

THERE'S a revolution happening all over the world

By Julian Tomlinson, the Cairns Post, 7 July 2016

“The frantic and acerbic criticism from educated left-wing elites indicates a sudden realisation that activism and democracy works both ways.”

Right, major parties, listen up

THERE'S a revolution happening all over the world and it's got a few people not only worried, but exceedingly bitter.

The soaring popularity of so-called “far right” political parties is not limited to America with Donald Trump and, now, Australia with Pauline Hanson and One Nation, and to a lesser extent Rise Up Australia and the Australian Liberty Alliance.

Not to mention the apolitical Reclaim Australia movement.

France has the National Front party headed by the charismatic Marine Le Pen, and Germany has the equally-as-presentable Frauke Petry heading the Alternative for Germany Party.

In Holland, Geert Wilders has a growing global following as leader of the Dutch Party for Freedom, and now Austria appears close to electing Freedom Party candidate Norbert Hofer as president.

The common thread among these groups is an anti-immigration stance – particularly, anti-Muslim immigration. They are also all eloquent, educated, clean cut and measured.

Even the recent Brexit vote – which shocked so many and caused much abuse of middle-class Britons who voted to leave the EU – had roots in a demand for more border security.

In the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte has been elected President on a platform of killing drug lords and generally cracking down hard on crime.

And no matter how much various politicians and hand-wringing commentators, journalists and churlish protesters scream how silly, backward and racist people are, the votes keep rolling in.

The fact the media calls such groups “far right” is laughable and really indicates how far to the left society in general has lurched.

If any conservative thought is considered “far right”, where on the spectrum are neo Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan?

Why is it so unpalatable to demand closer scrutiny of who our governments are letting in to the country?

Why are those who express concern about radical Islam howled down as mindless scumbags?

Why can't Australians demand newcomers do more to assimilate into their new home and embrace its values and customs?

Based on this evidence from Europe, America, Australia and Asia, people are sick of political correctness and are flocking to politicians who promise to act on the growing body of evidence of how dangerous unchecked immigration is.

The increasingly frantic and acerbic criticism from the self-styled educated left-wing elites indicates a sudden realisation that activism and democracy works both ways.

Just as left-wing ideology has dominated politics, lawmaking and social structure since the 1960s, it was inevitable there would be a voter-led correction.

Politicians and societies around the world haven't been prepared for this, though, and they are behaving like spoiled brats.

In Britain, millions of people have signed a petition calling for another Brexit referendum.

But sorry, democracy doesn't mean you get to vote again next week if you don't like the result.

In Australia, the dismissive smackdowns delivered to Hanson before the election by both Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten demonstrated breathtaking arrogance and genuine ignorance of the issues many Australians find important.

Both leaders are now faced with the stomach-churningly awkward prospect of having to woo her to secure her support in the Senate.

And while her detractors continue to demonise her and her followers as using unfounded fears to peddle hatred, there is a very strong argument to say the fears are actually very founded.

We've had terror attacks in Australia and our security services have foiled many more. Even with this proof, Labor and the Greens want to relax our border laws.

But when someone puts their hand up and objects, the full might of the social media-driven shame machine is brought to bear, and that's sad.

The beauty of democracy is that if Hanson's ideas don't hold any water and wither under educated scrutiny, she will be turfed out at the next election.

Until then, whoever forms government might have to really listen for once.

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