



# THE AGITATOR

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# THE AGITATOR

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**THE COMMUNIST  
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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### News:

Government ideology- based  
mismanagement puts Australians  
at Risk from Covid19-p2

Vale Vera Deacon-p7

Hiroshima day-p8

### Theory & Practice

Vaccinations – the material reality  
of the pandemic and risks of  
inaction-p11

Why Identity Politics is destroying  
the communist movement in the  
west p-14

Australian Media and Propaganda  
– a Study on China and the web of  
propaganda p-19

### History in Action

Conscription, Imperialism, and  
War-16

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
-p9

### CULTURE AND ART

Song-Walls & Windows-p6  
Poem- Hiroshima girl -p8  
Poem-Speaking in Tongues-p10  
Painting; Dark Landfall-p10

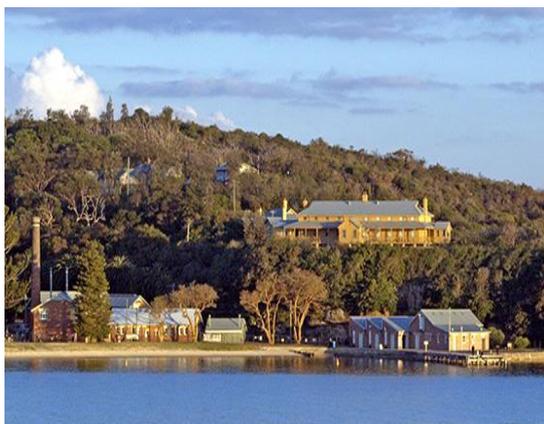
**HOW TO JOIN CWPA** -p24

**Editor: Brenda Kellaway**

# Government ideology- based mismanagement puts Australians at Risk from Covid19

by Brenda Kellaway

Unlike the Socialist countries, where public health is the priority, the Australian government's priority, particularly during this pandemic, has been to support big business, over and above the health of Australia's general population. Nowhere can this be seen more transparently than in the Australian government's quarantine debacles, or to put it another way, by the lack of proper quarantine facilities.



Above: North Head Quarantine station, NSW

It is almost 19 months since the WHO (World Health Organization), declared a pandemic capable of affecting the world yet, in Australia, still, there are nil purposely built quarantine stations. The only working quarantine station in Australia, is the Howard Springs quarantine facility near Darwin. This one facility was working prior to this pandemic, but it is hardly suitable to service the whole of Australia as it doesn't have the capacity.

Australia had several quarantine stations in the past, however, dereliction of the facilities, failure to upgrade, privatization, and land grabs by developers, have seen the demise of all but the one previously mentioned, in Howard Springs. The North Head Quarantine station, in NSW, operated for 128 years from 1932- 1984, the Point Nepean Quarantine station, in Victoria, operated for 128 years and was closed in 1980, the Lytton Quarantine station in Brisbane closed in the late 1980's and the Peel Island quarantine station in Queensland, founded in 1874, finally closed also in the 1980's. These closures were brought about partly due to the failure of successive governments to upgrade these quarantine facilities, but also because consecutive governments have been selling off public land and facilities to developers and big business, in line with economic rationalist policies. These economic rationalist policies were first introduced into Australian politics by the American Economist Milton Friedman in 1975.

What many people may be unaware of, is that there was a review of quarantine facilities conducted by the 'Australian Quarantine Review Secretariat, Department of Primary Industries and Energy in Canberra in 1996. The report entitled '**Australian Quarantine a shared responsibility**' written by M.E. Nairn, P.G. Allen, A.R. Inglis and C. Tanner, made several recommendations including:

*'Recommendation 1: The Review Committee recommends that the vision for quarantine be 'that Australia will maintain its relative freedom from unwanted pests and diseases while fulfilling national and international obligations in a responsible manner' (Section 2.2).*

*Recommendation 2: The Review Committee recommends that the goal of national quarantine should be to prevent the establishment and spread within Australia of exotic pests and diseases that are deemed to have a significant deleterious effect on humans, animals, plants, or the natural environment (Section 2.2.4).*

*Recommendation 3: The Review Committee recommends that the goal of quarantine be achieved through a nationally coordinated, consistent and transparent quarantine system using pre-border, border and post-border measures (Section 2.3.3).'*

**This means that the recommendations of a Commonwealth Government inquiry into Quarantine, in Australia in 1996, the inquiry instigated by the Keating government, has been totally ignored by the Commonwealth governments for the past 25 years, and by both governments of the LNP and ALP.**



*Above Point Nepean Quarantine*



*Above Point Nepean Quarantine Station*

### **Why would a government ignore its own inquiry and subsequent findings?**

The answer is Economic Rationalism, Paul Keating and Scott Morrison and others are strong supporters of Economic Rationalist policies, a belief in deregulation, free market economy and privatisation. At its core, Economic Rationalism incorrectly believes that the private sector, business, is more efficient than publicly run facilities, and that business can cater for all the basic needs of a society. Clearly this theory is incorrect, as proven by how inefficient and what a debacle attempting to privatise quarantine has been.

Hotel Quarantine has proven to be incredibly inefficient and not fit for purpose when proper quarantine processes are needed. The fact that Covid19 has escaped Hotel Quarantine several times, that other people have been infected with Covid19 whilst in hotel quarantine, and that the staff involved in running these facilities are untrained in disease control and processes, all point to the inadequacies of the Hotel Quarantine system. This is the case, yet nothing has been done to radically alter our quarantine program.

According to the Guardian Australia Newspaper 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Greg Hunt, the Australian Minister for Health had stated;

“... half a million Australians had come home through hotel quarantine since March last year, and despite the small number of outbreaks, he believed Australia had the best quarantine system in the world.”

Mr. Hunt’s awesome insensitivity to people who have been directly affected, and to people who have lost family members and friends, due to the incredibly inefficient system of quarantine, is breathtaking!

Increasingly there have been calls from medical practitioners, scientific organisations, and even from members of parliament, to create a proper and appropriate quarantine system. So why does this government still reject the idea of properly organised quarantine facilities and processes? After all it is possible that we might need these facilities for future health concerns, even well after the Covid19 pandemic is over.



Lytton Quarantine Station Brisbane

The answer is ideology, the economic rationalist, free market thinking that assumes that private industry is more capable of finding solutions than publicly run institutions. Why else would our government allow private security guards, with no proper training, to be responsible for looking after people in quarantine?

### **Why would government allow Hotels to become quarantine facilities in the first place?**

The Australian government first announced the idea of Hotel Quarantines on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, Scott Morrison spoke to a press conference where, according to the Guardian Newspaper.

*Morrison acknowledged that further restrictions will be required in New South Wales and Victoria to try and prevent an acceleration of community transmissions of the virus. He hinted further lockdowns will likely be sequenced with a third round of economic support from Canberra.*

*The prime minister told reporters he wanted to structure support allowing businesses to effectively “hibernate” during the pandemic and emerge on the other side with as few debts and liabilities as possible... – Guardian 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, ‘Overseas arrivals to Australia to be quarantined in hotels for two weeks over coronavirus.’*

Below Peel Island Caretakers house





*Above Peel Island Quarantine*

Clearly Morrison was already focussed on business interests, when ‘Cabinet’ made the decision regarding Hotel Quarantine. The question needs to be asked; did donations to the Liberal/National Party, from the Hotel Associations, influence the decision to have quarantine in the Hotels, instead of properly organised quarantine stations with appropriately trained staff?

According to an article from the ABC news channel on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2020 titled; ‘Coalitions \$165 Million war chest that helped Scott Morrison win election revealed’, it is clear the Hotel Associations, and related bodies, have given hundreds of thousands of dollars to both major political parties, if not millions in donations, towards elections Campaigns

**Did donations, from the Hotel Associations, influence the decision of this ‘National Cabinet’ to organise quarantine from hotels?**

Given that the Hotels would have suffered huge losses in profits otherwise, due to the of the lack of patronage during lockdowns, it is likely that this at the very least, influenced the decision making.

*Below Howard Springs Quarantine station*



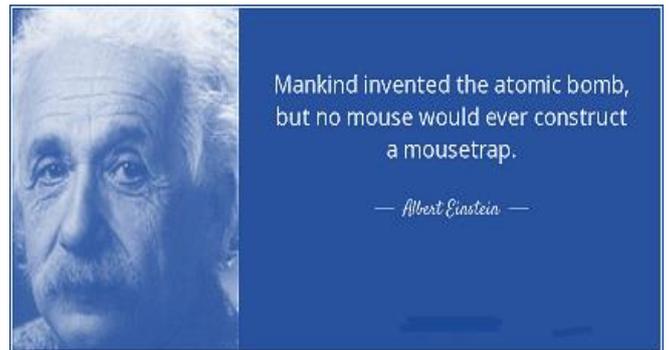
The ‘National Cabinet,’ has never been a properly constituted body of the Australian government. The ‘National Cabinet,’ is not an electable body, and who could be a party to this ‘National Cabinet’, and why, is highly questionable and controversial. Many people have been left wondering why a National Cabinet could meet instead of Parliament? The explanation given, for this ‘National Cabinet,’ was that due to Covid19, the whole parliament could not safely sit. However, many people have asked the question why our parliament could not sit, and hold meetings online, especially given many other organisations were meeting online and the capacity for having large meetings is available. There should be no problems with security in this regard as Parliament is televised and available to the general public already, with some exceptions. Leaving aside the legalities of having a National Cabinet, the decision was made by this unconstitutionally put together body, for Hotel Quarantine to go ahead on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, decided to distance his government from the responsibility of Quarantine altogether, and to instead designate the responsibility to the state governments/state premiers, this is regardless of the fact, that quarantine is constitutionally a Federal responsibility.

In a press release on 27<sup>th</sup> of March from Scott Morrison stated, ‘*Designated facilities will be determined by the relevant state or territory governments and...*’.

This abrogation of federal responsibility, to leave the responsibility of quarantine to the states, instead of accepting it as the role of Federal government, has effectively meant that Morrison has distanced himself from any criticism or failures of Hotel quarantine. This also has had the effect of allowing the entire quarantine matter, or failures of quarantine, to be politicised, and used, in attempts blame state leaders, particularly Morrison's opponents instead. This can be illustrated particularly in the rabid criticisms of the State Premier, Dan Andrews, in relation to outbreaks in Victoria from Hotel quarantine, blaming Andrews himself, instead of the systemic faults regarding hotel quarantine.

The Economic Rationalist ideology of both, LNP and ALP governments, has led to the neglect of quarantine facilities and the closing down of these facilities. If we'd had proper processes for disease control and quarantine in place, if we'd had proper facilities, with appropriately trained staff, as per the recommendations of the report to government in 1996, we would likely to have not been in the position of having to have rolling lockdowns, would have had a healthier economy, and many people would not have suffered crippling disease, and in many cases, would not have died from Covid19.



Song: **Walls and Windows**

Lyrics and Chords

ARTIST: **Judy Small & Pat Humphries**

Did you sing your children  
lullabies to calm their fears at  
night?  
Did you hold them gently 'til they  
went to sleep?  
Did you plant in them the seeds of  
hope for new and better lives?  
Did you make them promises you  
couldn't keep?

/ A - D A / - - E - / A - D A / - -  
E - /

{Refrain}

Do you think of me as enemy and  
could you call me friend?  
Or will we let our differences  
destroy us in the end?  
The wall that stands between us  
could be a window too  
When I look into the mirror, I see  
you

/ D A D A / D A D E - / A - D A / -  
E A - /

Do you have sons who fight for  
peace the way I'm told mine do?  
Do they send you photographs from  
foreign lands?  
Do you chill to see the missiles,  
and do they haunt your dreams?  
Do you wonder who's the power,  
who's the hands?

{Refrain}

Oh, may we live to see the day when  
walls of words and fear  
No longer stand between the truth  
and dreams  
When walls of windows rise into the  
darkness, and we dare  
To look into the mirror and see  
peace

# Vale Vera Deacon

Vera Deacon, 19.07.1926 – 17.05.2021.

Comrades were saddened to learn of the death of Vera Deacon, in late May this year, aged 94. Vera was a Newcastle icon, and a true comrade to the end.

Vera will be best remembered for her passion for social justice and working class history. She collaborated with Comrade Len Fox in the production of the important 1977 book *Depression Down Under*. In this and other publications, Vera recorded her story growing up in the 1930s, in unemployed camps on the Dempsey and Moschetto Islands in the Hunter River. This history inspired the famous song ‘Weevils in the Flour’. It sheeted home the realities of capitalist finance and resulting crises.

Vera was a regular at events organised by the Communist Party over the years, including recent events. She told the story of one such event in the 1950s in Newcastle, when the Greek Orthodox priest was there, and he ‘blessed’ the Hammer & Sickle with his little flask of holy water! Vera was one of those rare people who never lost the courage to struggle for Marxist principles.

In recent years, Vera devoted much of her time and money to the cause of working class history. In her honour, the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund was established at the University of Newcastle. Her active support included the Archives at the university, which now house an impressive collection of Party items from days gone by, thanks to her. She also encouraged initiatives such as the Living Histories website.

She will be greatly missed. Farewell, Comrade Vera!

Below Vera Deacon



# Hiroshima Day 6<sup>th</sup> of August

The United States of America detonated two nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945, respectively. The two bombings killed between an estimated 129,000 and 226,000 people, almost immediately. The exact number of deaths, including deaths in later years from related injuries and illness, remains unknown. Most of the people who died were civilians, and this act of the U.S.A remains the only use of nuclear weapons in an armed conflict.

Many people may not be aware that, emerging during the Potsdam conference, held between the 17<sup>th</sup>, of July and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, of August 1945, just two weeks prior to these detonations, there were already discussions in progress with Japan, regarding how Japan might surrender and under what terms they might agree to surrender.

People might also be unaware, that had the weather been more suitable, the U.S had planned many more targets for nuclear attacks. In fact, U.S.A had planned to drop 12 nuclear bombs on Japan during that period.

It is revealing to note that the U.S, being the only nation to ever drop nuclear bombs on anyone, now considers themselves the world's police for ensuring that proliferation of nuclear weapons doesn't occur in other countries, yet they remain one of the nations with the most nuclear weapons. The U.S.A has an estimated 6,185 nuclear weapons and, according to the US 'Defence Department' in 2021, the U.S has 3,800 active nuclear weapons, with 800 Ballistic missiles, and 1,800 warheads now deployed. (Figures sourced from the Bulletin of Atomic Doomsday Scientists)

**It is time that the world found ways to pressure the U.S into decreasing its nuclear arsenal.**

By Brenda Kellaway

## Hiroshima Child'

I come and stand at every door  
But none can hear my silent tread  
I knock and yet remain unseen  
For I am dead for I am dead

I'm only seven though I died  
In Hiroshima long ago  
I'm seven now as I was then  
When children die, they do not grow

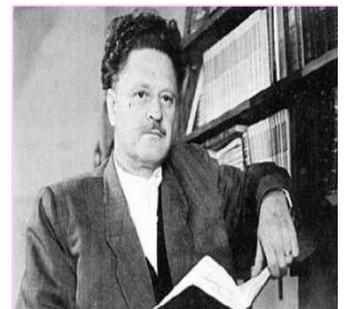
My hair was scorched by swirling flame  
My eyes grew dim my eyes grew blind  
Death came and turned my bones to dust  
And that was scattered by the wind

My hair was scorched by swirling flame  
My eyes grew dim my eyes grew blind  
Death came and turned my bones to dust  
And that was scattered by the wind

I need no fruit I need no rice  
I need no sweets nor even bread  
I ask for nothing for myself  
For I am dead for I am dead

All that I need is that for peace  
You fight today you fight today  
So that the children of this world  
Can live and grow and laugh and play

-a poem by Turkish poet  
Nazim Hikmet



Above Turkish Poet  
Nazim Hikmet

Dear Editor

I wish to inform you of my deep disappointment in the trade union that is supposed to represent of hard-working coal miners. A friend of mine was working in an NSW coal mine on a recent Saturday night and ended up being assaulted by a staff member of the mine. The assault was totally unprovoked and done in front of two witnesses. The union was informed and has done virtually nothing to help. Incidentally, my friend has 40 years union membership and the way a veteran of the union has been treated absolutely disgusts me.

This well-known mining union employs the services of a legal firm who have offices right across Australia. The senior person from the Newcastle office contacted my friend and told him that there was nothing his firm could do to help because he actually worked for a contractor, despite being a union member of 40 years.

My friend has lost his job because he “brought the company into disrepute”. The situation now is that my friend is getting some financial help through Coal Mines Insurance as well as getting some therapy to help with his depression.

I am sure that, in the near future, my friend will be a lot better after the bloke that assaulted him is finally charged opening the door for legal proceeding to start

The washup of this letter is that I feel the bigger trade unions are moving away from the left and this needs to be rectified ASAP. Trade union officials should come from off the shop floor not out of a university!

I intend discussing my friend’s situation with the mining union as soon as I can.

Yours etc  
Comrade Kennedy



Painting to  
Right

Dark  
Landfall':  
is 1400 x  
1000mm  
Acrylic on  
Canvas.  
By:

M. K. Elliot-  
Ranken



### **Speaking in tongues**

To speak in a tongue  
Not your own, how confusing!  
Far from home and the stable  
equilibrium  
Of the comfortably mysterious,  
Ever shifting, ever raked over  
for the small incredibility's  
Of family gossip.

But tongues of others,  
incomprehensible to begin with,  
babbles that throw one on  
one's back,  
In a crowd not sympathetic to  
the plight of the 'Aung Mo'  
Or whatever describes that one  
not of our tongue.

Outside you are of the  
comfortable intimacies of  
other's now around you,  
Engulfed but not part of,  
afloat in an ebb & flow  
without a canoe... Much  
less a paddle!

Mental gymnastics'  
pointing, gesticulating, and  
sighing in  
frustration, one tries again  
& again until a smile & nod  
of the head announces...  
breakthrough and gradually  
you are not quite the lost  
one anymore.

M. K. Elliot-Ranken

## **Vaccinations – the material reality of the pandemic and risks of inaction**

### **Background**

The hysteria of vaccines, especially covid vaccines, has been high. Ever since the first case of Covid, or what it is officially called (Sars 207), there has been people wanting to undermine the vaccine process. At first, they sat in nations who had few, or no cases, looking down on China, calling it the “CCP Virus”, “Chinese virus”, “Kung Flu” and so on. This mostly had the social implications of increasing racism against all Asians, not just targeting those people of Chinese descent.



This racism has included physical attacks against Asian descended people. The other grouping, already existing, was the anti-Vax movement, a fearmongering movement which has made dubious claims about vaccinations. A prime example, of such Anti-Vaccine campaigns, is a campaign against the Measles vaccine. They discouraged people to take the Measles Vaccine claiming taking the vaccine caused Autism. The doctor who spearheaded that campaign lost his medical credibility and thus lost his licence to practice on others.

As Communists and Marxists, we are materialist, when we deal with the scientific reality of the world. Thus, when there is a Pandemic, you need a vaccine, in the same way when there is a climate crisis you need actions based on science to halt or curb the crisis. Anti-Science rhetoric is used regarding the Measles vaccine to promote opposition to action, even promoting harmful alternative that could trigger bad reactions in the body. Another dubious reaction to vaccines came from religion and cults, with the resurgence on ‘faith healing’ or ‘Christian science’, where both religious entities and cults preyed on people’s insecurity. The last major grouping was conspiracy theorists, and this could be Liberals, Cult members, religious people, or others, but one thread often united them, and that was their right-wing agendas.

### **Evolution of conspiracy theories**

China was the grand scapegoat early on, being the entity, which was often most blamed. Many of the conspiracies early on revolved around China, including:

- 1) The Wuhan lab, 2) the CPC, 3) Wet markets, 4) Cover up’s, 5) corruption and 6) unreported cases. Most of these accusatory lines were found to be factually incorrect and were exposed as time went on.

*Below Laboratory Wuhan*



### **Where is harm going to be?**

The significant harm was similar in some regards to the aftermath of Brexit, in 2016. During Brexit there was a notable increase in acts of open racism towards minority peoples. Geopolitically the damage was also done, it accelerated some career politicians via fearmongering, making policies Internally and externally confused, or outright malicious. Here in Australia what we saw was the Liberal party failing by both criticising, and then implementing the policies of the hard lockdown, a prime example of hypocrisy. The hypocrisy, of Australian politicians, can be seen as earlier in the pandemic, they accused China of being a human rights violator for locking down, and then later, justifying their own lockdowns domestically.

### **The Lockdown dynamic in pandemic responses**

Lockdowns, side by side with a healthy vaccination rate, can resolve a pandemic. So, instead of being critical of lockdowns, we should instead focus on the vaccination rate. In the past vaccines were harder to make, harder to put out and harder to distribute, thus making a case for delays and unavoidable deaths. Today, in 2021, the scientific medical research is better equipped, and our institutions have greater funding, than ever in human history, so the issue of creation and distribution should be of no real material issue. The Socialist nations produced the most efficient and early responses, due to already integrated systems. The critical factor here being the ideology of the state behind these early responses.

### **Ideology and State**

The ideology behind the Socialist state is inclusive of working class people and is more efficient, as the state itself creates the response, makes the materials, organises the distribution, for the benefit of the working class. To say, as some do in the petty bourgeoisie, all lockdowns are anti-working class is incorrect. If anything, the job losses, and unemployment, is more of an issue of Capitalism itself, via its reliance on short cycles which can fail if any issue hits it long-term. To say that all working class people should oppose lockdowns, and oppose vaccines, is counter intuitive as it will probably result in more cycles of outbreaks of the virus, and more locking down, and for longer, keeping people unemployed for longer. A major concern with the opposition to lockdowns and vaccinations, is that it also creates a new reliance on social security, where often it could be avoided.



*Above and below; Anti Lockdown Protestors  
Svdnev*



The title of this article, refers to the 'Material Reality,' what I have so far described is some aspects of why inaction or opposing action, to lockdowns, and vaccines, is much more harmful than helpful. The three countries, with the most deaths from Covid19, are all Capitalist countries, including the United States, India, and Brazil. The U.S having 610,000 deaths, India having 418,000 deaths and Brazil having 544,000 deaths.

Australia might not have that many deaths or even proportional deaths per capita, so far, from Covid19, however, the thing that made those three nations so vulnerable was ignoring the reality of the situation. It is not out of the question for there to be more covid related deaths here, at home, if ignorance prevails. If Australia doesn't want to be a new U.S, India, or Brazil we need to take serious action and get the vaccine situation resolved as soon as possible. What that means is taking any vaccine, if you are healthy, as having no vaccine is better than ending up ill with Covid19. Of course, this means the government needs to supply enough vaccines for everyone. The implication of getting the new strain, that is more severe than the earlier ones, now no longer can be easily set aside by young people, as just getting 'flu' like symptoms, but they can now end up in Intensive Care Units. So, the threat, dialled up, is more dire and inaction will just lead to more lockdowns.

*Below Anti-Lockdown protestors Melbourne*



Australia's concerns are more homemade, including a combination of government lack of responsibility, poor distribution of current vaccines, those eligible withholding partaking in the national vaccination, and media distributing false information about vaccines/exaggerating after-effects of them. Much like in my next article, further in this magazine, where I discuss 'Taipei rejecting perfectly good vaccines,' the Australian government whilst grandstanding superiority, had refused Asian vaccines for the Australian public.

At the beginning of this article, I stated, "At first, they sat in nations who had few or no cases looking down on China", the result is that Australia, much like much like the rest of the world, received information from China, in time, then failed to roll out anywhere near enough vaccines to halt future outbreaks.

By Brennan Dick



Above: Sadako Sasaki, who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima when she was 2 years old but who later developed Leukaemia, probably due to the bomb's lingering radiation. In, an attempt to get better, she set out to fold 1,000 origami cranes, which according to an ancient Japanese legend gives the maker of the cranes a single wish.



## Why Identity Politics is destroying the Communist Movement in the West

by Sam Bullock

In recent decades, an ideology known as 'Identity Politics' has become popular on the left of the political spectrum. As Marxist - Leninists we should reject Identity Politics, especially when it divorces the Communist movements from the objective reality of working-class experience. We should reject it whenever puts sexual orientation, so-called race, and religion first, without any connection, and divorced from, the struggle of the working class as a whole.

As Communists we ought to support the right for all to be treated equally. This is fine when it comes to the rights of minority groups, and the individual's right to determine their own gender, ethnic or spiritual identity. However, when the rights of minority groups become primary, over all else, problems arise leading to revisionism and left-wing sectarianism. This over-emphasis on identity politics, can soon lead to revisionism, and can even destroy Communist parties altogether.

A good example of revisionism overtaking a Communist party, is the Communist Party of the United States of America, or CPUSA. Apparently, the CPUSA was virtually hijacked by transgender activists, whose main and only agenda was the rights of the minority, over and above other working class issues. Certain transgender activists attacked other women in the party, leading to the loss of many female members of that party. This apparently progressed to the extreme, where meetings were solely devoted to the rights of the transgender community, and there are even reports of meetings that degraded into fetishism, as reported in the Canadian Maoist *Rebel News*.

Jack Munday carted away from protest in the 1970's



This is not simply a problem of the American Communists but is a world-wide issue for the Communist movement in Western countries. In Australia we are not immune, and revisionism seems to have overtaken the CPA, who have been drawn into identity politics, and Trotskyism.

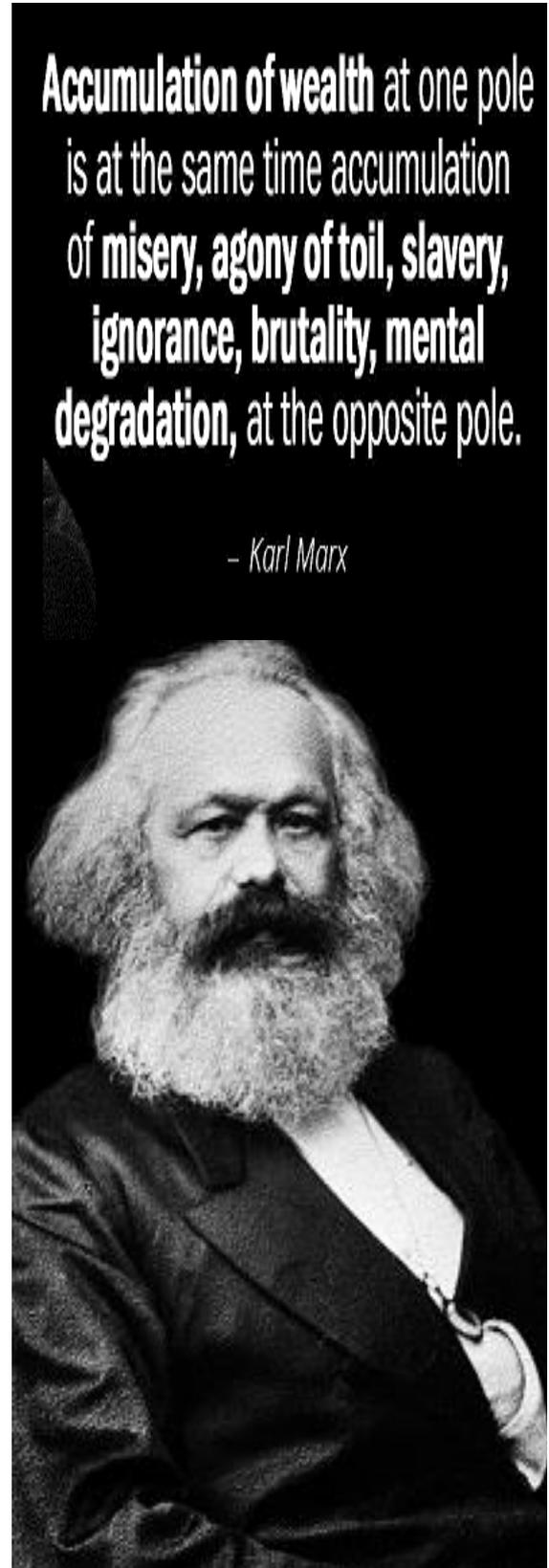
There have been instances within the Communist Party of Great Britain Marxist-Leninist, CPGB-ML, where they felt the need to outlaw 'Identity'. This in turn sparked the outrage of the revisionist left, falsely alleging homophobia, merely for taking a Marxist – Leninist stance, and rejecting revisionism.

The more appropriate way to deal with identity, as a Marxist, is to deal with it from a class perspective. Jack Munday, a well-known Communist, and the BLF were at the forefront in assisting with the initial Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, when gay activism rose in the 1970s. However, Jack Munday took a class position, and organised the trade union to support the cause against discrimination-based hatred, and visa-versa actively encourage gay activists to become more class orientated in their approach towards the discrimination they faced.

Unfortunately, since that time, corporations have heavily influenced the LGBTQA+ movement, and now corporations advertise amongst the marches in the Sydney Mardi Gras. More recently, we have the sight of the NSW Police and the Liberal Party in the march, the very people who were adamant in rejecting homosexuality.

We must stand with the working class first as Marxist – Leninists, and not buy into the revisionist left ideology. We should remember example of when the class struggle came into the Gay Pride movement in a positive way, when the Gay and Lesbian community supported the striking miners in Wales, and as a result the miners supported the Gay and Lesbian pride march in return, in the early 1980's.

To sum up, the oppressed parts of society, who suffer on account of their skin colour, sex, or sexual orientation, are part of the working class and its allies. We are all in this together. Our common enemy is capitalism itself.



## HISTORY IN ACTION

### Conscription, Imperialism, and War.

By Alfons the Bandicoot.

As we previously saw in Part II of our history, in Issue 2 of *The Agitator*, the conscription referendums in 1916 and 1917 tore Australian society apart. Billy Hughes had staked his leadership on conscription in 1916, and when the Labor Caucus decided against the highly contentious measure, a referendum was his last chance to win. He lost, then split the ALP, and tried again in 1917. He lost again. Below Anti-Conscription Rally Melbourne 1916

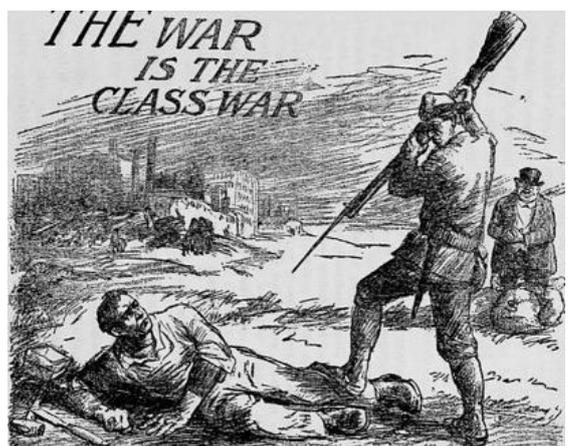


The Australian Marxists would possibly have agreed with Lenin's slogan to 'turn the imperialist war into a civil war', from the 1915 pamphlet entitled *Socialism and War*. Lenin also said that the 'reactionary character of this war, the shameless lie of the bourgeoisie of all countries which covers its predatory aims with "national" ideology, all this inevitably creates, on the basis of an objective revolutionary situation, revolutionary sentiments in the masses'. It is these sentiments which we need to consider.

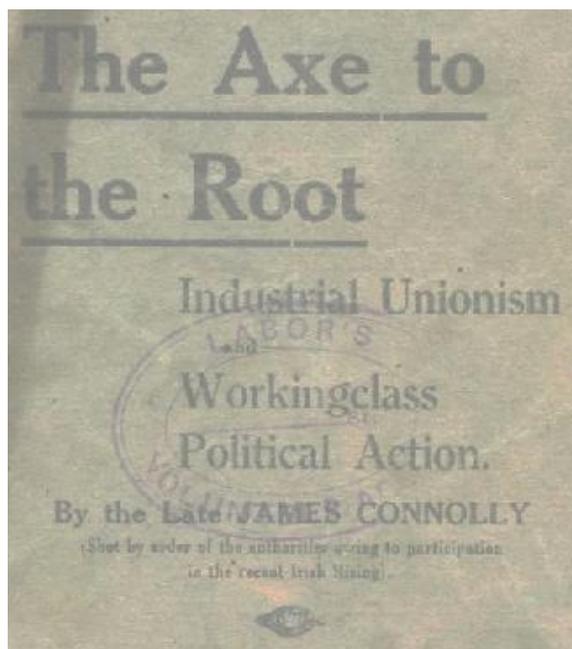
What the campaigns against conscription did for Australian Marxism, was to leverage this reactionary and predatory imperialist war, in order to attack the capitalist system generally, if not create a revolutionary situation. Nobody in Australia in 1916 knew of Lenin, or had access to the pamphlet, except maybe one or two Russian immigrants, and there is no evidence that any of the Australian Marxists had read it. Despite this, the idea that the war was intolerable to the working class flourished because of the conscription debates, helping to fuel the rise of Australian Marxism.

By the time the war broke out in August 1914, small numbers of Marxists in Australia had already been exposed to the idea that capitalism breeds imperialist wars. One reason for this was the unpopularity of the 1911 legislation to force all boys to begin military training from the age of 14. Another related source was the amazing book called *War – What For?* by the American Marxist George Kirkpatrick. It was expressly written for a relatively uneducated audience of workers, and was full of clear and memorable slogans, and brutally sarcastic cartoons. Plenty of copies of the best seller came out to Australia.

Below Conscription from Kirkpatrick



Before the conscription announcement there was the 1916 Easter Rising, and Irish Australians became worried about the prospect of being sent to the ‘old country’ to potentially shoot their cousins. During the campaign, R. S. (Bob) Ross printed *The Axe to the Root* by James Connolly. He was the leading Irish Marxist, who had cast his lot with the cause of Irish independence, and his leadership of the Easter Rising had led to his execution without trial by the oppressors. Bob Ross had also facilitated the printing of *Sinn Fein and the Irish Rebellion*, by D. P. Russell, another anti-war publication, but written from an Australian perspective. He had also assisted the 1915 publication of *Put Up the Sword*, by Adela Pankhurst, which combined Marxism and Feminism.



Above 'The Axe to Root' pamphlet

As leader of the Victorian Socialist Party (VSP), Ross took charge of the campaign, and unlike the idiots of the Second International, he was clear that the war was an imperialist travesty from the beginning. He represented the VSP at the Australian Peace Alliance, working side by side with feminists and pacifists, to oppose the war. But his reasons for doing so were entirely scientific and Marxian. As the U.S.S.R.

so clearly demonstrated in the 1940s, it can be necessary for socialists to fight against the forces of fascism, which is itself the offspring of capitalism. That was not the case in 1916.

The majority within Labor closed ranks to oppose conscription, alongside the majority of trade union leaders, and in September and October 1916, unions, Labor branches and parliamentarians, and assorted feminists, pacifists, and socialists, all campaigned hard for the ‘NO’ vote. However, most of these were not opposed to the imperialist war, only to conscription. They all attracted their share of vitriol and jingoistic venom, which may have shifted more than one into the anti-war and anti-capitalist fold. In Broken Hill, the violence directed against outspoken critics of conscription and the war, led to the formation of ‘Labour’s Volunteer Army’ groups, to act as bodyguards during rallies.

*Below, Conscription from Capitalist (mock)*



Apart from the VSP and the other Marxist political group, the Australian Socialist Party (ASP), opposition to the imperialist war was most firm in the ranks of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Billy Hughes orchestrated a spectacular trial in Sydney, against twelve alleged members of the I.W.W., on bogus arson charges. The trial of the 'I.W.W. Twelve' coincided with the referendum campaign. Newspapers printed long accounts of the trial, side by side with reportage of anti-conscription rallies

In working class areas, it was common for the same people to move around from meetings of the ASP or VSP, or similar groups, to meetings of the IWW, so there was a fair bit of overlapping membership. When the IWW was suppressed by Hughes, it was possible for workers to regroup under other banners, and to 'keep the red flag flying'.

One outstanding piece of writing was the story of Monty Miller, sent to jail aged 95 for his leadership of the struggle against conscription in Perth in 1917. The brilliant pamphlet *Labor's Road to Freedom* was published in 1920, just before our Communist Party was founded. Monty had been present at the Eureka Stockade in 1854. In 1988 the pamphlet was republished by Comrade Vic Williams, and it is well worth a read. Below Billy Hughes



"I'LL HAVE YOU!"

During the campaigns, there were numerous mass gatherings on both sides, and huge crowds attended. When the truth about the slaughter in the trenches did emerge in Australian society, many were reminded of the ones who knew from the outset, that the war was a capitalist atrocity of the worst type imaginable. Of course, the capitalist press, controlled by the likes of Keith Murdoch, Rupert's ruthless father, played up the ANZAC myth, and there were endless attempts to corruptly link the heroism of working class soldiers, to the worthless war itself.

Without the war, there would likely not have been a Soviet Union until much later, if ever. Lenin's call to turn the 'imperialist war into a civil war' against the bourgeoisie was answered in Russia, it seems, but not to any extent in Australia. Despite that, many observers, such as E. W. Campbell of the old CPA, believe that the conscription debates in 1916 and 1917 radicalised a generation of workers. We can hold these lessons close, as imperialist conflicts again loom on the horizon.

Below Vladimir Ilyich Lenin



# THEORY AND PRACTICE

## Australian Media and Propaganda – a Study on China and the web of propaganda

In the ‘Australia talks,’ an online Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) online Questionnaire, trust in the media, in my age group, is not high. Trust in China has also declined, my positive viewpoint is in line with just 9 % of my age group. The extreme negative view of China was previously 14%, this has increased to 61% more recently. This increasingly negative view of both China and Media in general, is due to our main-stream media’s propaganda.

Media reports things, media also does propaganda,’ as I said to someone in response about Media, Political alignments the media, I said:

*‘You just need to sharpen your own skills in cross analysis, there really isn’t much other option...Some subjects are not covered at all in media but still happens, media and coverage are about a bias thing, some are good in covering topics, some are more like state sponsored propaganda.’*

Media and propaganda are like two peas in a pod, in times of crisis, the Main-stream media propagates propaganda to support a certain bias, in times of peace it is still propaganda. But if our media does move towards overt bias, the factual news end of it can be overtaken by the propaganda and its role in society. What some may categorize as “Propaganda” and “state sponsored media,” by western liberal democracies, also can be viewed as much more reliable information in many cases,

## What funds and keeps the media going?

As stated earlier this increase, to 61% in ill feeling, was due to propaganda, but to explain we must look at how the media funds itself and maintains both itself and profits. Capitalism and Corporate structures come in to play here. Our main- stream media is largely owned by capitol monopoly companies and the very wealthy, if you have large amounts of money; be you a cult, a religion, a political entity it comes down to capital investment, and how much capitol can be invested into having the greater influence.



Above Epoch Times-Anti-China article

Of course, there are limitations which block normal Australians from partaking in mainstream media, you need to apply to the government if you want access this form of media, but those with power, alignment and capitol can still achieve this, due to their wealth. Small media or unaffiliated media is normally suppressed, held back or misrepresented, as we see with the smear campaign the BBC (British state media), with their attacks on western people who report positive commentary of China, even from inside China.

Saying anything alternative to mainstream narratives can also open the possibility of being attacked by mainstream media in coordinated campaigns. CGTN (China Global Television Network) has a good video regarding this topic for those who wish to learn more about it at;

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvN5X\\_pOFio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvN5X_pOFio) , The video is titled, ‘Expatriate youtubers attacked for pro-China views. A Youtuber who talks about China also, Daniel Dumbrill, has a video talking about a more recent attempt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4yDz1FwNp0&t=63s> , targeting a single BBC journalist.

Some examples of ownership of the main-stream media, of ownership by the wealthy include:

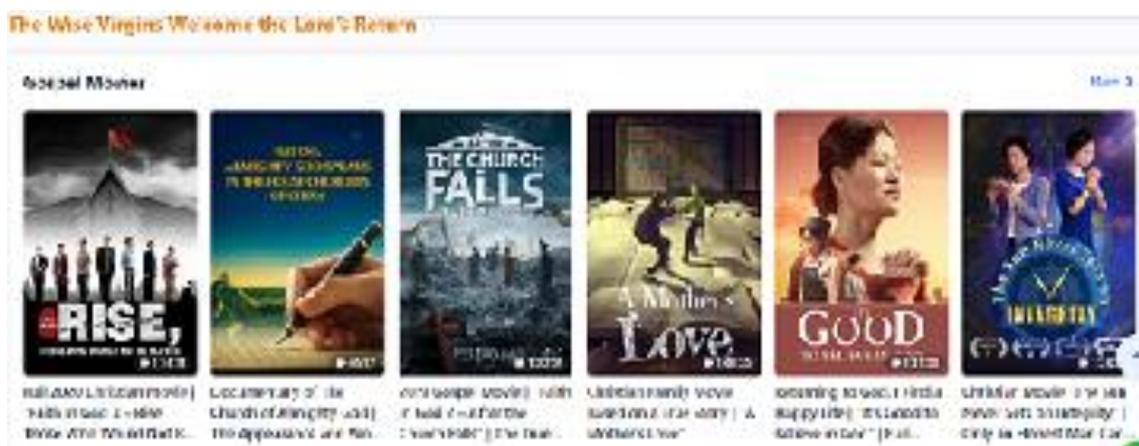
- the Murdoch media empire, which has many small papers, major papers, TV channels – all serving the Murdoch’s empire corporate agenda.
- Groups like the Falun Gong has the Epoch Times, China Uncensored (YouTube cult, run channel that puts up many negative videos about China). New Tang Dynasty and so on – all serving the agenda of the FLG’s pursuit against China

*Below Eastern Lightning Religious Anti- China*



The list goes on, but the principle still applies, here in Australia monopolies rule the media and small voices are crushed under it.

Government subsidized media, where part of the funding, fees and budget allocations come from merchandising, but in most part, funding comes from the Federal government, includes TV channels like the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), National Indigenous Television (NITV) and so on. These organisations are heavily influenced by government. The Howard government made certain that business influenced the board of the ABC by including CEO’s and merchant bankers on the board of directors.



## Groups who push an anti-China rhetoric

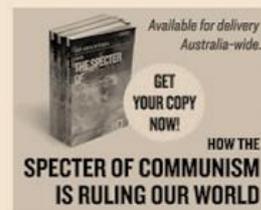
Groups who push an anti-China rhetoric, are not exposed in the main-stream media coverage as having a biased opinion, or as the groups that represent those who abandoned China. Instead, they present themselves as Ethnic minorities of China, or even more common, as people who have been conditioned to oppose China. These people include “Experts,” who are consumed by targeted propaganda to make China and the CPC appear to be a threat to Liberal Democracy. Some of the groups used to propagate this Anti-China propaganda include:

1. The national endowment for democracy - (A U.S state department supported group that is specialized in making coloured revolutions to install pro-U. S regimes)
2. The Cult of the Church of Almighty God aka Eastern Lightning – (A apocalyptic “Christian” group that thinks Jesus returned as a woman in China and that it is god will for gods punishment to destroy the CPC. Also, the narrative of the House Churches in China being persecuted against comes from them. Their headquarters is in South Korea) Below: *End CCP anti-China*



3. The Cult of the Falun Gong/Falun Dafa – (a cult that is a cult of personality around their founder, that does cultural performances to promote the ideals of the cult, as well as holding a media empire in the United States. They believe in post death segregation, homophobia, racism, that you should meditate away medical issues instead of treatment. Their Head Quarters is in the United States.)

Regarding COVID-19, we must address the root problem, and not just focus on stop-gap measures. We need to unite and force Beijing to work with the international community.



This will not be easy.

There are calls for a second virus probe. However, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio has already warned that there is "no way" the CCP will cooperate, and potentially risk exposing other biological research they may have.

Overall, the mistakes of democratic nations over the past 18 months has brought me back to the mistake of the Monk Tang Sanzang.

Both Tang and the international community have struggled to see the true essence of their adversaries.

4. Radio Free Asia – (A U.S funded radio service that spreads national endowment for democracy propaganda, which includes the Uighur genocide, Hong Kong democracy being eroded, Hong Kong “Pro-Democracy” sentiment, and other separatist causes.)
5. Australian Strategic Policy Institute – (A group that makes reports about China’s “Human rights violations” to sell arms and to others under a China threat narrative.)

6. World Uighur Congress – (A group of people who want separatism in Xinjiang, they use the flag of the east Turkestan republic, which was a failed state. They push the Uighur genocide narrative, more directly the religious freedom violation side. Their Headquarters is in the United States)

There are no restrictions on any of these groups to operate in Australia. I have personally encountered both the Falun Gong, and the Church of Almighty God, regarding so-called Human Rights abuses, along with Uighur separatism, allowed freely to promote racial hatred with no interventions, from the stall owner, if incidents of racism occur in front of them.

### **The Question of Taiwan**

The island of Taiwan is a topic, in which it seems, that both government-run media, and private, agree. There is uncritical support for ‘Taiwan independence.’ The ABC has had documentaries about ‘Taiwan’s right to democracy,’ and ‘Taiwan being a Democratic beacon of Asia.’. Sky news pushes fear about the mainland ‘Invading’ the island, which pushes the China threat narrative.

Channel 7 and 9, hosts people who want to attack China overall. Taiwan is often seen as a reason to attack China. The reason Taiwan is problematic is because the authorities on Taiwan, are those actively creating tensions regionally. For example, some parts of the territory close to the mainland (Kinmen Country, next to Xiamen, Fujian province, PRC), were offered vaccines and blocked them. Not only were they blocked from taking Mainland vaccines, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP, separatist group), also disallowed any restrictions that would safeguard those on the island from travel going to and from that Island.



Much of the issues they face are issues they make themselves, then relegate blame to the mainland.

The Liberal Democracies reinforce the DPP. Kinmen Country is 10 km away from Xiamen, with a population of 140,000, and so far, the central authority of Taipei has only granted 800 covid-19 vaccines. The DPP uses political capital to align with the U.S, antagonizing the mainland. Taiwan, under the DPP, has a political mission to be the tip of the spear for Western liberal democracy. No matter how corrupt it gets, no matter how demoralized the military, no matter how much opportunity is affected by their actions; they adopted sensationalist campaigns and short-sightedness that has resulted in their circumstance today.

A point I have not previously raised, in this article, but is interconnected, is the Uighur issue. There is the real risk of a genocide being much more likely under the control of separatists and Jihadists. The Genocidal rhetoric and Ethnic nationalist tendencies are more prominent with the separatist campaigns. The Separatist Jihadists believe that all Chinese people, no matter affiliation, all the Uighurs who supported the CPC, including those that are Uighurs, and others who oppose the new Islamic republic, should be killed, or exiled.

The United States delisted the ETIM group as a terrorist cell and imposed sanctions on Xinjiang cotton. These sanctions, against normal people, had the effect of making the region poorer, therefore pushing the population towards the more simplistic solutions of ethnic nationalist extremism. This is a similar line with the rhetoric of fascism, like Zionist ideology, as the state for one group alone, a supremacy cult. So, when the media allow dissident voices to try to attack the Chinese government, they empower other separatists further encouraging the view of Australia to be seen as a safe haven for those fleeing “Persecution,” making the cycle larger and larger in operation.

As a shield to protect oneself from biased media I have four suggestions which anyone can achieve:

1. Know the Media is biased and based on the media outlet and ownership.
2. Attempt to cross analyse the message.
3. Attempt to detect when media is moving more to the realm of prognosing other agendas.
4. Try to call others out when they are spreading such propaganda.

In short try speaking up and being a vessel for truth in your own environments and circles, as most people will not have access to more objective media outlets so we can at least influence our own small spaces around us.



## *About our Theory and Practice Section*

*We give our comrades the opportunity to participate in discussions about theory and practice in this section. These articles are an opportunity for comrades to discuss their ideas regarding theory and practice. Our party follows the practice of democratic centralism, and we actively encourage our comrades to take part. People from outside of our party can submit articles however, we reserve the right to not publish if these submissions do not fall in line with Marxist-Leninist principles. We will not publish anything that discriminates against other groups of people on the grounds of subjective notions of race, gender or sexual preference or other forms of discrimination. You can send your articles to the following email account:*

**brendakellaway@outlook.com**

## **Are you interested in Joining the Communist Workers Party?**

The purpose of Communist Workers Party of Australia is to change our Social Economic system from a Capitalist based system to a Socialist system. The Party is a voluntary organization of like-minded people who strive to unite in its ranks the most politically active members of the working class and other sections of the people who are prepared to work for the achievement of working class state power and the building of a Socialist Australia.

### **Our Party constitution is focused on maximum participation of each individual member.**

**Our organisational principle** combines the maximum of democratic discussion by the entire membership to make decisions on how to advance the aims of the Party - advancing the cause of the Australian working class and the achievement of socialism. The Party members then have the obligation to carry out those majority decisions.

**Membership is open to any resident of Australia sixteen years or older** who agree with the basic principles of the Party program and are willing to abide by the Party Constitution. Potential Party members are assigned to a branch 3 months prior to their acceptance to give them the full opportunity to learn how the Party works and the theory of the working class system, i.e., Marxism-Leninism.

**The Rights of Party members section** in our constitution protects our members, encouraging their participation in discussion and respecting their opinions. All major decision of the leadership are made by members' vote. We have procedures and process enshrined in our constitution to ensure these rights are protected. Interested in more information about our Party?

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