



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The Pedigree of Ideas: The substitution of 'regional' governments for the States has long been the dream of those for whom centralism is favoured against the division of powers inherent in a federation... The late Leo Port (The Australian 7/3/74) the works committee chairman of the Sydney City Council, warned what the plan entailed:

"Australia's system of local and State governments may be swallowed up by large regional administrations responsible to the Federal Government... Alderman Leo Port... said this was the next logical step if council amalgamations proposed in the NSW government's Barnett Report were implemented.

"The report is the thin edge of the wedge to gain control of local government functions by larger administration," he said. "This is what the Federal Government would like to see: the elimination of all State and local governments and a system of regionalised governments."

– Jeremy Lee in "Constitutional Vivisection", *New Times Survey*, August, 2001

TWEEDLEDEEM AND TWEEDLEDUMBER by James Reed: The cover of multiculturalist writer George Megalogenis' book "The Longest Decade" (Scribe, Melbourne, 2006) says it all. There is a picture of, as younger men, Paul Keating and John Howard. Howard has a bit more hair than now.

Keating is on Howard's right and with his right hand points into the distance. Howard has his hands in his pocket and passively looks on. In other words, Keating is showing Howard the way.

Megalogenis has done an excellent job of showing in full, terrifying detail that Keating and Howard are globalist, economic rationalists, who see Australia as being part of Asia. Debates over "national identity" are really only minor family differences. Keating did what he needed to do to meet the globalist agenda, and Howard did, what he needed to do in a changed historical context, to push the same agenda.

Howard had to deal with the threat of Pauline Hanson and One Nation, a backlash of Anglo-Australia against the ethnic politics of multiculturalism. Howard and his team handled the Hanson threat through working to undermine her (Tony Abbott being the henchman) and also by adopting some of her policies, such as a seemingly tougher stand on asylum-seekers. I say "seemingly" because the country under Howard was "flooded" by black refugees in a manner that has alarmed some people, and landed Professor Andrew Fraser in trouble with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission.

Under this smokescreen Asian immigration reached record levels – often greater than 70 per cent – under the Howard regime. Public opposition to immigration declined after the election of the Howard

In this issue: • *Thought For The Week* • *Tweedledeem and Tweedledumber* • *The Mysteries Of The Mind* • *Native Title? We Were 'Done Like A Dinner'!* • *Body Of Tsar's Mother Brought Back To Russia* • *What The Politicians Don't Tell Us – We Are The Losers*

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Page 1 (157)

government in March 1996, largely through the illusion Howard created, of "doing something about immigration".

As a political opportunist, Howard in 1998 raised the issue of Asian immigration. He has apologised ever since, most notably on 7 January 1995. No doubt it was a strategic mistake. But he has seemed to rot the brains of many people from our side who should know better and who continue to maintain that "Honest John" is secretly "still on side".

Howard on September 11 was proclaiming that "People in Australia are in no doubt that extreme Islam is responsible for terrorism" (*The Australian*, 11/8/06, p.1). For the superficial ones, who "want to believe", it looks like Johnny really cares about our fate. Yet whatever one feels about the ultimate causes of terrorism, more people's lives in Australia are affected by Howard's own economic terrorism through industrial relations law than any threat by Islam.

Howard has continued Keating's plan to undermine traditional Anglo-Australia through immigration, economic globalisation and industrial reform.

Read Megalogenis' clearly written book, written from the perspective of our political enemies, if you still think Howard is "on side".

THE MYSTERIES OF THE MIND by James Reed: For the materialist – those who believe that all that exists is matter (whatever that is) in motion – consciousness is a problem. How can something seemingly immaterial arise from something material? How could consciousness evolve? Why is there a sense of self?

Some philosophers deny that the mind, as distinct from the brain is real; this was a popular view in the 1960s when I studied (and dropped out) of philosophy in second year uni. Apparently this view is the standard one in the crusty halls of academia today.

Consciousness is an illusion it seems, according to leading US academic Daniel Dennett. I borrowed a couple of his books to see if I could make sense of them, but over a glass of red I thought: to what purpose?

We know that we exist, that we have a mind and that there is a self. We are more certain of this than of any intellectual argument. It is the reductionists like Dennett who are wrong. After all, ancient philosopher Zeno denied that motion occurred. There is nothing so absurd that a philosopher hasn't supported it: often with ingenious arguments. But while the world burns, what a waste of life and resources!

Maybe, just maybe, the economic rationalists are right in eliminating philosophy departments. Obsessive logic chopping should be seen as a form of mental illness.

NATIVE TITLE? WE WERE 'DONE LIKE A DINNER'! by Betty Luks: Perth handed over to native title: The Federal Court granted native title of Perth and its surrounds to the indigenous Noongar people on 19 September 2006. The claim covers 193,956 square kilometres, from Hopetoun in the south to north of Jurien Bay. It is more than 6000 square km of the area covering Perth and its surrounds - an area three times the size of Tasmania.

Some background history: During the 1984 Federal Election campaign former PM – and Fabian internationalist – Bob Hawke, made the claim that as a result of the 1967 Referendum, the Australian people "gave the Federal Government the power to grant Land Rights to Aborigines."

Those who were around at the time - and I was one of them – know full well "Land Rights" was never mentioned in relation to the 1967 Referendum. The proposal, so the electors were told, meant no more than a minor amendment to the Constitution designed to delete certain words – regarded as

offensive – relating to the Aboriginal race in order that Aborigines could be included in the five-yearly census, and to make it possible for the Commonwealth Government, in association with the States, to make special laws for people of "the Aboriginal race".

The official "Yes" case specifically repudiated any suggestion of increasing the powers of the Commonwealth over the States. "There is no intention on the part of the Commonwealth that authority should be... wrested from the States."

The "Yes" case read: DO YOU Approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled:

"An Act to alter the Constitution so as to omit certain words relating to the People of the Aboriginal Race in any State and so that Aborigines are to be counted in reckoning the Population"?

Fifteen years later, when a High Court ruled in the Koowarta case that the Commonwealth could override the States on "Land Rights", the electors discovered – too late – that they had been seriously misled in the 1967 Referendum.

Both the original words deleted from the Constitution and the addition meant that the only people referred to were direct full-blood descendants of the indigenous people scattered throughout Australia when European colonisation started. There were no references to part Aborigines.

A revolutionary move designed to fragment Australia: Electors voting at the 1967 Referendum never thought that in supporting what they felt was a 'fair go' for a relatively small number of Aborigines, they were helping to pave the way for a revolutionary movement designed to fragment Australia. They never realised that such an innocent-sounding proposal could lead to the Commonwealth using the External Powers to override the States on "Land Rights".

Peter English in "Land Rights – Birth Rights", wrote: "In the light of subsequent events, the Federal Referendum of May 27 1967 was destined to be regarded by many as the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on an unwitting and uninformed electorate by a federal government in the whole short history of Australian politics...."

BODY OF TSAR'S MOTHER BROUGHT BACK TO RUSSIA: To the sounds of a 31-gun salute, the remains of Russia's last dowager empress returned to her adopted homeland almost nine decades after she fled the Bolshevik revolution that claimed the lives of her son and grandchildren. Maria Fyodorovna, the mother of Nicholas II, Russia's last tsar, was laid to rest after three days of commemorations, an event that will force Russia to consider the bloody end of its imperial past.

Descendants of the Romanov dynasty gathered at the Baltic port of Kronstadt as the tsarina's coffin, draped in the imperial flag, was brought ashore from a Danish frigate. A military band played a 19th century funeral march as Danish and Russian soldiers formed a guard of honour, marching side by side for the first time.

After a brief ceremony, the tsarina's body was taken to the imperial summer residence at Peterhof, 20 miles south-east of St Petersburg, where it lay in state

The solemn commemorations marked the culmination of years of negotiations between Moscow and Copenhagen to repatriate the Danish-born empress. Born Princess Dagmar of the Danish royal house, Maria married Tsar Alexander III in 1866, arriving in Russia exactly 140 years before her remains were returned. She was to stay for more than half a century, becoming popular among ordinary Russians who admired her tact, beauty and charitable works.

Maria married Tsar Alexander III in 1866: She was to outlive her husband, son and at least three of her five grandchildren. Even though a Bolshevik firing squad executed Nicholas II and his family in 1918, she refused to leave the country she had grown to love. She was eventually persuaded to flee

aboard a British cruiser sent by her brother-in-law, Edward VII, in 1919. She came to Britain but felt eclipsed by her sister, Queen Alexandra, and later moved to Denmark.

Refusing to accept the deaths at Yekaterinburg, she continued to write to her son and interviewed several women claiming to be her granddaughter Anastasia, said by some to have escaped the Bolsheviks. She died in 1928 and was buried at Roskilde, Denmark's royal cathedral.

Her spoken desire to be buried in Russia could not be contemplated until the fall of communism. Moves towards her return began when Nicholas II, his wife and three of their five children were exhumed and buried in St. Petersburg in 1998.

"This ceremony is a symbol of life in a new Russia," said Valentina Matviyenko, governor of St. Petersburg. "It is also a very significant act of restoring our historical memory."

WHAT THE POLITICIANS DON'T TELL US – WE ARE THE LOSERS: From September 20 to 22, the Cairns Group met in Cairns {Queensland} to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The Cairns group has been one of the premier voices on the international stage pushing for "freer" trade in agriculture.

In March 2006 <http://www.tradewatchoz.org/enews/43.html> wrote: Between 1973 – when Australian tariff reductions started – and 2005, the real net value of Australia farm production (a measure of farmers' income) had actually DROPPED by a massive 66%. What's more, the most recent research by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural & Resource Economics shows that under the current "free trade" system, the real net value of Australian farm production will actually decline from \$5.8 billion in 2004/5 to \$3.9 billion in 2011 (in 2005/6 dollars). That's a predicted 50% drop in farmers' incomes in the next five years!

So much for 'freer' trade: Australia's example shows, liberalising agricultural trade actually decreases farmers incomes and increases poverty by lowering commodity prices and increasing the power of the huge agri-business corporations which dominate food processing around the world. Many developing countries have learnt this lesson the hard way, having been forced to liberalise their agricultural markets by IMF or World Bank "structural adjustment" packages, mostly to disastrous consequences for their farmers.

The establishment of the G20 group of developing countries – which has pushed for agricultural trade rules which will actually benefit the developing world – in 2003 was a signal by many developing countries that what the Cairns group was pushing for wasn't really in their interests. The establishment of the G20 has seen most of the Cairns Group's influence in global trade talks disappear.

Australian Industry Group says Australia losing from trade with China: Even before Australia has negotiated a "free" trade agreement with China, a new report from employer group the Australian Industry group shows that Australia's manufacturers are actually losing out by almost \$1 billion from its trading relationship with China.

The report "Australian Manufacturing and China: deepening engagement" found that even though manufacturers gained benefits worth \$6.8 billion in 2005-06 from trade with China, Chinese competition cost Australian manufacturers \$6.68 billion in domestic sales in 2005-06, and \$1 billion in lost exports to third countries.

More: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/business/china-trade-costs-australia-1bn/2006/08/24/1156012673653.html>

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