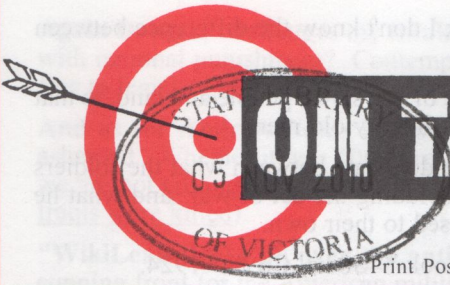


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A WEEKLY COMMENTARY



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Such a Parcel o' Rogues in a Nation by Philip Giraldi: No one is found guilty for starting an unnecessary war that has killed 4,425 Americans and many thousands of Iraqis. No one is punished or even tarnished by his or her role. On the contrary, all are, in fact, richly rewarded for their presumed dedication to their country ... Until that culture is eradicated by something like a Nuremberg trial, demonstrating that no one is above the law, the United States will continue to be a place that the rest of the world quite rightly regards as preaching respect for rules and values while rewarding just the opposite.

– <http://original.antiwar.com/giraldi/2010/10/20/such-a-parcel-o-rogues-in-a-nation/>

Secret Iraq War Files Offer Grim New Details from *The Washington Post*: A massive cache of secret U.S. field reports from the Iraq war provides grim new details about the toll of that conflict, indicating that more than 100,000 Iraqis were killed during a six-year stretch and that American forces often failed to intervene as the U.S.-backed government brutalized detainees, according to news organizations given access to the documents by the WikiLeaks Web site. The nearly 400,000 records are described as offering a chilling, pointillist view of the war's peak years, documenting thousands of civilian deaths – including hundreds killed at checkpoints manned by U.S. soldiers – and the burgeoning role that American contractors came to play in the conflict.

– <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/22/AR2010102201682.html>

Iraq War Logs: Secret Files Show How U.S. Ignored Torture from *The Guardian* (Britain): A grim picture of the U.S. and Britain's legacy in Iraq has been revealed in a massive leak of American military documents that detail torture, summary executions and war crimes. Almost 400,000 secret US army field reports have been passed to the Guardian and a number of other international media organisations via the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks... The new logs detail how: U.S. authorities failed to investigate hundreds of reports of abuse, torture, rape and even murder by Iraqi police and soldiers whose conduct appears to be systematic and normally unpunished.

– <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/22/iraq-war-logs-military-leaks>

THE SHAMING OF AMERICA, AND AUSTRALIA TOO by Betty Luks: When the Americans first invaded Iraq I wrote an article in *On Target*, condemning the act of aggression. At the time a well-known RSL identity, and a friend to Eric D. Butler, wrote to me expressing his disgust for me condemning the act. I believe he did not distinguish between loyalty to our servicemen who, acting under orders, went to war, and the act of aggression which our so-called 'leaders' agreed to. I am the

IN THIS ISSUE • *Thought For The Week* • *The Shaming Of America, And Australia Too* • *Here We Go Again – Banking Sharks Circling For 'The Kill'*

daughter and sister of a number of ex-servicemen, so don't think I don't know the difference between the two issues.

There is all the difference in the world in going to war in defence of one's own people and land, to that of being used as pawns in the Game of World Power by power-hungry old men.

Shakespeare in "Henry V" dealt with these issues and sought to delineate between what the soldiers were responsible for and what the King was responsible for, including the act of war and what he could expect of his soldiers that was his responsibility as opposed to their own.

C. H. Douglas challenged my thinking on these matters in his book * "Social Credit" 1924.

In the chapter "Relation of Group to Individual" he writes: "...The shifting of emphasis from the individual to the group, which is involved in collectivism, logically involves a shifting of responsibility for action. This can be made, it would appear, an interesting test of the validity of the theory. For instance, the individual killing of one man by another we term murder. But collective and wholesale killing, we dignify by the name of war, and we specifically absolve the individual from the consequences of any acts which are committed under the orders of a superior officer.

This appears to work admirably so long as the results of the action do not take place on a plane on which they can be observed; but immediately they do, the theory obviously breaks down. There may be, *ex-hypothesi*, no moral guilt attributable to the individual who goes to war; but the effect of intercepting the line of flight of a high-speed bullet will be found to be exactly the same whether it is fired by a national or a private opponent. 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 a 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. (emphasis added)

We do not know what is the automatic re-action consequent on the killing of one individual by another, as distinct from the non-automatic and artificial reaction involved in the trial and punishment of a murderer in a court of law. But we do know that over every plane of action with which we are acquainted, action and reaction are equal, opposite, and wholly automatic. Consequently, there is nothing to indicate that the automatic consequences of a given action will exhibit any difference if committed under the orders of a superior officer, or not. Further, it may be observed that non-automatic "punishment" really constitutes a separate group of actions and reactions. If we throw a stone into a still pool of water, the ripples which result are not eliminated by throwing in a second stone, although they may be masked, and to the extent that legal punishments represent, not the ripples from the first stone, but the casting of the second, it will be seen that a complicated situation is inevitable..."

* Available in hard copy from Heritage Books, \$10.00 plus postage.

'The March of the Hypocrites' – Solzhenitsyn's words for western leaders are so apt here. In the parliamentary debate Andrew Wilkie Independent MP said: "Ditch the dishonest terrorism rhetoric and try and tell the real reasons for our seemingly open-ended involvement in a war that has gone from bad to worse over nine years, making it one of the longest wars in Australian history."

He also questioned why other MPs were not speaking out. "Whatever happened to some of you that now you're so ready to sacrifice your soul for your party's political self-interest?" More here: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/20/3043474.htm>

VIDEO: Wilkie wants Australia to pull out of Afghanistan (ABC News)
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/20/3043474.htm>

Again Douglas challenges my thinking: "...Is there a moral "law" connecting political transgression with national punishment? Contemporary Governments clearly think that there is not; that they are free to legislate in a moral vacuum." ("The Realistic Position of the Church of England" 1948).

And as for Andrew Bolt's line of reasoning. If I have read you aright, Andrew, you should be ashamed. Whether it was 600 Iraqi lives or 655,000 lives, we are talking about human beings here, we are not talking about cattle (which we would kill more humanely than in the manner some of the Iraqis were killed).

"WikiLeaks leaks all over the anti-war cause" Andrew Bolt, 26/10/2010: "Is WikiLeaks just a cunning front for the American military-industrial complex? First its latest document dump showed that *Lancet* exaggerated by 600 per cent when it published its notorious paper claiming the liberation of Iraq cost the lives of Iraqis.

Now it's confirmed that Saddam Hussein did indeed have weapons of mass destruction – and the experts to resume production once the U.S. backed down... But WikiLeaks' newly-released Iraq war documents reveal that for years afterward, U.S. troops continued to find chemical weapons labs, encounter insurgent specialists in toxins and uncover weapons of mass destruction ..."

ROBERT FISK: THE SHAMING OF AMERICA, *The Independent*, Sunday, 24/10/2010: Now let's read what Robert Fisk has to say, and do remember this man has observed at first hand what has been happening in that sad, war-torn land.

"Our writer delivers a searing dispatch after the WikiLeaks revelations that expose in detail the brutality of the war in Iraq – and the astonishing, disgraceful deceit of the U.S. As usual, the Arabs knew. They knew all about the mass torture, the promiscuous shooting of civilians, the outrageous use of air power against family homes, the vicious American and British mercenaries, the cemeteries of the innocent dead. All of Iraq knew. Because they were the victims.

Only we could pretend we did not know. Only we in the West could counter every claim, every allegation against the Americans or British with some worthy general – the ghastly U.S. military spokesman Mark Kimmitt and the awful chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Peter Pace, come to mind – to ring-fence us with lies. Find a man who'd been tortured and you'd be told it was terrorist propaganda; discover a house full of children killed by an American air strike and that, too, would be terrorist propaganda, or "collateral damage", or a simple phrase: "We have nothing on that."

Of course, we all knew they always did have something. And yesterday's ocean of military memos proves it yet again. Al-Jazeera has gone to extraordinary lengths to track down the actual Iraqi families whose men and women are recorded as being wasted at U.S. checkpoints – I've identified one because I reported it in 2004, the bullet-smashed car, the two dead journalists, even the name of the local U.S. captain – and it was *The Independent on Sunday* that first alerted the world to the hordes of indisciplined gunmen being flown to Baghdad to protect diplomats and generals. These mercenaries, who murdered their way around the cities of Iraq, abused me when I told them I was writing about them way back in 2003.

It's always tempting to avoid a story by saying "nothing new". The "old story" idea is used by governments to dampen journalistic interest as it can be used by us to cover journalistic idleness. And it's true that reporters have seen some of this stuff before. The "evidence" of Iranian involvement in bomb-making in southern Iraq was farmed out to *The New York Times's* Michael Gordon by the Pentagon in February 2007. The raw material, which we can now read, is far more doubtful than the Pentagon-peddled version. Iranian military material was still lying around all over Iraq from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and most of the attacks on Americans were at that stage carried out by Sunni insurgents. The reports suggesting that Syria allowed insurgents to pass through their territory, by the way, are correct. I have spoken to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers whose sons made

their way to Iraq from Lebanon via the Lebanese village of Majdal Aanjar and then via the northern Syrian city of Aleppo to attack the Americans.

But, written in bleak militarese as it may be, here is the evidence of America's shame. This is material that can be used by lawyers in courts. If 66,081 – I loved the "81" bit – is the highest American figure available for dead civilians, then the real civilian mortality score is infinitely higher since this records only those civilians the Americans knew of. Some of them were brought to the Baghdad mortuary in my presence, and it was the senior official there who told me that the Iraqi ministry of health had banned doctors from performing any post-mortems on dead civilians brought in by American troops. Now why should that be? Because some had been tortured to death by Iraqis working for the Americans? Did this hook up with the 1,300 independent US reports of torture in Iraqi police stations?..."

Read the rest of the report here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/fisk/robert-fisk-the-shaming-of-america-2115111.html>

HERE WE GO AGAIN – BANKING SHARKS CIRCLING FOR 'THE KILL' by Betty Luks: (<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/government-tells-banks-its-too-early-to-start-foreclosing-on-murray-darling-farmers-loans/story-fn59niix-1225938575301>) In his book "War Cycles – Peace Cycles" Richard Kelly Hoskins observes that "Money is simple. The same things occur throughout history time after time... There may be some little change each time an economic event comes around – but after 15 times you learn to recognise what it is..." And the stage is being set for the removal of more of our farmers off their lands – and forcing them into the 'feed-lot cities'. This time it is 'to save the environment' – as if individual, free enterprise farmers are not concerned with the state of the environment in which they live and work – and produce!

Pattern for a World Economy Already Set in Ancient Times: As Frances Hutchinson notes in her book "Understanding the Financial System: Social Credit Rediscovered": "The pattern for the development of a world economy was set in the ancient world. Powerful individuals like the Pharaoh in Genesis, on the advice of their Prototype financial advisors like Joseph, commandeered control over material resources like grain, which they predicted, according to 'insider information' were likely to be in short supply in the future..."

Our farmers need to grasp what is planned for them. Joseph, in the Genesis story, communised or socialised Egypt – just as Lenin communised Russia, and President Roosevelt and his High Financial and Economic Advisers corporatised (monopolised) America.

Bearing in mind that the Egyptians with a thousand year civilisation, would have known something about drought years and good year cycles, Joseph works his way up to become second in authority to the Pharaoh and 'dreams' that Egypt is to have seven years of 'plenty' followed by seven years of 'drought'. Mind you the story tells of 'famine' – the cause of which could be for a number of reasons – not necessarily drought. The Ukrainian peoples suffered famine – because the Communists commandeered the grains!

And, what happened to the Egyptian people? They were forced off their farms and herded into the cities and eventually became serfs, on their own land, to the Pharaoh. Read it for yourselves gentle readers – Genesis Chapters 41 and 47.

America's 'proletariat' or landless 'wage slaves': American author John Steinbeck in "The Grapes of Wrath" wrote of the American farming folk forced off their lands by the banks during the 1930s, creating America's own 'proletariat'.

Continued in The Bulletin

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