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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If trade stops, war starts,” said Mr. Jack Ma, the CEO of China’s biggest online retailer Alibaba in Melbourne, where the e-commerce giant Alibaba opened its Australia and New Zealand headquarters. **Ref:** <https://www.rt.com/business/376431-jack-ma-trade-war-globalisation/>

TRADE WARS LEAD TO MILITARY WARS by Betty Luks

Is this a threat, a warning or a realistic assessment of the situation?

According to *The Independent Online*, 6 February, 2017, Mr. Jack Ma, the CEO of China’s biggest online retailer warned:

“Everybody is concerned about trade wars. If trade stops, war starts.”

Mr. Ma visited President Donald Trump last month and announced his company would help create one million jobs in America – and added, “The world needs globalisation, it needs trade”.

Now, why is that so? Surely America can ‘create’ its own jobs without the help of this Chinese man?

During WWII Ezra Pound, then living in Italy, wrote:

“If you live on cliches and lose your respect for words, you will lose your ‘*ben dell intelletto*’.”

Dante *Inferno* 111, 18.

Homely English wording gets that down to ‘USE OF YOUR WITS’, but I reckon Dante meant something nearer to Mencius meaning sense of ‘EQUITY’.

Wikipedia tells us: Ezra Weston Loomis Pound was an expatriate American poet and critic, and a major figure in the early modernist movement. Born: 30 October 1885, Hailey, Idaho, United States and died: 1 November 1972, Venice, Italy.

Pound continues:

“It is no use assembling a machine if a part is missing or defective. One must first have all the essential parts...”

The pivot: “All trade hinges on money. All industry hinges on money. Money is the pivot. It is the middle term. It stands midway between industry and workers. The pure economic man may not exist, but the economic factor, in the problem of living, exists.

“... Not the gun merchants, but the traffickers in money itself have made this war (WWII); they have made wars in succession, for centuries, at their own pleasure, to create debts so that they can enjoy the interest on them, to create debts when money is cheap, in order to demand repayment when money is dear. But as long as the word ‘money’ is not clearly defined, and as long as its definition is not known to all the peoples of the world, they will go blindly to war with each other, never knowing the reason why.

“... This war is a chapter in the long and bloody tragedy which began with the foundation of the Bank of England in far-away 1694, with the openly declared intention of Paterson’s now famous prospectus, which contains the words:

“The bank hath benefit of the interest on all moneys which it creates out of nothing”.

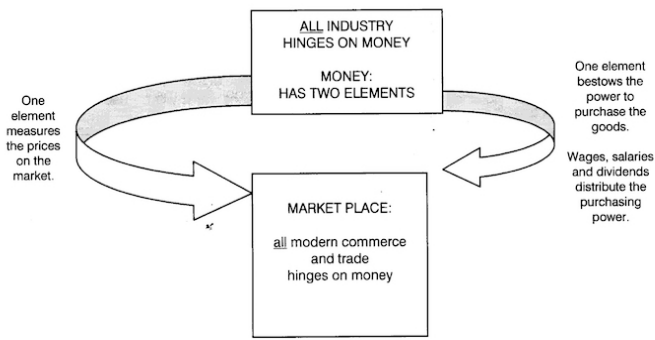
“To understand what this means it is necessary to understand what money is. Money is not a simple instrument like a spade. It is made up of two elements: one which measures the prices on the market, (and) one which bestows the power to purchase the goods. It is this twofold aspect that the usurers have taken advantage of...”

- - Taken from Ezra Pound’s “*Gold and Work*” 1922.

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ALL INDUSTRY HINGES ON MONEY



“Economically the world is living on the products of the past – FINANCIALLY it is living on drafts upon the future.” - Vic Bridger, Australasian School of Social Studies.

Wallace Klinck sums up:

LET'S NOT MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE POLITICIANS By Betty Luks

I see that barrister Louise Clegg in her address to the Institute of Public Affairs has suggested that what is needed for ruling parties to ease the gridlock of an uncontrolled Senate, is to have longer parliamentary terms and joint sittings of both Houses to ‘ease the passage of Bills through the Parliaments’. Her paper appeared on David Pascoe’s Facebook page.

She thought that “If the two major parties had the slightest inclination to put the national interest above their own, they would embark on bipartisan efforts for sensible constitutional change, such as lengthening parliamentary terms and the mooted constitutional amendment to enable joint sittings to address parliamentary gridlock. These would provide much-needed structural circuit breakers and help governments to govern...”

Surely her proposals would actually give politicians more power thus making it easier for the two main political parties ‘to govern’? What happened to parliamentary representation and the vital importance of the separation and division of powers with those necessary checks and balances?

As this lady’s address was all about values, one could ask her what she makes of that Lord Acton quote: “Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Aren’t these politicians corrupted enough?

Also, what happened to the right of the people to say ‘NO’ to laws to which they object? After all surely ‘the freedom, the right to choose one thing at a time’ is an important value in a free nation? Methinks the lady misses the whole point!

“So long as we adhere to conventions of financial cost-accounting wherein the rate of flow and volume of final consumer prices **increasingly exceeds** the rate of flow and volume of disbursed consumer incomes, and we have no option for survival other than evermore to mortgage our futures with mounting and un-repayable private and public financial debt, our desperate plight will only continue to deteriorate. Consumers (all citizens) should be getting National Dividends and benefitting from Compensated (falling) Retail Prices as the natural and rightful consequence of our vast and rapidly increasing marvellous technological efficiency as it continues to eliminate labour as a factor of production. Until the financial problem is realistically addressed and appropriately resolved all political and social activism is just so much sterile, misconceived and misdirected shadow-boxing - destined inevitably and inexorably to fail.” ***

As we observed recently, Governments are merely instruments through which the individual should lay down the general rules under which the game of life is to be played. We hear much about what wonderful things Governments have done, or are going to do, for the individual members of society, but the facts of history prove that most reforms have been initiated by individual members of the community and forced upon reluctant Governments.

Writing of this matter in 1867, the English historian, Thomas Henry Buckle, said:

“That the civilization of Europe is chiefly owing to the ability which has been displayed by two different governments, and to the sagacity with which the evils of society have been palliated by legislative remedies is a notion which must appear so extravagant as to make it difficult to refer to it with becoming gravity.....

“No great political improvements, no great reform, either legislative or executive, has ever been originated in any country by its rulers. The first suggestions of such steps have always been by bold and able thinkers, who discern the abuse, denounce it, and point out how it can be remedied... At length, if circumstances are favourable, the pressure from without becomes so strong, that the government is obliged to give way; and, the reform being accomplished, the people are expected to admire the wisdom of their rulers, by whom all this has been done...”

“It is only with the greatest difficulty that parliament is induced to grant what the people are determined to have, and the necessity of which has been proved by the ablest men.

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Posterity ought to know that great measures are extorted from the legislative by pressure from without; that they are conceded not cheerfully but with fear; and carried out by statesmen, who have spent their lives in opposing what they now suddenly advocate...

“.....since the most valuable improvements in legislation are those which subvert preceding legislation it is clear that the balance of good cannot be on their side. It is clear that the progress of civilization cannot be due to those who, on the most important subjects, have done so much harm that their successors are considered benefactors simply because they reverse their policy, and thus restore affairs to the state in which they would have remained if politicians had allowed them to run on in the course which the wants of society required ...

The effects produced in European civilization by political legislation compose an aggregate so formidable that we may well wonder how, in the face of them, civilization has been able to advance. That under such circumstances it has advanced is a decisive proof of the extraordinary energy of man ...

“The world has been made familiar with the great truth, that one main condition of the prosperity of the people is that its rulers shall have very little power, that they shall by no means presume to raise themselves into supreme judges of the National interests, or deem themselves

HANSON RISING: AGAINST THE GREAT DIVIDE by Bruce Bennett

The Australian ruling elites are concerned that Pauline Hanson's One Nation is on the rise: “Hanson on the Rise as Coalition Support Dives,” *The Australian*, February 6, 2017, p.1. Coalition support is now 46 percent to Labor 54 percent in two-party preferred terms, which is the lowest level since Turnbull knocked out Abbott as Prime Minister. There is increasing disillusion with the major parties by voters. And why not, with changes to the pension, Centrelink debt recovery, refugees, take your pick from this house of horrors.

There has, the good news continues, been no rise in the fortunes of Bill Shorten or the Greens, but support for the independents and minor parties has hit 19 percent, and One Nation now has a national primary vote of 8 percent, reaching the starry levels that it had in 1998, a golden year for them. Hanson sent a shiver through the spines of those who have no spines, by speculating that one day, One Nation may be forming government! That should not be dismissed as 28 percent of people in the latest Newspoll did not prefer either Turnbull or Shorten as prime minister.

An article by Louise Clegg, “Values Expose Divide” (*The Weekend Australian*, February 4-5, 2017, p. 20), is

authorised to defeat the wishes of those for whose betterment alone they occupy the posts entrusted to them.”

It is obvious that we no longer have the political wisdom of our forefathers.

In his essay, “The Situation and the Outlook,” C.H. Douglas says that:

“...Government is inherently and inevitably restrictive and therefore ... the amount of Government which a community can stand without collapsing is definitely limited, and if Governments are competitive, the most governed community will collapse first. And, therefore, the first policy to be applied to over-Government, i.e. Socialism, is and must be, a negative policy – a retreat from Government; less Government.”...”

Read further here: <http://alor.org/sct/social-credit-training-course-lecture-4/>

Less power in the hands of governments with better checks and balances is the way to go for a freer people. We certainly don't need governments to have more power with less checks and balances leading on to further growth of the corruption we were warned about. The evidence of that truth is there for all to see on all sides of politics today.

somewhat insightful about what is going on. She says that its all about values:

“It's a case of fundamentally different values and priorities, driven in huge part by where people live, how they spend their time at work and at play. These are the things that drive our world-views. Whether in Britain, US or Australia, big slabs of the media, politics on both sides, academia, the professions and even big business, are now far removed from the world-views of ordinary people.

Those world-views have always been different, but they are even more so now.

If we are looking into a crystal ball, we need to understand what is driving the disruption. We know many who voted for Trump neither liked nor admired him. But it does not matter.

If not Trump, it would have been someone else – in time. But on this occasion, Trump won, not because it was him, but because he was up against Hillary Clinton, the most establishment-politician person to have ever run for president. At its simplest, Trump is the manifestation of the rejection by a lot of clear-thinking, common-sense people of “politics as usual.”

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And Hillary was the embodiment of “politics as usual.” The values and ideology of the elites – and she identifies with them (“our world views”) – is in conflict with that of the ordinary people:

“Identity, outrage and victim politics has been embraced by Labor and progressive Liberals in a big way. Many ordinary Australians think it is inappropriate (to say the least) that we are teaching kids in schools it is perfectly normal to think you might be a boy if you are a girl and vice versa, or that it’s perfectly standard to be sexually active with multiple partners in your early teens; they shake their heads when students and political cartoonists are taken to court for being racist; they scratch their heads when a prosecutor is investigated by a corruption body for allegedly suggesting how an acquaintance might avoid a breathalyser test – when avoiding breathalyser tests is what thousands of Australians do every day when they take an alternative route home. These things are nuts and totally at odds with the values of middle Australia.

The most defining difference between insiders and outsiders here and around the world is their attitudes towards their country. In the suburbs and regions in Australia, people are proud to be Australian; they love Australia Day and Anzac Day; they think all immigrants should be vetted, they don’t like immigrants on welfare, they think it is 100 per cent fair for immigrants to integrate – after all, that’s what many of them did and it’s what made modern Australia. These are the views of the mainstream around the Western world.

Yet big swaths of those who inhabit and control our institutions think these attitudes are base and embarrassing. They would not be seen dead waving a flag and they think the world’s problems can be solved by simply opening borders.

More than that – and this is where it really bites, many are comfortable with laws or norms that result in their values being imposed on their fellow citizens: via 18C, for example, or via immigrant ghettos in other peoples’ suburbs. They have no problem at all (when it suits them) curtailing the freedoms our founders assumed (freedom of speech, of the press, fair trial, property rights, religious freedom) in favour of their values. This is what is new and driving the increasing divergence.

The singular characteristic that propelled Trump was his willingness to take this on in a way that was unprecedented. That a politician from a mainstream party could simply respond to negative press from *The New York Times* with the hashtag #failingnewyorktimes was stunning. Of course, courage – that vital missing ingredient from “politics as usual” – was easy for Trump because he had nothing to lose.”

There is nothing new here which we have not said at this site or in our publications, but it is worthwhile having a

mainstream journalist say it. This is particularly relevant given that Liberal senator Cory Bernardi has now quit the Liberals to form his own movement, the Australian Conservatives, to regain conservative voters who have abandoned the Liberals.

After all, under the uber-politically correct Malcolm Turnbull, the Liberals embraced much of the same agenda as Labor, such as same-sex marriage. Bernardi wants to provide an alternative to people voting for One Nation, but it will be interesting to see if he has really broken away from the Liberals and will challenge any major aspect of the immigration faith.

In this context it is interesting to note that in *The Australian* (February 7, 2017, p. 1), next to the front page story with the biased headline: “Bernardi Betrayal a Blow to PM” (how about “Bernardi to Restore True Conservatism”) is an article about a Newspoll which has on Trump’s ban on Muslims, 44 percent in favour, 45 percent opposed and 11 percent uncommitted for the policy applied to Australia. Newspoll found 52 percent of Liberal and National voters in favour of Australia copying Trump’s policy on the Muslim migration ban. I hope you read that Cory. The times they are a changing. Sing it again, Bob, only this time, in tune. ***

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