

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENT

RIOT AT CRONULLA

STATISTICS: Population & Economic Growth

HISTORICAL ARTICLE: The Home Front During WW II

BOOK REVIEWS: Immigration

The Science of Good and Evil

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Welcome to our thirty fifth edition. It was intended to bring this issue out earlier but problems with the computer, which had to be replaced led to delays. Anyway onto our main topic and that is the so-called riot that occurred at Cronulla, a beach-side suburb of Sydney, on Sunday 11th December 2005.

Trouble had been brewing in Cronulla, if not much of Sydney for some time. There had been reports of attacks on life savers and abuse of members of the public by Middle-easterners, presumably Lebanese. Over recent years there had been a lot of obnoxious behaviour from Lebanese, ranging from the simply rude to the psychopathic. A number had been implicated and some convicted over inter-racial rapes as well as other crimes. (To be honest it was only a minority within a minority that was involved in most of these problems and other minorities are at least as bad when it comes to criminal activity).

Nevertheless things came to a head when young people organised a "wog and Lebbo bashing day" at Cronulla. Messages got around by word of mouth and SMS and around 5,000 people turned up. Whether the "bashing" was supposed to be taken literally or not is not clear but there was violence when a few youths of Middle-eastern appearance were attacked. None were killed although some were injured to the point of needing hospitalisation. The police and some of the rioters intervened to save those who had been attacked.

The media, especially television and newspapers gave the event maximum coverage, even to the point of showing explicit pictures of those involved. This of course made it easy for police to identify those involved in the assaults.

Within hours of the television coverage of the riots there were retaliatory actions by Lebanese youths, the worst case being a man who was stabbed in Woollooware. Up to 50 carloads of youths armed with baseball bats headed for the beach side suburbs and during that and subsequent nights dozens of cars were vandalised, properties damaged and people assaulted. Later in the week a Lebanese-owned shop in Auburn was attacked with what appear to be fire bombs but the overwhelming amount of property damage, including attacks on Christian churches, appear to have been done by Middle-easterners.

Hundreds of people have been arrested over the affair, including some Middle-easterners although the media were a little reticent when it came to showing us what they looked like, unlike the pictures of the Australians splashed over our newspapers. The New South Wales parliament hurriedly passed legislation to give police additional power to stop more riots but the vandalism and attacks by Lebanese youth continued for the better part of a week. Nevertheless it was reported that at one stage police were ordered not to arrest rioters at Lakemba (a heavily Middle-eastern suburb).

A feared second riot the weekend after never occurred although sporadic acts of violence and vandalism did for some time. Related incidents,

although on a much smaller scale occurred in Newcastle, the Gold Coast and other areas.

In a really ridiculous sideline to these events a young worker was sacked after he put up a poster at his workplace that he had been given at Cronulla. The poster was for the Patriotic Youth League. The Daily Telegraph described the PYL as a "*white-supremacist organisation*" although they failed to state what this was supposed to mean.

Meanwhile there were some well publicised attempts at reconciliation including that by footballers Jason Stevens and Lebanon-born Hazem El Masri, and a meeting of a Lebanese dominated bkie gang and the Bra Boys, who seem to act as a sort of vigilante group around Maroubra. The Bra Boys incidentally are reported to have made some attempt to stop vandalism in their area while police turned tail in the face of a large Middle-eastern gang.

In the newspapers the usual suspects devoted a lot of verbiage to the debate that followed the riots, much of it useless or irrelevant. Damien Murphy in the Sydney Morning Herald (12/12/05) described the riot at Cronulla as "*Australia's biggest racist protest since vigilante miners killed two Chinese at lambing Flat in 1860*". In actual fact there is no substantiated historical evidence that any Chinese were killed at Lambing Flat and Australia's worst race riots occurred between two Asian groups in Broome in the early 20th Century.

Piers Akerman noted that older Australians have "*watched newer residents adopt a culture of entitlement and victimhood such that unemployment rates among Muslims are now five and six times those of non-Muslims*" (Daily Telegraph 13/12/05). Akerman apparently hasn't noticed that many other minorities also exhibit the obnoxious behaviour that has made the Lebanese unpopular and that race is as important, if not more important than culture in determining this behaviour.

Other writers waffled on about racism, the poor powers now held by police and the light sentences handed out by the courts. In light of the fact that prison populations have doubled over the last two decades the last two assertions are a bit hard to accept.

In retrospect there were both good and bad aspects of the riots. The fact that 5,000 young people would bother to attend and demonstrate showed some sense of national and racial solidarity that was surprising to say the least, especially in light of the multiculturalist and anti-racist propaganda these people have endured from schools and the media. On the other hand there seems to have been little thought or organisation put into the demonstration, too many involved obviously consumed too much alcohol and the attacks on the Middle-easterners should not have happened. It was notable however that despite the media putting the Australian rioters in the worst possible light and highlighting the violence that did occur none of them used knives, guns or iron bars, these weapons being only too common in multicultural suburbs of Sydney.

And no one was killed unlike in many other inter-racial incidents. For instance not so many years back there was close to a race war in Sydney's suburbs between Lebanese and Vietnamese, something that was largely ignored by the media until a youth was shot at Bankstown, apparently for no other reasons than his Middle-eastern appearance and the colour of his school uniform. The media often ignored attacks on schools by gangs of Asians armed with baseball bats and machetes, and there were no calls for greater powers for police or harsher penalties from the courts. And can anyone recall any Asian being charged over such attacks let alone his picture being splashed all over the front page of our daily newspapers?

As to the future? During a recent visit to Cabramatta, Sydney's most Vietnamised suburb, there was a small but noticeable number of Middle-easterners and at Cronulla a similar small percentage. In both areas they seemed happy to mind their business and seem to be tolerated by those around them. Peace reigned, at least for the time being.

One can hope that the sort of sentiments and energy shown at Cronulla can be translated into political action. So far, except for the short-lived success of Pauline Hanson and her One Nation party the limited number of patriotic and anti-immigration parties are noted more by their lack of success at elections than for obtaining any substantive political clout. If young people can be persuaded to forget the biff and remember to vote then these parties may get somewhere. The alternative is that the government continues with allowing a flood of Third Worlders into this country, ensuring that future communal conflict will be more difficult to control and much more violent.

STATISTICS - ECONOMIC GROWTH & POPULATION

We downloaded some interesting, if slightly old statistics from the Internet dealing with the economy, population and immigration.

Despite the constant bragging by the Howard government, Australia's economic growth is less than spectacular. Our Gross Domestic Product rose by only 2.6% during the 2004-05 Financial Year despite strong growth in our terms of trade (Ref ABS 5206.0). Jobs growth is not as good as we are expected to believe either.

Unemployment rose to 5.2% in October 2005 after the biggest drop in full-time jobs since 1991. We lost 61,000 full-time jobs in October. Fortunately many part-time jobs were created, in fact about half of new jobs created in the previous twelve months were part-time (ABC Online 10/11/05). Nevertheless our population growth is rising and is estimated to have reached 20,405,749 on the 3rd October 2005.

In the 12 months ending March 2005 our population grew by 1.1%, 52.2% of this being due to natural increase and 47.8% being due to immigration. In the three months ending March 2005 the increase was 0.4% hence if this rate continues for the whole of 2005 we would have an increase for the year of 1.6%, a rate more in line with a Third World nation (ABS Year Book and ABS 3101.0).

We couldn't get up to date immigration figures but we have some for 2003 when net overseas migration ran at 116,498. Major sources of migrants were the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, India and South Africa (ABS Year Book). Our total population in 2002 was 19,641,000 of which at least 23% were born overseas. Of these 171,600 came from Vietnam, 164,900 from China, 75,600 from Hong Kong, 89,600 from Malaysia, 115,800 from the Philippines, 110,600 from India and 81,200 from Lebanon. According to the 2001 Census, among the Australian born, 71.9% had both parents born here and 25.5 had one or both parents born overseas. (Ref: Australian Bureau of Statistics website www.abs.gov.au).

NATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

STANISLAS KANEENGELE-YONDJO, a refugee from the Congo and father-of-five, was convicted and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment after having unprotected sex with two women, even though he knew he had AIDs. The women, a nurse from Ireland and a traveller from Germany, both contracted the disease after having sex with the refugee (Daily Telegraph 2/12/05).

CHILDREN in the Aboriginal communities on the Tiwi islands near Darwin are said to have threatened elders in order to obtain money to buy marijuana. The Western Australian Public Advocate reports that Aboriginal elders are being abused, harassed on pension days, physically and sexually assaulted, robbed and neglected (ABC Online 14/11/05).

SIX MEN arrested in Sydney last November are said to have attended "Jihad" training camps in far western New South Wales. A total of eight men were charged with preparing for a terrorist act (ABC Online 14/11/05).

RATES of SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED diseases are increasing in the Northern Territory. Infections are rising mostly among the non-indigenous 15-24 age group. Gonorrhoea rates rose 20% in six months.

A PROGRAM to reduce truancy among Aboriginal children in Halls Creek, Western Australia has been revived. The program tied children's attendance to the welfare payments received by their parents and last August attendance rates rose from 54% to 80% (DT 2/12/05).

Dr JAYANT PATEL, the notorious "Dr Death" of Bundaberg Hospital, may face 13 manslaughter charges if he is ever extradited to Australia. An inquiry recommended charges of manslaughter, assault, and fraud against Patel (DT 2/12/05).

FERTILITY RATES among Australian women in the 30-39 year range have increased in recent years but fallen among the 15-29 year range. There were 254,200 births registered in Australia in 2004, the highest in a decade (Sydney Morning Herald 17/11/05).

FERTILITY RATES among Aboriginal women are higher and show different patterns to non-indigenous women:

- Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.75 babies per woman in 2003 but 2.15 among Indigenous women.
 - 11,700 births registered in Australia in 2003 (5% of the total) involved at least one Indigenous parent.
 - The Northern Territory has the highest TFR (2.38) while the Australian Capital Territory has the lowest (1.60).
 - Indigenous women in the Northern Territory had the highest fertility rate, 2.83 babies per woman.
 - The median age for indigenous women who registered a birth was 24.6 years against a median of 30.5 years for all women.
- (Source: ABS 3301.0 Births, Australia www.abs.gov.au 25/11/04).

AUSTRALIA'S HOMICIDE RATE for 2003 was 1.7 per 100,000 of population. This included murder and manslaughter. If attempted murder and driving causing death are included the rate would be 4.7. The murder rate was slightly lower than the previous four years (ABS Year Book Australia www.abs.gov.au).

MORE REMAINS of the mysterious little people now referred to as the "Hobbits" have been found on the Indonesian island of Flores. Recent finds are believed to be only 12,000 years old. Other fragments some as old as 95,000 years have been found although they may not all have belonged to the same species. The Hobbits, or more scientifically *Homo floresiensis*, appear to have been a metre tall, had brains about a third the size of modern humans and long dangling arms.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

POLICE arrested a man involved in the killing of a policeman during race riots in Tottenham, north London in 1985. The riots in a run-down housing estate were one of Britain's worst racial disturbances.

IN A RENEWED crackdown on suspected separatists, Chinese authorities expelled 40 Buddhist nuns from a convent in Lhasa, Tibet. Buddhist monks and nuns are said to be undergoing "patriotic re-education" during which they must criticise the Dalai Lama and oppose separatism for Tibet (The Epoch Times 25/10/05).

SERIOUS RIOTS broke out in Paris in October and November during which youths from immigrant communities destroyed about 6,000 cars and set fire to schools, shops, nurseries and gyms. The spark for the riot was the death of two North African youths who entered an electricity sub-station and were electrocuted. It was claimed they were running from the police although there is some doubt about this. Copycat riots on a smaller scale occurred in other French cities as well as in Belgium and Germany. The immigrant suburbs of Paris are noted for their large concentrations of non-whites who are largely poorly educated and have high levels of unemployment and welfare dependency.

THE PRESIDENT of Zambia has appealed for food aid after declaring a national disaster. About 1.2 million people are facing famine.

THREE evacuees who fled hurricane devastated Louisiana have been charged with killing a 77-year-old white woman who helped them. The woman, who was heavily involved in charity work had paid the three to do odd jobs on her property (Houston Chronicle 30/10/05).

CONTROVERSIAL historian, David Irving has been jailed by an Austrian court which claims he made statements back in 1989 denying the Holocaust. Denying the Holocaust is an offence under Austria's anti-Nazi laws and those convicted can face up to 10 years in jail.

HASSAN SAMRIYE HASHIN, a Somali asylum seeker in Norway was found guilty of raping and murdering a 19-year-old white female student. Hashin admitted strangling the girl in a fit of jealousy. The maximum prison term in Norway is 21 years.

MICHAEL BARTON, 17 was convicted of murdering a black youth in an allegedly racist axe murder in Liverpool, England. The black youth is said to have attempted to walk away from louts yelling racist abuse. Barton's cousin also pleaded guilty to the crime (Daily Telegraph 2/12/05).

A WHITE FARMER in Zimbabwe, one of the few left, was strangled and burnt to death at his home in November. The assailants entered the 68-year-old man's house through the roof, strangled him in his bed, covered him with a mattress, doused it with petrol and set it alight. The only thing stolen was a rifle. There were 4,000 white farmers in Zimbabwe five years ago but now only 300 remain (Peta Thornycroft, Telegraph - London 28/11/05).

POLICE in Indonesia have arrested a man suspected to have been involved in the beheading of three Christian teenagers in Sulawesi in October. Police found bloodstains on a bayonet that matched samples taken from one of the girls. Three other suspects have been detained (AFP 21/11/05).

THREE BOMBS exploded within half an hour of each other in India's capital new Delhi in October. At least 57 people were killed and 140 injured in the attacks that appear to have been planned to spread fear among ordinary Indian families during the festive season. It has been alleged that the bomb blasts were the work of Pakistan-based militants opposed to peace with India (TET 8/11/05).

THE NUMBER of Americans living in poverty rose from 12.5% in 2003 to 12.7% in 2004.

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

AUSTRALIA'S HOMEFRONT DURING WORLD WAR II

Australia lost many more men during World War I than during World War II but the latter war had at least as great an impact on Australian society. It was for instance the only war in which the Australian homeland was attacked. On the 19 February 1942, Darwin suffered two attacks by the Japanese. The first was by 188 aircraft from carriers and the second by 54 land based aircraft. Losses included 243 people killed, nine ships sunk and 23 aircraft destroyed.

Later in the year Japanese aircraft were detected near Sydney but the main attack was by a number of midget submarines that entered the harbour on 31 May. Before they were stopped the submarines managed to sink a barracks ship causing the death of 19 sailors. About a week later large submarines shelled Sydney and Newcastle. Submarines also accounted for the loss of a large number of vessels plying our coastal waters.

Fortunately in those days the population appeared more patriotic and stoic in their efforts to contribute to the nation's defence. Thousands of women took up jobs that had formerly been done by men, working in defence industries and aircraft and motor vehicle assembly lines. Over 2,000 women joined the women's land army, helping with food production, and a home industry was developed where women knitted jumpers and socks for the troops. Many Australian residents of Italian and German birth were interned but these, along with some prisoners of war, were put to work on farms hence contributing to our war effort.

Meanwhile in the large cities the presence of numerous American servicemen was having a noticeable, if not always desirable, impact on our society. At one stage there was something like 120,000 American military personnel in Australia, including a number of black troops. In fact a club catering to blacks, called the Booker T. Washington opened up in the Sydney suburb of Surry Hills. The Americans were better paid than the Australian troops and local businessmen were more than happy to take their money. At one stage a Sydney hotel is said to have stopped serving the locals while big-spending Americans were in town.

While a lot of Australian women thought it disloyal to fraternise with the Americans, others found them irresistible, no doubt in part because of their money and their access to otherwise scarce luxuries supplied by American canteens. Quite a lot of these women, maybe as many as 15,000, ended up marrying Americans. Other relationships did not end so romantically. Some of the girls, many quite young, were dumped with nothing left from the relationship except a case of venereal disease. Others became pregnant to men they would never see again. Some of the women were already married with children but played up while their husbands were away fighting the war. Children of these women were often neglected and many families were broken up due to these affairs.

Needless to say relationships between Australian and American servicemen were not always cordial. Violence including fist-fights, knifings and even full-scale riots often erupted. The most notorious incident was the "Battle of Brisbane". This started with a clash between some of our troops and American military police. The MPs used their weapons and nine Australians were wounded, one fatally.

The American army at the time was racially segregated to a point that surprised Australians even during the time of the White Australia Policy. In Brisbane the black troops were kept south of the river while the white troops were nearer the central business district and social centre of the city. Aborigines also tended to live south of the river and many black Americans formed liaisons with them.

Meanwhile the Australian civilian population was facing scarcities and rationing. There were even cases of pubs running out of beer half an hour after opening. A black market came into operation and some people resorted to pilfering or outright theft. Nevertheless overall crime doesn't appear to have been a serious problem and homicide rates were actually lower than they are nowadays. Australian industry was boosted during the war as we were forced to establish tool-making factories and construct our own vehicles, ships and aircraft.

Politically there were changes as the conservative forces that got us into the war lost popularity. A Labor government under John Curtin came to power in October 1941. In fact Labor stayed in power until 1949. The Commonwealth government increased its influence in relationship to the states. It took over the collection of income tax which had been a major source of revenue for the state governments.

Australia's population during the war was racially much more homogenous than it is now. In fact we were at least 99% white, a factor which no doubt added to the patriotism and steadfastness we displayed in the face of possible invasion.

Main source:

Penglase, Anna and Horner, David "When the War Came to Australia" Allen and Unwin 1992

BOOK REVIEWS

"IMMIGRATION" by James Jupp, Oxford University Press, Melbourne 1998 (ISBN 0 19 550 786X)

James Jupp of the Australian National University presents a reasonable coverage of migration to Australia from early colonial times to the early years of the Howard government.

Although there was a large Irish component among the convicts sent here between 1788 and 1868, the majority were English and generally of an urban background. Among the free settlers that arrived in the 19th Century the majority were also English although in Victoria the Scots tended to be the dominant element politically and socially. Nevertheless whilst fewer in numbers Scots, Irish and other Celtic peoples were still important components of the migrant intake.

Of white migrants, other than those from the British Isles, the largest group were Germans. Some had arrived as early as the First Fleet but they only came in really noticeable numbers with the founding of a colony in South Australia. Queensland later attracted many Germans and at one time offered assisted passages to German and Scandinavian migrants.

Although not as numerous, southern Europeans also began to arrive in Australia, especially from the 1880s. Italians predominated but other groups were represented including Greeks and Croatians. Lebanese came in small numbers although they were classified as non-Europeans and for sometime were denied certain social services.

Southern Europeans were, according to Jupp, targets of racial prejudice. There were riots in Kalgoorlie in 1919 and 1934, and incidents in Melbourne and Port Adelaide. Nevertheless these were not as violent as riots that broke out between Timorese and Japanese in Broome a number of times in the early 20th Century. Jupp either did not know of these incidents or deliberately ignored them.

Jupp devotes a chapter to non-white immigration and White Australia. Although there was a small sprinkling of non-whites, including a few Africans among the convicts of the First Fleet, settlement until 1850 was predominantly white. Some Indian, Melanesian and Chinese labourers were introduced but not in really significant numbers. With the discovery of gold Asians had a strong incentive to migrate and in 1853 the first Chinese gold diggers arrived in Melbourne.

Victoria levied a landing tax on the Chinese from 1855 to control their numbers but many simply landed in South Australia and walked overland to the goldfields. Riots broke out at Buckland River in Victoria in 1857 and at Lambing Flat in New South Wales in 1860. Further restrictions were brought in although as the gold petered out many Chinese left the southern states. Chinese flooded into the Palmer River fields in Queensland when gold was discovered there but after riots in 1877 the government brought in limited restrictions.

Queensland also witnessed an influx of Kanaks - indentured Melanesian labourers brought in to work on cotton and sugar plantations.

There was strong support for a White Australia and a number of further restrictions on Chinese immigration were introduced, much to the chagrin of the Chinese government. With the founding of Federation in 1901, legislation to restrict immigration was passed and Australia was closed to all but a very small number of non-Europeans. The White Australia Policy stood for more than 60 years. Non-European communities did not disappear but, with the exception of Lebanese, tended to decline in numbers until they constituted barely 0.5% of the population in 1966.

The decades following World War II saw millions of white migrants and refugees (displaced persons as they were called then) enter Australia. By the 1950s however there was mounting pressure by certain elements, including church leaders and "educated" people to change immigration restrictions. A further element was the need to consolidate relationships with newly independent nations in Asia.

There were minor changes to immigration rules in 1959 and 1960. In 1964 further changes were made that allowed the entry of mixed race Anglo-Indians. In 1966 more important changes were made and some people see this as the effective end of the White Australia Policy. In 1973 a Labor government under Gough Whitlam declared that race and ethnicity would no

longer be considered in selecting migrants. To add to this infamy the Racial Discrimination Act was passed in 1975. Non-Europeans began to flood in and by 1989 we were taking more migrants from Malaysia than from northern Europe and more from the Philippines than from southern Europe.

Jupp appears to support these changes but admits that others do not. He mentions Pauline Hanson and the One Nation Party and claims that many of Hanson's statements were "racist". He also mentions National Action and claims they are the only faction that openly espouses "classic" racism.

Despite his enthusiasm for multiculturalism Jupp does admit to a few problems. For instance in 1991 when unemployment among the native-born was 10.6%, among the Vietnam-born it was 39.6% and among those from Salvador it was 57.5%. Some other migrant groups also exhibit disproportionate levels of disadvantage, unemployment and crime.

What Jupp fails to appreciate is that race is much more than skin deep but involves differences in abilities, behaviour and culture. He shows no evidence of any deep understanding of race or the long-term implications of the racial changes occurring in this country.

"THE SCIENCE OF GOOD AND EVIL: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Care, Share and Follow the Golden Rule" by Michael Shermer, Henry Holt and Company, New York 2004 (ISBN 0-8050-7769-3)

William Shermer, founder of the Skeptics Society looks at the question of morals and what science especially evolutionary biology can tell us.

Evolution is generally seen as a case of "*survival of the fittest*", a sort of dog eat dog situation where the individual's survival is foremost. The trouble is that dogs do not tend in real life to eat other dogs. The wolf, the ancestor of the domestic dog, is a group animal and hunts in a pack hence demonstrating a level of co-operation and teamwork.

Other animals, especially monkeys and apes, also demonstrate positive behaviours that are shared with humans. These include altruism and reciprocity, co-operation and responding to social rules of the group. Shermer calls these "*pre-moral sentiments*" and they are found in those animals with the largest brains.

How does evolution fit into this? Altruistic behaviour, where an individual creature puts itself in danger in order to help another survive would seem to be the last thing it would do if survival of the fittest was so important. Shermer brings up the concept of group selection, something that Charles Darwin alluded to but other evolutionists seem to have forgotten.

Basically with group selection individuals develop behaviours that do not so much help the individual but help the group that they belong to. Over time a group that has many individuals that exhibit these positive behaviours will out-compete those groups whose members are only looking after themselves. Hence the group whose members show more co-operation and altruism for instance is the one most likely to survive.

As humans evolved they tended to live in small bands until about 10,000 years ago. This means that during most of our evolution we needed behaviours that helped us fit in and contribute to a small band that may rarely have exceeded 200 people.

As hunter-gatherers took to farming their numbers increased and they formed tribes, chiefdoms and states that had populations of thousands or more. Things became more complicated compared to the time when each individual knew everyone in their band. Behaviour could not be enforced simply by peer group pressure and this could be when religion came to be important in determining moral behaviour. Along with this societies appear to have become more xenophobic and ethnocentric. The Old Testament told the people "*Thou shalt not kill*" but later on they were told to slaughter and enslave other peoples. The followers of the "*One True God*" were encouraged to extirpate non-believers. Positive behaviours were for helping one's own group, not all of humanity.

If it is beneficial to be moral then why are we often immoral, even to the point of hurting our nearest and dearest? According to Shermer there is no such thing as "*pure evil*". Evil does not exist as some malevolent inner force driving people to do bad. Nevertheless given the right (or should that be wrong) circumstances most of us can be nasty.

Experiments such as those done by Stanley Milgram in the 1960s found that most people can be cruel if directed by someone in authority. One might be inclined to think that in pre-historic societies things might be more peaceful but in fact the reverse seems to be the case.

Monkeys fight amongst themselves. When the great apes, our closest relatives in the animal kingdom, fight the violence can be deadly. Hunter-gatherer societies, or what is left of them, are noted for high levels of violence. The further we go back in history the greater is the proportion of the population that died in warfare. The myth of the noble savage appears to be just that - a myth.

Shermer believes that a system of ethics based on absolute or relative morals cannot be supported. With absolute morality, such as those embodied in the Ten Commandments we have a rigid system that most people will at some time not be able to adhere to. Moreover each individual, ethnic group or race will have different ideas of right and wrong, hence causing division and confusion.

Relative morality on the other hand is too loose. If one lives by a flexible set of rules whereby right and wrong changes with the situation then practically anything can be justified - from self sacrifice to human sacrifice.

Shermer proposes what he terms "*provisional ethics*". In science what are accepted as facts are really what is believed to be true based on current knowledge and in the future further research may add further proof or alternatively disprove what had been accepted as true. Shermer thinks our ethics should be treated in a similar vein. Provisional moral principles should be applicable to most people in most circumstances, most of the time. Moral questions should be subject to scientific and rational scrutiny in the same way as questions about nature.

Of course if we take a more scientific approach to morals then what happens to the works of ethicists, philosophers and men of religion? Is most of what has been written by these people over the last two or three thousand years redundant? Shermer's ideas would seem to imply that they are.

One area where Shermer does not really venture is the question of why different racial groups can have greatly different crime rates, even when living in the same country. He mentions that sex crimes are rarer in Japan than in the United States despite the fact that pornography is more readily available in Japan. He fails to mention the fact that a disproportionate number of rapes in the United States are committed by minorities that are virtually absent in Japan.

"THE ECONOMICS OF INNOCENT FRAUD" by John Kenneth Galbraith, Penguin Books 2005 (ISBN 0-141-02301-5)

Galbraith, one of the most prolific, and at over ninety probably the oldest, writers on economic matters, describes what he calls "*innocent fraud*" with an emphasis on the influence of the corporate sector. Here is a quote to give you some idea of what the book is like:

"Arms expenditure does not occur after detached analysis by the public sector as commonly understood. Much is at the initiative and with the authority of the arms industry and its political voice - the private sector. From the relevant industrial firms come proposed designs for new weapons, and to them are awarded production and profit. So also returns from the production of existing weaponry. In an impressive flow of influence and command, the weapons industry accords valued employment, management pay and profit in its political constituency, and indirectly it is a treasured source of political funds. The gratitude and the promise of political help go to Washington and to the defense budget, on to Pentagon need and decision. And to foreign policy or, as recently in Vietnam and Iraq, to war. That the private sector moves to a dominant public-sector role is apparent. It would be better to describe it in plain language."

The Pocket Penguin edition of this book - the one we reviewed - is short with little more than 55 pages and cheap at less than \$4.00. Highly recommended reading.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"That lesson should not be ignored in the name of racial equality. Individuals are not equal, nor are races. They cannot be."

Vincent Sarich and Frank Miele, "Race" 2004

"And many felt a sense of betrayal when they finally came home, leaving former comrades to the mercy of another regime."

Major General John Hartley, AO (Ret) in "The Men Who Persevered" by Bruce Davies and Gary McKay 2005

"All these hunter-gatherer cultures predicate a physical and spiritual toughness that blacks, leave alone whites, no longer possess, for which reason alone black culture had no long-term future from the moment the first white boot set foot upon our shores."

David Foster, "Aboriginality and the Hope of Art" Quadrant November 2005

"The 1960s cultural ideology and its fables about oppression of women, gays, ethnics, blacks and other fancied victim groups have been around so long they are now wearing very thin."

Keith Windshuttle, "Vilifying Australia" Quadrant September 2005

"Race is, of course still a taboo. This is what prevents public discussion of sharp differences that would be considered grounds for national concern and even crisis if they were in areas where thinking is not constricted. Every taboo represents a subject that is removed from discussion, and this limits our understanding of the world."

Jared Taylor, "The Color of Crime" 2005

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