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SEEK THE TRUTH AND SERVE HUMANITY

UNITE TO EXPOSE THESE MACHINATIONS!

EDITORIAL

An updated editorial written in 2006 still rings true with a vitally important message:

'What no one seemed to notice was the ever-widening gap between the government and the people. And it became always wider ... the whole process of its coming into being was above all diverting, it provided an excuse not to think ... for people who did not want to think anyway gave us some dreadful, fundamental things to think about ... and kept us so busy with continuous changes and "crises" and so fascinated ... by the machinations of the "national enemies", without and within, that we had no time to think about these dreadful things that were growing, little by little, all around us ...

'Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, "regretted", that unless one understood what the whole thing was in principle, what all these "little measures" ... must some day lead to, one no more saw it developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing ... Each act is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next ...

'That's the difficulty. The forms are all there, all untouched, all reassuring, the houses, the shops, the jobs, the mealtimes, the visits, the concerts, the cinema, the holidays. But the spirit, which you never noticed because you made the lifelong mistake of identifying it with the forms, is changed. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves, when everyone is transformed, no one is transformed.

'You have accepted things you would not have accepted five years ago, a year ago, things your father ... could never have imagined.'

How contemporary and relevant is the above quotation in describing the sort of society we are developing into. The gap is widening between the people and the effect of policies enacted by neoconservative governments, including our own – the wars in Iraq, Libya, Syria, etc.,

detention centres for refugees, new 'anti-terror' and industrial laws, vilification and racism, the climate of fear, etc. But the words above were not penned to describe the so-called post 9/11 era or even events in this century – rather, they describe the rise of fascism in Germany (M Mayer, *They Thought They Were Free, The Germans, 1938–45*, University of Chicago Press, 1955).

The blueprint used was summed up by Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, when he said, 'The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.'

Consider the incremental steps in Australia that allowed it to be deemed acceptable for refugees to be housed in virtual concentration camps and for workers and human rights to be trampled upon – almost all greeted with acquiescence or silence from the Labor opposition and the mainstream media.

It is said that in ominous times truth always finds a way out from darkness into light. Always ... To paraphrase Tom Paine: 'In times that try men's souls it is those who seek enlightenment who are truly free.' Choosing ignorance may lead to an easier life: in choosing and acting on our knowledge we escape the bondage of not knowing, not caring and not understanding.

The times ahead will no doubt 'try our souls' but we have every reason to be optimistic as increasing enlightenment is translated into positive action. This year (2014) we have received overwhelming support for our 'People's Audit' from *Beacon* readers, secular and religious groups and community organisations. Our involvement with organisations such as Pax Christi give us real hope and optimism – there are lots of good people out there. If we act together, we can make a difference. Plato did get it right a few thousand years ago when he said, 'The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.' ■

BUT THEN IT WAS TOO LATE

AN EXCERPT FROM
THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE FREE – THE GERMANS, 1933–45
BY MILTON MAYER



What no one seemed to notice was the ever-widening gap, after 1933, between the government and the people. Just think how very wide this gap was to begin with, here in Germany. And it became always wider. You know, it doesn't make people close to their government to be told that this is a people's government, a true democracy, or to be enrolled in civilian defence, or even to vote. All this has little, really nothing, to do with knowing one is governing.

What happened here was the gradual habituation of the people, little by little, to being governed by surprise; to receiving decisions deliberated in secret; to believing that the situation was so complicated that the government had to act on information which the people could not understand, or so dangerous that, even if the people could understand it, it could not be released because of national security. And their sense of identification with Hitler, their trust in him, made it easier to widen this gap and reassured those who would otherwise have worried about it.

This separation of government from people, this widening of the gap, took place so gradually and so insensibly, each step disguised (perhaps not even intentionally) as a temporary emergency measure or associated with true patriotic allegiance or with real social purposes. And all the crises and reforms (real reforms, too) so occupied the people that they did not see the slow motion underneath,

of the whole process of government growing remoter and remoter.

The dictatorship, and the whole process of its coming into being, was above all diverting. It provided an excuse not to think for people who did not want to think anyway. I do not speak of your 'little men,' your baker and so on; I speak of my colleagues and myself, learned men, mind you. Most of us did not want to think about fundamental things and never had. There was no need to. Nazism gave us some dreadful, fundamental things to think about – we were decent people – and kept us so busy with continuous changes and 'crises' and so fascinated, yes, fascinated, by the machinations of the 'national enemies,' without and within, that we had no time to think about these dreadful things that were growing, little by little, all around us. Unconsciously, I suppose, we were grateful. Who wants to think?

To live in this process is absolutely not to be able to notice it – please try to believe me – unless one has a much greater degree of political awareness, acuity, than most of us had ever had occasion to develop. Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, 'regretted,' that, unless one were detached from the whole process from the beginning, unless one understood what the whole thing was in principle, what all these 'little measures' that no 'patriotic German'

could resent must some day lead to, one no more saw it developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing. One day it is over his head.

How is this to be avoided, among ordinary men, even highly educated ordinary men? Frankly, I do not know. I do not see, even now. Many, many times since it all happened I have pondered that pair of great maxims, *Principiis obsta* and *Finem respice*—‘Resist the beginnings’ and ‘Consider the end.’ But one must foresee the end in order to resist, or even see, the beginnings. One must foresee the end clearly and certainly and how is this to be done, by ordinary men or even by extraordinary men? Things might have. And everyone counts on that might.

Your ‘little men,’ your Nazi friends, were not against National Socialism in principle. Men like me, who were, are the greater offenders, not because we knew better (that would be too much to say) but because we sensed better. Pastor Niemöller spoke for the thousands and thousands of men like me when he spoke (too modestly of himself) and said that, when the Nazis attacked the Communists, he was a little uneasy, but, after all, he was not a Communist, and so he did nothing; and then they attacked the Socialists, and he was a little uneasier, but, still, he was not a Socialist, and he did nothing; and then the schools, the press, the Jews, and so on, and he was always uneasy, but still he did nothing. And then they attacked the Church, and he was a Churchman, and he did something – but then it was too late.

You see, one doesn’t see exactly where or how to move. Believe me, this is true. Each act, each occasion, is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join with you in resisting somehow. You don’t want to act, or even talk, alone; you don’t want to ‘go out of your way to make trouble.’ Why not? – Well, you are not in the habit of doing it. And it is not just fear, fear of standing alone that restrains you; it is also genuine uncertainty.

Uncertainty is a very important factor, and, instead of decreasing as time goes on, it grows. Outside, in the streets, in the general community, ‘everyone’ is happy. One hears no protest, and certainly sees none. You know, in France or Italy there would be slogans against the government painted on walls and fences; in Germany, outside the great cities, perhaps, there is not even this. In the university community, in your own community, you speak privately to your colleagues, some of whom certainly feel as you do; but what do they say? They say, ‘It’s not so bad’ or ‘You’re seeing things’ or ‘You’re an alarmist.’

And you are an alarmist. You are saying that this must lead to this, and you can’t prove it. These are the beginnings, yes; but how do you know for sure when you don’t know the end, and how do you know, or even surmise, the end? On the one hand, your enemies, the law, the regime, the Party, intimidate you. On the other, your colleagues pooh-pooh you as pessimistic or even neurotic. You are left with your close friends, who are, naturally, people who have always thought as you have.

Now, in small gatherings of your oldest friends, you feel that you are talking to yourselves, that you are isolated

from the reality of things. This weakens your confidence still further and serves as a further deterrent to – to what? It is clearer all the time that, if you are going to do anything, you must make an occasion to do it, and then you are obviously a troublemaker. So you wait, and you wait.

But the one great shocking occasion, when tens or hundreds or thousands will join with you, never comes. That’s the difficulty. If the last and worst act of the whole regime had come immediately after the first and smallest, thousands, yes, millions would have been sufficiently shocked – if, let us say, the gassing of the Jews in ’43 had come immediately after the ‘German Firm’ stickers on the windows of non-Jewish shops in ’33. But of course this isn’t the way it happens. In between come all the hundreds of little steps, some of them imperceptible, each of them preparing you not to be shocked by the next. Step C is not so much worse than Step B, and, if you did not make a stand at Step B, why should you at Step C? And so on to Step D.

And one day, too late, your principles, if you were ever sensible of them, all rush in upon you. The burden of self-deception has grown too heavy, and some minor incident, in my case my little boy, hardly more than a baby, saying ‘Jewish swine,’ collapses it all at once, and you see that everything, everything, has changed and changed completely under your nose. The world you live in – your nation, your people – is not the world you were born in at all. The forms are all there, all untouched, all reassuring, the houses, the shops, the jobs, the mealtimes, the visits, the concerts, the cinema, the holidays. But the spirit, which you never noticed because you made the lifelong mistake of identifying it with the forms, is changed. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves; when everyone is transformed, no one is transformed. Now you live in a system which rules without responsibility even to God. The system itself could not have intended this in the beginning, but in order to sustain itself it was compelled to go all the way.

You have gone almost all the way yourself. Life is a continuing process, a flow, not a succession of acts and events at all. It has flowed to a new level, carrying you with it, without any effort on your part. On this new level you live, you have been living more comfortably every day, with new morals, new principles. You have accepted things you would not have accepted five years ago, a year ago, things that your father, even in Germany, could not have imagined.

Suddenly it all comes down, all at once. You see what you are, what you have done, or, more accurately, what you haven’t done (for that was all that was required of most of us: that we do nothing). You remember those early meetings of your department in the university when, if one had stood, others would have stood, perhaps, but no one stood. A small matter, a matter of hiring this man or that, and you hired this one rather than that. You remember everything now, and your heart breaks. Too late. You are compromised beyond repair. ■

Source: *The Australian Independent Media Network*

Who's who in Ukraine's new 'semi-fascist' government:

Meet the people the US and EU are supporting

By Richard Becker

The US and European Union countries played a key role in the overthrow of the elected government in the Ukraine headed by Victor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions. Listening to the politicians in Washington or watching the corporate media, it would be easy to believe that the coup in the Ukraine has ushered in a new era of democracy for the people of that country.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The new, self-appointed government in Kiev is a coalition between right wing and outright fascist forces, and the line between the two is often difficult to discern. Moreover, it is the fascist forces, particularly the Svoboda party and the Right Sector, who are in the ascendancy, as evidenced by the fact that they have been given key government positions in charge of the military and other core elements of the state apparatus.



Dmytro Yarosh, Right Sector neo-Nazi commander who said, 'our revival begins with our Maidan,' is now second-in-command of the National Defence and Security Council (covering the military, police, courts and intelligence apparatus).



Andriy Parubiy, co-founder of the fascist Social National Party, which later changed its name to Svoboda. He is the new top commander of the National Defence and Security Council.



New Prime Minister **Arseniy Yatsenyuk** [left], a powerful right-wing banker, meets with neo-con John McCain. Pictured centre is neo-Nazi Svoboda leader **Oleh Tyahnybok**, now one of the most powerful figures in the country.



Ihor Tenyukh, member of neo-Nazi Svoboda party, now Minister of Defence.



Oleksandr Sych, member of neo-Nazi Svoboda, is one of three Vice Prime Ministers.



Oleg Makhnitsky, member of neo-Nazi Svoboda, now Prosecutor-General (Attorney General), and has immediately set out to indict the leaders of Crimea who do not want to live under the new order in Kiev.

That millions of Ukrainians, Russians, Greeks, Jews and others would abhor living under such a government should come as a surprise to no one. Seven decades ago, Nazi Germany and its allies invaded the Soviet Union, of which the Ukraine was a part.

It was inside the Soviet Union that the main forces of the Nazi war machine were destroyed – but at an appalling price. More than 27 million Soviet soldiers and civilians were killed and the country devastated. (By comparison, 416,800 US personnel were killed in the same war, also a huge number itself, but one that only represents about 1.5 per cent of Soviet deaths.) Highlighting its extreme right-wing character, among the first actions of the rump Rada (parliament) were terminating the official status of Russian and Greek as minority languages, rescinding the Crimea's autonomy, and outlawing the Ukrainian Communist Party. The Fatherland party is leading the new government, headed by Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

A few weeks before the Feb. 24 coup, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland, then in Kiev to support the anti-government protests, was recorded calling for Yatsenyuk to become the new leader. Yatsenyuk is a banker, very Western-oriented, and seen as sure to accede to the demands of the International Monetary Fund and the international banks for austerity measures in exchange for a 'bailout' of the Ukraine's debt.

In addition, Yatsenyuk is not from an overtly fascist party, a major public relations advantage for Western imperialist backers of the new regime.

The new Secretary of the powerful National Defence and Security Council is **Andriy Parubiy**, also listed as being from the Fatherland party. But here the murky divide between the right wing and fascist parties comes into view.

Parubiy was co-founder of the Social National Party in 1991, an openly fascist party whose symbol was the 'Wolfsnagel,' which closely resembles a swastika. The SNP changed its name to Svoboda ('Freedom') in 2004, and has tried to somewhat moderate its image while retaining its neo-Nazi core.

It was only in 2012 that Parubiy ran on the Fatherland ticket. During the opposition demonstrations in the Maidan Square, he was known as 'the commandant.'

Parubiy's deputy is **Dmytro Yarosh**, who was the leader of the fascist Right Sector's para-military forces in Maidan. In a recent BBC video, a Right Sector leader said: 'National socialist [Nazi] ideas are popular here ... We want a clean nation, not like under Hitler, but a little bit like that.'

The new Defence Minister is **Ihor Tenyukh**, former head of the Ukrainian navy and from the Svoboda party. **Oleksandr Sych**, also from Svoboda, is one of three Vice Prime Ministers.

The new, self-appointed government in Kiev is a coalition between right wing and outright fascist forces, and the line between the two is often difficult to discern.

Another key post held by an open Svoboda member is that of Prosecutor-General. **Oleg Makhnitsky** is now the equivalent of Attorney General in the US, and has immediately set out to indict the leaders of Crimea who do not want to live under the new order in Kiev.

The new, self-appointed government in Kiev is a coalition between right wing and outright fascist forces, and the line between the two is often difficult to discern.

Svoboda also holds the ministries of ecology and, especially critical in the Ukraine, agriculture in the new government.

Though not named as a government minister – clearly by choice – **Oleh Tyahnybok** is the leader of Svoboda, of which he was also a co-founder when it was known as the Social National Party. Now he is one of the most powerful figures in the country.

While Tyahnybok sought to moderate Svoboda's public image beginning with the name change in 2004, a speech he gave the same year showed just how paper-thin that cover was.

Speaking at a memorial to a commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UIA) that collaborated with the Nazis and massacred tens of thousands of Poles, Jews and communists, he called for Ukrainians to fight the 'Muscovite-Jewish mafia' which he claimed were running the country.

Tyahnybok praised the UIA and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists led by Stepan Bandera, who 'fought against the Russians, Germans, Jews and other scum who wanted to take away our Ukrainian state.' (For the terms 'Russians' and 'Jews,' he substituted extremely derogatory slurs.)

In 2005, Tyahnybok signed an open letter to Ukraine leaders denouncing the 'criminal activities' of 'organized Jewry' who, he claimed, wanted to commit 'genocide' against Ukrainian people.

Support for the fascists is surging in the Ukraine. In 2006, Svoboda received .36 of 1 per cent in the elections; in 2012 it became the fourth largest party in the Rada (parliament) with 10.45 per cent of the vote and 37 seats out of 450. In a public opinion poll taken at the beginning of February, 54 per cent said they would vote for Tyahnybok for president if he ran against Yanukovich. (The poll was held three weeks before the overthrow of Yanukovich.)

The smiling faces of Victoria Nuland and Sen. John McCain, among other US officials, have appeared in countless photos with Tyahnybok in recent months. ■

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<http://www.globalresearch.ca/whos-who-in-ukraines-new-semi-fascist-government-meet-the-people-the-u-s-and-eu-are-supporting/5372422>

VANGUARD OF THE AGE

by Marion Harper

In Raymond V Holt's book *The Unitarian Contribution to Social Progress in England*, a book from which I have often quoted, it says in its opening paragraph that 'Unitarians have been leaders in most of the changes that have transformed the England of the 18th century into the England of the present day.' Indeed, it was claimed by some that they were the 'vanguard of the age.' The book was first printed in 1938.

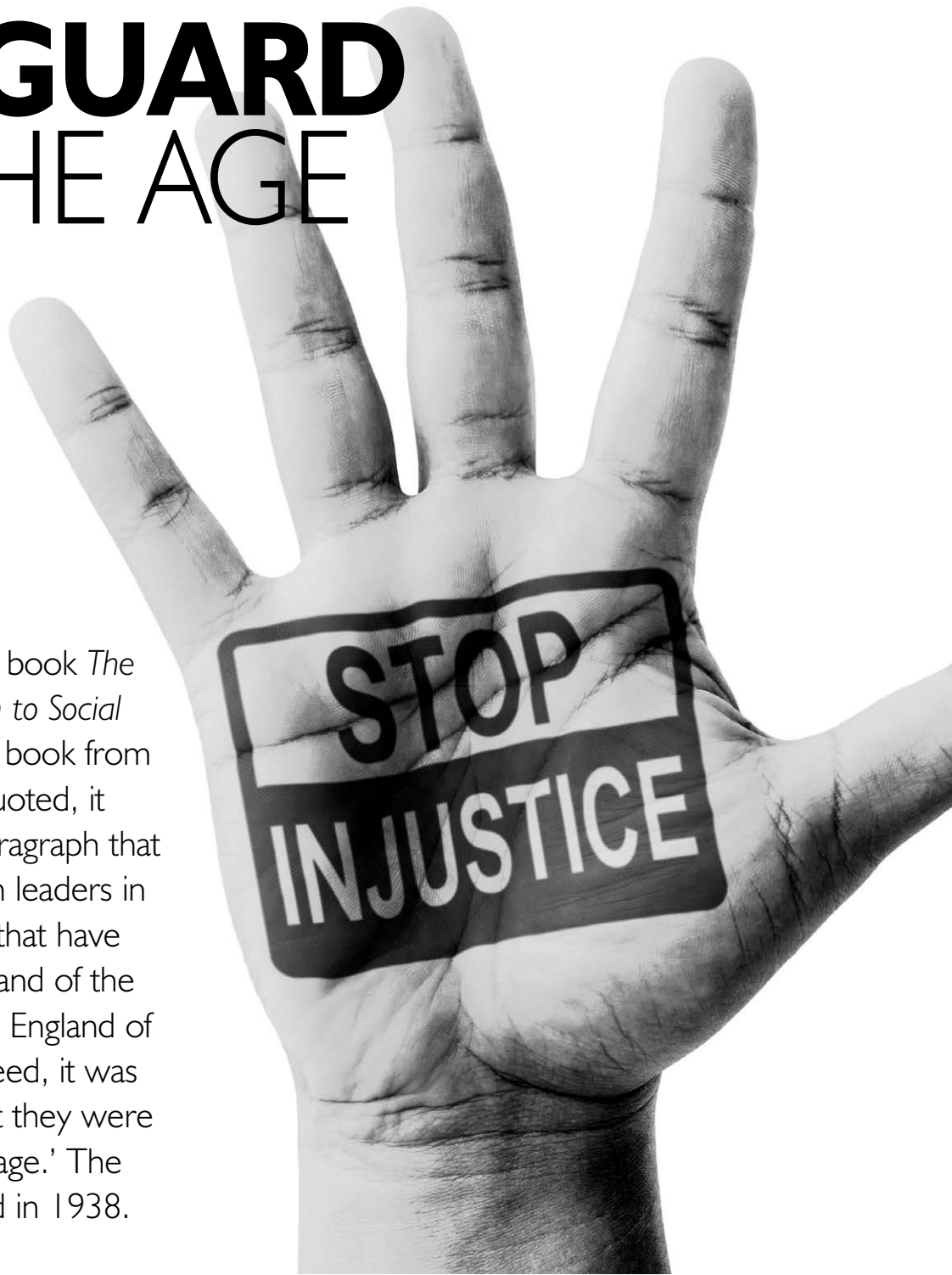
Some would consider this an arrogant claim, but indeed history records that Unitarians played a pivotal role in most areas of social progress in England. This was a historical judgement that begs the question, how will we be judged? In this church, under the enlightened leadership of Rev. William Bottomley and Rev. Victor James, I believe it would be accurate to claim that we have continued the process of involvement in most areas of social progress in Australia and have had a considerable impact on society.

While carrying out research for *Shining a Light: Beacon*, and reading *Beacons* from 1939 as I did, the true impact of the work of our church became clear. In the areas of peace and social justice, in the fight for human and democratic rights, in the exposure of hypocrisy and cant, our church took a forward and courageous stand unmatched by any

other church of the time. Most of the major denominations endorsed the policies of governments while they were committing war crimes, justified our participation in unjust wars and cheated emerging countries of their economic rights.

So this church, even post Victor James and William Bottomley, can make a claim, albeit a more modest one, to have impacted on community thinking and forced governments to more carefully spin their webs. We have consistently and loudly opposed capitalist excesses and imperialism. We have consistently exposed the nature of imperialist wars, and the lies governments tell to justify their aggressive positions. Often challenged at the time, but generally justified later, we have always examined world affairs guided by our creedal belief of 'Seek the Truth and Serve Humanity'.

For example, we were in the forefront of the battle to



expose the Vietnam War as an imperialist invasion. We opposed the war in Iraq for the same reason. We interpreted the invasion of Libya, Afghanistan and Syria as further imperialist aggression, and material surfacing since has documented the emergence of extreme right and sometimes fascist elements to which Western governments, including our own, have given their support in these areas to further their financial interests.

Over the years we have sometimes smugly chest thumped our position as a leading church active in the field of peace and social justice.

However, we can no longer see ourselves in the vanguard of this area of work because many of the mainstream churches are emerging with similar progressive policies and actions. Recently Peter Abrehart, our chairperson, and myself, were delegates from this church to a forum called by Pax Christi held in Malvern. It was titled 'An ANZAC Centenary 2015' planning meeting, and Peter and I participated in what we thought would be a pacifist-centric plan for an alternative ANZAC day. We couldn't have been more wrong. Thirty-six people from almost every denomination attended, with 9 apologies.

Harry Kerr, the Convener of Pax Christi Victoria, made the opening address. He began by referring to the 'founding myth' of Australia as having been born as a nation at the Gallipoli campaign. He made the following important points:

'There is only one way to honour those killed in war and that is to make sure it doesn't happen again. We must honestly face the dark side of our history, the involvement in other people's wars and our war against and oppression of our Indigenous people. We should instead celebrate another story of Australia as a nation. That we have been social pioneers for a multicultural, multi-faith community with a minimum of conflict. We have welcomed migrants from many nations, cultures and religions, including many refugees.'

Present at the meeting were Catholic, Buddhist, Quaker, Brigandine Sisters, Uniting Churches, peace organisations, municipal council representatives, Doctors for Peace and the Victorian History Teachers' Association.

Opinions expressed were that it was governments that have distorted history and that history teachers were gearing up to fight back against those distortions. It was agreed that a coalition of as many groups as possible sharing these views would continue to work together towards an alternative celebration of the Gallipoli Centenary.

This was a wonderful example of ecumenism in action for a better society: one based on peace and justice. It is a tribute to Pax Christi for calling the coalition together and for those other churches for their very honest and progressive deliberations and determination to make a difference. Their deep concerns were evident.

I raise this because it is an indication of the serious nature of the direction our society is moving and the speed at

which it is doing so. That representatives of the major religions are prepared to come together to challenge this direction is a warning to us all. It is an indication of how concerned they are and it indicates that we can't afford any longer to fiddle while Rome burns and while this arrogant, secretive government in Canberra destroys the very fabric of our society.

We can no longer afford navel gazing while ignoring what is happening to our country, our reputation, our civil liberties and our democratic rights. What value is there in arguing about who was right and who was wrong 500 years ago when we have a disaster here and now?

Instead of Unitarians leading the way towards a better society as we did historically, many of our churches and fellowships in Australia and New Zealand have vacated this role.

Some even state that they won't discuss political issues. I challenge them and anyone to highlight an issue that doesn't have some political aspect to it.

Can we still be proud of the role our church continues to play in the areas of social justice and peace? Of course we can, but we need to be aware that we can't rest on our laurels and can't avoid our responsibilities to build a peaceful, productive and democratic world.

Are we still doing the things that we should be doing? Of course we are. We can be proud, for example, that when the federal government announced its commission of audit, staffed by supporters of its alien policies, that our church was the only one that challenged them with the development of a people's

commission of audit. Their audit is designed to destroy everything that we have fought for over the decades:

- a universal health system
- a public education system that is free, secular and compulsory
- affordable housing
- the free right of unions to represent their members on the job
- the right to services at a price we can afford
- the right to assemble
- the right to protest
- a free and unshackled ABC.

All of these rights are under attack, and why? because the constant drive for profit and power needs an acquiescent population – a population that is easily manipulated and duped.

Our audit, on the contrary, will challenge their attempts to place the burden of their crisis on the backs of those who create the wealth of the country.

We can be proud that when we sought help to pay the \$15,000 to the Australia Institute for their work on our audit, the response from our supporters, *Beacon* readers, etc., was immediate and the \$15,000 was speedily raised. We can be proud of our radio program that keeps the issues alive before our listening population and we can be

“
We can no longer afford navel gazing while ignoring what is happening to our country, our reputation, our civil liberties and our democratic rights.”

proud of our *Beacon*, which fearlessly and consistently brings the truth before our readers.

We need all of these weapons for peace and justice and if you think it is a contradiction to refer to weapons and peace, be aware we are fighting a war, a class war. Let us not equivocate. We must be quite clear that we do live in a class society. The working class, the middle class and the ruling class are still here despite the efforts of both major parties to hide this fact. They would like us to believe that there are no classes because then it is far easier to convince the people that unions are evil, that workers' pay and conditions are responsible for the economic crisis, that freeing up markets and ensuring the wealthy become wealthier are the best way for us all to have a better life. The trickle down argument is still there, and the enemy, the class enemy, is using every weapon at its disposal to support their arguments.

Gina Rinehart's statement that the poorest in our society have an entitlement mentality towards government welfare is a clear indication of this. She and her fellow capitalists do not refuse, however, to accept taxpayer handouts that prop up their business empires – welfare for the rich. Gina, almost the wealthiest woman in the world, admires Margaret Thatcher. How does she feel about the current Tory government that inherited Thatcher's policies, that today in Britain have forced over a million people off benefits in the past 12 months with one charity food bank in Newcastle announcing that those seeking help have leapt from 30 per week to 1600 per week. Or the introduction of 'kettle boxes for food bank clients who can't afford to use their cooker to boil rice or pasta, or for the even more destitute cold box food, containing tinned groceries that can be prepared without heating.'

We need to fight as hard if not harder to avoid being crushed into a poorer, more exploited, less democratic

society. I am sure I don't need to tell most of you here today what has already been introduced by this reactionary government and what is planned for the future.

We know that there are a huge number of families and individuals who can't afford to pay their rents/mortgages and all of the other expenses required to live a decent life. We know that this government is determined to undermine or destroy two of the most important structures in our society that afford us some protection: the trade union movement and the ABC. In relation to the ABC, the following quote says it all:

'When six corporations control more than 90% of media communications, the media does not inform, it indoctrinates. Corporate media provides selective information, often unreliable, for the express purpose of controlling public opinion, rather than informing it.' Egbert Willies and Keyan Bliss

We know that the trade union movement, with all its problems and the fact that it has some very bad apples (What section of society doesn't?) is vitally important to not only its members but also the labour movement as a whole, because it is the only organised weapon of the working class. We need to ensure that we don't allow a reactionary government intent on taking us back to the dark ages to destroy that movement and leave us without an organisation vital to our survival.

Let the government put its own corrupt house in order before it tries to place on trial the whole trade union movement with the assistance of the six media corporations I have already mentioned. This government plans to change our society for the worst. When the Social Justice Action Group of this church raised the 14 steps to fascism, we didn't do it lightly. Don't allow history to repeat itself. ■

VALE

Vida Little

In every era there emerge outstanding and courageous men and women who dedicate their lives to fighting for a better society. One such person was Vida Little – a longtime member of this church – who passed away on 18 February 2014. Vida was aged 98.

Vida's commitment to socialism as an alternative to the capitalist system shone a beacon on the path forward for all with whom she came into contact. In the City of Brunswick where she lived for so many years, she was well known as a communist and loved and respected by the working class through her work in the Brunswick Progress Association, on the Board of the Brunswick Community Health Centre, and in the many campaigns for people's democratic rights and social justice. Supported by her life partner, Vic Little, Vida dedicated her life to the working class. Her example, her clear understanding, and her commitment to a future without exploitation live on today in all of those with whom she worked. Above all, she gave people hope and the skills to fight for their democratic rights.

US World Domination

by Joan Coxsedge

Author: *Thank God for the Revolution, Cold Tea for Brandy, Old Cuba, World Heritage*, Co-author: *Rooted in Secrecy*

Today, only three countries stand between the world and total domination by the US of A, China, Iran and Russia, all of them ringed with US air, military and naval bases. Ukraine is also surrounded by US missile and NATO bases after twelve countries in central Europe, all former Russian allies, joined the NATO alliance despite Washington promising not to move further eastwards. But Washington won't rest until it has overseen the total dismantling of the Russian Federation. Crimea is the door it needs to pass through to extend its push into Eurasia. Forget the rhetoric. This is all about military expansion, seizing control of Russia's vital pipeline corridors and resources and positioning multinational corporations and Wall Street investment banks for the 21st century, a scheme spelled out in great detail by Cold War supremo Zbigniew Brzezinski in his opus *American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*, a blueprint for US imperialists to establish military bases in Asia, the sort of dangerous gibberish used before their invasion of Iraq.

Obama's justification for supporting the fascist-led coup in Ukraine fell in a heap when US State Department official Victoria Nuland let the cat out of the bag during her conversation with US ambassador to Kiev, Geoffrey Pyatt. She was heard on tape plotting who would be its next head, bragging that the US had spent \$5 billion funding Ukraine's so-called democracy movement, while right-wing hawk Senator John McCain flew to Kiev, spoke at rallies and was photographed with the leader of the neo-Nazi Svoboda party, Oleg Tyagnibok, who publicly urged Ukrainians to 'grab the guns, fight the Russian pigs, the Germans, the Jew pigs and others.' Svoboda, with the even more extreme Right Sector, led the violence that forced President Yanukovich to flee. They took over buildings, beat up demonstrators and hired snipers to kill protesters and police in Kiev. President Yanukovich was blamed for the killings and this was used to justify the coup, along with his decision to reject an offer from Chevron Oil's all-or-nothing US/EU agreement that would have excluded economic association with Russia. But there won't be any investigation because that might reveal the truth.

Svoboda emerged in the mid-1990s and is deeply rooted in WW2 when Ukrainian nationalists and Nazis found common ground. In 1943, a division of the Ukrainian National Army fought with the infamous Waffen SS, the armed wing of the Nazi Party. Unfortunately, Svoboda isn't a fringe group. In the 2012 election it won 10.45% of the vote and over 40% in parts of western Ukraine and has tight links with other far-right parties in Europe through the Alliance of European National Movements founded in

Budapest in 2009. The new unelected government has no fewer than five ministers from Svoboda, including deputy prime minister, prosecutor general (attorney-general) and deputy national security chief, and in a rebuff to ordinary Ukrainians protesting against corruption, it appointed two billionaire oligarchs – one runs his business in Switzerland – as governors of two eastern cities. For the first time since 1945, an openly anti-semitic, pro-Nazi party controls the key levers of state power in a European capital, courtesy of US/EU imperialism, a rise that accelerated following the 2004 'made-in-the-West' Orange Revolution.

This unelected mob moved swiftly to ban the communist party and remove the official status of Russian, spoken by a majority in parts of the south and east, and voted to assemble a 60,000 strong National Guard headed by two leading lights from the Right Sector, new security chief Andriy Parubly and Dmytro Yarosh. Waiting in the background, the IMF, poised to implement its classic 'austerity plan' to cut pensions and push privatisation, inevitably creating even more poverty and unemployment.

The current crisis in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the catastrophic break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 by Gorbachev in a deal he made with NATO. Most Russians have never forgiven him for it. This compounded an earlier decision by Nikita Krushchev in 1954 to transfer a number of its historic provinces to Ukraine. Back then, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union and had been ruled by Russia since the 18th century, but it was thought that by adding Russians to the mix it would help water down Nazi elements in western Ukraine that had fought with Hitler during WW2. And as mentioned, contrary to undertakings given at that time, the US and its allies continued to expand NATO right up to Russia's borders.

Diplomatic/government pronouncements are normally a load of bull, but this time round they excelled themselves. US and EU officials are threatening Russia for 'invading' Ukraine while US Secretary of State John Kerry trumpeted that Russia's behaviour was 'an incredible act of aggression' and 'an unacceptable breach of international law'. This from the foreign minister of a country that supports international law with slick words but has done more than any other to undermine it. We've watched the US juggernaut cross the planet creating one failed state after another, fomenting revolt and mayhem wherever it goes. It illegally invaded Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia, organised the overthrow of the government of Libya, is trying to overthrow the government of Syria, attacks the civilian populations of Pakistan and Yemen with drones and missiles and constantly threatens Iran, and now has the gall to threaten Russia with sanctions because Russia is standing up for Russians and Russian strategic interests. Some US officials compared Putin with Hitler, a disgraceful comparison considering that more than 27 million Soviet soldiers and civilians sacrificed their lives fighting and defeating the Nazi war machine.

Our corporate media normally cover up the reasons for US wars and this time almost the entire mainstream – Australia among them – have excelled themselves in their one-sided reporting. They focused on Nuland's 'fuck the EU' comment while ignoring her far more significant statement detailing Washington's plans to actively interfere

in Ukrainian politics by organising the violent overthrow of an elected president, which is exactly what happened a few weeks later. They either ignored or played down the presence of openly racist and pro-Nazi elements in the new government and the activities of foreign spies and foreign paramilitaries. According to the *Voice of Russia*, hacked emails allege that Turkish intelligence (MIT) was arming and training Nazis and 'jihardist tartars' and shipping them off to Ukraine.

The emails also mentioned a previously unknown group called UNA-UNSO described by political analyst F William Engdahl in his book *The Rape of Ukraine: Phase Two Begins*, as a crack paramilitary unit from the Ukrainian National Assembly known as Ukrainian People's Self-Defence (UNA-UNSO). Dressed in uniforms modelled on Hitler's SS, the group has been behind every anti-Russian action since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. But further information suggests that UNA-UNSO is actually part of a secret NATO 'Gladio' outfit made up of dangerous mercenaries used all over the world to fight NATO's dirty wars and to frame Russia because this group pretends to be Russia's special forces. Whatever we know or don't know, clearly agents of foreign governments have played a critical role in toppling Ukraine's president.

In an unprecedented turnout, 95.7% of Crimeans voted to secede from Ukraine and rejoin Russia. While they celebrate their victory and international observers declared the referendum to be free and fair, the White House and its EU puppets stated that it was 'administered under threats of violence and intimidation' and found the result to be 'unacceptable'. The US has gone completely bonkers in its quest for global hegemony. A few days ago, Russian PM Dmitry Medvedev said: 'We do not understand what is going on there. A real threat to our interests (exists) and to the lives and health of our citizens. Strictly speaking, today there is no one there to communicate with ... if you think that people in black masks waving Kalashnikovs

represent a government, then it will be difficult for us to work with such a government.' Who can blame him?

It seems clear that Obama and his deranged advisers believe they can train this coven of hard-core Nazi hoons to do what they're told, which is about as likely as minarets turning up in the middle of Vatican City. These extremists have their own agenda and will pursue it regardless of Washington's dictates. How long will the world tolerate Washington's criminal behaviour and ongoing destruction of countries as it pounces around the world claiming to be our big sheriff on the side of international law while behaving as its biggest outlaw with scant respect for truth or humanity. The threat to world peace is real and ongoing. Sanctions, a build-up of ships, spooks and planes with guided missiles and F-15 fighters on Russia's border. Expect more provocations from a neo-con government armed with nuclear weapons and a military doctrine of preemptive nuclear first strike, by far the biggest threat to our planet.

'Ukraine is increasingly perceived to be critically situated in the emerging battle to dominate energy transport corridors linking the oil and natural gas reserves of the Caspian basin to European markets ... considerable competition has already emerged over the construction of pipelines. Whether Ukraine will provide alternative routes to diversify access, as the West would prefer, or 'find itself forced to play the role of a Russian subsidiary' remains to be seen.' Nafeez Ahmed, *The Guardian*, 17 March 2014

Big Oil still rules the US roost and what it says goes. Once again, the world is being pushed to the brink by the Exxons and Chevrons that seem to believe the resources that lie under Russian soil belong to them. Will Obama risk putting American troops on the ground to assert their claim? This time, Washington faces a real adversary, the Russian Army. They know how to defend themselves and are prepared to do so. Moscow has its back to the wall and is not going to budge. ■

MAY DAY 2014

May Day, May 1st each year, is worker's day. It is workers' day throughout Australia and workers' day throughout the world. This has been so internationally since 1890.

Many other events are celebrated each year in Australia: royal birthdays, Cup Day, military exploits, religious beliefs, etc., but May Day is one of the few days in the calendar where workers' struggles are celebrated and workers' demands are publicised.

The labour movement and the trade union movement should continue to build this day

MAY DAY EVENTS

FILM NIGHT

TUESDAY 29 APRIL 7.00 pm

Democritus Workers League, 583 High St, Northcote

WREATH LAYING AT THE 8 HOUR MONUMENT

THURSDAY 1 MAY 5.00 pm

Victoria Parade (opposite Trades Hall)

MULTICULTURAL EVENT

THURSDAY 1 MAY 6.30 pm

Old Ballroom, Trades Hall

Speakers and cultural items followed by a multicultural smorgasbord

MAY DAY MARCH

SUNDAY 4 MAY

Assembling at 1.00 pm

Cnr Victoria & Russell Sts

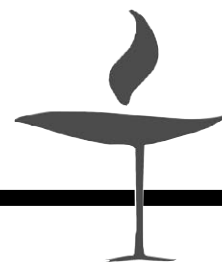
Opposite Trades Hall: speakers, activities, stalls, etc.

MAY DAY CONCERT

SUNDAY 4 MAY

Straight after the march and speakers' platform

from our readers



Dear Beacon

A great publication! Subs for Marie and Ken Muir \$20 and \$20 donation.

Cheers

K Muir, NSW

Dear Beacon

Please find enclosed my cheque for \$200 to support the project. I am vitally concerned with the situation that is unfolding and am delighted to help in the only way I can.

Yours faithfully

J Woodman, NSW

Dear Beacon

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$240 being my sub for the Beacon and a donation to the People's Commission of Audit.

More power to you!

With all good wishes.

Yours in peace

R Kelly, Qld

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find cheque for \$1000 toward the People's Commission of Audit – anonymously please.

Dear Beacon

Please find enclosed cheque for \$50 for overdue sub to Beacon. WHOOPS SORRY! And donation.

A must read. Thank you.

R Kelly, Qld

Dear Friends

We both just read with great interest the enclosed 'Keeping in Touch' newsletter.

Your committee's approach to the Australia Institute and to providing them with a brief to address the issue can only be congratulated.

As the fee for the work is proposed to be \$15,000, we would like to make a start by donating \$100. Please inform us of the relevant account we can address the cheque to.

Good luck and best wishes. Shalom.

H Post & G Behrens, NSW

Dear Donna

Please find enclosed a M/O for \$50. Could you put \$10 for my concession subscription, \$2 for the list of 'Tony Abbott's Lies' since his election in 2013 and the remainder for the church's own 'Razor Gang' audit.

With very best wishes for the continued long life of our Church, our members (and, of course, yourself).

K Cox, Vic

PAYPAL ACCOUNT

The church has now opened a PayPal account. If you have access to PayPal – all you need do is log on and the church's PayPal address is admin@melbourneunitarian.org.au Visit our web page and click on the link. You will be able to pay your subscription and make donations.

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Our church is a public and usable asset with portable seating and excellent conference, meeting and function facilities. We welcome its use by those who support our motto 'Seek the Truth and Serve Humanity'. Interested individuals or groups can contact the church office – we would be delighted to speak to you. A donation is payable.

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Services, Sunday 11 am

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But then it was too late

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Meet the people the US and EU are supporting

Vanguard of the age

US world domination

Beacon Editorial Board

Peter Abrehart

Marion Harper

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Julie Stafford

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