

Sovereignty

a message to whitefellas

From the Tent Embassy Blak Sovereignty confronts Australia's parliament in giant letters. It tells whitefellas what unceded land means to First Peoples. It speaks of land rights and self-determination, of just treaties, of reparations and reckonings.

Yet, sovereignty doesn't exist in any First Peoples' language. It arose to justify capitalism's overthrow of feudalism.

First Peoples needed no sovereignty, to 'justify' laws, courts, jails, armies or police to suppress others, because they ruled no one. They had lore and ceremony to thrive for vast ages in ever-changing lands.

Until British invasion and its brutality born from capitalism. But from World War Two, US imperialism gradually, systematically took control in so-called sovereign Australia.

US corporations now holds what Lenin called 'the commanding heights of the economy'. Australia's military is part of the US war machine. Its culture bombards us. Our politicians dance to every US tune. Even Gina and Twiggy are dwarfed by its immense power. They accept and collaborate with its dominance.

Alone, First Peoples cannot defeat it. Nor can their greatest potential ally, the working class. Sovereignty in their united hands, and in the hands of other allies, becomes a weapon against a common enemy.



It speaks of liberation, of independence. And it speaks of socialism.

Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)
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No battle where it suits our enemy



First Peoples' guerilla war lasted 150 years against the world's strongest economic, scientific and military power. How? First Peoples almost never fought on ground their enemy chose.

After one attack in Sydney, they disappeared into sunset's blinding light, where no amount of 18th century firepower could make them visible. That pattern, to strike where the enemy was weak and First Peoples were strong, was repeated again and again across the continent.

Despite hopes, the referendum did the opposite. Parliament decided the question and process. The vote on First Peoples' lives was handed to non-Indigenous people. This was ground the enemy dominated.

Melinda Cilento epitomises this. She was a Business Council leader, co-chaired Reconciliation Australia (RA), which founded Recognise. **At the same time, for ten years, she was a Woodside director as it thieved and destroyed First Peoples' lands and water.** The Business Council funded RA and dominated Recognise. It supported the referendum over a ruling class constitution. More far-right corporations then backed Dutton, Price and Mundine. **Never fight on their terms again!**



“The tap root of invasion is based on four principles, asserted to this day. It says to First Peoples:

You are not who you say you are.

You don't belong here.

This is not your land.

You must be like us.

Decolonisation reaffirms who we are and where we belong. It places us in our country. It affirms our identity."

Kuku Yalanji man John Hartley

‘Failed state’ or another witch-hunt?

Abbott and Howard say the NT is a failed state. But they and Labor caused the devastation. False claims of paedophile rings run by male Elders was the excuse for the 15-year NT Intervention. Really, it was a land and water grab for mining and gas. It humiliated Aboriginal men and crushed First Peoples’ hard-won rights. By every measure it destroyed lives.

Now ‘Sovereign Citizens’ claim missing Aboriginal children are imprisoned by paedophiles in tunnels under old parliament house. They back Jacinta Nampijinpa Price’s demand for a royal commission into child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities. It’s another witch-hunt. We can defeat it.

Goonininup and Cockatoo, two battlegrounds

In 1989, Nyungah occupied sacred Goonininup, WA’s Swan Brewery site while Sydney workers occupied Cockatoo Island Dockyard. Representing Goonininup, union leader Yaluritja Clarrie Isaacs stayed on Cockatoo. The Land Rights flag he gave workers flew alongside the Eureka flag from the Titan crane till the occupation’s end. Two battlegrounds, four thousand km apart, symbolise working class and First Peoples’ unity. Yaluritja embodies it.



Stop harming kids!

Dutton, Mundine and Price attacked Yes campaigners and teacher unions for doing nothing about low Indigenous school attendance rates. They blame First Peoples for “irresponsibility”. They attack culture. The trio demands English-only teaching, plus cuts to family welfare if kids don’t go to school. Just like in the Labor supported-NT Intervention.

- Culture and language alongside English in schools
- Support students and families
- Listen to First Peoples’ teachers and unionists, elders and young people not politicians and media personalities
- Reverse cuts to remote schools and increase state school funding
- Don’t spread abusive policies!

Palestine

When First Peoples stand for Palestine, they affirm life. They stand against common enemies – US imperialism and its proxies, in Palestine and here. First Peoples and Palestinians will never give up.

Close US-controlled Pine Gap, on Arrernte land. It guides Israeli drones. No export of Australian made weapons and drones to Israel. USA, if you “want peace,” stop exporting missiles.