

THE HOWARD LEGACY

- Displacement of
Traditional Australia
from the Professional and
Managerial Classes

Peter Wilkinson

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Peter Wilkinson is a scientist by training: BSc and MSc, The University of Western Australia, PhD Bristol University.. He started his career in applied research, where he published a number of scientific papers and patents. He moved into corporate planning in a large Australian company, finishing as Business Environment Manager, responsible for short term economic forecasting and identifying long term trends affecting the business. Since retirement he has published a refereed paper on professions and economic advantage. He is the editor of *The Independent Australian*, a magazine which is socially and culturally conservative and conservationist.

He is a past president of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and a past president of the Association of Professional Scientists of Australia. At one time he was president of the local high school advisory council and on an Education Department Capital Review Committee. He is a long standing member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, whose policy of zero net immigration he supports.

PREFACE

In writing this book many of my interests have come together. As a former corporate planner I retain an interest in tracking trends in society. As a scientist I am naturally inclined towards genetic and evolutionary theory for explanations of individual and group behaviour. I am in sympathy with a large group in society abandoned by the ALP. Although this book is about selective immigration, the latter comes as part of a package of high immigration policies, which I oppose as a conservationist of long standing. When a country has to put in energy guzzling, green house gas emitting, desalination plants, it has reached its natural population limit.

I am conscious that some in the Chinese community may be offended by some passages. On the other hand, the far-sighted among them will understand and privately acknowledge the validity of the concerns raised. In many ways a theme of this book is a tribute to their qualities, which have led them to becoming the dominant minority in the economy of countries, wherever they have settled. In particular individual Chinese whom I know or have met should not take personal offence. It is Government policies that are under question; who can blame people for taking advantage of those policies if they can?

Most books published on immigration policies have been written by those who promote multiculturalism, diversity of intake and high immigration. The writers propagate an ideology which has created a 'great divide' between them and the general populace¹. Opposition has been muted by the slur of xenophobia or racism; indeed there is no worse epithet than racist, except perhaps paedophilia.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey suffered for opening up a debate about the composition of the migrant intake². Others have been subjected to personal abuse for questioning the benefits of multiculturalism³. Can we today have a discussion without acrimony on issues which have long term effects on society? I hope that this book will stimulate reasoned debate and closer examination of current policies.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this book. If there are errors affecting people or institutions, I apologise. I would be grateful to be made aware of such errors, or other relevant input and suggestions, so that amendments can be made in subsequent editions - a process made easier by print-on-demand.

Approximations have been used in some cases due to lack of data. The number of Asians in university fields of education, more particularly the Chinese, has been underestimated. If there are inconsistencies, then I do not believe that they detract from the main thrust. The evidence is too overwhelming. Go to any Group of 8 university, walk around, believe your own eyes. Comprehensiveness is not claimed. If your State, or your profession, has been neglected, I hope that you will do some work on it.

A substantial part of the key data in this book was drawn from the databases of the Centre for Population and Urban Research at Monash University through a commercial contract. I would like to thank Bob Birrell and Earnest Healy, who helped clarify what was available to meet my needs, and I am indebted to Ian Dobson, who retrieved the detailed information on university students for me. The published papers of this trio and others gave me an excellent starting point, although I suspect they will not agree with some of the views expressed herein.

My thanks are also due to those people who had input via discussions. Some hold down jobs and will thank me for not mentioning their names, such is the terror and power exerted by the politically correct. I am able however to record my thanks to Denis McCormack, who in the course of assiduous proof reading made informed comment and suggestions, drawing on his research and voluminous files. He is a long established commentator and writer on immigration matters. Denis studied, taught and travelled in China for two years. He drew my attention to the four books by Chinese authors, from which I have quoted extensively. He is a life member of the ACF.

And finally my apologies to my long-suffering wife, who sees the back of my head more often than my face, as I sit so long at the computer.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

The word ‘resident’ is usually used in this book, rather than ‘citizen’. Residents have access to most Government services, such as educational facilities. Citizenship confers some extra privileges and responsibilities, such as employment in the public service, eligibility to vote and to stand for Parliament. Citizenship is not pertinent to the main themes in this book.

The term recent arrivals is used to cover those born overseas or born to parents born overseas.

Asia - excludes Middle East.

Traditional Australia is a term often used by Prime Minister John Howard. It broadly refers to a mainly Anglo-European ethnic mix with values and culture derived essentially from Christianity.

Ethnicity

PRC - People’s Republic of China, as distinct from Hong Kong. Where China is used, it means PRC&HK.

CSH - Chinese spoken in the home

CCA - claiming Chinese ancestry

Ethnic Chinese - CCA, but in analysing immigration figures the proxy of China, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia is used. This is an underestimate as ethnic Chinese from the rest of SE Asia and elsewhere far exceed the Malays from Malaysia.

O/SB - overseas born

NESB -non English speaking background

ESH - English speaking in the home

AB NESB - Australia born NESB

AB ESH - Australian born ESH

Educational Institutions

AIC - Australian International Campuses

AVCC - Australian Vice Chancellors Committee

ENTER - Equivalent National Tertiary Entry Rank

EFTSL - Equivalent Full Time Student Load

ELICOS - English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students

Go8 - Group of Eight universities, self proclaimed leaders, usually first choice of high achieving students. www.go8.edu.au. Members are: The University of Adelaide, The Australian National University, The University of Melbourne, Monash University, The University of New South Wales, The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney, The University of Western Australia.

HECS - Higher Education Contribution Scheme

ITI - Interstate Transfer Index. Used by the AVVC to present all the different state tertiary entrance rankings on a comparable basis

OBE - Outcomes Based Education

VC - Vice Chancellor

Government Departments and Reports

DEST - Department of Education, Science and Training

DIAC (DIMA) - Department of Immigration and Citizenship (formerly Department of Immigration, Multiculturalism, and Aboriginal Affairs).

EGSM - Evaluation of General Skilled Migration Categories

MOD - Migrant Occupational Demand List

SOL - Skilled Occupation List

Other

ACF - Australian Conservation Foundation

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

IELTS - International English Language Test System

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INTRODUCTION

In 1994 the acerbic Lee Kuan Yew, then Prime Minister of Singapore, forecast that Australians were destined to be the poor white trash of Asia. Today one can say that white Australians are destined to be the poor trash of Australia.

What is the enduring contribution that Prime Minister John Howard's regime has made to the future of Australia?

The scope and nature of taxation, industrial relations and so on can be changed, all in the space of a few years. There is one change that can not be reversed in less than many generations. That is demographic change.

This book is about the impact of the Coalition's selective immigration policies. In selecting skilled immigrants, those who have done a degree in Australia receive bonus points in the criteria for acceptance for residency. In effect the policy selects those Asians who have higher cognitive ability, predominantly ethnic Chinese. In the 'knowledge economy' of today a premium is paid for qualifications and cognitive ability. They and their children (who will inherit their higher intelligence) will fill the professional and managerial ranks in Australia. They will dominate the cognitive class and hence have disproportionate influence in the country. This has important ramifications for both internal and external policies as ethnic demographic change continues.

The Chinese have been described as the Jews of Asia, but they are more than that. Throughout SE Asia and Oceania they are overwhelmingly dominant in the commercial and financial fields, less successful in the professional fields, because there is often discrimination to offset their superior performance in examinations. They form the 'market dominant minority', a term used by Amy Chua (Chapter 7).

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In this book the term 'economy dominant minority' is used to describe the equivalent in advanced knowledge economies. In such nations, and in underdeveloped ones where they have the opportunity, the Chinese have moved smoothly into the professions.

Affluent established nations over the centuries have allowed in unskilled manual workers at the expense of the host countries' own cohort of people who have least economic advantage in terms of skill and/or IQ. Aggressive reaction can occur. In many underdeveloped countries where immigrants, who have above average commercial and cognitive ability, have been introduced, usually by a colonial/commercial power, violent reaction has occurred frequently and continues to do so.

Under John Howard Australia has become the first ethnic European nation to openly invite in distinct ethnic groups to provide the skills required in today's knowledge economy. The need arises because governments have not been prepared to provide the necessary finance and motivation to sufficiently educate our own children. They have allowed ideologues in the education system to persuade parents and children that achieving certain skill levels does not matter. Recent arrivals are not fooled, they exploit existing Australian human and physical capital at the expense of the long standing Australian families in our schools and universities. The intergenerational transfer which has been an integral part of our society has been denied to many long established families without them realising it.

How has this come about when Prime Minister Howard has been stigmatised as 'racist' by the multicultural/left lobbies? There are no reports of groups participating in a 'grand plan'¹ to introduce a dominant ethnic minority.

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It seems to have happened through the combination of a number of Government policies, at both the Federal and State levels. Maybe the need for Howard to hold on to his own seat is a contributing factor. Significant changes in selective immigration policies happened over the period when Philip Ruddock, another hate figure of the Left over immigration matters, was the Minister responsible for immigration (1996 to 2003). Ruddock consistently opposed having a population plan. It is difficult to believe that Ruddock and the highest levels of DIMA were not aware of the implications described in this book.

Political correctness has meant that these topics are rarely raised². Silence on the issue occurs because key players such as the universities, and increasingly the schools, are financially locked in. Few staff raise the question because they will be censured or sacked, since cries of discrimination/xenophobia/racism will be raised, leading to the fear that foreign enrolments will fall creating financial disaster for their institution.

After only five years of the selective immigration policies the results are apparent. In the 18 selective schools in NSW, 12 have more than 50% non-English speaking background, one over 90%. At the UNSW, students who are recent arrivals, Asian or Chinese, are 52%, 44% and 35% respectively. With recently announced increasing immigration and higher skilled quotas this disproportionately high overrepresentation will accelerate throughout the entire education system. It is true that signs of a significant number of Chinese were moving into the cognitive class before the Coalition took office, largely as a result of the Hawke decisions to allow students to stay after the Tiananmen massacre.

But now it is a flood.

INTRODUCTION

Australian politics has a set of largely unspoken bi-partisan beliefs and policy directions whereby:

- We believe that our own citizens do not have sufficient innate ability to make Australia a prosperous knowledge economy, so we need immigrants of high cognitive ability.
- We can skimp on educating our own children and compensate by bringing in immigrants with the advanced education which is necessary for the knowledge economy.
- Even better, they must pay for that education in Australia, so that the government can cut grants to the universities for educating Australians.
- We are comfortable with letting the children of recently arrived immigrants have unfettered access to our premium schools and universities, displacing children of long standing Australians from the prestige universities and the lucrative professions.
- We are not concerned that universities discriminate against Australian students by lowering the standard for overseas students, who can then apply for a visa on the basis of the conceded pass.
- We are comfortable with introducing an economy dominant ethnic minority at the expense of long established families.
- We are not concerned that the combination of the economy dominant Chinese and increasing trade pressures will place Australia under the influence of super-power China rather than the USA.

The ALP has a policy to further discriminate against Australians. They would not allow them to enter fee-paying courses leading to prestige and lucrative courses, while overseas students would be free to do so and then apply for residency.

INTRODUCTION

These are issues which need to be discussed prior to the election. We are already at a stage where the Chinese community is influencing immigration policy. In the seats of Bennelong (Prime Minister John Howard) and Watson (Shadow Minister for Immigration, Tony Burke) nearly one-fifth claim Chinese ancestry. Indeed, with less than one-third of his constituents speaking English at home, Burke is better styled the ALP Shadow Minister for Immigrants.

The crucial hold that the ethnic Chinese have over Howard in Bennelong means that the Coalition is unlikely to proclaim any changes. Indeed Howard has promised his Chinese constituents more of the same (see Chapter 12). Burke has no option but to remain silent, which is in keeping with the ALP strategy of bipartisan-ship on major issues leading up to the election. Kevin Rudd spent time in China, is a noted sinophile, Mandarin speaker. Is Rudd the Manchurian candidate³ to lead us under the Chinese sphere of influence?