

The Big Picture

Issue 84
12 June 2010

“News to use & amuse”

Editor: Mike Bolan



Editorial

Here's a cyclic dynamic that's killing Labor in Australia.

1. Government isolates itself from communities (no representation)
2. Planning carried out centrally, no public participation
3. Policy by announcement – implications decided later
4. Government unaware of dangers in policies etc
5. Politicians involved in operational decisions beyond their competence
6. Increased public anger (Go back to 1)

These problems represent serious failures of leadership that are leading to rule by bureaucracy:

Governments are so filled with hubris that they are uncaring of effects on Australia (mining tax), uncaring of impact on individuals (pensioner at airport), and are now taking decisions in secret (immigration), thus compounding the cycle.

When our representatives do not represent us, instead accepting the dictates of the party whip, huge problems go totally unrecognised. Look at the crazy risks that Labor has taken with their 'inspired' mining tax...

The residents of Whyalla now know that the long-term existence of their town in its present form is threatened if the Rudd-Swan mining tax is not drastically amended. Whyalla's fight to survive the tax will have national implications...

Lyn Breuer and the Whyalla mayor plan to travel to Canberra to plead for their town and its 22,000 people which, before the Rudd-Swan tax, had a guaranteed life of 15 years and more likely 30 years. The mayor and Lyn Breuer will go down on their knees if necessary pleading for Canberra mercy. [BusSpec](#)

Is this what towns have to do to protect themselves from our 'democratic representative government'?

What authority do these governments have? Their performance is abysmal. They cannot seem to get anything done or be able to control the waste and disruption their decisions are causing...

For many months, Nicolas Rothwell and Natasha Robinson have reported on the NT housing scandal. There have been shocking cost overruns; in one case, \$183 million of taxpayer money has gone missing. And despite the billions being spent, the only people with proper housing are bureaucrats. This is a truly sorry business. [Australian](#)

Just a few months ago, Rudd was high in the polls.

Unfortunately, the Liberal alternative isn't looking all that flash either.

Doesn't look like government initiatives overseas are much better either.

Drug usage has exploded during the war on drugs. To quote one British figure 'the number of heroin users over about 30 years increased from 2000 to 300,000.' The prevalence of drugs has exploded to the point that the prices have fallen so cocaine, in real terms, now costs about a sixth of what it did at the start of the war on drugs. Heroin costs about a tenth of what it did on the start of the war on drugs. [ThePunch](#)

Definitely time for a change.

That Was The Week That Was

Governance + spin

- Kevin...we need to talk: Marr [SMH](#) Video [SMH](#)
Faulty gov Obama mugs broken up at no extra cost [Australian](#)
Party dysfunction impairs democracy [SMH](#)
Big rise in spin doctors in Tasmania [Mercury](#)
Rudd toxic: Stone [HeraldSun](#)
Vic corruption body replicates bureaucratic failure [TheAge](#)

Forestry/Food/Agriculture

- Well connected businessmen zero in on farm deal [TheAge](#)

Climate/water/energy/resources/environment

- Vic EPA failing to protect public on toxic waste [TheAge](#)
Vic water plan in disarray [TheAge](#) Meter idiocy [Age2](#)

Health & education revolutions/communication/defence

- Your money squandered at high speed: Davidson [TheAge](#)
Principals face sack if test results don't improve [TheAge](#)
RMIT Degrees dumbed down for foreign students [NewsLtd](#)
Fed changes cost over 30,000 jobs in education [TheAge](#)

Economy/social/shelter/transport/free speech

- Gang terrorises train & passengers [TheAge](#)
Household debt leaves us exposed [Australian](#)
Melbourne trains a 'war zone' say drivers [TheAge](#)
Nothing constructive in indigenous housing disaster [Australian](#)
Greens hold line on illicit drugs policy [TheAge](#)
Fed govt wants your personal data [TheAge](#)
Condemned by faceless accusers and secret evidence [SMH](#)
Airport security leaves pensioner with \$40k bill [TheAge](#)

World

- The crash and burn of Las Vegas [BusinessInsider](#)
Japanese public debt at danger level [NYDailyNews](#)
Act 2 of GFC begins: Soros [TheAge](#)

The Psychopathic Criminal Enterprise Called America

Prof John Kozy [Global Research](#)

The law is a great crime, far greater than the activities it outlaws, and there's no way you can protect yourself from it. The establishment protects itself. The law does not protect people. It is merely an instrument of retribution. It can only be used, often ineffectively, to get back at the malefactor. It never un-dos the crime. Executing the murderer doesn't bring back the dead. Putting Ponzi schemers in jail doesn't get your money back. And holding BP responsible won't restore the Louisiana marshes, won't bring back the dead marine and other wildlife, and won't compensate the victims for their losses. Carefully watch what happens over the next twenty years as the government uses the law to shield BP, Transocean, and Halliburton while the claims of those affected by the spill disappear into the quicksand of the American legal system.

Jim Kouri, citing FBI studies, writes that "some of the character traits exhibited by serial killers or criminals may be observed in many within the political arena.;" they share the traits of psychopaths who are not sensitive to altruistic appeals, such as sympathy for their victims or remorse or guilt over their crimes. They possess the personality traits of lying, narcissism, selfishness, and vanity. These are the people to whom we have entrusted our fate. Is it any wonder that America is failing at home and world-wide?

Some may say that this is an extreme, audacious claim. I, too, was surprised when I read Kouri's piece. But anecdotal evidence to support it is easily cited. John McCain said "bomb, bomb, bomb" during the last presidential campaign in response to a question about Iran. No one in government has expressed the slightest qualms about the killing of tens of thousands of people in both Iraq and Afghanistan who had absolutely nothing to do with what happened on nine/eleven or the deliberate targeting of women and children by unmanned drones in Pakistan. What if anything distinguishes serial killers from these governmental officials? Only that they don't do the killing themselves but have others do it for them. But that's exactly what most of the godfathers of the *cosa nostra* did.

So, there are questions that need to be posed: Has the government of the United States of America become a criminal enterprise? Is the nation ruled by psychopaths? Well, how can the impoverishment of the people, the promotion of the military-industrial complex and endless wars and their genocidal killing, the degradation of the environment, the neglect of the collapsing infrastructure, and the support of corrupt and authoritarian governments (often called democracies) abroad be explained? Worse, why are corporations allowed to profiteer during wars while the people are called upon to sacrifice? Why hasn't the government ever tried to prohibit such profiteering? It's not that it can't be done.

In the vernacular, harming people is considered a crime. It is just as much a crime when done by governments, legal systems, or corporations. The government uses the law to harm people or shield the establishment from the consequences of harming people all the time. Watch as no one from the Massey Energy Co. is ever prosecuted for the disaster at the Upper Big Branch coal mine. When corporations are accused of wrongdoing, they often reply that what they did was legal, but legal is not a

synonym for right. When criminals gain control, they legalize criminality.

Unless the government of the United States changes its behavior, this nation is doomed. No one in government seems to realize that dissimulation breeds distrust, distrust breeds suspicion, and suspicion eventually arouses censure. Isn't that failure of recognition by the establishment a sign of criminal psychopathology?

John Kozy is a retired professor of philosophy and logic who blogs on social, political, and economic issues. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he spent 20 years as a university professor and another 20 years working as a writer. He has published a textbook in formal logic commercially, in academic journals and a small number of commercial magazines, and has written a number of guest editorials for newspapers. His on-line pieces can be found on <http://www.jkozy.com/> and he can be emailed from that site's homepage.

We Don't Feel Free.

An Afghan Women Writes To The US President

By Shogofa [Afghan women's writing project](#)

June 06, 2010 --May 09, 2010 – I felt good when I saw President Barack Obama on TV. Everyone here was so happy to see him win. Everyone admired his speech and said he would be better than the previous president. They said he would be smart about Afghanistan and end the war and the killing. I saw faces full of happiness and hope. The reason I want to meet President Obama is to share with him all the tears of my people. I know I can't write about all our problems in one or two pages, and I know my letter can't clean the tears from my people's eyes. But I write it anyway.

Dear President Barack Obama,

We want to live without fear.

I will never forget this war, what we have lost and how our lives have been destroyed as a result of an American policy that doesn't concern itself with innocent people. After you were elected, we hoped that everything would be all right. But it is worse than before.

One thing is clear: our people are tired of war. We have tried to explain our problems again and again, and yet the situation gets worse with every passing day. Why doesn't an Afghan life have value? What did we do that we are the victims of first the Taliban, and now the US?

It is destroying us—especially women. Too many people die, or lose their homes. Too many children are homeless in our country. It may be the poorest country in the world, but who is responsible for this? Everyone thinks about politics, but no one thinks about human life.

Do you think that your army is useful here? Or that it will bring peace? You are wrong if you do. I witnessed a mother and son who lost their lives crossing the road. The American army thought they were terrorists, but they were trying to find money to support their family. This is how we lose members of our families. How many people will die? We don't know.

Day by day, our country is destroyed. People can't walk freely on the road or drive. The Kabul road is too difficult for passengers now. Everyone hates it when cars get stopped and people are prevented from going to work. We don't feel

comfortable in our own country. It is like we are strangers in our own home.

Don't you want Afghanistan to become independent?

We need our own army; our own police. Even the youngest child wishes that one day he will be able to protect his country from others. But everywhere we see the American army, or soldiers from other countries. So we don't feel free.

Unfortunately, we don't have a strong enough government to control the situation without wasting money. No one knows where this money goes and still we are in need. This is our weakest point. We don't have a president who thinks about the future of Afghanistan or about the generation that holds the future of Afghanistan in their hands.

We need to build our own country. We want to stand on our own feet. We want to be independent.

The presence of the American army, or any army from another country, does not bring peace. Never does it save our people's lives from war or from suicide. It will continue. It will get worse. When an army comes from another country, our army gets lazy. They have no incentive to do their job. They think the government doesn't believe in them.

What we really want is to make our people educated. Give them the chance to get a higher education and come back to serve their people. That is what would help the Afghan people: instead of sending an army to kill, send teachers. Show my people how to work together.

My wish, President Obama, is to make Afghanistan independent and the people hard-working and able to walk on the road without fear. To be able to delete the word of "poorest" when describing my country. So send your people, if you must. But send them to inspire, and to teach in peace.

