



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.39, No.19

May 23rd, 2003

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The policy of America, as proved by deeds, is not an American policy. It is that of the Force, masquerading as "Liberalism", which has infested and infected every government of 'the free world'. By penetration it has gained control of all means of public persuasion and the public masses are today, in fact, hypnotized by it: glued to their newspapers, radio and television, a wall has been put between them and truth. The general multitude has been reduced to that state of bewilderment and confusion which in the Liberal plan of action is the essential pre-condition for a final bid to clamp down World Government. In this situation American state actions (as distinct from proclaimed 'policy') are as high voltage cable severed and thrashing destructively about in the world... Today the American dream, whate'er it be, looks like to become an American nightmare. The high voltage cable thrashes about. The 'Boys' go away, unquestioningly and uncomprehendingly, to Korea, Vietnam and whither else... Is not Liberal the word and Force the action?"*

– "The Battle for Rhodesia" by Douglas Reed, 1966

REPRIEVE? OR FURTHER REGRESSION? by Jeremy Lee:

All the pundits say that Prime Minister Howard has escaped unscathed from the Iraqi war. He is, they say, in the box-seat, with his polls sky-high, a demoralised and ineffectual Opposition squabbling about a leadership for which there are only one or two mediocre contenders, and all the necessary ingredients for an early election if he wants it.

He has announced he is close to masking a decision about his own future – whether to retire while so far ahead, handing over the reins to Peter Costello, or whether to ride on to one more inevitable electoral victory, so that he can be ranked with the most successful of Australia's Prime Ministers. And we can be certain that Coalition party coffers will be full to overflowing whenever Howard decides to go.

From all of which, we are expected to believe, Australia is in a healthy position, ready to bask in the benefits of a stable and glowing future..

The propaganda is pervasive, None but the gad-flies can argue that all is not well – and they can be ignored, or ridiculed for flying in the face of reality.

I have just been re-reading C.H. Douglas's *Social Credit*, first printed in 1924, a mere six years after

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the Great War. In this prescient work Douglas foreshadowed the gradual descent of the human condition he saw as inevitable if the fingers of power were not loosened from the tiller of money. He looked accurately past wars and depressions to a moment of final conflict between the refinement of process in the economic system and the need for paid activity to justify existence for the majority of humanity. He foresaw the corruption of power on a scale never envisaged before, as the scramble for incomes tore in pieces every cherished principle of justice and mercy. This period, he concluded, would carry us to a final critical moment, in which we either descended into a new, barbaric dark age, or in which a last call for sanity would penetrate the darkness, swinging the world away from disaster towards a new beginning wherein people could live in peace, security and freedom.

The older ones among us can remember vestiges of such a condition, when relaxed families built their own community entertainment; when personal dreams would have found little expression in the never-ending stream of consumer icons advertised on TV. Heritage and family tradition were strong, to be enhanced for coming generations. And in which young people could choose their future life on norms other than the chance of income.

It is still something of a shock to discover large numbers of young people for whom such a picture is an utter mystery. The scramble now is simply materialistic – not just keeping up with, but getting ahead of the Joneses. If the race leaves you in anything but a "winner's" position, you are automatically a "loser".

We seem perilously close to Douglas's "critical moment".

GOTTLIEBSEN'S 'CRITICAL MOMENT': Robert Gottliebse is one of the more discerning commentators. But he sees the future very much in terms of the share market. Whether there is to be any sort of recovery depends very much on 'consumer confidence'. In other words, are they prepared to continue borrowing in order to spend. His article in *The Australian* (29/4/03) opened: *"The next month or so will be critical for the world's share markets and business confidence. During that time US consumers need to embark on strong post-Iraq spending and Asia needs to show it can limit the effect of SARS."*

All of which, of course, in the short term is true. But what of the longer-term effects if already overburdened American households take on more debt? It is as much as to say that the destruction of the average US household is vital for economic recovery! And Australia's level of household debt is equally dangerous, even though the growth of borrowing is included in the "growth" figures that indicate our strength!

It just may be that we have another short spurt of frenzied financial borrowing and gambling on already over-stretched. Stock markets. It is likely – if it happens, and there is considerable doubt about this – to be a last 'death-rattle'.

HAS THE IRAQI WAR ENDED – OR JUST BEGUN? It was sickening to see US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld cavorting in glee in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, remembering that the last time he was there was to shake the former dictator's hand as he came bearing gifts – armaments, nerve agents and money – for the war against Iran. With the news that the US military base in Saudi Arabia is to be shut down the question is whether the Saudis are to be "cast into the outer darkness" with Iran and Syria? It is not a question of military presence. With four new military bases in Iraq, and an upgrading of Qatir to Saudi Arabia's immediate south, the US has all the facilities it needs in the Persian Gulf area. What it is doing in other less-publicised quarters is significant.

Peter Hartcher, in Washington *Australian Financial Review* – Weekend 24-27/4/03) said: *".... But even as the US was waging war in Iraq in the name of freedom and democracy, even as the US weighs disentanglement from Saudi autocracy, it is repeating mistakes in another nearby part of the world."*

In an eerie parallel with the failed US policy in the Middle East, the US is embracing afresh a set of repressive regimes. Again, Washington in betraying its high principles of liberty and democracy for short-term advantage.

"Again, Washington is doing business with reptilian regimes in return for access to oil and military bases. Again, Washington is siding with autocrats who are oppressing and abusing Muslim populations, And again, it seems certain to be storing up trouble for itself.

"This time, however, it is doing it in Central Asia. America's new best friend is Uzbekistan, but it also is embracing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

"And this time the oil isn't the familiar Middle East deposits, but ,, the Caspian Sea basin."

With three military bases in the area, ostensibly established to invade the Taliban and Al Qaida in Afghanistan, one suggestion is that their long-term presence is to secure Caspian oil and add it to the US portfolio. Any potential ally who will cooperate in this objective is welcome – however cruel and barbaric. And we thought it was all about freedom and democracy!

But the states north of Afghanistan were formerly members of the communist USSR. Vladimir Putin is hardly likely to view a succession of American bases in what was once soviet territory with enthusiasm.

US policy is brinkmanship on an impossible scale. With military bases strong like a necklace along the Tropic of Cancer, eber extending the bounds of military empire, the Zio-cons who run the State Department in Washington are naïve if they believe they can keep the peace by quelling the aspirations of an irate Islamic world.

Hartcher concluded his article: *"... On the 12th day of the US-led invasion of Iraq in the name of freedom and democracy, the US State Department put out its annual report on human rights practices round the world.*

"The report detailed how each of America's new friends in Central Asia practised political, religious and gender repression, with special sections on torture and disappearances ..."

GLOBALISED FARMING: Since the late sixties the League of Rights has waged a lonely battle in favour of the family farm. The nature of the battle can only be understood by those with a real affinity with the soil. Farming is, as it has been for millennia, a way of life. It is only in the last few decades has it been turned into no more than another commercial operation.

Such books as *The Evolution of the English Farm*, going as far back as the eighth century in Britain, describe one unchallengeable principle – a farm should always be left in a better and more fertile condition that when purchased or inherited. This principle took precedence over commercial considerations. Profit, though not despised, was never given precedence over fertility.

There has been a wholesale massacre of family farms and rural communities round the world. In the United State there are now more people in prisons than on the land. If a manufacturing company closes and puts 2,000 people out of work there are headlines. But a far greater attrition takes place annually out of farming communities without publicity,

Where do they go? To drive taxis, do security guard jobs, or stagnate in squalor on the dole? And what of future food production? The ecologically-conscious small farmer is being replaced by much more efficient large-scale enterprises, in which the financial bottom-line ranks much higher than the soil left for the next generation.

And how is this state of affairs accounted for in the "GDP" figures by which Peter Costello measures the economic health of Australia? The small kingdom of Bhutan has another set of figures – GDH,

or "Gross Domestic Happiness". The only thing forbidden in that kingdom, it transpires, is plastic; which would doom the Australian dollar from the start! The Bhutans love their children and sing many songs together. Suicide is unknown, and the only creatures on drugs are pigs, which are fed on the marijuana plant. This leads to a state of perpetual porcine bliss which is much less venomous than that found in our revered Houses of Parliament in Canberra!

The next stage, in all probability, is to turn the prison populations into the farm slaves of the future, as they did in the last stages of the Roman Empire, where the *latifundia*, or amalgamated farms, produced deserts from previously productive land.

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME... by Betty Luks:

I met her after many years. When we first met nearly thirty years ago, she was a young girl working alongside folk such as the League's South Australian State Director, Frank Bawden. Their's was the task of helping those who had fled from Rhodesia with nought but the clothes on their backs and what little money they could manage to get out.

She is again helping those who have recently fled Zimbabwe with nought but the clothes on their backs. Her task is to organise food, clothing and shelter. I thought Australians should hear from a source, other than the established media, as to what is going on in Zimbabwe and asked could she arrange a speaker. She declined. She reminded me the folk still have relatives living in Zimbabwe and they would be in great danger of retaliation and revenge by Mugabe's Marxist goons.

I should have known better. Married to a Latvian, I knew all about the post-WW2 migrants' fears for their relatives back in the home country, living in "Uncle Joe" Stalin's Marxist paradise.

The younger generation need to understand the forces that were at work against that sturdy little nation of Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe. They need to understand who betrayed them and why. Two of the best writers of the time were Douglas Reed and Ivor Benson. Journalist and author Douglas Reed wrote that not only had he been in the position in Vienna in 1936 to warn of the coming Second World War, but found himself doing it again in Salisbury, Rhodesia, in 1966.

Reed wrote that 10 years before, a major war beginning in Africa was inconceivable. Africa was a continent of order. It was steadily moving to an improving future for all its peoples under the colonial powers, as they pursued the established policy of gradually uplifting the tribes-people towards an increasing part in the management of affairs.

Only one power in the world *admittedly* desired war. Lenin, in 1920, decreed that the expulsion of the colonial powers from their territories was vital to the achievement of world communism. In the years 1960-66 Western 'liberals' *openly* supported this Leninist aim.

This partnership, indeed, between the governments of the "free world" and communism, their *professed* enemy, is the basic fact of the years 1960-1966 in Africa. Only when that is understood does the picture become plain of what *has* happened, and *is now* happening.

Further reading: "*Far and Wide*", "*Grand Design*" by Douglas Reed; "*Message from Southern Africa*", "*Truth out of Africa*", "*Undeclared War: the Struggle for Africa*" and "*The Way of Dispossession*" by Ivor Benson. All books are available from League Book Services.

"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.