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sheeting causing mesothelioma, alarming levels of renal failure from unsanitary water consumption, world record rates of rheumatic heart disease, liberal white governments choose to ignore these issues as non-existent. Therefore, there is a correlation between sentiments expressed by national leaders and their attitudes towards the "other", despite a thin veneer of justification.

I am regularly shocked by the similarity of white supremacy of former South African apartheid and the compliance and defensiveness of successive Australian generations. In a white-dominated world, no international opprobrium, no indignant boycotts of black-slave-labour beef, grossly unfair mining profits in indigenous-owned land, disturbs the surface of the "clever" country that Australia has become.

AUSTRALIA'S THIRD WORLD WITHIN ITS BORDERS

Have you noticed that mainstream society in the Australian outpost of the developed world has always been encouraged to largely repose in the comfort of its little environmental bubble, ignoring the rest of the developing world from where many of its migrants come? Political rhetoric consistently attempts to reinforce that what they think counts as universal value.

Anger triggered by such events or perceived threats bring such prejudices to the surface. This explains incidents of racial vilification, personal attacks, subtle undermining of work colleagues, rejection from "in groups" or innuendo aimed at demoralising members of the target groups. It is no wonder

only manifest in social settings as earlier discussed, but across the spectrum of national policies and procedures, international relationships and media coverage of human-interest events.

With preventable diseases decimating indigenous populations, asbestos in roof-

Now we are at the threshold of a new era of a world order not necessarily determined by interests of globalisation, rampant unopposed power and visions of an ideal world according to the whims of leaders in desperate economic circumstances, but of an awakening of ordinary peoples, to the generations of exploitation that preceded this era. Our modern gladiators of the world arena were used to playing out their fantasies with no regard for the will of the vast majority. It would seem that the hard fought and honourable ideals of civilisation might still carry some hope.



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"Australians" therefore comfortably occupy the moral high ground while confidently expressing their own values as universal values. This is sometimes exemplified in action consequent to leaders' attitudes towards the directions the world is heading, in terms of geopolitics. Popular media coverage of major issues such as Syria and despotic tyrannies signifies the unexamined assumptions and biases that are in operation.

der then, that Australia's indigenous people have the lowest life expectancy rates of any people, while the country is considered to be one of the richest on Earth.

Sometimes, racism and religious or ethnic intolerance operates in insidious ways, through in-built assumptions and taken for granted practices. Many Australians still identify with their English cousins and transcontinental friends in the United States in preference to their compatriots with origins in Asia or Africa. Verbal intimidation is commonly practiced, as that is one area that a migrant is vulnerable. The delay in articulation of responses awards the win to the aggressor.

The Chinese, traditionally known as the yellow peril followed a century of attempts to exterminate the oldest and most versatile indigenous peoples: the first Australians. In the eyes of White Australians they do not exist. Their simple but sophisticated care of a harsh and unforgiving land is of no interest to the commercially indoctrinated. Today, the survivors of a campaign against forced attrition are a shaming national secret ignored by the popular media.

It is common for many of us to consider a "different" person as an "other". Collective identities in Asia and Africa are usually not based on skin colour but religion, tribal membership or ethnic belonging. Therefore ethnic prejudices are more communal and are the equivalent of racism in the West.

The media personalities, with a few exceptions, wield tremendous power in forming public opinion, while effectively varnishing and lending very out of context spin to world events and attitudes of the powerful. In effect and in design, there is a "conspiracy" of protection afforded by the network of the mainly Anglo-American supported and sometimes sponsored corporate entities.

It is offensive when used derisively among a circle of like-minded people, or expressed as abusive epithet, and directed at someone who understands the meaning and significance of it. Whatever excuses are forwarded later, they are not mere aberrations, but genuine expressions of gut-feeling. Hate speech or activity erupts, for example when a person is intoxicated, angry or emotional and inhibitions are down. Lame explanations of frustration or fatigue and the like, are mere tools of damage control.

It is irrefutable that most of us have some prejudices as well as aesthetic preferences formed by value systems, upbringing, cultural and religious backgrounds etc. Some of the resultant biases lie at the depth of our conscience and work in a subterranean manner. They manifest themselves only in specific contexts and situations, such as during significant loss of life or property like in Japan, threat of defeat at the World Cricket Cup etc.

The world has seen many decades of such infringements of human codes of behaviour in the so-called civilised world. They not

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මෙන්න අද ප්‍රශ්න

මේ දිනවල නිල සංචාර හා නිල නොවන සංචාර ලෙස බොහෝ මැති ඇමතිවරු ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාවට පැමිණෙන්නේ ඇයි?

- 1 ලංකාවට ඇති ආදරය නිසා ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාවෙන් රටේ සංවර්ධනයට යමක් ලබා ගැනීම
- 2 බෝට්ටු වලින් එන අතරයර සංක්‍රමණිකයින් නැවැත්වීමට මෙවැනි ඇතිවීමට ආධාර කිරීමට
- 3 කැඩිපෙන් අධිපති පැකර් හමුවී කුටීරය ගැන කතා කිරීමට
- 4 පැකර් මහතා හමුවී කැඩිපෙන් ලංකාවට එන යයි කීමට

ජනතා ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කණ්ඩායමේ වලින් රටේ විකුමසිංහ මහතාට වඩාත් හැඳුණ හඳුන්වාදීම කුමක්ද?

- 1 ජාතියට බන් දුන් පියා
- 2 ජාතියට නිදහස දුන් පියා
- 3 නිසට නිවනක් දුන් පියා
- 4 ජාතියට කැඩිපෙන් දුන් පියා
- 5 ආණ්ඩුවේ පිටට පහළ වූ පියා

දුමින්ද සිල්වා මන්දිරිකුමාර නැවත මහතය ලැබුණොත් ඔහු කුමක් කරනු ඇද්ද?

- 1 පැවර්ධනපුර ඉස්පිරිතාලේ බිල ගෙවනු ඇත
- 2 අන්තර්ජාලීය සේවාව සැපයීමට ගනු ඇත
- 3 ගිරිනිකාට බයේ හැරගෙන ඇත
- 4 මහතය ලැබුණ බව කිසිවකුට නොකියා සිටිනු ඇත

පසුගිය පළාත් සභා මැතිවරණයෙන් ජනතා විමුක්ති පෙරමුණ අන්ත පරාජයක් ලැබුවේ කුමක් නිසාද?

- 1 විප්ලවය සඳහා වාස්තවික තත්ව නවම පහළ වී නැති නිසා
- 2 විමුක්ති විරෝධය සහෝදරයා ගැන නිසා
- 3 සේමවැස මහත්තයා රැස්වීමේ වල කතා කළ නිසා
- 4 ජනතාව දුන් බුද්ධිමත් නිසා

අවවාදයයි

නිරෝධී පිලිතුරු සොයාගත්තොත් ළඟම යහලුවාට පමණක් කියන්න

ප්‍රශ්න පත්තරේ ලිවීමේ මද්ද පුතා