

Cat's Eye Watch

Previously *Cat's Eye Weekly*

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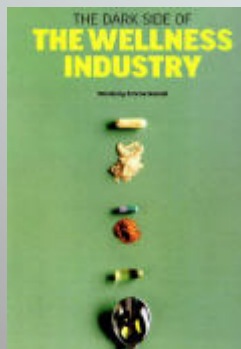
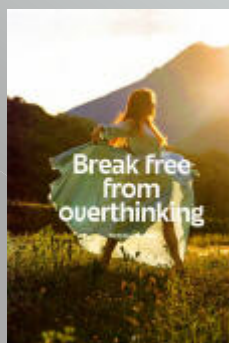
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The man who gave so much to Australia



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Any excuse for stirring up the universe

Edited by
Graham Price

Once was weekly now highly irregular in more ways than one

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The editor's desk



It really wasn't correct to continue numbering *Cat's Eye Watch* editions on from *Cat's Eye Weekly*, so the new title now has its own numbering, hence this edition is No .5 up from the change in September 2023. Now that that's out of the way we can concentrate on bigger issues. The alarm bells are ringing all over the world but who is listening? Dennis Glover's new book *Repeat: A warning from history*, lays it out in plain and simple language — politically, socially, and culturally, the world is heading for the same situation that was occurring pre 1939. See page 5.

Democracy is hard work. No doubt about that. The American Democrats lost because they didn't put enough hard work into their policies for the American people. Kamala Harris didn't have all that much to offer in a world turning dangerous, except soft stuff like identity politics, pandering to the elites of the country, forgetting the working class. She left the gate wide open for a sleazy misogynist, dictatorial, twice impeached convicted felon, to return to the White House. And you have to ask of the Republicans, is that all you have to offer? Is there no one left in your Party of decent fair-minded morality?

Let's get this straight—what happened on Oct 7 2023 was a terrorist attack on the free world, nothing less; nothing but rape, pillage, murder, destroy, kidnap, by a known terrorist group, Hamas and its Palestinian supporters. In reality—which many people simply cannot see—there is no difference there between Osama bin Laden's terrorist plots on the West including the 9/11 destruction, no difference between Al Qaeda's or Islamic State's terrorist activities, which most people seem to have forgotten about. No difference—it is terrorism black and white. And the scenes in Sydney on Sunday October 7 this year, with numerous children waving flags and chanting — we've seen it all before in the Hitler youth movement. These children should be enjoying their childhood because it won't come again, soon be over and what will they have learnt? Bias, narrowness of vision, twisted understanding of history, hate? Are these followers teaching their children to hate? Hamas does, a certain section of Palestinians do. Lebanon's Hezbollah group does. The Houthies of Yemen do.

A massive wave of hatred has consumed numerous people all over the world against anyone of Hebrew descent; people calling out that they are strongly against Zionism, but in fact hiding behind this much misunderstood term, when what they are really doing is being anti-Semitic. No doubt about that. The past is on us, and the past was not pretty, the killing of 6,000,000 Jews by an anti-Semitic regime. But that's not all. It is estimated that the Nazi regime murdered millions of other people who included priests and other religious ministers, the nomadic gypsies, prisoners of war, dissenters, the disabled, gay people— it is estimated that up to 15,000 of the latter were sent to their deaths by Hitler's machine. Folk such as Jehovah's Witnesses were also interned and murdered. And today when they come for the Jews, who do you think they will come for next?

October 7 triggered mass feelings of enthusiasm among certain groups, including some Muslim clerics of Sydney, N.S.W. What you see in this picture of Oct 9 outside the Sydney Opera House is Muslim cleric Sheikh Ibrahim Dadoun joyously shouting about the massacre "I'm smiling, and I'm happy. I'm enlightened . . . It's a day of courage." while his supporters join in with chanting " F**k the Jews", and as yet unconfirmed "Gas the Jews." That it



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Feedback to *Cat's Eye Weekly* is always welcome.
Click onto my purrfect nose!



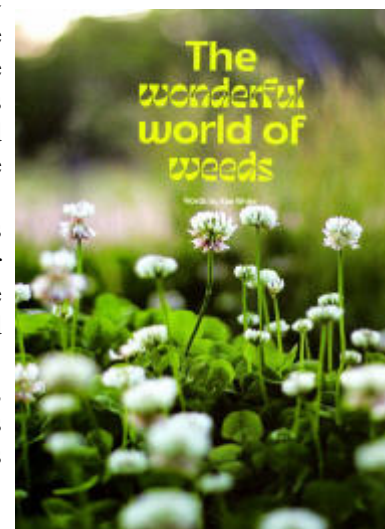


Secrets of Wellness

The WellBeing Magazine is worth having on our bookshelves. These are quality magazines with wide-ranging articles. Edition No. 277 should be in newsagents now and at \$AUS12.95 is a bargain. Rae White has been delving into the wonderful world of weeds, which we tend to think are mainly a nuisance in carefully tended gardens. Rae tells us that this stigma against weeds is not acceptable and it is up to us to understand what role weeds have in the ecology of gardens.

Weeds are tough plants and the article shows that some weeds can be beneficial — the dandelion for instance, which has health benefits. Weeds can improve the soil, help with erosion and attract insects and pollinators. Weeds can be a great source of compost. Rae reckons that when our plants are not doing too well, it is not caused by weeds, but that usually the conditions are not right for them. For further reading, Kate Wall's book *Working with Weeds* \$AUS40.00

<https://katewall.com.au/working-with-weeds>



WellBeing

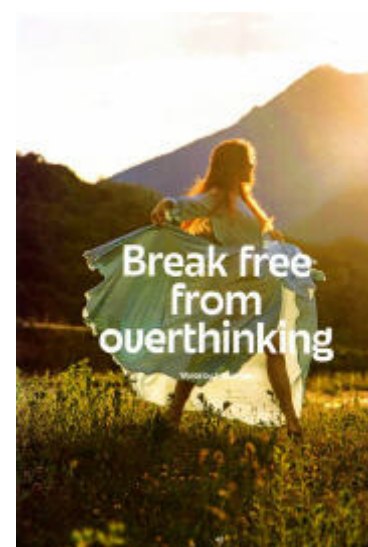


How are your thought patterns? Do you overthink? Jessica Lee writes a three page article *Break Free From Overthinking*. But what is overthinking? Clinical psychologist Dr. Chris Mosunic defines overthinking as the continuous draining process of analysing a situation way past its usefulness, which seems pretty much excessive thought patterns. None of this is good for one's health. Jessica discovered that she was a victim of this curse, driven by anxiety and with clinical help has managed to work her way out of it. On the third page of her article she gives 12 tips to break free from overthinking.

Belinda Norton comes up with a novel way to improve your balance, and it is a real

surprise. Boxing, using resistance bands!

“Resistance bands, also known as exercise or fitness bands made of latex or other materials that come in a variety of shapes, sizes and resistance levels . . . Unlike weight training which often isolates several specific muscles, resistance bands require constant muscle engagement throughout the entire range of motion, resulting in functional strength that is directly applicable to boxing movements.” Belinda is a personal trainer with 24 years of experience. Connect with her at blivewear.com or [Instagram@Belinda.n.x](https://www.instagram.com/Belinda.n.x).



Lisa Guy pens six pages about sugar addiction, named Sweet Liberation, explaining the difference between natural sugars and refined; finds that

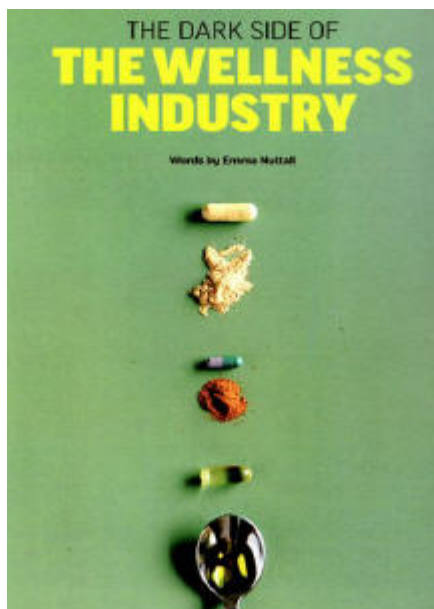
Australians consume about half a kilogram of sugar per week, which she reckons is about 18 teaspoons of sugar per day. Then she goes into explaining what all this sugar is doing to body and mind. And it's not nice. Lisa turns to 12 ways to overcome sugar addiction and gives detailed instructions. Viz: Identify your triggers - Practise mindful eating - Include protein with meals - Eat fibre-rich whole foods - Mineral deficiencies - Include probiotics and prebiotics - Limit sugary and processed foods

Cont'd page 4>>>



Prevent withdrawal symptoms - Avoid artificial sweeteners - Importance of a nourishing breakfast - Include healthy fats with meals - Stress management, sleep and exercise.

“Prioritising sleep and introducing good sleep hygiene are important steps towards beating sugar cravings and supporting healthy mood, energy levels and overall health and wellbeing.”



Emma Nuttall writes concerning the growing ‘trillion-dollar’ industry that is negatively impacting Australian society and which is really a global movement. Wellness clinics are popping up everywhere with some of them hinting that doctors won’t be necessary sometime in the near future. Emma points out that social media influencers are often to blame—particularly in the beauty field while with wellness influencers being “young, thin, sisingender,” which is not realistic. And too often “consumers with the financial means spend hundreds of dollars on products with unsubstantiated claims in the hopes of changing their health or appearance, often with disappointing results.”

“Quick fixes are popular because healing takes time and change causes discomfort. Real change requires persistence and a commitment to new habits. Quick fix solutions often overshadow the

significance of ‘treating the root cause,’ as a natural health practitioner I can say with conviction that engaging in practices such as meditative self-enquiry and self-compassion will achieve far greater results than an overpriced cream or unregulated potion.”

The Wellbeing Magazine is chock full of healthy living hints, 146 pages long. A page by Dr. Karen Bridgman about the popular snack—the Cashew nut, is enlightening. Karen breaks up here article into paragraphs labelled Active ingredients - Nutrients Therapeutic activities - Cardiovascular - Diabetes - Anti-inflammatory - Musculoskeletal - Weight loss - Cautions.

It seems that among nuts, the cashew is a wonder food source with research showing that “roasted cashews have greater nutrient bio-availability than raw nuts.” The roasting enhances the antioxidant activity of the cashew nuts.

But, Karen places a warning “As cashews are a tree nut, those with allergies to tree nuts will need t o avoid them.”

Carol Baker writes a fascinating article about saying NO. We seem to live in a YES culture, but saying yes much of the time is not healthy. A two-page article on taking care of yourself and saying no, now and then, without worrying about the so-called consequences, is very welcome.

There are numerous other worthwhile articles and tips for living a better life. The Wellness Magazine would also make a very good gift for someone you know. •

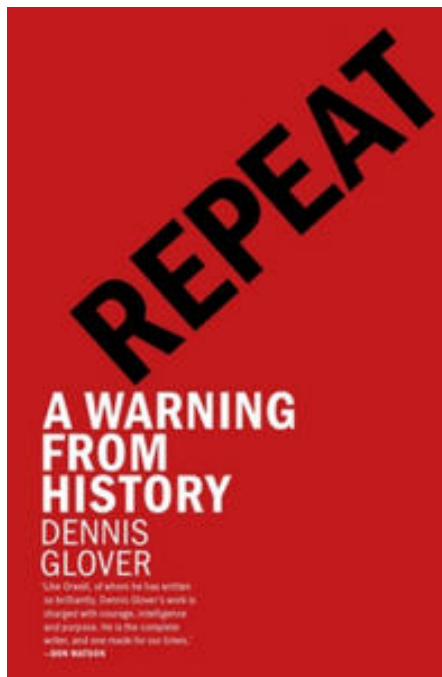


**Half of life is lost in charming others.
The other half is lost in going through anxieties
caused by others. Rumi**



Is history repeating?

It's time to awake



It's a slim volume, but packed with lessons from the past which resonate loudly in 2024. Just a few pages into Dennis Glover's 148 page treatise brings realisation that a grim future is at hand and it is looking at us straight in the eye. That future is now and the warnings are not being taken seriously by many in control of our destiny.

Glover, in his research of the 1920s and 1930s, shows that the situation in Europe in those days is repeating itself all over the world. He is not joking when he states that history will have its revenge on us with repetitions of what occurred during the 1940s. It's a warning that humanity never seems to take, that history repeats itself. But this time the stakes are much higher, with numerous countries building, testing, and stacking nuclear weapons. After World War II, that which once was implemented as a deterrent to other nations has become the favourite arsenal of dictators, to be used anytime without permission of the United Nations. As if the United Nations could stop it!

And still, the leaders of the free world engage in mediations with dictators who only see weakness before them—Western negotiators visit countries that are not free with the forlorn hope that their visits and negotiations will be helpful, while dictatorial rulers sit back and smile at this appeasement—the same as Herr Hitler did when the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain from Britain came calling with

his plan for peace. Strength is greatly admired by these dictators, while the weakness of democratic nations is scoffed at. In 1938 Chamberlain had agreed with Hitler for the Sudetenland to be ruled by Nazi Germany in a clever exchange for peace in Europe—Chamberlain coming home to Britain waving a paper and being quite joyous with 'Peace in our time!' Why? Because Hitler had told him that Germany would never encroach on further land in Europe.

The deal was done — Chamberlain and Hitler signed the pact in Munich, but it was the big lie. Hitler's promise lasted six months. He sent his troops to take over the remainder of Czechoslovakia, and then, giving the finger at Britain, on the 1st of September 1939 he marched into Poland where he and Joseph Stalin of Russia had divided the country between them. The pact of non-aggression was signed between Germany and Russia, but that too was a lie, because as the war between Germany and the Allies had reached its height in 1941, Hitler broke the pact with Russia and invaded. Dictators scoff at weakness, and Soviet Russia was still ill equipped with armament. America would eventually come to Stalin's aid, supplying planes, tanks and other armoured vehicles.



Glover shows us that the same issues are happening in our own time. President Putin of Russia took the Crimea Black Sea territory without so much as a sneeze from NATO. They did nothing to stop him. With dictators you have to jump very fast, but by the time NATO knew what was happening, it was almost too late. There was still a chance if they acted swiftly, but that window of opportunity disappeared due to poor response. The European Union and the United States responded by clamping sanctions on Russia, when they should have sent their navies and troops in. It would mean war, but it would have stopped Putin in his tracks and there, undoubtedly would not have been the 'special operation' by Russia into Ukraine on the 2nd of February 2022.

Timothy J. Lynch—professor of American politics at the University of Melbourne—has also reviewed *Repeat* in *The Age* newspaper 5-6 October 2024. It may not have been his intention, but he comes across as a Trump 'sympathiser'. The prof is safe in his university containment—he is not out there on the front line. He agrees with Glover on many points, admitting that Glover's sources of the 1930s are 'good and reliable' but considers that *Repeat* is a bridge too far. So, Glover may not have got everything correct, but considering that Lynch agrees with much that is contained in *Repeat*, we shall have to wait and see. But can it wait? •

***Repeat: A Warning from History* by Dennis Glover**
Published by Black Inc, Collingwood, Victoria
\$AUD26.99



Editorial from page 2 >>>

should come to this in our time! We need to stand up against this.

The recent enquiry into Australian Defence Forces bullying, together with the 2,007 Defence-connected suicides between 1985-2021 highlights an extreme bastardisation culture within our armed forces. During my time with the ADF 1950s-early 1960s there was no such thing—did not exist. Camaraderie was king. And when that is so, it makes for a healthy mind and body. So what has changed? The ADF is a microcosm of the larger Australian community, therefore it is the little canary in the coalmine—reflecting where Australian society is at. And if that is so, then it surely points to our society being on the slippery slope of a downward trend. Lies, lies and more lies appears to be current society's increasing decline of morals.

It's exceedingly rare for me to use the word gobsmacked, but I find myself using it now because of Labor prime minister Anthony Albanese buying a home worth \$4.3 million at Copacabana on the NSW coast, with stunning views of MacMasters Beach. Some newspaper letter writers have conceded that he has a right to do that and really, it's none of our business. Strange though that many ex-Labor prime ministers have retired as multi-millionaires, when the Labor Party is all for coming from, and looking after, the working class . . . or perhaps used to? And I suppose that each of them would undoubtedly have in their living rooms a disc or tape of Jimmy Barnes singing 'He's a working class man?'

All for now, stay safe, *Graham*

When the mob rules but doesn't understand history

You hate war, we hate war—almost everyone on the planet hates war. But the sad facts are that war is inevitable in such an unstable environment that we live in with dictators on the rise. And numerous people are drawn to dictators like moths to a flame because they seem to offer an alternative. The silver tongue, the clever orator, the quicksilver manager of culture, who like so many dictators of the past, has learnt exceptional lessons on crowd control. They have fervently studied this. They know how to spin their lies into seeming truths. They are experts and fine artistic directors of the false, the unreasonable, the unbelievable, which they turn into possible truths and seemingly reasonable assumptions which then result in *belief*. And so the crowd believes, the crowd follows, the crowd becomes the group actor in a nefarious scheme to change the current society according to the dictator's contrived agenda. To add to the charade, the dictator is not named as such, but is known as the leader.

Unfortunately, there are mini-dictators within that crowd—often infiltrators from other interested semi-political organisations or shady social groups. Their agenda is much the same as the dictator, to change and mould the current thinking of the crowd to their direction; to plant concrete and firm ideologies into the minds of those already on the edge of agreement. Their skills are not to be taken lightly. They are experts at changing history to suit themselves and their followers.

CEW reviewed Douglas Murray's book *The Madness of Crowds* in edition number 134, page 3, which can be found on our website www.catseyewatch.com. Murray's book is prefaced by G.K. Chesterton's words 'The special mark of the modern world is not that it is sceptical, but that it is dogmatic without knowing it.'

And so, we come to the largest protest movement that Melbourne has ever seen—outside the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on the 10th and 14th of September — where amid the crowd of over one thousand, protestors threw rocks, punched police horses, lit fires, and apparently sprayed acids at law enforcement people, threw bottles with an unknown liquid within at police. Police responded with rubber bullets and capsicum spray. It was one of the ugliest demonstrations Australia has seen with police still searching for some of the more violent offenders.

And while we are on the subject of protests, when did you ever see a protest march for Australia's homeless people? When did you ever see a protest march for refugee victims of sexual harassment? When did you ever see a protest march for the Uyghars or the Tibetans crushed by China's brutal authoritarian government? When did you see a march against the dictatorship of Myanmar or against Vladimir Putin of Russia for his invasion into the Ukraine? Does no one care about the war in Sudan, where up to the year 2005 2.5 million people lost their lives with 7.7 million people displaced? The present



A protestor attempting to pull a police person of the horse
Photo AAP



conflict which began in 2023 has given 15,000 killed with up to 8.2 million displaced. The United Nations states that 25 million need urgent humanitarian assistance. Where are the crowds of people protesting about that armed ‘revolution?’

A recent study by the Australian Institute of Criminology into protest activity comes up with some interesting findings, in that “people who participated in anti-authority protests were more vulnerable to radicalisation when compared with other protesters and non-protesters. Our results have implications for responding to protest movements that promote anti-government sentiment, that spread disinformation and that are exploited by malicious actors.” And while it is important to separate the type of protests, the line between the two is very thin.

Results: “Compared with respondents who had never protested, protested before January 2020 but not recently, or protested since January 2020 but in support of other issues or movements, anti-authority protesters:

- were more likely to be male, to attend religious worship on a regular basis, and to have prior military service;
- were more likely to report having been diagnosed with personality or psychotic disorders, but had similar rates of mental health problems overall;
- were more likely to have experienced verbal aggression and physical fights between family members when they were growing up, and more likely to report having been a recent victim of hate speech or bullying, harassment and discrimination;
- were more likely to report having intentionally accessed fringe or radical content and groups online, though no more likely to have been exposed to violent media;
- were more likely to report having family or friends who had also intentionally accessed fringe or radical content online;
- were more likely to report recent negative life events, particularly those related to financial stress;
- were much more likely to endorse conspiracy beliefs, including but not limited to those related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- were more likely to perceive politicians, government and the criminal justice system as less legitimate, were less satisfied with democracy and had lower respect for Australian laws; and
- were more likely to report having contact with the criminal justice system both as a juvenile and as an adult.”

Pretty radical stuff, eh? Some may say “Please do not associate the 10th-14th of September protests with the above results.” But the signs were there with the violence that was carried out. You *can* associate what occurred at the Land Forces exhibition September 10-14 because the event was under the auspices of the Victorian State Government, an authority figure with Victoria Police on hand as the government’s representative

These protesters were more likely to have conspiracy beliefs—and would encourage others to believe in them as well. But the research includes a warning not to equate legitimate political protests with extremist ideologies. “At the same time, there was considerable heterogeneity in the risk profiles of anti-authority protesters, many of whom were not vulnerable to radicalisation, and responses to this group need to take this into account. This was especially true with respect to the differences between first-time and repeat anti-authority protesters, who may be on very different trajectories towards radicalisation.”

It is interesting to note that the research findings included conspiracy beliefs of a wide range, not simply connected to the one protest movement, but “they encompassed a wider array of beliefs about societal control.” Participating in a protest movement does not make one automatically open to radicalisation and certain protest movements may be likened to a public ‘blowing off steam.’ But the wider public needs to be assured that protest movements, particularly those with violence, are being monitored by the Australian government’s security and intelligence groups 24/7 •

The full report is available as a PDF document at:

https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/rr31_participation_in_anti-authority_protests_and_vulnerability_to_radicalisation.pdf

The Council to Homeless Persons

Established in 1972, the Council to Homeless Persons is the peak Victorian body representing individuals and organisations with a stake or interest in homelessness. Our mission is to work towards ending homelessness through leadership in policy, advocacy and sector development.

<http://www.chp.org.au/>

See our Consumer Participation Resource Kit at:

http://www.chp.org.au/public_library/cpkit/index.shtml



The Middle East

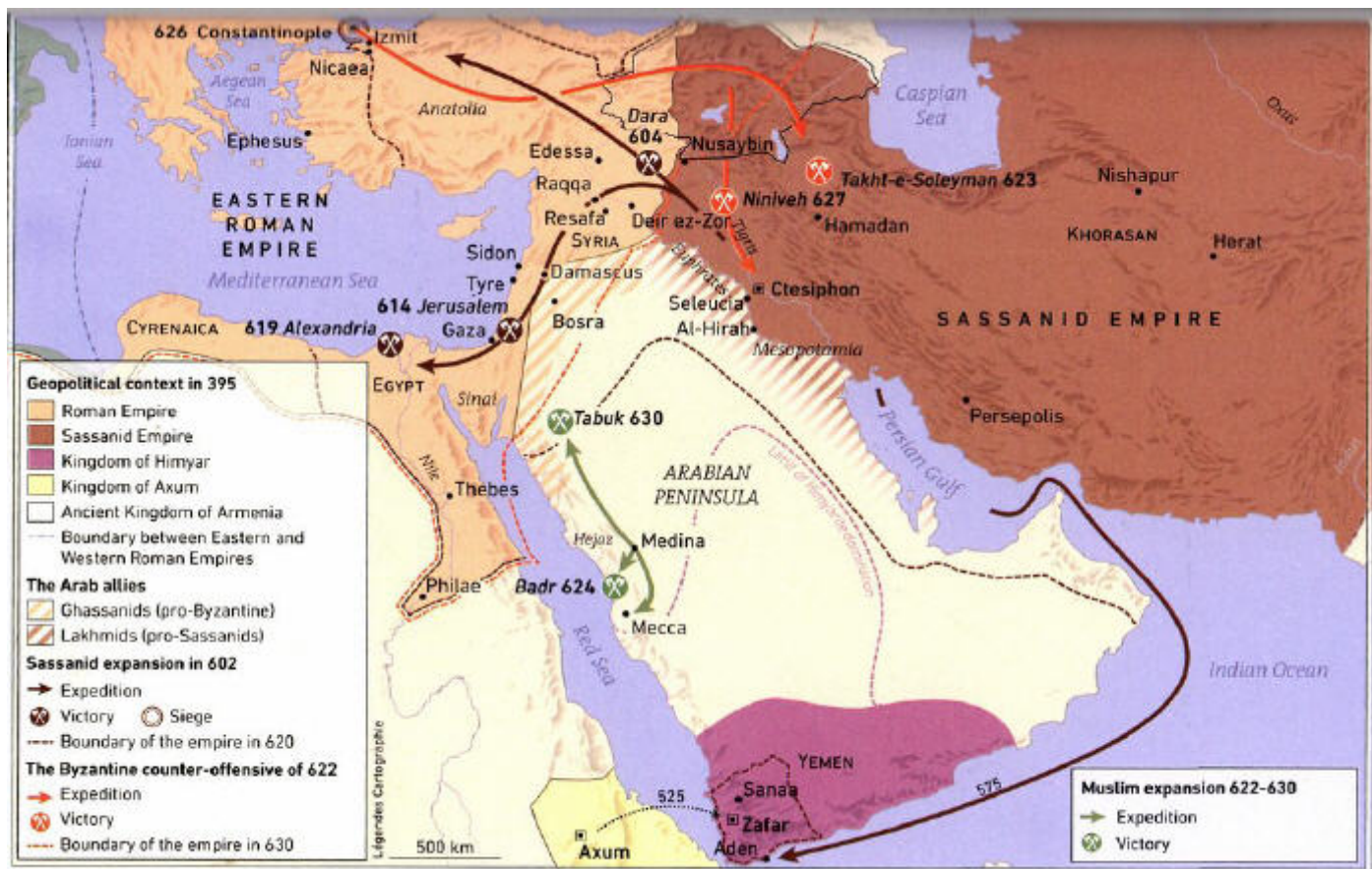
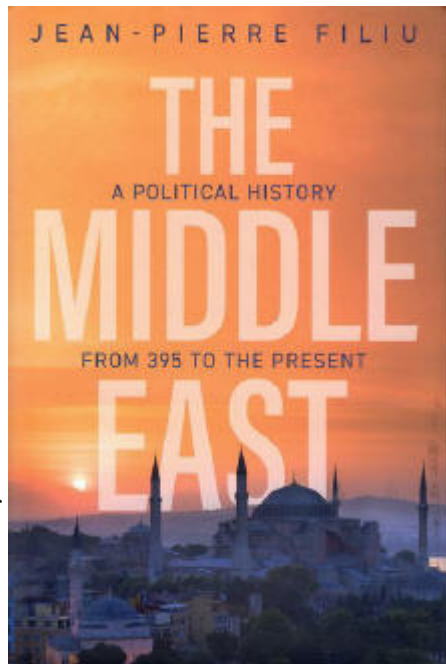
An unbiased view

Jean Pierre Filiu is professor of Middle Eastern studies at Po. Paris—Institute of Political Studies. He is the author of numerous Middle Eastern studies, including *Miterranand et la Palestine* (Fayard, 2005), *La Révolution arabe* (Fayard, 2011), *Histoire de Gaza* (Fayard, 2012), *From Deep State to Islamic State* (Hurst/Oxford University Press, 2015).

His latest book, *The Middle East: A Political History from 395 to the Present* (Polity Books 2023) virtually covers the history of Middle East conflicts from early days until now—all told, fifteen centuries. It is a strongly researched book with astonishing analysis of past and current conflicts.

After the Byzantium and Roman age, Filiu follows the rise and fall of three major Middle Eastern powers— Egypt, Syria and Iraqi. It is on the strength and weaknesses of these three that much of today’s conflicts have occurred—Egypt with the rise of its fanatical Muslim Brotherhood, out of which was born the terrorist group Hamas; Syria with the rise of Islamic State with a death toll of nearly 620,000 with displaced persons 6.7 million internally and 6.6 million refugees externally; the Iranian revolution 1978-9 and the Iraq-Iran war of 1980-1988, with the instability of the Iraq Ba’ath party. The number of casualties of the latter can only be estimated, which may well be between one to two million, with almost 100,000 Kurds killed.

In his *Introduction: A secular history*, Filiu addresses the reasons for his research, the choice of commencing with the year 395, and the following compilation of 392 pages: “This choice expresses my desire to follow a strictly Middle Eastern dynamic, and not the simple projection onto this region of rivalries between external powers, even if these latter will have their due place, especially in contemporary times.” The infiltration and possessiveness of European and East-Asian empires into the Middle East from 395 upwards is another tale and though these powers have caused calamity and change, the Middle Eastern states have to tell their own story in their own unique manner.



The Middle East between Byzantines and Sassanids (395-630)



In the early days of Arabian caravans and Bedouins, and while Mecca was still pagan, Filiu points to the rise of Christianity in the Middle East, with a large following in Yemen. Also in Yemen Judaism was widespread, especially in Medina, where a large Jewish population “played a leading role in local agriculture.”

Around 620 the rise of Muhammad the Messenger saw the revelation that ‘there is no God [Allah] but God’ and his marriage to a wealthy widow of Mecca. Filiu spends some pages on the history of Muhammad until the rise of the caliphs; Omar being the first who was assassinated in 644. The second caliph was Osman, an Umayyad—an administrator or from a merchant family—belonging to the Arab clan of the Quraysh tribe, who became quite the warrior, taking vast territories in his almost non-stop conquests. But eventually, even a caliph has had his day. In the year 656, marauders came from the east and the west and put Osman to death. Thence followed what Filiu calls ‘An obscure golden age’, when the Middle East divided into two empires—the Byzantines and the Sassanids (Persians) which lasted for over two centuries. But this also was not to last, because the Sassanids began to penetrate the Byzantine defences. But by 640 Muslim armies were victorious against the Byzantines and the Sassanids, and had also conquered Egypt.

While Islam dominated, the Middle East still had a large proportion of Christians, especially in Syria and Yemen, where there was a large proportion of Jews in the latter state. Filiu rolls through the centuries up to the time of the Crusaders and the capture of Jerusalem in 1099; the assassination of more capiphs: Fatimid in 1130 and Abbsaid in 1135, to the second crusade 1146-1149, the third crusade 1189-1192, on to the middle ages and the rise of the Ottoman Empire. Then comes the colonial expansion 1798-1912. *Filiu* pp196-198: “In this Palestinian area, made up of the three entities of Jerusalem, Acre and Nablus, the population was estimated in 1880 at 400,000 Muslims, 40,000 Christians, and 25,000 Jews. The majority of these Jews devoted their lives to the Talmudic studies with the assistance of wealthy patrons in the Diaspora. The main centres of rabbinical learning were Jerusalem, Safed, and Hebron, where a Jewish presence was attested to over a long period . . . The pogroms of 1881 in Eastern Europe and Russia led to the first stream of significant Jewish emigration to Palestine, called in Hebrew *aliyah*, meaning ‘ascent’ to the Promised Land.”

The German expansion: *Filiu* pp199-200: “Under the heading of *The Kill* Pilui writes: “Germany, unified in 1871, set out to impress the Ottoman Empire with its difference from France and Great Britain. It posed as an ‘honest broker’ at the Congress of Berlin of 1878, and displayed its support for the sultan . . . investing in the railway line that would soon link Constantinople with Ankara. German officers held important leadership and command positions in the Ottoman army.” The upshot of this is that the apparent blood-thirsty sultan now had deep ties with Germany leading up to the first world war 1914-1918.

Throughout the history of the Middle East there were almost continuous wars, so that when 1914 came along it was no surprise to the Arabian people. They had lived with wars for centuries, so what was another conflict to them! Filiu takes us through the history of the Kurds, the Young Turk revolution, through the turbulence of the Persians, and we still have 150 pages to read. The massacre of much of the Armenian population by the Ottoman Turks in 1915-1916 is estimated at approximately 1.6 million with survivors being deported to Syria. *Filiu* pp240-241: “In this city [Deir ez-zor], where massacres were still being perpetrated in the autumn of 1916, the Turkish commander transformed the Catholic Church into a brothel for female Armenian slaves. In general sexual violence was common and went unpunished.”

Filiu takes us through the colonial expansion, the formation of the League of Nations, the time of the colonial mandates 1914-1949, on to the cold war and the Arab-Israeli conflict (1949-1990) to the second last chapter encompassing the *Arab Cold War*, the *Islamic Revolution*, the *Iran Revolution* with the rising of the *Revolutionary Guards*, the *Gulf War*, the *Taliban and Afghanistan*, the rise of *Hezbollah*, *Filiu* pp294-295 “Assad [of Syria] . . . exploited his alliance with Khomeini [of Iran] to establish in Lebanon, under the auspices of the Syrian and Iranian intelligence services, a ‘Party of God’ (Hezbollah), whose suicide operations changed the balance of power. This led to devastating attacks: in November 1982 on the Israeli command in Tyre (76 dead); in April 1983 on the American Embassy in Beirut (63 dead); and in October on the barracks of the French and American contingents of the Multinational Force (241 marines and 58 paratroopers were killed).

The 1st Intifada: Filiu does not whitewash any of the bombings or incursions of the Israeli Labour government. In Tunis, where the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) had its headquarters in 1985, the Israeli air force carried out a bombing mission. The PLO leader, Yasser Arafat escaped unscathed. *Filiu* pp300-301: “Anti-Israeli riots began in a refugee camp in the Gaza strip in December 1987, and soon extended to all the occupied territories. Even in East Jerusalem the unrest reactivated the ‘Green Line’ that separated Israel from Jordan before 1967.

The last chapter, *The Life and Death of the American Middle East* deals with the fall of Saddam Hussein, the rise of Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda or Islamic State; the Occupation of Iraq, the illusion of the ‘Arab Spring’, the *Syrian Revolution* up to the peace treaty of 2020 between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. As for Obama of the United States, Filiu considers that the president made a grave error when dealing with the Assad regime in Syria, in refusing the Syrian opposition with the instruments of victory, which then led to an opening for Russia’s president Putin to fill. The error was compounded by president Trump when he moved into the White House. *Filiu* p340: “Trump signed the death certificate of the American Middle East.” *The Middle East: A political history from 395 to the present* was written prior to the Hamas attack into Israel 7 October 2023, Filiu ends on a note of hope, after all, there have been peace accords in the past within the Middle East. *Filiu* pp350-351: “the ‘cold peace’ concluded by Israel with Egypt in 1979 and then Jordan in 1994.” In the midst of chaos there is always hope. •

The Middle East: A political history from 395 to the present

Polity Books.com

Hardback 392 pages

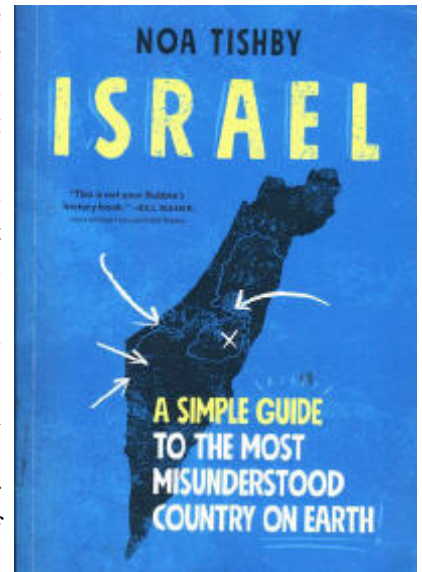
SAUD61.95 Dymocks



How did they get it so wrong?

‘They’ being much of humankind on the face of this planet. They believe the propaganda that has been spoken, written, and displayed over the centuries. They believe that which is named *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is factual, whereas it is one of the most bizarre pack of lies that ever came off a printing press—being totally debunked in later years. They believe that Charles Dickens’ character Fagan in *Oliver Twist*, was indicative of Jewish folk all over the world as portrayed in the 1968 musical *Oliver* “You’ve got to pick a pocket or two, boys. You got to pick a pocket or two.” They believe what the early Christians believed, that the Jews were totally responsible for the death of Jesus of Nazareth. This belief turned into vicious hate during the middle ages, so that every Jew living in Europe was responsible for the deed.

But when you see among the credits to this book Maajid Awaz, Pakistani born ex-member of the proscribed terrorist organisation in Britain—Hizb ut Tahrir—who was arrested in Egypt in 2001 and spent five years in prison, crediting Noa Tishby for speaking up . . . when you see Moab Hassan Yousef, whose father was an official of Hamas stating “As an Arab reader, I am a son of that region, and yet reading the book I learned a lot about my birthplace and saw the other side of the paradox that was invisible to me. This book is supported by hard facts—not for the purpose of argument or debate but, rather, to build bridges between the Jewish and Arab Worlds,”—you are amazed.



Black activist Emmanuel Acho, whose black American family is from Nigeria, and whose recent children’s book *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, raised the eyebrows of the establishment when it called out systemic racism, has joined Noa Tishby in a new book *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew*, which compliments Tishby’s *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*.

There are similarities with American black African people and Jewish people, in that historically both were from slavery situations . . . that both eventually freed themselves of that slavery and became free persons. But prejudice remained, particularly in 19th and 20th century America. The two groups were still subjected to racism and anti-semitism. During World War II, African Americans were loudest in their condemnation of the persecution of Jewish persons by Hitler’s followers. Hannah Labowitz, in *The Gettysburg Journal* of May 2021, writes: “Because of the emotional connections between blacks and Jews, there was a ‘heightened possibility of effective interracial coexistence and collaboration. For example, a Jewish professor of sociology at Tougaloo College in Mississippi, Dr. Ernst Borinski, organized dinners in which blacks and whites sat next to each other—a radical act for the time. Professors were not the only ones at the university working to create interracial relations. Their African American students experienced relatively analogous conditions to that of the European-Jewish professors during their own upbringings, so they were able to empathize with their struggles. As a result, the students tended to trust them more than other Whites’.”

Tishby’s *Israel* was published in 2021, two years and six months prior to Hamas’s brutal raid of the 7th of October 2023. It does not set out to clash between Jews and Muslims, nor does it focus on extremes. The title states that it is a simple guide, and that is exactly what it is; a historical, factual, rendition of that Jewish state. In Chapter four, A Brief History of Zionism and why it still matters, Tishby recalls that one night in 1918 the Russian Romanoff family of Nicholas II, his wife, four daughters and one son were shot at close range in the basement of a grand and lovely house. Her grandmother told her the story about why the Bolsheviks had trouble with their bullets bouncing off the girls, so that they had to double their efforts. The reason was that the girls had sewn diamonds and other gems into their undergarments. Naturally enough, the Romanovs had ruled Russia with a fist or iron over three hundred years. Now Russia was free and Tishby’s young grandmother was elated with what was deemed to be the people’s revolution. Tishby writes: “But it wasn’t long before grandmother and her friends realised that the revolution wasn’t for them . . . the town [they lived in] was small, about 70 thousand people, and about 70 per cent were Jewish.” A child her grandmother knew was sent to Siberia simply because he asked to be taught the Jewish language. In 1924 her grandmother came across a pamphlet about a new movement for Jews who could be socialist at the same time. Grandmother was joyful! The movement was based on communal living, shared ownership and shared ideas. The movement was called Young Pioneer, but the movement didn’t last. The authorities clamped down on it and grandmother’s family left Russia, headed for the promised land, arriving at Jaffa in 1925 where they found it to be crumbling, dirty, and dangerous.



Grandmother then encountered a wave of intrigue around the movement called Zionism, which would establish a final homeland for the Jews. We regress to the year 1903, when hatred against the Jews exploded with the publishing by the secret police of Russia of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Tishby writes: “This document is so fake, I can’t believe I have to write about it . . . The Jewish people need a lifeboat. Cue the Zionist movement . . . The Zionist movement emerged against a backdrop of general intellectual awakening that was sweeping Europe. The Age of Enlightenment in the 1700s and the Spring of Nations saw democratic and liberal resolutions and unrest in almost every country. Citizens everywhere demanded more power to the people. They also started giving more weight to science and logic rather than religious or monarchical creed. Enlightenment as well, in which Jewish scholars and philosophers promoted secularism, liberalism, and in general, not only biblical, education.

“At the time Zionism seemed crazy revolutionary, but the Jews had been talking about re-establishing their homeland for two millennia. Each year, on Passover, as we read the Haggadah, we tell, yet again, the story of the Jewish exit from Egypt and complete the saga saying: ‘Next year in Jerusalem!’

“It originally started with dudes like Rabbi Alkalai of Serbia, who wrote a detailed plan to rebuild the Jewish homeland in Israel back in 1843.

Tishby continues this origin of Zionism on page after page, often humorous and tongue-in-cheek: “The word Zionism comes from one of the seventy biblical words to describe Jerusalem—Zion. In fact Jerusalem is the city’s first name, Zion is it’s second. Tishby mentions Theodor Benjamin Ze’ev Herzl, whom she calls a mad scientist, and who “wasn’t so hot on his Jewishness at first,” and who mistakingly believed that if the Jews could assimilate enough, anti-Semitism would go away, and who after understanding that the French artillery officer, Alfred Dreyfus, was falsely accused of spying for the Germans, realised that in trying to shake off his own Jewishness, the world was never going to allow him to do that. “So Herzl did a one-eighty and decided that not only should the Jews stay Jewish, but they should also go back to their ancient homeland and re-establish their own state. At least, if they ever wanted to be safe again.” Herzl didn’t give up— he organized the First Zionist Congress 29th August 1897 in Basel, Switzerland, gathering “representatives of Jewish communities from all over the world for the first time, and 208 delegates from 16 countries showed up to discuss their collective future. Herzl believed that the Zionist movement should be public, vocal, and supported by the global community . . . but when it came to what Zionism actually was—it’s political structures and goals for the future—no one could agree . . . beyond the internal debate, the Zionists faced threats from a number of powerful entities, among them the Russian tsar, the Pope, and the Turkish sultan. This whole concept of rebuilding a Jewish nation-state was crazy . . . the participants knew there were spies in the audience, and they made sure their desire for a state did not come across as a rebellion against any country. They made a concentrated effort to clarify that all Zionists would fully cooperate and collaborate ‘according to the laws of various countries’, they were operating in.”

Tishby p65: “[Herzl] advocates for free education, separation of church and state, maternity pay, overtime pay, and environmentalism . . . Remember, this was 1902, not 1967. I think it’s safe to say that John Lennon would have loved the man.”



*The Kingdom of the Hebrew kings David and Saul
Circa 1020-1000 BCE*

It is impossible to convey all of what Tishby writes about concerning Zionism in this enlightening book, except perhaps to state that no matter what critics may conclude, Zionism is a very brave concept.

Tishby pp68-69: “What is Zionism? It’s pretty simple, actually, Zionism is about the Jews, like any other nation, being allowed to self-govern in their tiny piece of ancestral land. They are allowed to have a state! Zionism is a merging of liberal values and cultural Jewishness, in simple words: it is a national liberation movement. Zionism was never about having an *exclusively* Jewish state. Never was, and never will be . . . the main idea behind the Zionist movement was ‘return to history,’ Revive an ancient land with the mission constantly to improve and true to it’s mission, Zionism is indeed constantly transforming . . . My beloved safta [grandmother] caught the Zionist bug. In a small town in White Russia while the snowstorms were raging outside her door, she risked her fifteen-year-old life to see her dream come true. She understood that if she wanted to be safe, she should take charge of her own destiny and make a move . . . Apparently there was a lot of hardship, excitement, death, life, peace, love, idealism. I thank the Lord she wrote it all down.”

In later chapters, Tishby reveals much of the conflict occurring with the Palestinian people: pp181-182: “As you can imagine Israel and Egypt have continued the on and off blockade of Gaza, trying to control the thousands of rockets launched from the Gaza strip into Israel . . . Israel may take the majority



of PR flack for the situation in Gaza, but the ones who pay the biggest price are the two million Palestinian citizens living under this horrible, kleptocratic, Islamist, and oppressive regime [Hamas]. This is the tail that wags the whole Palestinian nation. Instead of using the billions of dollars provided by the international community to build schools or hospitals or a better life for their people, Hamas uses the money to build tunnels to carry out attacks on Israel. To buy up ammunition and drones. They use civilians as human shields, and set up military command bases adjacent to and under apartment buildings and UN hospitals.

[And this is a valid point, but it's more complicated than you think: The UNRWA has been funding Palestinian folk for well over half a century! The fund was set up in 1949 to cater only for Palestinian refugees and to this day every descendant of the original refugees is funded. Everyone. That's how it works. But where are those funds going to?]

“In June 2007 Hamas took Gaza by force, launching a military operation against the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] . . . The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades burst into Palestine Authority offices and took no prisoners. They looted the offices, lynched people in front of their families, and threw PA members off of rooftops or shot them dead, and at the end of this coup they had killed 160 PA members. Egypt, which also borders Gaza, quickly caught on, and alongside Israel, enacted a blockade on the Strip, trying to stop ammunition supplies from reaching Hamas.

“The bloody takeover of Gaza by Hamas happened only two short years after Israel withdrew, bringing every Israeli's nightmare to life and handing a perfect ‘We told you so’ to the right-wing Israeli hawks. What Israel got in exchange for unilateral disengagement was not a thriving Palestine but an Islamist, radical, oppressive, and violent regime that promptly started launching rockets and mortar shells into into the south of the country and as far as they could reach, and sometimes all the way to Tel Aviv.”

Tishby continues to depict the continued violence over the years, including over 100 suicide bombers in major cities in Israel. Then there is the dilemma that is worth repeating from page 6: “As you can imagine, Israel and Egypt have continued the on-and-off blockade of Gaza, trying to control the thousands of rockets launched from the Gaza strip into Israel.”

Tishby mentions a Palestinian movement called BDS—Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions—which has had “incredible success reaching young Americans [and no doubt many young Australians], who then become extremely active on college campuses, and later on, in all walks of life, convincing those Americans that they are only after justice for all.”

But Tishby concludes that the movement is not for justice or peace at all. It leaves out much of its real issue within its shiny pamphlets. The BDS movement is supported mostly by Americans, British, and South Africans, some Canadians and several Australian journalists. The majority are either actors, movie stars, artists, writers, musicians, film-makers. They also include several rappers from South Africa and the United States. Well, as you can guess, this movement boycotts artists from appearing or performing in Israel. Tishby states p217: “I don't blame these artists; interweb troll attacks can be a scary thing. And indeed, since BDS was somehow able to brand itself as the hip new WokeCause, it's had some success with smaller artists who can't take the heat and succumb.”



Flavius Josephus, author of *The Antiquities of the Jews*, and *The Wars of the Jews*.

Tishby mentions the historian Flavius Josephus, who though being a Jew, was looked on favourably by the Roman administrators, in particular the emperor Thespasian who ruled 69-79 AD. Josephus grew up in Judea (now the West Bank), but when he was twenty-six he journeyed to Rome to beg the release of some of his rabbi contemporaries. Instead of finding himself locked up, he was given preferential treatment. But there was a civil war in Judea with the Zealots running wild and prior to becoming emperor, Thespasian, while serving under Nero as commander of a large army, came on them as the ‘rivers of Jerusalem were running in blood’. So instead of attacking Jerusalem, Vespasian decided that if his enemies were killing themselves off it would be wise not to intervene. Let them slaughter each other. Later, Titus the son of Vespasian, went to finish off the job by laying waste to Jerusalem.

The significance of bringing Flavius Josephus, the historian, into her book is to show that the Jews of Israel are living in their ancient homeland, which was not only Judea but was also the land of Canaan.

A final note: There are those who say the Jews are always in positions of power. Well, if a Jewish secular teacher, a Jewish university professor, a doctor, or a scientist is in a position of power, then I say to them “Bring it on!” •

Israel: A simple Guide to the most misunderstood country on earth

Free Press paperback - 333 pages

Published April 2021

\$AUD34.99 Dymocks



Whiston's Flavius Josephus

The Antiquities of the Jews

The Wars of the Jews

It was in my grandfather's possession—this heavy 684 page hard-bound book had travelled with him over many a sea during the late 1800's in his cabin trunk. But why? He wasn't a Hebrew, nor were any in his immediate family. The translation is from the Greek, so it seems that there was perhaps a Greek history master at the Grove Park boarding school in Wrexham where Frederick Andrew Price received his education.

Much of the writings pre-date numerous historians, including the Roman historian Tacitus, which is why Josephus is looked on as an authority on the Hebrews and their neighbours. Josephus's *Antiquities of the Jews* and *The Wars of the Jews*, which cover 20 volumes, stands alongside the works of the Christian translator and historian Jerome, the Roman historian Suetonius, and the Roman historian Titus Livius, mostly known as Livy. *The Wars of the Jews* was completed in 75AD (or CE—Common Era), *The Antiquities of the Jews* was completed in the year 93 CE. Jerome had praise for Josephus's research and writings: "How one that was a Hebrew, who had been from his infancy instructed in sacred learning, should be able to pronounce such a number of testimonies out of profane authors, as if he had read over all the Grecian libraries." And that indeed is praise enough, especially coming from a Christian author and historian.

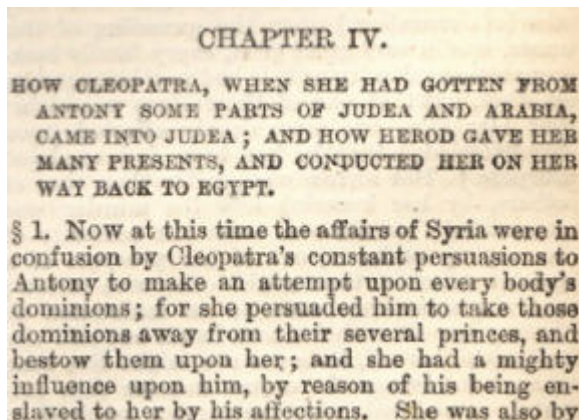
Steve Mason is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Religions and Cultures in the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. His massive article on the website *Marginelia Review of Books*, argues that Josephus matters, both then and now.

"If we leave biblical and New Testament authors out of the frame, Flavius Josephus (37–100+ CE) was the most consequential ancient writer in the West. This claim is not provable by statistics, but a process of elimination supports it. Plato was big, Aristotle too. Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, and Polybius had their admirers, and every literate Roman knew Cicero and Livy. But Christian Crusaders did not take Plato into battle in the Holy Land. Thucydides was not rewritten in Latin and Hebrew versions, as Josephus was, amplifying his already huge impact. From the first to the twenty-first centuries, Josephus' work has mattered to more people and more consistently than any other non-biblical text."

Mason takes a text from *The Wars of the Jews*. "Those who were not present at the events, but are collecting random and incoherent tales through heresay, are writing them up sophist-like, while others who were there are misrepresenting the events from either flattery toward the Romans or hatred toward the Judeans. Their compositions consist of denunciation [of Judeans] in some cases, encomium [of Romans] in others . . . They always denigrate or humiliate the Judean side."

So, the fact is that Josephus was there at the time, as witness, unlike other recorders or would-be historians. Plain and simple, a man on the spot writing about what he saw with his own eyes.

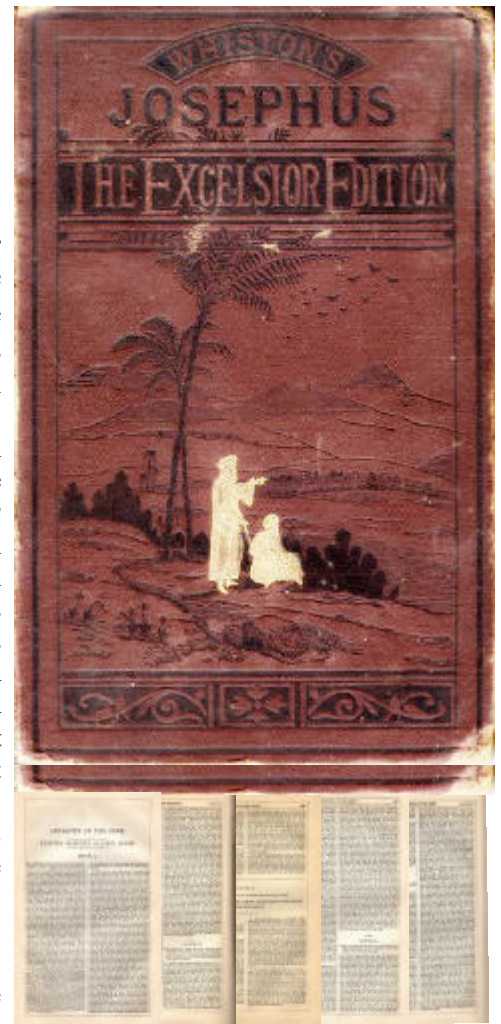
Mason concludes: "Josephus mattered, from the moment he put down his pen and increasingly thereafter, for three main reasons: his uniquely expert account of the war that destroyed Jerusalem, the abundance of detail he provides for Roman Judea, and his identity as a Judean . . . For Judeans throughout the Roman and Parthian empires,



How land ownership was always fluid!

Jerusalem's destruction and occupation by the Tenth Legion were catastrophic. Even non-Judeans knew of the famed city as a jewel of the Orient and mother of the numerous expatriate communities. Thoughtful observers such as Tacitus, respected the Judean's imageless God and magnificent temple free of statues. For those who had worshiped at the temple, if only sending annual contributions from afar and making occasional pilgrimage, the city's destruction was a humiliation that savaged national pride and standing. For those in Judea, losing the very heart of biblical law, grounded in repentance and sacrifices prescribed by the covenant, was devastating." Yes, Flavius Josephus matters, even today. •

Note: There are numerous modern publications of Josephus's *The Wars of the Jews*, which can also be found in paperback: Project Gutenberg has also published an on-line version at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2850/2850-h/2850-h.htm> with *The Antiquities of the Jews* at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2848/2848-h/2848-h.htm>





Was Charles Darwin wrong?

Well, not exactly—but there are holes in his theory of evolution. Michael J. Denton's book *Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology reveal Purpose in the Universe* reveals that the laws of biology apply not only to this Earth, but to all of the universe.

From the publisher: "Life is highly constrained by the laws of nature. If, for example the ratio between strong and weak chemical bonds had not been precisely what it is, if the thermal properties of water were not precisely what they are, if the atmosphere of the Earth had not had just the right properties to filter out harmful radiation, then a flourishing biosphere such as exists on Earth would be impossible.

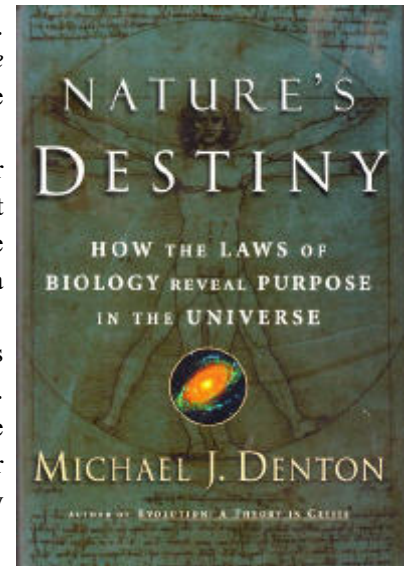
"For life to develop beyond the most primitive stage hinted at by the famous Mars fossils* requires an earthlike planet, with earthlike atmosphere and oceans. Physicists such as Freeman Dyson, Fred Hoyle, Martin Rees, and Paul Davies have argued that the universe is tuned for carbon-based life . . . Michael Denton extends their argument all the way from the carbon atom to advanced and complex life forms closely resembling ourselves, showing that our biosphere is central to nature's destiny."

Denton understood that human life cannot be separated from nature and that the laws of biology cannot be predicted from the laws of physics and astronomy and that "evidence only drawn from physics and astronomy is bound to be insufficient to secure the biocentricity or anthropocentricity of the cosmos. Moreover . . . there exists the possibility that emergent self-organizing phenomena were involved in the origin of life and the origin of evolutionary innovation."

Originally, Denton had set out to disprove evolution. His earlier book: *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, didn't go down too well with numerous scientists. His previous theory that micro-evolution exists but that macro-evolution does not was attacked and eventually discarded by Denton in *Nature's Destiny*. Further research found him accepting that the universe is being Fine Tuned as it develops. Dutch biologist, Gert Kyoto, in his review of *Nature's Destiny* states "Biological evolution, that is the common descent of all life, is exactly what he [Denton] defends now in *Nature's Destiny*. Not a limited version of evolution. No, complete naturalistic evolution from inorganic materials to the first cell to humans . . . Denton is the first anti-evolutionist and anti-Darwinist I know who uses the FT [Fine Tuning] argument to prove design of the universe. He gave up his opposition to evolution. This is nothing less than going from the impossibility of biological evolution to the inevitability of evolution! . . . The aim of *Nature's Destiny* is first, to present the scientific evidence for believing that the cosmos is uniquely fit for life as it exists on earth and for organisms of design and biology very similar to our own species, Homo Sapiens, and second that this is entirely consistent with the older teleological religious anthropocentric view of the cosmos."

And Denton believes that the whole picture is still not revealed because the origin of life is not revealed to us, nor is the mechanism of evolution properly understood. These are obstacles for all biological scientists. But what is inevitable is the continuing structure of Life. Kortof states that he was delighted by Denton's story about the nematode [a simple worm].

"Denton explains that the nematode is assembled in such a way that practically all the organs are intimately interconnected to all other organs or parts of the organism. The result is that virtually every mutation will disrupt the development and functioning of the nematode. He [Denton] further says that this is an extreme example of 'interconnectedness', but the same interconnectedness has been found to some degree in the development of all higher organisms. 'My point is, that the nematode is still a nematode, (and never made it to become a mammal) because of the way it is assembled! And that higher organisms have a less interconnectedness not by accident, but because their development is more open to change! So the degree of developmental constraints could be a beautiful explanation why some organisms evolve and others do not. The nematode is still a simple worm. Other simple organisms became mammals. Denton was looking for reasons why Darwinian gradualism cannot work, so he overlooked the possible explanation of why there are still 'lower' organisms around." •



*Fossil-like organic matter found on Mars.

Nature's Destiny
 Free Press, hardback
 Michael J Denton 1998
 Now available in paperback—Simon & Schuster
 Dymocks \$AUD78.99



Eeeenglisha as eet is

Some very common stuff-ups: Try not to get them mixed up:

1. Prostate: Male gland. Prostrate: Flat on your back. (Sometimes depends on what you're up to!)
2. Their: Belonging to. There: Seeing, showing, pointing. (That one is more common than you think)
3. This is a real nasty one: "I should of gone" instead of "I should **have** gone." Can also be written as "I should've gone." Chuck the 'of' out the window - let it bounce away.
4. Vunerable instead of vulnerable. (TV journos don't seem to care much about this one)
5. When wishing to condense 'you are going somewhere,' it's not **your** going, it's **you're** going. (Now, now, don't argue!)
6. And the old chestnut: Instead of recieved, it is received. (I before E, except after C, and certainly not, 'me before you!)
7. Using 'Me to' instead of 'Me too'. (Who?)
8. This is often a cracker: "Using 'It's over hear', instead of 'It's over here'. (I can't see it - where is it? 'Over here.')
- 9: These two can be tricky: Advice or Advise? "I want some advice about sex". "I wish to advise him to nick off".
- 10: Very difficult. Practice or practise? I'll have to practise every day. She has a law practice.

And as for perfect grammar, well kindly join me in a few slip-ups here and there. Some rules I've entirely forgotten how they work! Makes life fascinating, does it not? •

The Animal Rehoming Service

For further information,
please log onto

<http://www.tars.org.au/>

The Animal Rehoming
Service Inc. is a
registered charity.

Donations over \$2 are tax
deductible. (ABN: 51 275
837 567)



Re-Advertised: I'm still looking for a loving home!

Lino is a 2 year old desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 23kg male Red Heeler Cattle Dog, who's looking for a loving home.

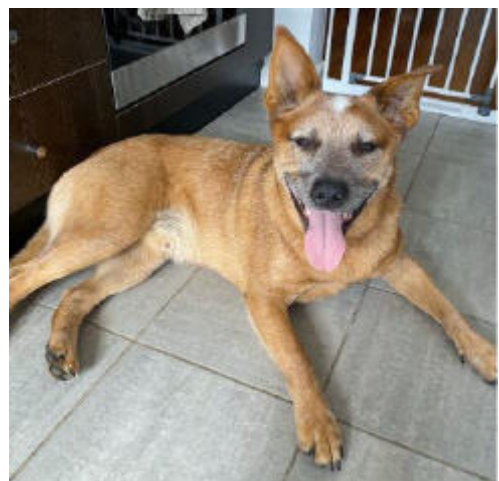
He's a very affectionate, loyal and active boy who'd love to be a treasured member of the family, receiving lots of love and affection, plus his daily walks. He'd suit an experienced and active family in an all-adult home or one with dog-savvy teenagers.

Lino's on anxiety medication and needs further socialisation as he was bitten by another dog and is now reactive towards dogs that rush at him. He's also cautious around strangers who approach him suddenly.

He should be fine with a compatible desexed dog (we always do a meet and greet, plus trial period). Otherwise a pet-free home with someone who's around during the day (ie: working from home or newly retired but active) would be great, as he loves company. Unfortunately Lino chases cats.

He enjoys an indoor/outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors. He's also crate trained.

Lino's adoption fee is \$350. Microchip Number: 953010100424003. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (South Yarra based, but we go to you).



Harley is a 5 year old, desexed, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped 32kg male Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (Toller), who's looking for a loving home. A home near the water would be fantastic!

He's a loving, well socialised and very active boy who would suit an active family, happy

to exercise him daily, either on lead or at the dog park. (He currently gets two walks a day). Harley would suit an all adult home or one with older, dog savvy children.

Harley would really love a home with another active, medium to large sized dog for company. He adores other dogs and is also good with cats. If the resident human was home during the day as well, that would be a bonus. ??

He enjoys an indoor/outdoor lifestyle, sleeping indoors. Regular brushing/ grooming would also be required.

Harley's adoption fee is \$750 Microchip Number: 991003000246790. Pet Exchange Register Source Number: RE100709. If interested, please call Michaela on 0409213131 (Mentone based, but we go to you).



Oh dear Aunty, what's happening to you?

You used to be our favourite channel, ABV2, so lovely, but it seems you've gone astray these days. Perhaps this was to be expected, considering that even in some past decades during prime children's viewing times you easily turned on the magic F word so happily in your so-called comedy skits, boring and mundane as many of them were. But perhaps they suited some quasi intellectuals who needed a dense kind of relief from otherwise higher education?

Not really laughable, was it, eh? How come you thought that parents watching were happy with that? How come you could get away with it because you thought that being the National broadcaster you were free from certain broadcast restrictions, but the commercial channels were not? Even during recent decades you could swear out loud quite happily while children were watching. No restrictions, no editing. You seemed to sneer at Australian society with your so-called righteous indignation and virtually did exactly what you liked with the English language. You played it for all it was worth, knowing full well that you could get away with it. And you did. Simply and easily.

Mostly, we as viewers, stupidly overlooked that, due to your wondrous programmes on nature and your impressive downloads from that cousin of yours, the BBC, even though the BBC was then slowly melding itself towards a far, far quasi socialist approach to life. You followed of course, how could you not? A poll of your journalists pre-21st Century showed that you were aligned almost totally with left-wing politics. No sympathy for anything else — middle of the road wasn't good enough for you, was it? You considered you were totally correct. Some dictators in history also thought that. We won't name them to save you from any embarrassment of coincidence. At the time we kind of understood your right of publishing it your way, nothing like Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way" of course, but one does wonder. And we tolerated it. You really did it your way. Were we idiots, or not? After all, you were moving with the New Age of so-called enlightenment where large protests were the rage. But then, something occurred within your ranks during the early 2000's to change the total theme of your presentation. Could it be that you had imported renegade journalists from the UK? The word 'Red' as in politics came to the fore, even though there was insufficient evidence at the time to firmly plant that on them. But we wondered about that. And now, in looking back, it seems that we were not wrong.

You cry about being misunderstood and under-funded—stomp noisily at governments, but you never own up to your over-bearing attitude that you know what is right—always. You are a law unto yourself and appear to take on investigations without first attaining certain truths. Recently, you have been found to be presenting viewers with doctored video footage of our troops in Afghanistan, when someone with your knowledge or not, added multiple rounds of fire to the video audio from a military helicopter, when it was only one warning shot to Afghans below. One of your viewers stated that this was "Sedition and treason. To intentionally seek to bring the armed forces of the Australian Government into disrepute." Yes, it comes pretty close to that, doesn't it?

And to top it all off, you are found to be racist. There is no other term to use for the way you have been treating people of colour and of other cultures within your walls—many who simply put up with it because *it's employment*. And now the cat is really out of the bag with an enquiry that is decades late—far too late for some people, like Stan Grant for instance, whose career you virtually wrecked. Dumb, dumber and even more dumber still! We picked up on your racism some time back, or didn't you notice? Obviously you never read earlier editions of CEW.

With some entirely rude exceptions, you used to be nice. There was a time when people trusted you, but that has long since gone. You have turned into a rabble of anti-this and anti-that. Some of your journalists—or whatever you may call them—no longer seem to be allied to truth, but are eager to seek out what they can when they can, regardless



of meaning. And some supporters of you, Auntie, still cling to the idea that you are faultless, that you are stainless. But there is a very large stain on you and it is growing deeper day by day. You have become the aunt similar to an ingrown toenail that turns within itself. You no longer hear or seek the wider vision of the world's history. As for the future, what have you? Do you have a future, or will you simply wither within your self-imposed closed environment, until eventually so separated from stark reality, you become like Miss Havesham in Charles Dickens' dusty world, amid the cobwebs of time within a world that has long since passed you by? Your choice! •

The ABC's racism review is scathing. Can Aunty find the strength of character to properly address it?

By Dennis Muller. Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Advancing Journalism, University of Melbourne

The Conversation: October 2, 2024 10.14am AEST



"I am writing this because no one at the ABC — whose producers invited me onto their coronation coverage as a guest — has uttered one word of public support. Not one ABC executive has publicly refuted the lies written or spoken about me. I don't hold any individual responsible; this is an institutional failure."

These words, written by [Stan Grant](#), who at the time was one of the ABC's most high-profile First Nations journalists, catalysed the ABC into commissioning a review that has now revealed systemic racism across the national broadcaster.

The review was conducted by the Indigenous law firm Terri Janke and Company. Its report, [Listen Loudly, Act Strongly](#), sets out failures of culture, management and senior leadership. Failures of culture were demonstrated by the prevalence of overt and covert racism. A First Nations staff member was asked: "How much of you is Aboriginal? Don't worry. You don't look it."

Another staff member said: *"whenever you raised [racism] with someone, you'd have to be so careful because if they got upset, you were the one who would get in trouble, you know, cause you'd be going out and upsetting the nice White people. And [they would say]: 'Don't say that. That's not what we meant. You've got it all wrong. You're so sensitive. You've overreacted.'"*

Failures of management abounded, especially in middle management, where some were good at handling issues concerning race but most were not.

One staff member said: *"there is an overall sense that managers are just not up for the job."*

Senior leadership was likewise of uneven quality, although when a staff member circumvented middle management and went right to the top, the experience was positive: *"I went to see David [managing director Anderson]. He was great. He listened. It was difficult for him."*

The more common experience was reflected in this observation: *"As an organisation, they don't understand they have a structural issue. If the Managing Director says at Senate Estimates that there isn't a problem, then middle management wouldn't think there is an issue. And we all feel like we are being gaslighted."*

Laundry list of issues:

These responses represent a small cross-section of the data in the report, derived from the testimony of 99 current staff and 21 former staff, 80 women and 30 men. Most gave their accounts in personal interviews, while others used group forums or provided written submissions. Many said they came forward because they cared about the ABC. The preponderance of women indicates there is an especially acute issue concerning what is called intersectionality, meaning the intersection of two attributes, in this case race and gender, that tend to arouse discrimination. **The report finds the most severe accounts of racism and racial discrimination described to the review team were directed towards women of colour.**



ABC Managing Director David Anderson apologised to those who've experienced racism within the organisation. ([Mick Tsikas/AAP](#)). The report canvasses not just the day-to-day interactions reflected in the comments above, but also:

- gaps in the management structure
- shortcomings in human resource management
- the incapacity of the ABC to respond effectively to external attacks on its journalists
- narrowness in recruitment
- inequitable career progression
- inadequate complaints-handling processes
- inequities in pay
- poor training of managers

A test of character

There are 15 recommendations covering all these problems and the ABC has [issued a statement](#) saying it has adopted all of them in principle. In some cases it has gone further and begun implementing them already. It has appointed a new Director, First Nations Strategy to the senior leadership team, engaged the former Race Discrimination Commissioner Chin Tan as a change agent and engaged the prominent First Nations academic, Jackie Huggins, as Elder-in-Residence to provide advice and support.

These are among a long [list of actions](#) put out by the ABC alongside the release of the report.

There are new committees, staff consolidations, reallocations of management reporting lines and the like, **but the real test is still to come: the test of courage and character that the ABC has failed so conspicuously, not just in the Grant case but in others, including the ongoing matter of [Antoinette Lattouf](#).**

Both she and Grant were victims of sustained external attacks. Recommendation four of the report addresses the ABC's demonstrated incapacity to cope with these. It says a centralised team should be set up to which staff can turn when attacked by external media organisations or individuals.

The ABC's response to this is confined to a general statement about improving its systems and processes. Considering it was a sustained external attack, led by News Corporation, on Stan Grant that led to his resignation and the setting up of the review, **it is a singularly vague and lame response.**

The pressures of diversity

An especially insightful part of the report articulates the complex challenges facing journalists from First Nations or cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. One such challenge is referred to as "cultural load". This means these journalists are not only expected to do their own stories like everyone else, but to provide contacts and cultural advice to other journalists who have come to rely on them for this kind of support rather than develop their own contacts and cultural understandings. •

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Kids Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people with concerns about relationships, family problems, sexual identity, depression and anxiety, loneliness, problems at school or work, drug and alcohol problems, self harm, bullying and e-safety including sexting concerns.

Young people aged 5 to 25 in Australia.

Kids Helpline also offers services to parents/carers and schools and teachers.

Call them on 1800 551 800 to access their phone.



Harassment of Migrant and Refugee women in the workplace

Endorsed by Melbourne University*, the 2024 report by ANROWS—Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety—has highlighted shocking harassment and sexual abuse in the workplace toward migrant and refugee women.

Behaviour by Australian co-employees—many of them men in senior positions—exploits the vulnerabilities of the overseas born person who is trying to settle into a new way of life and is unfamiliar with certain work ethics. Already struggling with the Australian culture and wanting to fit in, these women are easy targets for harassment from not only other employees, but also from the public in retail and front office situations.

The report emphasises that much workplace harassment is sexual in nature and often it is on the basis of the victim having the same religious or social background as the harasser. But in all cases, the majority of exploiters were men. “46% of the migrant and refugee women in this study had experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in the workplace in the last 5 years in Australia.” •

*Also Monash and Griffith universities.

The authors of the publication are:

PROFESSOR MARIE SEGRAVE, Professor, Monash University
 PROFESSOR REBECCA WICKES, Professor, Griffith University
 DR CHLOE KEEL Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Monash University
 DR SHIH JOO (SIRU) TAN Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Monash University

The full 169 page report may be downloaded as a PDF here:

<https://www.anrows.org.au/publication/migrant-and-refugee-women-in-australia-a-study-of-sexual-harassment-in-the-workplace/>



Image UPSC

*The human brain starts working the moment you are born
and never stops*

Until you stand up to speak in public!

**George Jessel 1898-1981
American comedian**



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Also, a walking harness — ‘Dog-A-Long’ — is available to assist your dog to become more mobile — supports dogs with hind leg problems associated with ageing, arthritis, hip & spinal problems. For suitability check with your Vet.



Mercury O'Proud Political Correspondent

If you don't watch your borders 24/7 you are in deep poo. Despite being surrounded by hostile Arab states for decades on decades, Israel somehow let their guard down on 7 Oct 2023.

Emily Harding of the *Center for Strategic and International Studies* writes: "An intelligence failure is like a plane crash: it is never just one thing that goes wrong, it is instead a series of things that add up to a disaster. Hamas pulled off a complex, multifront assault on October 7—the kind of coordinated attack that takes months to plan and execute. Moreover, tens if not hundreds of Hamas militants were involved in the combination air, land, sea, and rocket assault, suggesting that the circle of knowledge was extensive. Further, Tehran helped plan and fund the endeavour."

That Iran was behind that massacre is no longer in doubt. It seems that the main initiator of that bloodthirsty pogrom was Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas who was recently killed by Israeli soldiers. The Hamas plan had apparently been that Lebanon's terrorist group, Hezbollah, would enter Israel from the northern border at the same time and carry out much the same kind of attack as Hamas did, but for some hiccup in the scheme, Hezbollah did not act at that particular time. Included in the plan was an initiative to rouse Arabic persons living in Israel and for them to create havoc within that state, while Iran would send multiple missiles into Israel. Sinwar's plan was not fulfilled and the IDF came out on the front foot, driving Hamas back into Gaza. But it should never have happened—Israel's security and intelligence community was found wanting.

As for Hezbollah's existence, Gemma Tognini of the Centre for Independent Studies, writing in *The Weekend Australian* Oct 19-20, asks if any reader knows about UNIFIL? Well, here's a turn up for the books—it is a United Nations organisation that was established in 1978, which stands for UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, and Gemma states that 'Everything old is new again,' because UNIFIL was born due to Hezbollah's earlier terrorist activities into Israel. The UN's resolution in response was Security Council Resolution 1701, calling for an immediate Hezbollah disarmament. Most of us know by now that the UN is a joke. Hezbollah was never disarmed and has simply continued its attacks over the decades, while the Lebanese government pleads ignorance, which Tognini likens to Sgt Shultz in the situation comedy Hogan's Heroes 'I see nothing!'

And now, to that which is on everyone's mind—the American election. There are some questions to ask here, regardless of who won. Why did several hundred died-in-the-wool Republicans, including Liz Cheney, the third-highest position in the House Republican leadership—from 2019 to 2021, turn to join Kamala Harris, and why did certain died-in-the-wool Democrats such as Robert F. Kennedy Jr, turn to the Republican leader Trump? And what meaning has this for Australia's PM, Anthony Albanese? Let's take the PM first. Albanese is already on shaky ground, committing the same 'sins' as Harris did, namely, encouraging the soft elites of the country: those in the universities, left-wing academics and so on—with the exception of Elon Musk. The Australian PM seems to have forgotten where he came from: a working class background, the son of a single mother struggling to survive.

Many Australian voters will be saying 'It's the economy, stupid! Where are the wages we receive each fortnight, going?' Likewise single mothers, out of employment fathers. Stop currying favour with the elites of this country. Get back to basics. You show your contempt for the working class by buying a \$4.3 million mansion in a high income suburb, with grand views of beach and ocean, while struggling voters are living in one or two-bedroom flats at excessively high rents, with home ownership just a lost dream for generation Y—the Millennials, born 1986-1996.

Harris lost the votes of the black community and also those of Latino persuasion—in particular the second generation of immigrants. Harris had Hollywood and other celebrities in her back pocket, but that was not enough—were they so far removed from the average working American that their association with Harris was seen as negative? What did they have to offer, except for airy-fairy platitudes and idealism? The cry throughout those communities was 'We don't care if he's racist or misogynist, let him say what he likes; this is all about the economy.' But then, if America had compulsory voting such as Australia, who knows what may have occurred at the ballot box, even eight years ago? Surprise! •

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The Big Issue 721

The feature article is about Nick Cave. The rebel is still rebelling and pushing joy. Steven Mackenzie writes a four page article on ‘the Prince of Darkness,’ musing that Cave has ‘grown into an icon of gothic other-worldiness’.



It’s all about a journey—in particular since 2015 when Cave’s 15-year-old son fell off a cliff in Brighton, England, and died. In 2022 his eldest son Jethro, also died at the age of 31. So, it’s not surprising that in later years Cave has returned to church, stating that it is a refuge, providing a “structure that can contain my unbelief and belief both”.

MacKenzie writes sensitively about Cave’s soul journey through time, with Cave noting that there is a lot of rage and anger in what he perceives to be a broken world, but at the same time “shockingly, it continues to be systematically beautiful at the same time. I think that both about the world and the people in it as well”.

Christopher Payne writes an intriguing article about a pencil factory in New Jersey including photographs which show the pencils “marching in progression”. The Big Issue is particularly slanted toward young people with articles such as the above and on page 28 a story about comedian Lucinda Price who recovered from an eating disorder, and loves to talk to people about it. Another singer—Emma Russack— talks to writer and editor Doug Wallen about her new album *About the Girl*, her first solo album in five years. “A lot of my songs are about falling out of love,” she explains, “And gosh, if that’s the worst thing that has happened to me, I’m pretty lucky”.

The Big Issue includes an article on Gaming , a story on Martial Arts, film reviews, book reviews, music reviews, a cooking page with luscious looking photos, ending with a delightful page on the Magpie swooping season. Lorin Clarke writes about the colour purple with a footnote that her memoir *Would That Be Funny? Growing Up With John Clarke* is on sale now through Text Publishing.

Brisbane *Big Issue* vendor Hermione has moved to her dream job, selling the magazine on the streets and feeling happier that she has ever been. Suffering from mental health problems with her life spinning around like a top, losing jobs and finding that she would never work at a full time job again, being a *Big Issue* vendor has been good for her. Hermione’s story, *Brand New Day*, features over two pages: “If I were asked to describe how *The Big Issue* helped me in one word, I would say: *rehabilitate*. I became a lot fitter from catching buses and walking around the city with all my *Big Issue* gear . . . meeting lovely people and chatting with them improved my confidence dramatically. I was no longer going to the hospital all the time. I was healthy. I was happy. I no longer needed my walking stick. I still had disabilities, but those disabilities no longer defined me. I was working. I was participating. I was productive”.



Melbourne *Big Issue* vendor Greg has had numerous issues in his life, including a recent brain operation. Greg has just had his 70th birthday, celebrated with selling the magazine outside the shops in Elwood’s Tennyson Street. You’ll find him most days near Laird’s Pharmacy chatting to shoppers and the many friends he has made.



People who live in glass houses



Perhaps high profile senators of the Australian government need to be a little more circumspect. When senator Pauline Hanson of One Nation party took on another senator—Mehreen Faruqi of the Greens party—all hell broke loose. Faruqi sued Hanson for what she regarded as ‘the ultimate racist slur’, in that Hanson had implied via social media “pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan”.



Hanson was replying to an earlier tweet which Faruqi had written concerning the death of Queen Elizabeth II: *“Condolences to those who knew the Queen. I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples. We are reminded of the urgency of Treaty with First Nations, justice & reparations for British colonies & becoming a republic.”*

Hanson replied: *“Your attitude appalls [sic] and disgusts me. When you immigrated to Australia you took every advantage of this country. You took citizenship, bought multiple homes, and a job in a parliament. It’s clear that you’re not happy, so pack your bags and piss off back to Pakistan”.*

Faruqi presented various affidavits of her receiving abuse to the court, one of which reads in part: *“Following, and apparently as a result of the publication of the Hanson Tweet, I have received directly, or been the subject, target or intended recipient of a significant volume of abusive material (including death treats, misogynistic and racially and sexually violent content). The reason I believe that the material was published as a result of the Hanson Tweet is because, much of that material:*

- (a) refers expressly to the Hanson Tweet and/or Senator Hanson;*
- (b) uses the same language that Senator Hanson used in the Hanson Tweet; and/or*
- (c) conveys the same sentiment and/or reiterates the substance of the Hanson Tweet*

Which was followed by numerous incidences of her receiving hate mail, online and via email. Numerous pages of Faruqi’s affidavits are blacked out due to them being of a highly sensitive and abusive or utterly crude nature, but others not so intensive are shown; the writers clearly giving their names and email addresses. One, a person by the name of Robin Aspey, headed an email with ‘Subject: Nasty, spiteful, childish, insensitive and dishonest comments about Queen Elizabeth.’ Then went on with an abusive rant which read *“Dear Ms. Islamist, I read your childish, nasty comments that you cannot mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II, as she has [sic] the leader of a racist Empire. The Empire ended in 1948 with Indian independence, while Queen Elizabeth did not come to the throne until 1954. Your type are malicious, nasty and spiteful. If you think Islam is better than the achievements of Britain’s Imperial age, of which you are a beneficiary, you should jump on your Camel and f. off to Pakistan and see how women are treated there. You will probably not be allowed out of the house again, if you are not beaten daily. It saddens me greatly that Australia allows your sort to arrive there [sic], it should have remained only for sensible, nice hard working people not spiteful bitches like yourself. F. off. Sincerely Robin Aspey.”* Cruel, vindictive words which nobody would wish to receive. One person went to the trouble of sending Faruqi five pages of selected readings from the Koran and the Hadiths [later Islamic oral traditions] which they considered necessary. Not really.

Scrolling through the insults, both moderate and vile, an interesting point is that many of these comments to Faruqi are from multi-cultural/multi-ethnic people. Faruqi made it known in the trial that attacks on white people are not racist. *“It is tied to who holds the power and who has the authority to perpetrate racism and oppress people,”* Faruqi said. *“And in this country, the power of that is held by white people.”* It is an interesting observation that could well be debated in universities and indeed in the parliament. Can white folk not be racially vilified? Is the Pope Catholic? Considering that white or Caucasian people are declining the world over — with only 9%-10% of the world’s population, so maybe, just maybe, now or in the near future, someone may find themselves up before the beak on a racist charge against a white person. But don’t hold your breath on that one. Asian populations are the highest with roughly 60%—the Han Chinese dominating. So those people who are still talking the talk about white privilege, get educated. You’re living in past centuries. Bring your brain up to date.

It is difficult to ascertain the number of email and phone text abuses received by Faruqi, but court documents indicate they commence with CB2090 and end with CB2907—817 at least. That is massive for one person to receive. We are neither judge nor jury, but Hanson in hindsight may well be thinking if she left those last nine words out of her tweet, all would be well. For her, perhaps, but undoubtedly there would still be a response from the great unwashed toward Faruqi. If you put something online, in Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram or whatever, you are inviting responses. No doubt about that. So, we are then left with ‘jobs in parliament’ and ‘multiple homes’. Faruqi and Hanson are not alone on that — many senators and ministers of the Crown fall into that category.



Judge Angus Stewart found that Hanson had racially vilified Faruqi and directed that Hanson pay Faruqi's costs, which, with Hanson's costs, may or may not be around \$900,000. Hanson has said she will appeal the judgment. Hanson has previously appealed a judgment against her and won against a \$250,000 defamation case brought against her by Brian Burston, previously a senator with One Nation. Can she do it again? It can be a dangerous step to go for an appeal. If you lose, it only cements the case against you. CEW will be watching this. And now, considering that many folk of this country are interested in what their senators get up to in their private lives and what their assets are, behold, here are these two senators side by side.

Shareholdings:

Hanson: Bowen Coking coal Ltd, Seta Recycling Pty Ltd, Webjet Ltd, AMP Ltd.

Faruqi: None listed.

Family & Business Trusts:

Hanson: None listed

Faruqi: 500m2 land parcel, Lahore, Pakistan - sole owner

Port Macquarie, NSW - investment, joint owned with spouse

Beaconsfield NSW - investment, joint owned with spouse

Port Macquarie NSW - investment, joint owned with spouse

Beaconsfield NSW - investment, joint owned with spouse

Beaconsfield NSW - Place of residence, joint owned with spouse

Directorships:

Hanson: Cooe Bay (Qld) Pty. Ltd.

Faruqi: Mehreen Faruqi Consulting - sole trader (not currently trading)

Partnerships:

Hanson: Rhonda Nyquist, financial partner investment property

Faruqi: None listed

Liabilities:

Hanson: None listed

Faruqi: Co-guarantor of overdraft facility for partner's business - Commonwealth Bank

Mortgage on investment property, Port Macquarie - Commonwealth Bank (joint with spouse)

Mortgage on investment property Beaconsfield - Commonwealth Bank (joint with spouse)

Spouse/partner overdraft facility Commonwealth Bank

Spouse/partner The Senator's spouse may have other liabilities but these are not known due to Senate restrictions.

Spouse/partner Mortgage on investment property, Port Macquarie - Commonwealth Bank (joint with spouse)

Spouse/partner Mortgage on investment property, Beaconsfield - Commonwealth Bank (joint with spouse)

Savings or investment accounts:

Hanson: Savings Commonwealth, Savings Suncorp, Savings Suncorp

Faruqi: Savings account ANZ (joint with spouse)

Savings Account commonwealth Bank (joint with spouse)

Other assets:

Hanson: Media Super, Sun Super

Faruqi: Uni Super (includes Life Insurance)

Other income:

Hanson: Investment property Maitland

Faruqi: Royalties as author 'Too Migrant, too Muslim, too Loud' 2021.

Royalties as co-author of the book 'Environmental Decision-Making - Exploring Complexity and Context.'

Income from rental property, Port Macquarie NSW

Income from rental property, Beaconsfield NSW

Income from rental property Port Macquarie NSW

Income from rental property Beaconsfield NSW

OFFICE HOLDER OR DONOR (\$300 OR MORE)

Hanson: None listed

Faruqi: Donor Brisbane Writer's Festival Support Fund

Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens

Donation to Greyhound Rescue

Donor: Asylum Seekers Centre, Newtown NSW

Donor: Citizen's Own renewable Energy Network Australia (CORENA)

Donor: Sydney Writers' Festival Support Fund

Monthly tithe from Salary to the Australian Greens

Monthly tithe from Salary to the NSW Greens. •



How Fascism tried to influence America from entering World War II

They were known as the German American Bund, a large group of Fascists who revered Hitler and sought to delay or even stop the United States from entering World War II. They were more effective than

Britain's Moseley Fascists, in that their population was vast by comparison, better organised and better funded. Drawn from Americans of German descent, they were sympathetic to Hitler's methods of controlling the German people, and they were highly anti-Semitic.



German American Bund members marching through New Jersey with viewers giving the Nazi salute.

Their leader was Fritz Julius Kuhn, a naturalised American who was a survivor of World War I, decorated with the Iron Cross. Kuhn worked for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, being of similar persuasion to the owner because Henry Ford was a known anti-Semite. In his newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*, Ford published copies of *El Judio Internacional* or *The International Jew*, which relied heavily on the false data and lies contained within *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* by the Russian secret police. Ford held certain conspiracy theories that the second world war was the fault of the Jews, that the assassination of Abraham Lincoln was caused by the Jews, that

the Jews were responsible for short skirts and the jazz movement. Very much a conspiracy enthusiast.

Within such an environment Kuhn flourished, watching his anti-Semitic organisation grow rapidly. In July 1937 almost 1000 uniformed members of the Bund (or Federation) marched through the streets of New Jersey to *Seig Heil* salutes from the crowd of watchers. Two men in front of the column were carrying the Stars and Stripes flag alongside a flag bearing the Swastika, and in February 1939 Kuhn held a rally at Madison Square Garden, where approximately 20,000 followers almost filled the large indoor arena. Curiously, the rally was opened with the pledge of allegiance to America: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." And the crowd clapped and cheered joyously. But only a few minutes after Kuhn began speaking, a man rushed onto the stage intent on disruption. A handful of Kuhn's storm-troopers closed in and began to beat him until some police came to his aid. The crowd went wild with enthusiasm, with children at the rear of the stage enjoying the spectacle.

The German American Bund movement was based on similar lines of the Nazi Party in Germany, with youth camps where uniformed youths could give the *Seig Heil* salute to the Bund's Swastika and associated flags. At one summer camp on Long Island a street was even named the 'Adolf Hitler Strasse'.

Kuhn also held joint rallies with the white supremacist organisation the Ku Klux Klan, though in time the Klan would dissociate itself from the Bund. In 1940 the Klan clashed with Bund members at Camp Nordland in New Jersey. The *Australian Courier Mail* thought the incident was worth reporting on page three of their 21st of August edition. "Photographers and journalists had an uneasy time. Forty stormtroopers, of whom five dangled brass knuckles surrounded them shouting 'Heil Hitler.' Several members of the Bund carrying cameras darted in front of the journalists while others shouted 'Get their faces. We can use them.'" Six Bund followers were arrested.



The packed Madison Square Garden arena. Photo courtesy *The Atlantic*

During the years 1939-1940, The German American Bund managed to influence much of American politics to help keep the country out of the war. But Herr Hitler wasn't all that enamoured of this group, preferring to keep a low key where America was concerned. The United States had bad memories of World War I in Europe with 320,000 casualties, a heavy price to pay for many who considered it was not their war. The reluctance to become engaged in another European war was very high in American society, so president Roosevelt waited and watched on the sidelines. Even if he wished to help out, the American public wasn't interested. They'd had enough of war and a poll taken in 1939 showed that 94% were against entering another conflict. On top of that their army was reduced to only 100,000 soldiers. Some authorities considered that wasn't enough just to take on some Mexican bandits. The airforce and navy were in better condition, having been expanded since the 1920s, but all told the US was, as also Australia and New Zealand, in no way prepared for war.

Pearl Harbour changed that. The Japanese bombing of the American naval fleet in Hawaii on Sunday the 7th of December 1941 woke the whole country up with a thud and opposition to war dissipated rapidly. As Japan had joined with Germany and Italy, the possible enemy was now three-fold and re-armament began in a fevered rush. But curiously, Roosevelt had declared war only on Japan a few days later; he did not include Germany or Italy. So Britain and her commonwealth nations were still unclear as to America's intentions. They remained puzzled and disappointed. But then, to Britain's relief Germany and Italy declared war on the US four days later. No doubt the British prime minister, Winston Churchill, upon receiving this news enjoyed more than a couple of whiskies and a cigar or two that night in quiet satisfaction that at last the Americans were coming to his aid.

As for the German American Bund, it quickly dissolved with some of its members ending up in prison, including Fritz Kuhn on fraud charges. All told, it was a frightening time in American history with perhaps a far different outcome if Japan's task force commander-in-chief, Yamamoto Isoroku, had not given the order to attack Pearl Harbour. Would it have taken another two years for the US to enter the war? Or would Roosevelt and his government totally refuse to enter what they originally perceived as none of their business? In that likelihood, Europe, Russia, and its satellite countries including all the Middle East, may well have been totally swamped by the Nazi war machine, with Australia and New Zealand outgunned and unable to defend themselves from the Empire of the Sun. Certainly, an horrendous outlook. •



The man who gave so much to Australia

Reprinted from CEW 133 April 2020

Grantlee Keiza's book reads like a novel, but it is full of truths both beautiful and embarrassing. The fact is that John Monash, when young, was a bit of a scamp, which on reaching his late teens and early 20s had turned him into a philanderer. Not that he set out to do harm to any of the female sex; its just that he couldn't help himself when confronted by an attractive young lady. And those in his social surroundings certainly were of that ephemeral quality.

It is not that bystanders or historians have, by themselves, made this empirical observation — it is from the letters Monash wrote and the intimate daily diaries he kept. The man was a prolific writer. How he ever found time for that while studying and romancing, is a wonderment. His love affairs would make devils blush, even to the extent that he carried on with a married woman at one time. Did he ever consider who in time to come would read his eye-opening diaries? Perhaps he thought that after marriage he might burn them, but it is more likely that he would be too vain to do that. Because in those days he certainly was vain.

Monash p113: “Evie whispers in Monash's ear that they should have a ‘love affair’. . . Monash accepts, though he tells himself that it's ‘more for her sake than his own, for though the touch of a beautiful girl's lips is enticing to a young man, yet I cannot love two women at once’.”

But this is not so, for that is exactly what he does, while carrying on with Rosie Schild at the same time. His love affairs get him into a lot of trouble — that is plain enough to see during the early pages of the book when there are still well over 500 pages to go and more affairs to be had.

Apart from his engineering and military career, and his perchance for passionate love-making, Monash's achievements are prolific. He is an experienced bushwalker, a fine pianist, a smooth dancer, a captivating lecturer and sings beautifully; he not only writes and speaks English flawlessly, but also manages to use the German language to advantage, which of course is the language of his forebears. Mathematics, French, Latin, physics, are all too easy for him, as in 1879 for matriculation and civil service examinations he was only one of five candidates out of several hundred to pass in nine subjects. He also manages to find the time to sketch and paint.

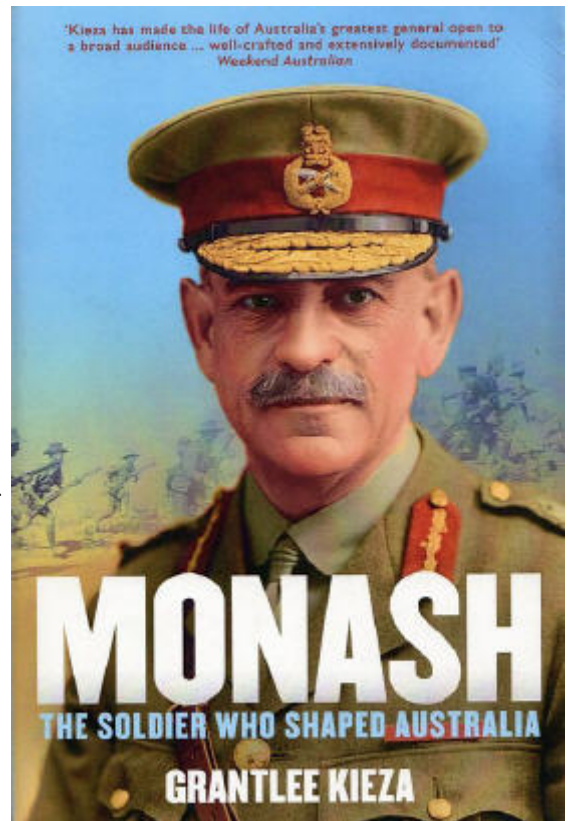
Due to his lust for life his education is suffering, even though earlier university studies have seen him at the top of his grades. The fact is, he is having far too much of a good time during the late 1880s and early 1890s. Even so, his part-time military career with the artillery at the North Melbourne garrison is going well and he is promoted to senior Subaltern or



Baby John with mother Bertha in November 1865. (Monash family collection).

Lieutenant, although he was hoping that it would be Captain. His talent for engineering has landed him good employment, and it takes an accident to jar him back to reality about his romancing and personal life. In August of 1889 he was supervising the moving of heavy stones on a bridge when a rope snapped. A huge stone crashed down inches from his head, but a mason has his hand crushed. Monash realises that if he had moved he would have been ‘finished’. His direction in life will begin to change, slowly but inevitably.

His vanity is still showing. After giving an artillery lecture, which was praised by many and excellently commented on by the new commander of the Victorian Artillery forces, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Dean Pitt, Monash says to his new girl and now fiancée, Vic, that the audience “came to scoff but remained to praise.” Vic, known as Hannah Victoria Moss, is the daughter of the then late Moton Moss, a London-born merchant, mining investor, gold broker, insurance agent and landowner. *Monash p115*: “One newspaper calls him a ruthless ‘Modern Shylock’, claiming that while most ‘Melbourne Hebrews ... are to the fore in every work of charity and mercy’ Moss is ‘almost a solitary exception’. Even so, Vic and Monash are deeply attracted to each other, though Monash feels she might be too good for him, which is really a most exceptional thought for him to be having at such a young age. Just prior to this time, his affair with the married woman, Annie, is closing down with Monash coming to an understanding — after much pain and lingering doubts — it is better for all to cut the knot. But even then, with the full realisation of what is hanging over his head, he and Annie attempt one





last try at running off together. This is foiled by Annie's husband who punches Monash in the head, severely bruising him. Annie and her husband depart for Sydney. The affair is ended for the time being.



After a tumultuous on and off engagement, Vic and Monash are married. It is a hot and cold marriage. The 1890s depression comes, businesses close, banks go bust, and numerous engineering projects are cancelled. Monash is scoring only a few days a week of work. Then on the 22nd Jan 1893 a daughter, Bertha, is born to the Monashes.

Grantlee Kieza describes what can only be an unhappy marriage until Vic finally leaves, after which the emphasis is on Monash's military career and the eventual return of his wife. Much traveling around the country for engineering works ensues, while Vic at home is steadfastly solid in her role as a social butterfly. *Monash p155*: "at the Old Scotch Collegians' Club Ball the following night at the Masonic Hall, where she looks magnificent in 'a beautiful gown of pink brocade, the shoulder straps and edge of the skirt showing a row of beaver', and with silver sequins brightening the bodice. A few weeks later she is back at the Masonic Hall, 'handsomely gowned in yellow satin with passementerie trimming', at a dance in aid of the library fund for the Jewish Literary Society." Militarily, Monash moves on, being promoted to Major in 1897.

Monash uses his law (Bachelor of Laws 1895) and oratory skills to win numerous law suits on behalf of himself and other firms, but during his engineering partnership with Anderson (Monash & Anderson), several bridges fail during and after construction — in particular one where a manager was killed. This sets Monash back finance-wise and though he manages to scrape up enough money to send his sister to London to meet her fiancée, he cannot find further funds even to send a telegram for her wedding.

But time moves on and work begins to pour in. By 1909 Monash is a Lieutenant Colonel and spends much time at Victoria Barracks. By 1914 Monash is financially settled and comes to the conclusion that if he never did another day's work he would be safe from economic pressures. Monash is alerted to the troubles beginning in the Balkans. He is now in charge of a brigade and they commence manoeuvres in the country with several thousand men. *The Age* newspaper at the time criticizes him for pushing his men too far, but the inspector-General of British Overseas Forces, Sir Ian Hamilton, praises Monash. *Monash p217* "an. . . outstanding force of character' and says he has the makings of a first-rate commander. Some of the British officers have tears in their eyes at the commitment of the Australian citizen forces."

The inevitable occurs. The so-called Black Hand gang in the Balkans assassinates the pompous Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. The Austrian-Hungarian Empire invades Serbia and as a result Russia mobilises its troops with Germany joining in support of Austria, and demanding that Russia withdraw. The die is cast with other countries entering the conflict so that eventually Germany invades Belgium. Suddenly Great Britain and Australia — indeed, the whole commonwealth — are at war with Germany.

Racism rears its ugly head. Monash is given command of the 4th Infantry Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force. *Monash pp230-231*: "Hardly before he has given an order, Monash comes under attack from the very people he has sworn to defend. A hate campaign begins and Monash blames a 'clique' that supports his old adversary Marcus McInerney. One newspaper reports that Monash's past has been 'raked over by some ecstatic patriots who have discovered that though born and bred in this country, he had German parents'. A petition is started to force the government to dump him. His enemies send letters to Pearce and Kitchener. Rumours circulate that Monash can't speak English properly; that he only got the brigade command because of the wives of Monash and Pearce are related. (They aren't). Other officers with foreign backgrounds such as Julius Bruche also come under suspicion. . . some of the mud sticks and the Military Board eventually stops commissioning officers of foreign origin. Already there is talk of establishing internment camps for enemy aliens."

By December, Monash "says his goodbyes to Vic and Bert [his sister Bertha] promising them he will be back before they know it, as the Germans are already on the run . . . Eleven trainloads of troops singing 'Australia Will Be There' make their way from Broadmeadows to Port Melbourne. . . Most have never been on a ship before; indeed, many are seeing salt water for the first time . . . He boards His Majesty's Australian transport ship *Ulysses*, a 15,000-ton cargo vessel leased by the commonwealth from the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co. It is one of 17 ships transporting Monash's men. . . Monash's three horses, Tom, Dick and Harry, are also making the voyage. . . On Christmas Day, as they sail across the Great Australian Bight, the troops dine on ham and eggs for breakfast and for dinner roast pork, plum pudding and Christmas cake. As dinner is being served, Monash walks among his troops, wishing the men a merry Christmas and a happy new year."

Monash pp251-252: Kieza writes concerning the oncoming affray on Gallipoli. "[General] Hamilton tells the Australians that before them 'lies an adventure unprecedented in modern war. . . Privately he knows Gallipoli will be taken only with an enormous loss of life. 'Death grins at my elbow,' he writes in his diary 'I cannot get him out of my thoughts. . . Only the flower of the flock will serve him now, for God has started a celestial spring cleaning, and our star is to be scrubbed bright with the blood of our bravest and our best.' "

Kieza goes on to describe various viewpoints of the landing, while Hamilton remains "safe and warm aboard the ship *Queen Elizabeth*, anchored a long way from the fighting," even to what is occurring on the other side of the front under the



leadership of Mustapha Kemal. Then they are into it, troops scrambling off row boats, over the beaches and up the hills and one of the world's greatest debacles is about to begin.

Monash is in Shrapnel Valley coming under heavy fire . . . later, his men are attacking at Pope's, Quinn's and Courtney's posts with "desperate hand-to-hand combat and liberal use of the bayonet. By late April, 300 of his men have been killed. By May, even with reinforcements, he believes the attacks are suicidal and he tries to persuade General Godley from any further direct attacks. The death toll keeps mounting, and by December it is time to admit defeat and leave. Kieza devotes 167 pages to the Gallipoli campaign, from p247 to 314, noting that Monash has performed fearlessly and intelligently, especially while serving under the command of senior officers he is not in agreement with. Compared to other commanders, Monash's troops have done very well. *Monash p309*: "On one day his No. 14 machine-gun unit takes 30 Turkish prisoners in one group . . . Monash also sends out 'listening patrols' at dusk to spy on the Turks. . . When they are near enough the Australian boys 'let them have a shower of bomb' and then go out to collect the spoils — rifles, ammunition, equipment and occasionally a wounded prisoner. . . On 6 December Birdwood travels from his headquarters on Imbros to inspect Monash's intricate tunneling system, and compliments him on what he says is now the 'admiration of the whole Peninsula.' "



Colonel Monash's headquarters, 4th Australian Infantry Brigade, at Anzac Cove. Monash is in the centre. (C.E.W. Bean/Australian War Memorial G01187.)

And so, after sunset on the 13th of December — unknown to the Turks — the miraculous evacuation of troops begins. *Monash p311*: "The Anzac garrison has been reduced from 41,000 to 26,000. Monash tells his men that under the plans put forward by Brudenell White, the 26,000 men are to hold the lines 'against at least 170,000 Turks (10 Divisions) until the second last day and on the very last day we shall have only 10,000 . . . The Anzacs continue to trickle away from Gallipoli . . . Monash plans to stay with his men until the very last, and has chosen 170 diehards . . . Each one of the diehards is presented with a card showing the exact time he is to leave. . . There is no haste, no running, 'just a steady, silent ramp in single file, without any lights or smoking.' "

Monash p314: "We had succeeded in withdrawing 45,000 men, mules, guns, stores, provisions and transport . . . without a single casualty and without allowing the enemy to entertain the slightest suspicion. It was a most brilliant conception, brilliantly organized, and brilliantly executed." Three weeks later, Cape Helles is also evacuated. *Monash p316*: "The death toll from the eight months of fighting is staggering. The Turks number their casualties from defending their homeland at 251,309, including 82,692 dead. Australia lists 8709 killed, New Zealand 2701, Britain 21,255 and France 10,000."

Monash is now a Brigadier, who leads a task force into the desert where he performs well, but by May 31 1916 he is on his way to the most strenuous and exacting time of his life — the Western Front, where he prepares for the first Battle of the Somme. *Monash pp330-333*: "Lieutenant Archibald Harvey, a Bundaberg bank clerk, shouts, 'Come on Australia', but is wounded while hacking through the wire, as is Lieutenant John Roderick, and Lieutenant Robert Julian, a Geelong ironmonger, is killed. Corporal Richard Garcia, a Melbourne farrier wearing a luminous watch Monash has given him for night fighting, is shot through the shoulder and thigh but survives. Wanliss takes a machine-gun bullet in the mouth but, wounded again in the neck, arm and stomach, he leads 25 men over the bodies of the fallen. . . Monash still believes that the war in France is 'child's play' compared with Gallipoli, but Rawlinson's 4th army suffers 57,470 casualties on the first day of fighting on the Somme. . . Monash [is promoted] to lead the 3rd Division as a major general. Not all of Monash's men are sad to see him go. . . Monash has led his men through grim times, learning to love them in their life-and-death-struggles. He is now leaving them for London to take up his new command, and in the darkest days of war he will soon be in love again."

Kieza weaves us through Monash's intense anxiety concerning his wife, Vic, and her eventual survival from a cancer operation. He sought leave from the army to be with her, but was told that was not on. Vic and Bertha had previously planned to come and see him in Egypt, but he wrote back no, that's not on, either. Too dangerous. At London he finds it more as a carnival compared to sombre Paris. And tells his family "that it is suicidal to risk a visit to England with the Germans continuing their submarine attacks and with London in the grip of Zeppelin raids as the Germans pour fire from the sky."

Monash is now 51, but slim, if not a little swarthy from continuous exposure to the sun. He reunites with Lizzie Bentwitch, whom he has not seen for six years. It is a short time of peace, relaxation, a renewal of passion and certain comforts, especially as he moves to new headquarters by the river Avon. *Monash pp338-339*: "Instead of the 4th Brigade's 6000 men, Monash now commands 20,000 equipped with 3000 horses, 4000 mules, 64 artillery guns, 192 machine-guns, 18 cars, 82 trucks and 1100 wagons. . . His men include his nephews Eric Simonson and Aubrey Moss . . . prominent Sydney barrister Edwin Brissenden, who is a corporal working as a clerk at a divisional HQ, and Professor Harold Woodruff, the Director of the Veterinary School at Melbourne University."

Kieza's description of King George V's inspection of Monash's troops 7 kilometres outside Larkhill is so brilliant, one can easily visualise the scene, with 27,000 bayonets flashing in the sun to a 'present arms'. Monash had the ear of the king for



two and a half hours with the king finalising “Well General, I heartily congratulate you. It’s a very fine division. I don’t know that I’ve seen a finer one.” Monash is invited to Buckingham Palace.

Back on the Western front during the impassable winter of 1916-1917, *Monash pp352*: “Back from the line, Monash uses electric power from the tramways to light the empty factories and mills that are used to house most of his soldiers. . . Monash establishes his battle headquarters in the basement of the school amid a maze of telephone and telegraph wires and 27 interpreters. . . By the end of the month [Jan 2017] the 3rd Division has suffered more than 600 battle casualties, but has also landed its own damaging blows by men ‘who were just magnificent’, Brudenell White tells Monash: ‘A respect for you which began in 1902 has gone on steadily increasing.’ Kieza moves us on through time as Monash now becomes the senior AIF commander on the Western Front. Death, disaster, hellfire continue. During a short interval of leave back in London, Monash continues to see Lizzie Bentwitch. *Monash p370*: “He goes shopping in Bond Street for pearls for Vic. And for Lizzie. “Monash, the man, continues to be inflamed by passion.”

The bulk of Kieza’s book is now taken up with what remains of the war in Europe. It is dedicated reading that few authors have described so graphically and with such a sensitive overlay — from pages 329 through to 546. It is when Monash, above all generals on the Western Front, becomes the one who shortens the war, is knighted, and the end of it is mainly due not only to his military experience, but to his engineering ability. The culmination of Monash’s brilliant manoeuvres and tactics which brought the war to a close are described in Kieza’s book through pages 525-530. As many have said, first an engineer, second a soldier. The fact is that his engineering experiences in Australia had imbued him with a mind that cared not for military rule books and tactics of old. He looked at battle tactics with an open engineering mind. It was that which separated him from other generals on the battlefields of WWI, many whose tactics were rooted in text book manoeuvres still stuck in the 1890s. He was as shining gold against dull sounding brass.

And so, there is much more to read after his return to Australia, up to page 619, which depicts a great man born of a great Australian nation while continuing to exert his benign intellectual influence on society and his strong exertion into commerce and public life until his early death in 1931 at the age of 66. It is fitting that he is remembered well by the society of the day, who held nothing but praise for the man who had changed his country . . . who had mounted it up among the leadership of the world. The likes of his funeral shall never be seen again — 15,000 men and women of the services marched past Parliament House with hats over their hearts while Monash’s coffin on a gun carriage stood there. *Monash p618*: “Lizzie is not invited to participate and instead watches her one true love go past on his final journey from the Windsor Hotel, weeping inconsolably with a friend’s arm around her shoulder. Above, De Havilland Moths and Westland Wapitis from the RAAF and Aero Club provide an aerial tribute. . . The gun carriage moves on down St. Kilda Road, followed by hundreds of cars and many more old Diggers on foot; they are determined to go that extra mile for their commander.”

“As Monash is laid to rest beside his wife, the ‘Last Post’ is played, followed by a 17-gun salute and the ‘Reveille’. ‘A prince and a great man has fallen,’ Rabbi Dangelow tells the mourners . . . His name will forever live in the hearts of his people.”

A short timeline of Monash’s achievements after WWI: May 1919. Received the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George from King George V. Initiated a programme called the AIF Education Scheme for 40,000 returned Diggers. Appointed Chairman of the State Electricity Commission in 1920. Qualifies as Australia’s first Doctor of Engineering from Melbourne University. Organises 5000 men (mostly returned servicemen) to take care of hoodlums and riots during the police strike of 1923. Becomes a part-time Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University 2 July 1923. Lends his car to be used by disadvantaged children. From 1924 he gives his support to the National Geographic Society, the Victorian Society for the Protection of Animals, the Big Brother movement, the Society of Australian Authors and several other societies. He begins to urge for a Shrine of Remembrance during 1927. On Armistice Day 1929, he is promoted to the rank of General.



Monash: the Man who Shaped Australia is an incredible read, factual, sensitive, eye-opener, full of romance and adventure, and an enduring legacy and endowment for an Australian man in the right place at the right time. A necessary ingredient on everyone’s bookshelf and a specific eye-opener for our millennials and younger Aussies.

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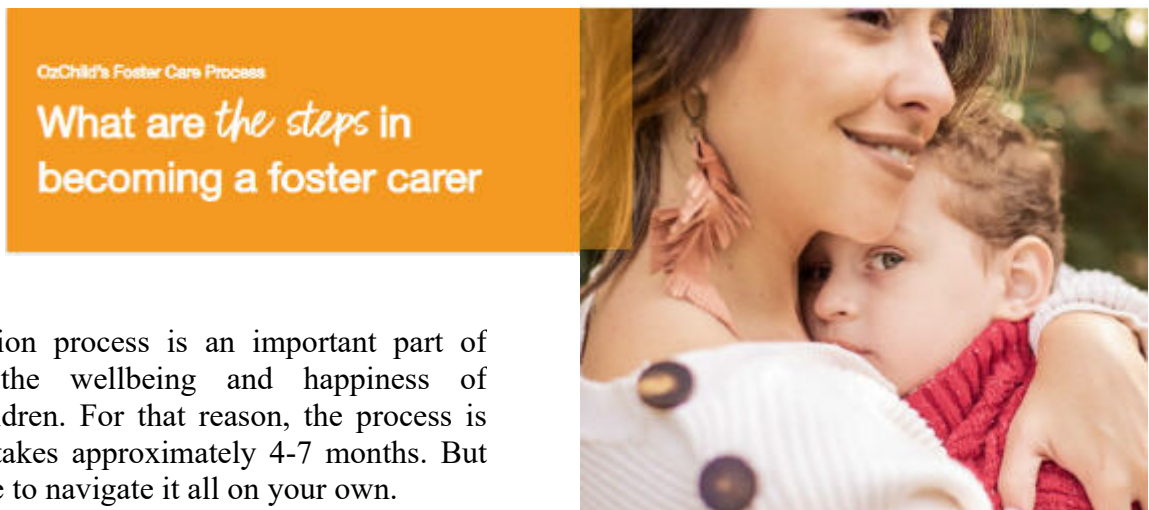
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“Don't you know Yet? It is your light that lights the World.”
Jalal ad-Din Muhammad ar-Rumi

What you may not know

Who owns Energy Australia? This company is owned by a Hong Kong based company CPL Group, which means it is managed by China. Until 2011 Energy Australia used to be managed by the NSW state government, which sold it off. Energy Australia is also known as TrueEnergy, a subsidiary of the CPL Group also known as Chinese Light & Power. With Hong Kong now but a part of mainland China under the toe of Xi Jinping, is it wise to have this company in control of electricity in Australia? •



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Letters to a young poet

On humility and patience: *“These things cannot be measured by time, a year has no meaning. To be an artist means: not to calculate and count; to grow and ripen like a tree which does not hurry the flow of its sap and stands at ease in the spring gales without fearing that no summer may follow. It will come. But it comes only to those who are patient, who are simply there in their vast, quiet tranquility, as if eternity lay before them. It is a lesson I learn every day amid hardships I am thankful for: patience is all!”*

Rainer Maria Rilke, Viareggio, Italy 23 April 1903.



Motoring Memoirs

1929 Cadillac 341B - 7 Seater



The 1929 Cadillacs were first among that breed to use chrome plating and security-plate safety glass. They were the first American cars to have synchromesh gearboxes which eliminated the need for double clutching to shift the gears.

The vehicle is considered to have been owned by Joseph Sedlecky among his stable of 15 cars used as tourist vehicles within the Blue Mountains district of New South Wales. The Caddy has an L-head V8 engine with a 341 cubic inch displacement.

This vehicle was left idle for many years and was purchased sight unseen by the present owner, Noel Klower of Williamstown, Victoria. The car is now in running order with the engine recommissioned and a new radiator fitted.

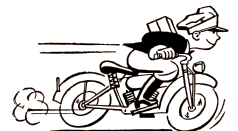


Silence. Why are you so afraid of silence, silence is the root of everything. If you spiral into its void, a hundred voices will thunder messages you long to hear. Rumi

Con Clusion



the week that was



Australian banks and big business are becoming nervous about the president elect Donald Trump's tariff wars. Unpredictable! Ukraine is worried about possible diminishing support from America under Trump. 105 fire bombings of Melbourne's tobacco stores and the Victorian government can't seem to do anything about it. China's leader Xi Jinping heaps praises on Anthony Albanese, but that's what dictators do to curry favour. Elon Musk slams Australia's social media ban. US government can't explain 21 sightings of UFO's. Victoria's state government spokesperson reveals that five out of six types of Melbourne trains will not be able to use the new Metro tunnel, which so far has cost \$14 Billion. Let's hope that's incorrect? But . . . ! Australian teenagers, Bianca Jones and Holly Bowles, died after ingesting methanol in an alcoholic drink in Laos.

