



# Vanguard

For an Independent and Socialist Australia

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Vanguard expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist)

## May Day: Australian independence and independent working-class action

By Nick G. & Alice M.

We firmly stand in solidarity with the peoples of the world fighting to free themselves from colonialism, imperialism and capitalism, along the road to socialism.

On May Day 2026, our focus in Australia is on fighting for independence as a nation and for independent working class agenda. They are interlinked.

Australian workers and working people need our country to be free from US imperialist domination accepted and upheld by Labor and parliament. They must be free to put demands and take actions independent of Labor and parliamentary parties.

Australia's working class and working people have seen and will see no meaningful changes from a federal Labor government returned last May with a landslide victory. Having faith in a Labor government, and relying on it to defend workers, has worn thin for many of us.

As working people, we must build our organisations at a community and workplace level around independent working class demands and actions that



go beyond grovelling to big business and servicing the big end of town and multinational corporations.

Why aren't the rich being compelled to pay more – or in some cases, pay anything – to alleviate our cost-of-living crisis: housing, power, transport; workers' wages to pay for rising food prices, transport costs, our children's education and sky rocketing health costs?

How is it that there are still some 300 of the largest companies in Australia – many from overseas – that pay no tax on their Australian earnings at a time of record high profits created by workers' labour?

How is it that the wealth of this country is stolen by big business and multinational corporations, the most powerful section of the capitalist ruling class?

How is it that our natural resources (gas, oil, minerals) are in the hands of overseas and local big business monopolies (Chevron, Exxon-Mobil, BHP) and allowed to export our cheap gas for processing and then importing the processed product back at a higher price to consumers with the mega profits collected by the gas monopolies? Corporations often use extortion to suppress and cut workers' wages and dictate to governments and parliament.

How is it that Business Council of Australia representing the top 100 companies in Australia, many from overseas, holds so much power and influence over governments and parliament.?

How is it that a Labor government has committed

\$368 billion over 30 years for a handful of nuclear-powered submarines that will inevitably be operated to serve our dangerous "Alliance partner", the United States, locking us into never ending US imperialist wars?

Averaged out over those 30 years, that is \$30 million *per day* that we are depriving of our hospitals, our ambulance services, maintenance and improvement to our rural roads, our schools, child care, aged care, increasing job seekers' payments for the unemployed and living payments to those whose jobs have been closed down or are further threatened by AI.

And that is why workers need independence from both imperialist domination of this country and from being told by Labor that we can only achieve things through parliament.

That is why workers and working people need an independent and self-reliant Australia in workers' hands.

Yes, we have formal independence which we celebrate with every gold medal won at the Olympics, presented under the nation's

Continued on Page 2

## The Ever-Increasing Foreign Ownership of Australian Agriculture

By Duncan B.

**The foreign takeover of Australia's farmland, water and the supply chain linking farmers to consumers continues.**

The Register of Foreign Ownership of Australian Assets report for 2024-25 shows that the total area of land in Australia with a component of foreign control increased in the past year from 49.12 million to 50.26 million hectares as at June 30 last year.

This is an increase from 12.7% of foreign-controlled land in 2023-24 to 13% in 2024-25.

(Much of the land is leased from state or territory governments.)

The Northern Territory has the highest proportion of foreign-controlled land with 14.75 million ha or 27.8%. Tasmania comes next with 362,000 ha or 24%.

The UK, China, Canada and the US are the four biggest holders of land in Australia, although Canada has the biggest share of investments in Australian agriculture measured by value.



Agriculture is an attractive investment for foreign companies (Photo supplied)

### Water

The story is the same with water. Foreign ownership of Australian water entitlements in 2024-25 increased to over 5000GL, about 13% of the total.

Canada, US, UK and China are the four biggest holders of Australian water..

### Dairy processing

The supply chain which moves agricultural products from the farm gate to the consumer is also heavily foreign dominated.

The dairy processing industry recently saw even greater concentration of ownership in foreign hands with the sale by NZ Fonterra of its Australian operations to French-owned Lactalis.

This leaves Lactalis and the Canadian-owned Saputo as the two major foreign

players in Australian dairy processing.

Bega, Norco and Bulla, plus some smaller operators are still Australian-owned.

### Meat

The meat industry in Australia is dominated by Brazilian-owned JBS, and Teys Australia which is owned by the US company Cargill.

Other foreign-owned companies are Chinese-owned Kilcoy Global Foods, Japan-owned NH Foods Australia, Bindaree Food Group which is 51% Hong Kong owned and Minerva Foods Australia/Australian Lamb Company which is a joint venture between Brazil-owned Minerva and Saudi Agriculture and Livestock Investment Company.

### Feedlots

JBS and Cargill also control a large slice of Australia's beef feedlots where cattle are fed on grain instead of grazing in paddocks.

JBS leases extensive feedlot operations from Australian company Rural Funds Group.

Teyes Australia has its own feedlots in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

The Japanese company NH Foods Australia also has its own feedlots in Australia.

Having their own feedlots enables the meat companies to secure their supply of cattle, manage risk and tighten their hold on the market through vertical integration.

Other foreign companies have interests in various areas of Australian agriculture such as Canadian-owned PSP's investments in cotton farms and the cotton gins where the cotton is processed.

Australian workers, whether in the cities or the country, and farmers must unite to oppose the continuing take-over of Australia's agriculture by foreign companies.

**May Day** continued ... flag to the sound of the nation's anthem.

However, Australia is enmeshed in a diplomatic, military, economic and cultural web that strips us of our sovereignty and ties us to the dominant constructor of that web, namely, US imperialism.

Thus, we have a Labor Party that is subject in its

loyalty to the US Empire, a loyalty that even the traditional loyalists in the Liberal and National parties struggle to match.

Australia can and must break out of the US-Australia "Alliance", stop being a loyal US deputy sheriff following the incompetent, incoherent and bullying leadership of the US, and instead develop ties

of peace and friendship with the world's people.

That is why we call on May Day for genuine anti-imperialist independence for our nation, and for genuine independent socialist demands and actions for our class.

**Long live the fighting tradition of May Day!**

## Unite against Imperialist war

By Alice M.

US imperialism is in economic decline, desperately lashing out in all directions to hold its control of the world. For past nearly 80 years, since WW2, the US dominated the world economically, politically, militarily and culturally.

Its economic and political tentacles reached into every corner of the world. It interfered and engineered countless military and political coups and imposed economic sanctions on countries refusing to bow to its demands.

Its spies and political agents have been embedded in governments, public and private institutions, think tanks, universities and some peak trade unions, in most countries around the world.

It set up over 800 military bases and stationing tens of thousands of American troops across the world.

Since WW2 US imperialism has invaded, initiated and started countless wars and military conflicts.

This US global economic hegemony is now being challenged by a rapidly rising China threatening to overtake it as the main global power. Just as the US had replaced the British colonial/imperialist empire after WW2.

This is what's driving the US monopoly capitalist class and its government into a desperate frenzy, exposing the naked face of ruthless and brutal capitalism.

US decline and inter-imperialist rivalry pushing

towards war is behind regional wars and threatens a global war.

This is monopoly capitalism, as Lenin points out in his seminal work, "Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism."

Imperialist powers rely on a comprador capitalist class which is dependent on and serving imperialism.

In Australia, the two main parliamentary parties serve this local comprador capitalist class. Minerals, weapons manufacturing, the financial institutions, the core of Australia's capitalism – are owned or dependent on US capital for their survival

At a time of worldwide condemnation of US imperialism, the Labor government continues to sing accolades glorifying the US empire and its global imperialist rules-based order that coerces, oppresses, invades, occupies and bombs millions out of existence.

Without a blink it's handing over \$30 million a day of people's taxes on war mongering AUKUS that will lock Australia into an imperialist war.

Workers and working people are already paying with cuts to services, health care, education and people's needs.

US imperialism is exposing itself to more peoples of the world who now take the side of the oppressed and the exploited.

**Mobilise and unite to scrap AUKUS, break the US alliance.**

## Editorial

### Trump, product of a decaying empire

**US imperialism will outlast Trump, but like him, will be despised in our memories as vile, cruel, decadent and greedy.**

Trump, in his arrogance, will only hasten the demise of US imperialism, by the reckless use of American military force and bullying threats and ultimatums to friends and foes alike.

Attacks on Venezuela, Iran, and threats against Cuba, even Greenland, have unsettled old alliances, divided allies.

The burden of permanent war falls on the American working people and working class families.

Meanwhile, potential challenger China keeps its powder dry.

Always surrounding himself with an obsequious audience, Trump raves and rambles, likely to pick on any so-called ally, or especially someone 'neutral', even the Pope. Unless they fawn over him, Trump takes an instant dislike!

The Canadian Prime Minister Carney stood up to Trump to some extent, and has now registered greater support from the Canadian people in recent elections.

Prime Minister Albanese, however, is in the camp of those timidly waiting for Trump to be replaced by a new President.

Is this a safe bet, Albo? In the meantime, how far will you go to keep Trump happy? More US bases? More nuclear weapons? Cop more tariffs?

Given the mentality of neo-fascist fanatics like Hegseth and Vance, Presidential elections could be delayed, restricted or even cancelled in the name of a "national emergency", keeping Trump in power indefinitely or paving the way for his mates.

Already the ICE raids have heralded a more repressive use of force at the domestic level.

Nevertheless, more and more decent American people are coming out to organise and protest, to build networks, and to stand together against the creeping fascism.

We hail their courage and offer our messages of solidarity in the struggles ahead.

**Workers and working people will end the US domination, take control and run the country to benefit the people rather than the parasites.**

# Marxism Today

## Who Owns Australia?

by Duncan B. & Alex M.

**Vast sectors of Australia's industry, finance, infrastructure, and land are now directly or indirectly controlled by overseas capital.**

Below is a snapshot of the contemporary situation, culled from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Reserve Bank analysis and Richardson and Campbell's investigative work for the Australia Institute. A more extensive piece updating the Party's 2018 pamphlet *Who Owns Australia: Exposing the Multinationals* is forthcoming. Duncan B and myself acknowledge the prior contributions by a diligent comrade in the production of this article.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2024), the total stock of foreign investment in Australia reached A\$4.6 trillion in 2023. This immense capital presence is divided primarily into two forms: A\$1.4 trillion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and A\$3.3 trillion in Portfolio Investment, including shares and debt securities. These two forms represent different mechanisms of control. FDI is often linked to corporate expansion or state-linked enterprises (e.g. China's SOEs, Singapore's Temasek), while portfolio investment reflects the reach of global finance capital, particularly large asset managers like BlackRock and Vanguard.

The composition of foreign investment highlights strategic alliances and entrenched financial hierarchies. Despite dominating political discourse, China contributes only 1.8% of total foreign investment. In contrast, the United States and United Kingdom together account for over 39.7% of the total, underscoring the dominance of Anglo-American capital. According to ABS (2025), the top six investor nations in Australia include the U.S., U.K., Japan, China, Canada, and Singapore, with sectoral strengths ranging from mining and finance to logistics and energy.

Country	A\$bn	% of total Foreign	Key Sectors
USA	1,044	21.0	Finance Mining
UK	934	18.7	Finance Mining
Japan	264	5.3	Energy Auto
China	91	1.8	Lithium Realestate
Canada	89	1.7	Utilities
Singapore	85	1.7	Logistics

(Source: ABS International Investment Position 2024)

Foreign investors exert enormous influence over Australia's largest publicly listed companies. ASX and ATO data show that over 70% of shares on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) are foreign-owned. Asset management giants such as BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street hold positions in nearly all ASX200 companies. Their holdings include 5–7% in major mining firms like BHP and Rio Tinto, 4–5% in each of the Big Four banks, and substantial stakes in utility and infrastructure companies. Sovereign wealth and pension funds, such as Canada's CPPIB and Singapore's GIC, also feature prominently in strategic sectors such as healthcare and infrastructure.

For example, the Commonwealth Bank's shareholder data reveals that 61% of its shares and voting rights are held by nominee companies, such as HSBC Custody Nominees (22%) and JP Morgan Nominees (14%), that are typically acting on behalf of foreign institutions. This stands in contrast to the bank's public claim of being 78% Australian-owned (Richardson & Campbell, 2023).

Name	% shares, voting power
HSBC	22%
JP Morgan Nominees	14%
Citicorp Nominees P/L	6%
Blackrock Group	6%
State Street Corporation	5%
Vanguard Group	5%
BNP Paribas Noms P/L	#%

(Source: Richardson & Campbell, 2023)

Similarly, Bloomberg data shows that foreign ownership of Australia's ten largest listed companies is extensive. BHP and Rio Tinto are over 94% foreign-owned, while the Commonwealth Bank, NAB, and Westpac all show foreign ownership levels above 80%. This pattern of concentration means that strategic decisions around resources, pricing, employment, and capital allocation are increasingly made offshore.

Company	\$bn	% Foreign
BHP Group	252	94
Rio Tinto	182	95
CBA	161	80
CSL	124	86
NAB	93	82
Block Inc.	79	27
Westpac	77	84
ANZ	70	75
Macquarie Gp	69	75
Fortesque	59	89

(Source: Richardson & Campbell 2023)

Foreign control extends beyond financial assets to include direct ownership of Australia's physical infrastructure and land.

Canadian pension funds (CPPIB and Brookfield) and U.S. private equity firms own substantial stakes in toll roads, ports, utilities, and other critical infrastructure. This gives foreign capital significant influence over essential services and national development priorities.

In agriculture, foreign entities own 13% of Australian farmland, with just ten corporate entities controlling half of all foreign-held agricultural land. Meanwhile, foreign firms own over 30% of commercial office space in Australian central business districts, according to the Reserve Bank of Australia (2023).

The Canadian Pension Fund PSP Investments has Australian agricultural holdings valued at \$8.5 billion. These investments are in a wide variety of types of farming including cropping, livestock, horticulture, vineyards, cotton and nuts across many different parts of Australia. Other US and Canadian pension funds also have billions of dollars invested in Australian agriculture. The largely foreign-owned Macquarie Bank is the second-largest investor in Australian agriculture, with investments worth \$4 billion in Australian agriculture.

The Costa Group, one of Australia's largest horticultural producers, was acquired in 2023 by US-based private equity firm Paine Schwartz, reflecting a growing trend of foreign capital dominance in food systems.

JBS, a Brazilian agribusiness conglomerate, is now the largest meat processor in Australia, while Teys Australia the second largest is now owned by Cargill, the largest privately held company in America.

GrainCorp, controlling substantial grain storage and logistics infrastructure, is majority-owned by institutional investors, including Australian super funds.

Additionally, the commodification of water rights, enabled by neoliberal reforms to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, has transformed water access into a speculative market. Hedge funds, agribusinesses, and even super funds now trade water entitlements, often hoarding or leasing them at inflated prices.

Foreign companies control 12% of Australia's water rights. Canada's PSP Investments is the largest foreign owner of our water, followed by US and British investors.

In this landscape, agriculture has shifted from its foundational role in food production to a prime site for capital accumulation. Ownership and control over land, water, logistics, and labour have been consolidated in the hands of financial actors, while rural communities and farm workers are increasingly marginalised.

### **What does this mean for Australian sovereignty and the Australian working class?**

Australia's economy has been structurally reshaped to serve as an extractive periphery, supplying raw materials

(e.g., iron ore, coal) and financial yields (e.g., dividends from privatised infrastructure) to global capital. This system does not merely integrate Australia into global markets; it subordinates national economic policy to the interests of a transnational capitalist class.

The surrender of strategic sectors to foreign ownership, has eroded Australia's capacity for self-determination. The collapse of manufacturing reflects a broader deindustrialisation that locks the nation into dependency on imports for advanced goods while exporting unprocessed resources, making Australia a quarry for foreign countries.

The foreign domination of Australia's economy harms the interests of Australia's workers, small-business people and small farmers.

What is the answer? The Australian working class and its allies must engage in revolutionary struggle for Australian independence from foreign imperialism and for socialism. Only then will Australia's rich resources be used to benefit the Australian people.

## **The fraud of parliamentarism**

by T. Peterson

**One of the most sacrosanct pieces of bourgeois propaganda (past and present) is that in Australia we are privileged to enjoy the democratic rule by State and Federal Parliaments.**

We are told that by exercising our freedom to vote for whoever we wish in parliamentary elections, we exercise true democracy. This is a fraud!

In the same sense that ancient Greek "democracy" could be exercised only by the members of the slave-owning ruling class, bourgeois "democracy" can in fact only be exercised to accommodate the interests of the bourgeois ruling class.

In his work "The Civil War in France", Marx wrote: "Instead of deciding once in three or six years, which member of the ruling class was to represent and repress the people in Parliament, universal suffrage was to serve the people, constituted in Communes".

Marx was analysing the true democracy of the short-lived Paris Commune. He wrote "The Commune was to be a working, not parliamentary body, executive and legislative at the same time....".

In Australia, parliaments exist to serve the interests of the ruling capitalist class. Every 3 or 4 years we get to choose as our rulers either Labour, Liberal/National party or some other further right wing party like One Nation. In our Parliamentary system there is no choice except to choose which mainstream party will promote capitalist interests over the interests of the vast majority of the Australian people. This is the true function of parliamentarism.

In the democracy of the Paris Commune, people's representatives were paid ordinary working class wages, were themselves obliged to implement the Commune's decisions and failing doing this, were immediately recallable.

## Zionism: regional expansion in pursuit of a Greater Israel

By Nick G.

On March 17, a senior official in the Trump intelligence community resigned in protest against the war with Iran.

Joe Kent, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the US agency responsible for coordinating and analysing terrorism intelligence, said “Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby.”

US imperialism had its own reasons for wanting to attack the Iranian regime, concerned about its siding with the Russian and Chinese imperialists and opposing both US imperialism and Israel.

However, the reasons given by Trump for joining Israel’s surprise attack on Iran, namely, that Iran’s nuclear weapons capacity posed a direct threat to the US, has been undermined by yesterday’s Senate hearing testimony from Tulsi Gabbard, the Director of National Intelligence.

In a written version of



(Source - graphic supplied)

her opening statement, Gabbard said Iran’s nuclear enrichment program had been “obliterated” in 2025 strikes, and that the regime had not resumed enrichment activities. She omitted that portion of her statement in her spoken testimony, explaining later in the hearing that she did so to save time.

If, as Kent suggests, it was Israel that controlled the timetable for the attack on Iran, then an examination of Israel’s game plan is in

order.

Israel is a racist, genocidal, apartheid state with regional expansionist ambitions.

It was created by acts of terrorism and maintains itself through terrorism.

Its existence is based on the 1897 teachings of the founder of Zionism, Theodor Herzl.

Herzl defined Israel based on a promise made by God to Abraham’s descendants that they would inherit the land between the Nile and the Euphrates (Genesis 15:18-21).

The Irgun, the Stern Gang and Haganah terrorised the British into surrendering their Mandate over Palestine, and terrorised Palestinians into fleeing the area that became the State of Israel.

But the Zionists wanted more.

The Irgun flag depicted a map, divided by a gun, with

modern Israel on one side, and Jordan on the other. Both were areas sought by the Zionists.

Both were part of Herzl’s Greater Israel which includes parts of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Turkey and Iraq.

The dream of a Greater Israel is what drives Zionist regional expansionism.

Its chief proponents are Netanyahu, Finance Minister Smotrich (banned from travelling to Australia by the federal government in June 2025), and Minister for National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Both Smotrich and Ben-Gvir live illegally (under international law) on lands seized from Palestinians in the West Bank. Smotrich gave a speech in 2023 at a podium that displayed a map that showed Jordan as part of Israel.

During a speech before the United Nations General Assembly on September 22, 2023, Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held up a map that shows Israel stretching “from the river to the sea.” When his Likud party was formed in 1977, its original party platform read “The right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is eternal and indisputable and is linked with the right to security and peace; therefore, Judea and Samaria will not be handed to any foreign administration; between the Sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty.” (Judea and Samaria refer to the West Bank; Gaza is

**Parliamentarism** - continued from Page 5

The Commune was no “talking shop”.

Parliamentarism exists in Australia to fool the people into believing they have a real democracy, that they have real choices.

In any class dictatorship, the real choices are only two – either support the ruling class and its representatives or be subjected to the force and penalties of the state apparatus (the courts, the public service, the jails and the police and military services).

included in the area between the Sea and the Jordan.)

We are yet to see whether the Queensland government, which has arrested two young people for supporting the Palestinian slogan “from the river to the sea”, will also condemn Netanyahu and Australian Zionists for espousing the Zionist’s “from the sea to the river” objective.

Proponents of a Greater Israel have support from an influential section of Trump’s MAGA rightists. Mike Huckabee, who twice ran for the Presidency as a Republican candidate, was appointed Ambassador to Israel in 2025. He is a Christian Zionist and said in an interview aired mid-February that he would not disavow the belief that the Bible promised that land to Israel – even though it now encompasses all or part of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

“It would be fine if they took it all,” Huckabee said.

Zionism constitutes an on-going threat to the sovereignty of its neighbours.

It provoked the war against Iran in pursuit of Greater Israel, knowing that Iran was supporting elements of the resistance movement in Palestine and in Lebanon and therefore constituted a blockage and obstacle to its further expansion.

US imperialism’s Trump agreed with and participated in the attack. We can thank him every time we fill up our cars for petrol prices that have gone through the roof.

## Workers’ struggles in Australia intensify - make the rich pay!

By Ned K.

**The US imperialist war of aggression in the Middle East is impacting on workers’ lives in Australia.**

The most obvious impact is the rising price of fuel which in turn is leading to rising prices of everyday goods.

The Reserve Bank chipped in by lifting interest rates to 4.1% which the big four Banks seized as an opportunity for squeezing workers even more by raising their interest rates to about 6.5%.

The Albanese Government’s automatic reaction to support Trump’s



(Graphic supplied)

The ACTU have put out an online request for union members to express their view about the need for an “above inflation” wage rise to apply in minimum rates in dairy food manufacturing are getting organised to protect and extend incomes by aligning Enterprise Agreement expiring dates so they can unite as an industry

*Finance capital is such a great, such a decisive, you might say, force in all economic and in all international relations, that it is capable of subjecting, and actually does subject, to itself even states enjoying the fullest political independence... finance capital and its foreign policy, which is the struggle of the great powers for the economic and political division of the world, give rise to a number of transitional forms of state dependence. Not only are the two main groups of countries, those owning colonies, and the colonies themselves, but also the diverse forms of dependent countries which, politically, are formally independent, but in fact, are enmeshed in the net of financial and diplomatic dependence, typical of this epoch.*

V.I. Lenin *Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism*

war on Iran is coming back to bite them, with Treasurer Chalmers telegraphing a tough budget (for working people) in May and language similar to Keating’s “the recession we had to have”.

Alarm bells are ringing in the ACTU as they realize that to maintain credibility with union members, they will have to put up a show at the Fair Work Commission for an “above inflation” wage rise at the National Wage Case held in April-May.

Awards from 1 July 2026.

Workers who are employed under Enterprise Agreements continue to use the very limited “protected industrial action” provisions of the Fair Work Act to win real wage increases.

In recent weeks this has included strike action by hundreds of Casino workers at Crown Casino and action by Queensland public sector workers against attempts by the Queensland Government to cut wages.

In the pipeline, workers

through a multi-employer agreement. BHP workers most of whom are FIFO workers will be “greeting” the new BHP CEO with united action to ensure real wage increases.

**The working class will always find a way to resist attempts by imperialism and its parliamentary governments to make workers take a hit for imperialism’s economic crises exacerbated by imperialist wars.**

# Imperialist war: for markets and raw materials

by A WA Comrade

On the 16th of April, the 2026 National Defence Strategy was published.

If you decide to read this document, or its accompanying factsheet, you will find a great number of pronouns such as “we” and “our”.

Indeed, if you read the media release from the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, you will read about the “dangerous and unpredictable strategic circumstances” faced by “our nation”.

Perhaps Mr Marles is referring to the unpredictable circumstances facing Australians, such as persistent inflation, sky-high fuel and energy prices, and a looming recession?

After all, those are the problems that “we” face. That is the danger to “our” livelihoods.

Alas, “our” Marles is talking about preparing for war, and the “we” does not refer to average Australians, but the ruling elites who will be the only beneficiaries in “our” country from a global conflict.

The coming war is an imperialist war - a war for new markets and raw materials like rare earth metals.

For you and I, global conflict can only mean slaughter on an industrial scale - slaughter of Australian workers. For you and I, war means destruction of whole families, entire communities.

But for Gina, Twiggy,



(graphic supplied)

Clive and their ilk, war is an opportunity. An opportunity to rake in record profits, an opportunity to deepen business relationships, even an opportunity to begin operations in conquered territory. While our children will be sent to their deaths, theirs will sit comfortably at home.

Talking heads will sound the alarm of the defence of “our country” and “our sovereignty”.

Whose country is it?

homes and hospitals?

Did “we” sign off on shipments of weapons to Israel, while they starve and kill thousands in Gaza?

Did “we” sign off on a deal for \$368 billion of submarines, while ambulances wait for hours to deliver their patients to doctors?

The enemy is not a foreign worker like you, sent to fight a war that is not theirs. The enemy is

adversary - the workers - the more they - the capitalists - gain; the harder they can exploit.

Only when it is convenient do the capitalists pretend to join hands with the workers and speak of defending “our country”.

You are not powerless to stop a future of death and misery. United, the working class is strong.\

May Day is a celebration of worker’s power. This power is wielded in unions: join one and actively participate in it.

Fight capitalist tendencies in the union however they may manifest.

Use your power to fight militarisation and fight for a better future, because if the coming war is not stopped, there may be no future to fight for.

People of the world, unite and defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs! People of the world, be courageous, and dare to fight, defy difficulties and advance wave upon wave. Then the whole world will belong to the people. Monsters of all kinds shall be destroyed.

Mao Zedong “Statement Supporting the People of the Congo (L.) Against U.S. Aggression” (November 28, 1964),

Do you feel like a stakeholder in “our” country?

Is it a country of workers, or the country of capitalists and landlords?

And is it “our sovereignty” at risk, or is it the rights of capitalists to exploit that is at risk?

Is it in “our” interest to spend record amounts on weapons of murder, or is it in “our” interest to build

the capitalist at home who lobbies the government to build more weapons.

The enemy is the capitalist who uses their media empire to deceive the workers into supporting their own slaughter.

The enemy is already on our shores. Every day they take up arms to fight the working class.

The enemy is fighting to exploit. The weaker their

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