

Australia Dossier by Don Veitch

Imperial myths collapsing slowly

Australians have been nurtured on a diet of British myths, but now some truths are emerging.

Although founded as a penal colony in 1788 and despite having had 60,000 butchered in England's war (1914-18), Australians generally believe that the common law, Westminster system, and stability of the monarchy, make up for it all. They ignore the real British heritage of the Opium Wars against China, slave trading in the Indies, forced child labor in those "satanic mills," and the destruction which British liberal political economy nurtures to this day.

Australia was "discovered" by the Dutch and the Portuguese in the 17th century, but the British were the first to land and take possession, establishing the continent as a huge penal colony in 1788.

Apart from a brief skirmish at Eureka, the colonials have been willingly subjugated for the last 200 years. The Colonial Acts Application Act (1860s), federation (1901), the Statute of Westminster (1930s), and abolition of appeals to the Privy Council (1970s) have given the appearance of independence, if not the substance.

But the "British faction" still dominates Australia. Elizabeth II, Queen of England, is also the Queen of Australia and is Australia's constitutional head of state.

A recent edition of Kerry Packer's *Bulletin* promoted the idea of "our Queen" as a "symbol of unity." The argument advanced was that Australia is "increasingly fragmenting into minority and ethnic groupings," with the monarchy being the glue that holds Australia together. The author

warned, if we no longer had a monarch, "the next logical target for violence would be each other."

Further support for the Queen has come from the *Australian Left Review*, controlled by the Aarons family of the former Communist Party. The magazine reported favorably on the Queen's reign and promoted her as a symbol of unity.

The symbols of feudal monarchy and the British system saturate Australia. The Queen's profile appears on all coins; elite private schools are modeled on English schools; immigrants and Army personnel swear an oath of allegiance to the English monarch; the royal Coat of Arms appears in courts, parliament, and most public offices. Royalty is the symbol of respect and virtue in Australia.

Recent prime time television in Australia has been awash with pro-royalist documentaries. One of these, "Elizabeth R," mentioned that the Queen of England had a direct input to Operation Desert Storm, and that the sovereign concerned herself with minute details of government, including the appointment of officials to schools in Scotland.

But where the royalty is concerned, the political landscape is slowly changing. The removal of Caroline Chisolm (about to be canonized by the Catholic Church), from the \$5 note in favor of the Queen's profile, led to something of a public outcry (although the Queen's supporters in the Reserve Bank won out).

Many formerly loyal subjects are

now arguing that the Queen has betrayed her Coronation Oath and has not defended the people. Petitions go unanswered and the monarch, with all her power, wealth, and influence, fails to give hope to a long-suffering people.

However, both major political parties are pro-British. The Australian Labor Party (ALP) is modeled directly on the philosophy of the British Fabian Society. Its most successful prime minister, Bob Hawke, is a former Rhodes Scholar. The Liberal Party is overtly pro-British. Both parties support the British East India Company economics of Adam Smith.

The British agents in Australia can be ruthless in eliminating opponents. In 1932, a state premier, Jack Lang, was sacked by the royalty appointed governor, Sir Philip Game, for opposing bank austerity measures. In 1975, the Labor prime minister was sacked by the Queen's governor general, John Kerr for, *inter alia*, turning from British finance and seeking Arab funds for development. The largest portion of foreign investment and control in Australia remains British.

The noble patriotic traditions of leaders such as O'Malley Scullin, Theodore, and Lang, people who fought the British banks, has given way to the opportunistic attitudes of the contemporary Hawke and current Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Australia, under Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, who claims the evil Sir Bertrand Russell as the greatest intellectual influence on him, has supported all initiatives of the Anglo-American "new world order." Both the Labor and Liberal parties support International Monetary Fund demands for austerity, balanced budgets, selling of state assets, the "free market," and the inadvisability of promoting national credit and infrastructure development.