

Comment by Michael C H Jones - 16th July 2014

All countries, or their various governments, have problems with history and hence come up with laughable contortions in terminologies. The Japanese say the Nanjing massacre in China during the Second World War was a minor event in the context of the war. The Chinese Communist Party has erased Tiananmen Square in June 1989 from their, and the Chinese peoples, memories. The Dresden fire bombing in Germany and the culpability of the UK Churchill Government is seldom mentioned in polite circles, and the generally racist attitudes of the US military during the Vietnam War seldom acknowledged. Australian soldiers never committed war crimes anywhere.

The same with our laws and democracy. All laws are by definition good, even those grotesquely backdated. The Will of the People is sacrosanct even when whipped up by media monopolies whether private or state in hysterical campaigns championing those conservative elements in power, or sometimes undermining those dangerous progressives in power.

I am wondering whether Mr Murdoch on the 50th anniversary of his glorious rag, the Australian, will now contemplate an apology - an apology to David Hicks - should the US Court of Appeals Bahlul decision be applied to David Hicks. What compensation for pain and suffering should Murdoch pay - I would say at least a billion dollars for the worldwide damage to the reputation of David Hicks.

Again when will we hear the apologies from PMs Howard, Gillard and even Rudd? What about their Foreign Ministers? But also the various Attorney Generals and law enforcement officials and academics throughout Australia who could of/were allowed to speak out on questions of law, and retrospective legislation applied to Australian citizens by other countries. Have they learnt anything by their silence and appeasement of US Bush government policy - there is a mountain of information on this subject as applied to Mr Hitler and Messrs Stalin and Mao !

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Earlier related comment by Michael C H Jones (dated 28 September 2011)

As stated in my Observations writings Australia has already become a Great Power. Membership of the G20 confirmed it, and despite the vitriol of the Murdoch Mob of up to 30 journalists - often a tag-team of six per day - against Kevin Rudd, as formerly Prime Minister and currently Foreign Minister he can take a lot of credit for articulating this situation whether in the USA with Obama and Clinton or in the EU, or through his former Ministers Smith and Crean around the Indauspac Maritime Economic Community - their speeches have been regularly placed on the ACCCI Website Homepage and elsewhere since early 2008.

Economically Australia is the power-house of resources in Indauspac. Which countries will be more dependent in future decades - Australia-China, Australia-India, Australia-ASEAN only history will determine. Politically Australia's institutions are strong, and getting stronger. Many of the ideas and policies of the Greens Party, now in coalition with the Australian Labor Party as

the Federal Government of Australia, will become accepted thinking in the very near future. Perhaps only Malcolm Turnbull in the Federal Opposition has the intellectual capacity to understand and turn to advantage these trends. A Conservative Government would have no choice as is shown by events in the UK.

But the litmus test of a society is how it adheres to its own values and traditions. In this respect the former Howard Government will be universally condemned. The Pacific Solution, the AWB Affair and the David Hicks Case were a debasement of every democratic, rule of law, human rights aspiration of the Australian people. Murdoch does not have sufficient money to wipe away or airbrush the stains on the body-politic of this country. Australia is not the USA and China knows it.

David Hick should have had his day in court - former President George Bush and Prime Minister John Howard should also be in the dock. How do we stand against the Communist Party of China representing a political system which Australia finds abhorrent, or the religious fundamentalists of Iran, Israel, India and the USA if we deny the rights of one man, be he David Hicks or anyone else? David Hicks deserves a full and unconditional apology from both the Obama and Gillard Governments. Decent and honorable people all over Australia want to hear the words "We are sorry" - sorry not only for the way David Hicks was mistreated but sorry for the betrayal of the Australian tradition of "Fair Go".