

## OBSERVATIONS 9

### AUSTRALIA CHINA RELATIONS IN A GLOBAL ERA: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS IN A NEW WORLD ORDER

Since 2009 ACCI has transformed into a Think Tank on Governance reflecting on the multitude of economically related issues that impact Australia China Relations in a Global Era. Six levels of governance have been emphasised mainly for methodological reasons, both personal and organisational. At all times however Chamber has tried to include comparative approaches to governance as well as multi-stakeholder perspectives. This is not always easy as most of the major publications whether journal or media are conservative or right-of-center in their analysis. Radical or left-of-center views are not always well articulated or acceptable to traditional power-structures.

In the new post September 2013 Australian reality, the Age of Abbott and his Anglosphere, within its Indauspac Region covering the three great oceans from the Western Indian to the Eastern Pacific and south to Antarctica, of which Australia claims over 40%, Chamber applauds the recent Foreign Minister Julie Bishop launched Economic Diplomacy, an initiative Chamber pioneered from at least the late 1990s. The twin emphasis of working with private business and supporting the ventures of State governments is long overdue - the direction of Australia's new Diplomatic policies are well worth reading in full:

[http://www.austrade.gov.au/about-austrade/news/latest-from-austrade/2014/australia-launches-economic-diplomacy-initiative?utm\\_campaign=Investment+Update%3A+September+edition&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Investment+Update+Newsletter](http://www.austrade.gov.au/about-austrade/news/latest-from-austrade/2014/australia-launches-economic-diplomacy-initiative?utm_campaign=Investment+Update%3A+September+edition&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Investment+Update+Newsletter)

Media release: Australia's economic diplomacy: our prosperity, global prosperity

A Charter: Economic Diplomacy and Australian Business

A Charter: Economic Diplomacy and State and Territory Governments

But like all governments and political parties everywhere which are reactive, looking to maintain power for their particular elites, and therefore followers of trends and events, the Liberal Party Government's themes and strategies essentially hold back progress no matter how well intentioned. The Great Game of Global Economic Relations (warfare) between countries has already transitioned to broader regional and international societal and cultural frictions amongst peoples.

As it used to be said "your terrorist is my freedom fighter". Moreover the critical hotspots are no longer countries but key cities, urban conglomerates of economic and financial power, inter-connected by rapidly advancing technologies which only a comparatively few knowledge brokers understand and can utilise for private benefit. It is a new multicultural elitism. This has very significant implications for Australia China Relations in a Global Era. What changes will China demand to Julie Bishop's "established international order" re her 30th May 2014 Speech:

"For there is now an established international order, pinned together by vast, inter-connected webs of commerce, bilateral relationships and post-war institutions like the United Nations and the WTO, and more recently the G20, underpinned by international standards and international law. Australia values this global rules-based order"

[http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2014/jb\\_sp\\_140530.aspx?ministerid=4](http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2014/jb_sp_140530.aspx?ministerid=4).

Some background thinking:

The National Rifle Association of America proclaimed in December 2012 "that the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun". Admittedly that was said in the context of deranged (for whatever reasons) people indiscriminately slaughtering innocents, yet it says a lot about American society and the authoritarian tendencies that run through its veins. Declare individuals as "terrorists" and you can virtually do anything to them. These days almost any organisation that opposes with force US interests around the world is so prescribed thereby validating Mao Zedong's famous assertion that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun", whatever the current hotspots such as in Ukraine and Gaza, or Syria and Iraq, and possibly the China Seas etc.

Americans have always had a Hollywood mentality with white hats and black hats, good guys and bad guys, freedom lovers and communists/terrorists. It makes international relations very difficult especially when the US sphere of influence post collapse of the Soviet Union has been the globe - the Chinese must remain shut up on their mainland encircled by US bases/allies, Russia must accept hostile US agencies/armies on its borders in Poland and Ukraine, the Anglosphere of the 5-Eyes can spy on the phone calls of leaders, and their wives, in Germany and Indonesia, and US drones patrol the world killing women and children as collateral damage in Pakistan and Yemen and no doubt elsewhere. The vaunted freedom of information, mandatory for thriving democracies, comes only from the Chelsea Mannings, Julian Assanges and Edward Snowdens.

Private international business interests, multinational corporations, acting under the cloak of commercial-in-confidence ignore international financial regulations, dictate trade policies/treaties to their own profit, intimidate and sue governments to change domestic laws, and arms trade/fan limited wars in the name of peace and stability. Public Debt and Private Profit - this is the established American World Order.

The big question may well be: which of the G2 will ultimately run the show? USA private corporations, the current champion, or the PRC state owned enterprises, the challenger? Whatever the outcome Human Rights and Democracy are likely to come a distant second whether the Washington or Beijing Consensus.

Yet ordinary people, as brainwashed as they are by their respective leaderships, have a bad habit of resistance and on occasions revolution. As each generation's World Order morphs into the next, so also do concepts of Human Rights evolve to meet new injustices. In the Developed World of Western Europe, North America and Asia (Japan and ANZ) there is an increasing demand by citizens for Freedom of Information as the foundation for freedom of speech in Democracies, as well as an understanding and emphasis on a Responsibility to Protect civilian populations in all forms of warfare whether military, financial or cultural. These I argue will become the new human rights of the Right to Know and the Right to Protect, and will logically morph into the individual's Right to Interfere in countries where governments make decisions that impact not only their own domestic citizens but the peoples of the regions of the world. In other words the sacrosanct thinking concerning National Interests, Exceptionalism or exclusiveness/fundamentalism, and State Sovereignty, will erode in a maturing global society. This obviously poses enormous problems for the traditional leaders/rulers of both the USA and PRC.

Should during the 21st century the Right to Know, Right to Protect and Right to Interfere become recognised global norms as individual Human Rights beyond governments' abilities to fabricate and manipulate public opinion, then what events and/or trends are likely for a transitioning New World Order, whether under American or Chinese economic hegemony?

Indeed would these new human rights emaciate the historical power of present elitist institutions at all levels of governance dispersing decision making inputs to knowledge wealthy and technology savvy global citizens? In a limited sense this contest embraces the struggle between the individual oriented sense of justice re The International Criminal Court (ICC)

- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tiina-intelmann/raising-the-bar-the-inter\\_1\\_b\\_5785672.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tiina-intelmann/raising-the-bar-the-inter_1_b_5785672.html) -

and the more traditional nation-state concept re The International Court of Justice (the World Court)

- <http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/icj.shtml>

In future years Chamber will explore the validity and evolution of these alleged new Human Rights, and there ramifications in real world situations/issues in the USA and PRC

A) The Right to Know.

Governments and private media baronies - Murdoch.

B) The Right to Protect

Governments and civilian populations - "terrorism".

C) The Right to Interfere

USA and PRC global "accommodations".

The Return of China and later India to global prominence inherently means military, financial and cultural "space"

commensurate with their new economic powers - a New World Order.

A) Spheres of Influence

China Seas and Central Asia, Indian Ocean and Central/West Asia.

B) International Institutions

UN Security Council, G20, IMF etc

C) Democratic recognition of population - China plus India 40%+

Global "rights" based on individual citizens not just countries

Thus there will be new forms of "empire" or imperialism. Empires in a Global Era will be cultural, and a united China should play a paramount role in this new World Order.

And yes there will be inevitable contradictions.

\* Corporatism (MNC) and Human Rights

\* Political Parties and Democratic Forms

\* Property Relations and International Commons

\* Fundamentalism or "exclusivity" and Multiculturalism

Chamber therefore looks forward to two events:

1) The USA 2016 Presidential Election - globalism/rule of law and the US ratification of the International Criminal Court.

2) The PRC 2017 Presidential Election - growth of political factions/parties and China's re-unification.

Postscript:

A backwards look at Chamber history - Trends and Events, Themes and Strategies.

1) 2014/? - New Human Rights and a New World Order  
Challenging the G2.

2) 2009/14 - Think Tank: Themes of Governance  
China Monitors: Autonomous Regions, Political  
and Legal Systems, Foreign Policy, Urban Development,  
Rule of Law.  
Global Trends: G20 and Indauspac Strategy/Watch.

3) 2002/08 - Special Projects - Programmes for Australia:  
Inward Investment, Education and Training,  
Technology and Commercialisation, Tourism  
Sites and Services.

4) 1995/01 - Special Projects - Surfing the China Return:  
Urban Services, Rural Industries, Infrastructures and  
Commercial Culture.

5) 1989/94 - Resisting Trade Sanctions - China Unity  
Peoples' Diplomacy.

6) 1985/89 - Key Cities strategy: Greater Sydney  
Multiculturalism - W J Liu OBE

7) 1979/84 - China Sister State Relations  
Sydney as an independent base.

8) 1974/78 - Promoting Australia China Trade  
Working with both Governments.

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