

Harold Wright Johnson

*When I was in my mid-teens over 60 years ago my mother told me she believed we should treat each other and the environment how we would like to be treated.*

*In the 1990's a Grade 3 8 year old student told me she thought that "We should treat each other and the environment how we would like to be treated."*

*Australia's children are a cohort of 20% of Australia's population but they are 100% of the future and I value my own children and grandchildren as much as I value myself.*

*Humanity is totally dependent on the Web of Life of the world's fauna, flora and fungi, that never have a vote for their future.*

*In the 1990s it was said that if we gave the world's military machine 2 weeks holiday we could feed, clothe, house and educate the entire world.*

AUKUS should be more honestly renamed as DON'T ASKUS.

Professor Richard Tauter from the Nautilus Group believes that AUKUS is a giant stunt for Australia's next election, similar to the Tampa ploy used by former Prime Minister Howard. The present Prime Minister's Marketing Men appear to believe that keeping the Australian voters fearful will make voters more compliant to the present government's decisions and it will take the heat off the government's abysmal response to its acquisition and distribution of vaccines for the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is a great concern that to date neither Labor or The Greens have called this out for what it is, namely, a great election stunt.

These proposed new naval capabilities have everything to do with our acquisition of nuclear weapons and it is certainly a foot-in-the-door for an Australian nuclear industry on-shore. This aspect is of great concern because our Deputy Prime Minister views nuclear power as being Australia's answer to addressing the climate catastrophe.

There is already a great imbalance between the nuclear weapon capabilities of the US and China. The US has close to 5000 nuclear weapons. China has 300 to 400 nuclear weapons and China's land-based nuclear weapons are very vulnerable to nuclear attack and Australia by joining the US and the UK makes China's position even more fraught than before the unexpected, sudden arrival of AUKUS.

China won't view Australia's election stunt as a neutral action.

Indonesia and Malaysia are not happy with this sudden, secret behaviour of their "friends" in Australia. Will Indonesia allow Australian nuclear-powered submarines to pass through Indonesian waters?

Japan and South Korea now have real concerns about this ramping up of nuclear posturing.

Prime Minister Morrison suggests that other nations will "get it"; but will Prime Minister Morrison "get it in the neck" now that Japan and South Korea are more likely to develop their own nuclear weapons?

Laura Tingle suggests AUKUS is like a return to the "good old days" when England ruled the waves and Australia is back into bed with the other wealthy, white old boys now trying to run Asia, rather than forming regional alliances.

Following Australia's rapid exit from Afghanistan, Australia is getting a name around the world for a country that let's down its mates. Now that the Australian government has suddenly torn up its submarine contract with France., our stab in the back of France, a very influential European nation, will greatly damage our trading relationship with Europe.

The Australian/ European trade talks are now off and the Australian government's Marketing Men have greatly concerned the rest of the developed world because of Australia's present scant efforts it has made to address the global climate catastrophe, the world's greatest existential threat today. Have our government's Marketing Men not realised that Europe is now even more likely to put

considerably higher tariffs on Australian products with a high carbon-content that we hope to sell to Europe until we join the rest of the world in trying to adequately address global heating?

Professor Hugh White,emeritus professor of strategic studies at the Australian National University wrote Australia's Defence White Paper 2000. Professor White's 2 most respected books are "The China Choice" 2012 and "How to Defend Australia" 2019. Professor White article in The Saturday Paper September 18-24 2021 "From the submarine to the ridiculous " comprehensively canvases many of the above ideas. I think his initial paragraph sums up AUKUS perfectly:-

"The old plan was to build a conventionally powered version of a nuclear-powered French submarine. It was crazy. The new plan-to buy a nuclear-powered submarine instead-is worse. It will make the replacement of the Australian Navy's fleet of Collins-class boats riskier,costlier and slower. It means an even bigger slump in our submarine capability over the next few dangerous decades. And it deepens our commitment to the United States' military confrontation of China, which has little chance of success and carries terrifying risks.

Today we can no longer guarantee that the air the world's children breathe is safe to breathe anywhere in the world. To address that is a major global challenge today, so too is to adequately address the climate catastrophe, a fairer distribution of vaccines, food and other resources. These are all issues that need a great deal of our Federal government's thought and action.

But how long will it be before we elect a government that puts as much thought and action into addressing the above very serious problems as it now puts into only trying to do just enough to scrape across the next election line?

Breathe safely and all the best in the future you choose for those you cherish, for those still at school and to young to vote for their future and for the non-voting species that never have a vote for their future.

Harry Johnson.

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