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Against fascism and war

Marcus Browning

Nationalism and militarism are being promoted on the election campaign trail, with Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton taking every opportunity to be seen with troops and marking military anniversaries. At the same time the government is actively preparing for war through the AUKUS alliance aimed at China.

It is under the banner of war that in Britain, the US, Australia and Europe long-held democratic rights are being torn up. These reactions by governments are not a sign of strength but of weakness and desperation as progressive movements rise up against reactionary governments in Latin America and as the partnership between the Russian Federation and China becomes stronger by the day.

The rise of the forces of war and fascism extends from the gangster who bludgeoned his way into the Oval Office in Washington to Israel's genocide against the Palestinians and the fascist coup in Ukraine.

May 9 marks the end of the war against fascism and Nazism in Europe in 1945. It will be largely ignored by the government and the media of Australia.

The reason is clear. For the ruling classes of the western world the war's outcome was a disaster. The Soviet Union became the main victim and lost more men, women and children in the conflict than all the other nations combined. At the same time, it was a great victory for the socialist Soviet Union, which above all, was responsible for the destruction of Nazism and the complete overthrow of the Hitler regime. The Soviet Union emerged from the war with enormous political prestige.

LIBERATION

Following the defeat of fascism the national liberation movements developed around the world and nearly all of the former colonial countries won their independence – India, all the African nations, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, China which had been carved up by the various colonial powers and, of course, the oil-rich Middle Eastern countries.

The Chinese revolutionaries defeated the Japanese and European occupiers and formed the People's Republic of China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The Vietnamese defeated the French colonialists and later the attempts of the United States, Australia and other countries to occupy their country. Again, it was the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam that led their struggle for independence.

All these developments were an enormous blow to imperialism.

It took years of Cold War propaganda and sanctions and blockades and the perpetuation of an arms race for the western powers to succeed in breaking up the Soviet Union. The United States and its allies in Europe and Australia then began an offensive to re-establish worldwide US domination and return other countries to colonial status.

Despite the overwhelming military, economic and political strength of the western powers, the United States in particular, their attempts to turn the clock back failed. Thus, once again the western powers are reaching for the fascist weapon just as the German ruling class did in the 1930s.

UKRAINE FASCISTS

Russia's conflict with Ukraine came in opposition to NATO's* eastward expansion with its intention to establish a nuclear missile base in Ukraine as part of its military build-up in Eastern Europe and the encirclement of the Russian Federation.

In Ukraine, democratic mechanisms have been abolished. Since the 2014 fascist coup, the real policy on its territory is dictated by aggressive nationalist bands. Representing an absolute terrorist minority, they hold Ukrainian people in fear and impose rules of control on members of the political establishment.

Much was made in the mass media about the anti-Russian sanctions of the US and European Union. However, by now the attitude of the world community to the West's attempt to organise a boycott of Russia has become clear. We should know not only those who support sanctions, but also those who are against them.

Among these are the BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. They account for 43 per cent of the planet's population. China is the world's number one economy in terms of GDP, India is in third place. In fact, most of Asia does not want to take the side of the USA. The only exceptions are Japan and Australia, South Korea, and the Philippines whose governments accommodate US bases and US forces of occupation on their territories.

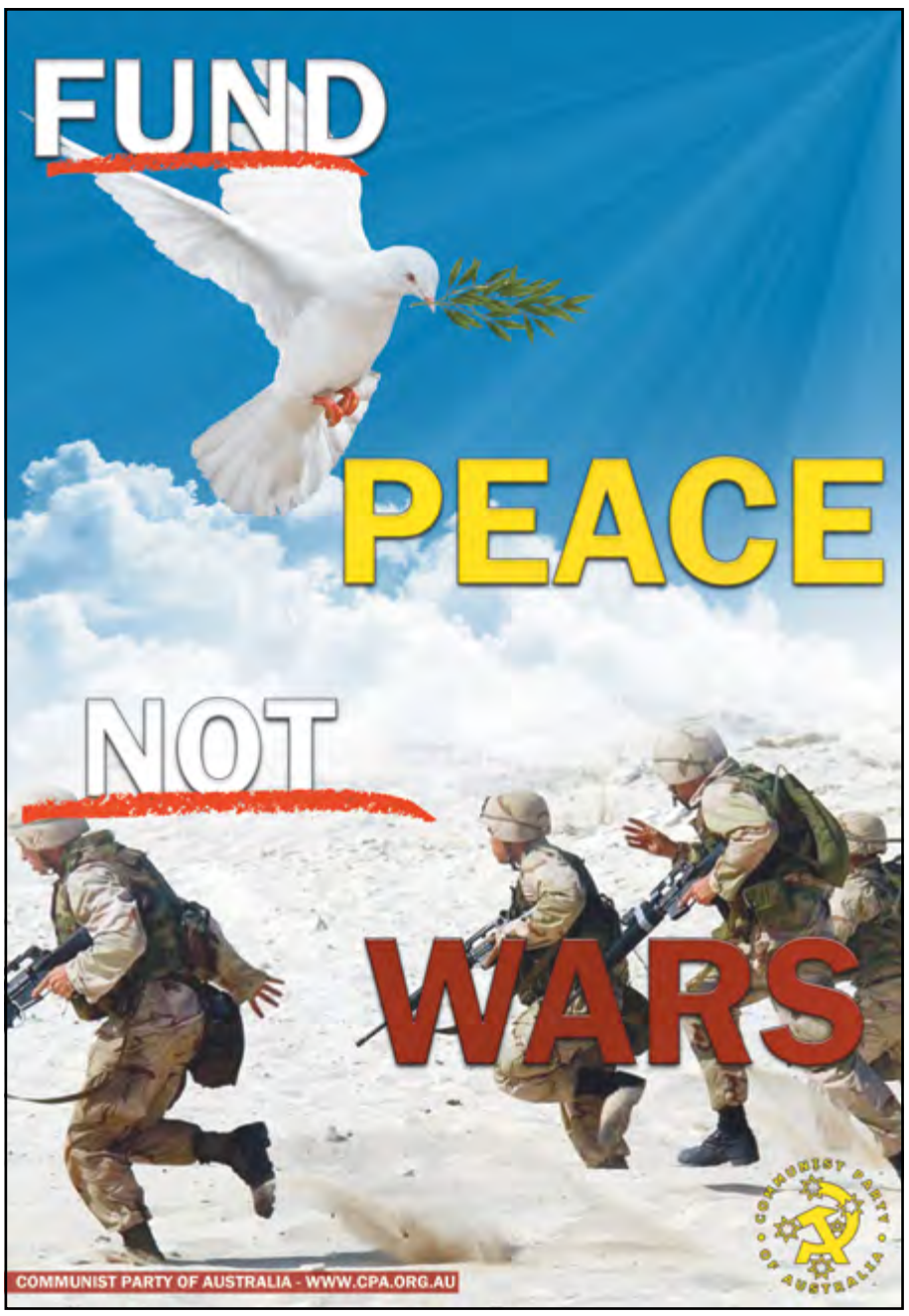
The leading Middle East countries – Pakistan, Iran, and Türkiye don't support the boycott which the US tried to force on everyone. The Middle-East Arab countries, including those which have relations with the US, declared their neutrality. When the UN Security Council voted a resolution condemning Russia, the United Arab Emirates abstained.

Latin America, which has suffered more than anyone at the hands of US imperialism, does not support sanctions. This applies not only to socialist Cuba and progressive Venezuela and Nicaragua – but to the largest and most influential countries: Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico. The leading African country, South Africa, is against sanctions.

PLAN FOR PEACE

In 2022 the Communist Party of Ireland, the Communist Party of Britain, and the Tudeh [Communist] Party of Iran produced the following joint declaration outlining what Russia, the EU, NATO, and the United States must do to end the war.

"We the undersigned political parties welcome the statement of the World Peace Council of February 25, 2022, which:



- Calls on all sides to the Russia-Ukraine conflict to restore and secure peace and international security through constructive political dialogue, noting that the Russian and Ukrainian people, as well as the peoples of the region, have nothing to gain from this military conflict.
- Condemns the political and military manoeuvres of the US, NATO and the EU since the coup of 2014 after which reactionary forces took power in Kiev with the open support of the Western imperialist powers.
- Recognises that this conflict is related to the control of energy resources, pipelines, markets and spheres of influence.

"On this basis, we the undersigned call for an immediate ceasefire and a halt to all military operations in Ukraine which threaten to escalate the war.

"We urge the UN security council and neutral and non-aligned countries to convene talks aimed at de-escalating the conflict and laying the basis for a permanent, stable and peaceful settlement of all the substantial issues damaging Ukraine-Russian relations."

Working class and people's struggles are sweeping the world on every continent on a scale never seen before in history. It is in this international context that the time has come to launch a decisive political offensive against attempts at the rehabilitation of fascism.

*The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (28-member countries) since its inception in 1945 as a nuclear spearhead aimed at the Soviet Union, has pursued the aggressive and expansionist goals of imperialism in its struggle against socialism, the international workers' movement, and the oppressed.

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New information on CIA involvement in Cuba

Full election analysis next issue

Guardian

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Too much democracy?

By the time you read this, the federal election will be finished. After a long and tiring campaign, it's understandable that a lot of people will be feeling tired of democracy. Specifically, they'll be tired of being spammed with election advertising every time they turn on Youtube or open up Facebook. People are probably a bit over having leaflets in the mailbox. Even people who are really into Australian electoral politics might feel they've had a gutful of promises, backflips on promises, more promises, and waffly language.

A lot of that will be over now. The pamphlets will stop and the online ads will ease up. There will be something else on when you turn on the TV. Politics itself won't stop. Whoever has won the election will get down to the work of making excuses, breaking promises, and – we can only hope – doing a few good things. Climate change will continue to happen, regardless of whether the new government is the Coalition who actively hate climate action, Labor who pretend they care about it, or even Labor in a minority government, forced to grudgingly do something effective. The stuff we think of as politics will stop for a bit, but life goes on, and life is politics.

In socialist countries politics doesn't only happen when it's time for an election. Look at Cuba, which could have just presented the new Family Code, the most progressive in Latin America, as a one-off referendum, or just discussed it behind closed doors and passed it. Instead, Cuba workshopped the Code around the country in meetings in almost every town, making changes as they went, before the Code was finally voted on and adopted. Cuba also didn't let any billionaires undemocratically dominate the discussion.

Socialism means *real* democracy because it means that a country is run by the majority of the population, the working class. It means that the country is run by and for that majority. In socialist Vietnam, the slogan is 'mastery of the people over the country.'

In Australia? Well, that election we've just had confirms Lenin's observation that bourgeois democracy is "a paradise for the rich and a snare and deception for the exploited," whereby citizens get to choose which member of the ruling class will exploit them. It's hard to argue with that view, with our parliament stuffed full of property investors (40 per cent of MPs or their families own three or more properties. 20 per cent own four or more).

Lenin had a good point, but because the Communist Party of Australia wants real gains for workers, we don't advocate just giving up. The Party position is that voters should put the Liberals last, and put socialist and progressive candidates first.

Politics doesn't begin and end with elections, and something else that doesn't stop is the Communist Party. All year round, all around Australia, Party members take part in democratic Branch meetings and participate actively in unions and community organisations, to fight for workers' rights, for Indigenous rights, and for an independent and safe Australia. We're working for real democracy.

If that sounds good to you, support this paper by subscribing or donating to the Press Fund, and consider joining the Party. Real democracy needs all the help it can get!

Deported for opposing genocide? Welcome to Dutton's dream Australia

Peter Farmer

During the election campaign Peter Dutton has told a *Sky News* reporter that he would be adding antisemitic behaviour to the immigration character test contained in section 501 of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth), so that antisemitism will be grounds to deny or revoke the visa of a noncitizen. It would be like similar laws unfolding in the USA right now, although it's fair to say Dutton has long had an interest in the power to deport people he doesn't approve of.

During an election campaign press conference in Boorloo-Perth Dutton reconfirmed that he plans to make this amendment relating to antisemitism and migration. He also raised the fact that he would then be reconsidering the thousands of Palestinians in the country on visitor visas, so it's pretty clear what Dutton means by 'antisemitism.'

As US state secretary Rubio outlined, the US has revoked or changed the status of hundreds of student visas in response to antisemitism. And high-profile cases, involving international students Mahmoud Khalil and Rumeysa Ozturk, as well as Indian lecturer Badar Khan Suri, having been disappeared and slated for deportation, reveal it was their pro-Palestinian stance that led to this.

Under his regular anti-immigration politicking, Dutton began taking aim at international students in May 2024, calling for a reduction in their numbers. He claimed, without any evidence that reducing international student numbers would help solve the housing crisis. International students bring about $30 billion into the Australian economy every year, and the self-styled party of responsible economic management wants to have less of them.

Dutton likes to brag about deporting 6,000 non-citizens when he was in charge of immigration ten years ago. He was responsible for terror laws which eroded rights for all Australians when he was a member of the Turnbull government.

As Paul Gregoire writes for the Sydney Criminal Lawyers:

"So, as the antisemitism war heats up in the United States, which targets both noncitizens and citizens to produce a number of oppressive outcomes, Australians should ask themselves whether they want to live under such a regime fashioned by a despotic Dutton, or whether they'd prefer a strong crossbench that has the power to prevent Trump pushing Albanese into taking a similar stance."

Quote of the Week

"These layers of complexity are designed to discourage scrutiny."

Ketan Joshi on Australia's 'safeguard mechanism', designed to make companies that are increasing carbon emissions look like they're reducing emissions.

Sydney Vigil

STOP USA BLOCKADE ON CUBA

12:30pm Saturday 17 May

Sydney Town Hall

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Freedom Ride at 60

Starting on 12 February 1965, the Freedom Ride was a 15-day bus ride through regional New South Wales aimed to expose the racism experienced by First Nations people.

Led by Arrernte and Kalkadoon activist Charles Perkins, along with the Student Action For Aborigines (SAFA), the Freedom Ride was a significant event in First Nations activism history.

During the 15-day journey, the group visited a number of towns to understand more about the living conditions of First Nations communities stemming from racial discrimination, including:

- crowded housing in tin huts with mud floors
- segregation in schools and workplaces
- limited or no employment opportunities
- exclusion from access to pools and cinemas
- refusal of service at shops, cafés, bars and pubs

Often First Nations people were forbidden to live in town, forcing them to remain on missions or reserves with substandard living conditions including limited or no access to basics such as gas, electricity, and running or clean water.

Through connecting with community members, they learnt more about these experiences and stood in protest against these conditions in hope for change.

JOURNEY THROUGH NSW

Starting on Gadigal land in Eora (Sydney) the Freedom Ride journey through regional NSW visited many different Countries including:

- Bigambul Country: Boggabilla
- Birpai Country: Taree
- Bundjalung Country: Grafton, Lismore, Cabbage Tree Island
- Dhanggati Country: Kempsey
- Gamilaraay Country: Walgett, Moree, Boggabilla
- Gumbaynggirr Country: Grafton, Bowraville
- Marbal Country: Tenterfield
- Wiradjuri Country: Wellington
- Wayilwan Country: Gulargambone, Walgett

During visits, the group held several demonstrations including in Walgett outside the RSL where Aboriginal veterans were refused membership, and in Moree where Aboriginal children were refused entry to the pool.

Many towns had active First Nations protest groups, however visits from the Freedom Bus renewed confidence to continue the fight for change.

BEHIND THE FREEDOM RIDE

Coinciding with racist laws, segregation and exclusion of First Nations people across the continent, there was a common perception among non-Indigenous people that racism was an overseas issue, according to the SAFA.

To raise awareness and directly challenge racial discrimination, the SAFA was formed by a group of University of Sydney students.

Charles Perkins was one of two Aboriginal students at the University at the time, and was elected as SAFA president.

> The whole Freedom Ride is not so much for the white people, in my mind. My deeper objective was for people to realise, hey listen, second class is not good enough, you know ... Sitting down the front at picture theatres, and not being able to sit in a restaurant, because no one will allow you as an Aborigine person to sit in a restaurant. That's not on, and you know, the timing was right. If I didn't do it, somebody else would've done it, and other people have done it in a different way.
>
> – Charles Perkins

Formation of SAFA and the Freedom Ride was inspired by the US civil rights movement at the time, including student activists that launched the Freedom Rides to challenge racial segregation in the US in 1961.

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ATTENTION

Activities of the 1965 Freedom Ride drew national and international attention.

Encouraging media coverage and public debate was a key part of organising within SAFA to uncover racial discrimination and marginalisation experienced by First Nations people across the continent.

Proactive media contact and coordination was made to newspapers, television and radio, resulting in widespread media coverage as far as the *New York Times*.

This coverage played a significant role in raising awareness of the extreme inequality between First Nations and non-Indigenous people.

IMPACT AND LASTING LEGACY

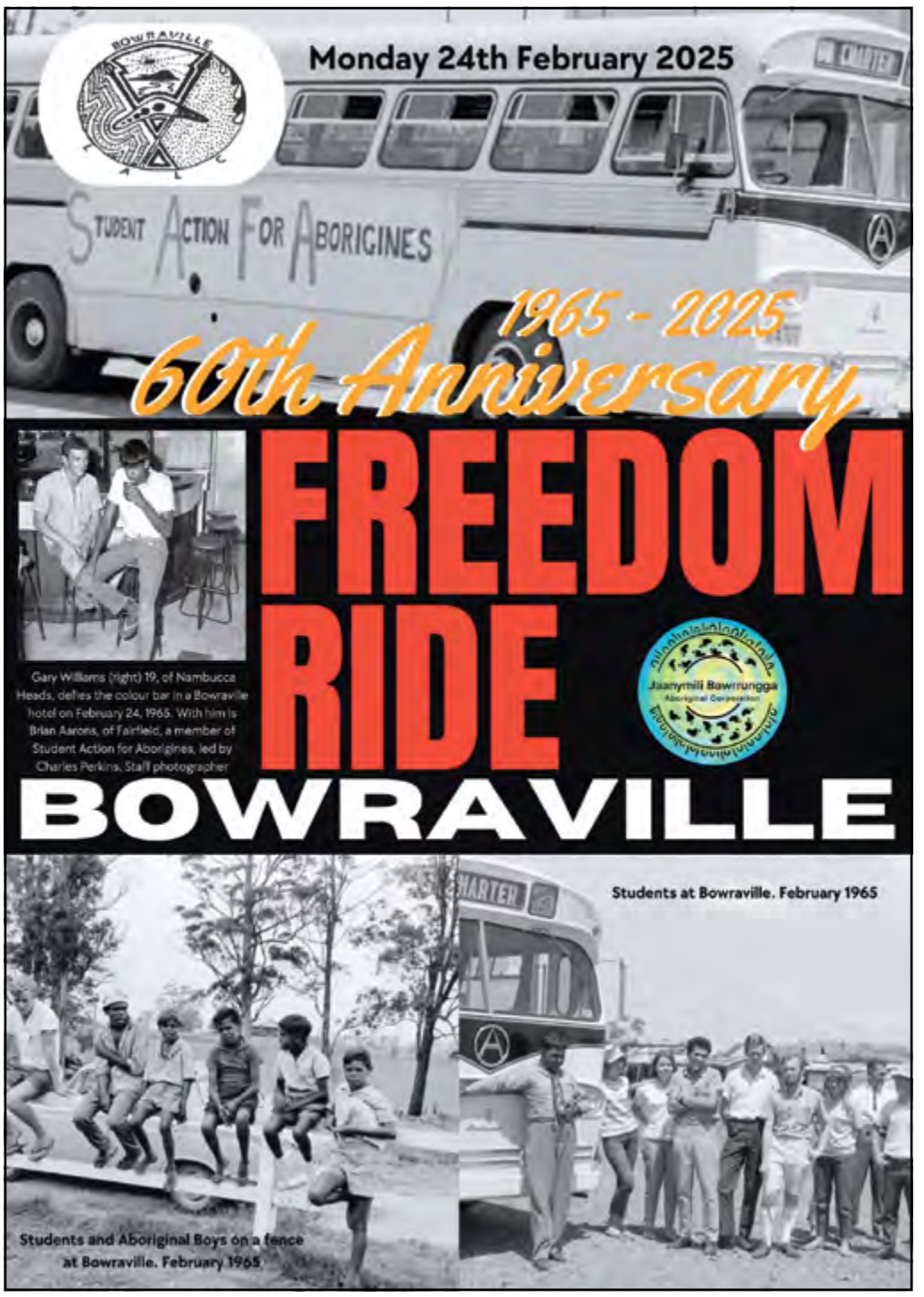
The 1965 Freedom Ride helped raise public debate and awareness of inhumane living conditions and treatment experienced by First Nations people.

Building on years of protest and advocacy, the Freedom Ride contributed to steps towards the 1967 Referendum. It also contributed to the passing of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

Inspiring the next generation of activists in fighting for change, its legacy and impact continues and is still felt today.

commonground.org.au

Disclaimer: The term 'Aborigine' is used in this article, as it was a term used at the time. It is now considered an offensive term by many First Nations people.



"My deeper objective was for people to realise, hey listen, second class is not good enough, you know"

Tasmania: Liberal candidate says older Australians are 'happy' to work for $10 an hour

Australian Unions warn comments by a Tasmanian Liberal candidate reveal the full extent of a Dutton-led government's broad ambition to cut minimum wage rates for Australian workers.

Liberal candidate for Braddon, Mal Hingston told a local forum the Dutton approach to workplace relations would be to "rewind stuff the Albanese government has done and put things back to the way they were."

Mal Hingston said the Albanese government reforms had brought unintended consequences, such as stopping older "grey nomad" workers from coming to Tasmania to pick fruit, stating they used to "come down here to Tassie, and just plod along, and they were happy with $10 an hour, or whatever it was."

The Liberal candidate told local Braddon businesspeople that older workers "didn't care about the low hourly rate" they were paid for picking fruit "because it was a social outing for them."

Older workers were happy with earning piece rates of $10 an hour – less than half the minimum wage rate – he claimed, adding that "now they don't want to get employed for fruit picking because they don't want to work that hard to justify minimum wages."

ACTU Secretary Sally McManus said "The Coalition say they won't release a workplace relations policy this election. Now at least one Tasmanian Liberal has been honest enough to say that a Dutton government would rewind Labor's workplace reforms.

"The Liberals' Mal Hingston sees nothing wrong in expecting older workers to work for piece rates of $10 an hour. He'd like low wages to come back and confirmed that's what a Dutton government would try to do if elected."

ACTU

GUARDIAN VIEW: The Communist Party of Australia has consistently criticised Labor on industrial relations, especially for its assault on the CFMEU. We've also been critical of Labor's protections on wages and for casual workers, that have loopholes it's easy for employers to exploit. Hingston's comments show that like a winning limbo dancer, the Coalition can always go lower.

FK

Melbourne

Protest after police shooting

Police shot Melbourne man Abdifatah Ahmed on 17 April claiming he rushed at them with a knife. Calling for police reform and an investigation, a crowd of hundreds of protestors formed. Since his death there have been rallies and vigils across Melbourne. People are calling for real change to the way police use lethal force. Marchers called clearly for justice for Abidfatah, claiming he was "murdered by police."

Victoria Police have rejected the claim that the shooting was racially motivated, saying that the police who shot Abdifatah didn't have tasers and had no choice when he allegedly charged them with a knife. However the force has form on racism, with training materials uncovered that defending the practices of the Stolen Generations time, and employers in Sunshine police station being disciplined for racism towards African migrants.

Protestors held up signs reading "Justice for Abdifatah murdered by police," "Enough is enough," and "Black lives matter."

The protest was mostly peaceful, but some fighting broke out towards the end. ABC news reported that nobody was hurt and no charges were laid.

Weapon beats AI

Workers at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground are demanding a full and thorough audit of security after two patrons were able to allegedly smuggle firearms into the venue.

Delegates from the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) – the union that represents customer service workers at the MCG – have written to management, including chief executive officer Stuart Fox, with concerns about security measures in place at the iconic venue, particularly the use of Artificial Intelligence screening technology.

MEAA is concerned that the AI technology has been rolled out despite potential flaws.

They want a full and thorough investigation of the incident along with a transparent audit of security with involvement from worker representatives.

The demands, outlined in a letter to management and the Melbourne Cricket Club committee, follow the arrests of two patrons who allegedly were in possession of firearms during an AFL match on 1 April.

"The incident was highly distressing for both staff and the public and calls into question the effectiveness of the MCG's current security measures," said Adam Portelli, acting MEAA Chief Executive.

"While the alleged offenders were later apprehended, the security system's failure to detect the weapon before it was brought onto the premises is very concerning.

"This put the safety of patrons and MCG workers at risk.

"Questions also need to be answered about the role in the incident of AI technology provided by American company Evolv.

"The US Federal Trade Commission has previously sued Evolv, alleging the company made false claims about its AI-powered security screening system and its ability to detect weapons.

"These issues need to be fully investigated because nothing is more important than the safety and security of the hundreds of thousands of sports and entertainment fans who visit the MCG every year."

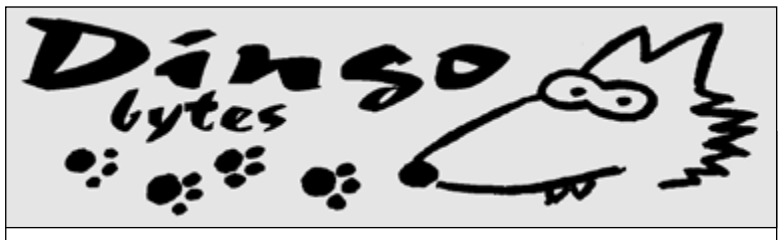
Workers are seeking further clarity about whether there has been a reduction of security staff at the MCG, the amount of training security staff receive, and the accuracy of the AI screening machines.

The incident serves as a warning about allowing AI-powered tools to be deployed without comprehensive regulation and strong safeguards.

MEAA is campaigning for comprehensive national legislation to regulate AI that includes meaningful human oversight and accountability for all AI-related activities, including:

- Mandatory safeguards to ensure staff are properly trained and resourced to safely oversee these new technologies.
- Employers who deploy AI tools must be transparent about how AI is being used in the workplace, in consultation with staff.
- Companies must establish and implement a risk management process to identify and mitigate AI-related risks.

MEAA



In Britain, PM Sir Keir Starmer's attempts to silence support for Palestine using police terror tactics are backfiring, the producer of a new documentary exposing state censorship says. *Censoring Palestine* producer Norman Thomas said protesters are successfully pushing back against police aggression.

"Our camera has recorded the police attacking peaceful protests and the protesters pushing back against them," he said. "More than once, demonstrators have 'kettled' police vans after they've seized protesters and refused to let them drive away.

"We have also filmed the police backing off and looking demoralised in the face of concerted resistance by the protesters. It's really extraordinary."

Thomas warned that police attempts to silence dissent over Gaza by mounting raids on protesters have been "fantastically counterproductive".

"The police practice of mounting dawn raids on anyone who protests against the genocide in Gaza is also backfiring," he said, adding: "Starmer has failed to crush the protests against his support of Israel's genocide in Palestine using these draconian tactics. What he might try next is anyone's guess. But whatever he does, I believe the resistance will go on."

National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) members at University of Technology Sydney (UTS) have exposed a litany of serious management failures that are threatening the institution's fabric. Unaccountable senior university leaders have bungled restructures and major projects, leading to budget blow-outs and soaring workloads.

Vice Chancellor Andrew Parfitt has faced disgruntled staff at town hall meetings on multiple occasions to justify these changes. Despite a lack of evidence and logic, he insists the University must cut 400 UTS jobs.

Poor problem-solving and decision-making that fails to involve staff, often preferring consultants with almost no experience in the sector, has led to "solutions" that are far removed from the realities on the ground.

This has created a culture of fear and mistrust between employees and management. In 2024, university leadership claimed a $100 million budget deficit blowout, from an earlier predicted $45 million.

Requests from staff for transparency and key financial documents were refused by UTS the executive despite damaging job cuts being proposed.

A national NTEU campaign exposing the serious governance crisis in universities has sparked a federal parliamentary inquiry, which held a hearing earlier this year.

PARASITES OF THE WEEK: is mining transnational Rio Tinto. April was a big month for West Australian mine workers, with the Mining and Energy Union securing important wins for workers across multiple pits and employers.

The MEU, along with partner unions, have been rebuilding union power in the Pilbara after decades aggressive de-unionisation. More and more WA mine workers are standing together through the MEU and Western Mine Workers Alliance (WMWA), the MEU's partnership with the AWU, to demand a stronger voice in the west coast mining industry.

Workers at Rio Tinto's Paraburdoo iron ore operations have decisively spoken up, with well over 400 signing the WMWA's majority support petition to initiate bargaining. This will be the first successful majority support petition at a major Pilbara iron ore mine in decades.

As a result of that collective pressure, Rio Tinto has agreed to compensate FIFO workers who are delayed travelling home. This is great news for both production workers and rail crew.

The WMWA put to Rio that FIFO workers whose flights are delayed on the way home ought to be compensated $100 per hour of delay.

Likewise, when the MEU bargaining team pushed Rio to increase the Training Allowance for On Job Trainers, Rio responded with a review. That review has clearly supported the bargaining teams claim, as Rio has also announced that the Training Allowance has been increased from $5,600 to $7,500 annually – an overnight increase of 33 per cent!

The legacy of Eureka

Interview with Peter Lalor

This May Day, Marcus Browning spoke with Peter Lalor, the leader of the 1854 armed insurrection by miners at the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat, about the uprising and its legacy and how he perceives changes in Australia since.

The short, broad-shouldered Irishman sat erect on the edge of his chair, the mark of a musket powder burn on his forehead and the stump of his arm souvenirs of the battle. Marcus asked him to discuss his specific role in the rebellion.

PL: I don't want to talk about my part in it alone or above the others. It was a mighty act of defiance by us all.

***MB*:** Perhaps you could begin by giving us a picture of the developments leading up to the construction of the stockade and the insurrection.

PL: Well, as you might know, the Victorian government had imposed a 30-shillings a month licence fee on us miners who were digging the goldfields at Ballarat. This was so they could wield more control over us and eventually force us off the goldfields and back to giving our labour to the colonial employing class for a bloody pittance.

In order to extract the licence money they put together a special force of armed police, not a few of them ex-convicts. This force used what were called "digger hunts," where they would raid a section of the diggings and demand to see every digger's licence.

Those who could not produce them on the spot were taken into custody, sometimes being chained to logs or trees until the hunt was over and they could be taken before a magistrate.

The penalty for failing to produce the licence was five pounds, a big sum of money for us miners whose only possessions were our pick and shovel and tin dish and the clothes on our backs.

***MB*:** Many historians claim that in fact you weren't strictly workers at all, but men seeking individually to enrich yourselves, to "be your own boss."

PL: Well, hindsight is a fine thing, as they say, and I'm in a position to have more than my share of it. It's true that we weren't wage earners, but many of us were from the working class nonetheless.

The emergence of the big mining companies soon put an end to our working independently, and turned us into wage slaves.

That now is part of the history of capitalism. Marx himself, though he was far away in Europe, saw the significance of the events at Eureka (of course we didn't have Marx or Lenin or Engels to refer to at the time).

Marx could see that in demanding the abolition of a direct tax on labour and the abolition of property qualifications to vote or be members of parliament, the diggers were actually fighting for the same things which led to the declaration of independence of the United States of America.

There was a difference, however, that Marx noted, and it was – I'll quote the man – "that in Australia the opposition against the monopolists united with the colonial bureaucrats, arises from the workers."

We weren't conscious of that, you understand. Our struggle was sparked by an economic need and as it developed our main political aim became the ending of the power of the unelected royalty and their underlings.

***MB*:** So, you had no voting rights?

PL: No. The franchise was based on property qualifications and most miners had no property.

***MB*:** Where did things go to next?

PL: All this didn't happen overnight. It was a long campaign where we put forward a number of demands, including the basic Chartist demands for electoral reform. But it was to no avail.

Things really came to a head when digger James Scobie was murdered near the Eureka Hotel in Ballarat by the publican, an ex-convict who was friendly with the police. There was no stopping things then. There was a fury among the diggers and they stormed the pub and burned it to the ground.

That's when we formed the Ballarat Reform League and set down our demands.

On 29 November 1854, thousands of us Ballarat diggers met and burned our licences. A savage diggers hunt began. About a 1,000 of us marched to Bakery Hill, in the Eureka district, and built the stockade.

***MB*:** What was the background of the agitators? Were they experienced in politics?

PL: There were a lot of people who came to the diggings, hundreds of thousands. Among them were French socialists, German republicans, English Chartists, and Irish rebels. Altogether a small group in comparison; still we had a strong influence.

***MB*:** How did it compare to other uprisings in the colony?

PL: It was the first major uprising against British rule in the history of the colony. There was a mutiny in 1804 by Irish convicts at Castle Hill, near Parramatta, that was brutally put down and the convicts hanged on the spot.

***MB*:** How was the attack on the stockade carried out?

PL: Early on the morning of 3 December they launched their attack on us when our numbers were down. They outnumbered us two to one. It was a bloody and ruthless attack and we fought back with all our might but they overwhelmed us. Some estimates put the deaths at more than 30.

We killed five soldiers and an officer. Some of us, including myself, escaped. Others were captured and charged with treason and sedition.

***MB*:** Looking back, what do you see the rebellion having achieved in the history of Australia?

PL: In the short term we made certain gains. The ordinary folk in the colony were sympathetic to our cause and supported many of our demands. Those charged were either acquitted or had their charges dropped. When myself and others came out of hiding there were no charges put against us.

The following year, 1855, the miners' licence was put in the dustbin and a new document called the Miner's Right was introduced, costing only one pound a year and containing the right to vote.

Two years later manhood suffrage was granted for the election of the Legislative Assembly.

***MB*:** And the long term?

PL: While we were not a class in our own right, our organisation and actions were an example for the development of the Australian working class.

Our uprising in many ways was spontaneous but it nonetheless showed the necessity of having a force that is conscious of the need to act in their own class interests.

Peter Lalor, by Ludwig Becker, 1856.

You know, understanding that – understanding the need for collective action – is the basis of the organised working class.

The trade union movement in Victoria was just emerging at the time of the stockade and those class-conscious workers rallied around the miners.

Their first victories for the eight-hour work day were achieved in 1856.

***MB*:** And what of its political influence?

PL: I think the uprising's most valuable political lesson was that it revealed the nature of the state. We defied the state and brandished our fists and our collective power at it. The ruling class, then as now, will tolerate no such actions.

The state, as Lenin said, is "a machine for keeping the rule of one class over another" and you can see at a glance that this is true in the great and proud history of struggle of Australia's working class.

It was there in the strikes of the 1890s, when the ruling classes tried to push the economic burden of the '90s depression onto the toilers.

You'll recall there was the maritime strike because of the attack by the Steamship Owners Association on steamship officers who had the audacity to form a union and affiliate themselves with the Trades Hall Council.

Combined with the struggle by the wharf labourers it was nothing less than an attack on the right of workers to organise in a union.

There was the great shearers' strike at Barcaldine, the miners' strike in Broken Hill, both in '92. The members of the Industrial Workers' of the World who were framed and jailed during WW1, the police protection of scabs and strike breakers in the 1917 general strike.

There were the attacks on and arrests of striking timber workers in 1929 and the shooting down of coal miners at Rothbury that same year.

The police bashings and eviction of impoverished tenants during the Great Depression, the state acceptance and protection of the fascist New Guard in the 1930s, the use of troops by the Labor government to break the coal strike of 1949 ... the list is endless.

To this day it continues – collusion between government and employer in the attack on the Maritime Union, government 'administration' of the CFMEU, endemic wage theft – the list goes on.

***MB*:** It gives the lie to the story of Australia as an essentially classless society mostly free of conflict, doesn't it?

PL: Yes. There's always the military and police and the law courts brought into the fray. But you know, its a wonderful fighting tradition we have here, a tradition that shows the unstoppable optimism of we ordinary working people, no matter how dark the day may seem at times.

We can marvel at the resilience and strength of people, and look back to 1854 from May Day this year and see how far we've come and perhaps know better the road ahead. ✪

Marx himself saw the significance of the events at Eureka

NO to new gas projects

The future of Santos' $3.6 billion Narrabri Gas Project in north west NSW may depend on the approval and construction of a controversial carbon capture and storage project that could impact the Great Artesian Basin, newly released documents obtained under freedom of information show.

Correspondence between the NSW government and Santos captured in community activists group Lock the Gate's freedom of information request notes:

"Santos has previously expressed interest in opportunities to utilise carbon capture storage (CCS) in NSW around the Moree region and Santos is likely to ask about the NSW government's current position on CCS and the need for a regulatory framework."

The documents suggest Santos was considering CCS in NSW in order to comply with the federal government's Safeguard Mechanism and its own emissions reduction target of net zero by 2040.

Santos' apparent plan came despite a bipartisan outcry in response to another carbon capture and storage facility proposed for the Great Artesian Basin in Queensland.

Last year, the then Labor government rejected Glencore's project following "universal" opposition, including from Gina Rinehart, rural lobby group AgForce, and Nationals leader David Littleproud. The project posed a major threat to water quality, including through the acidification of groundwater (as CO2 dissolves) and the mobilisation of hazardous inorganic elements into groundwater resources.

It also risked inducing earthquakes, subsidence, and other mass movements if existing faults were exacerbated or the geological stability of the site was otherwise weakened.

Mullaley Gas and Pipeline Accord spokesperson Margaret Fleck said, "Any CCS project in this part of the world is likely to pose a significant risk to Great Artesian Basin water.

"The Narrabri Gas Project is located within a key recharge zone of the basin. Thousands of farmers and many towns including Moree rely on the Great Artesian Basin for water.

"The risk to the GAB was one of the principal reasons Glencore's proposed Queensland carbon capture and storage project was rejected last year. The NSW Minns government must not entertain any such destructive proposal in NSW."

Lock the Gate Alliance National Coordinator Carmel Flint said, "This appears to be a minute-to-midnight desperate scramble from Santos to make its Narrabri Gas Project fit with federal Safeguard Mechanism laws and its own company policy.

"It's remarkable that, more than a decade after the NGP was first proposed, Santos has only recently realised it needs to do something about the significant emissions it would produce.

"The reality is however, that carbon capture and storage projects are no solution to abating emissions from new fossil fuel projects - the only way to truly do that is to not build new gas projects in the first place."

Photo: John Englart – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 2.0)

BACKGROUND:

Current status of NGP:

Whether or not it builds this CCS project, these documents suggest Santos is still a long way off making any final investment decision on the Narrabri Gas Project (GIPA doc 1 page 3).

Santos is:

Awaiting final decisions for its Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (gasfield to Narrabri), its Hunter Gas Pipeline (QLD border to Newcastle) and the Hunter Lateral Pipeline (HGP to existing pipeline network).

Yet to reach access agreements with up to 174 landholders along its Hunter Gas Pipeline route (GIPA doc 1 page 2).

Waiting for a decision by the Native Title Tribunal after Gomeroi Traditional Owners successfully appealed the tribunal's earlier decision to approve the project in the Federal Court, on the grounds that the NTT should have taken climate impacts into consideration when considering whether it was in the public interest. This decision was recently delayed until the second week of May.

Record of CCS in Australia:

Santos has been forced to come up with its CCS proposal in response to the introduction of the federal Safeguard Facility, and its own pledge to have "net zero emissions" by 2040.

But, as the failures of the world's largest carbon capture and storage project – Chevron's Gorgon facility in Western Australia – demonstrate, CCS has never worked at scale, and certainly not at a scale required to completely offset the 127 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that the NGP is expected to create.

15Mt of this would be scope 1 emissions and therefore impacted by the federal government's safeguard mechanism. Santos does not include its scope 3 emissions in its net-zero target, but does include scope 2, which for the Narrabri Gas Project would be 18Mt, meaning to meet its own goals, the company needs to find a way to completely offset 33Mt of CO2-e.

Santos' $220 million Moomba CCS facility is only expected to sequester 1.7 million tonnes of carbon per annum – if it works as expected. Santos' company-wide Scope 1 GHG emissions for 2021-22 were about eight million tonnes and are growing. CCS also fails to address the lion's share of emissions – scope 3 or downstream emissions – created when the gas is burnt.

Lock the Gate

Coal's tricky emissions

The latest release of the Albanese government's Safeguard Mechanism data reveals increases in greenhouse pollution from many coal mines, contrary to the purpose and promise of reforms passed two years ago.

The Clean Energy Regulator Climate Change Department has released the first year of data following the reforms made by the Albanese government to Australia's signature climate change policy for reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Lock the Gate Alliance says these problems must be fixed to protect Australians from the damage of climate change.

"In some cases, increasing emissions from coal mines are disguised by accounting tricks and unstable offsets from the land sector," Lock the Gate Alliance head of research and investigations Georgina Woods said.

About half of the emissions covered by the scheme come from the coal and gas industries.

Of roughly 100 coal and gas facilities in the Safeguard Mechanism, 70 per cent had reported an increase in their greenhouse pollution emissions since last year, contrary to the intent of the scheme that all facilities would contribute to emissions reductions.

The data showed:

A million tonnes of greenhouse pollution from coal mines and coal seam gas fields in Queensland that either started last year, restarted, or entered the scheme such as the wholly new Olive Downs coal mine.

Ten large coal mines in NSW and Queensland that increased their reported annual emissions by over 100,000 tonnes each, including Hunter Valley Operations in NSW and Carmichael, owned by Adani/Bravus in Queensland.

The coal mines with increased greenhouse pollution collectively surrendered 1.9 million tonnes of Australian Carbon Credit Units to 'offset' their emissions. Seven mines used more than 30 per cent Australian Carbon Credit Units to meet their baseline and had to submit letters explaining why this was the case.

"The Safeguard Mechanism was reformed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Australia's most polluting industrial facilities so that Australians might be spared the worst costs of escalating global warming. Coal mines are still increasing their greenhouse pollution, undermining the national interest and putting lives and livelihoods at risk," said Woods.

"There are persistent loopholes in the Safeguard Mechanism when it comes to coal and gas facilities that undermine Australia's efforts to prevent worsening harm to the country from climate change.

"The gate is wide open for new coal mines and gas fields to start up, and for existing mines and gas fields to increase their pollution, as many are doing, and there's nothing to stop them blowing the whole country's carbon balance out.

"The atmosphere and the climate that is becoming increasingly unstable due primarily to the extraction and burning of fossil fuels isn't fooled by accounting tricks and loopholes like 'offsetting' and emissions averaging. What matters is the harm global warming is doing to Australians. Every company, every facility, every industry in this country must do its part to minimise that harm."

Lock the Gate Alliance

Crossbench demands income support increase

ACOSS

Independents, Greens and other crossbench candidates are pushing the next government to substantially increase income support to tackle the cost-of-living crisis and lift people out of poverty.

With a minority government possible after this election, crossbenchers have signed a joint statement with ACOSS and representatives from the community sector declaring that raising the rate is "the most important thing the next government could do to address the cost-of-living crisis."

The statement said the current rates of JobSeeker at just $56 a day and Youth Allowance at $48 a day force people to go without food, healthcare, and a safe place to call home.

The statement has been signed by 74 independent and minor party candidates including Zali Steggall, Dr Sophie Scamps, Zoe Daniel, Helen Haines, Andrew Wilkie, Dr Monique Ryan, David Pocock, Jacqui Lambie, Allegra Spender, Kylea Tink, Kate Chaney, Lidia Thorpe, Fatima Payman, and Greens representatives and candidates.

Prominent economists Chris Richardson, Nicki Hutley, Jeff Borland, Nicholas Gruen and prominent community leaders, including ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie, Mental Health Australia CEO Carolyn Nikoloski and Chief Executive Women CEO Lisa Annese, have also signed.

Zali Steggall MP said: "With an election on the horizon, we're seeing the major parties announce big spending to win over marginal seats – but who is standing up for the most vulnerable? I call on all sides of politics to raise income support payments so that those hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis can afford the basics: rent, food, and healthcare – and are not left in poverty."

Andrew Wilkie MP said: "It's long past time both major parties acknowledge the mountains of evidence, report after report, and the lived experience of anyone struggling to get by on an income support payment. The next federal government must raise the rate. To do anything else in the face of all this evidence is just a deliberate act of cruelty."

Senator Penny Allman-Payne, Greens Senator for QLD said: "The Greens have long fought for all income support to be above the poverty line. With the highest estimated level of poverty in Australia since 2001, the next government must take this crisis seriously. Everyone on income support should receive a guaranteed liveable income above the poverty line and that's what the Greens are committed to fighting for."

Senator Fatima Payman, Australia's Voice Senator for WA said: "The deliberate policy of depriving our most vulnerable is an embarrassment to all Australians. The next government must make this issue a priority. Australia's Voice will push whoever wins the next election to raise the rate."

ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie summed it up: "The message to the next government is loud and clear. It's time to finally raise the rate. Australia is in the midst of a cost of living crisis, yet our income support system continues to trap people in poverty.

"It's a disgrace that in one of the world's wealthiest countries, our government continues to ignore the expert advice about the most important action needed to tackle poverty, raising the rate of income supports. People are being forced to skip meals, go without critical medication, or sleep in their cars because they receive just $56 a day.

"People cannot look for paid work, stay healthy, or care for their families if they can't afford the basics. The next government must act fast and lift these deeply inadequate social security payments as its first order of business in the next Federal Parliament."

Australian Council of Social Services

Canberra comrades stand up against recent demonisation of immigration

PEACE NOTES

Doing the work

Peter Farmer

Capitalist governments around the world *say* they want peace, but do they really? The British used to have a War Office, but for some time governments have called their military parts 'Defence' – hence we have the obscenity of the Israeli Defence Force doing nothing other than attacking. Countries say they want peace but walk away from it with qualifications like "but it comes from strength," or the much-mangled Latin tag "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*" (if you want peace, prepare for war).

Peace is really important. It's not just the opposite of war, the absence of mass slaughter and the disease, starvation, and poverty that often comes with war. Peace is also an example of opportunity cost. For example the USA spent an estimated US$3 trillion on the Iraq war. For that kind of money, they could probably have something like China's fast train network, and a really well-resourced health system.

The Communist Party of Australia supports resolution of conflicts through political means, not war. Imperialism, the highest form of capitalism, seeks control of territory and resources, and if it can't get that through political means, it resorts to war.

A case in point is Israel. The apartheid state officially claims to want peace and safety, but its actions show the truth. It actaully wants territory and power. Real peace would involve giving up territory and and power, and genuinely negotiating with Palestinians. Peace would be good for Israel – it's well on the way to being an international pariah, and the genocidal assault it wages on Palestine does have costs and casualties, but the Israeli government and a large part of Israeli society, backed by the USA, has decided that they'd rather have an ongoing war.

Another case in point is Korea, home to the world's longest-lasting ceasefire. Really every party involved says they want peace, but has reasons for not doing what's needed to get it. The USA could withdraw its forces from South Korea – the largest US army base in the world is in the south – but it wants to menace China. Nearby Japan doesn't really want a reunified Korea, so does nothing to help the situation. China has a proud shared history with the DPRK. Reasonably enough, China probably doesn't want a peaceful Korea if that means having US troops on its doorstep, which is what happened to Russia when Germany 'reunified.'

Let's turn to Australia. What's that, you say, we have peace? Well so we do, for now, but we are preparing for a US-led war. We are locked in through the ANZUS treaty, the AUKUS pact, and the physical presence of US troops, ships and bombers in this country. If and when that war comes, it will be incredibly costly in money and lives. Meanwhile, preparing for it is costly.

Australia could save an incredible amount of money by having a genuinely independent foreign policy. This country doesn't really need US marines or military equipment. However, getting there will be work – far too much work for our major parties who give us zero choice when it comes to military expenditure and the US 'alliance.'

The rest of us can and should work for peace. "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*" is a lie. The truth is if you want peace, you need to work for it. That's what the Communist Party of Australia is doing.

Australia's complicity in ge

Anna Pha

The Albanese government has made Australia complicit in the most serious and inhumane of crimes. It has repeatedly denied that Australia has exported weapons to Zionist Israel in the last five years, despite compelling evidence to the contrary.

A Freedom of Information request by *Declassified Australia* reveals the export to Israel of hundreds of parts for military equipment. The Australian Greens have also provided evidence that Australia manufactures and exports a deadly high precision weapons platform to Israel.

F-35 aircraft. Photo: pxhere.com (CC0)

GREENS' EOS REVELATION

On 11 April 2025, Greens Senator David Shoebridge provided evidence that the Zionist, apartheid nation has been trialling an Australian-manufactured "high-precision weapon platform with the firepower of a 30mm cannon."

It includes a photo of the Israeli defence minister and officials posing with the canon on the Israeli Defence Force website. Israel is now considering the use of the Australian-made Electro Optic Systems' (EOS) R400 remote weapons system (RWS).

The photo appears under a heading "Counter Drone Evaluation Testing with New Customer," dated January 2025. According to the document, the military officials considered the system "performed extremely well" and earnt "high praise from the organisers."

The R400 RWS is described by EOS as "lightweight 30mm lethality with precise mobile engagements up to 2 km." It can be used to take out vehicles, drones and people.

Despite the evidence, Albanese then trotted out his long-running lie, claiming, "Australia does not export arms to Israel," followed soon after by an identical denial by Peter Dutton. They are using a technicality that involved EOS in Australia exporting the made-in-Australia R400 in parts to its subsidiary in the United States for assembly, prior to delivery to Israel.

It could have been assembled in Australia. Its assembly in the US does nothing to clear Australia of complicity in heinous war crimes in breach of international laws. The use of US paperwork barely hides its Australian origins.

When pressed by Shoebridge as to whether as at 14 June 2024 Australia was providing Israel either directly or indirectly with conventional arms and parts and components of conventional arms as defined by the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) a Defence official responded: "We would say the export permits that we have where Israel is a destination country relate to parts, component parts or full systems that would relate to DSGL list 1 or 2, but we would not regard them as in and of themselves as conventional arms ..."

DSGL are the Defence Strategic Goods Lists that require government permits to be exported.

List 1 includes smooth bore weapons, bombs, torpedoes, rockets, missiles, other explosive devices and charges; equipment for launching, deploying, decoying, disruption, detection and jamming; chemical or biological toxic agents; aircraft, unmanned airborne vehicles (drones), aeroengines and aircraft equipment, and related equipment and components, parts and accessories.

Amongst the items on List 2 are nuclear materials, navigation and avionics, electronics, computers, sensors and lasers.

AUKUS

"Effectively, the R400 has been washed through the United States to Israel under the AUKUS arrangements," Shoebridge said.

"It's our understanding that what is called AUKUS Pillar II, which is a series of legislative changes that **allowed weapons to be sent from Australia to the United States without an export permit**," Shoebridge said, "and that's the avenue that they used to export this equipment to Israel." (emphasis added)

The legislation, passed in March 2024, waived the requirement for export permits for defence goods and technologies with the US. The US Congress, in turn, passed legislation designating Australia as equivalent to a US domestic military source.

Shoebridge also mentioned 2024 Senate Estimates questioning showing that the Albanese government had "lapsed or amended" 16 military export permits to Israel over recent months. The reason: they had resulted in a "very high number of civilian casualties" during the Gaza genocide, while 59 of 65 export permits were for "inherently lethal" "goods and technologies designed or adapted for" military use!

The mass media have conveniently buried the war crimes which have bipartisan support, as well as just how low the major parties have sunk and how craven is their support of Israel.

FOI REVELATIONS

Declassified Australia has obtained the list of Australian export approvals to Israel for the 18 months following the 7 October Hamas attack on Israel. It provides "Goods Descriptions included in Export Declaration forms" to Israel for the period from 7 October 2023 to 29 March 2025 and runs for 90 pages.

It does not include military exports via the US.

Prior to Shoebridge's recent exposure of the Albanese government's bare-faced lies, human rights lawyer Kellie Tranter wrote an article drawing on information gained by *Declassified Australia* from a Freedom of Information (FOI) request from Department of Home Affairs.

"The extensive list provides further evidence that Australia is in breach of its duty under Article 1 of the Genocide Convention" to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide and to employ all means reasonably available to it to prevent genocide so far as possible," Tranter notes.

"It indicates that Australia has not used its capacity to influence effectively the actions of Israeli persons likely to commit or already committing genocide, and that Australia has not, in accordance with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling, been abstaining from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel which may entrench its unlawful presence in Occupied Palestine."

The FOI information provides a list of exports and covers around 4,000 goods being exported directly to Israel.

These exports include electronics and communication equipment, satellite modems, tunnelling machinery parts, and iron and steel, aircraft parts, engines and airfield mounting tiles and solar lights. Other military hardware includes F-35 Gen III Display Visor, Iron Fist Light Configuration Active Protection System mock-up, Iron Sting mock-up, DAS Airborne System D1 mock-up, and T 2000 UAVL Transponders.

All these plus jeeps, fibre optic cables, security cameras including thermal imaging for security purposes, radiation survey meter, detector with cable, traffic control equipment parts, and solar airfield lights.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The extensive list provides further evidence that Australia is in breach of its duty under Article 1 of the Genocide Convention to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide and to employ all means reasonably available to it to prevent genocide so far as possible.

Australian firm Birchgrove Legal presented International Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan with a genocide complicity claim that detailed evidence against PM Anthony Albanese, Penny Wong, Richard Marles, and Peter Dutton. The Court, to which Australia is also a signatory, has added them to its inquiry into the situation in Palestine.

Shoebridge, through repeated questioning dating back several years, learnt from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that Australia had exported $13 million of arms and ammunition to Israel over the five years to 2022. Around half of that period is during Albanese's five years of "no weapons exports to Israel."

Albanese, Marles, Wong, and the rest of the ALP government – the international community is watching.

59 export permits for 'inherently lethal' goods

enocide

Military exports to Israel

The following are a few examples of Australia's direct military exports to Israel and their role in genocide:

F-35 COMPONENTS

The list of military exports to Israel includes "aircraft parts." One of the most egregious of these are parts for the F-35 joint strike fighter aircraft which Israel has used extensively in its bombardments of Palestinian civilians and infrastructure in Gaza.

Just two weeks ago defence minister Richard Marles, told ABC Melbourne with a straight face that Australian-made components for the warplane were "non-lethal."

Technically that might be true. But the lethal nature of the fighter plane is dependent on two parts made exclusively in Australia: The 'uplock actuators' that open and close the weapons bay doors to drop its payload on Palestinian people; and the 'weapons adaptors,' the mechanisms that hold and release the bombs carried by the F-35.

RUAG, based in Victoria, is the sole global producer of the uplock actuators.

Brisbane company Ferra Engineering is the sole manufacturer of weapons adaptors. "Every Joint Strike Fighter flying worldwide will have adaptors produced by Ferra," their website boasts. Likewise for the RUAG actuators.

T 2000 UAVL TRANSPONDERS

The transponders used on drones transmit the position and altitude of aircraft and assist in identifying them on air traffic control radar. This is to provide collision avoidance and situational awareness capabilities, which allows drones to maintain a safe distance from other drones and aircraft.

Kellie Tranter, writing for *Declassified Australia*, says that its manufacturer Microair Avionics, previously listed Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defence Systems as "one of the company's military industry 'partners,' of which it has many".

Rafael produces the transponders in South Australia which are used on lethal and surveillance drones that can monitor the movement of individual Palestinian targets.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) definitionally applies to lethal drones, even though it doesn't mention them by name.

F-35 GEN III DISPLAY VISOR

These are manufactured in South Australia by a Collins Elbit joint venture – Elbit being an Israeli weapons manufacturer in Australia and a number of other western countries.

Collins Aerospace's website describes them as the pilot's primary display system, with virtual capabilities that enable them to see through the bottom of the fuselage or directly at a target. "With an uninterrupted display of flight information and sensor data, the pilot experiences extreme spatial orientation, superior weapons targeting, and tactical superiority – both day and night."

"The head-up display (HUD), helmet-mounted display, and visor-projected night vision are fully integrated to provide pilots with unprecedented capability in the fighter cockpit. They can target their weapons and maintain advanced spatial orientation while continually monitoring critical flight information."

They provide the pilot with 360° vision.

FIBRE OPTIC CABLES

Fibre optic cables and connectors are also on the list of exports.

In February 2025 the US-based Palestinian policy network, Al-Shabaka, released a policy brief titled "Gaza's Telecommunications: Occupied and Destroyed" which states: "… the Israeli government controls Gaza's electromagnetic sphere heavily restricting Palestinian access to radio frequencies and internet connections. By routing all fibre-optic connections in Gaza through its territory, the Israeli regime ensures complete oversight and control over the flow of information. This control enables the deliberate manipulation of connectivity, preventing Palestinians from communicating effectively during crises and suppressing their ability to organise or resist occupation."

On 18 June 2023 Reuters reported that "Israel will build a 254-kilometre (158 mile) fibre-optic cable between the Mediterranean and Red Sea, creating a continuous link between Europe and countries in the Gulf and Asia.

Tranter notes that the Australian government has not divulged the quantity, proposed location or identity of the end-user of its fibre optical cables.

The government, with bipartisan support from the Coalition, clearly have a lot to hide on Australia's complicity in Israel's war crimes.

Israel's genocide: Australia must act

Following the landmark ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 19 July 2024, which categorised Israel's 57-year occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as unlawful, the Australian Centre for International Justice (ACIJ) issued the following media release, even more urgent now than it was then:

In its historic Advisory Opinion, the ICJ also held that Israel's policies and practices in the OPT have amounted to annexation of significant portions of the OPT.

The ICJ found that the consequences of Israel's illegal occupation and annexation of the OPT has resulted in the severe deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to be free from the prohibitions of racial discrimination, segregation and apartheid.

The ICJ determined Israel's settlement enterprise to be unlawful according to international law and ordered it be dismantled. It called on Israel to end its illegal occupation as rapidly as possible and further ruled that Israel was obligated to provide full reparations for all harm caused since the occupation of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, first began in June 1967.

In a warning to all States, including Australia, the ICJ found that all States and international organisations have a positive obligation not to render aid or assistance which would maintain Israel's illegal presence in the OPT. **The Court stated that all States must "abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory."**

Executive Director of the Australian Centre for International Justice, Rawan Arraf said: "The ICJ ruling is monumental and creates an urgency and a positive obligation for Australia to act to ensure it ends its complicity in these serious violations of international law which also amount to international crimes."

ACIJ calls on the Australian government to implement the following non-exhaustive list of measures to ensure Australia complies with the ICJ's ruling and does not aid or assist Israel's unlawful occupation:

The Australian government impose targeted sanctions, including asset freezes against Israeli individuals and entities involved in Israel's illegal occupation, settlement enterprise, annexation, persecution, racial segregation and apartheid policies against the Palestinian people.

The Australian government impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel. This arms embargo must include the suspension of all arms agreements and deals, and cover both the export, import and transfer of arms, including parts and components and other dual-use items. This military cooperation only serves to bolster the illegal Israeli occupation regime and its military forces.

The Australian government suspend all defence cooperation with Israel and end its facilitation of defence industry partnership.

The Australian government undertake an extensive review and urgent inquiry, with the purpose of identifying Australia's economic relationships, investments, trade agreements, cooperation schemes and programs with Israel, and cancel them immediately.

The Australian government direct all State Governments to end all agreements relating to cooperation with defence, agriculture and water and other such industry agreements with Israel.

The Australian government immediately end any intention of entering into any free trade agreement with Israel.

The Australian government enact legislation banning settlement goods and services from entering Australia's marketplace.

The Australian government enact legislation preventing Australian businesses from operating, trading, or investing in settlements or contributing to their maintenance and/or expansion.

The Australian government provide clear advice and direction to Australia's Future Fund, Australian businesses, universities, pension funds, registered charities, and financial institutions to ensure they are not engaging in commercial or non-commercial activities with Israel. [The Future Fund invests in the Israeli company Elbit which is the primary provider of the Israeli military land-based equipment and drones.]

The Australian government investigate and prosecute dual citizens serving in Israel's military and provide clear directives to citizens to refuse to enlist in the Israeli military.

The Australian government support the investigation and prosecution of international crimes committed as part of the situation in Palestine at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and commit to fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, in line with Australia's international and domestic legal obligations.

The Australian government refer the situation in Palestine to the ICC.

"These recommendations are not wish-lists. They are the necessary and bare minimum actions Australia is obliged to take under international law. These actions should have been taken long ago, but Australia, like other Western states, empowered Israel's illegal military occupation for decades and contributed to it through countless deals and agreements and political cover, entrenching impunity and denying Palestinians their right to self-determination and to be free from the prohibitions of apartheid, persecution, racial discrimination and racial segregation," Arraf said.

"While Gaza is burning and Palestinians there are facing forced starvation and annihilation of their health, education and every sector of their society, the Albanese government thinks its hands are tied and that it can't do much on this issue. This is false and misleading. Its hands are indeed tied, but in direct complicity with Israel's illegal occupation in a myriad of ways, as we've outlined above. The Albanese government has the opportunity to correct course and repair its contribution to harming the Palestinian peoples' fundamental human rights.

"Nothing short of a comprehensive arms embargo will ensure Australia's compliance with international law and the ICJ's ruling, and in reducing the risk of Australian officials being complicit in international crimes. The extensive military cooperation between Australia and Israel must end immediately.

"This is a test for Australia and whether it truly respects the United Nations Charter, its commitment to international law, the rule of law and the ICJ as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

"Australians will judge the Australian government on their actions, not their rhetoric."

(Abridged for reasons of space)

Free Palestine rally held in Perth, 2023.

Letters to the Editor
The Guardian
74 Buckingham Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
email: editor@cpa.org.au

Dear Editor,
Every April in Australia, ANZAC Day comes around with little discussion to water down the exaggerated displays of nationalism and jingoism. Vijay Prashad in his talk on 5 April asked why Australian soldiers were in Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere? Why were Australian soldiers even at Gallipoli?

The history behind the landing at Gallipoli is dirty. Of course, no Australian politician or official took any part in the political background to the campaign. The whole agenda was handled by the British Imperial government. The British government made an agreement with Tsarist Russia to invade and occupy Istanbul and the Straits and then hand over the area to the Tsar. The British ran a hard bargain: Tsarist Russia had to concede control of Persia (modern-day Iran) and its oilfields to the British. This came at a crucial time, as the British Navy was changing its fuel from coal to oil.

A further addition to the context before Australian troops ran up the beach at Gallipoli is that the Italian government had been the subject of pressure from Britain to enter the war. The British bombardment of the Dardanelles signalled their seriousness about invading Turkey and gaining control of the Ottoman Empire. Italy was promised portions of it for themselves, alongside bits of Africa. The day after the ANZACs landed, the Italians signed the Treaty of Rome and commenced preparations for a war against Austria.

The Australians stormed the beaches at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, suffering 7,825 battle casualties, with more dying from disease and wounds. They died not to protect Australia, Britain or any part of its empire, but for Tsarist Russia and the oil companies BP and Shell. Their 'sacrifice' inspired Italy to enter WW1 on the side of Britain and suffer around 600,000 casualties of its own.

Lenin published these secret agreements in 1917, much to the embarrassment of the then British PM Lloyd George. Media barons and conservative forces in Britain and Australia worked overtime to turn Gallipoli into a hero's theme park, which has largely succeeded. Of course, we know that WW1 was an imperialist war about colonial power and not about any higher ideals.

We accept that the soldiers who fought and died in that war were brave and should be honoured, but we feel the commemoration of Gallipoli is a warped way to show that respect for people who died thinking they were fighting for Australia's security.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Doherty

'*Paradise*' review: Paradise lost

Michael Berkowitz

Creator/Writer Dan Fogelman's new television series is set in "Paradise" three years after a cataclysmic volcanic eruption has set off a chain reaction of environmental devastation and destructive political response.

'Paradise' is the name of a town of roughly 25,000 people who were able to make it to a pre-built secure shelter in the Colorado mountains. American President Cal Bradford (James Marsden), his family, secret service entourage, and some officials have survived. But the town is actually run by a secretive council of billionaires presided over by Samantha "Sinatra" Redmond (Julianne Nicholson), the world's richest self-made woman.

Since the President dies in the very first episode, it is up to Agent Xavier Collins (Sterling K Brown) to discover if the President's death is an accident or murder. In the course of the pursuit of the truth, Collins learns the secrets of Paradise. At various points, he is ably assisted by supervising Agent Nicole Robinson (Khrys Marshall), various other agents, citizens, and even his own family. The acting of Brown, Nicholson, Marshall, and Marsden make this plotline not just plausible, but compelling.

The truths of Paradise are not pleasant and often dangerous. If the President were murdered, who killed him and why? How were the inhabitants of Paradise selected? Who really runs Paradise? Did anyone outside of Paradise survive the environmental and nuclear war events?

Part of the allure of the many mysteries of *Paradise* is that such horrific events, once unfathomable, get closer to everyday possibilities. Environmental disasters, man-made and natural, occur with increasing frequency and intensity. The ultra-rich have largely withdrawn to fortified enclaves. Wars rage unabated in many parts of the globe. Apocalypse can appear inevitable.

Our fascination stems as much from the potential logistics as from the consequences. The suspension bridge of disbelief has become a well-traveled highway.

That is not to say that *Paradise* is perfect. They've paved *Paradise* a bit unevenly. Characters and plotlines not completely identified earlier emerge as crucial at the last minute. Other characters introduced with a flourish of rich promise hit the cutting room floor without developing the promise of their introductions. Writer Fogelman relies a bit too much on deus ex machina to speed this vehicle toward resolutions and a second season. Viewers may want to take anti-nausea medication to deal with the frequent flashbacks that explain plot twists and resuscitate characters who've expired!

Still, *Paradise* has been compelling enough to merit another season. And who isn't curious enough to find out what will ultimately happen to this poor, ill-treated planet and its benighted inhabitants?

Paradise is available for streaming on Disney+

People's World

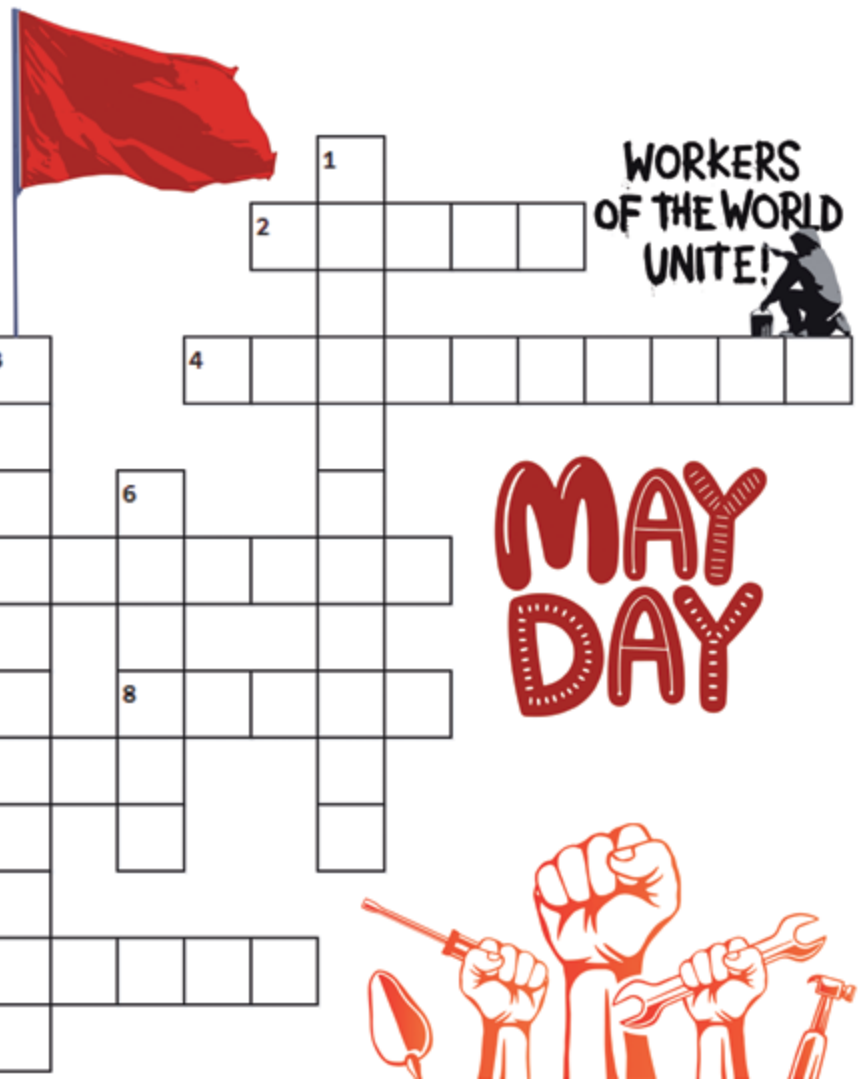
Agent Xavier Collins played by Sterling K Brown.

Across;

2. Animal at centre of 1891 industrial dispute (5)
4. In 1928, Adelaide's most violent industrial dispute broke out. In what industry? (10)
7. Tasmanian city, site of one of Australia's earliest workers' meetings (10)
8. Name of disease that infected Queensland Cane cutters, causing multiple strikes (5)
9. Major industrial strike in WA's mining sector during the 1940s led by First Nations pastoral workers (7)
10. Term for company that only hires union workers (5-4)

Down;

1. Used to describe office/administrative jobs (5-6)
3. Profession that had a strike in 1856 in Melbourne (11)
5. Vehicle carrying banners during early 20th-century marches (4)
6. Regional NSW Town, site of 1973 strike by Indigenous cotton workers which caused mass hysteria (3-3)



Written & Designed by: CheJanzen

Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one

To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam

The moment the liberation flag flew over the roof of the Independence Palace at noon on 30 April 1975 has gone down in national history as a momentous event – the day the South was completely liberated, the country was unified, and the country was reunited. It was not only a great victory of the Vietnamese people in the difficult and arduous resistance war against the US to save the country, but also a shining symbol of revolutionary heroism, of the will for independence, self-reliance and the strength of great national unity.

Reunification Palace, Ho Chi Minh City. Photo: Dennis Jarvis – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 2.0)

The aspiration for a peaceful, unified, independent and free Vietnam is the sacred flame that has fuelled the national spirit throughout thousands of years of history. From the time King Hung* founded the country until today, through many resistance wars against foreign invaders to preserve the country and its borders, patriotism and national spirit have always been the red thread running through history. Under the leadership of the Party and Uncle Ho, that aspiration has always been an incomparable spiritual strength, urging all classes of people, all people as one, to join hands, unite, overcome all hardships and challenges to regain independence in 1945, drive out the colonialists in 1954 and unify the country in 1975.

VICTORY OF THE HEROIC NATION

The victory on 30 April 1975 not only marked the end of the longest and most fierce war in modern Vietnamese history, but also marked a brilliant milestone in the nation's journey of building and defending the country. It was a victory of faith, of the desire for independence, freedom and national unification; a victory of the strength of great national unity under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam; a victory of the truth "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and of the passionate patriotism, the fighting will and indomitability of the Vietnamese people, of progressive forces and peace-loving people around the world.

The victory of 30 April 1975 was the result of the Vietnamese people's iron determination for a unified country that cannot be divided by any force. President Ho Chi Minh – the genius leader of the nation – affirmed the immortal truth: "Vietnam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. Rivers may dry up, mountains may erode, but that truth will never change."

Not only a military victory, the 30 April 1975 Victory was also the crystallisation of intelligence, bravery and a strong desire for lasting peace, for the right to self-determination of a nation that had been occupied, divided and oppressed. As General Secretary Le Duan said, "That victory did not belong to any one person, but to the entire Vietnamese people." And as the poet To Huu once wrote, "No pain belongs to any one person/ This victory belongs to all humanity."

The great victory in the spring of 1975 also left a strong mark on the international arena, deeply encouraging the national liberation movement in many regions of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; encouraging peoples to stand up against neo-colonialism and regain freedom and independence. It was a victory of justice over tyranny, an affirmation to the international community that: a nation, no matter how small, if it has justice, solidarity and a strong will, with the support and pure help of international friends, of progressive forces and of peace-loving people in the world, will certainly defeat forces many times stronger.

WILL AND DESIRE TO UNIFY THE COUNTRY

During the 30-year long resistance war against colonialism and imperialism (194511-1975), the Vietnamese people had to face countless hardships, sacrifices, and losses, but never was the will for an independent and unified Vietnam shaken.

In his appeal on the occasion of National Day 2 September 1955, Uncle Ho affirmed: "Vietnam will definitely be unified, because our country is one block, no one can divide it." In a letter to the people of the whole country in 1956, Uncle Ho wrote: "Unifying the country is the way of life for our people." When the war was at its most fierce and fierce stage, on 17 July 1966, he firmly declared that "The war may last 5 years, 10 years, 20 years or longer. Hanoi, Hai Phong and some cities and enterprises may be destroyed. But the Vietnamese people are determined not to be afraid! Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. When the day of victory comes, our people will rebuild our country to be more dignified and beautiful." Indeed, under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and our Party, the Vietnamese army and people overcame countless difficulties, gradually defeating modern war strategies, with a strong belief in the power of justice and the spirit of national independence.

During more than 30 years of resistance and national construction, millions of the nation's best sons and daughters fought bravely and sacrificed their lives. Countless families lost their loved ones, villages and cities were destroyed, and generations of young people had to temporarily put aside their dreams of studying and their future ambitions to go to defend the Fatherland with the oath "until the enemy is gone, we will not return". Children grew up in the rain of bombs and bullets, learned to read and write in the basement, and ate corn, potatoes, and cassava instead of rice. Special forces soldiers fought in the heart of the enemy, militia and guerrillas in the swamps and villages, and liberation army soldiers crossed Ben Hai and Truong Son ... all of them carried within them a strong belief: the Vietnamese people will regain control of their country, and the North and South will definitely be reunited.

The victory of 30 April 1975 is the crystallisation of the ideals and steely will of a nation that will never be subdued, of the blood and bones of millions of Vietnamese people, of love for the homeland and country, of bravery, belief in victory and determination to never retreat.

Half a century has passed since the day the country was reunited, but the sounds of the triumphal song still resonate in the soul of the Vietnamese people. On the occasion of this important event, we respectfully commemorate our beloved President Ho Chi Minh, the genius leader of our Party and people, the great teacher of the Vietnamese revolution, the national liberation hero, the world cultural celebrity, the outstanding soldier of the international communist movement, who laid the ideological foundation for the cause of national liberation and reunification. We also pay tribute to and remember the Party's predecessors, the heroic martyrs, intellectuals, people and soldiers across the country who fought and sacrificed their lives for that noble ideal. The Vietnamese generations today and tomorrow will forever remember their great contributions and sacrifices for the independence of the Fatherland, for the happiness and prosperity of the people, and for the survival and development of the nation.

We express our deep gratitude to international friends – progressive forces, fraternal socialist countries, humanitarian organisations and peace-loving people around the world – who have accompanied, helped and supported Vietnam throughout the years of national liberation struggle, as well as in the cause of national reconstruction and development after the war. That sincere, wholehearted, selfless and pure sentiment and support will forever be cherished, loved and engraved in the hearts of the Vietnamese people.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking ahead, we have every right to be proud and believe in the innate strength of the Vietnamese people – a nation that has defeated foreign invaders many times and risen from war, asserting itself before history and before the world. With a thousand-year tradition of building and defending the country, with a constant desire to rise, with a talented, ambitious, patriotic, creative and courageous young generation – Vietnam will certainly succeed.

The 21st century is the century of nations that know how to master their own destiny. The Vietnamese people – with all the lessons from the past, with all the solidarity today – will certainly continue to write new brilliant chapters in their development journey. We work for an independent, free, happy, prosperous, civilised, prosperous Vietnam, with an important position and voice in the international community.

* the Hung Kings, founders of Vietnam, ruled from 2879 – 258 BCE.

Tap Chi Cong San, edited for space.

encouraging national liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and South America

New information released on CIA involvement in Cuba

Graham Holton

The Southern Cross Briade visits Giron, Cuba – the Bay of Pigs invasion site.

On 18 March, under President Donald Trump's executive order, 80,000 documents were uploaded to the National Archives website. Amongst these documents are a plethora of material on Cuba, Chile, CIA operations in Latin America, and Israel. A 40-page document details how the CIA was meddling in elections around the world. In 1967, the CIA took over an FBI monitoring post at the United Nations. Another interesting document is a summary of a 693-page secret CIA report from 1975, which says the agency's operations "may have exceeded its mandate." The new material provides greater details and insights into US State Department and secret service operations.

In June 1961, Kennedy's aide, Arthur Schlesinger Jr, sent a memo harshly criticising the CIA, after it backed the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy was furious at the CIA, believing the agency was running its own foreign policy and that it was in need of reorganisation. A page of this report is still redacted. The CIA believed Kennedy was weak on communism.

There are new details of covert CIA operations in Cuba, including the gathering of clandestine information. The CIA tracked a Cuban national codenamed AMFUANA-1, who was sent to Cuba in 1961 to establish a network of people and sent more than fifty reports. The top-secret campaign "Operation Mongoose" was designed to destabilise the Cuban government. A communication in 1963, between the CIA director's office and operatives in Cuba, show details on the plots to overthrow the government.

The Pentagon wanted to provoke a war with Cuba. Operation Northwoods, proposed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) in March 1962, aimed to engineer a false flag operation to stage an attack on a US target and place the blame on Cuba. This would give the president authority and justification under international law to order an invasion and remove the Castro brothers. A revised plan was approved by the JCS on 1 May 1963. On the day of the Kennedy assassination, the CIA tried to tie it to Cuban communists. A memo to President Lyndon B Johnson, dated 23 November 1963, the day after Kennedy was killed, says: "In the past week we intercepted Cuban military messages which show that Cuban interpreters are now posted at several surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites on the island."

Tad Szulc, a *New York Times* foreign correspondent, broke the story of the impending Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. A 1962 memo from a station officer in Brazil notes that the station's copies of files on Szulc had been destroyed. The CIA saw Szulc as "anti-agency" and a "hostile foreign agent." In 1986 Szulc published his interviews with Fidel Castro in 'Fidel: A Critical Portrait'.

One 1964 document showed that two intelligence assets discussed assassinating Castro. The CIA was "formerly in favour of such a plan," but it was "shelved" due to the opposition of Attorney General Robert F Kennedy, who was briefed on potential plans to kill Castro. A footnote reads: "RFK asks to be told before the CIA works with the Mafia again".

Fascists eventually come for everyone

Ramzy Baroud

"Rights are granted to those who align with power," Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate student, eloquently wrote from his cell. This poignant statement came soon after a judge ruled that the government had met the legal threshold to deport the young activist on the nebulous ground of "foreign policy."

"For the poor, for people of colour, for those who resist injustice, rights are but words written on water," Khalil further lamented. The plight of this young man, whose sole transgression appears to be his participation in the nationwide mobilisation to halt the Israeli genocide in Gaza, should terrify all US citizens.

The mass actions against the Trump immigration policy, the public opinion polls showing the majority of Americans oppose that policy, the victories won by sanctuary cities fighting to maintain their federal funding, and the mobilisations of workers and immigrants leading up to May Day this year are a powerful testimony to a fightback movement.

The case against Khalil, like those against other student activists, including Turkish visa holder Rümeysa Öztürk, starkly indicates that the aim of the repression is the silencing of all dissenting political voices.

An immigration lawyer in Massachusetts, a US citizen born in this country, received a letter from the Department of Homeland Security saying she needed to "self-deport." The warning read, "Do not ignore this notice because the government will find you."

The lawyer, Nicole Micheroni, told the press that she had both a birth certificate and a passport proving her citizenship. "At first I thought it was for a client," she said, "but then I realised my name was the only one on the letter.

Even in a case where the recipient is not a citizen and is undocumented, such a letter is still illegal and unconstitutional.

Furthermore, new oppressive bills are under consideration in Congress, granting the Department of Treasury expansive measures to shut down community organisations, charities, and similar entities under various pretences and without adhering to standard constitutional legal procedures.

For many years, individuals, predominantly academics, who championed Palestinian rights were subjected to trials or even deported, based on "secret evidence." This essentially involved a legal practice that amalgamated various acts, such as the *Classified Information Procedures Act* (CIPA) and the *Immigration and Nationality Act* (INA), among others, to silence those critical of US foreign policy.

Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, however, much of that legal apparatus was applied to all Americans in the form of the *PATRIOT Act*. This legislation broadened the government's authority to employ surveillance, including electronic communications, and other intrusive measures.

Subsequently, it became widely known that even social media platforms were integrated into government surveillance efforts. Recent reports have even suggested that the government mandated social media screening for all US visa applicants who have travelled to the Gaza Strip, for example, since 1 January 2007.

"Our defence is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere," is the timeless quote associated with Abraham Lincoln. Yet, every day that Mahmoud Khalil and others spend in their cells, awaiting deportation, stands as the starkest violation of that very sentiment. The US must not permit this injustice to persist. The broad protest movements and fightbacks underway must continue and must be intensified.

People's World, edited for space

What's brewing between India and Pakistan?

Ilya Tsukanov

The deadly terror attack in Kashmir has pushed nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan to the brink of conflict.

On 22 April militants from 'The Resistance Front' (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based Salafi-jihadist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, shot 26 civilians (mostly tourists) and injured 17 others in Baisaran Valley, Jammu and Kashmir.

Survivors said attackers asked victims their names and religion, ensuring they weren't Muslim before executing them. Police identified 3 suspects on – saying two of them are Pakistani nationals.

India suspects Pakistan's ISI intelligence service of funding, training arming TRF militants, and using them as a proxy to keep Kashmir in a perpetual state of chaos.

Pakistan denies supporting TRF, but has openly expressed support for Kashmir militants' "fight for self-determination" at a moral, political, and diplomatic level.

The Islamist insurgency in Kashmir, dating back to 1989, has claimed 45,000+ lives, including over 20,000 civilians, to date.

India's response to the 22 April attack so far has included:

- Suspending the landmark 1960 Indus Waters Treaty.
- Closing the Attari border post, the last remaining route for India-Pakistan land-based trade.
- Cancelling visas of Pakistani nationals and demanding their expulsion within 48 hours.
- Expelling Pakistani military attaches in New Delhi, and pulling out its own military attaches in Islamabad.

Pakistan, for its part, put its air force on alert, stepped up border security, closed its airspace to Indian airlines and suspended all trade.

Islamabad also warned "any kinetic step" (military action) "will see a tit-for-tat response."

Pakistan emphasised that any attempt to deny access to water would be treated as an "act of war." A water-insecure country, Pakistan depends on the Indus River network and its tributaries for up to 80 per cent of its surface water for agriculture, industry, hydroelectric power and drinking water.

Kashmir tensions were already simmering before the terror attack. In February 2019, Indian warplanes targeted militant camps in Pakistan's Balakot in response to terror attack on its troops in Kashmir. Earlier this month, tensions along the Line of Control spilled out into cross-border firing, with India accusing Pakistan of fuelling tensions to distract from domestic economic and political troubles.

Kashmir has poisoned India-Pakistan relations since 1947, triggering three of four major wars between the two countries. Some historians believe the UK deliberately sowed the seeds of enmity with a divide-and-rule strategy that separated the nations on independence in such a way as to guarantee conflict.

Today, too, the dispute benefits the West, aiming to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS cooperation.

Sputnik, edited for space

China's response to bullying

The Road to Rejuvenation at the National Museum of China. Photo: Gary Todd – flickr.com (Public Domain)

Biljana Vankovska

A friend from another country recently posted on social media, "I visited the exhibition The Road to Rejuvenation at the National Museum of China. It tells the harrowing story of the 'Century of Humiliation.' Now I finally understand why every Chinese citizen feels compelled to visit. Most nations would have hidden or erased such a shameful chapter. But not China – and for good reason. The Chinese people have vowed never again to be humiliated."

One does not need to be a historian to grasp the suffering, exploitation, and humiliation endured by the Chinese people from the mid-19th century to the victory of the Chinese Revolution. This was a period of profound national trauma: military defeats, social collapse, colonial subjugation, and a series of unequal treaties imposed by Western powers.

I eventually discussed the era of humiliation with a different, younger academic colleague from Shanghai and asked him about its effect on today's China policy. In private correspondence, he wrote the following: "The humiliation was too deep and scary for us to forget. That century was arguably the darkest time of Chinese history. Chinese civilisation almost got exterminated and colonised. That ... lesson taught us that we should not expect other nations to be friendly to us, we have to be able to develop and defend ourselves."

These historical experiences offer a crucial lens through which to interpret the behaviour of Chinese leadership in today's turbulent global context. My colleague, Professor Zhang Weiwei of Shanghai, speaks of China not merely as a nation-state but as a civilisational state – a political and cultural entity rooted in 5,000 years of continuous tradition, despite changing dynasties and territorial configurations. When one speaks with ordinary Chinese citizens, particularly younger generations, there is a palpable sense of optimism and national pride, a stark contrast to the atmosphere in many Western societies. Strikingly, this pride does not translate into hatred, resentment, or calls for revenge. Rather, China has emerged from its historical humiliation with a firm commitment to dignity, peace, and cooperation.

That a country can rise from such profound degradation to become a global economic powerhouse, while promoting narratives of partnership and mutual respect, is nothing short of extraordinary. China is, in many ways, a global rarity.

Every nation is shaped by the historical, social, and political trials it has endured. Collective memory is not first-hand recollection of events, but the intergenerational transmission of historical lessons and identity. Many nations, when given the opportunity to curate their own historical narratives, fall into the trap of highlighting only their most glorious moments. Like a photoshopped selfie, this creates a flattering but false image. The mature approach to history is not selective amnesia but courageous introspection. It takes wisdom to learn from past humiliations and strength to declare: never again.

It is in this spirit that contemporary Chinese policy should be understood. From the early days of the US-China tariff 'war,' Xi Jinping responded with remarkable restraint and strategic clarity. While Donald Trump sought spectacle, China remained calm and methodical, responding through action rather than rhetoric. Trump, in effect, lifted a stone only to drop it on his own foot – a Chinese saying not unlike the Western idiom about shooting oneself in the foot. Unsurprisingly, there is dismay in the West: what on earth did Trump have in mind?

Meanwhile, Xi signed dozens of bilateral cooperation agreements – over forty with Vietnam alone – and expanded China's diplomatic and economic ties, including with some rational-minded EU countries. China will not allow itself to be returned to the status of a subordinate or humiliated state. It is not intimidated by racist slurs like those uttered by figures such as JD Vance, who dismissed Chinese citizens as 'peasants.' Unlike its opponents, China pursues its national interests without resorting to humiliation or coercion.

Tragically, the path ahead appears increasingly fraught. US trade tariffs have lost their economic rationale and may soon give way to a comprehensive system of de facto sanctions. The aim is clear: to isolate and weaken China under the guise of economic competition. The Taiwan issue remains the most dangerous trigger – a potential military trap. Analysts now predict that Washington will pressure weaker nations to sever ties with China in exchange for tariff relief or other incentives.

Yet China is not the country it was a century ago. It will not yield to imperial bullying. Attempts to install friendly regimes through colour revolutions have already failed in Georgia, and even more so in Russia. A sober analysis reveals that the United States has not won a major war since before Vietnam, and is arguably losing in Ukraine as well.

In the long run, China will adapt and endure – even if the outcome differs from Beijing's current vision. Some analysts are sure that China will greatly increase its lead in economic growth in 2025 compared to the US. Yet, we have a greater global concern that goes beyond winning the economic race. Namely, the peace plan for Ukraine is fading, Europe is rearming, and the world's crises remain unsolved. Trump is no peacemaker, but neither is he the master of the White House. Meanwhile, Gaza is being emptied at horrifying speed – a child dies every 45 minutes – and yet the world sees no path to resolution.

Globetrotter

Global Briefs

PHILIPPINES: Thousands of US and Filipino military personnel have begun annual combat drills that have antagonised China, including a "full-scale battle scenario" to simulate the defence of the Philippines archipelago and seas. The annual Balikatan military exercises are due to continue until 9 May, including about 9,000 US and 5,000 Filipino soldiers, sailors and air force personnel. Fighter jets, warships and an array of weaponry including a US marine anti-ship missile system will be involved, US and Philippine military officials said.

JORDAN: Jordan announced a ban on the Muslim Brotherhood that could include shutting down the country's largest opposition party. The authorities banned the Islamist group after accusing it of planning attacks. The Islamic Action Front, a political party linked to the region-wide Brotherhood, won the most seats in parliamentary elections held last year, against the backdrop of mass protests against Israel over its war.

KENYA: Kenyan President William Ruto has pledged to build closer ties with China. Kenya wants to learn from "China's remarkable journey of transformation in governance, economic development and global leadership," Ruto said. Ruto thanked China for supporting the development of healthcare and education. Kenya is a key partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the ambitious plan that aims to connect Africa, Asia and Europe through massive infrastructure and energy projects.

IRAN: Iran is building a wall with Afghanistan designed to help fight drugs and weapons smuggling, human trafficking and illegal immigration, prevent border clashes with terrorists and criminal gangs, and secure the movement of people and goods between the two countries. The wall consists of reinforced concrete slabs measuring 4 metres high and 1.1 m thick, with a razor wire on top. When finished, the wall will span 900km. Up to 75 km has been completed to date. The project is set to be completed in three years at an estimated cost of $5.5 billion. Besides security issues, Iran has struggled to accomodate an influx of up to five million Afghan refugees (over 12 per cent of the population), who fled Afghanistan after the collapse of the US-supported government and the rise of Taliban.

NAMIBIA: The new Namibian president, Ndemupelila Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has announced that her government will introduce free higher education at state universities and technical colleges starting next year. In her State of the Nation speech in parliament she also announced the construction of seven stadiums, each with a capacity to seat 30,000 people, the construction of 5,000 houses in Windhoek for low income earners, and cancellation of student loan debts. Two of Namibia's seven universities are state-run and will offer free education under the new policy. All seven vocational training centres are government-run and will no longer charge tuition fees. The policy is aimed at improving opportunities for young people and helping to solve problems of poverty and unemployment. The country of about 3 million people has 2.1 million Namibians under the age of 35, according to official figures.

VIETNAM: Cuban Vice President Salvador Valdés Mesa has been welcomed to Vietnam to join in celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's liberation in 1975. Valdés Mesa said that he felt "great pride" to be in "this heroic country" again, celebrating the country's great victory over US imperialism, and recalled the brotherly ties between Cuba and Vietnam, fostered by leaders Fidel Castro Ruz and Ho Chi Minh.

Why is blocking Trump's Executive Orders so difficult?

Graham Holton

In his first 100 days of office President Donald Trump has signed 123 executive orders (EOs), fewer than any new president taking office during the past 70 years. In comparison, Franklin D Roosevelt passed a total of 3,721 EOs and Woodrow Wilson 1,803 respectively. The difference is that many of Trump's EOs are unconstitutional and arguably illegal.

The US Constitution has checks and balances to ensure no branch of government is more powerful than the others. The president cannot use an EO to sidestep those checks and balances. An executive order can order the federal government to take steps as long as it does not violate federal laws. Congress can enact a law to reverse a president's EO only when Congress has the constitutional authority to do so. A court can hold that an EO is unlawful if it violates the Constitution or a federal statute.

For example, Trump's order to rescind President Johnson's order concerning civil rights obligations of federal contractors, does not overrule any statute that governs equal protection in employment, even though it undermines civil rights protections. The EOs that rolled back DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) attack birthright citizenship and target transgender people. This is unlawful.

House and Senate Democrats have been largely powerless to block Trump's agenda legislatively, so they have turned to the courts. Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.) said: "The only way to essentially stop them in their tracks is to use the courts." Republicans in turn have questioned the courts' right to rein in Trump's EOs. Vice President JD Vance posted on X: "Judges aren't allowed to control the executive's legitimate power." House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), a former constitutional lawyer, supports Trump's expansive EOs., saying "The courts should take a step back and allow these processes to play out."

The most effective action to stop Trump's EOs has been in the lower courts, which have slapped 15 national injunctions against the EOs. In retaliation, the Trump administration has used these injunctions to petition the US Supreme Court to rein in the lower court. Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch are critical of the lower courts' overuse of nationwide injunctions, saying they have overstepped their power. In the case of blocking the Trump administration's freeze of US$2 billion in USAID funding, Alito asks: "Does a single district-court judge who likely lacks jurisdiction have the unchecked power to compel the government of the United States to pay out?" He emphatically replies "No."

When Trump hit back at lawyers and law firms for stonewalling his agenda, a federal judge blocked him, calling his retribution campaign "a shocking abuse of power." Trump is defying the Supreme Court directive to return Kilmer Abrego Garcia from an El Salvadorian prison. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has warned this could end in a constitutional crisis if Trump continues to defy court orders.

Schumer could be right. Trump's second term is the most disruptive of any US presidency since 1945. He and his team show no sign of respecting the famed 'checks and balances,' so the US may well have more than one crisis before Trump is finished.

United States Capitol Photo: Ania Mendrek – flickr.com (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

House and Senate Democrats have been largely powerless to block Trump's agenda legislatively, so they have turned to the courts.

Pope Francis complicit in Argentina's brutal military dictatorship

Graham Holton

Pope Francis has died. He is mourned and remembered as a great man who loved the ill and destitute, washing and kissing the feet of women and Muslims.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires and cardinal of the Catholic Church in Argentina, was elected as pope in 2013, the first from Latin America, changing his name to Francis. Critics have pointed out that while he accepted condoms to prevent the spread of STDs, he opposed marriage equality, euthanasia, and the legalisation of abortion, for any reason including rape. Bergoglio protected priests accused of the sexual abuse of children, regarding these abuses as spiritual failures rather than criminal acts.

Bergoglio had a dark past. During the brutal military dictatorship in Argentina, 1976 to 1983, 30,000 people were "disappeared. Amongst the victims were two bishops and many priests. Soon after he became pope, allegations emerged that he withdrew protection from two Jesuits resulting in their captivity and torture. The Vatican denied the claims. The generals responsible for these atrocities, such as General Jorge Rafael Videla, were never excommunicated by the Church.

Bergolio allegedly handed over a group of Jesuit priests and catechists to the military. He maintained he warned the priests to leave the poor neighbourhood where they worked, and he contacted the military to release them. Those kidnapped remember it differently. Orlando Yorio said that "Bergoglio didn't warn us of the danger we were in" and "I also don't have any reason to think he did anything for our freedom, quite the opposite." Father Francisco Jalics issued a statement that he had "reconciled with these events," suggesting he had been betrayed and now forgave the Pope.

The noted Latin Americanist, Hugh O'Shaughnessy, wrote in the UK *Guardian*: "The Catholic church was complicit in dreadful crimes in Argentina." The Argentinian church had "communed and supported the unspeakably brutal western-supported military dictatorship that seized power in that country in 1976." The generals dropped bodies from planes over the River Plate so they could not be found. Hundreds of children born to tortured mothers were illegally handed to adoptive families, mainly military personnel. The victims' families claim Bergoglio was aware of what the military was doing and did nothing.

Emilio Mignone, an Argentine lawyer and human rights activist, wrote in *Church and Dictatorship: The Complicity of Church and Dictatorship in Argentina* (1988) of the "sinister complicity" between the Church and the military, who "did the dirty work of cleaning up the inside of the Church, with the acquiesce of the priests." Mignone described the Catholic Church as a "web of mediocrity, cowardice, and complicity."

The actions of Bergoglio were in marked contrast to Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran archbishop who was killed in 1980 by a death squad during mass, for criticising the government. Ivan Petrella, religious affairs commentator at think tank Fundacion Pensar, writes: "Bergoglio was not a Romero. Very few people were like that."

Trump administration halts talks, gaslights Cuba

The Trump administration is stopping migration talks with Cuba, a senior State Department official reportedly told the media outlet *Café Fuerte*.

"The Trump administration is promoting a foreign policy that prioritises the United States (America First). The United States will no longer engage with the Cuban regime merely for the sake of establishing a commitment and maintaining an endless dialogue," the official was quoted as saying.

Despite the mention of "endless dialogue," there is no indication the Trump administration has even attempted to talk with Cuba.

The last immigration talks took place in December 2024, a month before Trump took office.

Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernández de Cossío told Reuters in March that the Trump administration had not broached the subject of migration or deportations.

During his first term, Trump also suspended talks with Cuba on migration, along with almost all other bilateral communication.

In 2022, Biden restarted the migration talks, which for decades had regularly been held twice a year until Trump halted them.

Belly of the Beast

Check out the official Instagram account of the Communist Party of Australia

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UN women's conferences

Reflections on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of women

Bev Hall

Nairobi 1985
The first International Women's Conference I attended was the third World Forum held in Nairobi Kenya in 1985. There were two sites, one for the government or official delegations and the other for Non-Government Organisation (NGO) participants. Being the end of the decade, an assessment was made in determining if goals were being met from the original 1975 World Plan of Action. In the Nairobi forum Forward Looking Strategies were drawn up and violence against women plus lesbian rights were added.

The leader of the US delegation at this formal venue was Maureen Reagan, the daughter of US president. Before the NGO forum began the US NGO women staged a march to the Kenyatta Centre led by Angela Davis to protest that Reagan's daughter had not been elected as the representative of the US delegation and that 'she did not represent US women.' A large gathering was held in the central square of the University where Angela Davis spoke to a crowd of over 1,000 joined by other US NGO representatives. I still remember vividly how Angela Davis urged other NGO women's delegations to support them in their struggle as they had "to live in the belly of the monster."

In several cases, classrooms were overflowing, and attendees had to stand outside and listen. This was the case for my presentation on *Multicultural Childcare and Children's Services in Australia*. An interesting aspect of this was that the wife of a prominent Australian misogynist came into the forum and tried to dominate with her views which were anti-childcare, anti-abortion, and anti-women in the workforce. Due to the programme stating I was from SA, several of my sisters from South Africa came in. I learnt to spell out in future the name of the state! After ten minutes the South Africans told the anti-childcare woman to leave as they were interested to learn about how to develop childcare programs applicable to communities using several languages, not simply looking at the merits or otherwise of childcare.

During one lunch break I assisted my South African sisters on a stall selling anti-apartheid books and materials in order to protect a number of women activists from South Africa who were kept in the shadows as they had been smuggled out to attend. Consequently, I had a BOSS (Apartheid South African spy organisation) agent approach me and wanting to know where I lived and had I been in jail. I wasn't very cooperative in answering his questions. Several of my ANC sisters asked me afterwards if I realised who he was.

One of the interesting aspects of this forum was the number of 'agents' that were there. In one case the CIA were planning outside a venue where I was at the back and where I overheard them telling their agents to go into different presentations and report on the activities of certain people. There seemed to be agents from many countries which had dictatorships or oppressive governments, trying to silence anyone speaking up about issues which threatened the dominating system, even interjecting.

However, there was a wide range of issues including childcare, consumer education, credit, family planning, female genital mutilation, growth of women's studies, legal rights, literacy, media portrayals of women, motherhood, political prisoners, prostitution, systemic discrimination and violence against women, women and development, women and religion (particularly under patriarchal systems), women and technology plus lesbian workshops.

Aboriginal women no matter where they were had to battle for land rights. Arab and Israeli women discussed the need for peace. Women generally felt they were subordinate and there was a need to promote women's perspectives. All in all, 1,200 workshops were held. Helen Hill and I spent time attending the Pacific forums and we were the only ones from Australia showing any interest. In our part of the world, we learnt that NZ was respected far more than Australia, but we made some great friends despite this.

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Editorial Office
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, 2010
Ph: 02 9699 8844 Fax: 02 9699 9833
Email: guardian@cpa.org.au

Editor:
Floyd Kermode

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Half the Sky

Wasted opportunity to tackle family violence

Clare Marino

With more than one million votes already cast, the two major parties finally announced policies aimed at combatting the scourge of family and gendered violence.

The Coalition scraped together seemingly every female member of the team to stand awkwardly behind Peter Dutton for the media conference. The Prime Minister stopped smiling. Both sides announced promises to tackle family violence. It was too little and too late.

Experts in the gendered violence sector say the issue has fallen off the political agenda. Four women were killed across Australia in just one week recently.

The evidence is clear that the problem has not been solved. Little progress has been made. Women are still dying at the hands of men known to them.

On average, one woman is killed every nine days by a current or former partner. Around one in four men in Australia aged 18 to 45 say they have used physical and/or sexual violence against an intimate partner. One in four women has experienced violence, emotional abuse, or economic abuse by a cohabitating partner since the age of 15.

Less than a year ago Prime Minister Albanese called violence against women a "national crisis." News of the deaths of four women in a week should have seen our political leaders outraged and committing themselves to do more, but in the midst of an election campaign there was little response from either party.

In the leaders' debates there was not one question about gender-based violence. The cost of living, house prices, and nuclear submarines were all canvassed, but women's right to live without fear of violence was not worth a mention.

The Coalition, although working hard to whip up fear of violent crime and bang the drum on their pet issue of law and order, has not seen fit to include women's fear of male violence in their tub-thumping.

Labor and the Coalition's new policies aimed at addressing violence against women have been labelled tepid, underfunded efforts, too focused on narrow aspects of the problem and not properly resourcing existing commitments. Labor's Commitment to Women announcement focuses primarily on addressing financial abuse. Strategies include preventing perpetrators from using tax and corporate systems to accrue debts as a form of coercive control; making perpetrators liable for debts incurred by the victim-survivor because of coercive control and stopping perpetrators accessing the superannuation of victim-survivors after death. Labor also pledged $8.6 million for perpetrator responses, including early interventions for young people.

The Coalition's strategy is based on 14 commitments, many of them focused on law and order. Plans include a national domestic violence register and the development of uniform national knife laws, expanding the emergency accommodation program and the Leaving Violence Program (one-off funding to help with the costs of leaving an abusive relationship), and increasing crisis helpline services.

Prevention of family violence is a complex problem that needs a multi-pronged approach, including law reform, resourcing of specialised housing, health and other support services, multi-agency cooperation, and prevention strategies that tackle misogyny and disrespect. It requires long-term funding commitments.

The need to engage men and boys in the effort to prevent gendered violence barely rated a mention in the recent announcements. Long-term, secure housing has clearly been identified as a key need by the family violence sector, but again, this was not in the plans of either major party.

Why such an uninspiring, gutless and last-minute response? Are political advisers fearful of a backlash from male voters, worried about gender politics dividing their support? Look around the world at the rise of the manosphere and the harm being done to young men by hate-peddling misogynist influencers. Parties that cared about real democracy would care about this threat to more than half the population.

For women, this election has been a missed opportunity.

Hegseth, Yemen, Group chats. What's the real crime?

Corporate media has been awash with stories of how US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth gave out top secret plans for bombing of Yemen to people unauthorised to hear them. After accidentally including a journalist in his group chat, Hegseth did it again, including his personal lawyer, his wife, and his brother. Those same media fail, however, to mention the big issue involved – the fact that the US bombing itself is a crime.

The war on Yemen, including US airstrikes and the humanitarian crisis they are causing, has obliterated the country's health care system and forced millions from the homes they received during the short-lived socialist years of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from 1967 until the 1980's.

Since the US, Saudi, and Israeli-backed attacks and sanctions against the young republic resulted in the destruction of socialism, the Yemeni people have paid an awful price. The latest rounds of bombings are worsening the crisis in that country.

Also destroyed since socialism was defeated in that country is the extensive education system that began to be built during those socialist years – a system that wiped out illiteracy all over the country and settled jobless people in working-class jobs in oil and other industries. An entire generation of people who, as a result of that education, can still read and write today is being replaced with generations suffering, once again the effects of illiteracy.

This has particularly impacted women who were the major gainers from the literacy campaigns of the past. During the socialist years women travelled to the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic to receive training as doctors and went back home to deliver quality health care.

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, challenged US bombing of Yemen back in 2017, when it was carried out during the first Trump administration. This time around, however, he has limited his criticisms to Hegseth spilling the beans about a recent bombing campaign without calling into question the bombing itself.

Yemeni children play in the rubble of buildings destroyed in an air raid. Photo: European Union/Peter Biro – flickr.com (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

In 2017 Murphy forcefully made the point that the Trump administration did not have congressional authorisation to make war on the Yemeni people. At that time, US strategy was to provide Saudi Arabia with the weapons it was using to destroy the country. The Saudi ruling class was not satisfied with all the oil they controlled. They wanted what the Yemenis had too.

At the time Murphy correctly castigated the Trump administration for the mass starvation caused by support for the Saudi military campaign. The Saudi /US campaign against Yemen that he opposed at the time would not have been possible in 2016 had the Soviet Union still been in existence. The strong support of the Soviet Union for developing socialism in Yemen also allowed the GDR and Cuba to extend their support to the Yemeni people.

As it did in Afghanistan when there was an attempt to establish socialism in South Yemen, the US employed sanctions, boycotts, secondary boycotts, and covert and overt attacks to overthrow it.

The people of South Yemen continue to suffer from this until this day. Outbreaks of cholera were already a problem in 2017 and are expected to intensify in direct proportion to bombing by the US, the Saudis, Israel, and NATO countries.

The bombing of Yemen blocks humanitarian aid, as did much of what Israel did, with US-supplied weapons, in Gaza. Bombings cut off fuel and water to the people. Children die when bombing raids create both starvation and disease.

Murphy talked about disease, specifically cholera in Yemen, when he addressed the Congress during the first Trump administration:

"My colleagues, cholera is a truly awful way to die. It is a ... man-caused disease that this world could easily eradicate from existence. You become so dehydrated, you vomit so much liquid, your body dispenses so many nutrients, so much water through unending diarrhoea that your body is thrown into shock. You literally die from vomiting and diarrhoea, sometimes over the course of hours, sometimes over the course of days, sometimes over the course of weeks."

The bombing campaigns also cripple water treatment facilities that need electrical power. This hampers the ability to treat water that supplies the cities in South Yemen. Essentially the water available to the people then becomes poisonous. Having no choice, people drink it or ingest it in other ways, including when cooking food. The inability to treat water causes a flow of faeces and sewage into the cities and towns, intensifying the outbreaks of disease.

All of this is particularly tragic when you consider the things the people of Yemen lost when socialism was defeated in their country.

Already mentioned was the massive literacy campaign which is critical to solving the problems of any modern society.

The Yemeni people had a health care system that was described in 1980 by UNESCO as the best in the entire Arabian peninsula. There were hospitals and clinics across the country and healthcare provided by doctors, many of them newly-educated women, was free. Medicine was also free. That healthcare system, with the demise of socialism, was eventually replaced with widespread outbreaks of cholera, poisoned water supplies, and cities choking in sewage.

Millions are now homeless. During the socialist period the homes of wealthy people, not counting the first homes in which they could choose to live, were nationalised and rented by the state at very low costs to the poor. This was done in addition to construction of new public housing. Bombing campaigns have destroyed much of that housing.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen could not withstand the teaming up against it of powerful states like Saudi Arabia backed by the United States. The sanctions, a powerful weapon imperialism uses against developing and socialist countries were too much for the Yemenis to bear. Countries backing the Yemeni people, countries like Cuba and the GDR, were also themselves targeted for attacks by imperialism. Their home-grown enemies of socialism and the resulting civil war and interference from the US-backed Saudis combined to plunge the country into crisis.

The struggles of the Yemeni people continue, however. They can be expected to resist attacks from the US Saudi Arabia, Israel, and any of the NATO countries that join in the bombing and war-making against them.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth is clearly a dangerous, lying man to have in charge of the Pentagon. Who can blame the Yemeni people, however, for considering it irrelevant who Hegseth included in his chats about war plans?

People's World (edited for space)

Gaza: Israel admits UN worker killing

After explicitly denying responsibility for the killing of a Bulgarian UN employee for more than a month, the Israeli military has come clean, admitting that they killed Marin Valev Marinov in an attack on a UN compound in March this year. The killing was apparently a mistake, with the IDF saying that the building Marionov was in "was not identified by the forces as a UN facility."

According to a UN spokesperson, the locations of UN buildings "are known to the parties to the conflict who are bound by international law to protect them and maintain their absolute inviolability."

In 2024, an Israeli air strike killed six UN staff in an attack on a school the UN ran in Gaza. Another air strike killed Australian aid worker Zomi Frankcom and six coworkers for World Central Kitchen in 2024. In response, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said "this happens in wartime."

Guie Koinaal

Communist Party of Australia

www.cpa.org.au cpa@cpa.org.au

Head Office (Sydney)
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, NSW 2010
phone: 02 9699 8844
email: info@cpa.org.au

General Secretary
Andrew Irving
andrew@cpa.org.au

Party President
Vinnie Molina
president@cpa.org.au

Media guardian@cpa.org.au
amr@cpa.org.au

Canberra act@cpa.org.au PO Box 35 Dickson ACT 2602
Darwin Vinnie Molina darwin@cpa.org.au 0419 812 872
Melbourne Andrew Irving cpavic@cpa.org.au
Box 3 Trades Hall, Lygon St, Carlton Sth, Vic 3053
NSW State Comm Christian Goopy nsw@cpa.org.au 02 9699 8844
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Perth Elly Hulm perth@cpa.org.au 0421 113 343
PO Box 98, North Perth, WA 6906
Qld State Comm 0499 476 540 qld@cpa.org.au
SA State Comm sa@cpa.org.au 0411 805 356 PO Box 56, Royal Park, SA 5014
Tasmania Andrew Irving tas@cpa.org.au 03 9639 1550