



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.40, No.35

September 10th, 2004

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The threat to independence in the late 20th century from the new electronics, could be greater than was colonialism itself. We are beginning to learn that decolonisation was not the termination of imperial relationships but merely the extending of a geopolitical web which has been spinning since the Renaissance. The new media have the power to penetrate more deeply into a 'receiving' culture than any previous manifestation of western technology."*

— Edward Said in *"Culture and Imperialism"*

WHO'S FOR LOCAL CURRENCIES? by Betty Luks:

Those who have been following the discussions on ways and means of implementing a local currency in their communities, and/or region, will be interested in the following exciting report from the Michael journal of the Pilgrims of St. Michael, Rougemont, Quebec, Canada, July 2004.

The story is about a visit to Madagascar by full-time Pilgrim Marcel Lefebvre and a Swiss companion as guests of the Catholic Episcopal Commission on Justice and Peace:

"Then we went into the bush, driven by the secretary, in the pastor's "4 x 4" vehicle. We were invited by the Secretary General of the Justice and Peace Commission, Mr. Jean Marie, a father of 8 children, who is involved with church activities. He managed to gather all the people of the village to meet us. We began with the recitation of the Rosary, and then gave a talk on the cause of their poverty, and the way out, by establishing a local money system, like in Switzerland and in Argentina, where they call it 'social credits'.

We told them about the possibility of creating their own figures (money, *accounting* system...ed) to develop their area, without waiting for the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and all the other money-lenders who exploit them.

We founded together the first Social Credit bank, just as the five islanders did in "The Money Myth Exploded". They brought all their belongings to create a fund to start the new bank. It was really moving and impressive to see them bring all they had. They are really good people. Bishop Raymond told us that within a year, there will be 500 small banks like this one in Madagascar.

So where we founded this first bank, we gave a Rosary to every family that enlisted, and made them promise to say the family Rosary every day for the success of this important undertaking. Before founding the bank, Mr. de Siebenthal asked the priest who was accompanying us to confess the Faithful. There will be no interest charged in this bank; on the contrary, dividends will soon be given to every participant. They will develop their area in an impressive manner."

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We will continue to report on this development as news comes to hand.

Comment: There really was no need for the villagers to bring "all their belongings to create a fund to start the new bank" as they are creating their own 'credit'; they will be drawing on their own 'social credit'. It could be that at this stage they simply cannot grasp the real truth of 'credit' and it will take them time to 'digest' the truth ... in which case it was easier for them to do this...for now.

For further understanding: "*The Money Myth Exploded*"; "*In This Age of Plenty*" by Louis Even. Available from all League Book Services.

THE WARLORDS OF WASHINGTON: In a recent article "The Warlords of Washington", John Pilger argues the case for George Bush winning the coming presidential election, seeing him and his party as the 'lesser evil of the two'.

He assessed the situation – up to a point: "Most of the US's recent wars were launched by Democratic presidents. Why expect better of Kerry? The debate between US liberals and conservatives is a fake; Bush may be the lesser evil.

On 6 May last, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution which, in effect, authorised a "pre-emptive" attack on Iran. The vote was 376-3. Undeterred by the accelerating disaster in Iraq, Republicans and Democrats, wrote one commentator, "once again joined hands to assert the responsibilities of American power".

The joining of hands across America's illusory political divide has a long history...Wading through the blood, a new breed of popular historian, the journalist in the pay of rich newspaper owners, spun the heroic myths of a supersect called Americanism, which advertising and public relations in the 20th century formalised as an ideology, embracing both conservatism and liberalism.

In the modern era, most of America's wars have been launched by liberal Democratic presidents – Harry Truman in Korea, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in Vietnam, Jimmy Carter in Afghanistan. The fictitious "missile gap" was invented by Kennedy's liberal New Frontiersmen as a rationale for keeping the cold war going. In 1964, a Democrat-dominated Congress gave President Johnson authority to attack Vietnam, a defenceless peasant nation offering no threat to the United States...During the past 60 years, only once has Congress voted to limit the president's "right" to terrorise other countries. This aberration, the Clark Amendment 1975, a product of the great anti-Vietnam war movement, was repealed in 1985 by Ronald Reagan.

During Reagan's assaults on central America in the 1980s, liberal voices such as Tom Wicker of the *New York Times*, doyen of the "doves", seriously debated whether or not tiny, impoverished Nicaragua was a threat to the United States.

Pushing lesser 'evilism': These days, terrorism having replaced the red menace, another fake debate is under way. This is lesser evilism. Although few liberal-minded voters seem to have illusions about John Kerry, their need to get rid of the "rogue" Bush administration is all-consuming. Representing them in Britain, the *Guardian* says that the coming presidential election is "exceptional". "Mr. Kerry's flaws and limitations are evident," says the paper, "but they are put in the shade by the neoconservative agenda and catastrophic war-making of Mr. Bush. This is an election in which almost the whole world will breathe a sigh of relief if the incumbent is defeated."

The whole world may well breathe a sigh of relief: the Bush regime is both dangerous and universally loathed; but that is not the point. We have debated lesser evilism so often on both sides of the Atlantic that it is surely time to stop gesturing at the obvious and to examine critically a system that produces the Bushes and their Democratic shadows. For those of us who marvel at our luck in reaching mature years without having been blown to bits by the warlords of Americanism, Republican and

Democrat, conservative and liberal, and for the millions all over the world who now reject the American contagion in political life, the true issue is clear.

It is the continuation of a project that began more than 500 years ago. The privileges of "discovery and conquest" granted to Christopher Columbus in 1492, in a world the pope considered "his property to be disposed according to his will", have been replaced by another piracy transformed into the divine will of Americanism and sustained by technological progress, notably that of the media." (emphasis added...ed)

'AMERICANISM' – JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'MAMMON': The "continuation of a project" which John Pilger identifies today as "Americanism" has a much longer history than that of the last 500 years. That which Pilger describes as a 'project' Clifford Hugh Douglas described as the policy of a philosophy. It is a body of beliefs carried down through the centuries by a group of people... and applied when the power has been gained and the timing is right. Its goal? World power and control.

This philosophy of the will-to-power, i.e., this body of beliefs, was clearly identified by Jesus Christ 2000 years ago – Mammon. In his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, William Barclay gave some interesting history of the word 'Mammon':

"The word *mamon* had a most curious and a most revealing history. It comes from a root which means *to entrust*; and *mamon* was that which a man entrusted to a banker for safe deposit of some kind. *Mamon* was the wealth which a man entrusted to someone to keep safe for him. But as the years went on *mamon* came to mean, not that which is entrusted but that in which a man puts his trust. The end of the process was that *mamon* came to be spelled with a capital M and came to be regarded as nothing less than a god."

Nations are 'Instruments' of a Policy: What John Pilger has not recognised is that Nations or States are but instruments of this policy of a philosophy – and have been for thousands of years! America was chosen as its instrument after the British Empire had served its purpose and the centre of power was transferred from London to Wall Street.

Nations or States are chosen and retained for shorter or longer historical periods and discarded when a better instrument becomes available. It is a parasitic system that cannot live apart from a host body. We now know America is being brought to its financial and economic knees, but can only guess which nation is next on the list. Possibly modern China?

History is 'policy – crystallised'. History, in which men of understanding as well as of action have erected signposts for the use of their successors.

He who writes history, chooses history: There are also sign posts for those who share the philosophy of the will to freedom – if they have eyes to see. John Pilger wrote of "a (1492) world (which) the pope considered "his property to be disposed (of) according to his will".

Sadly, because papalism didn't remain satisfied with spiritual leadership, and failed to distinguish between Authority and Power, the power to dominate was taken far into the temporal sphere. This direction, pursued over generations, built up the stresses and pressures which prefaced the 'Reformation'; an explosion in which papal absolutism was broken into fragments.

Mr. Pilger needed to consider the sign posts challenging the centralising of power in Christian and British history!

Hewlett Edwards wrote in "The Cultivation of History": "Consider then these signposts of the past: the Gospels, the Athanasian Creed and Magna Carta. Although so widely different in content and expression each is a crystallisation of the same policy, which has become history. It is *this* history we must cultivate:

- Christian charity (caritas) in which to live and grow
- Athanasian (Greek) penetration of reality as the guide to growth
- and British determination to secure results.

These also are one in our Constitution but that Constitution has been crippled and made impotent. For its restoration, another crystallisation of policy is needed...

We must have freedom to choose or refuse: It is necessary to provide individuals, as individuals, not collectively, with much more opportunity to judge political matters by results, and to be able to reject, individually and not collectively, policies they do not like...

To crystallise these directives into history is to bring substance to things hoped for and to provide evidence of things to come: it is the establishment of the threefold Constitution as a production unit of Truth and Freedom..."

Magna Carta, King John and Runnymede: King John failed in this. He did not distinguish but tried to combine Authority, Power and Law in his own person; and, in this violation of well-understood but largely unformulated principles, he brought the constitutional issue to a head.

The Interlocking Activities of Church (Authority), King (Power) and People (Law): The Barons at Runnymede may not have realised fully the part they played: but they played it. They stood as an embodiment of the people of England, all England; the outcome and incarnation of the interlocking activities of Church, King, and People; and their purpose was to bring the King to recognise his limitations in this threefold structure by the implementation of the rights of the other parties."

All the signs are again warning us: As this newsletter is being prepared the horrible drama in southern Russia of the approximately 1500 men, women and children being used as hostages in return for political demands is being played out to its tragic end. Yet another sign post of the building up of such stress that a people would rather die fighting, or blow themselves up, than live under the yoke of a centralised tyranny. But sadly, using innocent victims for their own ends is surely not the way to go.

A FURTHER 'CRYSTALLISATION OF POLICY': Another of Australia's icons has announced it can't survive under the present financial and economic policies of consecutive governments and is heading offshore. *The Ballarat Courier* reported: "Clothing retailer Fletcher Jones will end its Australian manufacturing within two months, at a cost of 60 jobs in Victoria and South Australia."

And predictably the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union yesterday criticised the company's announcement that it would close its Warnambool and Mount Gambier plants, saying Fletcher Jones did not do enough to save its Australian operations. Unions will *never* look at the causes but keep harping on the effects.

Ballarat letter writer Ron Fischer summed up the core problem: "The barriers to trade that the free trade agreement is addressing are a direct result of the malaise of economics. Since the Industrial Revolution when machines began replacing human input no nation has been able to distribute internally everything it produced because machines have a cost but they do not consume their own output.

One nation's exports are another's imports. Thus the scramble for export "markets" has intensified. Restrictions on imports of many sorts were devised, along with stimulants to exports. Anyone who expects this "free trade" agreement to be of any use without tackling the fundamentals is deluded."

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"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.