

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

Vol. 61 No. 17

2nd May 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

What Does 145% Tariffs Really Mean? By William Waite	01
Easter Revelations - What's In Your Hot Cross Buns? By William Waite	05
A Wake-Up Call By Arnis Luks	09

What Does 145% Tariffs Really Mean?

***Unresolved problems of the Power Age* By William Waite**

In addition to the cartoon there were three bellicose articles about China in *The Australian* this morning (28.04.25).

Sorry, Ambassador Xiao Qian: Beijing is no defender of the free world, is a response to an article by Chinese Ambassador to Australia¹, Xiao Qian, condemning Trump's aggressive tariffs and warning countries that "China has firmly taken countermeasures to protect its legitimate rights and interests and will resolutely continue to do that." Uhlman's response in *The Australian*² is a sort of laundry list of Chinese violations. This is the tenor:

Thanks for reading Alternatives Exist! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

In industries from technology to finance to green energy, China imposes licensing barriers, demands joint ventures and favours heavily subsidised national champions. Its longstanding strategy of forced technology transfer and industrial espionage, including cyber attacks by state-backed groups such as APT10 and Volt Typhoon, has targeted Western corporations, defence contractors and critical infrastructure. This isn't order, it's hybrid warfare.

and...

For decades the West placated China, believing integration would lead to liberalisation. We let it into the World Trade Organisation, offshored our factories and turned a blind eye to intellectual property theft and trade distortions. In return, China built a surveillance state, crushed Hong Kong, silenced dissent and prepared for war.

The second article was about Uyghur slaves making solar panels³ and the third about how Albanese is failing to learn the lessons of the Second World War, and is woefully unprepared for the looming one.⁴

Picture smooth for Headline: “Australia was ill-prepared for war in 1941. In 2025, we’re making the same grave mistake”

The pounding of the drums.

Watching events unfold one can’t help be reminded of Douglas’s warning: “Economic war has always, ultimately, resulted in military war and probably always will.” Are we about to see proof of this simple maxim?

Shambolic as the US tariff rollout has been in the end it will achieve its intended purpose — the *public* de-coupling of U.S. supply chains, especially the U.S. military-industrial complex, from China. Things will continue to go on in the background, as they did with the Soviets during the Cold War, but so far as the public is concerned America and China are not pals.

Having financed and built the industrial and military capabilities of the CCP, (offshoring) America and her allies will proceed to sharpen their sabre by ensuring that the materials required for prolonged conflict cannot be staunched by China. The tariffs, currently at 145%, is just the economic weapon for the job. Even if Trump were to back right away from his tariffs policy now the untangling of the two economies would continue.

The business community is already adapting. In 2024 net direct foreign investment into China went negative for the first time in a long time, and a Bain and Company survey found out of 166 China-based CEOs 69% were shifting operations elsewhere.⁵ This aligns with the overt push for American interests to secure vital raw materials outside China’s sphere of influence. The push to break free of Chinese supply can be seen in the sourcing of rare earth and high-tech industrial supplies from anywhere but China and her satellites. It has been suggested that Australia could play a part in supplying the U.S. with heavy rare earths vital to their defense and industrial base.⁶ In Ukraine Trump is trying to get the cost of Ukrainian “aid” paid in Ukrainian minerals.

China is responding to the tariff policies as you would expect. She has overnight lost her best customer and it remains to be seen how well the financial system can adapt to the challenge. China is looking to shore up regional trade relations, which is what Xi’s article is about, and boost consumption domestically. Heavy subsidies to Chinese producers should help with that.

The structure of China’s financial system is similar to our own. They have a ‘big four’ dominated commercial banking sector and a government regulated central bank with ‘autonomy’ on interest rates (a bit of doublethink required there as well as here). The government can get money when it wants and has borrowed heavily to fund urban and industrial development. In addition to the national debt the Chinese people hold significant private debt, around 200% of GDP. This comment from a

Carnegie Endowment article sums up China's dilemma pretty well:

Without a politically challenging transformation of the distribution of domestic income—away from local governments and businesses and towards the household sector—it is hard to see how Beijing can drive a higher consumption share of GDP without raising either household or government debt.⁷

I doubt the CCP are into “politically challenging transformations of the distribution of income” but it makes you wonder what he has in mind. Instead they'll be looking for reasons to boost deficit spending and a belligerent America will do nicely.

On the other side of the Pacific Western elites covet the opportunities of Chinese-style technocracy. I think Covid gave them a taste for it. They need a national security crisis in order to convince a jaded public to accept a surveillance regime that leaves Orwell's 1984 in the dust. We are edging towards it all the time. For instance, the NIH will compile a central database to support Kennedy's autism crusade. The data will come from public and commercial sources including data purchased by the U.S. government from companies who make smart watches and fitness trackers.⁸ These piecemeal forays toward the national security state are a precursor to total awareness; blanket surveillance and machine analysis of private and public life justified by a growing threat from the Chinese or broader BRICS+ sphere. There is no shortage of potential theatres.

Such a conflict would relieve economic headaches within America and China. Military activity, the production of war material and war itself, is eventually the only thing which can clear the product of the machine. Writes Munson, “Mechanised warfare presses terrifically against financial convention and may be said to strip the brakes of the financial machine...⁹” Not surprisingly we see the Trump/Hegseth Pentagon committed to spending a trillion dollars. Orwell's memorable axiom, “The purpose of modern warfare is to destroy the product of the machine without raising the standard of living” continues to hold.

The historical source of this pressure is described by Gorham Munson in his book *Aladdin's Lamp* (1945) and is fundamentally economic in nature.

It has to do with a little understood economic transition. Munson makes the case that the onset of the industrial revolution marked the beginning of the end of the age of ‘Real Scarcity’ and the dawn of ‘the Machine Age’ where increased production was more or less matched by increased wage earning. The end of the First World War marked the end of the Machine Age and the beginning of ‘the Power Age’ where production finally breaks away from any proportional relationship with human labour.

Compressed into an ideogram, the Machine Age is two rising curves, loosely clamped together, indicating respectively the growth of production and the numerical growth of industrial wage-earners. The ideogram of the Power Age would be two curves breaking away from the clamp, the curve of production

soaring, the curve of employment levelling off and descending... The picture that should spring to the mind's eye when visualizing the Power Age – visualize the conveyor belt, on the one hand, and a queue of jobless, on the other, and your impression of the Power Age will be photographically correct.¹⁰

Chat GPT had a go with the description.

Thus far every industrial economy has failed to adapt to the challenge of the Power Age. The consequence of this failure is an inevitable slide into military conflict to relieve internal financial pressures. It is the all-consuming crisis of war which pushes the peace time constraints of the financier into the background.

Writing at the end of World War 2 Munson lays out the financial arrangements which allowed for Hitler's military build-up.

Hitler's object was to clamp together somehow the production and the employment curves of the Third Reich. To this end he militarized the Reich's financial economics. He put finance on a war footing enforcing the orthodox principles by the revolvers of the Gestapo. German economy long before Munich became one of warfare, not of welfare. The army was built up, the country was rearmed, civilian production under the slogan of "Guns, Not Butter" was diverted to war production. Hitler was doing what nations had done in the First World War: running up the national debt and refusing to be deterred by the spectral thought of bankruptcy.¹¹

The means of 'clamping together the curves' was neatly summed up by Hitler's banker, Hjalmer Schacht, to Ambassador Dodd: "Money does not have to be gotten now, we only issue paper and keep it circulating rapidly, thereby maintaining people at work. That is all."¹²

There it is. What is Trump's best intention? Factory jobs for Americans. "Maintaining people at work". What do you think they will be making in those factories? Who will be consuming it? Or maybe "who will it consume?" is a better question.

¹
Xian, X. 10.4.25. There is no winner in a tariff war and protectionism benefits noone. Sydney Morning Herald. Available from: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/there-is-no-winner-in-a-tariff-war-and-protectionism-benefits-no-one-20250409-p5lqih.html>

²
Uhlman, C. 28.4.25. Sorry, Ambassador Xiao Qian: Beijing is no defender of the free world. The Australian. Available from: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/sorry-ambassador-xiao-qian-beijing-is-no-defender-of-the-free-world/news-story/6d7c87a9d60baab448878de4aeba0106>

³
Sky News. 27.4.25. UK government turning a 'blind eye' to Uyghur solar panel 'slave labour camps'. Available from: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/uk-government-turning-a-blind-eye-to-uyghur-solar-panel-slave-labour-camps/video/9943148a409de0fd079f80250fc92d4b>

⁴
Blainey, G. 28.4.25. Australia was ill-prepared for war in 1941. In 2025, we're making the same grave mistake. The Australian. Available from: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/inquirer/australia-was-ill-prepared-for-war-in-1941-in-2025-were-making-the-same-grave-mistake/news-story/7baeb694659dc20613f86a0b2achf9ec>

5

Uhlman, C. 28.4.25. *Sorry, Ambassador Xiao Qian: Beijing is no defender of the free world. The Australian.* Available from: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/sorry-ambassador-xiao-qian-beijing-is-no-defender-of-the-free-world/news-story/6d7c87a9d60baab448878de4aeba0106>

6

Gottlieb, R. 16.4.25. Australia can play key role in global supply of rare earths. *The Australian.* Available from: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/australia-can-play-key-role-in-global-supply-of-rare-earth/news-story/e4b4599768c95d81b9360a96235cd87e>

7

Pettis, M. 6.2.2025. The Relationship Between Chinese Debt and China's Trade Surplus. Available from: <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2025/02/the-relationship-between-chinese-debt-and-chinas-trade-surplus?lang=en>

8

Wise, A. 23.04.25. NIH autism study will pull from private medical records. NPR. Available from: <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/23/nx-s1-5372695/autism-nih-rfk-medical-records>

9

Munson, G. 1945. *Aladdin's Lamp: the wealth of the American people.* Creative Age Press, New York.

10

Ibid.

11

Ibid.

12

Ibid.

Easter Revelations

What's In Your Hot Cross Buns? By William Waite

By now some news about Kennedy's war on additives may have leaked through to you. Among other things he has managed to secure a phase-out of several dyes commonly found in processed foods.¹ A bit of Trump era propaganda to set us up.

This Easter my wife made the hot cross buns. They were very good, so you ask what's in them. The ingredients: flour, water, milk, fruit, sugar, an egg, butter, cinnamon, allspice, salt; mixed, proved, shaped and baked.

What, we wondered, was in the bought ones? The packet we had read:

Ingredients:

Fortified Wheat flour (Wheat, folic acid), Water, Dried Fruit 21%, Yeast, Sugar, Vegetable Oils, Emulsifiers (475, 471, 472e, 481, 322-soy), Gluten, Maize Starch, Stabiliser (415), Acidity Regulator (330, 263, 260), Spice Mix, Ascorbic Acid (300) Enzymes, Thiamine, Iodised Salt (anticaking agent (535)), Foaming Agent (570), Dextrin, Gelatine, Preservative (202), Humectant (1520).

I actually hesitated before throwing them to the chooks.

On the recommendation of a Year 6 student in my class I downloaded an app onto my phone called Yuka. With the scan of a product's barcode Yuka provides a fairly comprehensive breakdown of the nutritional properties of processed foods and cosmetics, rating them out of 100. Yarrow's Spiced Fruit Hot Cross Buns recieved a 21/100 "Bad". In addition to a rundown of the macro-nutritional quality of foods (protein, fats, sugars, fibre etc.) the app. also provides a list and description of product additives. Fifteen were found in our store bought buns.

Yuka ranks additives on a four point scale. Our buns had 8 “no-risk”, 2 “limited risk”, 3 “Moderate Risk” and 2 “High Risk” additives. The two high risk additives were Emulsifiers 475, Polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, and 471, Mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids. “Emulsifiers” describes a whole class of commonly used food additives in commercial baking, ice creams, confectionary, pasta, breads, seasonings, condiments, margarines and ready meals which are supposed to “improve” appearance, taste, texture and lengthen shelf life. No, they are not included for their nutritional benefits.

Narrowing our focus to Emulsifier 471, Yuka has the following concerns:

This additive could increase the risk of developing cancers and cardiovascular diseases. It is also suspected of disrupting gut flora, which could lead to an increased risk of autoimmune and allergic diseases, as well as inflammatory diseases.

With these claims Yuka provides a list of links to credible scientific papers and press releases supporting them. 471 is not a particularly special case. There are reasonable cases against the use of Emulsifier 475, 472e, 481 and the commonly used preservative 202 (potassium sorbate). We haven’t got passed my hot cross buns yet. In most cases not enough research has been done to determine the long-term safety of these additives. Furthermore, little to nothing is known about the interactions between the hundreds of approved chemical and synthetic additives commonly used in processed foods.

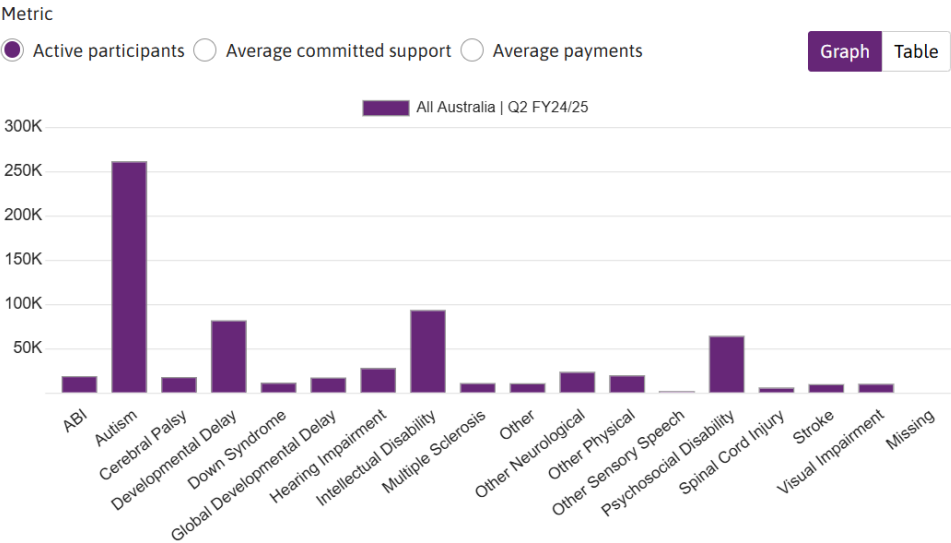
Another concern is that many people consume way too much of these number ingredients. Food additives have maximum permitted levels (MPLs) given in milligrams per kilo,² implying consumption should be limited. The high prevalence of some of them in commonly eaten foods, 471 for example, means that many people are consuming above what is “safe.” If you have some toast and cereal for breakfast, a sandwich for lunch, pasta for dinner with a bowl of icecream for desert, there is a good chance that you’ve had 5 doses of 471.

The general worry is that the human body is being made to metabolise substances which it has not encountered at any period in its long development. And there is not even a pretense of these additives improving the nutritional quality of the food. Instead these substances are added to the ingredients of processed foods for some commercial or superficial sales advantage. It is perfectly acceptable that something the scientific community suspects is poisonous be approved as a food additive if it draws out a product’s shelf life, improves its appearance or taste or allows the manufacturer to substitute a cheap ingredient for a more expensive one. What have we just heard this week from Robert Kennedy Jr. about the recently released CDC survey on rising autism in America? The take-aways are that autism is rising “relentlessly” the “epidemic is real” and, says Kennedy, “we know it’s environmental exposure. It has to be. Genes do not cause epidemics. It can provide a vulnerability. You need an environmental toxin.”

What are the numbers? RFK again:

The ASD (autism spectrum disorder) prevalence rate in eight year olds is now 1 in 31. Shocking. There is an extreme risk for boys. Overall the risk for boys for getting an autism diagnosis in this country is now 1 in 20. And as high in California, which has the best data collection so it probably also reflects the national trend, 1 in 12.5 boys. This is part of an unrelenting upward trend.³

In Australia mental disorders such as autism dwarf incidences of other disabilities. Roughly 5% of males 5-24 years old are diagnosed with the condition. The chart below shows NDIS participants by Primary Disability.⁴ The long bar is mostly kids.



I’ve had a lot to do with kids over the years and many suffer from serious behavioural and attention problems. It’s a complex problem but nobody who knows what these kids eat thinks it has nothing to do with the food.

The mental state of our children is just a facet of the health crisis yet no one says anything serious about the deluge of novel environmental exposures which we are exposed to. There is an element which does not want to talk about it. More money for Medicare is a focus of both parties as they campaign their way around the country but it’s all about bulk-billing. More ambulance-at-the-bottom-of-the-cliff health care.

I won’t subject you to more statistics. Consult your data of lived experience. The culture has a problem with its health and the obvious place to look is at the food.

We have accepted this meddling with our food for two main reasons: it’s convenient and cheap.

The lure of convenience is mostly to do with our lack to time. Food from scratch takes time. It takes time to develop the knowledge and skill, and ongoing time commitments to make it a routine part of feeding oneself and family. Time, for many

of us, is a limiting factor. But it needn't be.

The main reason for most people's time constraints has to do with an economic system which continues to insist that incomes be linked with paid employment. The maintenance of this doctrine is one of the cornerstones of conventional economic thought, "Besides the objectives of supplying goods, the productive system has the objective of providing employment. The productive system is the channel for distributing monetary claims on goods."⁵

Full employment, of course, has not been necessary for a long time yet the financial establishment clings to it like its life depends on it. Believe me. it does. The Reserve Bank continues to hold "Its duty is to contribute to the stability of the currency, full employment, and the economic prosperity and welfare of the Australian people."

With a redesign of the financial system that would allow the proper use of technology it would take a miniscule portion of current labour-hours to provide what we need. This is even truer if those freed from bullshit jobs were encouraged to take some degree of self-reliance seriously. It would do nothing for GDP or tax revenue, that's all to the good, but it would add greatly to the health and real wealth of the nation.

The other thing is price. It would take us too far out of the way to explain it again suffice to say if we really wanted people to eat well we could make it affordable. It is commonplace for someone to remark on the deterioration in the quality of food available in the price range of ordinary people. Good meat has attained the status of a luxury in many households. It is getting increasingly difficult and costly to eat well if you have to buy all your food. Farming practices which deplete soils and rely on chemical fertilisers and biocides achieve growth by the application of chemistry and the destruction of biological competition with the product. That is to say it grows our food by a process different from organic biological growth. Even the fresh stuff is questionable.

If we're going to turn this thing around we'll do it by an honest, open-minded review of the money system. Unfortunately I have noticed that such a suggestion is met with a silent, uncomprehending stare. Perhaps we get to greater realisations by doing properly the every day stuff. Having a good think about what we're eating, and feeding to our children, might be a good place to start. ***

¹ Ramaswamy, S. 22.04.25. Eight artificial dyes will be phased out of US food supply, Health Secretary RFK Jr. says. USA Today. Available from: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/22/rfk-jr-food-artificial-dye-food-supply/83211595007/#:~:text=The%20dyes%20that%20will%20be,2%2C%20according%20to%20the%20HHS.>

² Australian Government. Schedule 15: Substances that may be used as food additives. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2015L00439/latest/text>

³ HHS Sec. RFK Jr. announces findings of autism survey conducted by CDC: Available from:

⁴ NDIS Webpage. Current at 4.4.2025. Explore Date. Available from: <https://dataresearch.ndis.gov.au/explore-data>

⁵ Munson, G. 1945. Alladin's Lamp: The Wealth of the American People. Creative Age Press, New York.

A Wake-Up Call By Arnis Luks

My son recently informed me that as a result of the 'Welcome to Country' booing at the Victorian Anzac Dawn Service, some people took offence and responded by booing the marchers at some 10 o'clock services around Australia. Several aged marchers were also physically accosted to cap it off. While the media redirected attention away from the crowd who booed, by attributing the far-right as the source, truth be known the general public are heartily sick of the political humbug occurring. An entire nation goes to war to protect everyone's interests, yet when they return to their homeland they are subject to a form of second rate citizenship, but only for some of course. This is not the Australian way.

In order to understand cultural Marxism, you need to appreciate that the revolutionaries are at war with 'the people' of the host nation. Their objective is to fragment society so greatly as to bring about chaos and finally, violent revolution. It matters little whether it is Marxism or Fascism as they both pursue the same centralising power in the hands of the few, rather than decentralised and limited representative government.

The new Canadian government is Marxist and led by the former central banker PM Mark Carney, a nexus of both Capital and Labour repeated across many socialist nations. The former Canadian Conservative leader Pierre Marcel Poilievre; a career politician from 2004 to 2025, failed to even hold his seat while also losing an unlosable Federal election. Such is the influence of propaganda at election time coupled with exaggerated concern of the irrationality of US President Donald Trump and Canadian effects of the proposed tariffs. A political novice : Bruce Fanjoy, a liberal (which is a 'Marxist' in Canada-speak), continuously door knocked the electorate since 2023, wearing through two pairs of sneakers and a pair of boots in the process, to successfully oust the former Conservative leader Poilievre. This demonstrates that a determined and concerted campaign can secure differing results for your electorate. Be encouraged, even though the demonstration is performed by Marxists.

I noted the truth of common ideology has now surfaced with the Teals preferencing Greens in important electorates in Australia. Again, big money and Marxists aligned when the surface is scratched sufficiently.

The effectiveness of propaganda has been further enhanced by its expanded permeation into AI Artificial Intelligence. The young are not the only ones glued to their phone or computer screen, unawares that they are all being re-programmed to suit a political narrative. A secret brainwashing experiment was conducted by researchers from the University of Zurich using artificial intelligence (AI) to see if they could sway the opinions of regular audience on Reddit.

<https://www.reddit.com/>

<https://www.theepochtimes.com/epochtv/live-qa-05-01-at-1030am-et-unauthorized-ai-brainwashing-experiment-secretly-tested-on-reddit-live-with-josh-5850360>

Internet Search Engines, and other sources of archived information, have readily demonstrated that, like every other form of media-medium, they can be grossly unreliable and biased. In our home we deliberately avoid many forms of social media, and only perform a cursory survey of multiple news-sites from varying political perspectives and nations, rather than just the centralised, viewed, written and spoken word controlled by the MSM.

The propaganda coming from old history books still needs to be filtered, yes, but in comparison to today's variety of resources, the level of sophistication to brainwash is mild.

The important point about the mainstream media, are the levels of private, and now public, sponsorship. Since Covid, taxpayer subsidy to media, and also political parties I might add, has gone through the roof.

With today's Federal election, with both voting slips, I ensured the primary vote never went to a major, and with the Senate I voted below the line ensuring the preference flow was exhausted prior to going to any majors. I also used ink rather than the provided pencil to mark my ballot papers.

If there is a swindle going on after that, I hope the scrutineers kick up enough of a fuss to encourage the matter to go to the Court of Disputed Returns.

This doesn't mean I distrust the electoral process, but rather I wish to ensure legitimacy is given every opportunity. Having read Amy McGrath's '*Corrupt Elections: Ballot Rigging in Australia*', which was produced under the HS Chapman Society, I realised a long time ago that politics is a very dirty business offering huge opportunities for advantage. CH Douglas proposal of the 'responsible vote' is to combat irregularities and ensure the individual is responsible for their policy endorsements by the vote. An important subject of itself.

I tried to watch the election count 'live' last night, but failed to source a suitable platform. The ABC internet computer systems, my usual source with Anthony Green, were down for some unexplained reason. The landslide, and Dutton losing the seat of Dickson, Queensland, held by him for some 21 years appeared almost as a replay of Canada's result for the Opposition Leader. Extraordinary, almost unbelievable.

Over time, most, if not all of the 'truth' as to what has just occurred will surface.

Did the Liberals really perform so poorly? Did the genuine Conservatives not even rate an electoral mention? Is this result as plausible as doddering Joe Biden making the US presidency? The people in Australia need to wake up to the fact their country is being taken away from under their very eyes.

I have managed to download for our online PDF Library, 2 articles from the desk of Amy McGrath - HS Chapman Society, that are worth a read in the wash-up of our federal election. I am not aware of the existence of a currently-functioning electoral-watchdog that HS Chapman Society has been in the past. Happy Reading.

Amy McGrath: https://alor.org/Library/PDF/Chapman_HS-Amy_McGrath.pdf

Making Voting Secret: https://alor.org/Library/PDF/Chapman_HS-Making_Voting_Secret.pdf
