

Inquiry into Extremism In Victoria

Mr Dominic Cooney

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

In a state lead by a Premier from the Socialist Left of the Labor Party, it worries me that one would not have to stray far from the preferred ideology to be labelled far right or extremist.

In Victoria during 2020-2021 the people were subjected to of some of the most stringent lock-down measures in the world. Most were compliant initially, then as businesses and livelihoods began to crumble, they took to the streets in growing numbers, expressing their pain and hurt. The response of police, enforcing the diktats of this far-left government was to escalate violence. Scenes of Victorian law enforcement dragging a pregnant woman from her home and assaulting protestors were projected across the globe as people looked on in disbelief that these scenes were taking place in Australia. Right on cue the protestors were labelled as extremists and even, 'bat shit crazy,' by senior police. Of course, when this was a BLM or climate protest, in line with the narrative of the far left, the approach was sympathetic, verging on supportive from the same senior police.

This method of labelling was also deployed against construction workers protesting the mandates who were very quickly tagged as as extremists and neo Nazis by their union. These protestors more than most appreciate the manipulation of language to discredit a cause. Up to that time they had been sold as hard working CFMEU members looking to protect their rights.

The Epoch Times is a publication that is critical of the CCP. Wikipedia labels them as a far right international multi-language newspaper.' To justify this label they reference publications like The New Republic, which on its own wikipedia page is described as 'progressive' rather than far left.

At the Box Hill Police station, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Communist Party in China., the Chinese flag was raised. This in a state that went its own way signing up to the CCPs Belt and Road initiative. Very much the action of a far left government, but no calls for inquiries here.

Invasion Day protestors were portrayed as virtuous whilst Australia Day celebrations labelled nationalist- aka- extremist. Within a few years it has become an extremist act to display the Australian flag. A colleague at work warned her son who had the Australian flag on his car window on Australia Day that some people may take exception to this. She was worried for his safety- ie- at risk of a the threat from the left.

In the Pell witch hunt we saw the willingness of the state government, the national broadcaster and the courts to incarcerate an innocent man who then spent 13 months in prison. Pell was labelled, and to defend him meant being similarly labelled. Here we saw the danger and consequences of labelling in a far-left state.

And so it is with great concern that I see an inquiry into 'extremist groups' in Victoria, as we have already seen how this technique is used to discredit and silence dissent. 'Far right' is now basically akin to, 'not left', and therefore not a threat to public safety but rather a political tool.

May I suggest that committee read Solzhenitsyn's The Gulag Archipelago for context as they direct their

attentions to groups whose thinking does not align with that dictated by those in power.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

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File2:

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Signature:

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