

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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NATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

A YOUNG Chinese national has been charged with the murder of 67-year-old taxi driver, Robert Woodger in Sydney's north-east. Woodger's abandoned taxi was found in Eastwood and a substance believed to be blood was found inside (news.ninemsn.com.au 21/06/07).

SYDNEY DISTRICT COURT was told that a 15-year-old girl was gang raped by three Zambian nationals aged from 21 to 25. The three Africans denied the charges (Daily Telegraph 17/07/07).

AN 87-YEAR-OLD man died after being bashed by two women who invaded his home, then bashed and robbed him of \$700 in the Sydney suburb of Camperdown. Two women aged 35 and 44 were arrested. One is said to have smiled at her Aboriginal Legal Service lawyer when she was led into court (DT 9/08/07).

AUSTRALIA'S economy grew by 4.3% during the year ended June 2007. This is our 16th consecutive year of expansion (DT 5/09/07).

A MAN was stabbed in the chest during a fight at a karaoke bar in Sydney's CBD in August. The attackers were described as Asians aged from 25 to 30.

TWO INDONESIAN nationals have been jailed for trying to smuggle 83 Sri Lankans into Australia. Their vessel had become unseaworthy and was intercepted by HMAS Success near Christmas Island in February this year (DT 5/09/07).

A SENIOR Catholic priest says he feels ashamed over verbal abuse he hurled at teenagers who were skating on cathedral steps and called him a paedophile when he tried to stop them. The incident during which the priest swore at and racially abused the teenagers was caught on video and surfaced on the YouTube website (news.ninemsn.com.au 30/07/07).

JEFFREY ISMAIL was sentenced to 12 months jail for encouraging and directing others during reprisals following the Cronulla riot in December 2005. He is said to have used his mobile telephone to incite people to carry out revenge attacks (DT 27/09/07).

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES are being challenged by a growing number of Muslim students to make special provisions for their cultural and religious beliefs. At the University of Western Sydney a prayer room with foot basins for ritual ablution has been provided and halal food is provided at a campus canteen (Sydney Morning Herald 3/09/07).

A WOMAN has been sentenced to 18 months jail over a "racist" pamphlet she distributed, allegedly as revenge against a female police officer. The woman, said to be a member of the Australia First Party had previously spent time in jail for stabbing the officer who she had been feuding with for seven years. The anti-Muslim pamphlet gave the address of the police officer who already had an AVO out against the woman.

ALI BAZZI, a dentist from the Sydney suburb of Arncliffe has been charged with molesting and indecently assaulting a teenage patient in his surgery (DT 5/09/07).

THE UNITED NATIONS has adopted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but four countries – Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States – voted against the declaration. Eleven nations abstained. The declaration is non-binding and mostly symbolic but some have seen it as jeopardizing the rights of non-native citizens (Epoch Times 26/09/07).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

A MAN IN TEXAS was beaten to death by a mob after the car he was travelling in struck a four-year-old girl. The person who was actually driving the car managed to flee the scene. The victim and the driver were Hispanic and their attackers were black (news.ninemsn.com.au 21/06/07).

MEXICAN migration to Canada has been skyrocketing in part because of a shortage of labour in Canada. Many of the Mexicans are claiming to be refugees fleeing from drug cartels, crime and corruption. In 2005 the top five countries of origin for refugee claims in Canada were Mexico, China, Columbia, Sri Lanka and India. Others include Mexican-born Mennonites who are descended from people who left Canada in the 1920s to avoid animosity over their exemption from military service (Joan Delaney, Epoch Times 29/08/07).

A UNIFORMED group of right-wingers has formed in Hungary and have been attacked as being neo-fascists, especially by Jewish and Roma groups. The group calling itself the Hungarian Guard, say they want to carry out the real change of regime from communism and rescue Hungarians. Meanwhile in Germany there have been calls to ban the National Democratic Party (NPD) following an attack on eight Indian men in the town of Muegeln. Udo Voight, leader of the NPD, was charged by police with incitement after he recommended Adolph Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess for the Nobel Peace Prize (Sydney Morning Herald 27/08/07).

THE MATERNAL mortality rate in the United States has rose to 13 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2004, the highest rate in decades. Increasing obesity and a rise in caesarian sections are partly to blame according to experts.

AMERICAN BLACKS in Chicago came out in protest over two police killings of black men in August. On 4 August a 42-year-old black man died after two bolts from a taser and a dose of pepper spray. Two days later an 18-year-old was shot when he tried to run away from police. The police claim they found a pistol near the man's body but witnesses claim he didn't have a weapon. Police were pelted with bricks and bottles during the protest (Green Left Weekly 29/08/07).

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN, a number of them black, were told by local schools in Ireland they could not be enrolled due to insufficient room. An emergency school is to open in Dublin to cater for the children of mainly African immigrants, nevertheless there were the usual cries of racism despite obvious over-crowding in state schools (Irish Echo 12/09/07).

A NATIVE of Haiti, living in Brooklyn, New York beat his girlfriend's mother to death because he feared she was going to put a voodoo hex on him (MxNews 14/09/07).

THE FRENCH National Assembly adopted a bill tightening the rules for immigrants wanting to join their families in France and approving the use of DNA testing to prove family ties (DT 21/09/07).

A GRANDMOTHER has been jailed for life in London after ordering the honour killing of her daughter-in-law. The victim vanished on a trip to India after the older woman found that she had been having an affair and wanted a divorce (MxNews 20/09/07).

A NEW ZEALAND and an Australian man were bound and gagged and the New Zealander was bashed to death during a robbery in Nairobi, Kenya. The dead man had been helping a New Zealand avocado oil company set up a base in Nairobi (SMH 24/09/07).

but after some vicious fighting they returned, having lost over half of their men.

Mehmed was not going to give up and he sent a much larger force of at least 90,000 men in May 1462. Dracula's army had only 30,000 men so they resorted to guerilla tactics, a scorched earth policy and depopulation by moving the people to distant mountain areas. He tried a type of biological warfare by sending diseased people to move among and infect the Turks. The Turks continued however until they were within 60 miles of Tirgoviste, the Wallachian capital. Here they came upon the "forest of the impaled" - 20,000 Turkish captives had been impaled on stakes. This had the desired psychological effect and the Turkish forces retreated losing about a third of their men on the way.

The Turks had one more card to play and that was the support of Dracula's brother Radu. He remained loyal to the Turks with whom he had grown up and lived with for years and he in turn had the support of dissident Wallachian boyars and deserters from Dracula's army. He soon had his brother retreating to Castle Dracula where another misfortune occurred when Dracula's wife committed suicide by throwing herself off the castle ramparts into a river. Wallachia once again became a vassal state of the Turks.

Dracula was hoping for support from the Hungarians but he was betrayed and captured by them. He was not mistreated however and had considerable

freedom. In fact he converted to Catholicism and married into the Hungarian royal family.

Meanwhile conflict had broken out between Stephen of Moldova and Radu but this came to a halt when Radu died, apparently from syphilis. He was replaced by an even more pro-Turkish prince.

The Hungarians sent Dracula with a force, consisting largely of Hungarians and Moldavians and nominally under the command of Stephen Bathory, into south-east Europe to engage the Turks. After a number of successful battles they returned to Wallachia and Dracula was installed on the throne for the third time. (Stephen Bathory incidentally was related to the infamous Elizabeth Bathory who thought bathing in the blood of young virgins would have cosmetic effects and keep her young. At least 650 young girls are said to have been killed in order to obtain their blood.)

Dracula's rule however was not to last. Within three months he was set up by a group of Turkish assassins. Of 200 Moldavian guards trying to protect him only a tenth survived. Dracula's headless body was found sometime later. His head was taken back to Istanbul. The Turks were to control the country for centuries to come.

(Main source: Florescu, Radu and McNally, Raymond "Dracula: Prince of Many Faces" Little, Brown and Compnay, Boston 1989)

BOOK REVIEWS

"THE NEOCONSERVATIVE REVOLUTION: Jewish Intellectuals and the Shaping of Public Policy" by Murray Friedman, Cambridge University Press, New York 2005 (ISBN 0-521-54501-3)

In many people's minds the Jewish population of America has been associated with liberal or even leftist politics. This is to some extent a true reflection but, as Friedman points out, America's more influential Jewish intellectuals have drifted well to the conservative side of politics, hence largely, although not completely, making up the "neo-cons" said to be an important force in US politics today. Furthermore he claims that Jews and Jewish intellectuals have played a considerable role in the development and shaping of today's American conservatism.

In America's past political history conservative Jews were not as important or numerous but they did exist. In fact there is a little written about but long history of Jewish conservatism in the United States.

As far back as the nineteenth century Jewish leaders in America were noted for their conservatism, very few joining those who wanted to abolish slavery for instance. A prominent Jewish spokesman, Isaac Mayer Wise was much more critical of abolitionists than of slaveholders.

The influx of Jews escaping persecution in eastern Europe included many with socialist sympathies. Nevertheless in 1920 when eleven Jews were elected to the House of Representatives they included only one socialist, two Democrats and eight Republicans. However the average Jewish American seems to have been inclined to vote for the Democrats and this tendency increased during the Great Depression. Some were apostates of liberalism and some were extreme