



Heat waves coming here

Graham Holton

The world is suffering from unprecedented temperatures as a record-breaking heat wave spreads across Europe, North America and into Asia, and Central America.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that globally about 489,000 heat-related deaths could occur this year, with roughly 45 per cent in Asia. Many would not be officially recorded as heatstroke because heat worsens existing conditions of heart, kidney, or respiratory diseases.

There has been no global tally of heat-related deaths. What is known is that climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, making populations highly vulnerable. Rapidly warming temperatures particularly threaten many densely populated cities.

Across Europe more than 2,400 people have died during the record-breaking deadly heatwave. Over three peak days France had the greatest number of fatalities, with 1,400, while Spain reported 1,000 excess deaths. Temperatures have been soaring above 40°C with unprecedented hot nights above 20°C. High night-time temperatures are especially dangerous because the human body is unable to recover from the daytime heat. This acutely impacts those fatigued, as the temperature causes heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death.

Scientists use the wet-bulb temperature (WBT) to determine heat stroke vulnerability. It accounts for heat and humidity, making it a critical measure of how effectively the human body can cool itself through sweating. A figure of 35°C WBT is extremely dangerous, as a high humidity means the body is unable to sweat to cool down.

World Weather Attribution reported that 45% of European cities exceeded safe WBT thresholds during the current heatwave.

OVERWHELMED

The impact of the heat wave is so bad that France can no longer cope with the



Photo: Guian Bolisay – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 2.0)

ever-growing number of body bags stored in mortuaries and freezers. Mortuaries in Paris and across the nation are overwhelmed, forcing funeral directors to turn away grieving families due to a lack of refrigerated space.

The majority of heat-related deaths involve older people living at home, or in elder-care facilities. Exacerbating logistical challenges means the bodies wait to be transported. Funeral homes are full. One Parisian mortician turned away 150 bodies in one day. Freezer trucks are being used to store hundreds of bodies.

WARNINGS


Major scientific organisations have issued warnings, describing the heatwave as an exceptional event with significant implications for health, infrastructure and ecosystems. The World Weather Attribution (WWA) reported that the Western European heatwave would have been “virtually impossible” without human-caused climate change. According to its analysis, comparable heat events are now roughly 100 times more likely than they were several decades ago. The event is

around 3.5°C hotter than a similar event in 1976 because of global warming.


According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), temperature records have been shattered across multiple European countries. Extreme heat has significantly affected livestock welfare, productivity, farm profitability, and food supplies.

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45% of European cities exceeded safe thresholds during the current heatwave

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Guardian

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Are you extreme enough?

Extremism has a bad time of it lately. The Royal Commission into anti-semitism is rife with warnings about it. Courts have argued over what does and doesn't equal "extremist ideology." Potential murderers are intercepted due to "extremist material" found on their computers.

At the same time, we look up to extremists, both real and fictional. Martin Luther King put it well, saying that the question "is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be."

So the cause matters. So do the actions taken. Extremists tend to exist on both sides of an issue. Think of a topic on which someone is being an extremist, and there are usually people being extreme in the other direction.

In Australia, there's a bad habit of looking at only one side of extremism, especially when the interests of capital are at stake. Some examples:

A group of protesters demonstrated at the home of Woodside CEO Meg O'Neill. They didn't threaten O'Neill or her family, but admitted plans to splash paint on the gate of the home. These protesters had guns pointed at them. The magistrate hearing their case asked if they'd "crossed the line." The protesters all received hefty fines.

Woodside isn't going to damage anyone's fence. As reported in this paper, the company is opening a project which has been called Australia's biggest climate threat. It will emit 6.1 billion tonnes of climate pollution and threaten 12 different marine parks. Our front page story for this issue details some of the results of that climate pollution.

The project will also commit Australia to more use of fossil fuels, with almost no benefit to the Australian taxpayer. The Burrup Hub project will make Woodside, its executives and major shareholders much wealthier.

Whose actions are more extreme here?

Pauline Hanson's obvious racism is seldom denounced as such. Instead her term "monoculture," a call for a mythical completely white Australia, has become a buzzword suitable for serious discussion. Hanson's party is opportunistic about trying to get attention, but single-minded about doing it by attacking minorities. They've gone from Aboriginal people to Asians and on to Muslims. Ethnic minorities don't even have to live in Australia for One Nation to wish them harm – recently Hanson's mob has declared its support for an Australian soldier accused of murdering Afghan civilians.

Journalists have given Hanson the softest of easy rides, showing no solidarity when she abused a journalist doing her job at a press conference. She's taken seriously.

On the other hand, the harmless GetUp protesters who unrolled a banner calling out Hanson's opposition to pay rises for actual battlers have been described as "bozos" or "extremists." Who's more extreme – the politician who uses racism to get ahead while opposing any measures that help battlers (See *Guardian* #2197) or people who point out their hypocrisy?

The next time you see someone described as an 'extremist,' have a look at what they're up against.

The Communist Party of Australia is extreme in many ways. We work for improvements to workers conditions. We strive to protect the environment on which workers' lives depend. But we go much further than that. We are working for a change of the Australian system to a socialist system – a real democracy, run by and for the people who create the wealth of this country. Trying to change the whole system is nothing if not extreme. This paper brings news of more short-term actions every week, but we never lose sight of the goal – a socialist Australia.

Heat waves coming here

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FOOD STOCKS

Chickens, cattle, and pigs are particularly vulnerable because they have limited ability to regulate body temperature. Chickens are among the most heat-sensitive farm animals because they cannot sweat. Pigs are particularly susceptible because they have very few functional sweat glands. Dairy cattle are especially vulnerable because milk production generates substantial body heat.

Crops such as wheat and vegetables will have reduced yields. Fisheries are affected by the warmer waters. The heatwave is also having a severe impact on wild birds, particularly when high temperatures persist for several days. Ornithologists and conservation organisations across Europe have reported increased stress on bird populations.

In Eastern Europe there are no official death figures for the heat wave. Poland is experiencing record temperatures. Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria remain under extreme heat warnings, with hospitals reporting increased cases of heat exhaustion and dehydration rather than confirmed excess mortality.

ASIA

Of course, it's not only European countries that are affected. India is already experiencing acute drought conditions. The Meteorological Department has not published a consolidated mortality figure, but at least thirty-seven died in the May heat wave. A 2026 study estimated that a five-day heatwave could result in 30,000 excess deaths.

At least ten have died in Pakistan, mainly around Karachi. In Japan thousands have required emergency treatment for heat. South Korea and China have issued heat warnings with no reported heat-related fatalities.

The Indonesian government has issued warnings of increasing heat risks, especially in Jakarta, where temperatures have reached around 36°C. The Philippines' weather agency has issued dangerous heat index warnings, but no official nationwide death toll has been released.

NORTH AMERICA

There has been no official North America-wide death toll published. In the United States nearly 180 million people have been affected by record temperatures, with authorities reporting numerous heat-related medical emergencies. In Canada no national heat-related death figure has been confirmed. Heat advisories are in effect across parts of the country, and officials are focusing on prevention measures. Northern Mexico has experienced extreme temperatures, and almost certainly excess deaths.

The heat wave in the North America is affecting

public health, agriculture, infrastructure, ecosystems, and national economies. The heat buckles roads and railway and tram tracks. Increased electricity demand for cooling puts pressure on power grids, raising the risk of widespread outages.

Central America is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. Rising temperatures, combined with changing rainfall patterns, are increasing the impacts of extreme heat on agriculture, water supplies, public health, and economic development. Urban areas experience higher temperatures due to the urban heat island effect.

Agricultural workers and construction workers face the highest risks because they spend long hours outdoors. The heat wave has affected millions of farmers.

Central American governments, communities, and international organisations are responding to the high temperatures through adaptation and mitigation, although progress varies because of limited financial resources and institutional capacities. Governments are strengthening emergency medical services. Public information campaigns encourage hydration, reduce outdoor work during peak heat, and protection for vulnerable populations.

CLOSE TO HOME

Australian meteorologists and climate scientists are closely monitoring the European and North American event. Europe is now confronting challenges Australia has long faced, including heat-health warning systems, bushfire preparedness, and urban cooling strategies. Lessons from Europe's current crisis may influence Australia's future planning for hospitals, aged-care facilities, and emergency services.

The European event reinforces projections that climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of heatwaves globally. Australian researchers point to the January 2026 heatwave, when parts of South Australia reached 50°C, as an example of escalating heat extremes.

Already, construction workers in West Australia have to work in dangerous temperatures that can get as high as 50. Future heatwaves are expected to become more frequent, longer-lasting and more intense unless greenhouse gas emissions are reduced and adaptation measures are strengthened.

Scientists project that without substantial reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, extreme heat events will become more frequent, longer-lasting, and more severe, posing growing challenges for public health, food security, water resources, and economic development.

The Communist Party of Australia supports strong government action on climate change as well as union-led calls for a just transition and safety measures as the heatwaves on the northern hemisphere head here. 🇺🇦



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FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC MEETING FRI 24TH

We're moving!

Communist Party of Australia members have put in more than one hard weekend to move the Party Headquarters from Sydney's Surry Hills to Enmore (Marrickville) in Sydney's inner west. After decades in the Surry Hills office, there's a lot to move.

CPA members from Newcastle, Sydney, Melbourne, and even Perth put in an active weekend moving boxes of books, furniture and all manner of accumulated bric-a-brac from A to B. More volunteers will be coming in from NSW, Victoria, and Canberra to complete the operation.

The paper will be taking a week off due to the move, but after that, we'll be back in business. ✪



The world celebrates CPC's 105 Red years

Vinnie Molina

Communist Party of Australia National President

On the first of July 2026 the Chinese people celebrated 105 Red years of the Communist Party of China.

This important anniversary brings with it joy to many around the world. The Communist Party of Australia joins with the People's Republic of China and its people on this milestone that shows to the world what can be achieved for working class people under the leadership of the communist party.

The CPC has led the Chinese people since its inception in 1921. The liberation of the Chinese people has evolved into the rejuvenation of Chinese society. The CPC, with comrade President Xi Jinping at its core represents the aspirations of the entire Chinese nation.

Capitalism has only achieved one trillionaire in more than 200 years while socialism in China has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty. That is simply quite impressive.

The unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC has shown the world how to build a humanity with a shared future in the new era. This will be further manifested with the reunification of the homeland under the one China policy.

I congratulate the Communist Party of China and its general secretary President Xi Jinping on this important milestone. ✪



A concert titled "Putting the People First" in celebration of the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing, capital of China, June 29, 2026. Photo: Xinhua

Education union returns to negotiations

Peter Farmer

Following the rejection by members of a pay deal seen by many as inadequate, the Australian Education Union (AEU) has recommenced negotiations with the Allan Labor government on a new Victorian Government Schools Agreement for teachers, education support and school leaders in public schools.

"Victorian public schools remain the lowest funded in the country, with the state government deciding to cut \$2.4 billion through to 2031. This has significant implications for students and for the workloads and associated conditions of our members," Australian Education Union Victorian Branch president Justin Mullaly said.

"The state government's May offer did not go far enough to address the concerns of the majority

of union members and now the government must come back with a revised offer that addresses the needs of Victorian teachers, education support employees, and principals."

After the first 24 hour teachers' strike in 13 years, the AEU's Victoria Branch struck an in-principle agreement with the state government. That deal was described by many teachers as divisive, woefully inadequate and not making

up for previous substandard pay agreements (see *Guardian* #2195, 22 June).

The union says that tens of thousands of AEU members have engaged in a recent union survey about key concerns that they want to see addressed in a revised offer from government, and the further industrial action steps they are willing to undertake. Teachers have already made it clear that they don't want a deal which leaves

them going backwards. They've also voted decisively against a deal that divides teachers from principals and Education Support staff, giving the first group a much greater pay rise than that for teachers, and the second group far less. ✪

Proposal for 'Hyperscale' data centre in Northern Territory

The proposal for the 'Project Ares' data centre in remote Northern Territory, which would be powered by off-grid gas and renewables, has prompted renewed calls from Greenpeace for an urgent moratorium, citing serious concerns about emissions and environmental harm.

The application for the project under the EPBC Act reveals the gas-fired generation for the project would be approximately 1,038MW at full build-out, which would more than double the NT's current gas-fired generating capacity.

A recent report by Greenpeace Australia Pacific and independent expert Ketan Joshi, *Energy Vampires: the AI data centres draining Australia*, revealed how the frenzied rollout of AI data centres in Australia is set to derail the renewable energy transition, entrench gas and turbocharge climate pollution.

Solaye Snider, Campaigner at Greenpeace Australia Pacific, said: "Proposals like Project Ares, which would have significant off-grid gas powered generation and emissions, should not be moving along while there are

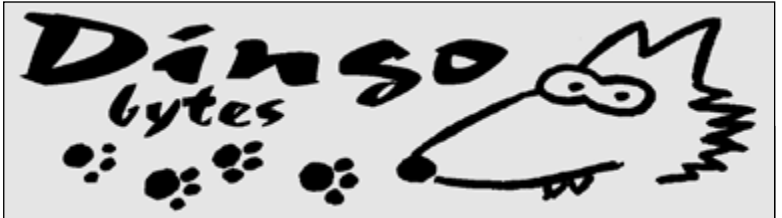
still zero binding regulations to limit the impacts of AI data centres on our communities and environment.

"This hyperscale project proposes massive new off-grid gas infrastructure, making a mockery of the federal government's unenforceable 'expectations' that data centres will cover their own power use with renewables. Communities will pay the price for the data centre industry's endless hunger for energy at any cost.

"This proposal also raises serious questions about where this new gas would come from. Could it come from fracking? The Beetaloo Communities deserve to have the full picture before this project is approved.

"The Australian government is asleep at the wheel when it comes to the rapid roll-out of AI data centres. We need an urgent moratorium on the construction and approval of new data centres, so our government can take appropriate time to legislate the regulations and safeguards we so desperately need."

Greenpeace Australia Pacific ✪



The federal government is being urged to respond to a feasibility study on options to limit unhealthy food marketing, as new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data reveals one in four Australian children and adolescents (aged 2-17) are living with overweight or obesity.

Following a Preventive Health Roundtable convened by Dr Sophie Scamps MP, a coalition of public health leaders, including Cancer Council Australia, has released a joint statement highlighting that Australian children are being bombarded by the marketing of unhealthy food and drinks online, across social media, gaming platforms, sport sponsorships, retail settings and more.

The joint statement calls for comprehensive new laws that will reduce children's exposure to unhealthy food and drink marketing in all the places they live, learn, play, and spend their time.

Living with overweight or obesity significantly increases the risk of 13 different types of cancer, including breast (post-menopausal), bowel, kidney, liver, endometrial, ovarian, stomach, thyroid, oesophagus, gallbladder, pancreas, multiple myeloma and prostate (advanced) cancers.

Cancer Council Australia CEO Jacinta Reddan said the Australian government needs to move swiftly to better protect children and adolescents from the normalisation of unhealthy foods and drinks through marketing and advertising which interferes with parents' best efforts to encourage healthy habits.

"The reality is children today are more likely to be living with obesity than previous generations, highlighting the need for the Australian government to respond to the feasibility study and move forward with measures to reduce children's exposure to unhealthy food marketing," Reddan said.

"You only need to watch some adverts about the FIFA World Cup to see how junk food companies are targeting children through popular sporting events – it's time to blow the whistle on junk food marketing to protect children's health."

In 2022, 96% of adults did not meet the recommended serves of fruit and vegetables, and the average Australian consumed 67 grams of free sugar per day, more than 1.3 times the recommended amount.

PARASITE OF THE WEEK: Microsoft-Nine. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance says the recent agreement between Microsoft and Nine to include snippets, headlines and summaries in Copilot must ensure that revenue generated from the deal is directed back to journalists.

Journalists and photojournalists create the content that gives these agreements value. If AI companies are paying to access and use this information, there must be recognition of that work and media workers must be fairly compensated for the value they provide. Without the workers who produce quality news and public interest broadcasting, there can be no licensing deal at all – it is their reporting, investigation, and storytelling that underpins the content provided to Microsoft through the deal.

MEAA Chief Executive, Erin Madeley, said that whenever these deals are made, workers deserve to know the details of the agreement, and need to see clear evidence that the deal is supporting journalism jobs, strengthening newsrooms, and sustaining quality reporting.

"Transparency and consultation with workers should be common practice, otherwise the benefits of AI will continue to flow to technology companies and media corporations, rather than the workers who research and write the quality stories that inform Australians," Madeley added.

MEAA maintains that deals between technology companies and media organisations should not simply create new corporate revenue streams; they should deliver tangible, monetary benefits for the journalists and photojournalists who produce the news and information all Australians rely on.

Journalists and media workers play an intrinsic role in supporting Australian society and our democracy. In an age where misinformation and disinformation are undermining the public's trust, we need protections in place that ensure journalists can continue to produce high quality, public interest journalism.



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Wage rise is here – check your pay slip!

Wage rises for 3 million Australians who rely on minimum and award wages have started to flow through into workers' bank accounts – but many workers could still miss out unless they check their pay slips carefully.

From the first full pay period after 1 July, award-reliant workers must be paid the 4.75% Annual Wage Review increase. A smaller group of around 100,000 workers at the very lowest award rates are entitled to a 6% pay boost to help with essential living costs.

The wage increases will add \$56 a week to the wages of the lowest-paid full-time worker, lifting Australia's minimum weekly wage above \$1,000 for the first time. The

3 million other award-reliant workers will receive more than this.

Australian Unions fought for the above-inflation wage rises and are encouraging workers to check their pay slips closely over the coming weeks to ensure they receive the increases. Unions also fought for increased fines and criminal liability for employers who engage in wage theft, and those employers who withhold these increases risk these sanctions.

ACTU Secretary, Sally McManus, urged workers to compare their final June pay slip with their first full pay slip after 1 July, to confirm the new rate has been correctly applied by their employer.

Workers who are concerned they may not have received the wage rise should keep records of their pay slips, contact their union or call Australian Unions on 1300 486 466.

McManus said "July is pay rise month for millions of Australian workers. It's not just those on award wages, but many collective agreements have pay rises that also kick in on 1 July. It's important that everyone who is affected checks their pay slips this month to ensure their employer is paying what unions fought for and so they can experience the cost-of-living relief that comes from extra pay."

McManus pointed out that the government has brought in laws to crack down on those employers who withhold the pay

rises they are legally required to pass on. This includes fines and possible criminal sanctions for the most serious cases. Most employers do the right thing, but there are always some who do not and hope their employees don't notice.

McManus stressed that the pay rises are not automatic and are not because employers are showing good will. The pay rises are happening because of the Australian union movement worked for them.

If something doesn't add up on your payslip, keep the payslip and call your union or Australian Unions on 1300 486 466 to get help to recover what you are owed.

Australian Council of Trade Unions ✪

Government falls short on human rights

MB

The Australian Human Rights Commission has expressed concern about a lack of commitment by the Australian government to address some key failings identified in a major review of Australia's human rights performance.

Every 5 years, the UN Human Rights Council undertakes a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of every UN member state which examines the human rights records of each country. Through the UPR, other countries make recommendations to Australia for action to better protect human rights.

Recently in Geneva, the Australian government gave its response to 332 recommendations made earlier this year to improve Australia's human rights standing. The Australian government has accepted 128 of these recommendations or about 39%, the lowest rate of acceptance by an Australian government since the UPR process began 20 years ago. On average, other countries accept approximately 73-76% of all recommendations received.

The Commission has criticised the government's response as lacking ambition, with no new commitments to addressing a range of urgent and longstanding human rights concerns. Acting Commission

President Dr Anna Cody said that the UPR highlighted some very serious human rights issues that Australia needs to address if we're to live up to the standards for justice and fairness that people in Australia should enjoy and which we expect from other countries.

"The government has only agreed to recommendations for reforms that are already in place or underway, essentially ignoring over 200 recommendations for new reforms which would markedly improve the rights, health and safety of our First Peoples, people with disability, women, children, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, LGBTIQ+

people and people in detention. This means the gap between our international commitments and our domestic practice is growing rather than narrowing, jeopardising our standing as a leader in human rights, particularly in our region.

"Many of the recommendations also relate to making our governments more accountable, so the lack of response to these recommendations underscores growing concerns around the commitments of our national, state and territory governments to transparency and accountability."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner Katie Kiss said that a key UN recommendation

was to develop a national plan to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which would significantly improve all kinds of outcomes for First Peoples in this country, including those under the Closing the Gap National Agreement.

Kiss said it was "incredibly disappointing that this government is denying us important rights and protections that would help Indigenous Australians to be safe and strong." ✪

Tasmanian government 'wiping their hands' of palliative care

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) is supporting members at the Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department (ED) who've been working in a chaotic and unsafe workplace.

ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary, Emily Shepherd said that the ED was overflowing with over 70 patients, 40 unallocated to a bed and 28 awaiting admission.

"Our members called the union for assistance with members grappling with significant patient demand and inadequate resources," Shepherd said.

"When the ANMF attended the ED, there was only one resuscitation bay left in the entire department, with many patients

in the waiting room needing an urgent bed but no capacity to move them into the actual ED and a bed space."

Shepherd said the ANMF contacted senior management who were able to free up 6 in-patient beds and arranged for additional medical support to aid in assessment and suitable discharges.

"Unfortunately, this is a regular occurrence for members of the LGH ED and when there is no capacity left, the entire hospital is a very chaotic and stressful environment to be working in, and for patients attending the hospital.

"It means constant juggling if a patient deteriorates and constant fear of a serious mass casualty not being able to be accommodated."

Shepherd said the ANMF has continuously advocated for the government to support access and flow strategies both within the hospital and in the community to no avail.

"The ANMF has called for 24/7 hospitals with diagnostics supporting this, as well as nurse-led criteria discharge and discharge planners.

"The ANMF has also called for the government to support a sub-acute facility as well as increasing community nursing, hospital in the home, community mental health, community dementia services statewide and increasing the staffing in district hospitals.

"Instead of these solutions being taken up, the state government continues to cut corners and has also cut the comprehensive palliative care in aged care service which

supported 1,400 Tasmanians in aged care with their palliative care needs.

"Palliative care has always been a State responsibility and now the state government have wiped their hands of it as the federal government chose to focus on their responsibility – aged care. Some of those 1,400 Tasmanians will now need to visit a state ED, when the State could have funded 3 nurses statewide instead."

At time of writing, the ANMF was headed to the Tasmanian Industrial Commission for a directions hearing regarding the government's Transfer of Care policy, to determine if the policy is safe or not.

ANMF Tasmania ✪

4th of July End US Imperialism protest in Naarm/Melbourne



NDIS Bill – what they said

The front page story of *Guardian* #2197, 'NDIS deadly cuts,' showed in detail what was wrong with the "inhumane, cost-cutting NDIS bill" (official title 'Securing the NDIS for Future Generations'). The average NDIS plan spend is to be cut from \$31,000 to \$26,000, with some plans reduced by as much as 50 per cent over the next two years. Up to 160,000 people will be thrown off the scheme and many others won't get to start on it once the changes are in place.

While writing that article M Santos collected a range of quotations from submissions to the inquiry. Here are the words of the people whose lives will be affected by the government's NDIS bill.

- I'm severely and permanently disabled. I am one of the people the politicians say NDIS was designed for. So why am I left terrified of the result of these funding cuts? The government says they are targeting fraud but announces they would be cutting off 160,000 participants. That isn't targeting fraud – that's targeting disabled people.

- The single tool that produced any outcome for my son was the Administrative Review Tribunal. An 18-month fight, at enormous cost to my health, my finances, my capacity to function, and the safety of my family – and ultimately, the plan was changed.

This Bill removes the conditions under which that process is meaningful.

- It feels as though people with disabilities are increasingly being viewed as a financial burden rather than as human beings deserving of dignity, safety, inclusion, and opportunity.

I do not want to be sitting here in this room begging the government to see people like me as human, begging you to understand the right the disabled community has to live rich and full lives that exist out in the world, beyond any four walls.

- The Minister for the NDIS should not be given powers to deny the right of people with a disability to appeal a decision about their care and supports needed to live ordinary lives.

Participants already have

functional assessments and documentation from medical and allied health professionals to provide evidence for their continued need for support. This should be enough.

I urge the Senate to come out strongly against these wide, sweeping ministerial powers. They are inhumane, they are unsafe and they should not be allowed.

- Parliament should remember the Robodebt scandal (and the suicides) and the ongoing problems with Workcover. Automated systems alone cannot make suitable, safe decisions about the supports needed by disabled people.

- The mental health impact of being denied support – after years of trauma and failed treatment – is severe and potentially fatal.

- I cannot adequately explain how dangerous and distressing this feels for families caring for children with profound disability. Children like my son do not fit neatly into tick-box assessments

- The NDIS has allowed our family to keep our son safe at home, access school safely, attend medical appointments, participate in the community and maintain dignity and quality of life. Without appropriate supports: family burnout increases; hospital admissions increase; school participation decreases; workforce participation for carers drops; and children with disability become further isolated

- Has the Minister ever met anyone with profound autism and



Photo: possibility.com.au (CC BY-NC 4.0)

that isn't targeting fraud – that's targeting disabled people

severe intellectual disability? Not in a controlled setting. Not in a presentation. In a real moment – at 3am, in a home with a broken bathroom and a makeshift outdoor kitchen, with a young man in severe pain who does not understand what is happening to his body and thinks the nearest person caused this, with no funded support and no way out.

- The NDIS should not be moving families closer to crisis in the name of "savings." Early intervention, capacity building, and

practical supports are what help families remain stable, sustainable, and able to continue caring for their children long-term.

- Families like mine already navigate enormous complexity every day. We should not also have to live in fear that essential supports may disappear because a future assessment tool fails to capture our child accurately.

- The NDIS is not a luxury for people like me. It is the reason I can parent my children, remain part of my community, continue

contributing to society and stay alive safely at home.

- The NDIS contributes significantly to the Australian economy. This should be encouraged and supported. Cuts to the NDIS will increase unemployment of both disabled and non-disabled people.

- The proposed NDIS bill must be rejected in full. Proceeding with the bill is an irresponsible and dangerous course of action, with real risk and harm, including death, which is a guaranteed outcome. ❌

Op-Ed: Revolutions and love

A Carruthers

Hannah Middleton, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of Australia, once said that "Revolution and love are inextricably intertwined. You can't have one without the other." I have often wondered about this statement since it's one of those lines that gives more when you think about it.

On one level it seems abstract. But when you think of the love a revolutionary like Fidel Castro had for his people, for the Cuban Revolution and the project of socialism, you can see why the two categories; revolution on the one hand, which entails a kind of just violence, and love, which entails tenderness, kindness, compassion are linked.

We revolutionaries yearn for civilisation instead of barbarism. But the barbarism we resist is not what the Western imperialists call 'barbaric'; the apparent "barbarism" of non-Western peoples and civilisations that must be wiped out in genocides and wars. We consider imperialism and capitalism to be precisely the barbarism that humanity must bury forever.

We believe a Palestinian mother, an Iranian child, oppressed peoples all around the world, have the right to live in security on their land. They have a right to love. We believe in love and civilisation, or what CPA leader Peter Symon called "the sunshine of real civilisation."

The unity of all progressive, poor, and working-class forces, the revolutionary power that comes from such unity, is what we need to fight imperialism and capitalism and bring forth the sunshine of real civilisation.

Of course love is deeply personal. It refers to the wonder of one-to-one relationships that change people's lives forever. Revolution is similar in this sense because it changes whole societies forever. Once a revolution is won, the society is no longer the same. Once someone falls in love, their life also changes forever. Unfortunately perhaps for both love and revolution, that permanent change is not always good!

We aim for socialist-character revolutions, of the kind that became so successful in Cuba, China, East Germany, and many other places.

Yet too, for those who make the choice to become Communists, members of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA), that is a life-changing moment no less. It has been for many of us. We love the Party and its project and that love drives us to engage more deeply with it, thus becoming more ourselves, more "who we are," as Christian Goopy suggested recently in Chinese media.

I could explore further the remarks made by Hannah Middleton, and the practical implications of this dialectic of love and revolution, but I'll leave it there for readers to ponder. ❌

IMPERIALISM

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Write to the Editor!**

Housing crisis drives protest

Romina Beitseen

Over 10,000 residents are set to be displaced, and 6,660 homes are set to be demolished, during an ever-worsening housing crisis in Victoria.

A recent rally at the State Library of Victoria protested the Victorian government's long-term plan to demolish and redevelop 44 public housing towers across the state.

The rally was organised by the Save Public Housing collective and Public Housing – Everybody's Business. It was also endorsed by grassroots housing and community groups.

Speakers asked the protestors to call their unions and remind them that "public housing is union business."

Guest speaker Senator Barbara Pocock is a prominent Greens senator who serves as the party's housing and homelessness spokesperson in South Australia and frequently speaks at public housing rallies. Senator Barbara was shaming the Labour government for not doing enough to provide safe public housing. She also slammed the NSW Minns Labor

government for auctioning off state-owned land to private developers instead of utilising it to address the 60,000+ household waitlist.

Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe joined the protest to condemn the Victorian Labor government's displacement of residents and the demolition of public housing towers. Senator Thorpe said she was raised by her single mother in public houses who had to work to provide for them. She gave thanks for the public housing and the community that helped and cared for each other, as she recalled positive childhood experiences growing up in public housing. She criticised the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who often mentions that he was raised in public houses by his mother while not saving public houses for others to have the same opportunity as he had.

The protest and subsequent march to the Atherton Gardens public towers in Fitzroy to fight to save the towers, people's homes, and the communities in and around them shows one thing. The Victorian Labor government is determined to demolish and privatise public housing and sell off public land to their greedy developer cronies. They've got a fight on their hands. ✖

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GREEN NOTES

Victoria asks first

Graham Holton

There's an alternative to just steamrolling communities because renewable energy is too important for niceties like consultation as recommended by the pro-development best-seller *Abundance*, one of Jim Chalmers' favourite books.

The alternative is to ask and consult properly. That's what they're trying in Victoria. The Victorian government has released its Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines, ensuring communities are consulted early and meaningfully, while helping to deliver local jobs, investment, and community benefits. The government relied on community feedback for project design and delivery. It has established what can be expected from renewable energy, battery, and transmission developers.

The guidelines will help a stronger involvement of local governments in project planning, clearer processes for dispute resolution and complaints, and the coordination of community benefit programs. Compliance is expected to become a condition of grid access under Victoria's new access regime from mid-2027.

Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio says the guidelines will give landholders and communities a stronger voice in projects affecting them and will provide clearer expectations for developers. The government estimates renewable and transmission projects could provide up to \$2.3 billion in direct benefits to regional Victoria over twenty-five years.

Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) is a farmer-led Australian organisation empowering farmers to lead climate solutions and sustainable, low-emission agriculture. They have welcomed the guidelines as significantly improving how renewable energy developers will engage with rural communities and landholders. They support the required greater transparency between developers, landholders, and neighbouring properties.

FCA CEO Verity Morgan-Schmidt has been instrumental in advancing climate solutions and supporting farmers in transitioning to a clean energy economy. She warned that "the devil will be in the detail." Trust between some rural communities and renewable energy developers has been damaged and the effective implementation of the guidelines will be crucial. They will mark a major shift in how developers interact with communities.

Morgan-Schmidt said: "Victoria now leads the nation on best-practice approaches for developers to interact with the community. The Victorian government and renewable energy industry need to re-build trust in many regional communities around the clean energy build, and if implemented well, this goes some way toward that ... The community needs to be included as co-designers of benefits, rather than accepting whatever the developers decide to offer."

Other organisations and stakeholders welcomed the guidelines. The Renewable Energy Alliance described the guidelines as establishing a new minimum standard for engagement between developers and regional communities. Its National Director, Andrew Bray, said they would give communities a clearer basis for holding developers accountable and improve consultation, benefit-sharing, and dispute resolution processes. The real test would be whether accountability mechanisms are strong enough in practice.

In western Victoria, many local councils and landholder representatives welcomed the guidelines as they address concerns about transparency of agreements, neighbour compensation, public liability insurance, decommissioning responsibilities, and dispute resolution.

Energy-sector analysts and legal commentators viewed the guidelines positively as they provide greater certainty about what developers must do to gain access to renewable energy projects under the Victorian Access Regime from mid-2027. They highlighted stronger requirements regarding engagement with traditional owners, landholders, neighbouring landholders, local councils, and community benefit programs.

Overall, reactions have been mainly supportive from farming organisations, renewable energy advocates, local governments and industry observers, with the debate focusing on whether the guidelines will be rigorously enforced.

Farm and community trust remains low, meaning stronger rules alone will not rebuild their confidence. The guidelines rely heavily on voluntary compliance. VicGrid and government agencies will need adequate resources and authority to ensure developers actually follow the new approach.

Travels in China

David Matters

This June, I arranged to meet with a comrade in a remote rural township in Songxi County Fujian province. The area was an old revolutionary base and one of the areas in which absolute poverty has been eliminated. The area does not often get foreign visitors so the comrade indicated that our being there would drastically increase the population of foreigners.

Songxi was part of an area that was once the centre of a prosperous river trading empire the Song Dynasty being based around this area and river trading ports along the river. It was also an area that led the resistance to the Japanese and it was in these villages that the Japanese advance was stopped. There is deeply embedded party history in the region, and we visited two local Party museums.

The Party comrades in the area were pleased to show their progress and we were shown around community centres that promoted fitness (a very well stocked gym), a centre for new talent and many other innovations. The Party was very involved in assisting the local collectives and building business opportunities for the local farming communities. What was most evident was the community spirit and the sense of ownership of the local community.

Scientists in the area have worked with an ancient species of bamboo sugarcane to develop products that added value. Among these were rum and a development of a medicinal herb to prevent hangovers. In the interests of science, we tested both!

In China a cultural revival is developing as Chinese people revisit their heritage. It was a great honour to be treated to an evening of the awards for intangible cultural assets. This was held in the village square with thousands of locals turning up to see very talented performances of very talented groups. The party Chairman gave out the awards and my comrade was interviewed by the local media.

We visited a mixed farm of rice and lotus as well as fishponds, and were kindly hosted by a four-generation household and treated to the local delicacy of River Snails and unique home cooking. The party officials were there to serve the local community and changes around what to keep and what to replace were firmly in the hands of the local community. The democracy of this process was evident, and we could see that work was in hand to enhance the common prosperity.

On my last day in Songxi I was treated to a cultural feast – the Dragon Boat festival, spread throughout China over the millennium and evolved into this great spectacle. The Songxi volunteers were making Zongzi, sticky rice

pudding. After making these treats the volunteers spent time dispensing them to frontline workers such as the garbage collectors and health workers to show the community's appreciation for their work.

I went to Chengdu in Sichuan Province wanting to see the pandas. I also paid a visit to Du Fu's thatched cottage and a whole parkland dedicated to great Chinese poets and intellectuals.

Du Fu was a significant poet of the Tang Dynasty. His thatched cottage is a significant cultural treasure. The Dao monasteries were in active use during the dragon boat festival. There is no suppression of religious belief here.

In Chengdu I also met Tibetans who were travelling as tourists, having driven from Tibet to Sichuan. I met Tourists from Xi'an and other parts of China. On the tour to see the panda's and the Giant Buddha I was the only Westerner apart from some Hong Kong-based Melbourne Chinese. The tourist sector is now heavily dominated by Chinese nationals visiting their own beautiful country.

From Chengdu I had decided to visit Quzhou, known as the southern centre of Confucian culture. On my first morning there, I went searching for the Confucius museum. On the way I spotted a bookstore in the historic centre of Quzhou. I had promised a comrade to find a Deng Xiaoping book of writings so I went in to ask.

It is this informal approach that helped me to learn a lot about this city. The bookshop owner invited me to drink tea and have some conversation which we managed with students of English, teachers and our phones' translation services. I was invited to stay for dinner and after the conversation we embarked on a private tour of the museums.

I was taken to the Doolittle memorial museum. I had not heard of this famous event but Quzhou was at the centre of this event. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour the morale of the Anti-Fascist forces were at a low. The US decided to bomb Japan in retaliation. A mission was to be led by James Doolittle from an aircraft carrier. The pilots to crash-landed near Quzhou which was the centre of anti-Japanese resistance.

With tremendous personal sacrifice the Chinese resistance saved the American pilots and smuggled them to Chongqing. After the bombing, the Japanese murdered over a quarter of a million Chinese people.

On the last evening I was presented with some revolutionary literature and a selection of Confucius' writings, The village head turned up to farewell me.

I visited the Confucius museum and thus gained an understanding of how important Confucian teachings and thoughts are to Chinese culture. It is profound how the Party and the people have embraced the best from this important philosopher. ☆



The Congress table

community spirit and the sense of ownership of the local community

An Australian in Beijing

I live in a room with a few other people for free as part of my scholarship. This university is being rocked by AI just like everywhere else in the world, but on the social side of things it is very different to Australian unis, much closer-knit. The campus is basically a gated community.

Most restaurants don't specifically cater to vegans but it is not that hard to find basic vegan food. Noodles, rice, tofu, seitan, red bean paste buns, sesame balls, fruit, peanuts are all easy to get.

Mandarin oranges are the default oranges here, which makes

sense. On campus there are dining halls which belong to the university itself and are presumably subsidised. It's easy to get a good meal for about \$2.00. The cafeteria in my university is self-serve and you are automatically charged by weight. There's no knives and forks, just chopsticks and spoons.

The subway in Beijing is really nice. I was a bit surprised that you have to go through a metal detector and put your bag on a conveyor belt when you enter the subway. You can buy a single-use ticket with cash which works much like Australian travel cards except that when you are done, you leave it

in a slot in the gate, and then it is reused. The trains are always on time and very frequent. There are gates on the platform that align with the train doors and prevent people from going onto the tracks. It's less common than in Naarm for someone to be making noise with their phone.

WeChat is China's "everything app." Besides chatting with people you can also use it to order at restaurants, rent e-bikes, pay at shops, etc. by scanning QR codes. Alipay is a competitor that is mostly interchangeable with WeChat, but you can't chat on it.

Developers can create

"mini-apps" which you can use immediately by scanning a QR code – very convenient. Elon Musk was directly inspired by WeChat in his very unsuccessful effort to make Twitter/X into the West's "everything app." This makes me think about how disastrous it would be if Elon Musk could meddle with WeChat like he does with Twitter/X.

I have ADHD, and getting medication was difficult for a while. I've resolved the problem now, but had some surreal experiences on the way. At one stage I was told I could only get the medication I needed by going to a children's hospital, only to be told I couldn't use the

children's hospital because I'm not a child!

The notorious 'Great Firewall' can be annoying, but ultimately I am glad China is not dominated by American/Western tech like the rest of the world. The internet service is really good, with fast 5G everywhere. There are fast publicly owned Linux mirrors in China, meaning that it's easy to download and use open-source accessible software.

China seems not so much "developing" as "developing differently." I have a few years to go on my course and I'm enjoying the ride! ☆

Trump's anti-communist crusade, a midterm panic move

CJ Atkins

In the space of a single week, the contours of the Trump administration's political strategy heading into the November midterms snapped into focus. It is a strategy rooted in fear. Fear of a left that is winning elections. Fear of a working class that is organising. Fear of what happens when ordinary people discover that the political system can actually deliver for them.

On 23 June, federal judges in Fort Worth, Texas, handed down what can only be called political sentences. Eight defendants connected to a 2025 noise demonstration outside the Prairieland ICE detention facility in Alvarado received a combined 450 years in prison.

The most chilling case was that of Daniel Sanchez Estrada – a man who was not even present at the protest – sentenced to 30 years for moving a box of anti-fascist zines. His wife, Maricela Rueda, received 70 years for apparently asking him to move them. Others got 50 years. Benjamin Song, convicted of attempted murder for firing a shot that wounded a police officer, received 100 years.

The Justice Department crowed that these were “the first sentencing of defendants affiliated with Antifa following President Donald J Trump's executive order designating the group as a Domestic Terrorist Organisation in September 2025.”

Neither the involvement of any organised terrorist group nor the existence of a coordinated murder plot was ever proven in the

courtroom. What was proven, to the government's apparent satisfaction, was that these activists wore dark clothing, used Signal, attended anarchist book club meetings, and possessed political pamphlets.

Then, on Friday, 26 June, Trump stepped to the podium at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's conference in Washington to deliver his red-baiting sermon that served to reinforce the politics behind the Texas trials.

Coming right after a string of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) victories in New York primaries – where candidates backed by Mayor Zohran Mamdani swept several congressional and state legislative races – the president went full McCarthy.

He called DSA candidates “hardcore, godless communists,” warned of a “cancer” that is “permeating our country called communism,” and declared communism “the most serious threat to our country since its existence.” He called DSA members “animals” willing to assassinate opponents. He warned America would become “a Third World country in every way” and that people would “suffer or die” if Democrats won.

He accused his Democratic opponents of capitulating to the left within their own party. “They're not smart enough or tough enough to fight the plague that is happening right before your very eyes.” The Democrats, he claimed, “are becoming a Communist party – not social Democrats. They are communists.”

Though the reference to “social democrats” and the distinction between them and Communists suggest more serious political analysis on the president's part, the distinction was likely lost on

his audience. Regardless, though they were meant to project strength, Trump's remarks were a sign of electoral desperation.

UNMISTAKABLE PATTERN

Peoples World warned last September that NSPM-7 – Trump's National Security Presidential Memorandum – was reviving the worst excesses of McCarthyism. NSPM-7 ordered Joint Terrorism Task Forces to target Americans for supposed commitments to “anti-capitalism,” “anti-Christianity,” and “anti-Americanism.” It was a list so sweeping it could ensnare virtually any critic of US policy.

The Prairieland sentences are the inevitable product of that framework. As Sufia Khalid, defence attorney and deputy director of the National Security Criminal Defence Center, put it: “Now anyone engaged in basic protests with the wrong political beliefs can be labelled a domestic terrorist, when they have no intention of violence, not engaged in any violence, not interested in any violence.”

Judge Reed O'Connor, who decided the sentences for the defendants, made the political intent explicit, reportedly telling the courtroom he was ordering the maximum in each case because “the state wants to send a message to anyone who shares a similar ideology.”

These sentences – longer than any handed down to the 6 January insurrectionists who participated in the attempted Trump coup of 2021, many of whom the president subsequently pardoned – reveal everything about what kind of dissent this administration is prepared to tolerate.

RED BAITING AS STRATEGY

The timing of Trump's Faith and Freedom speech is no accident. With his approval rating hitting all-time lows amid persistent cost-of-living concerns, Trump is reaching for the oldest weapon in the reactionary arsenal: the Red Scare.

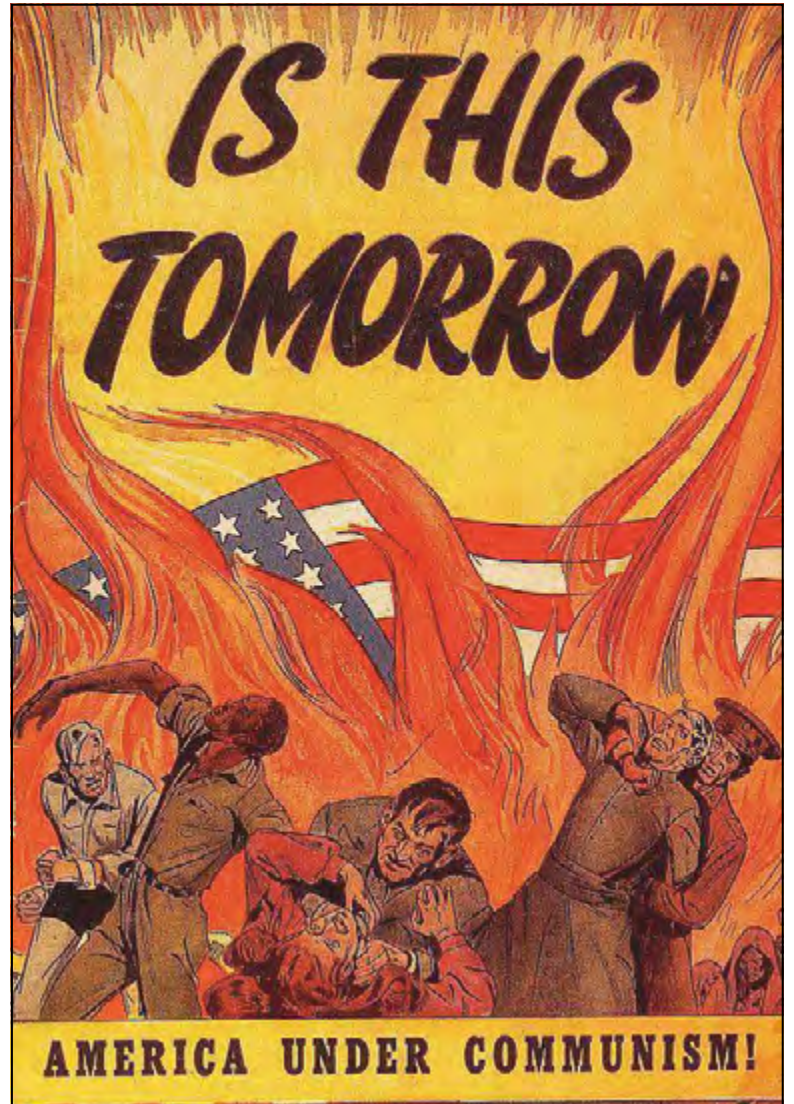
The DSA victories in New York – in Trump's own hometown – have rattled the White House, and the president has decided that smearing Democratic Socialists as communist assassins is the path to re-energising his base.

The Communist Party USA wasted no time calling it out. “MAGA is going to lose the midterms, and Trump's getting desperate,” CPUSA Co-chair Rossana Cambron said in a statement released to the media.

Fellow CPUSA Co-Chair Joe Sims drew a sharp line against Trump's characterisation of DSA: “Democratic socialists are just that: democratic and socialist. They want reforms to relieve suffering. Stop the red-baiting.”

As for their party, Sims said “Communists want to change the capitalist system fundamentally – before climate change, nuclear war, AI, or a pandemic kills us all.” He added that the CPUSA is “for democracy and socialism – a Bill of Rights Socialism that puts people and planet before profits.”

The party argued in its statement that Trump's red-baiting is



anyone engaged in protests can be labelled a domestic terrorist

a smokescreen for attacking working-class organising, unions, and general democratic dissent. “This is old news,” Cambron said, “but the American people aren't going to buy it.”

On the economic reality Trump has been busily distorting, the CPUSA was equally direct: “It is capitalism and the drive for maximum profits that is the greatest threat to this country – the housing crisis, price-gouging, and war-mongering are driving our crisis.”

That message will likely resonate with the voters who turned out for Brad Lander, Darializa Avila Chevalier, and Claire Valdez in New York – candidates who ran on affordability and housing relief from a cost-of-living crisis the Trump administration has done nothing to address and much to worsen.

THE BELL TOLLS AGAIN

As *Peoples World* wrote last year, when McCarthyite persecution of the left was at its height in the middle of the 20th century, the CPUSA issued an open letter to the nation: “The bell tolls not just for

the Communists alone, but for the hard-won rights of all Americans.” That bell is ringing again, louder now with each passing week.

The Prairieland defendants – trans people, tattoo artists, vegans, anti-ICE community organisers, book club members – will spend the better part of their lives in federal prison unless their appeals have some success. Their sentences, however, serve a bigger purpose. They are meant as a warning to every union organiser, every tenant association, every immigrant rights group in America.

These warnings are aimed at groups of people who are already organised, already motivated, and already winning elections. Trump's tirade at the Faith and Freedom Coalition, delivered days after the Prairieland sentences landed, is not the sign of an administration in control of events. It is the sign of one scrambling to contain them.

The White House is stepping up its attacks because the left is stepping up its work. That is what desperation looks like, dressed up in the language of patriotism.

Peoples World (edited for space) ✦

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Letters to the Editor
The Guardian
74 Buckingham Street
Surry Hills, NSW 2010
email: editor@cpa.org.au



Happy Birthday USA

In wishing the USA a happy 250th birthday, the *Guardian* editorial ('Happy Birthday', *Guardian* #2197) hopes for a rapid decline of the so-called land of the free, a decline that creates a minimal number of casualties.

Given the current state of affairs, if the United States declined further, the world could be looking at an all-consuming catastrophe, with only

the prospects of an agonising recovery, if there is one is possible at all.

In The Road to Socialism USA, the Program of the Communist Party USA, approved by the National Committee in July 2025, a pathway is offered from the struggles of the present all the way to socialism, "a strategy of struggle, unity, reform, and revolution."

"Capitalism is a cause of many of the problems we face, and is also the main obstacle to finding real and lasting solutions. We need a system that prioritises the needs of the people before the greed of the few, the 1%."

In addition it is stated that, "The Communist Party aims for a peaceful transition to socialism, based on all forms of mass democratic expression and social action, electoral and non-electoral, to win and maintain working people's power. Our Party, with deep roots in US history and culture, with its long-standing principled fight for working-class unity,

for civil rights and full equality for all, for genuine reforms, for maintaining and extending constitutional rights, is an indispensable component of the coalition needed to win socialism."

All this may sound idealistic in the face of the opposing powerful wealthy and corrupt forces now in control, but an enlightened mass struggle remains the greatest hope for the working class. To date, through mass action, abominations such as slavery have been curtailed and some of the horrors of imperialism successfully opposed.

However, the main hope for all the peoples of the world for peace and freedom lies in winning full democratic rights for all humanity. In short, control, not by a privileged few, but by the vast majority in every nation.

Ron Hall



Something to say?
Write to
the Editor!
editor@cpa.org.au

Worth Watching: *Hong Ha: Lady of Letters*

Long before Vietnam embarked on its journey to build a socialist civilisation and modern socialist society, it already had a imperial civilisation. Out of that period of change the later, modern society was born.

The old society was often a brutal one; especially for women. There was concubinage, serfdom, poverty, and corruption. Despite many great pioneering women like the Tru'ng sisters of 40CE, and women poets, warriors and generals, women were not permitted as prominent a place in the public sphere as they are now in modern, socialist Vietnam. Officials could wield power unevenly, justice was scarce.

At the same time, food, language, and customs were all born in antique and pre-colonial Vietnam. This culture continues, and in fact flourishes now. Having defeated French, Japanese, and US imperialism, the socialist stage of Vietnam's development; things carry over in the modern, which remains in dialectic with history, with the ancient culture.

Vietnam's traditional culture is now incorporated into the state and into the framework of a progressive, and modern, socialist society. Advanced culture works within this socialist framework, the dialectic of old and new.

This film looks at this period through the lens of a great woman poet Doan Thi Diem (1705-1748), an historical figure known to have translated Dang Tran Con's poem *Lament of a Soldier's Wife* into Nôm script, the first writing system made in Vietnam and used to write popular works. She was also the author of a biography of the goddess Lieu Hanh. We see all the hardships of the imperial civilisation, how corrupt officials could inflict pain on families, communities, teachers and educators. Members of her family and kin including her father are killed by authorities.

Doan Thi Diem feels a deep connection with Dang Tran Con, facilitating her translation. Dang Tran Con famously writes in a basement to avoid being seen to use light, given the edict from authorities to not use lamps at night.

It was wonderful to hear the regulated, syllabic rhythms of the lines of poetry as read out by both main characters. The soundscapes of the film are wonderful.

Doan Thi Diem marries an official, but remains committed to her translation and poetic work over finding favour with authorities. Marriage provides her family

some protection, as she navigates gender expectations and attacks from authorities. She dies while travelling with her husband to a new posting.

This film gives us much to think about when it comes to society and culture. No longer can we accept the old, rigid framework which equated Marxism with the wipe-out of all fine traditional culture. Those times are over. That idea did not work in practice. Rereading Marx and Engels in light of this shows that they were in fact deep thinkers of culture, and knew socialism and communism was impossible to achieve without paying due attention to it.

Nor can we accept the Western Marxist dogma, the Great Western Chauvinism that tries to sneak in "anti-culture" and "anti-civilisation" attitudes through the back door, turning their backs on Marx by equating all civilisation with Western civilisation.

Great poetry is born of civilisation, and often out of struggle. In Australia we too must pay attention to international intellectual production and resist western chauvinism. It no longer suffices to call ourselves a First World country and turn our back on the globe and go inwards. We cannot ignore the ancient past and fail to grasp the future. As Karl Marx put it in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*:

In place of the old local and national seclusion and self-sufficiency, we have intercourse in every direction, universal inter-dependence of nations. And as in material, so also in intellectual production. The intellectual creations of individual nations become common property. National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible, and from the numerous national and local literatures, there arises a world literature.

The intellectual productions of the socialist countries are impressive and cannot be ignored. Much is said about the rise of (South) Korean culture, facilitated by Hollywood, but the cultural productions of our region, the Asia-Pacific, go much further than K-pop and *Squid Game*.

Hong Ha: Lady of Letters brings history and literature to life. It's worth a watch. 🍷



Down

- Victoria desperately short of (4)
- Company whose staff peeked at Albo's bank account (4)
- Minister described Robert Menzies as a Nazi... (8)
- Raises more tax money than tax on gas extraction (4)
- Tasmanian media superstar, Neil the... (4)
- Mountain Labor needs to climb to say in power, says Chris Minns (7)
- Comedian upset about CGT laws (6)
- Who Trump thinks are communists (9)
- Australian industry linked to deforestation in West Papua (5)
- Ford rehired engineers after being let down by (2)

ACROSS

- Who had a funeral in three countries? (8)
- JD Vance says his faith makes him oppose "low wage"... (8)
- Who beat the Vixens? (10)
- Country now ruled by the child of a disgraced ex-president (4)
- What Trump thinks communists are? (6)
- Who did an Australian editorial accuse of not speaking English? (6)

Protest songs from civil rights to Trump

Graham Holton

On 4 July 2026 the USA celebrated its 250th anniversary of independence; a constructed history built upon the greatness of the United States. President Trump and his ham-fisted attempts to make the anniversary all about him are getting a lot of attention now, but the history of the USA is also a history of working people.

It's also a history of protest, often through protest songs which cut through the constructed image to tell what ordinary people faced and struggled against over the past eighty years. Popular song covers the Civil Rights movement, women's rights, the labour movement and the Communist Party, environmentalism, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, economic inequality, and Trump.

Following World War II, the Civil Rights Movement struggled against the politics of racism, often using older songs. Known as the Black national anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* reflects the hope and the unfinished struggle for equality. It was a communal hymn sung within Black American communities. The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) promoted the song as a 'Negro national anthem' in 1917.

Strange Fruit (1939) by Billie Holiday is one of the most haunting protest songs ever written. It is a stark condemnation of racial violence in the US. The 'strange fruits' are lynched African Americans hanging from trees. *We Shall Overcome* (1962) was adapted by Pete Seeger to become the defining anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. *Mississippi Goddam* by Nina Simone was written after the murder of Medgar Evers and the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

By the 1950s the labour movement and Anti-McCarthyism were prominent. *Which Side Are You On?* tells of the miners struggle in the Harlan County War. It was recorded by the Almanac Singers in 1941 and has become one of America's greatest labour protest songs. *If I Had a Hammer* (1949) by Pete Seeger and Lee Hays was written in support of labour rights and social justice. *Solidarity Forever* (1955) is a trade union anthem written in 1915 by Ralph Chaplin, and adopted by Pete Seeger, quickly becoming the movement's enduring anthem. It's still a favourite of Australian unions.

In the 1960s protests against the Vietnam War were not only seen in the streets, they were heard in these songs. Bob Dylan played

a major part with his *Masters of War* being a fierce condemnation of the military-industrial complex. *Blowin' in the Wind* and *The Times They Are A-Changin'* were calls for political and social change. *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall* is often interpreted as a warning about nuclear war and social decay.

One of the era's strongest anti-war songs is *I Ain't Marching Anymore* by Phil Ochs. *For What It's Worth* (1967) by Buffalo Springfield became an anthem of protest and social unrest. *Fortunate Son* by Creedence Clearwater Revival, criticises class inequality and the Vietnam draft. Ironically President Trump, who dodged the draft with a mysterious ankle problem (he can't remember which ankle), used the song at his rallies.

Neil Young wrote *Ohio* after the 1970 Kent State shootings of unarmed students by the National Guard.

The 1970s was a period of economic injustice and poverty, with songs such as *War* by Edwin Starr. Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On* addressed war, poverty, and racial injustice. This was followed by *Fight the Power* by the Isley Brothers.

The 1980s brought a celebration of greed and inequality in the policies of the Reagan Era, as well as nuclear anxiety between the US and the USSR. *Washington Bullets* by British band The Clash, addresses US imperialism in Latin America.

Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the U.S.A.* is a criticism of the treatment of Vietnam veterans with working-class origins. *Sun City* (1985) by Artists United Against Apartheid was a protest against apartheid in South Africa. The group was founded by the activist and performer "Little Steven" Van Zandt and record producer Arthur Baker. Public Enemy's *Fight the Power* is noted for confronting systemic racism and institutional power.

Race, police, and inequality protests were strong in the 1990s. *Killing in the Name* by Rage Against the Machine is a protest against police brutality and institutional racism. *The Ghost of Tom Joad* by Bruce Springsteen focuses on homelessness, immigration, and poverty, linked to the Great Depression's inequality, but relevant to today's USA.

In the 2000s there were demonstrations against the Iraq War and Post-9/11 Politics. *American Idiot* by Green Day is a critique of the media and the political climate surrounding the Iraq War. *Mosh* by Eminem encouraged political participation during the 2004 election. *Dear Mr. President* by P!nk, criticises the policies of President George W Bush.



Land Of The Free by The Killers

The 2010s saw the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement, immigration, and environmental activism. *Alright* (2015) by American rapper Kendrick Lamar became closely associated with balancing resilience with protest to become an unofficial anthem of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The epic *This Is America* (2018) by rapper Childish Gambino, is a stark commentary on gun violence, racism, and media culture. *The Bigger Picture* by Lil Baby was inspired by protests following the murder of George Floyd. *March March* (2020) by The Chicks addresses racial injustice, climate change, and gun violence.

In the supposed land of freedom, the Chicks, formerly the Dixie Chicks were faced with orchestrated boycotts and record-burning events after they publicly opposed the US attack on Iraq at a time when self-described progressives such as Hilary Clinton were falling into line with George W Bush's post 9/11 war. *Rich Men North of Richmond* (2023) by Oliver Anthony is a political critique.

Protest songs during Donald Trump's two presidencies have spanned rock, hip-hop, pop, country, punk, and folk. Themes include immigration, racial justice, women's rights, environmental policy, democratic institutions, and criticism of Trump's rhetoric and policies. Rather than producing a single defining anthem, many demonstrators relied on a mix of older and newer songs. This protest music spread through streaming platforms and social media, rather than commercial radio.

Artists critical of Trump include Roger Waters, who frequently incorporates anti-Trump imagery into his concerts and performances. Green Day led audiences in anti-Trump chants. The hip hop group A Tribe Called Quest's performance was highly critical of Trump, as was Eminem's *The Storm*. Older rockers have publicly objected to Trump's use of their songs at campaign events.

Notable songs from the Trump era include *Immigrants (We Get The Job Done)* by K'naan, as a response to Trump's brutal

treatment of migrants. *The Violence* by Rise Against addresses political polarisation and authoritarianism. The Killers' *Land of the Free* criticises family separation at the US-Mexico border, gun violence, and inequality.

The Man by Taylor Swift focuses on gender inequality, and is associated with broader debates about sexism during the Trump era. Brandi Carlile's *The Joke* is an anthem for marginalised communities. *XXX* by Kendrick Lamar examines violence, patriotism, and contradictions in American society.

Trump's second presidency continues to see many demonstrations, such as 'No Kings' in which large crowds chanted protest songs. Jesse Welles is known for his plainspoken and satirical protest music, including *Join ICE* critiquing Trump's mistreatment of migrants. One thing for certain is that protest songs will continue under this presidency. ★

rockers have objected to Trump's use of their songs at campaign events

Op-Ed: Cuba's bold new step

A Carruthers

Reports are flowing in about the latest economic developments in Cuba, after the extraordinary Plenary Session of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee on 17 June. The Plenary met under the extreme conditions of imperialism and the looming threat of US state terror. Discussions at this meeting were deep and comprehensive.

Yoerky Sánchez Cuellar, director of Cuba's *Granma* newspaper, considered that these transformations do not constitute a deviation from the socialist project. He emphasised that without an economy there is no socialism and that, therefore, it is essential to untie the knots that bind the productive forces.

To "untie the knot," release the fetters on the productive forces, as Cuellar urges, to liberate the forces of production, to unleash the *rebellion* of the productive forces, is well known in Marxism-Leninism as a vital element in the long-term battle to bypass capitalism. It's not possible to do this without attention to how the new, socialist social relations will emerge compatible with these revolutionary upswings in production. Marxist-Leninists need to consider how this unfettering of the forces of production will contribute to the construction of the socialist society.

The Cuban revolutionaries are aware of the importance of managing labour and social relations with great care. Consultation and debate ranged across many sectors, from women, the Federation of Cuban Women, to unions, the Cuban Worker's Federation, local officials, farmers, educators, and intellectuals. Social relations are not merely a "component" of the productive forces.

Maintaining the commanding heights of the economy can ensure the liberation of productive forces accompanies an active effort to create new, socialist social relations. This democratic and grassroots work, this practical business of working through each point of the chain as this productive liberation takes place, is vital.

There will be comparisons with the 'Reform and Opening Up' seen in China, but these comparisons will be limited. Not only was that a different period in history, China came to it with its own characteristic approach. Cuba's approach will match that of China. Vietnam's 'Doi Moi' or 'opening up' is a more relevant comparison. Vietnam's size and economy were closer to Cuba's than China. Like Cuba, Vietnam was operating under a blockade.

One thing in common is that the new



CPA Port Adelaide Branch action in support of Cuba, Friday 5 June.

Cuban policy will be conducted in a planned and orderly manner. Effects on prices, incomes, and on income inequality and labour allocation, must be closely monitored. Risks can multiply, especially in the non-state sector.

Planning cannot entail rigidity, and market cannot mean unchecked fluidity. Rather planning and the market will enter into a dialectic. This was the socialist governance artistry of Deng Xiaoping Theory that won out and powered socialist China to its present victories.

Socialism is not merely "capitalism without capitalists." It is socialism on a path to a higher stage of civilisation, towards Communism. The socialist orientation, the socialist path and project, moves humanity step-by-step away from capitalism. It does so in stages and phases, by lengthening the time-prospect of history through the Plan.

It's important to remember that the new policy has come about because of the damage done by the Blockade. In fact; developing the social economy under these conditions, under the conditions of the Blockade, is also a way, or can become a way, around

it. A "Dual Circulation" model, in which a domestic market has priority, is a way to circumvent some of the issues.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or 'North Korea') is one such example. The DPRK weathered difficulties in the 1990s only to come roaring back. The current social and economic strength of the DPRK is attributable to a strengthening of the planning system, not a lessening, a loosening of it. However it has mastered the allocation of resources by avoiding rigidity, or an exacerbation of the "rigidity vs fluidity" dialectic in political economy.

The DPRK also suffered immense sanctions. The answer to sanctions was to master allocation of labour and resources within the socialist economy, to strengthen, not unravel, the socialist footing, to maintain close links between the Party and the people, to refine the Plan using scientific methods and to trust the power of the Plan over the anarchy of capitalism.

Cuba will win. The quality and mastery of the basic and advanced techniques of Marxism in Cuba are to be trusted in circumstances like these. They are internationally

connected, and equipped with the vista of Marxism and the innovation of Leninism.

The Cuban government is not interested in economics for the sake of economics. People remain at the centre of everything. That is why they have made this choice. The thought of Che, Fidel, Raúl and Díaz-Canel, anchored by the national liberation "heart" of Jose Martí, have all become one line of development in the history of Cuban-style Marxism.

To be sure, imperialism will try to break the back of the Cuban Revolution. Imperialists know well that socialism can succeed, and they will do everything to stop it. But they must be warned. To paraphrase Fidel, the beautiful, quixotic madness of the Cuban revolution, its willingness to fight that great Giant of the North, and to win that fight, is a rational madness backed by unbreakable love and solidarity.

To the new era I say: stream ahead, be bold, liberate the forces of production and the new socialist social relations. When the combined forces of the Cuban people unite behind the Central Committee and the Plan, socialism will surely be victorious. ✨

United Nations votes for Cuba

Peter Farmer

The United Nations General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly in favour of debating US sanctions on Cuba.

In a heated session on 7 July, the Assembly voted on the matter, with 136 nations in favour, 9

against, and 30 abstaining. Showing shameful obedience to the US government, Australia abstained.

During the debate, the US Ambassador to the UN complained that "communism never worked," avoiding the question of why his government is preventing a socialist state from obtaining basics such as oil and medicine.

The Ambassador for the Group of 77 spoke up against the US blockade, citing deep harms on agriculture, public health, trade and banking. The G77 is a coalition of developing countries which represents 80 per cent of the world's population.

Cuba responded to the US hysteria by condemning the

blockade and describing it as an act of collective punishment. Cuba's ambassador Rodriguez Parilla drew attention to preventable deaths which occurred due to the lack of equipment and power.

Parilla said that "the United States is spreading the lie that the blockade is not aimed at the Cuban people. Ask the people of Cuba

whether or not they are suffering because of the blockade."

In 2025, 165 UN Member states voted to call on the US to urgently lift its decades-long blockade of Cuba. ✨

Khamenei's legacy

Massive funeral/mourning events for Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have raised the question of what impact he had during his life. Iran's President during the 1981-1989 Iran-Iraq war formed his vision for managing a wartime economy under blockades and aerial bombardment.

His approach was further affected after US invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, leaving Iran bordered by US military forces. In

response, Khamenei authorised a major structural expansion of Iran's military asymmetric capabilities, focusing on ballistic missile development and deep defence partnerships with regional non-state actors.

Parallel to this regional defense strategy, Khamenei navigated decades of intense international scrutiny regarding Iran's nuclear program. A foundational element of Iran's official stance is the religious edict, issued by Khamenei in the early 2000s, which strictly

prohibits the production, stockpiling, and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Ideologically, Khamenei was opposed to what he called "global arrogance" which "seeks to dominate nations by stripping them of their identity and independent decision-making capabilities."

To counter the impact of comprehensive international blockades, Khamenei introduced the doctrine of the 'Resistance Economy.' This economic philosophy explicitly

rejects dependency on Western financial markets and global trade networks dominated by the US dollar.

Khamenei sought to build self sufficiency, saying that "Sanctions cannot defeat a nation that relies on its own domestic capabilities and fosters internal scientific progress."

Telesur (edited for space) ✨

BRICS and Cuba

Graham Holton

Cuba is now an associate member of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), alongside twelve nations, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

Joining BRICS offers Cuba a broad network of trading partners, investment opportunities, and political support. Although it will not offset the impact of US sanctions, it is an important pillar of Havana's strategy to diversify its international economic relationships and pursue long-term development.

Many BRICS members have repeatedly called for an end to the US oil blockade on Cuba and have supported the annual United Nations General Assembly resolutions urging its removal. BRICS forums provide Cuba with opportunities to deepen diplomatic partnerships. Since 2020, Cuba holds an observer status with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the first nation outside of Eurasia to do so.

BRICS is important for Cuba to reduce its dependence on Western

financial institution, improving access to infrastructure and development financing. The New Development Bank (NDB) offers an alternative source of development finance outside the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. So far the NDB has provided little direct financing to Cuba.

The group has encouraged greater use of national currencies in international trade instead of the US dollar. This is valuable for Cuba as dollar-based transactions are complicated by US sanctions. Instead, bilateral settlements using the Chinese Yuan or the Russian Rouble reduce reliance on the US financial system. Cubans have become adept at using a parallel internet infrastructure, with the government encouraging digital payments and e-commerce.

BRICS countries account for a significant share of Cuba's trade. China is one of Cuba's largest trading partners, supplying machinery, vehicles, electronics, and consumer goods. In 2018 Cuba joined China's Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructural project connecting

approximately 150 countries worldwide. China has supported Cuba through the supply of telecommunications equipment, internet infrastructure, renewable-energy technology, and transportation projects. These investments are intended to modernise key sectors of the Cuban economy.

Tourism remains a major source of foreign exchange for Cuba. Russia and China have encouraged tourism to Cuba and explored investments in hotel construction, port facilities, transportation, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals. This diversification of trade reduces Cuba's vulnerability to supply disruptions and sanctions.

BRICS has not solved Cuba's economic problems. US sanctions continue to discourage many international banks and companies from doing business with Cuba. The country faces domestic challenges including low productivity, foreign-exchange shortages, and aging infrastructure. What BRICS does is provide increased hope for the people of Cuba. ✨



Global Briefs

CHINA: The China passenger car association said that June sales reached 1.50 million, 22 per cent higher than in June 2025 and a 12 per cent rise even on May. Analysts think rising oil prices due to the US-Israel war on Iran were the reason for the shift to electric vehicles.

IRAN: Three days of public mourning have concluded as crowds of millions lined a 10 km route for the funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's former supreme leader. Khamenei was killed in an Israeli air strike in February, during negotiations with the US. There have also been demonstrations of public mourning in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

FRANCE: Far-right leader Marine Le Pen is allowed to run in next year's French presidential election, but will have to do it wearing an electronic tag. The career politician was found guilty of embezzlement in 2025. She appealed the verdict. Her conviction was upheld, with the condition that she wear the tag for two years of a four year sentence. Le Pen had been banned from running for public office for five years. That was reduced to fifteen months on appeal, leaving her free to have another shot at the presidency.


LEBANON: The United Nations children's fund (UNICEF) has warned that around 100,000 children in Lebanon could be left without access to education at the start of the next academic year due to widespread damage to schools caused by the Israeli attack. According to UNICEF, at least 340 schools have been damaged or completely destroyed across the country, including public, private schools, technical and vocational training centres.

RUSSIA: A detachment of Russia's Pacific Fleet arrived at the naval base in Qingdao, China for the joint Russia-China exercise Maritime Interaction 2026. The drills took place in the Yellow Sea. Russian and Chinese naval forces, supported by maritime aviation, practiced joint rescue operations, anti-submarine missions air defence and joint artillery firing. According to China's Ministry of National Defence, the drills are part of the annual cooperation plan between the two militaries and are aimed at jointly responding to security challenges and maintaining regional peace and stability.

PERU: Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of disgraced former dictator Alberto Fujimori was declared the winner of the presidential run-off election. Keiko Fujimori was running for the presidency for the fourth time and will be Peru's ninth president in 10 years when she takes office later this month. Her victory, along with that of Abelardo de la Espriella in Colombia and Jose Antonia Kast in Chile, confirms a regional shift toward the far right.

ESTONIA: Estonia has been stripped of the right to host the 2027 European Air Weapons championship after refusing to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to take part. The tournament has been moved to Granada, Spain. The European shooting Confederation lists Granada as a host city for the event which will take place on 3 to 9 March 2027.

Spain: The Spanish government has ordered state-backed companies to cut their ties with US defence contractor Palantir. The ban affects business operations in communications, defence, military technology, and public infrastructure projects. However the Spanish military has reportedly been given an exemption. In 2023, the Spanish Defence Ministry's armed forces Intelligence centre signed a \$18.8 million deal with Palantir, which expires next November. Spain is the third European country to ban its agencies from working with Palantir. The move follows similar bans in France and Germany.



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Austria's Communist party wins local elections

The Communist Party of Austria (KPO) has strengthened its hold on Graz, Austria's second-largest city, after emerging as the largest party in the city's municipal elections, securing 35.6% of the vote, around 7% points more than in the previous election.

The result marks another significant victory for Mayor Elke Kahr, whose administration has governed Austria's second-largest city since 2021 through a coalition. The conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) finished second, followed by the Greens, while the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), currently the strongest party nationally, came fourth in Graz. The Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) finished fifth.

The outcome stands in sharp contrast to Austria's broader political landscape, where the FPÖ has emerged as the country's strongest political force. It also reinforces Graz's reputation as the strongest municipal base of the KPO.

Kahr, 64, has built her administration around affordable housing, public services and direct engagement with residents. Often described as a "social worker mayor," she has earned broad public support through policies aimed at addressing everyday concerns such as housing affordability, public transport, healthcare, and social welfare.

The KPO's rise in Graz has been decades

in the making. Its breakthrough began in 1998 when Ernest Kaltenegger was elected to the city council and built public support by focusing on practical solutions to the city's housing crisis rather than prestige projects. Over the following years, Communist councillors gained a reputation for accessibility, transparency, and delivering on campaign promises.

Since taking office in 2021, the KPO has expanded municipal housing programs, strengthened tenant protections, increased support for homeless people, and introduced a range of social welfare measures.

Housing remains at the centre of the party's political program. Under Kahr's leadership, the city has expanded public housing, strengthened legal protections for tenants, established rent subsidies and security deposit assistance, and developed emergency support for people facing eviction. The party argues that housing should be treated as a social right rather than left to market forces.

The KPO attributes its electoral success to sustained grassroots work rather than media campaigns. Its representatives maintain regular contact with residents through public consultation hours, neighbourhood outreach, legal assistance for tenants, and participation in local community events. The party believes political trust is built by solving



Graz, Austria. Photo: Ben Bender – wikimedia.org (CC BY-SA 3.0)

everyday problems before asking people to support broader political programs.

The latest victory also reflects the KPO's strategy of openly campaigning as a communist party while focusing on practical working-class issues such as affordable housing, public transport, healthcare, and social services. Campaign slogans including 'Helping, not talking!' and 'Political engagement is not about career, but about care,' have become closely associated with the party's approach.

The KPO also maintains an unusual code of conduct for elected representatives. Party

officeholders voluntarily limit their monthly salaries to around €1,950 (AU\$3,217), donating the remainder of their official income to a social fund that helps residents facing financial difficulties.

Success in Graz has encouraged growing support for the KPO in other Austrian cities, including Salzburg, Linz, and Innsbruck, where the party has also made electoral gains in recent years despite the nationwide rise of the far right.

LeftViews.in ✳

Israel acknowledges Armenian genocide

Graham Holton

On 28 June 2026 the Israeli Cabinet unanimously approved a proposal by Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar to recognise the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire during 1915-1917. As many as 1.2 million Armenians were killed at the time.

It is Israel's first official recognition and represents a major reversal of policy drawing a strong condemnation from Türkiye. The question raised is why now?

Previous Israeli governments had avoided any formal genocide recognition because of a diplomatic agreement with Türkiye. If Israel did not recognise the Armenian genocide Türkiye agreed to call the Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, the world's only holocaust.

After Türkiye became one of the first Muslim-majority countries to recognise Israel in 1949, the two countries developed close military and intelligence cooperation. Israeli governments were reluctant to jeopardise this relationship. Declassified archival material indicates that Israeli officials cited national security and diplomatic interests, over the issue of Türkiye's sensibilities on the topic.

The timing reflects the severe deterioration in Israel-Türkiye relations following Turkish condemnation of Israel's vicious attacks on Gaza and Iran. Türkiye has condemned the recognition as politically motivated. The Israeli government rejects this, maintaining that its decision was its 'moral and historical duty,' despite what Israel is doing in Gaza.

The conflict marks the end of Israel's need to preserve close

strategic ties with Türkiye, allowing political leaders to align official policy with the historical consensus. More than thirty countries, including the United States, France, Germany, Canada, and Russia, have already officially recognised the Armenian genocide. Australian legislators first recognised the genocide in 1997.

Türkiye's president, Tayyip Erdoğan, attaches great importance to the Palestinian issue, and has portrayed himself as the protector of the Palestinian people. He saw the Israeli response to the attacks on 7 October 2023 as a disproportionate response. Erdoğan has accused "war-addicted" Israel of tying "its political survival to the continuation of conflicts in the region." ✳

Sovereignty? Forget it, says Microsoft

Peter Farmer

Readers with good memories might remember the various scares over Huawei and the more recent nonsense about Chinese-made cars. Huawei was supposed to be filling its equipment with spyware and there have been wild accusations that the nice new affordable electric car you've bought is going to report your every movement for mysterious reasons.

In both cases, there has been no hard proof given. Now a foreign corporation has admitted that our data isn't safe from the home country. The company is Microsoft and the home country is the USA.

France's Director of Public and Legal affairs has admitted that he could not guarantee that data

belonging to French citizens would not be transmitted to US authorities without explicit permission from the French government. In other words, if the US asked Microsoft for a French citizen's data, Microsoft would hand it over regardless of EU or French laws.

Microsoft France has been defensive about this revelation, saying that they have strong legal processes in place to refuse unconstitutional or illegal requests from the US government. The basic problem remains though, if the request is illegal by French or EU laws, the data will still be passed on if it's okay with the US.

The issue has come up in France, and is being followed by Canada and other countries in the EU. There is no reason to think it would be any different for Australia. ✳

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NSW	WOLLONGONG: 28 JULY FRATERNITY CLUB 6pm
NSW	GADIGAL / SYDNEY: 29 JULY DENDY NEWTOWN 6pm

PLANET EARTH vs. THE US MILITARY

Check out the official Instagram account of the Communist Party of Australia

communist.party.australia

www.instagram.com/communist.party.australia/

DPRK economic boom

Graham Holton

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), also known as North Korea, is experiencing an economic boom after recovering from the COVID-19 downturn when the country was in lockdown. The national economy is growing faster than at any time in recent years. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote that despite US sanctions the country is "wealthier than ever." South Korea's Development Institute estimates the DPRK GDP growth to be at 3.7 per cent, the highest since 2016.

The DPRK's Ninth Party Congress defines the new Five-Year Plan as a "stage of stabilisation and consolidation, and gradual qualitative development," focusing on heavy industry, power generation, infrastructure, and technology. General Secretary Kim Jong Un is promoting large state-led construction and industrial projects, aiming for the construction of factories in twenty cities and counties, the building of 100 hospitals, and the expansion of agricultural mechanisation. The implementation of the 'people-first' programme (*inmin daejung jeilju-ui*), has seen the expansion of agriculture, regional development, and healthcare.

DPRK state media says industrial production exceeded targets in early 2026, particularly in coal,

cement, electricity generation, and construction. Large-scale infrastructure projects are underway, highlighted by the construction of 10,000 new homes in Pyongyang.

There is a proliferation of new technology such as smartphones, electric vehicles (EVs) in urban centres, and consumers paying for goods like pizza and chicken wings using mobile QR code systems. The Plan outlays the development of AI, space, and new energy as priority sectors. Independent analysts note the increased industrial activity and brighter night time satellite imagery.

A number of other factors are also driving the economy. Trade with China accounts for the overwhelming majority of North Korea's external trade. Growing economic ties with Russia, following military and strategic cooperation, has generated AU\$14 billion since 2023.

This economic recovery is witnessed in strong growth in the state sector, construction, trade, and military-industrial sectors. Reports tell of increased demand for imported consumer goods, the expansion of greenhouse farming, and price stabilisation. Even the *East Asia Forum* has seen "a greater sense of security than at any point since the end of the Cold War." The future looks very prosperous for the people of the DPRK. 🇸🇰



Graphics via KCNA

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'Giant'

One Nation has called Robert Menzies "a giant of Australian history." He wasn't *that* big, but One Nation don't have much time for actual history. One Nation was responding to Defence Procurement Minister Pat Conroy's description of Menzies as a "Nazi appeaser." Also upset, Liberal Senator James Paterson has demanded an apology and failed to censure Conroy in Parliament. Conroy has told him to go argue with the facts.

In Menzies' case, "giant" means he was around for a long time, also that the Liberals don't have many other leaders they can look up to.

Partisan

This is a real word, and means being guided by advantage to one's own political party instead of living up to an ideal of public service and objectivity in public life. What makes 'partisan' weaselly is when it's used as a slur by people who've never knowingly done anything non-partisan. Step forward Liberal Senator James Paterson who has bravely defended Menzies and accused Conroy of being partisan. Paterson is only partisan when he's awake (see also politicians accusing other politicians of being political).

Appeasement

Stephen Conroy is the gift that keeps giving this week! Before any progressives become all pro-Conroy because he has (quite rightly) slagged off Liberal Party 'giant' Robert Menzies a bit, let's not forget that Conroy described anyone who's opposed to the AUK-US pact as "appeasers." In Conroy-world, China is the new Axis powers, sweeping through Asia in a deranged war of conquest, only opposed by a pact whereby Australia spends about half a trillion dollars on submarines it doesn't get.

No need to sell the house, stock up on canned goods and brush up your Mandarin – the similarity between China and the Japan-Germany pact only exists between Steven Conroy's ears. If you oppose AUKUS, you are not Neville Chamberlain. You're just an Australian who doesn't want to be ripped off.

Communism

Wait, what? Isn't this a communist newspaper? Shouldn't 'communism' be one of your favourite words?

All good points, dear reader. In a rambling speech at the USA's 250th birthday celebrations, Donald Trump denounced communism ten times, and described it as the complete opposite of the US way. Trump being Trump, it's not clear if he was talking about actual communism or recent successes by Democratic Socialist candidates in the US Democrat party. Trump says a lot of things, your guess is as good as ours.

Goyslop

This is an unusual weasel word. Many readers won't have heard of it. 'Goy' is a Hebrew word, sometimes negative, for a non-Jew. It came into English from Yiddish. In antisemitic discourse, many utterances are attributed (falsely) to a Jewish elite which the antisemites think controls everything. So this 'elite' creates 'goyslop' for us 'goy cattle' to consume. For antisemites it means low-quality food supposedly foisted on non-Jews by Jewish businesses or businesses that are assumed to be controlled by the imaginary Jewish elite.

Legitimate (criticism, protest)

Weaselly because vague, 'legitimate' is something everyone understands, but nobody gets to spell out. People who argue for adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism are at pains to say that they don't want to ban "legitimate" criticism of Israel.

That's a relief, except that in practice, it means that the likes of Jillian Segal, the government's special envoy against antisemitism get to say what's *not* legitimate. Curiously, IHRA fans never give any examples of what a legitimate criticism of an apartheid state that's carrying out a genocide would be. It's almost as though they're more interested in policing criticism of Israel.

This use of 'legitimate' will be familiar to protesters who would like Australia to take action on climate change. They're used to being told to stick to legitimate protest that doesn't inconvenience or get noticed by anyone.

Rinehart seeks to gift stolen land to Israel

Paul Gregoire

Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest person, has signalled that we don't have to await a Pauline Hanson prime ministership for the MAGA playbook to be set in motion here. She has suggested that parts of the country be handed over to Israeli weapons manufacturers and tech billionaire Elon Musk for free.

The billionaire mining magnate casually made the suggestion to the audience at the 2026 News Corp Townsville Bush Summit, an annual event held on Wulgurukaba and Bindal land in the northern Queensland town of the same name. Sponsored by her company Hancock Prospecting, the summit serves to bring together industry and political leaders.

At the end of her speech, as Rinehart gifted a model bulldozer to Hanson to assist her in cutting Australian "government tape and bureaucracies," in a similar manner to when Argentinean president Javier Milei presented Musk with a chainsaw to help him in cutting US "red tape." The symbolism conveyed that One Nation's reactionary agenda is already underway.

FIRST NATIONS LAND FOR FOREIGN INTERESTS

In delivering her message about Townsville's potential, Rinehart affirmed that "massive government tape," regulation and "high taxes" are delaying and preventing projects and investment in the coastal city. She too insisted these are impeding "exports," "international cost competitiveness" and "struggling businesses," and claimed this applies to the country as a whole.

Rinehart considers that the nation cannot "sustain" its "massive government burden, with its record debt," and she adds that a first step in improving this would be abolishing "all federal departments that overlap with state departments," which is the aspiration the Trump administration held while it was laying off large numbers of its federal public service, with the aid of DOGE in early 2025.

"Empty federal offices could be changed to accommodation for homeless veterans, struggling pensioners and frightened women and children, who face horrendous unacceptable violence and rapes," Rinehart said, as she fantasised about the sacking of large numbers of public servants.

The billionaire then turned her mind to the gifting of stolen First Peoples land to foreign business interests. She initially raised Dalleburra land around the town of Prairie, which she considers could be provided free to the Taiwan microchip industry and its staff. This would involve development of a regional airport and hospital. If that "free land" isn't suitable, then there is more to choose from.

The Hancock Prospecting heiress then projected a map of Queensland onto a screen with islands off the east coast highlighted, which she claimed are "sparsely or non-populated" and suggested they be offered "to Elon, at no cost, for his SpaceX satellite construction and launches." These include

the Nyawigi people's Orpheus Island and the Manbarra people's Palm Island group.

Rinehart then turned to her last suggestion, which was to offer "free land, be that near Prairie if suitable, or elsewhere near Townsville" to skilled Israeli weapons manufacturers and their families, so that they can "build their advanced war drones and or other advances in defence, and or improve upon their Israeli style domes, and manufacture them here to sell to our country."

In referring to large parcels of lands and islands in the north of the continent as "free land" to be able to be given away at will to foreign industries, the billionaire was also undermining and attempting to erase the Aboriginal land rights movement and the legal framework of Native Title.

'DIG, BABY, DIG'

Rinehart's Townsville Bush Summit address asserted key preoccupations that the MAGA White House shares, which includes the cutting back of federal government agencies and the undermining of Indigenous rights in order to provide a regulation-free environment to enable big business to advance its own interests.

The mining magnate's speech laid out another plank in the One Nation agenda that Hanson hadn't been focusing on during her press club address the day prior, as the Australian senator's speech had instead prioritised ending mass migration, the rejection of multiculturalism and attacks on transgender people.

These points raised by Hanson are again key aspects of the MAGA playbook being rolled out in the States and they're also the preoccupations of similar forces gaining steam in the United Kingdom. Indeed, all these movements across these nations are intimately connected, and that's why what's being rolled out in this country, feels like a carbon copy of what has recently played out in the US.

Rinehart was a keen supporter of Trump's presidential campaign in 2024. She adopted the Republican leader's "drill, baby, drill" tagline, which portended Trump's winding back of climate change policy and regulation in the United States to rejuvenate the fossil fuel industry for the benefit of big industrialists, despite the fact that it is cooking the planet for all.

In a similar manner, Hanson last week referred to "the hoax of global warming" that she blamed for the "increase in energy costs," which foretold of a future One Nation government ditching or even attacking climate action in the same way as the Trump White House. Hanson even threw in her own tagline, "dig, baby, dig," as she sought to clear the path for Rinehart and other fossil fuel moguls to profit.

WHY REINVENT THE MAGA WHEEL?

Somewhat unbelievably, One Nation's Pauline Hanson has risen to the top of the political heap over the last six months in the Australian polls. This circumstance has not been overly scrutinised in the mainstream



Vincent Namatjira, Western Aranda people, *Australia in Colour*, 2021, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra. Rinehart demanded that a portrait he painted of her be removed from the National Gallery of Australia, without success.

Hanson and Rhinehart are promising a whiter future, with deregulation that will prosper the Epstein class

but rather accepted as a strange aberration, although the ABC has uncovered some AI social media engineering that appears to be microtargeting Australians.

This deceptive method of political campaigning was condemned when British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica was discovered to have employed it in order to target millions of US social media users with tailored messaging to garner their support for Donald Trump's 2016 successful campaign for the US presidency.

Another aspect of Hanson's rise to the top of politics is the support she's been receiving from Rinehart, with the local billionaire class in tow. The Hancock Prospecting head had been backing Coalition leader Peter Dutton at the last election to progress a MAGA-style shake down of this country. While that campaign failed miserably, her new interest appears to be doing well.

Gina flew Pauline to the US state of Florida in her personal jet last November, so the One Nation leader could address a CPAC event held at Trump's Mar-a-Lago. Hanson spoke on a number of issues that ticked all the MAGA boxes, such as mass migration and the "climate hoax," and she even went on to attend the US President's Halloween party.

The Trump White House has been agitating for Australia and all of its allies to replicate the MAGA agenda, and it now appears to be pushing for Hanson to propagate this down under.

The issues that Australian billionaires are

facing are similar to those their US counterparts faced pre-Trump. In democracies, like Australia and the US, despite many flaws, the popular vote secures governance. That's where Pauline comes in, as she's been pushing the same white nationalist sentiment that underpinned the successful Trump presidential campaign for the last three decades.

So, when the "Australia First" marches that involved white nationalists rose up across this continent late last August, Hanson was already there waiting in the wings to assume a leadership role in the movement. She has since ridden this wave of white nationalist resentment, that appears to be capturing a huge section of Middle Australia since it commenced, just as Trump did in the US.

The key anomaly in the One Nation's rise is that while Pauline Hanson shares the same racial prejudices as her growing white low-income supporter base does, she and key backers, like Rinehart, aren't promising to deliver them a brighter future, just a whiter one with loads of deregulation that will prosper the Epstein class.

This seeming contradiction is the exact same deviation that has seen Trump and the MAGA movement succeed in the United States. There, it appears that this type of divisive politicking is enough to ride into power and then maintain it. As Rinehart asserted in her Townsville speech, this ambiguous MAGA playbook has been "tried overseas with very successful results," so why fix it?

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(edited for space) ★



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