

Comment by Michael C H Jones  
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What can I say about Julian Assange that is new and not a rehash of others writings? Many years ago I wrote on the ACCCI website that events would probably end poorly for Assange - and they have with little prospect of improvement despite recent announcements from Sweden.

However like Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott you have to separate Julian's personality from his politics. Rudd was always right about China, despite all the freebies that most likely would have forced him to resign from the ministry in 2016. Abbott is right about Australian defence, despite his 19th century Anglo-civilizational glow - it reminds me of South African apartheid where the Japanese were honorary-whites and Chinese were out with the dogs. Assange's sexual appetite is not relevant for his campaign for freedom of information even though it has an anti-US bias. The principles are applicable to all governance at all levels and that includes China, Japan, India and Australia in Indauspac.

Human Rights are increasingly trashed by global corporations in their commercialisation of everything. The historic property relations of the international commons has been over-run by the legalisation of property rights that deny any chance of longterm substantial and successful poverty alleviation in both the developing and the developed countries - it is the reason for the Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump phenomena in the US political parties nomination process. It is a great reason to support China if not its CPC for raising over 500 million out of poverty within 40 years.

The sort of change Assange advocates can only be brought about by political parties, and in western countries the democratic forms internally existing within the Parliamentary and Congressional systems with their so many checks and balances that are both limits on excessive power and roadblocks to more just societies. Some do argue that modern 21st century countries are ungovernable. Socially multiculturalism has been a benefit, politically it seems to be a disaster.

Even should an enlightened governance emerge in Australia, a Malcolm Turnbull of action and not just talk, the populace is so limited in its knowledge of the realities of governance that populism is inevitable - who has the time and background knowledge to read and interpret the millions of pages of the Assange WikiLeaks files? Then which groups have the intellectual capacity and financial resources to formulate and implement policies about the US Empire or the Chinese, Russian, European economic injustices?

Better to remain with the politicians as performers and the journalists as entertainers - its more fun. Pity about Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden or even Stern Hu and Liu Xiaobo. At least David Hicks was released. And forget about any of the corporate honchos responsible for the GFC going to jail.