



Vanguard

For an Independent and Socialist Australia

May Day Special Edition

May Day 2024

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Vanguard expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist)

May Day – unite to lift the level of struggle

May Day 2024 sees Australian workers and their communities gripped in a major cost of living crisis.

Aid agencies and food distribution centres report that it is no longer the unemployed and homeless seeking their support: people in low-paid jobs, people struggling to pay escalating rents and those with mortgages caught out by rising interest rates show that the virus of economic crisis is spreading through the wider community.

No real relief is in sight.

It's called imperialism

At the same time, there are now more billionaires in our country, and their wealth has increased.

According to *Forbes* magazine, Australia's 50 richest tycoons are collectively better off from a year ago. They added \$9 billion or around 4% to take their combined wealth to \$222 billion.

On the global stage imperialism continues to wreak havoc.

The division of the world into rich and poor nations is backed by oppressive state machines and military pacts.

In addition to those serving the needs of US imperialism, there are those of its rivals, Russian imperialism and Chinese social-imperialism.

They all frantically compete to develop new killing machines and new areas of control.

Artificial intelligence is identifying people to kill without the need for human oversight. It is being used in Gaza where the Zionists say that it is acceptable to kill 100 citizens using AI "identification" in order to take out one alleged Hamas operative by drone attacks.

In flagrant violation of UN treaties on Outer Space, US imperialism has created the Space Force to ensure US military control of the Space domain.

Australia has agreed to pay the fantastic sum of \$368 billion to surrender its sovereignty to US imperialism through the AUKUS arrangements.

US spokespersons have confirmed



that they expect "our" submarines to take part in any conflict with China over Taiwan. They will determine whether we go to war with our major trading partner.

What does all this mean for May Day in Australia?

May Day is the day of international working class struggle and solidarity for a world free of exploitation, imperialist wars and repression.

On May Day we express our solidarity with the struggles of the working people of all countries, and send our warmest greetings to the courageous comrades in revolutionary parties and organisations around the world.

May Day belongs to the working class

For as long as there are workers determined to fight for the interests of the working class and all oppressed people, no-one can take May Day from us, stamp it out, buy it off, commercialise it or make it acceptable to capitalism.

It's a day when workers proudly proclaim their confidence in the future.

They acknowledge the sacrifices that have been, and will be, made and declare that they will not be deterred by the deceptions and violence of the reactionaries.

Today, the urgent demand is for the defeat of Israeli Zionist genocide and an end to their ethnic cleansing of the

homelands of the Palestinian people.

Behind the Zionists stand the US imperialists and their lackeys in various countries.

And beyond the urgency of the defeat of the Israeli aggressors are yet other struggles on every continent against feudalism, capitalism and imperialism and for the rights of working people.

In our country, the best elements of the working class embrace and support the struggles of First Nations peoples,

Elders say it's time to target Pine Gap

By *Lindy Nolan*

While Palestinians are deliberately murdered and starved, Australia aids Israeli genocide, through Pine Gap near Mparntwe Alice Springs.

At a recent online forum on Pine Gap and Palestine, Professor Richard Tranter from Nautilus Institute made clear Pine Gap is Australia's biggest contribution to US and Israeli wars.

In 2003 John Howard declared war against Iraq, against the wishes of 94 percent of our people. Back then, Pine Gap guided missiles to strike Iraq. Now its surveillance and targeting means Australia is at war with Palestine, without declaring it.

First Peoples know undeclared wars are as deadly as any other. The Frontier Wars are proof.

Forum speaker, Aunty Barbara Flick called for a protest at Pine Gap near Mparntwe Alice Springs, like the huge mobilisation she joined in the 1980s. Such a protest would bring allies to

of women and youth, of environmental campaigns, and of struggling rural communities.

The ruling classes use the tactics of racism and religious fundamentalism to try and divide the working class; they prepare war and fascism to try and solve the economic and political crises besetting their system.

For an independent working class agenda!

An independent working class agenda, an independent set of demands backed by unity of action in achieving them, are urgently needed.

That agenda is embedded in struggles against fascism, war and environmental destruction.

We call on Australian workers to strive to lift the level of struggle for the achievement of the people's demands.

For anti-imperialist independence and socialism!

Workers and oppressed peoples of

Mparntwe when its First Peoples' communities and their young people most need it.

Associate Professor Kathryn Gilbey, an Alyawarre woman, spoke of the two-week Mparntwe curfew, exposing a parallel to Pine Gap's mass surveillance systems targeting Palestinians with the escalating surveillance of First Peoples, since the 2007 NT Intervention. Its fifteen-year genocide, particularly of children, went almost unreported in

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Palestinian Resistance Isolates Zionism and US imperialism

By Alice M. (Full version on cpaml.org)

Palestine's fight for liberation is turning the US imperialist dominated world upside down.

Six months of relentless Israeli slaughter of the people of Gaza and the West Bank has only spread more widely the flames of Palestinian resistance and the solidarity of the great majority of peoples of the world.

Zionist Israel and its US-led imperialist backers stand isolated and exposed in their massacre of 34,000 Palestinians, nearly half of whom are children.

Thousands are still buried under the rubble when Israel bombed countless homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, child care centres, kindergartens and a university.

Not satisfied, Israel is now intent on starving the remaining Palestinian population of Gaza.

Heroic resistance

Yet, Israel, the world's bloodiest military after the US, armed to the teeth with the most advanced high tech and intelligence weaponry, militarily and politically supported and funded in \$ trillions by US imperialism, has failed to extinguish the 76 years of the Palestinian people's resistance to Zionist Israel's brutal occupation and oppression.

The six months of Israeli genocide in Gaza and the West Bank to wipe out the existence of Palestinians, has only strengthened the unity and determination of the 5 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to resist and fight for their liberation.

Their steadfast fight against the brutal colonial occupation by the fascist Israeli state is an inspiration and a beacon for millions around the world oppressed by colonialism, capitalism and imperialism.

Israel's genocide and Palestinian resistance is mobilising millions around the world in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

Millions across the world support Palestine's struggle for liberation

Palestinians are showing that peoples of the world have the right, and duty, to resist oppression,



Australian people in their thousands demonstrate in solidarity with the Palestinian people

exploitation and fight for liberation and justice.

Six months into Israel's invasion and genocide in Gaza and mass rallies of hundreds of thousands across the world in solidarity are growing in numbers and influence.

People's mass organisations and actions against Israel's genocide and complicity by imperialist powers and their lackeys, spontaneously sprung up in all corners of the world.

People of the world are demanding Israel be boycotted, charged with genocide, and taken before the International Court of Justice for its war crimes.

US imperialism and its lackeys will be condemned by history

The Palestinian struggle has widened the gulf between the people and ruling classes of the capitalist world, sharpening contradictions between the exploited and the exploiters.

Pressure building up from below is demanding ruling classes and their governments distance themselves from Israel and cease to export

weapons and aid.

Tensions between the governments of capitalist countries and the people are exposing the military industrial complex and the leading role of US imperialism in supporting the genocide.

In the US, ruling class support for Israel is intensifying contradictions between the people and monopoly capital. US ruling class support for Israel is losing support for the governing Democrats and exposing US hypocrisy.

Internationally, US imperialism is even more isolated.

On the other side, support for Palestinian liberation struggle is expanding, with new forces joining the solidarity struggle.

The complicity of US-led imperialist powers in the genocide of Palestinian people is exposing the reality of US so-called global rules-based order.

No longer can US imperialism and its lackeys, like Australia, hide their support and complicity in genocide.

As in everything, the Labor Albanese government is dancing to

the tune of US imperialism.

The Labor government won't veer one small step away from US agendas.

US and Germany, are the two main exporters of weapons to Israel, 90% from US and 10% from Germany, for which both are universally condemned.

Israel divided and shamed

Israel itself is in crisis and more deeply divided, on the brink of open fascism.

Fault lines and conflict of interests are opening up between Israel and the US, its most important backer.

Israel's genocide is showing the world the reality of 57 years brutal colonial occupation. The world is learning about Nakba 57 years ago, about Gaza as concentration camp created by Israel, about violent Zionist settlers stealing Palestinian land in the West Bank.

The world is learning about Israel stealing water and destroying Palestinian farms and olive groves in the West Bank, deliberately making life unbearable for Palestinians to force them to leave or die.

The world is learning about the thousands of Palestinian prisoners as young as 10 or 12 rotting for years in Israeli gaols for merely throwing a rock at an Israeli Occupying Force (IOF) soldier, for flying a Palestinian flag and for resisting the occupation.

The steadfast Palestinian struggle is turning the tide and shifting the ground for peoples of Palestine and the world.

As long as the Palestinian people control their own destiny, they will surely be victorious.



Current trends in Australian agriculture



By Duncan B.

Australian agriculture in 2024 sees the continuation of the trends we have regularly reported on in previous years. Foreign-owned companies continue to buy up big, with more Australian farms and agribusinesses entering foreign hands.

Canadian and US pension funds, particularly the Canadian fund PSP continue to make big purchases of agribusinesses and farmland for cropping, grazing, wine production, nuts and horticulture. Properties with water rights are especially sought after.

Other foreign buyers are active as well. For example, Australia's largest fruit and vegetable wholesaler Costa Group will be taken over by a consortium comprising US equity firm Paine Schwartz and other partners in a \$1.5 billion deal. French agribusiness giant Louis Dreyfus has bought Namoi Cotton Limited in a \$104 million takeover.

Interestingly, according to the latest Foreign Investment Review Board figures, the amount of Australian farm land controlled by overseas interests has declined slightly, down from 53 million hectares, (14.1%), to 47.7 million hectares, (12.3%).

China takes a cut

Chinese investors control 2% of Australian farm land, (7.8 million hectares), although only 750,000 hectares of this is freehold land, the remainder being leasehold land.

There have been some recent purchases of Australian cotton,

wine and wool properties by Chinese companies, apparently seeking security of supply of these commodities. There have also been a lot of sell-offs by Chinese investors. This is due to them seeking investments in Africa and South America. No doubt the hostile atmosphere towards China by the Liberal Government was also a factor in the sell-offs.

Compradors and Collaborators

We are seeing the emergence of a comprador class in Australian agriculture, with Australian individuals and companies entering into partnerships with foreign buyers of Australian farms and agribusinesses. Mao Zedong defined compradors as "a class which directly serves the capitalists of the imperialist countries and is nurtured by them." (*Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society*)

Australian collaborators with overseas companies include Lawson Grain which is backed by the Canadian Alberta Investment Management Corporation. Recently Lawson has been making multimillion dollar purchases of cropping and grazing farms in various areas.

There are many others serving foreign masters. PSP also regularly seeks out Australian farm operators as partners in their conquest of Australian agriculture. They look for top-tier farm owner operators, preferably families already running successful businesses, but who lack the capital to expand their operations.

Editorial

Honour the Past, Fight for the Future

On May Day, class conscious workers come together to express solidarity with comrades across the world in their struggles for liberation, peace, justice and a decent life.

Only the working class has these deep feelings of international class solidarity, based on their recognition that they are all victims of the class system, all subject to exploitation, abuse, deceit, and all threatened by the murderous war policies of imperialism.

At gatherings, *The Internationale* rings out, "Arise ye workers from your slumbers, arise ye prisoners of want..." calling on the class to take up its historic mission of leading the masses through fundamental social change that eventually wipes out the class system altogether.

In places, the *Red Flag* is also sung, recalling the bitter struggles and sacrifices the working class has endured. It pays tribute to the heroes and martyrs that resisted the violence of the state, the hired thugs and fascists. "The workers' flag is deepest red, it shrouded oft our martyred dead, and ere their limbs grew stiff and cold, their hearts' blood dyed its ev'ry fold."

In spite of defeats, oppression and betrayals, the working class never gives up, has no choice other than to struggle for survival and a better life, as the chorus rings out "Then raise the scarlet banner high, beneath its shade we'll live or die, though cowards flinch and traitors sneer, we'll keep the red flag flying here."

Australia's working class

Workers in this country have won many hard-fought battles against local and foreign capitalists and multinational corporations. In the post-war years they achieved improving living standards and some progressive social benefits through union action and solidarity.

But, ever since the days of the Accord under the Hawke government, union membership has fallen away in many trades and professions, with most of the remaining unions falling in behind the parliamentary Labor Party and only mobilising members at election time.

Consequently, there is little strike action, little ACTU activity outside of the courthouse, and practically no solidarity actions which are now illegal. Result – falling wages, unemployment, rampant cost of living increases, housing and rental crisis, small businesses going broke, banks and supermarkets screwing their customers ever harder.

Capitalism reasserts itself as always. The lesson for workers is that whatever is won by struggle will always be challenged and wittled away, and this cycle can only be finished when capitalism is replaced by socialism.

Imperialism and the globalised economy

But that is only part of the story. At the same time, this "restructuring" of the economy encouraged further multinational investment and eventual control of key sections of Australian industries.

Obscene profits and rampant speculation followed, as the rich get even richer while the workers go backwards.

The political influence of US imperialism has now become dominant, reflected in the operational control of Pine Gap, the AUKUS deal and the growing intrusion into Australian military bases and airfields by the US military, aided and abetted by the sucking up antics of the current and previous Labor and Liberal governments.

The owners of these companies have become keen advocates for foreign investment in Australia.

All of this puts further pressure on the small and medium farmers

who struggle to survive against floods, cyclones, droughts and ever-increasing costs of fuel fertiliser, electricity, insurance and all their other inputs.

Marxism Today

Multipolarism: the new Kautskyism

By Alan Jackson (Edited - Full article posted on cpaml.org)

It is clear that U.S global hegemony is on the decline while economic formations like BRICS and Imperialist powers Russia and China are growing in global dominance.

The U.S since the dissolution of the social-imperialist Soviet Union in 1991 has since been the most powerful economic and military power with little competition due to the destruction of its main contender, the U.S.S.R.

This led to bourgeois journalists, think tanks, politicians, financiers and academia in their refusal to acknowledge Imperialism, to refer to the global relations situation and the supreme dominance of the U.S as one that was Unipolar.

These same liberal bourgeois or modern day Kautskyites, are deducing that with the rise of contending economic powers (particularly China and Russia) we are on the road to a "Multipolar" world in which powerful states and their monopolies will keep each other in check.

I would not bother myself writing an article against this modern day Kautskyism if it wasn't for the influx of self-proclaimed "Marxist-Leninists" (particularly in the Anglo sphere) that are picking this up as anti-Imperialist and genuine Marxist theory.

Chucking out Lenin!

Not only is this mischaracterisation erroneous and completely devoid of class analysis.

The theory of Multipolarity is crippling if kept unchecked and is an exact reflection of the Ideology Lenin railed against in "Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism".

This was the ideology of Kautsky, of the German Social-Imperialists who acted as radical Liberals and threw internationalism in the dumpster for war credits on the eve of the First World War.

If we wish to avoid revisionism and dogmatism this rhetoric must be thrown to the dustbin of history.

Why is Multipolarity a problem in the International Communist Movement and how does it relate to Kautskyism?

To answer the question of what multipolarity is and how it relates to Kautskyism, we must first make the statement and analysis clear that both China and Russia are Imperialist Countries.....and not bastions of the Proletarian Revolution like many delusional "Marxist-Leninists" so erroneously are stating, we can address this question better.

These revisionists have quite a large following and include but aren't limited to Ben Norton, who claims to be a Marxist-Leninist subjectively but objectively only combats U.S Imperialism to defend Russian and Chinese Imperialism.

He has been defending Russian and Chinese Imperialism to an equally large extent and has even gone so far recently as stating "Russia is on the path to becoming Socialist again"

Supporters of multipolarity include Infrared (Haz), Jakson Hinkle, Caleb Maupin and Alexandr Dougan.

Multipolar or a Socialist world?

There has also been some influence in Australia with the Communist Party of Australia publishing an article by Jesus Rojas in 2021 titled "Venezuela, Russia and China: the route to a multipolar world", and its 14th Congress in 2022 passing a resolution which included:

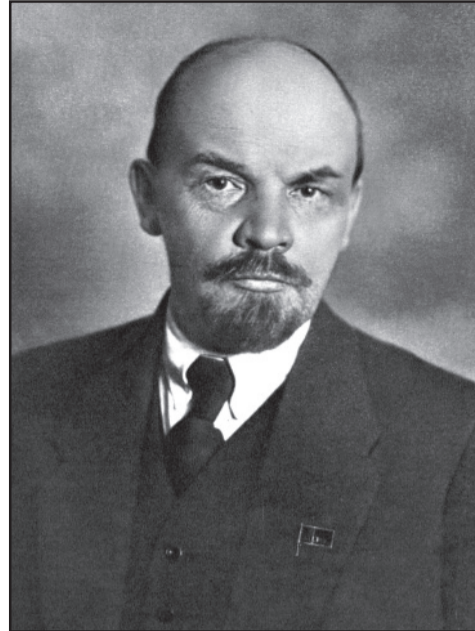
"Most countries support the trend towards a multi-polar world and against hegemony. China's framework of win/win diplomacy and community for a shared future are much better suited for the increasingly multipolar world."

There is also a rather small group called the "Eureka Collective" who also seem to follow this theory.

This large influence world-wide has led to many aspiring Marxist-Leninists supporting Multipolarity as a genuine and viable solution promoting peace.

Imperialism always means war

This is ridiculous as military spending has only gone up since



V. I. LENIN

IMPERIALISM,
THE HIGHEST STAGE
OF CAPITALISM

Lenin's definition of Imperialism continues to be validated

the rise of other imperialist states according to *Al Jazeera* "reaching all-time high of \$2.24 trillion"

Aggression has also only gone up with war and genocide resurrecting in Palestine.

Genocide is being perpetrated by the Fascist Israeli Government and Settlers; Ukraine is being invaded by Imperialist Russia and is being fuelled and fooled by the Imperialist super power the US; Yemen, Afghanistan, The Congo, Sudan, Burkina Faso and the Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute are further examples.

Russia and China have been sinking their Imperialist teeth into African and Asian veins with loans as harsh as the IMF with Sri Lanka forfeiting "the port and over 15,000 acres of land around it for 99 years"

It is clear the Imperialist countries will not "keep each other in check" but carry on as Imperialism always has, as a blood-starved beast that will seek out Capital where it can no matter the consequences.

But, how does this relate to Kautskyism and Ultra-Imperialism?

Marx declared that 'History repeats itself first, as tragedy, and then as farce.'

And farcical it is watching the lows these subjective "MLs" but objective defenders of Imperialism will drop to with ridiculous statements such as listed above in order to promote and defend their ideology.

Kautsky presented his Ultra-Imperialism by saying "Cannot the present imperialist policy be supplanted by a new, ultra-imperialist policy, which will

introduce the joint exploitation of the world by internationally united finance capital in place of the mutual rivalries of national finance capitals? Such a new phase of capitalism is at any rate conceivable."

A new Ultra-Imperialist policy now emerges and presents imperialism as a desirable set of multiple poles (multipolarity) with different aims but a common goal of achieving a peaceful environment for their ongoing exploitation and plunder.

With everything so far it is very clear that Inter-Imperialist competition only breeds war and will never become a joint productive and co-operative endeavour between the most powerful of states.

With everything presented it is clear and obvious the appearance of Multipolarism is only a rebranded and reskinned Kautskyite Ultra-Imperialism just like Kautsky's Ultra-Imperialism was a rebranding and reskinning of Hobson's Super-Imperialism which proclaimed "Christendom thus laid out in a few great federal empires, each with a retinue of uncivilised dependencies, seems to many the most legitimate development of present tendencies, and one which would offer the best hope of permanent peace on an assured basis of inter-imperialism."

Knowing that Multipolarism is only modern day Kautskyism, we can throw this crippling theory to the dustbin of history and carry on in our revolutionary mass work.

Like Lenin said "Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.", and it is clear that Multipolarism is no revolutionary theory.

Poverty in Australia: more entrenched than ever

Contributed

Some recent studies have revealed just how much the Australian working-class have lost in the past few years with rampant inflation which has undermined living standards.

Lower socio-economic groups have been particularly hard-hit.

While economists continue to discuss the likely causes of the problem, the seriously dysfunctional nature of the Australian capitalist economy would appear the likely outcome of being part of the imperialist globalised economy.

A recent study conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has found 970,000 Australian workers were employed in multiple jobs, up by 13,600 compared to the previous quarter ending last December. (*Multi-job record a sign of bad times, The Weekend Australian, 9-10 March 2024.*)

Many Australian workers find it difficult, if not impossible, to retain their living standards with one job.

Australia, in recent years, has been hard-hit with soaring price/profit inflation levels which have reduced spending power by as much as 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

Australian workers have experienced a drastic wage-cut

While Australia has a total workforce of 14,201,300, the participation rate has remained relatively constant at 66.8 per cent.

In reality, therefore, the workforce is only 9,486,468. (ABS: *Australian*

Workforce, January 2024.)

Using the official government statistics as the benchmark, therefore, a total of 10.23 per cent of the Australian working class cannot financially survive with only one job.

To what extent the second jobs remain outside the usual structured and policed economy with recorded wages and entitlements, together with income tax and super being paid, and non-official work with payment in the form of cash-in-hand, is difficult to accurately establish.

The latter, nevertheless, is a



factor which has to be taken into account together with the problem of wage-theft.

A further problem workers experience when employed in more than one job is that entitlements for injuries are affected; income protection insurance for main employment, for example, does not apply usually apply if a worker is injured in a second job.

If the second job is in the informal economic system, serious legal and liability issues automatically arise during the subsequent investigation.

The official statistics are all the more appalling when taking other criteria into account.

Those employed on the casual basis or precarious levels of employment, while sometimes earning high wages, usually lack credit ratings to raise a mortgage to buy their own homes.

They are, subsequently, frequently found in rental accommodation.

A recent study conducted by PropTrack has established rental affordability is now at the worse levels since records began.

While the average national median

exacerbated the problem, with the age of cheap credit well past.

Many Australians with credit card debts now experience serious financial difficulties.

While economists continue to argue about the causes of the price/profit inflation, a common theory is that it has been the natural outcome of a financial stimulus by the then Trump administration in Washington, designed to ease the problems caused by the COVID pandemic.

It was noted 'every year from 2017 when Trump took over

household income has increased 19 per cent during the 2019-24 period, rents have increased by 38 per cent during the same period.

(*Rental crisis worst on record, The Weekend Australian, 9-10 March 2024.*)

Rental crisis, housing out of reach

Last year an ABS study found city rents across Australia increased by an average of 7.3 per cent.

Soaring interest rates have also

from Obama, his administration increased the federal deficit significantly, ultimately adding more to US debt than all former US presidents combined'.

Due to the globalised economy, the problem quickly spread through financial and banking systems to those countries such as Australia which remain strongly linked to the US.

At the top-end-of-town, however, unequal distribution of wealth has continued to be a serious problem.

The rich and wealthy continue to expand their portfolios well above levels of inflation while giving their workers wage increases below half that of existing inflation rates!

(See Website: *Forbes List*, where the rich openly flout their wealth and gloat over their ill-gotten gains; information about what they pay workforces can be accessed through the ABS and trade-unions.)

There is no sign the problem of price/profit inflation will end in the near future.



On the introduction of Supermarket Security Checkpoints

By Swanston

First introduced in mid-2023 to combat the rising number of incidents concerning shoplifting and what the talking-heads of the bourgeoisie have declared to be a sudden and unprovoked “rise in aggression” (Brad Banducci former CEO Woolworths) against their employees in Australian supermarkets, Coles’ and Woolworths’ anti-shoplifting programs demonstrate plainly the bloated and disconnected hubris of the bourgeoisie.

These programs demonstrate a ruling-class that is becoming more severed from the lived experiences of the working-class and working-poor with each passing day.

It demonstrates a class with such little awareness of its conditions that it ignorantly believes that its own lies it tells to cheat us will simply be taken as fact: by both employee and customer alike. By those it exploits through undercutting wages, and by those it endlessly price gouges out of every dollar.

Yet this lie that they repeat, this lie that they are introducing these means to protect some of Australia’s most vulnerable workers is acknowledged by all those who toil day to day for what it is!

As a sham! As a maliciously crafted excuse which has but one true purpose: to protect capital, From South Melbourne to Carrum Downs, from street to street this is acknowledged earnestly by all people.

Presumed to be criminals!

With one emergency service worker recalling to me that Banducci’s panopticon (surveillance system) makes them feel as if “everyone is presumed to be a criminal”, and a young single mother recalling to me that ever since those gates first came up in South Melbourne (along Clarendon Street) that she has only seen one thing change.

That those “blackshirts” as she calls them, the corporate security of these shopping-centres, have only become ever more energised to brutalise and abuse those they deem “to look too poor” to shop.

To hide behind excuses of fighting crime and to force people to come behind cameras and into that dreaded back room.

To come into that back room and face the consequences of surviving and being able to live another day.

This is the reality of these programs. This is the reality of the class conflict.

Such measures such as the



Supermarket “smart gate” locks in shoppers until checkout releases them

introduction of so called: smart gates, of anti-theft fog and security databases, such measures such as the expansion of security teams and of the trolley-lock system only harm those within working-class suburbs.

They do not even affect the wealthy and well-off, the bosses, nor the bureaucrat.

This is even evident in where they place these measures.

For what connects South Melbourne to Carrum Downs, what connects my own suburb to all the suburbs chosen for this program is that they are predominantly and historically working-class and host a large population who sit underneath the poverty line.

A large population which relies on welfare payments and who reside in public housing.

A large population who has long been exploited and shamed by the Capitalist system and its supporters.

Workers also under attack

Like all things in the class conflict, this issue has not remained stagnant over the course of a few months.

For it must be acknowledged that this attack has not been one that has been strictly led against consumers, but as ever has been expanded against these corporation’s hard-working employees.

For as reported by several worker-representatives of the Retail and Fast Food Workers’ Union, Coles has further

expanded this campaign upon its own workers.

That is, Coles now again will harass and coerce its employees alongside customers with their “blackshirts”, who will gleefully collaborate and undoubtedly restrain their hardworking and underpaid retail-clerks for but a suspicion of theft.

Likely with threats of reporting them to management if they do not comply.

With threats of loss of job and livelihood!

These scenes though will be ironic to those who know of Coles’ long history of blatant wage theft.

For Coles and Woolworths: the happy hypocrites who cry ‘thief!’ as they rob their workers of their rightful wages have always with a crocodile’s smile attempted to cast blame on others.

They would not dare admit that their employees are being unpaid and should have the ability to shop where they work!

They would not admit that the statement from the Retail and Fast-Food Workers Union (RAFFWU) could be true.

That as Josh Cullinan, Secretary of RAFFWU puts it, that “the reason they’re bag checking is because they know that their own workers are forced to think about stealing because they can’t afford food”.

For these corporations and their bosses would rather sit lying between their teeth with yearly wages so high (collected from all their robbery) that the average person could not achieve such in a lifetime.

A tale of two payments...

By Nick G.

In the same week that the government gifted \$4.7 billion to Rolls Royce in Britain to help them build submarine nuclear reactors, which we will then have to buy from them, the automatic CPI-based indexation of welfare payments will see the unemployed get an extra 97 cents a day.

The JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment Partnered and Special Benefit rates are usually adjusted on 20 March and 20 September each year in line with CPI movements over the preceding six month period.

“This increase – not even a dollar a day – is barely enough to cover a packet of pasta, and will not be noticed by people who are still coping heartbreaking rent rises of \$30, \$40, \$50 dollars, or more, as well as contending with rises in food, medical, utility, and other basic expenses”, Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson, Jasmin Witham said.



Ms Witham added: “Almost two years ago, the Albanese government was elected on a promise to ‘Leave No One Behind’, but people on JobSeeker have been largely forgotten.”

Last year’s Federal Budget saw an insulting and miserable \$2.86-a-day rise to JobSeeker. With this latest indexation, JobSeeker will still be \$34-a-day to \$238-a-week – below the Henderson poverty-line of \$88-a-day.

Unlike the Australian unemployed, Rolls Royce must be rubbing its hands in glee.

The \$4.7 billion gift from the Australia taxpayer matches exactly the same amount gifted to US shipyards

struggling to build one Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarine a year.

The government will argue that the \$9.4 billion to be shared between US and UK masters of war will be spread over ten years, but so what?

There are currently 565,000 unemployed people in Australia.

Shared between them \$9.4 billion would mean \$16,370,000 per person over ten years, or \$1,637,000 per year for a decade.

Instead, they are offered 97 cents a day.

For the sake of selling out our sovereignty, and making it impossible for us to back out of any war the US imperialists wish to drag us into, we are robbing Australians of a decent way of life.

There is no difference between Labor and Liberal in terms of their blind obedience to their US masters.

The waste of money on AUKUS must be stopped.

First Peoples' land to feed real estate bubble

By *Lindy Nolan*

Capitalism must constantly expand. Government decisions on when, where and how to develop Australia have always served it.

Brilliant new research, *Unshackled* reminds us how 160,000 convicts created colonies and wealth here for British capitalists. On stolen lands.

Two centuries later, NSW governments led and fed the current residential real estate explosion. To link distant potential housing estates, they sold public assets to fund a spaghetti of tollways under and over the Sydney basin, and freeways on its north and south coasts.

Transurban, which grew from Macquarie Bank, purchased the government-subsided tollways with guarantees of ongoing mega profits.

Transurban's top security holder is Unisuper Ltd, but combined its three bigger US-owned runners up – State Street Corporation, Blackrock Group and The Vanguard Group – could easily outvote it.

This expansion is underpinned by high immigration. While governments locked out and locked up desperate refugees, and living costs soared, immigration also drove up rents and house prices. A review means soon only skilled migrants, earning \$135,000 per year, will get visas (or afford housing).

Last December ABC's Nassim Khadem wrote Australian residential real estate value "has hit \$10.3 trillion", around three times bigger than superannuation holdings (\$3.5 trillion) or listed stocks (\$2.8 trillion). It's a bubble.

The cry is now 'More LAND for housing!' Ten per cent of NSW, including national parks, will soon be transferred to local Aboriginal lands councils. Corporations aim to grab it.

Land is wealth

In 2017, my *Driving Disunity, the Business Council against Aboriginal Community* revealed the Business Council's crowned Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council as custodians because it was prepared to sell sacred lands for real estate. It met fierce collective resistance led by First Peoples who came from that land.

Westpac had trained Darkinjung to claim protected environmental land on the NSW Central Coast. It then sold what's now a massive coastal resort and suburb, Magenta Shores, to BCA member Mirvac, despite huge local resistance.

For all this, plus two other developments where 208 lots were sold,

just 30 Aboriginal homes (including mobile ones) were built.

Darkinjung now has 1000 potential land claims, but other big coastal and Hawkesbury River headwater developments have already started.

Meanwhile, First Peoples and allies mobilise to defend sacred lands.

Westpac shared its template for removing environmental land caveats to 119 other NSW lands councils and claims are multiplying across the state.

On Botany Bay, for example, Mirvac has been in talks with La Perouse custodians.

Separate to this, in Sydney Harbour, Goat Island was given to Sydney Metropolitan Lands Council, initially excluding local custodians, who protested.

Future plans for Cockatoo Island with First Peoples' involvement include a hotel.

Likewise, the Block in Redfern was a famed 1970s Aboriginal public housing project.

Despite a 29-month Tent Embassy occupation, it was redeveloped for the Aboriginal Housing Authority for 24 storeys of fee-paying overseas' student accommodation.

The Embassy won 62 affordable housing apartments for First Peoples including families, at 80 per cent of



Collage of demolition of Redfern's Block, which began in 2011. All of the original buildings including the flag mural have been removed.

market rent. It excludes those displaced.

'The wealth is in the land'

This story told about NSW flowed on, though with some differences, nationwide.

Native title is not land rights. While its punishing process can provide benefits to individual First Peoples, successful applicants can't veto mining and gas projects.

On other projects including real estate, proving custodian heritage can be extremely difficult without research skills and ongoing funding.

With corporate backing, such problems dissolve, leaving greater division and dispossession, as the BCA-

Darkinjung "partnership" shows.

The famed IATSIS map of Aboriginal Australia is based on public sources up till 1994.

It shows what it calls 'Darkinung' lands in NSW to the west of coastal Awabakal and Kuring-gai lands of the Central Coast.

While, among other things, the map emphasises it's "not suitable for native title and other land claims", the shift which eliminated Kuring-Gai claims is telling.

Some First Peoples who have faith in corporations will try to share benefits.

But, once some environmental land is sold, pressure will be on to sell the rest.

Capitalism will pave the world without remorse.

As Kuku Yalanji man John Hartley points out, "The wealth is in the land. Once it's sold, it's gone."

When the bubble bursts, Australian governments will prop up profits not our peoples' needs.

Unshackled reveals how often convicts rebelled. So too today. First Peoples and their allies will not give up.

Our joint enemies become clearer day by day. As strong as they seem, their foundations are starting to crumble. Injustice breeds resistance.

Elders say it's time to target Pine Gap

Continued from Page 1

mainstream media.

She mentioned the lies against Palestine and lies triggering the Intervention.

The key trigger was on ABC's *Lateline* where an "Uluru youth worker" falsely alleging "paedophile rings run by Elders", actually worked for Howard's Aboriginal Affairs Minister. Truth uncovered didn't stop further lies. "The little children are sacred" report is still frequently cited as the Intervention's cause. Yet both report authors vehemently opposed the Intervention.

The "Emergency" legislation to "save children" didn't mention the words 'child', 'children', 'young' or 'youth'. It was full of map coordinates. Entry permits were removed and white businesses replaced successful Aboriginal-run projects in communities and towns. Mining and gas corporations were given land rights with no custodian vetoes.

Young Aboriginal Peoples were swept from the safety of now defunded and disempowered homeland communities, where elders and culture had been strong, into crowded and unsupported regional centres.



Last year Vanguard said of a Saturday Paper expose, "*In Children of the Intervention*", Gurnaikurnai Wotjobaluk journalist Ben Abbatangelo gives voice to those central desert Peoples who have yet again been blamed. "He writes, 'This desert town has been depicted as a war zone and its people as alien-like problems that need to be solved.'"

"Of the so-called out-of-control young people, Abbatangelo says, 'Dispossession and displacement lives within each of these kids. Most adolescents at the centre of the firestorm are also the grandchildren of the Stolen Generations and the great-grandchildren of those who were herded onto missions or massacred.'"

"Aranda woman and Ntaria/Hermannsburg community organiser Que Nakamarra Kenny told him, 'What's clear is that no one cares more about Aboriginal people than Aboriginal people themselves. We're at the tail end of the Northern Territory Intervention and these children are a product of that. They are the children of the Intervention who have grown up watching their parents be demonised and rejected.'"

For fifteen years, Elders like Aunty Elaine Kngwarraye Peckham and the late Harry Jakamarra Nelson, and younger leaders like Aunty Barbara Shaw trekked thousands of kilometres from Mparntwe and elsewhere to tell Intervention stories.

They did this, even as they lived under the daily brutality of its regime, tried to support their people, especially their children.

Right now, when genocide in Palestine is mirrored by ongoing genocide against First Peoples, it's time to make links clear, and return some immediate support and truth telling for those parallel sacrifices.

It's time to create to hope through another convergence of allies at Mparntwe, and at the murderous US war base at Pine Gap.

Cancel the Elbit contract!

By Nick G.

Israel's Elbit Systems announced in February that it had been awarded a US\$600 million (A\$917 million) contract by the Australian Department of Defence for the supply of systems to South Korean company Hanwha. Hanwha is to produce 129 Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) for the DoD at Geelong.

Hanwha and Elbit last year signed an agreement to cooperate on the manufacture of the IFVs which already include the Redback Turret, which is based on the latest generation of Elbit's 30 mm manned turret with the COAPS gunner sight, additional electro-optic systems, Iron Fist active protection system, Elbit's Iron-Vision advanced situational awareness head mounted display system, and Elbit's ELAWS laser warning system.

The contract for the IFVs is worth \$7 billion AUD (\$4.6 billion USD),



Hanwha Redback Andrew Green via Australian Ministry of Defence

of which will go to Elbit, in addition to the additional \$917 million.

All of this was negotiated by the DoD last year after the Zionist army attacked Gaza, and is a totally unwarranted reward for Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people.

US imperialism sets the agenda

The significance of the contract was omitted from the online *Australian Defence Magazine's* announcement, but was prominent in the US online *Breaking Defense* report.

The US report said that the contract 'expands Elbit's role in Australia. It is also the largest contract announced by the Israeli firm since the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.'

The Australian report did not say why we needed the IFVs, but the US report was less coy, quoting the DoD as saying that 'The acquisition of these infantry fighting vehicles is part of the Government's drive to modernise the Australian Army to ensure it can respond to the most demanding land challenges in our region.'

What 'land challenges' there might be 'in our region' were not specified, although it strongly suggests preparation on the part of the DoD for military action in other people's countries in the South Pacific.

This contract must be cancelled. There should be no purchases of military equipment from the genocidal Zionists, nor should there be any arms sales to them.

By way of a postscript, the Wikipedia page on Elbit documents other countries that have taken a moral stand against dealing with the company.

Welcoming our neighbours with open arms

A new set of policies on Australian exports introduced last November has been designed to make local research and development interoperable with that of our AUKUS "partners", the US and UK imperialists.

Hugh Jeffrey, Australia's Deputy Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Industry made the announcement during a Canberra speech sponsored by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank.

Jeffrey said that the changes will mean "a net decrease in regulatory compliance costs, and actually expand the amount of research that can occur internationally without a permit".

"...with the national exemption for export permits from the US and UK, (the changes will) remove regulation from \$5 billion of almost \$9 billion in annual Australian defence exports."

That will please not just the American and British, but also our good friends in the Zionist genocidal army to which we are exporting arms and technology.

But local researchers outside the US loyalists in the Australian military, public service and government, are worried about the implications.

The president of the Australian Academy of Sciences, Chennupati Jagadish, was concerned

about the prospect of a brain drain towards the military.

"My ability to attract the best and brightest in the world, wherever they are, will diminish," he said. "It's timely to ask what Australia is really seeking to secure if we are restricting the development of technologies that are critical for the future of our country?"

Even people in the US close to their military are surprised at the gullibility of their Australian servants.

Bill Greenwalt, who as a staffer on the Senate Armed Services Committee wrote many of the US export control rules, said he thought "Australia just gave up its sovereignty and got nothing for it."

Greenwalt, also a former US deputy undersecretary of Defense for industrial policy, warned that incorporating many of the principles of the International Trafficking in Arms Exports (ITAR) regulations to gain access to US nuclear submarine technology would set Australia back 50 years.

The changes are designed to more closely bind Australia to the United States and Britain in return for access to the technology and intellectual property that comes with the primary goal of the AUKUS agreement — buying and building



How the world sees us, because it is how the Government sees us

nuclear-powered attack submarines.

The gullibility extends to a promised gift to the US of A\$4.7 million to pump prime their submarine production at a time when there is no guarantee of that happening.

A matching contribution of US\$3 billion has yet to pass Congress, held up by the same Republicans who are hoping for a Trump return to the Presidency.

Editor of the online Australia Pacific Defence Reporter, Kym Bergmann, commented yesterday: "In the US the return of Donald Trump to the Presidency is suddenly looking more likely – and if he scraps AUKUS it might do us all a favour by bowing to the inevitable."

Commenting on US-Australia relations, former Senator and submariner Rex Patrick wrote that "There are no guarantee the US will actually deliver. US national interests will always take precedence."

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also said that under AUKUS, Australia has 'lost all sovereignty, all agency'

Australia will never have the capacity for independent decision-making in matters of foreign policy so long as our economy is dominated by the US, and our ruling circles are blindly loyal to US imperialism.

Meet the CPA (M-L)

Whether you're interested in joining or just want to discuss ideological or political issues, we welcome your enquiries.

Email: info@cpaml.org

with name, location and a contact mobile phone number, to arrange a discussion with one of our comrades.