In announcing $270 billion for the military, the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, had the task of convincing Australians that the exorbitant spending was necessary. He turned to fear as his chief weapon, evoking the rise of Nazism and World War II and describing the post pandemic world as “poorer, more dangerous and more disorderly.”

The Prime Minister said: “We have not seen the conflation of global economic and strategic uncertainty now being experienced here in our region since the existential threat we faced when the global and regional order collapsed in the 1930s and 1940s.”

The implication that China is like Nazi Germany hellbent on conquests and control is dangerous. For a government to make such a deliberately provocative statement about our most important trading partner in a time of domestic economic crisis is beyond belief.

When Morrison made his announcement he carefully prepared the scene with military figures and civilian supporters such as Peter Jennings from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a group funded by both the Australian and US Governments as well as huge US arms manufacturing companies which are the only ones who will profit from this military spending spurt.

It is clear why the Australian government has been conducting a scare campaign about China and Chinese cyber warfare. Clearly it is intended to build up a fear of China which will allow Australians to acquiesce in the exorbitant spending proposed.

Tensions in the Indo-Pacific region are being exacerbated by the actions of the Morrison government in partnership with US. They are being used to rush Australians into accepting the purchase of destabilising and unnecessary weaponry.

Scott Morrison has deliberately ignored the positive role of China in the COVID crisis. This socialist country has aided many millions with free medical equipment. It offered assistance to the State of New York, to Italy with free medical equipment. It offered PPE to 60 countries.

This socialist country has aided many millions in the battle against COVID in the midst of an economic crisis.

A McKinsey report in 2010 found Australia has 160,000 homeless people each night. There is a waiting list of 150,000 people for public housing. Many people on the waiting list are heads of families which means the need for public housing is even greater.

Instead of wasting $270 billion on death and destruction, the federal government should rescind last week’s exorbitant military announcement and start cutting military spending back to one per cent of GDP.

The money allocated to war preparations should be spent instead to fund a public housing boom which would meet the policy goals of stimulating the economy, providing jobs and providing permanent homes for the vulnerable.

Morrison and his capitalist mates don’t really care. There are profits to be made from armaments production and from coercing influence and trade in the region.

Australians’ capitalistic masters have continued to spend on the military even when in the depth of the COVID-19 economic crisis. New contracts have been signed and Australian ships are joining war games in the South China Sea and RIMPAC, the giant US organised international naval exercises off the coast of Hawaii.

It’s time to divert money from these wasteful and unnecessary events to the needs of the Australian people.

It’s time to say out loud that poverty kills, neo-liberalism kills. Its time to throw capitalism out and to build an alternative just, democratic, people and environment centred system.

We need socialism to save our lives.

**PUBLIC HOUSING**

In The Saturday Paper Mike Seccombe wrote: “...the government could have done what a wide range of organisations – the Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Australia, the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, welfare groups and some progressive think tanks – have advocated, and diverted the money towards building up Australia’s depleted and degraded stock of public housing.”

Instead the government listened to its US arms corporation mates and the ASPI. The ASPI has campaigned for Australia’s military spending to be raised from nearly 2 per cent to 3.6 per cent.

Australians has 160,000 homeless people each night. There is a waiting list of 150,000 people for public housing. Many people on the waiting list are heads of families which means the need for public housing is even greater.

But spending on the military rather than civilian areas of the economy results in a net loss of jobs. This is because military spending is less effective at creating jobs than virtually any other form of government activity.

We research reveals that, for example, a billion dollars spent for military purposes creates one and one-half times fewer jobs than spending on clean energy production and two and one-half times fewer jobs than spending on education.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Australia is set to spend $270 billion on buying sophisticated weaponry which will add about $8 billion per year onto the current annual military budget of around $42.2 billion. The decision is a disaster for many reasons. High on the list is the ramping up of the negative effects of militarism on the environment.

Military spending amounts to a war on the environment.

Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: “The environment has long been a silent casualty of war and armed conflict. From the contamination of land and the destruction of forests to the plunder of natural resources and the collapse of management systems, the environmental consequences of war are often widespread and devastating.”

Australia has one of the highest per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in the world, with its 0.3 per cent of the world’s population releasing 1.07 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gases. Emissions per capita for Australia are still well above the OECD and developed world average.

The federal budget tells a clear story of Australia’ misplaced priorities. The money that Australia spends on environmental protection is $3.4 billion. The money spent on the military is $42.2 billion.

The situation with climate change is at a critical stage. Current studies show that Earth temperature is one degree centigrade above pre-industrial levels and clearly on the way to 1.5 degrees within ten years. If nothing changes to business as usual, we face the possible extinction of humanity.

Australia is embarking on the 21st century version of a Cold War weapons build-up, emphasising submarines and other naval assets, intelligence, satellites and long-range missiles for use beyond Australian shores.

The Prime Minister said: “The Indo-Pacific is where we live – and we want an open, sovereign Indo-Pacific, free from coercion and hegemony.”

**PROVOKING AN ARMS RACE**

Security is often interpreted to mean military security. However, Australia’s true security would be enhanced by attention to economic recovery, social cohesion and humanitarian issues.

Resources committed to developing the military mean less money for employment programs and the health, education and housing needs of Australians and our neighbours.

If the Morrison government is planning on a weapons-led economic recovery, they are wilfully blind to the realities. The avoidance of deep recession will require massive stimulus spending on people and projects, not weapons.

A McKinsey report in 2010 found Australia’s military spending was among the least efficient in the world. In a list of 53 major countries, we tied with the United States for worst at getting value for our Defence spending.

**LOSS OF JOBS**

According to Ray Morgan in the second half of March unemployment jumped a staggering 1.4 million to 2.4 million (16.8 per cent) and under-employment increased 374,000 to 1.52 million (10.6 per cent). But spending on the military rather than civilian areas of the economy results in a net loss of jobs. This is because military spending is less effective at creating jobs than virtually any other form of government activity.

It’s time to say out loud that poverty kills, neo-liberalism kills. Its time to throw capitalism out and to build an alternative just, democratic, people and environment centred system.

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KENEALLY USES HK RESIDENTS AS POLITICAL PAWNS

On 30th June, the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) legislature unanimously passed national security legislation, protecting the rights and interests of millions of Hong Kong (HK) residents, while also ensuring that the “one country, two systems” principle is upheld.

Earlier last month, almost three million Hong Kong residents signed a petition in support of the new legislation with The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (the largest body of Trade Unions in HK) also backing the new laws. The support for the new laws wasn’t just on paper, hundreds of thousands marched backing the new laws. The support for the new lawsUnions (the largest body of Trade Unions in HK) also ensuring that the “one country, two systems” principle is upheld.

However, you wouldn’t know it if you only followed the coverage of mainstream Western media, who presented the narrative of a popular uprising against the PRC. A danger of the international consensus of support for the PRC’s actions was that “no one should be involuntarily deported to Hong Kong if they don’t want to go back,” On Sky News, Keneally stated that “we stand in solidarity with the Hong Kong people struggling for their rights and freedoms.”

It’s hard to believe that Keneally truly cares about the political rights of citizens from other nations. This is the very same Keneally who has long been involved in the fight against arms deals and arms trade. She has been a vocal critic of arms deals with countries that abuse human rights.

However, there is another side to Keneally’s support for the national security legislation. As a member of the ALP, she is part of a larger political force that has been hostile to refugees and asylum seekers from the start. The ALP’s stance on refugees is well documented and has been consistent throughout its history.

In the lead-up to explaining how the government’s plans to spend an additional $270 billion on upgrading the defence forces for war. The Guardian is running a competition: How would you spend $270 billion?

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You can tell us in an article, a shopping list, or in graphic form such as a cartoon, poster or meme, or you may have a better idea. Word limit is 500. A selection of entries will be published in the Guardian.

Enter now to win $50 bookshop voucher or six-month subscription to the Guardian!
WAR ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
Part 1

Anna Pha

As the present global capitalist offensive deepens, we see a wave of laws attacking the rights of millions of workers, peasants, environmentalists, social activists, and others affected by taking action and the numbers will only increase with time. Imperialism has been preparing for such a time in Australia and globally by accumulating an armory of weapons to be used such acts. They can be expected to hit the working class hard as corporations seek to restore their profitability as they come out of the COVID-19 induced recession.

Over the past four decades there has been an audacious erosion of bourgeois democratic rights. Many fundamental common law and statutory principles and rights have been replaced by draconian and increasingly fascist legislation.

The process commenced with the Howard Government's anti-terror legislation and has continued ever since, reaching previously unimaginable extremes. Due to the gradual build-up, rather than a big hit at once, many of these new laws have slipped through rousing relatively little public outcry or receiving much coverage in the media.

The legislation has had the bipartisan support of the two major parties with only the Australian Greens attempting, in all political cross-bench opposition.

This legislation was couched in terms of a “war on terrorism,” some of it as enforcing the “rule of law,” such as the laws attacking the rights of environmentalists, workers, and political activists. Another claim was that the laws were necessary to protect our “values” and “our way of life,” when in fact it was doing exactly the opposite.

The aims include suppression of dissent, maintenance of power, control of surveillance of society, and control of the actions of individuals across society. It is a work in progress, and we have not seen the end point by any means as far as the capitalist state is concerned. The ultimate aim is to defend the capitalist system and monopoly capital.

Many of the laws breach United Nations Conventions to which Australia is a signatory, and hence bound to adhere to under international law. These include the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Civil and Political Rights, Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Status of Refugees; Civil and Political Rights.

Likewise the changes to the industrial relations system breach a number of International Labour Organisation Conventions, including the Freedom of Association and Protection of Association; the Protection of the Right to Organise; and the Right to Strike.

“EROSION OF RIGHTS”
Since the collapse of the Twin Towers on 11 September 2001, there have been more than eighty pieces of “anti-terror” legislation restricting democratic rights, some of them extremely draconian and dangerous. On a number occasions, even more repressive provisions have been introduced in this time.

In addition, the trade union movement and workers have been hit by wave after wave of laws attacking in the unions. Some of these laws, such as the ones governing the building and construction industry mirror provisions found in the terror legislation, in effect criminalising legitimate trade union activity.

The terror and a number of other laws contain many serious breaches of key democratic and long-established principles. These trends are of extreme concern as they take Australia towards becoming a police state.

“WAR ON TERROR”
Amendments to the Criminal Code include a definition of terrorism for the first time in Australian law. The Code states that a “terrorist act” occurs when:

• the person commits, or attempts, otherwise than by lawful means, to procure a change to the Constitution and that person has no right to appear in the courts or to be heard. Does that make a banned protest against the Australian Building and Construction Commission an act of sedition?

“SEDITION”
Under the Crimes Act, the definition of the criminal offence “sedition intention,” is now so broadly defined as to create almost any dissent or challenge to status quo. It includes intent:
• to bring the Sovereign into hatred or contempt
• to urge dissatisfaction against the following:
  • the Constitution
  • the Government of the Commonwealth
  • either House of the Parliament.

It is also an offence to “to urge another person to attempt, otherwise than by lawful means, to procure a change to any matter established by law in the Commonwealth.”

This is likewise an offence to “to urge another person to attempt, otherwise than by lawful means, to procure a change to any matter established by law in the Commonwealth.” This is another broad definition which goes well beyond any concept of sedition.

The scope of this definition has little to do with terrorism. Mere criticism of the Queen, the Constitution, Government, Parliament or law could carry a jail sentence of up to seven years. Does that make a banned protest against the Australian Building and Construction Commission an act of sedition?

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This is another broad definition of terrorism which goes well beyond any concept of sedition.

The definition of terrorism for the first time in Australian law. The Code states that a “terrorist act” occurs when:

• by an act they intend to coerce the government or intimidate the public;
• by an act with the intention to advance a political, ideological, religious cause and
• by an act they intend to coerce the government or intimidate the public;

• the act causes death or serious physical harm to a person, endangers life (other than * the life of the person carrying out the action), creates a serious health or safety risk to the public (or section of the public), causes serious damage to property, or interferes with, disrupts or destroys an electronic system.

It is not hard to imagine how it could be applied to trade union, peace or environmental activists. Such actions are usually political and often seek to persuade (coerce) a government to take certain action. Self-defence when attacked by a provocateur or opposing force could cause “serious physical harm” or “serious damage to property.”

The act says that advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action is not a terrorist act providing that it is not intended to cause serious physical harm, death, danger to another’s life or a serious health or safety risk. But who judges intent? The maximum penalty is life imprisonment. Even if the sentence is shorter, a worker would be banned from holding an official trade union position for five years.

“WAR ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS”
Part 1

BYPassING JUDICIAL PROCESS
Preventative Detention Orders (PDOs) enable the Government to hold a person for up to fourteen days if there are “reasonable grounds” to suspect that a person has committed, is about to commit, or is intending to commit a terrorist offence. Many of these provisions have been added to this legislation. Some of it as enforcing the “rule of law,” such as the laws attacking the rights of environmentalists, workers, and political activists.

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“SUSPICION REPLACES PROOF”
Certain federal courts (the Federal, Family or Federal Magistrates Courts) may issue Control Orders under the Criminal Code at the request of a senior member of the Australian Federal Police, with the Attorney General’s written consent.

A judge or retired judge, operating outside of the court system in a personal capacity (1), can issue a PDO at the request of a police officer. The officer can choose the judge! The requirement to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt on the basis of fully tested evidence by a court is replaced by a highly subjective, personal decision without the rigours of a court.

“CRIMINAL INTERFERENCE”
The usual separation of powers – government and justice system – are ignored in a number of these provisions. The Home Affairs Minister, for example, has considerable powers in regard to illegal and arbitrary detention and abuse of asylum seekers.

The Attorney General, a member of the government, plays a role in vetting applications for Control Orders, sidelining independent bodies such as the Director of Public Prosecutions or a court. The Attorney General’s written consent is also required to commence sedition proceedings.

ASIO POWERS INCREASED
ASIO is officially an intelligence organisation but it has been given police powers to arrest and issue warrants. It is illegal for the media to report any information on warrants issued for questioning and detention by ASIO. The media is not permitted to talk to detainees about their detention, nor disclose the existence of any warrant, or event, for two years following the expiry of the warrant.

ASIO has been given police powers to question and detain anyone if they merely believe it would help them gather intelligence on a “terrorist” offence. The definition of a terrorist offence so broad, that no act of terrorism need have occurred and the person being detained may have no connection with those believed to be planning an offence.

Those detained may just be believed to have heard something that might be of use to ASIO. Next week in Part 2: freedom of speech, torture, solitary confinement of children, surveillance, right to protest, and land rights.
On Tuesday the 20th June, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews released a statement that announced that the next day, at 11:50pm, Stage Three restrictions for selected suburbs in Melbourne were to be introduced. Stage Three restrictions mean that you cannot leave your home unless it is for work, education, exercise, medical care, buying essentials, or care-giving. It is at the police’s discretion whether you meet one of these categories when you leave the house, and if they decide you do not have a legitimate reason, you are fined up to $1652.

The “hot-spot” suburbs targeted by this initial lock-down are predominantly working-class suburbs. In our article “Insecure Work Leading Cause of Victoria’s Coronavirus Cases” (#197) we focused on Coronavirus outbreaks in Melbourne’s north and western suburbs, Craigieburn and Brooklyn – both suburbs are now known as “hot-spot” suburbs. The Coronavirus “clusters” in these areas were the result of poor hygiene conditions at Cedar Meats, an abattoir in Brooklyn, and a McDonald’s, located in Fawkner, a suburb in Melbourne’s north.

On the 4th July, without notice to the residents, the state government introduced a “hard lock-down” by deploying 500 police to keep 3,000 residents from leaving their homes in nine public housing buildings in Flemington, North Melbourne, and Kensington. It was announced that residents will be under hard lock down for five days, with an extension of at least fourteen days if residents do not “cooperate” with testing. The police were deployed to break hard lock-down by the presence of “twenty-three cases around the site particularly from residents nearby.” The Melbourne suburb was in a “state of emergency.”

The racist actions of the state government target marginalised, working class communities who have a traumatic history with the police. Many migrants in the buildings also have a traumatic history with mandatory detention. Rather than responding with multilingual social workers, health care workers, PPE and medical supplies, the government decided to deploy one police officer for every six residents to ensure nobody leaves their homes for work, school, exercise, medical care or anything else. These restrictions are beyond the Stage Three restrictions.

There are stark double standards in the government’s response to cluster outbreaks. Where was this response when we saw over 100 people test positive in connection to Cedar Meats in the west? We must also ask why the state government has split “hardship payments” for affected residents into the two groups of deserving and undeserving by giving $1,500 to employed people and $850 to unemployed people? Furthermore, a “hardship payment” does not cover the risk of workers losing their jobs because of this forced lock-down.

One of the leading causes of spreading Coronavirus is insecure work conditions. When a worker has to choose between eating and paying rent and staying home without pay then there is no option to self-isolate. Workplaces that are not unionised are also less likely to provide the appropriate PPE for containing the spread of the virus.

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In 1967, Noam Chomsky wrote America Power – and the New Mandarins, a devastatingly accurate dissection of American imperial ruthlessness. It was, and still is, a devastating critique of American intellectuals: his “new mandarins” being those who, through their silence, remain subservient to those in power. He goes on to say “It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and to expose lies.”

Chomsky, whilst directing his thoughts to both Nazi “rationality” and the myth of America’s perceived rule as God’s representative on Earth, explored the rise of the new “mandarins” and what has, in fact, created them. His book, written during the rabid anti-communist ideology of the Cold War and the Vietnam War, questions the moral rectitude behind the use of America’s superior technology to lay waste both North Korea and Vietnam. He spoke of the militarisation of his country – even worse in 2020 – and hoped: “That the struggle against racism and exploitation at home can be linked with the struggle to remove the heavy Yankee boot from the necks of oppressed people throughout the world.”

Chomsky implied that his “new mandarins” of the 1960s were unprepared for any intellectual interpretation and were incapable of focusing with any rational commitment to the end result. Their view of life is purely one of expediency, which he blamed on the swing in colleges from a training in classical studies to one that emphasised political and economic values. He implied that such emphasis produces a “peculiar congeniality” towards war.

This critique is particularly apt in 2020 after the Australian Liberal government’s announcement of a doubling in fees for degrees in the humanities, whilst reducing fees in science subjects in order to “incentivise students to make more ‘job-relevant’ decisions about their education.”

Morrison’s marauders have seen this as an ideal opportunity, whilst we’re distracted by the pandemic, to re-shape our universities towards an American model under which the humanities have declined – not seen as worthy as STEM fields; that is, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In order not to produce “mandarins,” we need the humanities in order to communicate in this increasingly complicated world. Foreign languages are crucial as they are philosophy and ethics which ask the important questions keeping us from crossing moral lines in politics, science, and life generally. Law and politics change outdated laws. The humanities help sustain democracy and teach us to be informed citizens. This has been proved that the humanities have benefits providing values that are equal to the STEM fields of knowledge: they are vital in understanding human cultures, ethics (currently in short supply in Canberra) and critical thinking.

And what an amazing sense of timing, when COVID-19 has knocked the stuffing out of most of our universities, with their over-reliance on the income provided by international students! It is one of the most ill-considered, anti-intellectual government “initiatives” and goes a long way to producing more fact-driven, “mandarins” whose creative intelligence is formed solely toward the solution of political and industrial problems. It would appear that the culture of the Coalition cabinet is one that creates its own economic reality – a reality that even dispenses with Adam Smith’s laws of supply and demand. With this in mind, perhaps our politicians need to go back to school.

Now, over fifty years after Chomsky’s ruminations, Australia is rapidly becoming another American State: our country having been formed by the same old colonial ethos and ideologies of superiority and exploitation. We follow blindly the anti-Chinese rhetoric, cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Post-pandemic might be a good time for reflection about the kind of country in which we find ourselves and the kind of society we wish to create. This threat to humanity has erupted the way we think, and caused many to question their priorities: maybe showing us the error of our ways? We work for a pitance, mortgaged up to the eyeballs whilst seeing a privileged few making millions and often destroying the earth doing so.

The diabolic fires in the Eastern states concentrated our minds on the inevitability of even worse future catastrophes exacerbated by climate change. In the fires’ aftermath people were, quite rightly, enraged by government inaction and denial. Why weren’t the intellectuals, scientists, environmentalists, ecologists, etc., dominating the news, hammering at the doors of parliament demanding instant action and effective environmental legislation from our fossil fuel-loving politicians?

Unfortunately, that rage has been quelled by COVID-19, which has seen the populace subjected (for the benefit of all) to what, in normal circumstances would be unacceptable limitations on civil liberties. The sudden spectre of a life-threatening virus immediately relegated the threat of climate change catastrophes in the next 20-30 years to the back of the bus. Although I dare say that for those now freezing in tents and/or caravans, and affected mentally by the hellish confusions of the summer of 2019, climate change is still very much on their minds. It’s imperative now to put it back on the political agenda.

Then came the murder of African-American, George Floyd. Overt racism has been constant over the centuries in America, but the filming of the contempt for a black man’s life shown by a white policeman – and watched by three other white policemen who should be upholding the law – opened the floodgates of a rage which has long simmered below the surface.

For Australians, the triumvirate of fire, virus and racism has united us to look in depth at our priorities and at what kind of society we want. So, in this post-pandemic society, what is really important to us? Suddenly, we’re questioning the direction in which capitalism has taken us.
REPORT: BLM RALLY IN BOORLOO (PERTH)

Richard Titelius

At midday, Saturday at the Supreme Court Gardens in Perth, over 1000 people gathered in mild sunny conditions to protest against systemic and institutionalised racism. This racism is often built into the way a capitalist society is structured and organised – from the way people are housed and accommodated to employment practices, criminal justice and social welfare. The rally and march were organised by a collective of young Aboriginal and African activists, under the name of Boorloo Justice.

There were several Aboriginal speakers and speakers also from Africa and of African-American descent, all calling for social and political change – to create a more inclusive society with the message: “When all Black Lives Matter, all lives matter.” This was the third Black Lives Matter rally held in Perth – the first one focusing on the brutal death of African American man George Floyd and the latter two focusing more on the over-representation of Aboriginal people in prisons and detention, and eliminating racism.

There were many police present on the fringes of the rally to maintain order and peace but there were no incidents. When the time came to march through the Central Business District of Perth, people brought their many Aboriginal Land Rights flags and other thought provoking and evocative placards – chanting as they went, “Black Lives Matter,” “No Peace without Justice,” “(White) Silence is Violence,” and “End Systemic Racism Now.” The rally also stopped twice along the route to take a knee and observe a moment of silence for all the victims of Black Deaths in Custody in Western Australia. Protesters remained physically well distanced at the rally and some even wore masks out of respect for others. Masks were worn in rallies around the world where the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause disruption to people’s lives.

The Communist Party of Australia joins in the call for an end to institutionalised and systemic racism in Australia and for social, political and economic change necessary to bring justice and equality to all Australians.

REPORT: HAPPY BIRTHDAY JULIAN ASSANGE

Richard Titelius

Around the world supporters of Julian Assange gathered for his birthday on 3rd July, when he turned forty-nine years old, to wish him the best of health, for an end to legal proceedings to extradite him to the United States from the United Kingdom, and for his return to Australia. In Perth several members of the Communist Party of Australia (WA Branch) joined other activists calling for the release of Julian Assange from Hindmarsh Prison in England where he awaits extradition proceedings to the US. He faces indictment on eighteen counts of violating their Espionage Act for his alleged role as leader of Wikileaks, in obtaining and publishing secret, yet embarrassing and compromising military and diplomatic documents in 2010.

His counsel maintains the US charges of espionage and computer misuse are politically motivated and an abuse of authority.

The rally encouraged support of passers-by at the Elizabeth Quay with chants of, “Only one decision – No extradition,” “No crime to be a journalist,” and “Free Free Julian Assange – bring Assange back to Australia.” The Communist Party of Australia joins the global calls for the end of extradition proceedings against Julian Assange and for his return to Australia without charge.

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NO TO US EXTRADITION

Richard Titelius

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The Black Lives Matter movement stays strong in Sydney and all over Australia! Gadigal Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovener, daughter of Aboriginal activist and wharfie Chicka Dixon, her daughter Nadeena Dixon, with the assistance of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), and the Indigenous Social Justice Association (ISJA), had their voices heard by protesters and police in the thousands in Sydney on Sunday 5th July. A static demonstration was held at Djarrbarrgalli, now the The Domain. Djarrbarrgalli is a sacred area for the Gadigal people where historically corroborees were held, and under colonisation, Djarrbarrgalli was used as a place to soapbox for Aboriginal voices to be heard. This sentiment was echoed at the peaceful demonstration where the families of the victims of police brutality were able to speak on the importance of Black lives, criticisms of the justice system, how police brutality has affected them, and ultimately the Black struggle in Australia.

In Sydney, Gadigal elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovener opened with a Welcome to Country, and a traditional smoking ceremony that welcomed all present families of victims of violence from the State. The demonstration maintained a crowd of peaceful protesters in the thousands. Following the ceremony, more families and Black people were given the platform to speak, at which time the crowd was treated to a spoken word piece, followed by Aboriginal-Filipino artist Rhyan “DOBBY” Clapham performing with original lyrics over Wondaland Records’ HELL YOU TALMBOUT listing off the names of the black victims of state violence here in Australia and internationally, calling on protesters to say the victims’ names.

During the demonstration, specific demands were given to the Australian government. First, to stop black deaths in custody and to bring justice to the families through reopening all cases and charging those responsible for those Black deaths. Secondly, to abolish the police as an institution, as the traditional owners of this land did not need police for millennia before white colonisers arrived. Thirdly, a closing of juvenile detention centres, a legal institution that disproportionately affects Aboriginal minors, especially in the Northern Territory. Lastly, an end to the Northern Territory Intervention, which is a set of legislation aimed at suppressing the freedoms of Aboriginal people there. At this time a 48-year-old man was removed from the park after yelling at protesters.

Shortly before the closing of the ceremony, Comrade Paul McAleer, the MUA Sydney Branch Secretary and member of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) gave a speech connecting the Black struggle to the anti-Imperialist, anti-Capitalist working-class struggle under the notion that Aboriginal people and other Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) have always been an important part of the working-class in Capitalist states.

As the demonstration came to a close, some protesters began an impromptu march, despite a reported contention between the organising Aboriginal families on the matter. During this march protesters made their way towards Hyde Park and St James station. A 16-year-old male was removed from Hyde Park for throwing a bottle directed at the police, reportedly two women were assaulted by police constables in this confrontation.

From the events of Saturday, it is clear that the Black Lives Matter movement is still in the minds of Australians, and rightly so! White people must not forget the importance of their allyship to the movement and continue protesting, and to continue fighting back against the oppression of those less privileged. The movement is not just a trend and will continue until there is justice and equality for Black lives across the world.
Hello Comrades! This week marks the first of a set of theoretical articles on Australian Communist Thought on Fascism. One of the first signs of open fascism is the censorship and destruction of the arts. Here, L Harry Gould discusses Art, Fascism, and the relationship of art to labour. It is a concise but insightful essay.

Our history section marks a sad, but significant moment, for the Australian and world, communist movement. In 1962, what became known as the “Hill group” decided to resign from the CPA. The following year, these ex-members would form the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) (CPA-ML). The split was indicative of a larger ideological fracturing of the international communist movement centred on what became known as the “Sino-Soviet split” – a breakdown in the political relations between the USSR and PRC over ideological differences, starting with Khrushchev’s secret speech. As a result, many Maoist parties around the world sprung up, co-existing with Soviet-aligned Marxist-Leninist groups.

The Sino-Soviet split caused irreparable harm to the international communist movement from which it never truly recovered.

The CPA today does not harbour the same resentment expressed in the article presented here for historical purposes. The CPA is committed to fighting on a united front against capitalism and welcomes all organisations that are committed to this struggle.

We must remember that we are stronger together, weaker apart.

L Harry Gould

Why write on art at this moment in the midst of a terrific war against the powerful fascist foe, and when a bitter election campaign is in progress?

The answer is that art is indispensable in the struggle for democracy, for national independence, for human dignity.

“Art is a weapon.” It is something more of course. One potent factor in Russia’s superb achievements in peace and war is its amazing development in the arts and sciences.

Socialist society created a gigantic war industry. It also produced a flourishing people’s culture.

It has been said that the Red Army men “know what they are fighting for.” They are fighting to preserve their personal and social freedom, their schools, museums, cinema and ballet, their culture.

And they make better soldiers because they understand and love art, and all “the things of the spirit.”

AUSTRALIA’S TASK

Australian democracy must also develop its art. The bankruptcy in politics of men like Menzies and Fadden is paralleled in the cultural sphere. They have nothing to offer to art.

In actual fact, all reactionaries fear art (except the art which glorifies them and their works). It is no accident that Hitler, among the first steps he took on his accession to power, banned workers’ cultural movements and imprisoned and murdered thousand’s of painters, poets, and singers.

“When I hear the word ‘culture,’ I cock my revolver,” said Hans-Jobst, a Nazi functionary.

Art stands for democracy; it is an enlightening force. Art unites the masses, hence it is anathema to the reaction.

Last weekend a number of artists and others interested in art met in conference. They discussed the theory of art, its manifold problems and aspects, art in Australia, and the question of how artists can play their part in the struggle against fascism and for a prosperous peace after victory.

This article is intended to stimulate interest and activity on art matters. The purpose of this contribution is to present briefly and only in an introductory way our view on the basic meaning of art.

ORIGIN OF ART

Art can be understood only by relating it to the labour process. Labour, human toil, is a nature-imposed necessity, because man must work to produce his food, his clothing and his shelter.

Art, understood here simply as the creation and enjoyment of things of beauty, became integrated into the labour process from the very dawn of human existence.

Our primitive ancestor observed in the world around him the variety of shapes, colour and sounds. Some perhaps left little impression on him; others, such as the glinting scales of reptiles or the darkening of the eclipse, terrified him; others again, say, a fat deer or luxurious wild fruit, pleased him.

CONQUEST OF NATURE

Man was beginning his conquest of nature, and both the pleasurable and terrifying sights and sounds were immediate to him; they affected his “bread and butter.” He studied them, and before long was introducing, with greater or less “artistic” skill, what he saw and felt into the things he was producing.

In fashioning a tool or weapon he worked to a pattern that had become impinged upon his growing understanding. He polished his stone axe, first because he discovered that, a smooth-surfaced weapon would do a better job, and then for the reason that he liked its glossy appearance.

Food and sex are the dominant themes of all primitive cultures, including those which survive to this day.

The totem, firugine, carving, and stone idol denote the religious outlooks and practices of the tribe; but the emotions and rituals involved, and the very art productions themselves, can be understood only by reference to the social set-up as a whole – its daily struggle for existence, its labour.

Until the advent of capitalism, the relation of art and labour remained more or less close.

In all epochs, a popular art coexisted with the art of the leisure class. We do not know the names of the artists of medieval times; medieval art is “anonymous.” The weavers who produced the beautiful tapestries, the engravers and goldsmiths who decorated books, the stone-masons, carpenters and engineers who built the cathedrals were – workers!

They were craftsmen possessing great artistic talents, not “artists” in the modern sense of men who stand above and aloof from the mass of the people.

Capitalism, at first a creative and revolutionary force in politics and thus in art, resulted in the end in an almost complete separation between art and labour by the very nature of its processes of production.

The labourer becomes a mere “appendage of the machine.” The artist and his art exist for the service of Moneybags, who orders his paintings with the same emotion (or lack of it) that he does the raw materials for his factory.

This article originally appeared in Tribune, July, 1943.

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The Future Belongs to the Communist Movement
Statement by CPA Central Committee Secretariat

Over the past three weeks or so, sixty-two members of the Communist Party in Victoria have resigned. These resignations were a planned move in the campaign of disruption and factionalism by a group led by E.F. Hill.

Unable to force their incorrect and dangerous policies on the membership and leading committees of the Party, and finding themselves in an isolated minority, this group has taken the path of desertion from the cause of socialism.

They have spread their resignations over a period and some of the leading figures of the group have gone to the capitalist press with attacks upon the Party. This is a calculated attempt to cause confusion and create the false impression that the Party was experiencing a major split.

The effort has failed completely. The Party is more united than ever, and the group’s “plan” has rebounded. The true character of their policy and aims has been exposed by this transparent subterfuge of “mass resignations,” and not only to the membership of the Party but to the working class as a whole. The working class movement recognises these examples of acceptance of majority decisions and solidarity and has nothing but contempt for those who run to the capitalist press with their opposition to working class organisations.

The Communist Party of Australia, as stated in the Constitution, “is a voluntary union of like-minded people,” whose aim is to achieve socialism in Australia. No member can be forced to join the Party, nor can anybody be prevented from leaving it.

The Constitution provides for ending of membership through expulsion, or lapsing through non-payment of dues. Resignations are not provided for in the Constitution. On the occasions when resignations have been received in the past, they have been regretted as being evidence, in most cases, of inability to measure up to the hardships of the struggle for socialism, but have otherwise been accepted as representing the personal decision of the individual member concerned, and respected as such.

These planned “resignations” are of a definitely different character. They are the planned desertion by the Hill group from the Marxist-Leninist party of the Australian working class. The press statements and other propaganda of this group show their true character.

They falsely attack the Party for “abandoning working class principles” and for failing to give correct leadership to the current struggles of the workers.” These false assertions lack any examples of their analysis; and the group does not advance any alternative proposals as to different policies which the working class should pursue.

These accusations are completely rejected by the Party membership, the majority of whom are workers in industry and trade unionism.

They will also be rejected by tens of thousands of workers who know that Communists in their workplaces and unions ways advance united action and militant struggle. Workers everywhere, whatever their political views, know that the Communist Party continues its policies of building working class unity for defeat of the Menzies Government, united action by the trade union movement for economic demands and trade union rights, action in defence of peace and support for national independence.

They know that the Communist Party is in the forefront of the struggle against monopoly capitalism and for a Socialist Australia. The group repeats the threadbare fiction peddled by the ruling class ever since the formation of the Party forty-three years ago, that the political line of the Communist Party is “determined in Moscow.” They repeat this slander in the full knowledge that the Party has decided its policy on this, as on every other occasion, by a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the Australian situation in accordance with our Party Program, and in the light of the principles to which we subscribed in endorsing the statement of the eighty-one Parties of 1960.

It is well known that it was the dis- sident group which wanted our policy determined otherwise, and that they have carried on their disruptive activities because they could not force their minority views on the overwhelming majority.

Those resigning loudly proclaim their adherence to Marxism-Leninism. But it is the first and most elementary principle of Marxism-Leninism, known to all with even a nodding acquaintance with working class theory, that a Communist Party is an absolute essential for the achievement of Socialism.

THOSE WHO DESERT THE PARTY THEREFORE DESERT THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM, THE CAUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS, HOWEVER LOUD THEIR PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY MAY BE.

Lenin said: “Repudiation of Party and Party discipline – this is what the opposition amounts to. And this is tantamount to completely disarming the proletariat for the benefit of the bourgeoisie. It is the equivalent to precisely that petty-bourgeois diffuseness, instability, incapacity for sustained effort, unity and organised action, which, if indulged in, must inevitably destroy every proletarian revolutionary movement.”

These remarks apply fully to the present opposition.

While in the Party they engaged in factionalism, which means in fact setting up another “Party” within the Party. The leaders of the opposition group and various of their supporters have refused to abide by majority decisions, walked out of properly constituted Party meetings, defied directions from the appropriate committees to attend discussions, held meetings of their own, made their own decisions and established their own discipline, and set up their own apparatus to print and circulate their material.

Whether they continue in an underground or more open way such activities, which represent a complete break with Marxism-Leninism, the inevitable logic of their development could only be to fight the Party more and more bitterly.

The capitalist class and right-wing forces, would clearly welcome this, and render support in all sorts of ways, whatever the present subjective intentions of those who have “resigned” may be.

This misguided group of former Communists should think again before it is too late, otherwise they can only degenerate still further politically.

Finally they would share the sorry fate of those who over the years have broken themselves in fruitless efforts to disrupt and destroy the Communist Party and the great Communist movement, to which the future belongs and which continues to go from strength to strength. This statement originally appeared in Tribune July, 1963.
BRITISH PIRACY STILL ALIVE;
VENEZUELAN GOLD STOLEN

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Celeste Dale and Seamus Carey for their articles exposing the rabid anti-China nonsense being ramped up by US interests, right-wing manipulators (ASPI) and corporate media. It’s getting harder to find the truth or even a different perspective, so I am driven to Global Times, Russia Today or Grayzone on the internet to find an antidote to the hysterical idiocy submerging us.

I couldn’t find any reference to the very relevant story of the University of Barcelona finding the Corona virus in waste water there, dating from March 2019. Local media didn’t want to know, or didn’t want US to know, because it could start an uncomfortable feeling that maybe Trump was wrong about “Kung-Fu”, just like he is wrong about everything else.

Bob Treasure

Seamus Carey

The UK High Court has shamefully ruled against the Venezuelan government’s claim on around one billion US dollars’ worth of gold reserves kept at the Bank of England. The court ruled that as the UK government has recognised Juan Guaidó’s group as the government of Venezuela, tailing the outrageous US policy, the account now belongs to them.

The legitimate, elected Venezuelan government under the leadership of President Nicolás Maduro has requested the release of most of those gold reserves in order to transfer them to the United Nations Development Programme, for the purpose of acquiring vital supplies to combat the COVID-19 epidemic and its consequences.

This includes food and medical equipment and supplies, all of which the country is struggling to import due to the inhumane US-led unilateral blockade.

Despite the fact that the puppet Guaidó has now lost any semblance of legitimacy, even amongst most of his own past supporters, the UK (as well as the Australian) government persists in the farce of acknowledging him as “acting President,” taking direct instructions from the US policy only and without any opportunity for input by the people.

The fact that the government of President Maduro is the one and only government of Venezuela in every sense is so unavoidable that the British embassy remains in Caracas, representing the UK government to the actually-governing government of President Maduro, and the latter government’s ambassador to the UK remains in London and is accredited as the representative of Venezuela. The only strongholds of the Guaidó gang remain Miami and Washington DC as ever.

Many other Venezuelan state assets held around Europe and the US have been similarly seized, in what can only be described as an act of piracy. The seizure of the assets in the US by the US government has also started to create friction between them and their own puppet gang, as recently Guaidó-allied media have reported that the US government has not even turned the funds over to them as promised, but instead used them for their own purposes such as funneling hundreds of millions towards Trump’s wall at the Mexican border. Trump may have failed to get “the Mexicans to pay for it,” but if these reports are true, he has found a way to get the Venezuelan people to pay for it... which is probably all the same to him, if his past comments are anything to go by.

The 209th anniversary of Venezuela’s Declaration of Independence in 1811 was celebrated on the 5th of July. The independence document was a major impetus for the struggle against colonial rule all around the Americas. But as was apparent even to the most idealistic of 209 years ago, independence is never won only by the signing of a document. It took many years of military struggle, under the leadership of Simon Bolivar, to win independence from Spanish colonial rule. This struggle for independence arose again in the struggle against US imperialism, which achieved a breakthrough with the initiation of the Bolivarian Revolution under the leadership of Comandante Hugo Chávez, continuing today under the leadership of President Nicolas Maduro.

Without independence, there can be no such thing as democracy. A government which prioritises the dictates of a foreign power over the interests of its own people could not possibly be considered democratic by any meaningful definition. However, we see in the Western media a definition of democracy which is stripped of all such sense and is identical to subservience to US interests. Any of the countries which refuse this subservience, which by no coincidence are the very same countries which assert the right to independence, are portrayed as enemies of democracy, in a complete reversal of the facts.

The UK government’s dog-like submission to the US line on the question of Venezuela, like the Australian government’s identical position, is part of a pattern which constitutes a shameful betrayal of the people. Truly democratic governments must be based upon independence – both their own independence, and respect for the independence of others, two characteristics that each cannot exist without the other. The struggle being carried out by the people and government of Venezuela under the leadership of President Maduro is one of a few bright lights showing the way forward in this regard, out of the present mire of worldwide US despotism.

Seamus Carey
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The Guardian

July 13, 2020

**REFUGEES STUCK IN LIMBO AS ITALY AND MALTA IGNORE RESCUERS’ PLEAS FOR HELP**

Ben Cowles

The Ocean Viking’s state of emergency goes unheard for two days before being allowed to enter Sicily – while a merchant ship carrying fifty-two refugees still waits for a port.

A group of fifty-two people contact the rescue-distress hotline operated by activist network Earth Rights on Friday morning from within Malta’s search and rescue zone (SAR).

Alarm Phone made several attempts to contact the Maltese maritime rescue coordination centre (MRCC) but, it said, its calls were ignored and the authorities refused to take down crucial information about the boat in distress.

On Friday evening a Maltese merchant vessel, the Tala, located and rescued the refugees with the guidance of German charity Sea Watch’s monitoring plane, Moonbird.

The Maltese MRCC initially told the Tala’s crew that an Armed Forces of Malta vessel would pick up the rescued and take them to shore. Hours later, however, the MRCC ordered the ship to head to the Italian island of Lampedusa and await instructions there.

But Italy refused to allow the merchant vessel to enter its territorial waters and ordered it to sail back to Malta.

“The Tala had been assigned a port of safety long ago,” Alarm Phone said in a tweet this afternoon.

“Instead the rescued are still at sea. Tala has complied with international law by rescuing people in distress in Malta’s SAR zone.

“Malta is evading its legal obligations by refusing disembarkation. Tala’s captain and crew have provided assistance to the rescued but their vessel was put in danger by Maltese authorities, who denied them shelter during a storm late at night.

“We demand a quick disembarkation in Malta, the closest safe port, to ensure the health and safety of the rescued as well as the crew. Maltese authorities should stop playing games with people’s lives and comply with international law without delays. Let them disembark now!”

The Tala remained in international waters between Malta and Lampedusa at the time this story was published.

Meanwhile the Ocean Viking rescue ship carried 180 refugees onboard, was finally given permission to dock in Italy today after waiting days for the country to respond to its calls.

The ship declared a state of emergency on Saturday after a number of the rescued threatened to flood the vessel and crew and other passengers. Frederic Penard, director of the charity that operates the Ocean Viking, said the crew had no choice but to issue the emergency.

“A large group of heavily traumatised survivors are in such psychological distress that they have become a danger to themselves and to others,” Mr Penard said.

“We have never had to resort to such an extreme measure of last resort in all our history.”

“Do you have to wait for someone to die before being allowed to disembark? SOS Mediterranean has since announced that the ship had to wait until the end of the week to proceed to Sicily and that the 180 survivors would be disembarked there.

“The unnecessary delay of the disembarkation has put lives at risk, SOS Mediterranean said.

“Throughout the past days, the crew has been very sensitive. We had not seen any initiative to restart the Malta Agreement for relocating rescued people. There has been no sign of solidarity with coastal states.”

Mark Gruenberg

Donald Trump’s happy talk today notwithstanding, the nation’s current depression, the employment crash caused by closures forced by the coronavirus pandemic, continues, the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report shows.

That’s because 14.45 million more people applied for regular state unemployment benefits, and another 896,569 sought special federal benefits checks in the week ending 27th June. The overall US unemployment rate for June dropped to 11.1 per cent, another BLS report says. It adds businesses claimed to create 4.8 million new jobs that month, both revised.

The Maltese MRCC initially warned the roof could fall in at the end of July unless Congress again extends jobless benefits, including weekly $600 checks to “independent contractors,” mechanics and other workers who don’t qualify for state jobless aid. Extension depends on Republican Sen. Joni Ernst, a member of the House leadership and chair of the select committee on the coronavirus, saying yes before day.

“There’s another round of layoffs that are likely to occur as businesses that opened up are then likely to cut back” due to a resurgence of coronavirus pandemic, AFL-CIO chief economist Bill Spriggs said in that same telephone press briefing.

Those cuts are starting. Delta Airlines announced Thursday that 90,000 workers to go on unpaid furloughs for up to a year, and Gov. Gavin Newsom, D-Calif., faced with rising coronavirus figures in the Golden State, ordered more business closures on 2nd July.

The bad numbers in the more up-to-date weekly report showed 7.6 million people received regular state unemployment benefits as of 27th June. Numbers covering other benefits, from the federal government only – including 749,000 people who get just $600 weekly federal checks – went to 13.603 million other people in the week ending 13th June.

The federal numbers always lag a week or two behind state data.

“Two-thirds of the total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending 13th June was 33,491,627, an increase of 148,724 from the previous week,” that weekly benefits claims report says.

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“There’s another round of layoffs that are likely to occur as businesses that opened up are then likely to cut back” due to a resurgence of coronavirus pandemic, AFL-CIO chief economist Bill Spriggs said in that same telephone press briefing.

Those cuts are starting. Delta Airlines announced Thursday that 90,000 workers to go on unpaid furloughs for up to a year, and Gov. Gavin Newsom, D-Calif., faced with rising coronavirus figures in the Golden State, ordered more business closures on 2nd July.

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NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION SOLID UNDERPINNING FOR RIGHTS, FREEDOMS OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS

The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was passed unanimously by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, on 30th June.

As a strong support for the long-term and sustained implementation of “one country, two systems” principle, it will help Hong Kong go back to the right track and start again, and guaranteed rights and interests, as well as freedoms of Hong Kong residents.

It is also in compliance with the universal truth that the rights and freedoms of residents will be guaranteed to the maximum extent possible, if the security of a country is guaranteed and its society remains stable.

Chinese President Xi Jinping remarked, "Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can people live in peace and enjoy their work?" What he said has particularly proved true in the protests over the proposed amendments to the HKSAR’s extradition bill in June 2019.

In recent years, many foreign and local organisations and criminal groups based in the mainland have repeatedly engaged in terrorist activities, as well as interference in the HKSAR’s internal affairs by foreign or external forces.

In particular, anti-China forces who attempt to disrupt Hong Kong, black-clad rioters and “mutual destruction” tactics are the biggest enemies of the rights and freedom of the residents of Hong Kong.

Anti-China forces attempting to destabilise Hong Kong, by particularly taking advantage of Hong Kong’s national security loophole in legislation, have recklessly engaged in activities that jeopardise the principle of “one country, two systems.”

Moreover, they pitted safeguarding national security against protecting the rights and freedoms of residents, and stigmatised and demonised Article 47 of Hong Kong’s Basic Law, in a bid to better carry out secession, subversion, infiltration and sabotage activities against the mainland.

The legislation will target a small minority of severe criminals jeopardising national security, including secession, subverting state power and organising and carrying out terrorist activities, as well as interference in the HKSAR’s internal affairs by foreign or external forces.

Safeguarding national security overlaps with protecting rights and freedoms in essence. It is clearly stipulated in the Law that the HKSAR must act in line with rule of law. And the Law also underlines respecting and protecting human rights.

When the law is enacted, Hong Kong citizens’ rights and freedoms of speech, press, publication, assembly, association, procession and of demonstration that are enshrined in the Basic Law of the HKSAR and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to the SAR will remain the same.

Besides, normal exchanges and contact between residents and legal persons of the international metropolitan and other countries, regions and international organisations will be protected, too.

Admittedly, some Hong Kong residents’ understanding and trust of the country, especially the rule of law of the mainland is another deep-seated issue.

Thanks to the sheer endeavour in the past four decades since reform and opening up, China has made remarkable achievements in establishing the rule of law. A law-based environment is the best environment for doing business. The Chinese mainland remains one of the most attractive destinations for foreign investment, which speaks volumes for the rule of law in China.

The mainland and Hong Kong do not differ greatly in terms of criminal justice systems. Since security organisations perform tasks in accordance with the law and follow a rigorous procedure in the mainland, there is no need to worry that these organisations will not respect the rule of law in the HKSAR.

In recent years, many foreigners based in the mainland have repeated on many occasions that China is the safest place in the world, which serves as the best demonstration.

Since the return of Hong Kong to the motherland, the principles of “one country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy have been implemented in good faith. It is acknowledged by all that all the rights and freedoms of the residents of the HKSAR are fully protected, and that the residents are entitled to a wider range of rights and freedoms than what they had under the British colonial rule.

With the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the new guardian for the HKSAR, the residents will be sure to better enjoy the institutional advantages of the “one country, two systems” principle, and work and live in an even safer, more stable and more harmonious social environment.

When chaos and fear disappear and peace and harmony are restored on the land of Hong Kong, the Pearl of the Orient will embrace a more splendid future.

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