

## **A DECLARATION OF MORE THAN INDEPENDENCE FOR AUSTRALIA**

In the second half of the nineteenth century, when the countries of Europe achieved independence, the former "patriots" of the Eureka stockade organised pogroms, first against the Chinese, then against the Melanesians. At the same time Australia's aborigines were being poisoned and shot like animals. In the second half of the twentieth century, when the nations of Africa and Asia were achieving independence, Australia was still rejecting Africans and Asians as permanent residents and fighting in wars against the Korean and Vietnamese peoples as a function of American imperialism. The history of Australia conclusively proves that a people which oppresses other nationalities can never itself be free.

The Australian ruling class massacred the Chinese and the aborigines because they were not of "free white British" stock rather than fight for national independence, it then symbolised its servility, first to British, then to American imperialism by retaining a non-elective Governor General as its head of state at a time when every self-respecting country on the globe had ruthlessly eliminated the very notion of such a position from its basic constitutional documents. This Australian history, copied with "improvements" first by South Africa and later by Hitler's Germany - the substitution of racism for historical progress - culminated in the organised and systematic destruction of one Labour government after another. This was done, first by gerrymandering, the subversion of the "one vote, one value" principle, and then by the direct intervention of the Governor-General, the figure who had represented imperialism, abetted racism and thwarted democracy since the first foundation of white Australia. A people which rejects independence rejects also democracy.

The permanent victims of this record of Australia's vicious and continued retrogression as a colony not a nation are Australia's workers, who can elect the party they support only to administration, never to power, and who find that even the limited reforms achieved by such administration can be overthrown by the whim of a gilded popinjay called a Governor-General.

Now, to add insult to injury, the workers are invited to celebrate the visit of the English Queen, Kerr's equivalent in England, the woman who might "constitutionally" have tied Kerr's hands so he could not destroy the Whitlam Government but who preferred, as English monarchs always have, autocracy to democracy. WE MUST SAY "NO" TO THIS IMPERIALIST CHARADE, AND BOYCOTT THIS "ROYAL" PARASITE WHO BLUDGES ON THE ENGLISH AND AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE!

Confronting the record of shame which is Australia's history up to November 11, 1975, some groups have believed that twenty years after even the poorest and most exploited colonies have won at least nominal independence, Australia could follow their example, organising a revolution directed to win national independence. To these people, we say: YOU ARE TOO LATE. Nationalist revolutions, in every other country, have been led by the middle class. The Australian middle class long ago surrendered its last vestige of political independence. Today this class, its aspirations, its role, its ideals, find their most fitting symbol in the man chosen by the middle class as their leader, Malcolm Fraser. Fraser became Prime Minister despite his conspiracy with Kerr against democracy to demonstrate that in his eyes and those of the ruling class, the raising of the rate of profit and the maintenance of a pretence of democratic rule are in direct conflict. Now Fraser has abandoned even the pretence of fighting inflation in order, by devaluation, to increase the dividends of American mining companies. Fraser's economic policy, his foreign policy, his labour policy and his defence policy all share the same basic component: complete subordination to the United States. In order to end Australia's colonial status once and for all, it is necessary to overthrow this ruling class of comprador bourgeoisie which Fraser, in his personal and political style, so perfectly represents. Their Nareens must be confiscated, their BHP's expropriated, the Melbourne Clubs smashed and their total state apparatus destroyed root and branch. Only then can the giant multinationals be overthrown and controlled by the workers they now exploit and the debts holding Australia in bondage to finance capital repudiated.

Only through socialism can the democratic values of one vote one value and a centralised single-chamber democratic republic without state governments be won.

Those who demand anything less than socialism - a socialist united states of the Pacific - to resolve the political crisis of Australian capitalism whose symptoms dramatically appeared on November 11, 1975, claim that the class which produced Malcolm Fraser is capable of playing a progressive role in

history. In the period of imperialist decay and the parasitism of finance capital a progressive "national capitalism" - except in countries where the workers are unorganised - is totally impossible. The maoists openly act as the left cover for "patriotic" Australian business. Citizens for Democracy represent that professional and artistic section of the North Shore which dislikes the way its paymasters and clients gouge out their profits. The "left" sects, from the Communist Party to the Spartacist League by drawing a rigid line between "democratic" and "socialist" demands simply allow the Maoists and small "I" liberals room for manoeuvre to parade the bourgeoisie as democrats while socialism as a slogan is reserved as a slogan for holiday speechifying. The "left" sects attack the Maoists but they are themselves simply maoists in reverse. Only the Communist Left on the basis of the theory of permanent revolution recognises history has inextricably combined at this late stage in the imperialist epoch the unresolved tasks of the democratic and socialist revolution which can only find their solution in a workers and farmers government.

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