



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.39, No.3

January 31st, 2003

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

As a result of the conditions produced by the European War (WWI), the play of forces, usually only visible to expert observers, has become apparent to many who previously regarded none of these things. The very efforts made to conceal the existence of springs of action other than those publicly admitted, has riveted the attention of an awakened proletariat as no amount of positive propaganda would have done." – C.H. Douglas, "Economic Democracy", 1920

"Nations are alleged to have waged the first world war, but the casualties both of life and property fell upon individuals. There is no such thing as an effective national responsibility – it is pure abstraction, under cover of which, oppression and tyranny to individuals, which would not be tolerated if inflicted by a personal ruler, escape effective criticism." – C.H. Douglas, *Social Credit*, 1924

INSANE GLOBAL BRINKMANSHIP by Jeremy Lee:

Well, the iron fist is out of the decidedly ragged velvet glove. Troops are flowing into the Middle East from Britain, Australia and the US. Neither Bush nor Howard are pretending any longer that they are prepared to give the UN weapons inspectors a chance.

When "Desert Storm" started in 1991 the first President Bush (Dubya's father) managed to stitch together a coalition comprising 34 countries, including Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Spain. Today there are only three – the US, Britain and Australia. This is, according to Bush, "the coalition of the willing".

But how willing? Every poll in Britain and Australia now shows a big majority of the population opposed to the commitment of troops to Iraq. Neither John Howard nor Tony Bush has put the final decision before Parliament and asked for a vote in favour of war. Public opinion behind Bush is dropping day by day.

And the first shot has yet to be fired.

Tony Walker, writing from Amman (*Australian Financial Review*, 23/1/03) made the obvious point: *"This much should be clear: Australia has now taken a step on a slide over which it does not have a great deal of control. Decisions will be made in Washington, and possibly in London – certainly not in Canberra – which may draw Australian forces into a conflict outside a UN mandate. such a*

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Thought for the Week* • *Insane Global Brinkmanship* • *The Financial Crisis Dogging Bush*
• *DAVOS On Again* • *Why Pay To Get Your Own Money?* • *Mugabe To Retire Hurt?* • *New Zealand Leads The Way*
• *Once Upon A Time, I Too Believed*

situation also invites temptation: absolute power risks corrupt thinking, at least. To be credible, UN resolutions require the sanctions of force.

"But there are plenty of UN resolutions that are honoured in the breach, or not honoured at all, without military action being threatened or applied.

"Does the New World Order of the 'coalition of the willing' pick and choose which resolutions might require force and those that do not? What, indeed, are the criteria for action against one state in flagrant breach of UN resolutions, and not against another?..."

Peter Hartcher, writing from Washington (*AFR*, Weekend, 22-23/1/03) pointed out that President Bush has four potential crises to deal with – firstly, obviously, Iraq; not only an immediate invasion, but the aftermath, which will destabilize the whole Middle East; secondly, the deteriorating economic crisis within the US; thirdly the position in the Far East, with North Korea not only the possessor of nuclear weapons but also the means of delivering them; and, finally, the probability of further terrorist attacks such as S-11 within the US itself.

It is clear, also, that Prime Minister Howard is exercising enormous and risky brinkmanship. So far a strong war policy has served him well. It appears he is prepared to continue his aggression as a means of keeping himself well ahead of a cautious and divided Labor in the polls. But there is strong evidence that the Australian population is not with Howard on his Iraqi policy. The peace movement is no longer a fringe left, environmentalist element. Mainstream Australia is deeply troubled by Howard's current policy.

We can be sure that if and when war commences, we will be hit with a barrage of publicity – how quick and mercifully the invasion is proceeding; how bravely our boys are performing their duty; how caches of hidden arms are being discovered in Iraq; how many Iraqis are welcoming the 'liberators' with open arms; how successful and how necessary the whole project has been; how lucky we are that the threat has been eliminated; and how thankful we should be that "the coalition of the willing" delayed no longer.

A certain euphoria will emerge for a short time, spurred by relief that it wasn't so bad after all.

In such a situation, my suspicions are that Howard and his Coalition will go to the polls, with every chance that a polarized Australia will hail the Caesar of the moment.

It is only later that a more realistic picture will begin to emerge, as a minority of independent journalists start reporting on the devastation and the environmental damage. The mopping up will take years. The 'bushfires' from a host of new enemies will require even more resources and 'emergency measures'.

The question above all that must finally be answered is whether a few leaders in a cabinet can take their nations into wars of annihilation? Or whether a world, exhausted by destruction and misery can finally emerge through the psychology of "war-as-a-solution" into a new era of peace; where "swords are turned into ploughshares and spears into pruning-hooks".

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS DOGGING BUSH: Writing under the headline GREENBACK'S WOES ONLY JUST BEGINNING, Corrine Lim (*Australian Financial Review*, 21/1/03) gave a stark picture: She dealt with only one aspect – the US Current Account Deficit:

"The current account deficit is at 5 per cent of gross domestic product, and US Treasury borrowing is at a seven-year high. The US needs an estimated \$US2 billion a day in global capital inflow to fund its trade gap ..."

But capital is beginning to flow out as the US dollar slides. Put this in context of other figures. Total United States debt – household, business and the three levels of government, local, state and federal – has climbed from \$US4 trillion in 1980 to \$31 trillion in 2002. The total has now passed the previous level of 264% of GDP, which occurred at the start of the Great Depression. United States foreign

debt is now \$2.8 trillion in 2002, 27% of GDP. With profits falling, bankruptcies rising, millions unemployed and the American dollar sliding, the picture is not bright. And the war will NOT help.

DAVOS ON AGAIN: By coincidence, of course, the high pooh-bahs of the global world are gathering for their annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. *The Australian* (24/1/03) said: "...More than 2,000 of the planet's wealthiest and most influential figures from business moguls to titans of government, have started to converge on this tiny, hard-to-reach Swiss ski resort for the yearly World Economic Forum.

"From Bill Clinton to Bill Gates, via Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, movers and shakers from every sphere are flying in to rub shoulders and press the flesh at this six-day talkfest....

"And this year the conventional wisdom is that terror, security and war are the dominant issues.

"Delegates will hear from John Ashcroft, the hardline US Attorney-General, 'how the fight against terrorism will change the world'. NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson will be there, as will – war permitting – US Secretary of State Colin Powell For many, it remains the ultimate networking event."

How comforting to know that the global elite have our interests so much at heart!

WHY PAY TO GET OUR OWN MONEY? Australia's manufacturing unions have come up with an interesting one. In days of yore, Australians received their pay as cash in a pay packet – to spend or take home to their wives.

Now, with electronic payments, wages are paid straight into a bank accounts held by "approved" financial institutions – who then charge customers for withdrawing the money they've earned.

In their Campaign 2003, spearheaded by the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, a demand will be made for \$400 compensation for each worker, for the charges thus imposed on their pay packets.

It's quite logical, really. In the old days, banks and savings societies competed for the cash in your wage. "Put it in a deposit, and we'll pay you interest on your money, and keep it safe as the Bank of England!" was the call from the bankers.

But as soon as cash wages were eliminated, your money was paid straight into your account, whether you liked it or not, and you were now charged whenever you wanted some.

Just another little way in which banks changed from providing a service to imposing a penalty. More power to the Australian Workers' Manufacturing Union on this one!

MUGABE TO RETIRE HURT? An intriguing possibility has been raised over the future of Zimbabwe, now in free-fall towards starvation and chaos. *The Australian* (14/1/03) said: "Two of the most senior figures in Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party have offered to deliver President Robert Mugabe's resignation to secure a negotiated settlement of the country's deepening crisis.

"The secret deal put to Morgan Tsvangirai, head of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) would also give Mr. Mugabe, 78, immunity from prosecution and allow him to go into exile. A government of national unity would then be established to run Zimbabwe until new elections were held in two year's time"

Apparently, negotiations are reasonably advanced, with the suggestion that Mugabe is receptive to the proposal.

Never let it be said there's no cause for hope! Peace in Zimbabwe? Mugabe in genteel retirement, along with Idi Amin and Saddam Hussein? And of course, Tony and Cherie Blair!

NEW ZEALAND LEADS THE WAY: We also liked the move, sent out to the world across the Internet, which announced the setting up of a team of Weapons Inspectors in New Zealand. This body has sent a communiqué to the US Ambassador, requesting permission to inspect possible sites

for "weapons of mass destruction" across the United States. "What's good enough for Saddam is good enough for George" appears to be the logic.

Somehow, we don't expect George Bush to fall over backwards in trying to convince the rest of the world he has nothing to hide. But who knows? It's worth a try at any rate.

ONCE UPON A TIME, I TOO BELIEVED by Betty Luks:

Adelaide identity Dr. Geoffrey Partington berates the "wretched appeasers in such countries as Australia who believe that if they are nice" to Saddam Hussein "they will be among the last on the terrorist hit list". (*"We should be grateful for George Bush"*, Adelaide *Advertiser*, 24/01/03.)

He writes: "I will never forget the scenes of joy displayed by crowds in many Islamic cities when the news came through of the bombing of the twin towers in New York."

Nor will he ever forget "the adulation bestowed by Palestinians on 'martyrs' who die on suicide missions that kill Israeli civilians". He finishes with, "If I were a believer, I would fall on my knees each night in gratitude that the interests of the free world are being defended by George W. Bush."

When it comes to 'world affairs' Dr. Partington, many a 'believer' has shed his cocoon and grown into one of the "awakened proletariat" whose attention is now riveted on the "springs of action, other than those publicly admitted" to which Douglas refers (Thought for the Week).

Certainly Saddam Hussein is a tyrant to his own people and we now face the threat of a Muslim versus Western World War, which includes acts of terrorism. But how were we maneuvered into such a position? And who will benefit from such a war?

It is reported Saddam Hussein and his henchmen, in an attempt to derail or delay Bush's war plans, listed in the 12,000 page report presented to the UN, each and every government, private and public firm and/or institution that helped Iraq in its 30-year weapons programme.

The United States' ruling elite censored the report down to 3,000 pages (see story below).

In the 1970s the Australian League of Rights published the Australian edition of Dr. Antony Sutton's summary – *National Suicide* – of his three volume series *Western Technology and Soviet Economic Development* which exposes why 100,000 Americans soldiers were killed in Korea and Vietnam by technology supplied by 'America and her Allies'.

Antony Sutton, Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution from 1968-73 provided proof of the military and industrial aid to the Soviet Union by way of United States "governments, private and public firms and/or institutions" thereby building up the Soviet Military/Industrial Complex. This Soviet Complex supplied the "weapons of mass destruction" to communist regimes in Korea and Vietnam, whereupon these "weapons of mass destruction" were used against their very own American (and our) soldiers.

Can you imagine such betrayal of one's own kith and kin Doctor Partington?

Sutton listed, from authentic Soviet sources, the technical specifications of the ninety-six ships used by the Soviet Union to transport weapons and supplies to Haiphong for use in South Vietnam against the United States and its allies. He compares the figures of American soldiers killed in Vietnam with the amount of US-Soviet 'trade'. As the amount of trade went up so did the numbers of young American casualties!

It was not the interests of 'the free world' these young men were defending, although they probably thought so. George W. Bush defending the "interests of the free world" Geoffrey? Not bloomin' likely!

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.

Postal Address: GPO Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.

Subscription \$40.00 p.a.