

The Tampa "Solutions"

When the Norwegian freighter MV Tampa first entered Australian waters in 2001 with 438 newly-rescued refugees on board, it ended Australia's 100-year flirtation with the ancient Greek concept of Democracy.

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The modern concept of Democracy owes its origins to ancient Greece, but it was first summarised by clauses 39 and 40 of the Magna Carta that was signed under duress by a British king in 1215:

39. No free-man shall be taken or imprisoned, or dispossessed of his free tenement, or liberties, or free customs, or be outlawed, or exiled, or in any way be destroyed; nor will we condemn him, nor will we commit him to prison, excepting by the legal judgement of his peers, or by the laws of the land.

40. To none will we sell, to none will we deny, to none will we delay right or justice.

The proper implementation of these Magna Carta clauses also depended on the presence of two crucial legal preconditions:

- 1. The Separation of Powers.**
(in which Church, State, and Judiciary are independent and autonomous)
- 2. The 'Great Writ' (habeas corpus)**
(Everybody must have equal access to the 'due process of law')

Those Magna Carta clauses and their legal preconditions eventually became accepted as the foundation of all British law and therefore applied throughout the British Empire and its subsequent Commonwealth.

In Australia however, on August 29, 2001, all of this history was thrown overboard when Prime Minister John Howard tried to rid himself of the Tampa's refugees. "We will decide who comes to this country, and the circumstances under which they will come," he said.

His Government would therefore prevent the Tampa refugees, and any subsequent boat-borne refugees, from ever landing on Australian soil. Instead, he said, they would be deported to somewhere outside Australia where they would be indefinitely detained while their validity as trefugees was thoroughly investigated.



ABOVE: The MV Tampa arrives off Christmas Island on 13 June, 2001.

BELOW: The Tampa's newly-rescued refugees huddle on deck amid the stacks of cargo containers.



A Tale of Two "Solutions"

Very few Australians are aware of the grim provenance of this historically notorious policy, a policy that originated in Germany during the mid 1930s when the nation's new leader, Adolf Hitler, was trying to rebuild his people's national pride following their capitulation at the conclusion of World War I.

Hitler's personal passion was to build sufficient military strength to enable him to reject international law and end the savage reparations that had been imposed on the German people by the Versailles Treaty. To this end Hitler also sought to 'purify' the Germanic race by ridding it of its most 'troublesome aliens', notably its Jews, gypsies and mental defectives by any means, including murder. To help with this purge, Hitler put a cold-eyed young general, Reinhard Heydrich in charge of five new murder squads, the Einsatzgruppen.

Their primary role was to follow Germany's invasion troops into Poland and eastern Russia and to shoot any dissidents that remained in the conquered regions. Their secondary duty was to seek out and eliminate any Jews that they happened to find in those regions.

Under Heydrich's iron command the Einsatzgruppen were required to routinely slaughter up to 200 hundred of those 'troublesome aliens' every day. "People must be shot or hanged immediately, without trial" he said. "The little people we want to spare, but the nobles, priests, and Jews must be killed."

However, this daily slaughter of civilians was inflicting such savage mental strain on the murder squads that several of them committed suicide. So Heydrich eventually proposed a new plan to Hitler. He suggested that such people should in future be rounded up and shipped to the island of Madagascar, a colony that Hitler had acquired thanks to his recent conquest of France.

Once these 'aliens' were indefinitely imprisoned on Madagascar, Heydrich argued, they would quietly 'disappear' due to starvation, disease, mental derangement, suicide and internal conflict.

However, the Madagascar plan was scrapped in 1942 after Heydrich was assassinated by a team of British-trained Czech commandos.



ABOVE: Heydrich's Einsatzgruppen hard at work slaughtering Jews in Poland.

BELOW: In the five Polish death camps the gas showers were so efficient that the teams feeding the camp's ovens failed to keep up with demand and the unburnt corpses were often left strewn about the camp in various stages of decay.



A Tale of Two “Solutions”

How strange then, that a replica of Heydrich’s ‘Madagascar Solution’ was resurrected some 59 years later on the far side of the world by a Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard. It became known as the ‘Pacific Solution.’ However, the political intention of both of these “Solutions” was identical: it was to make a group of ‘troublesome aliens’ disappear from public view as quietly as possible.

Remarkable too, is the fact that John Howard’s ‘Pacific Solution’ has already born out most of Heydrich’s dismal predictions for the mental and physical decay of his ‘Madagascar Solution’ prisoners.

Not so strange perhaps, is the similarity between a genetic aberration in Reinhard Heydrich, inventor of the ‘Madagascar Solution’, and behavioural responses in Peter Dutton, Australia’s Immigration Minister and manager of Howard’s ‘Pacific Solution’, . Both appear to share characteristics on what is known as the Hare scale of psychopathic behaviour (see Checklist in red).

Such psychopathic similarities are simply evidence of an evolutionary accident and consequently warrant neither hatred nor blame. Indeed, the existence of such similar traits also indicates the presence of an epigenetic methylation pattern that almost certainly excludes both men from the full enjoyment of life’s more rewarding experiences.

For example, Dutton recently claimed that lawyers who argued on behalf of refugees were displaying “un-Australian” behaviour.

(The Law Council of Australia replied that Dutton’s comment was both regrettable and misguided, and represented an attack on their profession. “There is nothing more Australian than ensuring people are subject to the rule of law and have their legal rights protected,” said Law Council President Fiona McLeod.)

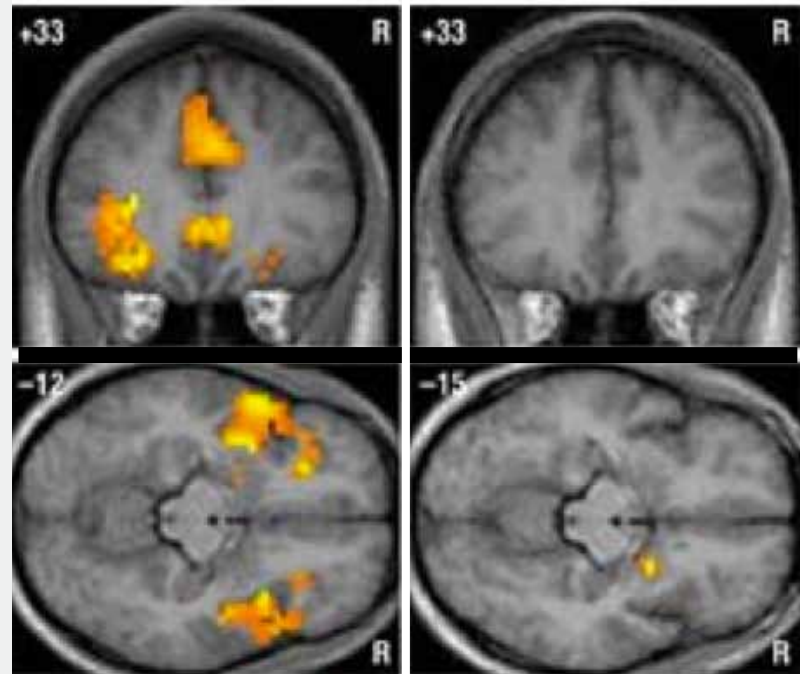
Nevertheless, these same psychopathic traits can also be of value in many areas of modern professional life. Such characteristics are fairly common, for example, among CEOs that head major business corporations, and they often reappear in successful surgeons, in high ranking military commanders and in political leaders—such as Trump, Kim Jong-un, Duterte, Erdoğan, Putin, etc.

(See fMRI Brain scans opposite).

Psychopathy Checklist (The Hare Scale)

The list includes:

- Superficial charm
- Grandiose sense of self worth**
- Need for stimulation
- Pathological lying
- Cunning and manipulative
- ‘Cold Empathy’ (superficial emotional responses)**
- Callousness**
- Lack of remorse or guilt**
- Failure to accept responsibility for own actions**
- Parasitic lifestyle
- Poor behavioral controls
- Impulsivity
- Lack of realistic long-term goals



Brain scans (fMRI) show stress-related neuronal activity in a normal brain (LEFT), and (RIGHT) in a psychopathic brain, given similar stimulation.

In the psychopathic brain only the right Amygdala lights up.

A Tale of Two "Solutions"

Australia's version of Heydrich's 'Madagascar Solution' reached its full malevolence on Manus Island in August this year when the High Court of Papua New Guinea ordered that the Australian Government should immediately close its refugee prison on Manus Is. [1]

The PNG High Court found that Australia's imprisonment of asylum seekers breached the refugee's inherent human right to personal freedom, and the Court therefore ruled that the governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea should immediately reinstate that freedom and move the detainees out of the prison facility.

All supplies of food, water, and medical attention were then withdrawn and attempts were made to move the refugees out, but the detainees refused to leave. They chose to remain within the protective fences of the stripped down facility rather than risk a hazardous and wholly unsupported life among the resentful local community.

The refugees currently remain within the camp boundaries but without food, water, medical aid and sanitation. Meanwhile, resentment continues to fester in the local community outside.

This matches, with eerie precision, the outcome predicted by Heydrich when he was selling his 'Madagascar Solution' to Hitler and to Adolf Eichmann in 1941. The Madagascar prisoners would eventually disappear, Heydrich said, due to starvation, disease, internal and external aggression, mental breakdown, self-harm and suicide.

At least six men have now died under Australia's supervision on Manus Island and on Nauru. One was killed by a group of guards during a riot, two others committed suicide, another drowned at sea, and two died in Brisbane after they were evacuated for medical reasons.

Heydrich's Madagascar plan has been implemented by the current Minister for Immigration and Border Protection with meticulous attention to detail. Every care has been taken to sequester the detainees from the outside world, and rigid regimes of silence have been imposed throughout Dutton's Department and the Government in general. Media attention has been impeded with every tool at his disposal, medical attention has been minimised, and doctors and nurses have been sworn to secrecy.



Refugees refuse to leave their Manus Island prison (November 2017).



Peter Dutton, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.



SS General Reinhard Heydrich

[1] The full bench of the Australian High Court had ruled in February 2016 that the Australian Government had a legal right right to enforce its offshore detention regime.

ACCOUNTING FOR THE DAMAGE

REFUGEE DEATHS ON MANUS & NAURU: The first was Reza Barati, who was murdered during a riot by numerous prison guards on Manus Island. Others were: Omid Masoumali, who self-immolated in the Nauru prison camp, Kamil Hussain who drowned in the sea off Manus Island, Hamid Khazaei and Faysal Ahmed, who both died in Brisbane following medical transfers from Manus Island, plus an unnamed Bangladeshi man who died on Nauru following a suspected suicide attempt.

Numerous Parliamentary and Departmental inquiries,^{3,4,5,6,7} more than six UN investigations,^{8,9,10,11,12,13} a report by the the Australian Human Rights Commission,¹⁴ and numerous medical and private whistleblowers have repeatedly reported the same horrific truth: the offshore camps are sites of gross physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

[1] 'Australia's offshore processing of asylum seekers in Nauru and PNG: a quick guide to statistics and resources', Parliament of Australia website, Updated 19 December 2016

[2] Question Taken On Notice, Immigration And Border Protection Portfolio, (AE17/049) - RPC statistics - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management, Additional Estimates Hearing: 27 February 2017

[3] 'Serious allegations of abuse, self-harm and neglect of asylum seekers in relation to the Nauru Regional Processing Centre, and any like allegations in relation to the Manus Regional Processing Centre', Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, 21 April 2017

[4] 'Select Committee on the Recent Allegations Relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru: Taking Responsibility: Conditions and Circumstances at Australia's Regional Processing Centre in Nauru', The Senate, Parliament of Australia, 31 August 2015

[5] 'Review into recent allegations relating to conditions and circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru', Mr Phillip Moss, 20 March 2015

[6] 'Incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 February to 18 February 2014', referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee, 5 March 2014

[7] 'Examination of Legislation in Accordance with the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011: Migration Legislation Amendment (Regional Processing and Other Measures) Act 2012 and Related Legislation', Australian

Parliament, Joint Committee on Human Rights, and Henry Alfred Jenkins, 19 June 2013

[8] 'UNHCR Mission to the Republic of Nauru 3-5 December 2012, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 14 December 14, 2012

[9] 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment', Juan E. Méndez, 6 March 2015

[10] 'Preliminary Observations on the Official Visit to Papua New Guinea - Press Statement', Christof Heyns, UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Arbitrary or Summary Executions, March 14, 2014,

[11] 'UNHCR Regional Representation, Canberra, UNHCR monitoring visit to the Republic of Nauru 7 to 9 October 2013', United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 26 November 2013

[12] 'UNHCR monitoring visit to Manus Island, Papua New Guinea 23 to 25 October 2013', United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, October 2013

[13] 'UNHCR calls for immediate movement of refugees and asylum-seekers to humane conditions', United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2 May 2016

[14] 'The Forgotten Children: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention', Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014

[15] Question Taken On Notice, Immigration And Border Protection Portfolio, Offshore Management, (Be17/219) - Manus – Incidents Since Last Estimates - Programme 1.5: IMA, Budget Estimates Hearing: 22 May 2017.