

Comment by Michael C H Jones
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Will it happen? A fundamental reorientation in Australia's political culture re structural and philosophical change of the party system?

Will the conga line of Murdoch mouthpieces in the media - over 30 at the Australian newspaper alone with its daily tag-team of 6 or 7 beating up on anything left of Tony Abbott, be put out to pasture? Alan Stokes suggests so:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/right-has-twiggged-that-abbott-may-be-on-shaky-ground-20130723-2qhfc.html>

Rudd has always represented a formidable challenge to existing 20th century certainties in the Australian Labor Party. He is Protestant Christian in the tradition of Whitlam and Hawke but not prepared to assume in token rhetorical fashion, or as a means to power, the traditional Labor "trade union" values of past leaders. He is a true incarnation of the New Left values and attitudes of the 1960s which in their struggle against Conscription, the Vietnam War, Apartheid, White Australia, High Tariffs, Censorship, Capital Punishment, and the many other issues of the day, enunciated positive libertarian values of the Social Democrats who always opposed both socialist Stalinism and feral Capitalism. There has been a consistency in Rudd's Policies since his election victory in November 2007 that entrenched vested interests of the Business/Trade Union collusion could not stomach. Their American pay-masters have also been in confusion as we all noted in Rudd's famous salute to President George Bush.

Will Rudd remain true to his speeches and writings during the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in the years 2008/09 and maintain the Australian Government's "Watching Brief" on outrageous corporate economic "crime"? Will he push through with his self motivated campaign to restructure the architecture of global institutions such as the IMF and World Bank via new creations such as the G20? Can he bring more realism to the UN Security Council that accommodates the emerging economies of China, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Turkey and the rest in the context of financial recovery in Japan, USA and EU? Is this a new age for Australia? As they say Time Will Tell.

Can Rudd pull it off? A Rudd victory in the 2013 Australian Federal Election means the end of the old Trade Union Labor Party and their collusion with Big Business - there will be a philosophical and allegiance liberation of the SME sector that has traditionally supported the Liberal Party. The John Howard legacy will be swept away with Tony Abbott's right-wing Tories and most likely Malcolm Turnbull will return to leadership, like Rudd, with his provocative Libertarian values. The political contest in Australia under these circumstances would be changed for decades into the century.

But is this just a dream?