

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENT

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In a previous issue we brought up the case of Professor Andrew Fraser who was dismissed from Macquarie University over his comments about race and immigration that upset those with more politically correct views. Not only has he lost his job but he has been hauled before the badly mis-named Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) and found to have contravened the Racial Discrimination Act with a letter he wrote to a newspaper last year.

Prof Fraser's views may be controversial but as readers of this newsletter will be aware he based his views on sound statistical and scientific evidence when he alerted people to the dangers of non-white immigration. So far he has not recanted but unfortunately this could mean that he will be brought before the Federal Court and may be hit with ruinous legal expenses.

This is a pretty disgraceful situation in a country with pretensions to democracy. Free speech, especially on controversial matters is essential to any real democracy, or any healthy functioning society for that matter. If anyone's rights have been violated it is the professor's and if any group should be offended it is the majority of Australians, who if they realize or not are being discriminated against in a number of ways.

How often have we heard that white settlement in this country involved "dispossessing" the Aborigines? How often is the "plight" and disadvantage of modern Aborigines sheeted home to the actions of whites? The chance of any white person offended by this nonsense getting anywhere with a case before the HREOC would be about zero.

Then there are the very real life and death questions that arise from the settling of certain non-whites in this country. There is a mass of evidence to show that some groups are disproportionately involved in crime and that the racial makeup of a nation has a lot to do with the nation's crime rate. If we can't freely discuss matters that impinge on public safety and the likelihood of being murdered then what can we discuss.

One could even make the case that the government in bringing certain groups into the country, the lawyers and others who brought the action against Professor Fraser, and even the HREOC, are complicit in any violent crimes committed by refugees and migrants. Would any victim of violence done by a refugee be able to sue the government?

The whole sorry saga is an indictment of the situation we have gotten into with immigration, refugees and the phoney human rights industry. Hopefully Prof Fraser will stand his ground and not suffer any more persecution. And hopefully more Australians will support him and his stand for the democratic rights and way of life that we all enjoy.

AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC WOES

In our last issue we talked about Australia's economy and our less than impressive performance. Compared to the rest of the civilized world we are doing worse than we thought. During 2004 there were eight east European nations that joined the European Union and this seems to have boosted their economies. Although it may take a decade for these countries to match the living standards of western Europe their economies are growing at rates of 6 to 8% per annum. With cheap labour and land they are attracting investment and many have favourable tax regimes. Estonia for instance has a flat tax rate of 26% and this is likely to be lowered shortly.

Over in east Asia, China's economy continues to boom, as Michael Knox reports in the Financial Review (12/04/06). In 1993 their gross domestic product grew at 9.3% and this rose to 9.8% in 2005. Certain products are starting to get expensive but overall China's inflation runs at about 1.4%.

All these countries incidentally have substantially lower rates of population growth than Australia. With a population growing at 1.2% per annum and an economy likely to grow at 3% this financial year (if we are lucky) we look like falling behind many other nations in living standards in the not too distant future.

If you remember back to when the GST was introduced you will recall that the new tax was not to apply to exports and hence our trade would be boosted. As it turned out our volume of exports hardly grew at all although the seriousness of this has been masked by our current favourable terms of trade (i.e. we are getting good prices for exports in relation to what we are paying for imports). Thus we have another case of favourable predictions by the government not turning into reality.

Nevertheless it could be worse – recently it was reported that there are 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa where the GDP has been shrinking.

WAR VETERANS ARE NOT FARING WELL

It seems Australia's veterans are still suffering problems years after they saw active service and these problems carry forward to the next generation.

A study of Vietnam War veterans found that 30% reported experiencing panic attacks. Others suffered post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders or depression. Many had problems with alcohol and the partners of some veterans also reported stress, anxiety or depression.

The children of Vietnam veterans are three times more likely to commit suicide, 1.2 times more likely to die from illness and 1.8 times more likely to die from accident. They are also more likely to experience depression and abuse alcohol or other drugs.

(Source: "Collateral Damage" by Kellie Bisset, The Weekend Australian 11/02/06).

Veterans of more recent events in Iraq and East Timor have fared no better. While many suffer depression and other problems the government spends millions in legal fees opposing claims for compensation. Nevertheless in 2004, \$452 million (roughly 3% of the defence budget) was paid out in compensation. Some of this was for out-of-court settlements. A number of inquiries have found serious inadequacies with defence force administration of discipline, compensation, the suicides of a number of servicemen and women, and the transition to civilian life.

Some of the things young service people see in peace-keeping operations are pretty horrendous and it's easy to see how some go over the edge mentally. One who went to Cambodia in 1993 described an incident of mistreatment of a civilian family just returned from Vietnam.

"A bit of an argument broke out between the family and the local police. And the commander of the police officers then shot her five-year-old daughter in the head. In front of me. Then he looked at me and smiled because he knew he was going to get away with it. That sort of incident probably happened all the time."

(Source: "Rank Injustice" by Paul Daley, The Bulletin 23/08/05).

NATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

THREE MEMBERS of a family of Liberian refugees have been found to have malaria. One was said to be an hour away from death when he arrived at a hospital in Newcastle. The government has given a contract to a private company for the settlement of refugees in New South Wales but it appears they are not doing proper medical checks. NSW Health had set up a specialized unit to deal with foreign diseases such as intestinal parasites and fungal infections that had not been seen in this country before (Daily Telegraph 9/03/06).

A TANZANIAN national offered drugs to two Sydney schoolgirls in return for sex. Ally Abdullah Salum, 45, was given 250 hours community service for inciting a person under 16 to commit an indecent act. The government says it cannot deport the man who is currently appealing against his third application for a permanent visa (DT 17/03/06).

A MAN has been charged with stabbing six men he had never met in two separate incidents near Bondi Beach. Abdul Rahman Alzaaim, 21, punched a girl at Bondi then argued with and stabbed a 17-year-old male (DT 22/03/06).

JILL COURTNEY, 26 and a convert to Islam has been charged with conspiring to bomb a Sydney location. She was also charged with conspiracy to murder. It appears she was inspired to do this by her boyfriend, Hassan Kalache who is currently in jail over the murder of a rival drug dealer. Kalache is said to have been angered by the race riots that occurred last December and he had promised to marry Courtney if she carried out the bombing (DT 25/03/06).

BASAM CHAMI, a 27-year-old Lebanese boxer was one of two men gunned down in a drive-by shooting in the Sydney suburb of Granville late in March. Chami had once served five years in jail after being convicted of manslaughter when he fatally stabbed a young Australian man outside the Village tavern in Auburn in 1998. This was the latest of 22 drive-by shootings to occur in NSW this year, most of them involving people of Middle-eastern background.

SIXTEEN athletes competing in the recent Commonwealth Games went missing but most later resurfaced to claim refugee status. Most of them are Africans from Sierra Leone, a country that suffered a bloody civil war between 1997 and 2002. During the 2000 Olympic Games dozens of athletes disappeared, 11 of whom have still not been located (Sunday Telegraph 2/04/06).

CRIME RATES for most serious offences, including motor vehicle theft and most forms of stealing, have dropped in NSW. Homicide rates however have remained the same and assaults are up. Figures from southern Queensland show a drop in most types of theft but a rise in the number of sexual assaults (Epoch Times 12/04/06).

EASTON BARRINGTON JAMES, a migrant from Jamaica who has been working as a baggage handler for Qantas, has recently been charged with drug offences. James was previously sentenced to six months jail for drug dealing in 2000. A known identity in the Bondi area he was well connected to both the police and the underworld. He had been a personal friend of Rodney Podesta and Anthony Dilorenzo, two police officers who became notorious over the shooting of Ron Levi on Bondi Beach in 1997 (DT 8/04/06).

KIM BEAZLEY has criticized the importation of skilled foreign workers while "Aussie kids are turned away". Many of these foreign workers however are sponsored by state governments. So far this year NSW has brought in over 1,000 foreigners under work visas. NSW Health alone has used 383 visas (DT 8/04/06).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

ANGRY MUSLIMS ransacked churches in southern Pakistan and then set them on fire after allegations that a Christian had desecrated the Koran. It was claimed that a Christian had thrown pages of the Koran into a rubbish bin (MxNews 20/02/06).

FOURTEEN PEOPLE were injured in February 2006 when riots broke out in Dublin, Ireland. An Orange Order parade attracted local and Ulster based republicans who threw objects at the marchers. The parade, which was supposed to be in remembrance of those who died in "The Troubles" period in Northern Ulster, included wives and victims of some of the victims.

CHINA'S defence budget grew by 12.6% last year to just over \$US30 billion and will rise to about \$US35 billion this year. Much of the money is going to raising wages, improved training and buying new arms (Sydney Morning Herald 6/03/06). Meanwhile the Chinese government is tightening the grip around the Muslim Uyghur people in the north-west of the country. Women, state employees, and children under 18 are banned from entering mosques. The anti-Islamic actions are seen as a method of repressing nationalist sentiments among the 8.7 million Uyghurs living in China's Xinjiang Province (Victoria Clark, Epoch Times 8/03/06).

THE ETHIOPIAN Jewish minority in Israel are not noted for their success. Most came to Israel in the 1970s and 1980s but had practised the Jewish religion in Africa for millennia. While initially welcomed to Israel they number 120,000, tend mainly to live clustered on the outskirts of towns, tend to suffer high unemployment rates, poor housing and schools, and high crime rates. They have however formed their own political party Atid Echad (One Future) to represent their community (Michael Gawenda, Sydney Morning Herald 27/03/06).

SEVEN BRITONS, most of them of Pakistani background, had planned to poison beer and hamburgers sold at soccer matches, according to evidence given to a London court. They are also accused of planning to use ammonium nitrate fertilizer to make bombs to use against pubs and clubs (Michael Holden, Sunday Telegraph 26/03/06).

A UNITED NATIONS investigator has criticised China's "re-education through labour" camps. The camps are said to treat political prisoners in an inhumane and degrading way. China has the world's largest prison population. Groups targeted for re-education included political activists, ethnic minorities like Tibetans and Uighur, and practitioners of Falun Gong (Reuters/Epoch Times 29/03/06). Things however could be worse than appears according to other reports. It's been claimed that in a secret concentration camp in north-east China, where 6,000 people, mainly followers of Falun Gong, are held, no one ever leaves the camp, and organs are harvested from the dead. There appears to be a flourishing trade in human organs in China, most are supposed to come from the bodies of executed prisoners, although it's been alleged that some are removed without the required permission of relatives. It has even been claimed that prisoners have been murdered so that their organs can be sold (ET 15/03/06).

ZIMBABWE'S problems continue with doctors pleading for the government of Robert Mugabe to rescue the country's collapsing health services. On average women in Zimbabwe die at 34, the lowest life expectancy for women in the world. Men's life expectancy is 37. About 20% of the population has AIDs although Zimbabwe is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa to record a decline in AIDs infections (SMH 10/04/06).

FOUR YEARS after gaining independence, life expectancy in East Timor is 55, half the population does not have access to safe drinking water, and the per capita income is \$US1 a day.

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

ROBERT MENZIES

Regardless of what many people think of his policies Robert Menzies is one of the iconic figures in the history of conservative politics in Australia.

Born at Jeparit, Victoria in 1894 he became noted for his academic ability early in life and graduated with honours in law from Melbourne University in 1916. He was called to the bar in 1918 and proceeded to practise as an attorney. In 1920 he married Pattie Maie Leckie and they later had two sons and a daughter.

Menzie's father had been a member of the Victorian parliament and an uncle was a member of the federal parliament. It was natural that he get into politics and unsuccessfully run for a state seat in 1928. He failed at the polls but two months later the successful candidate died and Menzies acceded to his seat. He was a minister for some time but resigned from parliament after a dispute about rural subsidies. After a return to practising law he again entered politics but by now had left the Liberal Party and joined the Young Nationals who in turn joined up with the United Australia Party. He again entered state parliament and served as attorney-general for a time.

In 1934 he made a successful bid for federal parliament and was Commonwealth attorney-general from 1935-1939. He successfully managed internal wrangling in his own party and on 26 April 1939 he was not only leader of the United Australia Party but had become prime minister of Australia.

When Britain declared war against Nazi Germany, Menzies followed suit and in January 1940 Australian troops were sent overseas. The Menzies government was still willing to trade with Japan despite its attacks on China. After a fight with dock workers who did not want to load iron for Japan, Menzies earned the nick name "Pig Iron Bob".

His own cabinet was becoming disenchanted with his performance and in August 1941 he gave up the position of prime minister in favour of Arthur Fadden. Fadden himself lasted for little over a month and in October the conservative forces were replaced by a Labour Government under John Curtin. In December of that year the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour thus broadening the war.

Menzie's career however was far from over. Labour survived the immediate post-war period but by 1949 the people were prepared for a change and

Menzies, now leading the Liberal Party became prime minister again. In 1950 he successfully introduced the Communist Party Dissolution Bill but this was struck down by the High Court. He had more success against communism overseas and committed troops to the war in Korea. He also signed the ANZUS treaty and then joined Australia to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation.

When trouble brewed in the Middle-east Menzies headed the Five Nations Committee that sought to reach a settlement with Egypt's president, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Economically the 1950s were highly successful except for some periods of high inflation. Unemployment was negligible and even in the early 1960s "credit squeeze" the unemployment rate barely went above 3%. Millions of migrants flooded into the country and despite some minor changes in the late 50s including dropping of the literacy test (a device that had been used to keep non-whites and undesirables out) the overwhelming bulk of migrants were white.

The most controversial actions of the Menzies era involved our commitment to the Vietnam War. A few military trainers were sent to that country in 1962 and more troops were sent in 1964. In the same year the Menzies government introduced compulsory military service whereby young men could be forced to serve two years in the army. This boosted the size of the military forces and allowed Australia to increase its commitment to the war.

Meanwhile Australia had signed a United Nations declaration against racial discrimination. While Menzies reigned the White Australia Policy was pretty well maintained but in early 1966 he stood down from the position of prime minister and in fact retired from politics altogether, taking up a sinecure as Lord Warden of Cinque Ports. Later in the year serious changes were made to our immigration policy and thousands of non-whites started entering Australia.

Menzies later returned to Australia and retired to Melbourne where he died in 1978 at the age of 84.

(Main source: "Century of Australian Prime Ministers" by Joanne Holliman 1999/2003)

Postscript: It seems that Robert Menzies was not always the loyal Liberal Party man we are led to believe and it is claimed he voted for the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) once or twice. This was backed up by evidence from Heather Henderson, the last surviving child of Menzies and also by things said by the late B.A. Santamaria. It appears Menzies had a particular dislike of Sir William McMahon who served as prime minister in the early seventies. On the other hand Menzies and Arthur Calwell, leader of the Labor Party up until 1967 when Gough Whitlam took over, seem to have been very close friends (David Humphries, "Revealed – How Menzies Swung Against His Party" Sydney Morning Herald 17/04/06).

BOOK REVIEWS

“RIVER of GOLD: The Story of the Palmer River Gold Rush” by Hector Holthouse, Angus and Robertson, Sydney 1967

In 1873 a man called James Venture Mulligan discovered gold on the Palmer River in north Queensland. Thus began one of Australia's major gold rushes. “River of Gold” tells the story of this rush.

First published nearly forty years ago Holthouse's book is as readable today as ever. It is not only an interesting book but notable for its lack of modern-day political correctness. How many books today would feature chapters called “*Cannibal Country*” or “*The Asiatic Invasion*”? How many would contain a sentence like “*Chinese coolies hung from trees by their pigtailed for days, in batches of half a dozen or more, waiting their turn to be knocked on the head, roasted, and eaten*”?

More easily accessed from the east coast than the west, exploitation of the gold was facilitated by the establishment of a town on the Endeavour River now known as Cooktown. It was soon crowded by thousands of whites and Chinese eager to make their fortunes.

The area where gold had been discovered had hardly been explored let alone developed. It was harsh country but the main danger appears to be from Aborigines. Holthouse refers to the local tribe as Merkins, who, if his sources are correct, were particularly aggressive and addicted to cannibalism. He claims they had a tradition of eating their old women and unfaithful wives. They were not above eating white men but preferred the taste of the hapless Chinamen. With the flood of Chinese to the goldfields the Aborigines were not short of a feed.

Not all conflicts were with the Aborigines. In most of the northern goldfields the white diggers were outnumbered by the Chinese. Riots by white diggers, like those that occurred at Lambing Flats in New South Wales, appear not to have happened. Nevertheless there was the occasional dispute over alleged claim jumping and re-working of old diggings. The outcomes could be violent. More violence however seems to have occurred between different groups of Chinese.

When pickings on the goldfields were poor many Chinese turned to crime and robberies and murders took place. Others however took up market gardening, or if they had the money, they invested in stores and hotels.

The worst violence seems to have occurred at what became known as the battle of Lukinville. A group of Pekinese Chinese were caught stealing from Cantonese diggings and were massacred. Other Pekinese rallied and attacked the next day. The fighting continued for some days until the police arrived and arrested about 30 of the leading Chinese.

Further conflict arose not long after when a group of Macao Chinese built a fort near Lukinville and then proceeded to dam the Palmer River, thus depriving those down river of water. The Macao men were already unpopular and their actions meant war. Thousands of Chinese using every weapon they could find attacked the fort. The fighting went on for three days until the police arrived and read the Riot Act. They destroyed all the weapons they could lay their hands on and most of the Chinese returned to their claims.

Meanwhile there had been some consternation in Queensland about the numbers of Chinese entering the colony and the crime and violence they sometimes resorted to. The Chinese Immigration Regulation Act was passed in 1877. This placed a poll-tax of ten pounds on each Chinaman entering the colony. The price of a miner's right for Asiatics was increased.

With the big part Chinese were playing in the North Queensland economy some people were questioning these restrictions. Nevertheless as the gold petered out most of the Chinese left for other parts of the country or returned to China.

Many modern historians no doubt would question the veracity of Holthouse's sources and claim his stories of cannibalism are grossly exaggerated. Nevertheless his book makes for an

exciting read and acts as a good antidote to the politically correct and over-sensitive writers of history today.

The book is probably out of print nowadays but it can still be accessed from many library shelves.

“MRS FRASER on the FATAL SHORE” by Michael Alexander, Michael Joseph Ltd, London 1971

In 1836 the Stirling Castle, a merchant ship under the command of Captain James Fraser, struck a reef of the coast of Queensland. Fraser, his wife, and most of the crew scrambled onto two boats and headed for land.

The boat carrying Captain Fraser and his wife eventually landed on Great Sandy Island (now known as Fraser Island) where they were subject to the cruel behaviour of the island's Aborigines. Fraser and some of his men were killed while his wife and others were abused and enslaved.

The book's descriptions of the Aborigines are far from the idealized picture we tend to get today. They are described as primitive, brutal and cannibalistic, even to the point of eating one of their own children. They bully, starve and exploit the surviving shipwreck victims. Two who try to swim to the mainland are fatally attacked by sharks while the natives look on and laugh.

Fortunately some of the survivors eventually escaped and were rescued by a boat sent from Moreton Bay (modern-day Brisbane). Mrs Fraser made it to Moreton Bay with the help of a runaway convict. She eventually made it back to England where for a short time she was something of a celebrity.

Here again many historians would dispute some of the more controversial parts of the book but with the paucity of sources we will probably never know the truth of many details of the story. Nevertheless the story is one of the more interesting in Australia's history and if not in print the book should be available in many local libraries.

“THE COLOR of CRIME: Race, Crime and Justice in America” Second Edition, New Century Foundation, Oakton VA 2005.

This second and expanded edition brought out by the same people who produce American Renaissance looks at America's crime problems and the disparate rates of crime among different racial groups. Blacks and Hispanics for instance have considerably higher rates of criminality than whites but Asians have lower rates. (The report does not look at differences in crime rates between specific Asian ethnic groups).

A few of the findings in the report include:

Blacks are seven times more likely than other Americans to commit murder.

Hispanics commit violent crimes at three times the rate of whites.

Of 770,000 violent inter-racial crimes involving blacks and whites, 85% are committed by blacks.

The imprisonment rate in the United States tripled between 1980 and 2003. This is probably one reason for a drop in the homicide rate between 1991 and 2000.

Blacks are 82% more likely to commit hate crimes than are whites or Hispanics. Only 0.3% of inter-racial crimes are considered to be hate crimes.

Between 2001 and 2003, blacks were 39 times more likely to commit violent crimes against whites than whites are likely to commit against blacks. During this period there

were on average 15,400 rapes and 12,762 sexual assaults committed on whites by blacks each year.

In 2002, blacks were 16 times more likely to murder whites or Hispanics than the reverse. Social disadvantage has little causative effect on crime rates. Race rather than poverty is better predictor of the crime rate in most areas of the US.

The report contains a lot of important, if controversial, information. It also serves as a portent of the problems Australia is digging for itself with its current migrant policies and the flood of non-whites entering this country. Unfortunately no Australian organization is likely to produce a local equivalent of this report.

Copies of the report can be obtained from American Renaissance, PO Box 527, Oakton, VA 22124, United States of America. For those with internet access try www.AmRen.com.

A NEW "HARD LINE" ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

With the arrival of asylum seekers from West Irian in April the Australian government is instituting new procedures whereby, regardless of whether they arrive on the mainland or not, all those claiming to be refugees will be processed off-shore in places like Nauru. If successful in establishing their refugee status the asylum seekers may still be shunted off to a third country. It looks like 42 of the 43 West Irians have already been found to have well founded fears of persecution if they return to their homeland. This is probably enough to give them refugee status and the 42 have so far been given temporary visas.

The usual do-gooders are whinging again claiming that, even though off-shore processing gets quicker results, this is largely due to those being processed not having access to an appeals system. They also claim that it will lead to children being placed in detention again. There were protests over the Easter weekend, one involved about 80 people outside the now empty Villawood Detention Centre. The other involved a 100 or so protesters outside John Howard's Kirribilli House residence. Some of them focused on a case of a Chinese asylum seeker who swallowed a razor blade. Only one demonstrator appears to have been arrested.

(Main source: Sydney Morning Herald 17/04/06).

Most of the problems with asylum seekers stem from the fact that under the Refugee Convention Australia is a party to, we are obliged to hear any claims for asylum. The convention makes it hard to get rid of anyone we can't prove is not a refugee. It would save a lot of money and trouble if our leaders had the courage to withdraw Australia from the convention.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"This is the bright, shining side of globalism, the information revolution and economic liberalism. But nothing comes without a price and the price for this particular march of progress has been an erosion of working conditions, a rising gap between the haves and have-nots, a looting of community assets by feigning brigands, a siphoning of corporate profits by overpaid executive Bedouins, and the loss of entire industries shipped offshore, mostly to China."

Paul Sheehan, "The Dark Side of Shiny Globalism" Sydney Morning Herald 3/04/06

"the overcrowding, the infrastructure inadequacy and job competition brought about by immigration...generally occur lower down the social scale and in distant parts of the city.."

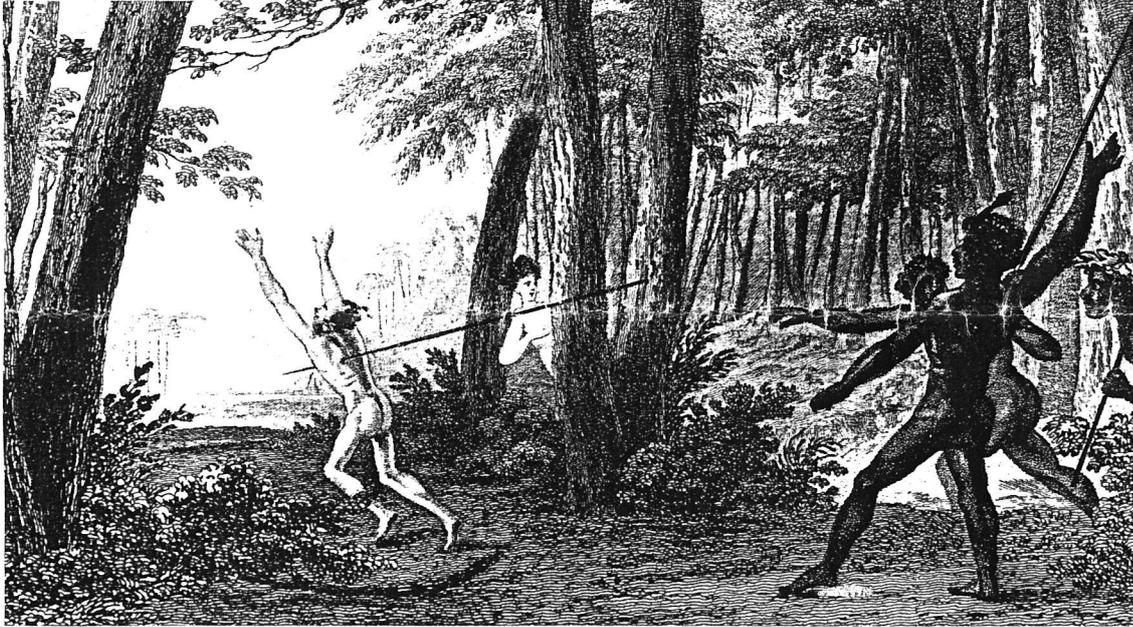
Michael Duffy, "No Facts in the Bags of Green Pretenders" SMH 4/03/06

"Terra nullius has had dozens of definitions. These definitions are switched around all the time, which means it can perform magical feats of argumentation."

John Dawson, "Serpens Nullius" Quadrant April 2006

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The first picture below is reproduced in "Mrs Fraser on the Fatal Shore" by Michael Alexander. The cartoons below it seem to date from the 1990s.



The spearing of Captain Fraser, from *Shipwreck Of The Stirling Castle*, John Curtis, 1838.



AUSTRALIAN

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

SIX people were killed and others injured in tribal clashes in Papua New Guinea. The fights broke out after a local man was killed in Mount Hagen (MxNews 6/02/08).

DANISH police arrested three men suspected of plotting to kill one of the cartoonists who sparked outrage by Muslims in 2006 by drawing caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed (13/02/08).

JEAN-MARIE Le PEN, French far-right leader, was given a 3 month suspended sentence after he said the Nazi occupation was "not particularly inhuman" during a magazine interview (SMH 11/02/08).

ISRAEL'S Asian restaurants went on strike over government plans to rid kitchens of foreign chefs. It was planned to purge Japanese, Chinese and Thai eateries of Asian cooks and replace them with Israelis (MxNews 13/02/08). The Israeli government is also deporting thousands of African asylum seekers who entered Israel via the Egyptian border and whose lives would not be threatened if sent home. About 4,500 are being sent back to countries like the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria, while 600 refugees from Darfur and 2,000 from Eritrea were granted temporary residence (AAP 25/02/08).

THE BRITISH government is to help pay for two students from every school in England to visit Auschwitz and learn about the holocaust. The students will meet survivors and be shown the camp's barracks.

THE HEAD of the Anglican Church in England has suggested that adoption of some parts of Sharia law alongside Britain's legal system seems unavoidable. The United Kingdom is home to almost 1.6 million Muslims, or 2.7% of the total population, according to the 2001 census.

IN NEW ZEALAND a young mother of two died as relatives tried to remove a Maori curse from her. The exorcism to lift the curse – known as a makutu – involved the use of water and it appears the woman died from drowning (<http://news.ninemsn.com.au> 12/11/07).

IN SOUTH AFRICA an 18-year-old white youth has been accused of going on a shooting spree and killing four black people from a poor squatter camp. When the boy was taken to court members of the ANC protested with placards reading "kill the devil" and "stop racism" (<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=368452> 18/01/08). Meanwhile a video, apparently produced by white students protesting against a university integration policy, has appeared that is said to show blacks in degrading acts and highlights racism in the "Rainbow Nation".

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