

Council for the National Interest

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April 2020 Newsletter

Review:

It is inevitable that any newsletter today cannot ignore the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic as government authorities have embarked upon a regime determined to blunt the spread of the virus and in the process radically alter Australia's economy.

At some stage the Government will return to other aspects of our economy and revert to form by pursuing policies currently on hold such as the **Net-Zero Gas Emissions by 2050** concept which is wrongly claimed to limit global temperature rises. This proposal is scientifically flawed and economically unsustainable and our case is defined in the insert accompanying this newsletter. We had organised a Forum for 19th April with Tony Thomas speaking to highlight the nation destroying aspects of such a policy, however that plan became a victim of the social isolation and lockdown for the coronavirus.

Tony is a retired journalist who has published in Quadrant, Spectator Australia, wrote for The West Australian 1958-69, Canberra Press gallery 1970-79, BRW Magazine 1980-2001, and has published eight books on anthropology including the so called "Stolen Generation".

We will review the possibility of a forum with Tony Thomas once the virus lockdown has lifted.

Coronavirus Trade Lessons:

Since the 1980's Australia has suffered from the globalisation policies imposed by all political parties with the virus isolation now highlighting how dependent on imports Australia has become for the necessities of life. Australia's industrial manufacturing base has been deliberately down graded to accommodate 40 years of promoting a service industry economy. CNI's founder, B.A. Santamaria, was a firm and constant defender of Australia's manufacturing base, the undermining of which is now more than obvious since the nation was forced into isolation from the normal supply chains, especially when one nation has become a dominant supplier.

National security is at risk with such a reliance on imports highlighting the need for a nation to prioritise securing the ability to feed itself, clothe itself, house itself and defend itself.

The CNI has consistently promoted self sufficiency and utilisation of the reservoir of intellectual talent Australia has enjoyed in times past, in place of the quarry mentality of today.

The nation lacks a vision to which our resources of wealth and intellect should be directed while political parties navel gaze with re-election being their highest priority. Possibly Australians have awakened to the prospect of being more self sufficient and harnessing the intellectual talent being ignored in our universities? Highly recommended reading for a visionary outlook of development of the nation's human and physical resources is the NCC's 'NewsWeekly' publication. Their articles cover a range of visions to develop independence across all aspects of commercial, agricultural, financial and industrial sectors.

Australia – China Relationship:

The CNI addressed the influence of China over Australia's politics and industry with a forum featuring Paul Monk on 12th August 2018. Paul's experience of 10 years on the China desk with Defence Intelligence Organisation provided Paul with an intimate insight into the influence by the Chinese Communist Party on bureaucrats and politicians at the highest level of the Australian Government. Clive Hamilton's book 'Silent Invasion' was the first major publication to address the CCP influence and is valuable reading for anyone who is concerned about the nation's future relationship with the CCP. While the USA, UK and Europe, among other foreigners, have large ownership of Australian land and enterprises in excess of the Chinese, it is the cultural implications of such ownership in the hands of the CCP that is of concern. The current coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the reliance on China for a high level of export trade revenue and an over reliance for imported goods from a single supply source.

However the ramifications of our diplomatic relationship with China and the expansion of CCP influence in the Asian region at a time of China-America superpower confrontation is of equal, if not greater concern.

Australia's response to the national security implications of a growing China influence in the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, is going to test the metal of this nation like no other since the second world war.

Culturally Australia is Anglo-Celtic, however the communist strategy of division through multiculturalism has weakened our nation. To quote Geoff McDonald from his book 'Red over Black' a society that is not homogeneous will lose societal bonds which ensure its survival.

To understand the importance of **culture** to our national security it is vital to appreciate and understand the cultural forces driving the Chinese exemplified by the following excerpt from Graham Allison's 'Destined for War'.

"That is, the West believes that a basic set of values and beliefs – including individualism, liberalism, equality, liberty, rule of law, democracy, free markets, and the separation of church and state – should be embraced by all of humanity.

To the contrary, Asian cultures prize their own unique set of values and beliefs that distinguish them from other people. In the book length version of his argument 'The Clash of Civilisations and the remaking of the World Order', Huntington identifies five key ways in which Western and Confucian societies tend to differ.

First, as he notes, Confucian cultures reflect an ethos that reinforces "the values of authority, hierarchy, the subordination of individual rights and interests, the importance of consensus, the avoidance of confrontation, 'saving face', and in general, the supremacy of the state over society and of society over the individual". He points out the contrasts between these attitudes and "American beliefs of liberty, equality, democracy, and individualism." Furthermore, he underlines Americans' "propensity to distrust the government, oppose authority, promote checks and balances, encourage competition, and sanctify human rights".

Huntington also observes that the main Confucian culture, China, defines identity in racial terms: "Chinese are those of the same 'race, blood, and culture'. Putting the point provocatively, he notes that "for Chinese and those of Chinese descent living in non-Chinese societies, the 'mirror test' becomes the test of who they are: 'go look in the mirror'".

This concept of Chinese culture is both incredibly narrow and enormously expansive, as it leads the Chinese government to believe that "people of Chinese descent, even if citizens of another country, are members of the Chinese community and hence in some measure subject to the authority of the Chinese government".

In line with that notion, Huntington argues that China's view of external affairs is essentially an extension of its concept of internal order. Both reflect a Confucian emphasis on harmony through hierarchy – with China's leader at the top. As Confucius said, "just as there are not two suns in the sky; there cannot be two emperors on earth".

How confident are we in the political leadership of our Canberra representatives in the looming clash of civilisations as a rising superpower confronts a tortured existing superpower?
In the national interest we must pray they do not sell Australia short.

Australia Culturally Divided:

On the surface Aussies are still Aussies but how culturally united as a nation is Australia as the effect of the coronavirus pandemic changes our economy and the collapse of the world financial system wreaks havoc on a depressed economy? Political leadership believes a debt problem can be fixed with more debt as printing presses work overtime but common sense tells us that is not a recipe for success. Add a superpower confrontation and our national and regional outlook becomes a grim vision.

What sort of cultural values would we prefer in our society?:

Divorce, abortion, gender fluidity, same sex marriage, transgender, polygamy, polyamorous marriages, no moral absolutes, no absolutes, infanticide, abortion pill, contraceptives, paedophilia, identity politics, feminist doctrine, fantasist, secularism, libertarianism.

OR

Family, Faith Hope & Charity, Truth & Reason, absolute truth, moral absolutes, Fortitude Justice & Temperance, Objectivity, Realist, Christian based Commonwealth Constitution, Christian based Common Law. (Refer Prof Augusto Zimmermann, Christian Foundations of Common Law)