

Comment by Michael C H Jones

It is impossible to comment on all areas of modern governance, certainly in the way I have defined it methodology-wise in Observations 7. And if you do not comment then in some way you are considered to be condoning/sanctioning various moral depravities. In one of my Comments I quoted US President Obama as saying "America does not do torture" but it has under George Bush Jr and it does under Obama - and the reason is not just the US Congressional 'deadlock'.

The chatter concerning the decline of Western Civilization has been persistent during my lifetime and like the Roman Empire it will probably take hundreds of years or at least until the conclusion of the 21st century. But in this decline the question of governance based on moral standards, dare I say from a Western perspective Christian values, is central. The fibre of thinking among western peoples in their adherence to judicial norms built up over nearly three thousand years since the ancient Greeks has suffered an attrition as reflected in key democratic institutions such as the US Congress and Australian Parliament. The Party vice has crucified individual conscience in public debate.

Hence the failure to comprehend the ominous implications of Obama's drones warfare on anything classified as militantly "anti-American". The implications are that China, Russia, India, Brazil and Australia will soon be doing the same. Any challenge in their respective spheres of influence, certainly if considered a potential military threat, will be a target for drone attack with little consideration by controllers in national capitals for civilian casualties. Blindly accept the ASIO report on a foreign citizen as a security risk, politically brand them as 'terrorists' or the designation of the month, have a pleasant lunch with a good red and send in the drones that afternoon in time for the News programmes during the evening. It will certainly be good for the budget deficits.

The Israelis have been doing it for years, now so have the Americans. But watch the howling when China does it. A submarine launch off the coast of somewhere, a dozen Chinese ethnic dissidents including their wives and children dead and wounded, half a block smoldering, and the problem is solved. The fact that it will happen is certain unless a very high level American is brought to justice before the International Criminal Court. Unfortunately it looks like that maybe Barack Obama, possibly the best humanitarian of his generation. That is history.

Leadership is about leading. How do we talk to the fundamentalists of this world if we have feet of clay. Yes you often sacrifice 20,000 dead to save the army of half a million, but you do it with honour - I know a very old fashion concept. Better to lose the Presidency, Barack, then do what you are increasingly doing - at some point the slippery slope to debauchery is not changeable.

Does a man go to heaven for trying to save the world when he fails his partner and his children? Are national prerogatives more essential than global harmony? These are the questions of our age at both levels of governance.