A NARCHIST 🔌 W EEKLY 🕅 Review G Ε

An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth. P. O. Box 2 0, Parkville. Vic 3052 Australia - Telephone: (03) 8508 9856 - (24 hr Message Centre) Internet: http://anarchistmedia.org/weekly.html. Email: anarchistage@yahoo.com P.O.Box20,Parkville.

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....."COMMUNALISATION – The Transfer of Power & Wealth

from the Hands of the Private Sector & the State, Into the Hands of the Community"

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"WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER & FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS & LIBERTIES"- EUREKA REBELLION OATH 1854

WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER

I was surprised to see the Australian Prime Minister lecture the Chinese on human rights. In Australia, as in China, as far as human rights are concerned the government giveth and the government taketh away. Recent Federal legislative changes have demonstrated to Australians how few human rights both citizens and non-citizens alike enjoy in this country. In Australia the state can legally detain a refugee indefinitely for seeking asylum. Legislative changes brought about as a result of 9/11 allow Australians to be detained and interrogated not because of what they may have done or may have been accused of doing, but because they may inadvertently have information that can help the authorities in their investigations. Those who refuse to co-operate can be jailed for up to seven years. Three Ministers of the Crown can unleash the Australian Armed Forces on the Australian people because they believe Commonwealth interests are threatened. Australian defence personnel enjoy judicial immunity for any actions they may carry out against Australians in Australia. The Federal Attorney General can ban any organisation he likes at any time.

These are just a few examples of how cherished human rights that have existed for generations can be legislated away by the government of the day. Australians enjoy precious few, if any, constitutional human rights. Common law rights can be legislated away at any time by the government of the day. In Australia the government can, if it had a majority in both houses of parliament, legally pass legislation to execute all left handed people.

Let's hope Mr. Rudd's new found love for human rights is extended to the Australian people. I assume when he returns back to Australia he will try to convince his caucus colleagues a Bill of Rights needs to be urgently included in the Australian When Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia, he constitution.

Let's hope he will move heaven and earth to ensure a referendum is held to give the Australian people the opportunity to decide whether they want the government credibility it enjoyed, found the very people of the day to decide what rights they enjoy

the Australian constitution so only the his dreams of creating a truly free society. people, through a referendum, have the power to remove our inalienable human rights.

PEAS IN THE SAME POD

The death of Alexander Solzhenitsyn marks the death of arguably the second most influential writer of the 20th century. Like George Orwell, he cut his literary teeth on the totalitarian jack boot of George Orwell, the most Stalinism. influential writer of the 20th century, gave birth to Animal Farm and 1984 as a direct consequence of his involvement in the Spanish revolution. George Orwell did not ioin the Communist dominated International Brigades, he chose to fight with the Workers Party of Marxist Unification, a group aligned with the left opposition in the Soviet Union. This group fought side by side in Spain with the Iberian Anarchist Federation and the CNT, the anarcho-syndicalist trade union. The anarchists and the Workers Party of Marxist Unification, although part of the Republican Popular front, were targeted by the Spanish Communist Party which was directly controlled by Stalin.

Solzhenitsyn's One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich was based on his own personal experiences in the gulags that had been established by Stalin to deal with his real and imagined enemies. Orwell and Solzhenitsyn made their criticism of totalitarianism hierarchy and authoritarianism accessible to ordinary people through their novels. Unfortunately the two most influential authors of the 20th century are also the two most misused authors of the 20th century.

Their work is a criticism of not just communism but totalitarianism in all its guises. The west has for far too long refused to recognise that both Orwell and Solzhenitsyn believed capitalism is an ideology that was not fit for human consumption.

was sidelined by a society that believed human freedom was synonymous with materialism and capitalism. Solzhenitsyn, the man who took an intellectual chainsaw to communism shredding what little

or they want a Bill of Rights enshrined in he helped to liberate turned their backs on

NATIONAL CAPITALISM

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony has come and gone, the athletes are going through their paces. It is easy when faced with a glorious feast of colour and sound to put aside our analytical capacities. What we are witnessing at the Olympics are not just the personal achievements of well tuned athletes but the triumph of national capitalism. The Nazis had their national socialism, the world has accepted national capitalism as the way of the 21st century.

Nationalism and capitalism make a potent combination that can drive nation states to war with the blessing of their own people. The Chinese Communist Party bereft of an ideological framework, is riding the nationalist capitalist tiger in a last desperate effort to hold onto power. The United States bereft of a moral and ideological compass, hand on its heart, has embraced national capitalism as the way of the future. Russia flexing its muscles after the collapse of the Soviet Union, have made national capitalism the new religion, creating a new ruling class that spills the blood of its own people using nationalism as the tool to fill their pockets. Even little old Australia rattles the nationalist sabre to enrich a minority at the expense of the majority.

The Olympic game athletes festooned with the symbols of corporate capitalism and nationalism have, through the power of the fourth estate, been transformed into unsuspecting marionettes who fan the flames of nationalism and capitalism, a potent brew in an era of increasing population growth, finite resources and increasing greenhouse emissions.

PARANOID

It is easy to dismiss the "mad" Mullahs of Iran as paranoid, but when you look at the background to their paranoia, it is easy to see why they think and act as they do. Although a significant majority of Iranians strain against the yoke of personal tyranny they have to endure at the hands of a theocracy, they also understand the "mad" Mullahs paranoia. The history of Iran is one which goes back to the time of the Persians. Iranians will forever tell you they are not Arabs, they are Persians, they will also tell you they are sick and tired of the country.

Faced with the state of Israel that has over 400 nuclear bombs at its disposal, hostile western powers and a United States government that repeatedly insists it has the right to bomb the seventy million people in Iran, the Mullahs have skilfully used their people's distrust to cement their personal authority.

Iranians have absolutely no reason to trust the west and every reason to be paranoid. In the mid 1950's a legally elected government that had nationalised the country's oil supplies (the second largest in the Middle East) was over thrown in a CIA engineered and backed coup imposing the Shah of Iran on the people. The Shah's regime, a regime supported by both Israel and the United States, was brutal in the extreme, torturing and slaughtering opponents at will. SAVAK, the United States and Israeli trained and supported secret service agency, made a fatal mistake when it turned its guns on ordinary people.

The repression and oppression in Iran spawned the 1979 revolution which saw the Mullahs seize power from the Shah. During the next decade they were involved in a war with Iraq which was supported by the west which resulted in the deaths of over a million Iranians. Since then they have successfully used religion and nationalism to retain power in a country that yearns for both personal and political freedom, but is willing to tolerate the Mullahs antics because of the greater threat posed by the United States and Israel. As most Iranians will tell you we'd prefer to be screwed by our own than be screwed by foreign forces that want to impose their ideas on us and steal our wealth. At least the Mullahs have kept Iran's wealth in Iranian hands.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Georgia an independent Caucasian kingdom for over two thousand years was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1922. It achieved independence in 1991 when the Soviet Union imploded. It has a population of around five million people living in a country the size of Tasmania. It lies on the Black Sea and has common borders with Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia. In the early 1990's around 70,000 Georgians living in the enclave of South Ossetia, most of whom were ethnic Russians, broke away from Georgia.

With direct support from Russia, they have been able to maintain an uneasy truce with the central government. The Georgian government has over the past few years attached its star to the United States. It has over 2,000 troops in Iraq and is keen to join the North Atlantic treaty organisation. Last year the Georgian authorities realised how dependent they were on Russia when Russia cut gas specific aims which can be achieved in the here and now. supplies to the region. The United States, keen to encircle Russia, has been encouraging the Georgian Prime Minister,

west trying to dictate policy in their Mikheil Saakashvili, to stand up to the The Anarchist Media Institute has been heavily involved in pipeline that makes them independent of Georgia's case to join NATO.

> Under cover of the Olympics, a period when participating nation states do not traditionally go to war with each other, the Georgian President emboldened by the Bush administration, launched an attack into South Ossetia to reintegrate the rebel province into Georgia. The Russians, realising the United States tired of its failures in Iraq and Afghanistan, was using Georgia as a proxy in its attempts to isolate Russia, responded in kind. The victims in this ill thought out proxy war between heavily armed soldiers are the civilian population who are being slaughtered in an indiscriminate hail of bullets and bombs. The Georgian President, full of his own self-importance, believing the United States will step in to help him, has declared "the future world order is to be decided today in Georgia" forgetting in proxy wars fought by superpowers, the proxies are disposable pawns in a much bigger game.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER Q. Energy?

Yes energy, not the stuff that keeps the lights on and Α. the world wide web humming but that intangible release of energy that accompanies radical transformation. History is punctuated by a few incandescent moments in a sea of darkness. These moments continue to glow long after the events that occurred have been written out of the history books.

When you look at the accounts of those involved in these fleeting moments, the thing that stands out is the release of "human energy". I'm not talking about people "glowing in the dark". I'm talking about the innate human potential that is released when the old patterns of behaviour are overturned. We all have extraordinary abilities, most of the time our innate potential is hobbled by cultural, national, racial and class chains that reduce an individuals ability to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

The breaking of the chains that hobbled people during the Paris Commune in 1871, the Spanish Revolution in 1936 and Paris 1968, allowed people to participate in life to an extent they never dreamed possible. Individually and collectively we are capable of much more than we think we are capable of. I'm not talking about winning an Olympic gold medal, becoming a millionaire or winning Tattslotto. I'm talking about something more important and tangible than the fleeting glories of the moment.

Life is not about waiting for the right moment, its about breaking the chains that tie us to terra firma.

Revolutionary change can and does break those chains. The human potential that is unleashed during a revolutionary period puts the spark back in life and gives people the tools to free themselves from the drudgery of everyday existence.

ACTION BOX 'A LITTLE FISH'

This isn't much, but it has the potential to become more. Petitions as an instrument of change normally don't achieve anything, what they do is mobilise people who would never think about becoming involved in activity. Not all issues lend themselves to petitions, a few do. Those

Russians helping the Georgians build a a group called "Citizens for a Royal Commission into Corruption in Victoria" over the past year. The group was Russian gas supplies and has argued formed as a result of the Victorian State government's unwillingness to hold a Royal Commission into corruption in Victoria. The campaign is aimed at extending the public's perception of corruption as an issue that is limited to bent cops and crooks. The Royal Commission we are calling for is one with wide terms of reference that would have the authority to look into thew links between the corporate and business world, politicians, the judicial system, police and the criminal underworld.

> A Royal Commission has the potential to blow the cover off the dirty little deals that keep the system ticking over. Over the past year Citizens for a Royal Commission into Corruption in Victoria has limited their activity to holding vigils and giving out leaflets outside strategic targets in Melbourne. We now want to increase pressure on the state government so they will be forced by public opinion to hold a Royal Commission. The next step is a tiny one but a potentially powerful one. Citizens for a Royal Commission into Corruption in Victoria will have launched a petition outside the State Attorney General's office by the time you read this article. The petition is available via a number of websites. If you live in Victoria, Australia, we encourage you to download the material and petitions from www.referendumpeoplepowernow.com or www.anarchistmedia.org

> Fill out the petitions and send them back to Citizens for a Royal Commission into Corruption in Victoria, PO Box 5035 Alphington 3078, Melbourne, Australia. More importantly, put the material up on your own websites and encourage those who visit your website to use the material. What at first may seem to be a relatively pointless activity, may, with a bit of time and luck, turn out to be something that raises questions in peoples minds about the type of society we live in and what we should do to change it.

> "When governments refuse to act on behalf of the people they represent, citizens need to become involved in political and social movements that demand they act on behalf of the people". If we don't, nothing will ever happen.

AUSTRALIAN RADICAL HISTORY **"TRADE UNION CENTRES"**

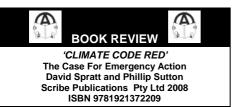
Australian unionists learnt early they needed to affiliate to achieve common objectives. The first unions joined forces during the eight hour day campaigns. In Melbourne the chairman of the Eight Hour Committee, Ben Douglas, was elected chairman of the United Trades Association. Formed in 1857 it soon changed its name to the Melbourne Trades Hall and Literary Institute. The Institute eventually got its hands on some crown land and within two years raised the necessary finance to build a wooden building with a large hall and four committee rooms for its use. It took more than twenty years before the Trades Hall Committee began to be involved in industrial disputes. The Melbourne Trades Hall Council began playing a major role in workplace disputes in 1890 when it threw its support behind the bitter Maritime strike which saw the Victorian state government place machine guns on the turrets of the Victorian Parliament building to protect it from its own citizens.

In Sydney, the Trades and Labor Council met for the first time on the 25th May 1871, seven of the fifteen unions that existed in Sydney in 1871 affiliated with the Council. The Sydney Council became involved in disputes soon after it was formed and in 1874 decided to support parliamentary candidates who promoted worker's interests.

In Adelaide, a Trades and Labor Council was not formed until 31st January 1884. In Brisbane the Trades and Labor Council was formed in 1885. The Brisbane Trades and Labor Council was disbanded in 1890 when the Australian Labor Federation took on its role.

Since the late 19th century Labor state and Federal peak bodies have come and gone. Today the power of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has been watered down as a result of legislative changes that have Melbourne, Australia seen union membership plummet. Unable and unwilling to conduct effective national strikes, Australian Trade Union peak bodies no longer play a significant role in industrial disputes in the country.

Individual trade unions in the 21st century are hesitant to conduct industrial campaigns because they know the ACTU is not able to mobilise support among other trade unions or has the financial muscle to assist them in their campaigns. Today the ACTU in Australia has been reduced to a propaganda arm of the Labor Party. Even though its advertising campaign during the last election resulted in the election of a Labor government, the Rudd Labor government continues to ignore it, preferring to support corporate Australia rather than a weakened Trade Union movement.



Hot off the press, this latest Australian contribution to the global warming "debate" makes the very real point that the debate has been won and the time for action has come and is almost gone. While the corporate owned media and the government gelded media continue to give an inordinate amount of time and space to the global warming flat earthers, Climate Code Red gives them the space they deserve - very little at all.

This three hundred page book with a picture of a polar bear sitting forlornly on an icefloe on the front cover, a metaphor for the imminent fate of the human race, uses the C word (capitalism) and attempts to raise solutions to the current crisis that go beyond carbon trading schemes.

With one foot on the old global warming world and one foot waving in the wind, the authors valiantly raise possible solutions to the current situation trying to place our feet on the surface of a new world that takes into account the environmental costs of an economic system based on the creation of ever increasing profits irrespective of the human, social and environmental costs.

Divided into three parts, The Big Melt, Targets and The Climate Emergency, this meticulously researched book attempts to put the current crisis and possible solutions to the crisis which in the author's words will not be solved by a "business as usual" and "politics as usual" approach within a framework that is both thought provoking and easy to digest.

Written and published in Melbourne, Climate Code Red is a welcome and timely addition to a body of literature that has lately been highjacked by polluters and governments who erroneously believe that global warming can be tackled by a business as usual and politics as usual approach

Climate Code Red is available in many local bookstores. If you can't get a copy contact the publishers directly -Scribe Publications PO Box 523

Carlton North 3054

info@scribepub.com.au www.scribepublications.com.au

Thanks to Peter for giving me his copy to review.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

This little story happened exactly 20 years ago. In 1988 I was approached by a group of paraplegics and quadriplegics to accompany them to China on a pioneering wheelchair basketball trip as honorary (no money paid) medical officer. The Chinese were interested in learning about disabled sport. A group of wheelchair bound sportsmen in Melbourne were up to the challenge.

People paid their own way to China and took friends with them. The mascot for the trip, designed by Torres Strait Islander indigenous artist Ellen Jose, was a panda in a wheelchair playing basketball with a koala in a wheelchair. Twenty four wheelchair bound players and about twenty five supporters made their way to China to play demonstration games of wheelchair basketball. The group drew huge crowds, they were mobbed in the streets, hundreds sometimes thousands of Chinese would stop and stare at the basketballers. Twenty years ago disabled Chinese did not play sport let alone go out in the streets unaccompanied.

I made sure I had plenty of medicines with me to treat whatever illness occurred as I knew many of the drugs that were available in Australia were not available in China. Things went wrong as the plane took off from Tullamarine airport in Melbourne. The organiser of the trip, a paraplegic called Dan O'Neil had a raging fever, he was septicemic from a urinary tract infection. Frightened he wouldn't be able to go on the trip he told no one he was sick until the plane was in the air. I climbed over paralysed people to get to the window seat he was sitting next to and pumped him full of antibiotics.

The trip was a success, but people were falling down like ninepins. Fevers, vomiting, diarrhoea were the name of the game. Luckily I had been able to treat everybody to date. Two thirds through the three week trip we were in Beijing. Running low on some essential drugs I called in to the Australian Embassy with a few sportsmen to ask them to help us get some more medications for the group. They showed no interest, told us they couldn't help and showed us the door. The next ten days were difficult, one morning I was the only person out of the group of fifty who turned up for breakfast, everybody else couldn't get out of bed or couldn't stomach the thought of food.

The Chinese government, keen to promote disabled sport realising they would have to host the Paralympics if they ever won the right to host the Olympics, assigned us a bus, a bus driver and an attendant called Gia. We called him John. Gia, myself and Michael, Dan's brother, had to do most of the lifting as the athletes on the trip of a lifetime took girlfriends and wives as their attendants. We finally made it back home in one piece. Twenty years later some of those who took part in this historic visit are now dead. some by their own had, others as a result of complications of their paralysis. Gia, the young man who was assigned to act as an extra pair of hands, is now the main organiser of the Paralympics in Beijing. With over 150 fulltime staff he has spent years preparing for the Paralympics. Everything is now set for the 6th September, the beginning of the Paralympics in Beijing. It is a pity no one in Australia seems to be aware of the Paralympics.

In China it is a different story the China Daily is full of news about the Paralympics. Dan the Marco Polo of disabled sport will be a special quest of the disabled Olympics. I still have fond memories of the three weeks we spent in a China that's all but disappeared. Thankful none of the athletes came home in a box. Considering the Australian Embassy's total lack of interest in our fate, we'd still be waiting for the body bags to come home to Australia

STOP PRESS SURPRISED?

I'm surprised to see the Returned Services League get their knickers in a knot over draft resistor Garrie Hutchinson's role in the Victorian government's veterans unit "Draft dodger's Anzac role outrages veterans" (Herald Considering their moral outrage at Mr. Sun 11/8) Hutchinson's role vou'd think they'd have something. anything to say about The Asia Pacific Defence and Security death fair that will be opened in Adelaide on the 11th November, Armistice Day.

It is questionable holding an arms fair in Australia let alone opening it on Remembrance Day. Arms manufacturers from around the world will be pedalling their weapons in Adelaide on Remembrance Day, a day set aside to remember the millions, including over sixty thousand Australians, who died during World War One in a trade war fought by workers at either end of a bayonet.

If the RSL wants Australians to take its concerns seriously it should address its outrage, not just at soft targets like Mr. Hutchinson, but a world armaments industry that has no hesitation in using one of the most important days in this nations calendar to pedal their weapons of destruction

I remember a few years ago when the Trade Union Movement held a protest march in Melbourne on Armistice Day to highlight the problems surrounding the Howard government's Workchoices legislation, the RSL was disgusted at the misuse of Remembrance Day. It is time the RSL was consistent in its attitude and took on everyone who makes a mockery of the sacrifices made by Australian service personnel, not just the soft targetsest.

Joseph TOSCANO / Libertarian Workers For A Self-Managed Society.

POEM – Stephen Roberts NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

Pre-emptive strike with nuclear warheads plummets a good portion of the planet plus millions of deaths Bush is not waiting for Carbon Emissions with excessive heating to finish us off demolishing chunks of the globe no longer our cherished abode climate is on course according to Bush's source So now decimate, dominate the world and don't delay for emissions unfurled

ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

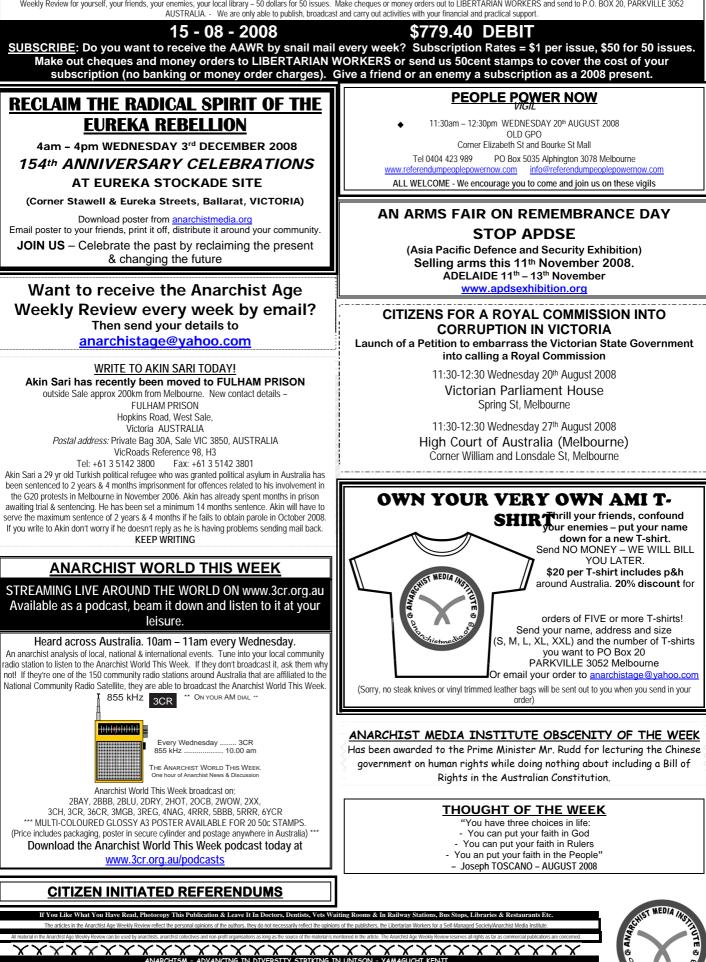
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URGENT* *URGENT **URGENT* *URGENT** DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL

ONCE AGAIN WE'RE BEGINNING TO BE PULLED INTO THE DEBT BLACKHOLE. - Our current debt is nudging 700 dollars. - You can help in a number of ways a) If you receive the Anarchist Age Weekly Review by post and have access to the internet, you can receive it by email instead of post. Saving us postage and printing costs. Just send your details to anarchistage@yahoo.com and we will put you on the email list. b) Whenever you get a chance send us 50cent Australian postage stamps. Even if you send us a book of ten every two months this will go a long way to eating into our postage costs. Send them to P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052 AUSTRALIA. c) If you are using cheques or money orders to send us funds, make out cheques and money orders directly to 3CR. Broadcasting The Anarchist World This Week is responsible for over 40% of our costs. Send cheques and money orders to P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052, Melbourne AUSTRALIA. d) Take out a subscription to the Anarchist Age Weekly Review for yourself, your friends, your enemies, your local library – 50 dollars for 50 issues. Make cheques or money orders out to LIBERTARIAN WORKERS and send to P.O. BOX 20, PARKVILLE 3052 AUSTRALIA. - We are only able to publish, broadcast and carry out activities with your financial and practical support.



WELCOME TO THE 21st CENTURY - THE ANARCHIST CENTURY......