

Comment by Michael C H Jones:

Is Julian Assange a classic entrepreneur?

Or is he simply an emotional, immature, maladjusted, adult with an attention deficit disorder?

Could he be both at the same time?

If you read some of his thoughts from the mid 1990s he certainly showed all the traits of an emotional and somewhat immature young man in his mid 20s. But was this any different to all of us and certainly millions of others? Also remember given the court cases from his earlier commuter systems hacking days he had a great deal to be emotional about - people with similar experiences with government security organisations and the judicial process will testify that the years of stress and financial burden certainly knocks you around.

His more recent thoughts are interesting - certainly not of MBA standard but in their way not inferior to the writings of former PM Kevin Rudd concerning unregulated or feral corporate capitalism where the invisible hand of the free market never seems to correct itself to the benefit of the uneducated, impoverished or "common man".

Yet could any academic really argue that what Assange has accomplished since launching his WikiLeaks in 2007, good or bad, is not entrepreneurial? Think of the people skills he must have to enlist the talents of such a diverse range of "participants". Think of his technical skills, financial skills, organisational skills, media skills, diplomatic skills and so on. Think of his determination and resilience. And he never completed a university degree anywhere.

That is entrepreneurial capacity par excellence in my book.

I wonder whether there are any Chinese entrepreneurs out there who could do the same thing - a WikiLeaks of China would be fascinating.