

Comment by Michael C H Jones
7th May 2014

Those who parroted the theme in the early 1990s that Ideology was dead in politics really meant the Americans had won.

Free Enterprise, Free Trade, Global Hegemony according to US dictate was the future of mankind. How that has all changed in less than 25 years. The cultural behemoth called China has challenged the world and is at this stage consuming, at least economically, many of its hallowed domains. What happens when this engine of raw power explodes into political and social influence not only in regional and global institutions but simultaneously within the domestic structures of most countries including the great collectives of ASEAN, EU and NAFTA?

Australia, the Great Southern Continent, perched between three oceans - Pacific, Indian and Southern - and claiming over 40% of Antarctica, and on the edge of an Asian landmass containing well over three (3) billion citizens, has a survival challenge in the Global Era. Is our history any indication of the likely result?

Former PM Malcolm Fraser refers to the Australian psyche as based on "Strategic Dependence" in his new book "Dangerous Allies".

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/malcolm-fraser-warns-australia-risks-war-with-china-unless-us-military-ties-cut-back-20140425-zqz8p.html>

But is independence of the USA or genuine State Sovereignty a reality for Australia? Not only in respect to China but also Indonesia when that country's Economy is twice as big as ours by the mid 2020s? The bottom line is crystal clear - it all depends on the strength of the domestic Australian Economy. And that means the thinking, policies and programmes of the elites that control our Political Parties, and the educative role of the Australian media for the voters in elections at all levels of governance.

The old narratives of Capitalism and Socialism, Liberal/Conservatives and Labor/Social Democrats, with their self justifications, rationalisations and excuses for mindless antagonisms and hedonistic consumption, are simply irrelevant to the emerging Global Society where increasingly the emphasis is changing from the "Rights" of States to the "Rights" of People, from the International Court of Justice to the International Criminal Court.

<http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court

Philosophies, old and new, are being, and need increasingly to be, re-applied in the global context, For example the ramifications of Corporatism where major transnational corporations are assuming some of the traditional government responsibilities for Human Rights, certainly

the Second UN Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. Or Multiculturalism wherein racial and religious exclusivity and fundamentalism are being broken down, albeit with great resistance in many parts of the world, and non-traditional allegiances developed.

Australia and Australians have no "rights" to existence - less than 30 million Australians, New Zealanders, Fijians and others in the South West Pacific - even throw in just over 7 million from Papua New Guinea - and it is barely Chongqing City in Western China.

And so to current domestic politics? Policies promoted, and promises made, during Federal, State and even Local elections, are to be honoured no matter how imbecilic. "Turn back to boats" and alienate possibly our most important/dangerous neighbour, Indonesia, in Asia? "End the debt" by spending cuts in essential welfare areas of unemployment, healthcare and re-training/education but certainly not by revenue generation of a levy/tax on the wealthy? "Abolish the carbon tax" no matter if the world environment is in critical "free fall" and little of policy substance is put in its place?

And the media outlets of the Murdoch monstrosity just racket up the hysteria, upon which bandwagon the so-called radicals/Progressives of Labor and Greens jump upon with the revolutionary slogan "No Taxes for the Rich". How dare the Abbott/Hockey "twosome" demand a financial contribution, miniscule as the proposed levy is, because it destroys an outdated "ideological" narrative directed to the "Workers", those brain-dead punters/voters, whoever they are?

Normally I don't read Terry McCrann or the Daily Telegraph, except for laughs/flagellation - however on this occasion I had to hold my breath - is he just a little bit correct?