

No to US troops in Australia!

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“That means continuing to dispatch the full range of our diplomatic assets – including our highest-ranking officials, our development experts, our interagency teams, and our permanent assets – to every country and corner of the Asia-Pacific region.”

We will, we will rule you!

It is not difficult to see that the dominant imperialist power will stop at nothing to deny sources of raw materials, access to labour, opportunities for investment and political and cultural influence to its competitors. In this respect, an imperialist power led by a Nobel Peace Prize winner still remains an imperialist power.

“We have to guarantee that

the defense capabilities and communications infrastructure of our alliances are operationally and materially capable of deterring provocation from the full spectrum of state and non-state actors,” declared Clinton.

It is almost like she has rewritten the old Queen lyric and is singing “We will, we will rule you!”

And Obama has made it clear that only the US can make global rules, and that China must abide by them.

US imperialism redefines Australia's subservience

Clinton again: “We are also expanding our alliance with Australia from a Pacific partnership to an Indo-Pacific

one, and indeed a global partnership. From cyber-security to Afghanistan, to the Arab Awakening, to strengthening regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific, Australia's counsel and commitment have been indispensable.”

This is the US imperialist state machine dictating the terms of the service it expects from the client traitor class running Australia. It is not necessary to consult the Australian people on the role they wish to play internationally, as they do not hold state power and are under the class dictatorship of a bourgeoisie that aligns with US imperialism.

Noting that “we have resumed joint training of Indonesian Special Forces units,” Clinton observed that “The stretch of sea from the Indian Ocean through the Strait of Malacca to the Pacific contains the world's most vibrant trade and energy routes.”

Hence, in addition to basing US forces at Robertson, there will be a

significant permanent naval presence in Singapore. “The United States will be deploying littoral combat ships to Singapore, and we are examining other ways to increase opportunities for our two militaries to train and operate together”, wrote Clinton.

All of this adds up to what Clinton called “a more broadly distributed military presence across the region (which) will provide vital advantages”.

For National Independence and Socialism

We Australians must reject the imposition on us of even greater subservience to US imperialism. We must demand of our government that it develop and maintain a capacity for independence in foreign policy.

Ultimately, that noble goal can only be achieved when we take state power into our own hands and formally establish national independence on the basis of a socialist economy.

Vanguard

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Man-made disasters are the worst for farmers

by *Duncan B*

Farmers are often the victims of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, hailstorms, mouse or locust plagues etc.

For example, in November, hail storms caused \$10 million damage to apple crops in southern New South Wales.

Unfavourable weather, combined with higher input costs, was also blamed for 8% being wiped off the income of Australian vegetable growers in 2009-2010.

Despite this, farming in Australia still supports about 370,000 people and generates about \$43 billion in gross value.

Australian farmers have always managed to cope with natural disasters. They live with the fact that there are good years and bad years. They help their mates and communities when times are tough.

At the mercy of the system

The really hard problems facing our farmers are man-made. Their input costs such as fertiliser, machinery, finance and fuel continue to rise, as do all the other inputs needed to operate a modern farm in Australia. On the other hand, the prices received for their produce are declining.

Farmers are at the mercy of banks, finance companies, food processors, the agribusiness giants involved in marketing rural products, as well as the supermarket duopoly of Coles and Woolworths.

Prime farm land is threatened by mining companies. Large tracts of Australian farmland are being bought by foreign buyers. Country towns are in decline, losing public services and hit by the closure of small businesses.

The constant pressure and insecurity takes its toll. Rural Australia has vastly higher rates of mental illness, substance abuse and suicide compared to the major cities.

There is a better way! Over many years *Vanguard* has featured numerous articles about the problems facing Australian farmers and other country people. This is because the Communist Party of Australia (M-L), while based in the Australian working class, seeks to unite Australians from other oppressed classes and strata of society in the struggle for national independence from US imperialism, and eventually for socialism in Australia.

To achieve these great goals there must be greater unity between farmers, rural workers and the workers of the main cities.

We all have a common enemy – US imperialism.