

Obama visit spells DANGER!

US President Barack Obama's visit to Australia marked the 60 years of post-WW2 Australia-US military relations. His visit was to lock Australia firmly in the hands of the United States. The main topic was the establishment of a permanent number of US Military bases. Obama's visit shows how the US does not trust Australia, who depends financially on China and Asia, and wants to intervene in a more dynamic way in Australian politics.

This spells danger for the people of Australia and the region. The US conducted a coup against the Whitlam government and its control will be even more dominant now. Australia will also become a key staging point for the US military in the region directed against Australia's biggest trading partner, China.

The Capitalist Press always ask if the rise of China will be peaceful but of course what they should be asking is whether the decline of US Imperialism will be peaceful?

Pentagon strategists have long been implementing a military response to the growing power of China and its growing economic ties with countries in the region. The US is deeply troubled economically and its government has sought to shore up its geo-strategic aims for privileged access to markets and resources with increasing military interventions.

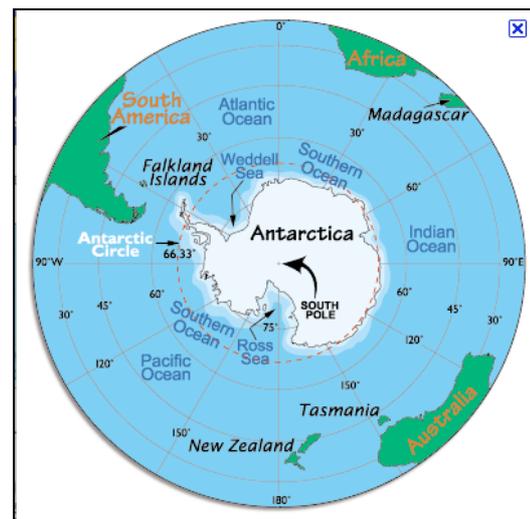
Progressive governments in Latin America can count on greater efforts at destabilisation sponsored by the US and military and attacks cannot be ruled out. Australia now has a deputy-sheriff role in our immediate region and can be relied on to vote for US military intervention around the world.

The toll in lives in the countries subjected to this aggression has been criminal. Australian troops have died in these US-led adventures in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The latest deaths

of Australian troops in Afghanistan show that Afghans consider our soldiers part of a hostile occupying force. Australians want them withdrawn. They must be brought home immediately.

Australia now spends over \$80 million every day on the military. The 2009 Defence White Paper names our primary trading partner, China as an enemy! The white paper is written for the US and is the blueprint for the purchase of new hugely expensive and aggressive military equipment. It heightens tensions with our neighbours and starves services and job creating industries of necessary investment.

Australians should not just think the US bases will all be in our North. A large military airfield is planned and being constructed in Tasmania with similar bases existing at the US's McMurdoch Sound in Antarctica. Flights across Antarctica and oil pipelines can connect with South America.



As the world's resources are quickly diminishing, this area is a treasure trove, along with the Arctic considering the substantial melt. Most people see Climate Change as a catastrophe, while Capitalists see it as a source of fresh exploitation and continued growth.

Why you should be a Communist!

“For a movement that is supposedly dead and of no consequence, it is odd that Communism still stirs so much passion on the other side of the ideological divide.”

For the past 20 years, the corporate media in Australia has stuck loyally to one of its central messages – that Communism is dead and buried as a political force. No oxygen is given to the idea that Communists are still active and effective in the labour movement or the broader community. The line is related to other underlying themes – that there is no alternative to capitalism, individualism trumps collective effort and there is no point joining with others to change things. In fact, there is a connection between all these points. Killing off the very idea of the socialist alternative depends in large part on defeating its most coherent and consistent advocate – the Communist Party.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the defeat of the referendum held in Australia to ban the Communist Party. The referendum was necessitated because the Menzies government’s bill to ban the Party was found to be unconstitutional by the High Court. The good sense and democratic spirit of the Australian people was reflected in the voting down of the referendum. Sixty years after the defeat of the referendum, it is clear that it is still no holds barred in the contest of ideas between capitalism and socialism.

The savage way the defenders of capitalism conduct themselves in the ideological battle is a constant. It has been on display in recent times with the treatment of Senator Lee Rhiannon. Her former membership of the Socialist Party of Australia (the present Communist Party of Australia) has been raised in the media as if to cast doubt on her integrity and judgement. To her great credit, the Senator took time during her first speech to the upper house to pay tribute to the contribution of her late parents and other veterans of the socialist and Communist movement in this country.

For a movement that is supposedly dead and of no consequence, it is odd that Communism still stirs so much passion on the other side of the ideological divide.

The determination to neutralise any “good press” for the Communist movement should be a clue for the rest of us. If the broadcasters and publishers who push the neo-liberal agenda of the wealthy also take the time to denigrate the Communist movement in this country, could it be that the Communist Party is actually the most consistent enemy of capitalism and the most reliable ally of the workers and other exploited people? Yes it is.

We believe we will not see a challenge to monopoly dominance of the political life of the country until we build the CPA into a force capable of leading the anti-capitalist movement in Australia.

Qantas

Australians witnessed a most extraordinary act of provocation and vandalism recently. All domestic and international flights from the once iconic national carrier were grounded as Qantas management locked out its workforce. Around 70,000 passengers in Australia and around the world were left stranded as the airline demonstrated its resolve to attack pay and conditions for its workers and to press ahead with plans to slash 1,000 jobs and shift the focus of operations to low-wage Asian centres. The truth about who is holding the community to ransom and who is out to wreck Qantas is now plain for all to see.

The CPA Brisbane Branch sends its support in solidarity with the Qantas workers.