question. Noam Chomsky (*Weekend Australian*, 7-8/9/02), the courageous Jewish dissident, pointed out:

"....We should also be aware that much of the world regards Washington as a terrorist regime. In recent years the US has taken or backed actions in Colombia, Nicaragua, Panama, Sudan and Turkey, to name a few, that meet official US definitions of 'terrorism' – that is, when Americans apply the term to enemies.

"In the most sober establishment journal, Foreign Affairs, (the CFR journal – ed.) Samuel Huntingdon wrote in 1999: 'While the United States regularly denounces various countries as 'rogue states', in the eyes of many countries it is becoming the rogue superpower The single greatest threat to their societies'....."

"The current 'campaign of hatred' in the Arab world is, of course, also fuelled by the US policies towards Israel-Palestine and Iraq. The US has provided the crucial support for Israel's harsh military occupation, now in its 35th year.

"One way for the US to lessen Israeli-Palestinian tensions would be to stop refusing to join the long-standing international consensus that calls for recognition of the right of all states in the region to live in peace and security, including a Palestinian state in the currently occupied territories In Iraq, a decade of harsh sanctions under US pressure has strengthened Saddam Hussein while leading to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis – perhaps more people 'than have been slain by all so-called weapons of mass destruction throughout history', military analysts John and Karl Mueller wrote in Foreign Affairs in 1999....."

"Twenty years ago, the former head of Israeli military intelligence, Yehoshaphat Harkabi, also a leading Arabist, made a point that still holds true. 'To offer an honourable solution to the Palestinians respecting their right to self-determination: That is the solution of the problem of terrorism,' he said. 'When the swamp disappears there will be no more mosquitoes"

"If we insist on creating more swamps, there will be more mosquitoes, with awesome capacity for destruction.

"If we devote our resources to draining the swamps, addressing the roots of the 'campaigns of hatred', we can not only reduce the threats we face but also live up to ideals that we profess and that are not beyond reach if we choose to take them seriously."

Mark Hertsgaard, in a new book *The Eagle's Shadow*, reviewed in *The Australian Financial Review*, 6/9/02, gives this picture of the US:

".... Our foreign policy is arrogant and cruel; our consumerist definition of prosperity is killing us and the planet. US democracy is an embarrassing den of corporate lobbyists, entrenched bureaucrats, egotistical multimillionaires and legal bribery. The US economy is aggregating wealth in fewer and fewer hands. Yet to top it all, our business and political elite are insisting that our model should also be the world's model"

Sadly Australia, slavishly following the globalist model, is merely a smaller version of the US.

THE DEFINITION OF A POLITICIAN: Federal Minister Amanda Vanstone, addressing the Sydney Institute on September 3rd, gave this unusually perceptive definition of a politician (*The Australian Financial Review*, 6/9/02):

"Every Member of Parliament has two personalities, that of a parliamentarian and that of a politician. Believe me, these are very different creatures. The parliamentarian is interested in all views, the politician simply wants to win. When the politician overtakes the parliamentarian, the desire to win overtakes the desire for rational, civil and reasoned argument. To some politicians, beating an opponent down is more important than getting their policy idea up.

"Every sporting nation loves a good contest. But even a boxing fan will turn off if at every match the loser is brain-dead. And so it is with politics. When messages are constantly overloaded with malice and hatred, politics has become a blood-sport rather than a battle of ideas.

"Everyone who has the luxury and pleasure of participating in public discourse should understand

that when they participate as a gladiator in a battle, laden with hatred, malice and invective, they force everyone else to be just a spectator. They plunge another knife into the great conversation of our life, public discourse"

Amanda Vanstone couldn't be referring to the members of Australia's State and Federal Parliaments, could she? After all, our parliamentary sessions are models of good behaviour, high-quality speeches, generosity towards those of opposing views, and the exercise of conscience when it comes to voting – aren't they? The population regularly tunes into the high-quality debates, and makes its own contribution with letters and petitions, which every politician takes very seriously – doesn't it?

And our children, when they are lucky enough to be taken to the public gallery to listen to the high quality of debate, cannot wait to gain their right to vote, so that they, too, can preserve our heritage and contribute to our future – don't they?

GLOBALISATION: STUFF THE LOCALS by Antonia Feitz:

A research paper by labour market consultant Bob Kinnaird has found that there's a "serious oversupply" of computer science graduates in Australia (Caitlin Fitzsimmons in *The Australian*, 3/9/02). A flood of fee-paying foreign students, many of whom remain in Australia after graduation, is adding to the unemployment rate. There are now over 8,000 unemployed computer professionals in Australia.

So how in heaven's name can the federal government not only permit but encourage firms to import skilled labour? The Indian software company Infosys has announced it will import 60 Indian professionals to work at its new Melbourne software development company. Just 40 employees will be Australian (Simon Hayes, *Australian*, 3/9/02).

Infosys' chairman Narayana Murthy said, "Australia is a great country and Melbourne is a great city and I'm sure our Indian staff would look forward to working here."

I'm sure Australian professionals would like to work in Melbourne too.

Mr. Murthy claimed Infosys wanted to employ local staff but would have difficulty attracting talented locals. With 8,000 unemployed IT professionals in Australia that excuse for importing labour rings very hollow indeed. According to Simon Hayes, the company's US development centre employs just 20 percent local residents.

Mr. Kinnaird said the number of foreign students should be drastically cut back. "It's going to provide yet another avenue for the universities to make money from full fee-paying students at the expense of local students [their mission in today's barbaric world – AF] and they'll all end up competing in the labour market."

No they won't because the graduates, Australian and foreign, will be competing against imported foreigners. This is deeply wrong.

And what a goose Victoria's Information and Communications Technology Minister Marsha Thomson has proved to be. Hayes reported that at the opening of Infosys' Melbourne venture, Thomson bragged that the decision to locate in Melbourne was "a massive endorsement of Victoria's skills base and research capabilities" and "would provide long term jobs". For Indians. **Go figure!** If the situation wasn't so tragic for Australia's youth it'd be funny.