



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –*

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## *A Most Blessed Holy Week for all our Readers*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** *"I have come that you might have Life and have it more abundant."*

### **TO SUMMON OUR LOYALTY TO GOD** by Nigel Jackson:

Whilst the following was sent to the editor of the Melbourne *Age* as a response by Mr. Nigel Jackson, it was thought appropriate to give it prominence in this edition of *On Target*.

"There is nothing 'curious', as you put it in your editorial (20/3), about the survival of the union jack on our national *flag*, for it is a noble emblem that proclaims our historical and cultural origins.

Nor would the creation of an Australian republic be a 'reform', but, rather a falling away from one of the most successful constitutions in the world, based on the grandeur of eleven centuries of royal tradition.

As for the heraldic significance of the union jack's positioning in the top left quadrant of our flag, betokening subordination, does it not occur to you that, though the physical British empire has gone, the more profound cultural British empire survives – here and elsewhere – embedded in the English language; and that this is an empire acknowledgment of which causes us pride, not shame?

Within the union jack is the sacred icon of the cross, a precious Christian symbol, certainly, but also a more ancient carrier of meaning of a worldwide provenance.

And while it is true that the stars of the Southern Cross 'shine on everyone alike', they also gleam in the night as heralds calling us to raise our hearts, much as our Sovereign stands as the Star of our realm to summon our loyalty through her to God.

It is in this context that the will of the people truly will be done, whereas the 'democracy' that you espouse is just a chimera and means of chicanery by which a worldly despotism hopes to thrive at our expense."

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• *Pity The 'Blind' Man* • *The Crime Committed In Our Name*

## SLASHING AGAIN THE GORDIAN KNOT by Betty Luks:

At this most holy time of the Christian calendar it is a time for reflection on the eternal things, those things above the physical, the material – the things of the spirit, the foundation of any community or society. In his study of ancient myths and legends, *The White Goddess*, the poet Robert Graves wrote an interesting footnote on the legend of the Gordian master-knot, the truths within which are being played out in the world today.

Gordium was in ancient Eastern Phrygia and according to local tradition whoever untied the knot would become master of Asia. Because of its position, Gordium commanded the main trade route across Asia Minor from the Bosphorous to Antioch, so that, the manifest meaning of the prophecy was that nobody could rule Asia Minor who did not hold Gordium.

It was from Gordium that Alexander the Great began his Eastern campaign which culminated in the defeat of Darius at Issus.

The Gordian knot should have been 'untied' by reading the 'divine' message it contained...but Alexander who had not the learning, patience or ingenuity to perform the task decently, used his sword.

By cutting the master-knot Alexander ended an ancient religious dispensation, and since his act seemed to go unpunished – he afterwards conquered the whole of the East as far as the Indus Valley – it became a precedent for rating military power above religion or learning; just as the sword of Brennus the Gaul thrown into the scales that measured out the agreed tribute of Roman gold, provided a precedent for rating military power above justice or honour.....

March 2004: In the occupied land of the Palestinian people, in the territory known as the 'Gaza-strip', a wheel-chair bound elderly Muslim cleric, whilst being assisted and escorted from a place of worship – a mosque – was blown to pieces by a missile fired by an Israeli pilot from an American-built Apache helicopter-gunship, on the orders of neo-Alexanderian-neanderthals.

**PITY THE 'BLIND' MAN:** As usual, the venom spills over on to the pages and into his articles at anything which even remotely reminds him of Christianity, or of that great patriotic Australian, Eric Dudley Butler, and/or the Australian League of Rights:

**"Passion at the forefront of religious bigotry", by Phillip Adams, *The Australian*, March 23rd, 2004.**

**First he takes Mel Gibson to task for daring to recoup 'squids of money' from the venture.**

Come on Phillip! Mel would have learned all the tricks of the trade and the importance of publicity from his Hollywood *Jewish* mentors and managers. Why is it alright for ones such as the Abe Foxmans of this world to amass fortunes but not for a Christian gentile such as Mel Gibson?

**Anyway, the Jews who hate Jesus Christ just can't help themselves** – they are the ones who have brought the movie to the attention of the public – and to Christians in particular – by continually harping on it and criticising it. Their own actions gave it such good publicity.

**He complains the film contributes to religious conflict**, quoting David Denby of *The New Yorker*: "Gibson's timing couldn't be more unfortunate: another dose of death-haunted religious fanaticism is the last thing we need."

Now that's a bit rich coming from the group who have churned out 'holocaust-death-haunted-religious-fanaticism' movies all these years!

**He outrageously suggests that the story of the Crucifixion "ties in to thousands of years of anti-semitism."**

As the Jewish convert to Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Steven Greenhut, wrote (*On Target*, March 19th, 2004): "They (the critics) are sounding increasingly bitter, increasingly desperate given the success of the movie and their own irrelevance."

### **How does Stephen Greenhut's impression of the film differ from Phillip Adams'?**

Stephen wrote: "The beauty of the film, beyond the magnificent imagery, fine acting and stunning photography, was the portrayal of the key action of our faith as a real event. This, I suppose, is a close portrayal of how the crucifixion and the hours leading up to it took place. As such, I watched and wondered. What would I have done?"

He noted: "I can't recall any similar effort to shut down a movie, to destroy the reputation of a producer or to associate a project with the vilest half-truths and innuendoes."

### **How snide and revealing are your comments Phillip Adams!**

Just to give his article the right finishing touches, he has a go at Fred Tobin, Hutton Gibson and of course, Eric Butler.

**But to continue with Stephen Greenhut:** "Because the Gospel story still matters. It still offends. It still causes haters of the message to want to crucify, albeit figuratively, the messenger."

Is this why Phillip Adams will never understand where Eric Dudley Butler and the Australian League of Rights are coming from? How can you explain to a blind man the Light of the Sun?

**THE CRIME COMMITTED IN OUR NAME** by John Pilger – from LewRockwell.com – March 22nd, 2004:

"The invasion of Iraq, which began one year ago today, was 'organised with lies', says the new Spanish Prime Minister. Does anyone doubt this any more?

And yet these proven lies are still dominant in Australia. Day after day, their perpetrators seek to obfuscate and justify an unprovoked, illegal attack that killed up to 55,000 people, including at least 10,000 civilians; that every month causes the death and injury of 1,000 children from exploding cluster bombs; that has so saturated Iraqi towns and cities with uranium that American and British soldiers are warned not to go where Iraqi children play, for fear of contamination.

Set that carnage against the Madrid atrocity. Terrible though that act of terrorism was, it was small compared with the terrorism of the American-led 'coalition'. Yes, terrorism. How strange it reads when it describes the actions of 'our' governments. So saturated are we in the West in the devilry of Third World tyrants (most of them the products of Western imperialism) that we have lost all sense of the enormous crime committed in our name.

This is not rhetoric. In 1946, the judges who tried the German leadership at Nuremberg called the unprovoked invasion of a sovereign country "the supreme international war crime". That principle guided more than half a century of international law, until Bush and Blair and Howard tore it up, covering their actions with a litany of lies.

On February 4th last year, in a speech lasting less than an hour, John Howard referred more than 30 times to the "threat" posed by Saddam Hussein. He offered authoritative detail: that Iraq's "arsenal of chemical and biological weapons (was) intact" and was a "massive program". All of this was false.

**Ray McGovern, one of the CIA's most senior analysts and a personal friend of George Bush Snr., told me: "It was 95 per cent charade. And they all knew it: Bush, Blair, Howard."**

The true danger is where a rampant superpower will strike next: watch out Korea, Syria, Iran, even China.

**The genocidal embargo aided and abetted by Australia:** Set that truth against the present carnage in Iraq, and set it against the wilful destruction that preceded it, which was barely reported in Australia.

The UN's two senior officials in Iraq in the 1990s, Denis Halliday and Hans Von Sponeck, both assistant secretaries-general of the UN, have described in detail a "genocidal embargo" imposed by America under a UN flag of convenience, aided and abetted by Australia.

"Almost a million Iraqis died as a direct result," Halliday told me, "including at least half a million children. The UNICEF studies are on the record. It was US policy to destroy the infrastructure of Iraq, such as the water supply, which killed thousands of infants. By the time Bush invaded, a once prosperous country was a stricken nation."

In fact, UN records show that up to July 2002, more than \$US5 billion worth of humanitarian aid, approved by the UN Security Council and paid for by Iraq, was blocked by the US.

How many Australians are aware of this and Australia's complicity? Howard sent RAN ships to police what in reality was a medieval-style siege? Who dared listen to Halliday and other distinguished witnesses that it was this terrible siege that reinforced Saddam's rule and prevented the Iraqi people from getting rid of him?

**Framing national debate in terms and clichés of mendacious power:** All this has been suppressed in Australia while the latest lies are channelled and amplified by journalists. I am not referring to the usual far-right windbags but those broadcasters who believe sincerely they are being objective; by constantly framing the national debate in the terms and clichés of mendacious power, they collude with it, censoring by omission.

Do they ever consider that the very notion of a 'war on terror' is absurd when the power in Washington claiming to combat terror has run an empire of terror: Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua and now Haiti, again? By comparison al-Qaeda is a lethal flea. The true danger is where a rampant superpower will strike next: watch out Korea, Syria, Iran, even China.

As the prisoners begin to struggle home from the American concentration camp at Guantanamo Bay, the scale of the crime is emerging. We now know that the British military command virtually refused to send troops to Iraq until Blair gave them a guarantee they would not be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court. Blair's guarantee was worthless. And that frightens the British establishment, and the Australian establishment, too.

Unlike the US, Britain and Australia are signatories to the ICC.

The times are changing; Washington-manipulated show trials of Third World dictators are giving way to the promise of universal justice, however tenuous it may seem.

The dock awaits those Westerners who bring terrorism to faraway countries, then watch it blow back in our faces. Like al-Qaeda, they should not be allowed to get away with it."

*John Pilger was born and educated in Sydney, Australia. He has been a war correspondent, filmmaker and playwright. Based in London, he has written from many countries and has twice won British journalism's highest award, that of "Journalist of the Year", for his work in Vietnam and Cambodia.*  
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