The True History of the Founding of Australia

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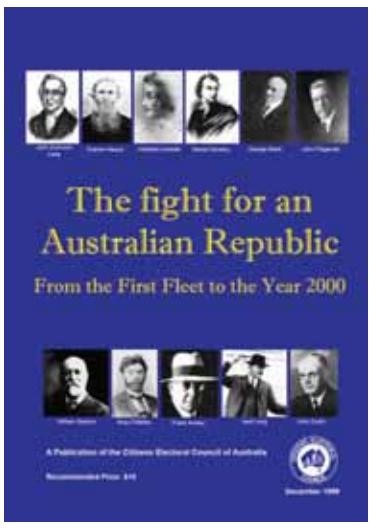
On 13th May, 1787, the 11 ships of the First Fleet set sail on a 13,000-mile voyage to establish a British strategic outpost on the Australian continent.

Introduction

Under the sobriquet, the "Australian History Project", for much of the past two years the CEC has been involved in an intensive research effort to extend the discoveries reflected in our groundbreaking, December 1999 pamphlet, "The fight for an Australian Republic: From the First Fleet to the Year 2000"; to further uncover the actual history of our country, aside from the usual sort of pro-British nonsense drummed into all of us in school, whether blatantly or merely by implication. Just consider, for instance, the circumstances of Australia's founding in the first place: although the mighty British Empire had decided to establish a settlement in New South Wales almost immediately after they were defeated by the Americans in their revolution of 1776-1781, does even that mere fact ever appear—let alone with any emphasis—in any of the usual, lying accounts of Australian history to which you have been subjected? Yet the American Revolution was one of the greatest turning points in all recorded human history; it not only sent shock waves across the world at the time, but its ideals and effects constitute the fault line of world history to this very day, as elaborated by Lyndon LaRouche in his momentous September 8 webcast. (See pp. 4-7).

Moreover, consider the following: after their epochal defeat by the Americans, the American-aided and inspired Irish revolutionaries also drove the British out of Ireland in 1782, and this at a time when the British Empire was fighting for its life against an alliance of the Dutch, the French, and the Spanish—all of whom had provided decisive help to the Americans. Given those strategic realities, does it really seem credible that the British would invest so much time and effort, so many scarce maritime resources in order to dump a relative handful of convicts on a land over 13,000 miles away, just to "relieve prison overcrowding"?



CEC's 1999 groundbreaking pamphlet on the true history of Australia showed that our leading republicans intended to establish a "United States of Australia".

But if you do not start with the strategic reality of the American Revolution, and the accompanying fact that by far the majority of the unfortunates shipped out here were fiercely pro-American in outlook, the greatest single number of them being Irish political prisoners rounded up as the British struggled to regain control of Ireland after 1782, then you understand nothing of our actual history: neither the efforts of our greatest republican leader, Dr. John Dunmore Lang, and his associates, to establish a "United States of Australia" in the 1830s and 1840s; nor why the Australian Labor Party, born of the greatest mass political strike in our history, took the American, as opposed to British, spelling of their name; nor why Prime Minister John Curtin decisively broke with Winston Churchill and the British Empire in December 1941 to ally with a Franklin Roosevelt-led America; nor why the British Crown would sack Gough Whitlam in 1975, following his Labor government's announcement of its intention to "buy back the farm" from British raw materials cartels led by the Rio Tinto of which Her Majesty herself was the single largest stockholder.

This pervasive blindness of Australians to our own actual history is no academic matter: its tragic consequences are typified by Whitlam himself, the "Hamlet" of our Australian "Denmark". As he reported in his autobiography, after he had been sacked, nominally by the Queen's Governor-General John Kerr, Whitlam called Buckingham Palace to pitifully enquire of the Queen's private secretary whether Her Majesty had herself ordered the sacking, or whether Kerr, a longtime agent of Britain's MI-6 intelligence service and a man whom Whitlam well knew to be a pompous, bootlicking toady of the Crown, had "acted independently". Informed that Kerr was indeed the Lone Ranger, Whitlam dutifully accepted that assurance, notwithstanding his recollection in that same autobiography, that the Queen had showered her Kerr with titles and rewards immediately afterwards.

In the final battle of the American Revolution, Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown, New York, in 1781. Earlier, Washington had observed, "The injuries we have received from the British were so unprovoked, and have been so great and many, that they can never be forgotten." Painting by John Trumbull.

We are now at another, far more profound turning point in Australian history, in the midst of an unprecedented, international breakdown crisis of the world economy. Although perilous almost beyond belief, its very sweeping nature also opens the door to effecting fundamental changes in this nation, to fulfill at long last the pro-republican, pro-American hopes and aspirations of many generations of Australians before us. We therefore present this "interim report" of our Australian History Project, excerpted from the voluminous files which we have accumulated over the past two years, which grow almost by the day. For it is only when we understand the deepest historical cultural and political realities which have from the outset shaped our history, and our very own souls, that we know who we really are as Australians, and are enabled to understand our struggles as they can only be understood—in the context of World History.

Imperial Chess-Moves

To understand the British imperial thinking which led to the founding of Australia, let us return to the Pacific theatre in the wake of the British triumph in the Seven Years' War of 1756-63.

In that momentous conflict, often called "the First World War", Britain had defeated its main rival France in a struggle which ranged from North America, across Europe, to India. The British drove the French from Canada and most of India, and established a worldwide maritime and financial supremacy. But although London emerged as the financial capital of this new world empire, it was not an empire of the British people, but of the European-wide financial combine centred for the previous 700 years in Venice, which had gradually migrated to Holland and England from the late 16th Century onwards, founding such institutions as the Bank of Amsterdam (1609), the leading bank in the world for the 17th and much of the 18th Centuries, and the Dutch and English East India companies, the largest corporations in the world for centuries, and, in 1694, the Bank of England.

By 1763, the chief corporate form of this financial combine was the world-straddling British East India Company (BEIC)—the actual victor of the 1763 Peace of Paris. Its dominant figure was William Petty, the 2nd Earl of Shelburne (1737-1805). One of the wealthiest men in Britain, Lord Shelburne came from a family long associated with Venice. He was also one of the largest stockholders of "John Company", as the BEIC was popularly known; the largest landowner in Ireland; and the head of what had been known in England as the "Venetian Party", ever since the Glorious Revolution of 1688 had installed a Venetian-sponsored oligarchy in power, typified by the founding of the Bank of England and the simultaneous vast extension of the BEIC almost as soon as the shooting stopped. Under this Venetian Party dominance, the British set out to consolidate a world empire, to crush the rising colonies in America, and to conquer the lands of the Pacific Ocean, as it had those of the Atlantic.

In pursuit of this latter goal, the British launched a series of "scientific expeditions" into the Pacific, whose real purpose was to map that ocean's largely unknown millions of square miles for raw materials and trade; to find new British military and naval bases; to spy on the bases and activities of rival empires; and, before long, to replace Spain as the dominant power in the Pacific, as it had been scheming to do already for decades.

First came the voyage of Captain John Byron in 1764. On his way out via Cape Horn, Byron visited and claimed the Falkland Islands for Britain. The British viewed the Falklands as the "key to the Pacific", should the Dutch and French close the Cape of Good Hope, and constructed a fort to secure control of the islands. Then came Captain Samuel Wallis in 1766, whose instructions were to find and annex the continent which had been known as "Terra Australis", or "New Holland" ever since the Dutch under Abel Tasman had visited and mapped

The "Glorious Revolution" of 1688

Today's British oligarchy proudly dates the founding of their "Westminster System" of parliamentary government to the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. This was no revolution, but a foreign invasion led by the Dutch Prince William of Orange in command of 40,000 men and an armada of 463 ships, who seized the English throne on behalf of Venice and its allies among a small group of powerful English titled families, a cabal which the later British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 81) called the "Venetian Party". Disraeli was well informed: his grandfather was a Venetian Jewish merchant who had immigrated to London after the Seven Years War as part of the build-up of London as the new world capital of monetarist imperialism. This 1688 "revolution" established the Anglo-Dutch oligarchy of today, typified by the British Prince Philip and the Dutch Prince Bernhard co-founding the World Wildlife Fund in 1961—the principal coordinating institution of worldwide genocide—and in the numerous Anglo-Dutch financier and raw materials cartels, such as Royal Dutch Shell.

Venice had installed the Stuart monarchy in England in 1601. Though thoroughly corrupt and bitterly opposed to the republicans of the American colonies, the Catholic Stuarts were reluctant to plunge into ruinous wars with Catholic France, as per Venetian design. The Glorious Revolution accomplished several Venetian goals: 1) it seized control over national finances from the monarchy and centred them in the Parliament, for which only 180,000 Englishmen could vote, and which was a mere front for the handful of "great Whig families" known as the Venetian Party, 2) within six months of the invasion, England launched the first in a series of calamitous wars against France, culminating in the Seven Years War, 3) it founded the Bank of England in 1694 as a privately-controlled bank, which is today the apex of monetarist imperialism, 4) it founded the "New" East India Company, which swallowed up the existing, "Old" East India Company, whose directors had become too closely allied to the Stuarts, and 5) despite the ruinous war with France, the Venetian Party called in all the coin of the realm for recoinage, bankrupting anyone who did not have access to credit from the Bank of England and its allies, and freeing up silver for the East India Company to ship to Asia. The recoinage was overseen by the Master of the Mint, the cabalist kook Sir Isaac Newton, and his crony John Locke, the chief theorist of 1688 and one of the largest investors in the Royal African Company, the monopoly of the slave trade.

The Venetians orchestrated the so-called "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 to overthrow the Stuart monarchy, put their man William III on the throne, and consolidate their control of the British Isles.

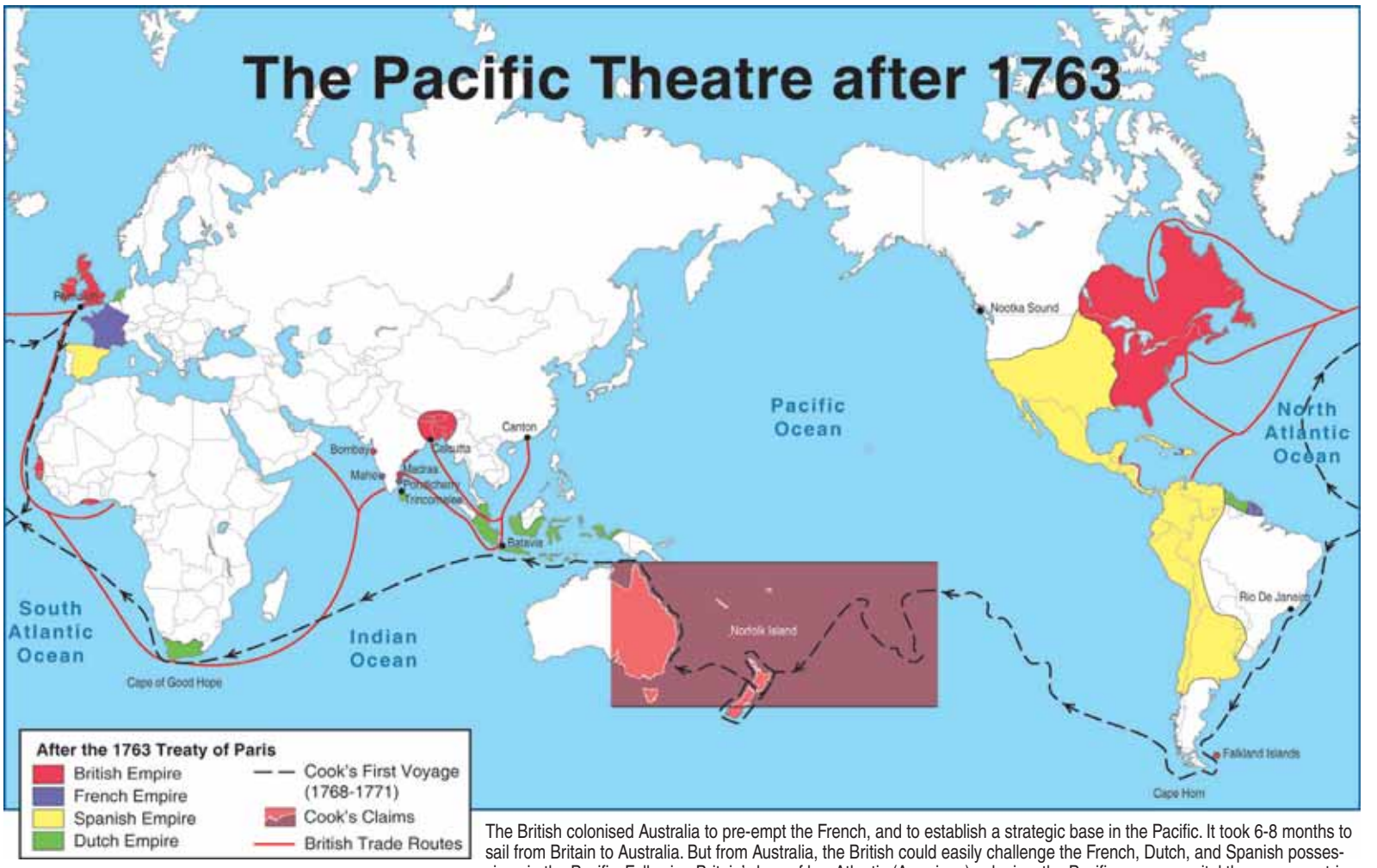
Meanwhile, William III protested that the "great Whig families" intended to turn him into a "mere doge", a figurehead. Following his death, Queen Anne (daughter of the ousted James II), ruled from 1702-14. Upon her death, the Venetians orchestrated still another foreign takeover of England via the ruling family of Hanover, then known as the "Venice of the North". Beginning with George I, who could not speak a word of English, they initiated the dynasty which still rules the British empire today.

it in the mid-1600s. Next, and most famously, came the three voyages of Captain James Cook, in 1768-71; 1772-75; and 1776-80. His initial voyage was still another "scientific expedition", ostensibly initiated by the Royal Society to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the Sun. Lord Shelburne personally presented the request to fund it to King George III. Cook's own sponsor was the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Sandwich, the number two man in a powerful nexus of Satan worshippers known as the Hell Fire Club, while the head of his scientific staff was Sandwich's neighbour, protégé and fellow Hell Fire Club member, Sir Joseph Banks. In the coming decades, Banks would become known as the "father of Australia".

Amid much fanfare Cook's *Endeavour* set sail in 1768 to "observe the transit of Venus"; secretly, he carried instructions to claim the unmapped eastern coast of *Terra Australis* as a future anchor of British maritime power and trade. This, he did.

So important were Cook's voyages, that they continued even during the American Revolution of 1775-81. Indeed, the Pacific theatre became ever more important to the British following the loss of their American colonies, the bulwark of their empire in the Atlantic.

The Americans could never have defeated the mighty British empire on their own. Based in Europe, Benjamin Franklin orchestrated powerful factions in many European countries to aid the Americans. In collaboration with France, Russia under Tsarina Catherine the Great organised the League of Armed Neutrality, which permitted non-belligerent powers to deliver goods to America during the revolution, and which was, in fact, an alliance against Britain, which



The British colonised Australia to pre-empt the French, and to establish a strategic base in the Pacific. It took 6-8 months to sail from Britain to Australia. But from Australia, the British could easily challenge the French, Dutch, and Spanish possessions in the Pacific. Following Britain's loss of her Atlantic (American) colonies, the Pacific was more vital than ever, centring on the British East India Company's Calcutta-to-Canton dope trade. The British still run the world's dope traffic.

The Russian-American Alliance

On 25th May, 2002 Russian President Vladimir Putin explained, in response to a question, that cooperation between Russia and the United States began at the time of the American Revolution. "At that time, the Crown of England appealed to Catherine the Great and asked for support in quelling the rebellion in the United States, and the Russian sovereign turned and said, 'That's not what we're about,' and declared a military neutrality vis-à-vis the war. And this neutrality played a significant role in allowing the United States to gain its independence and gain its foundation."

Prussia joined, as did the Holy Roman Empire, the Netherlands, Portugal and the Ottoman Empire. Spain under its great King Carlos III also supported the Americans, and Carlos implemented far-reaching reforms in the areas of economics and education, based on the American-inspired principle of the General Welfare. Much financing came from anti-British factions in Holland, while key European military figures, such as Poland's Baron Kosciusko, Germany's Baron von Steuben, and, most famously, France's Marquis de Lafayette came to train and assist the Americans. Lafayette personally led the French troops who aided the Americans at the Battle of Yorktown, New York in October 1781, which finally forced the British to surrender.

Following the 1783 Treaty of Paris which formally concluded peace between the British and the new American republic, America's former backers in France, Holland and Spain continued a worldwide struggle against the British. France's population alone was three times that of Britain, while these three powers combined possessed a greater maritime power than even Britain itself, a power which challenged Britain's hold on India and its trade to China. With America now gone, Britain's Pacific possessions were more strategically vital than ever.

Therefore, look now at the map of the Pacific through the eyes of Shelburne and his strategic planners. British ships typically sailed with the currents down into the south Atlantic off the coast of Brazil, and then across below southern Africa to India. There, they picked up the opium which the British East India Company forced the Indian farmers to grow, and sailed to China to exchange it for tea. On this 11,000-mile voyage the ships had to refit and resupply at the Cape of Good Hope. In 1784-85, this base was held by the Dutch, who were allied with the French. The Dutch also held the crucial port of Trincomalee in Ceylon (today's Sri Lanka), from which they—or their French allies—could attack British shipping on this India-to-China route.

An alternative, more difficult British route to India went down along the coast of Spanish possessions in South America and either through the Straits of Magellan or around Cape Horn. Spain, however, claimed exclusive rights to all of South America and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean, as well as the entire Pacific, based upon Papal Bulls dating back to 1493, and upon the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Bases alone were not sufficient; the British navy also needed an endless supply of timber (mostly pine) for the hundred foot tall main masts of their ships of the line, and for other masts and spars; pine tar for caulking; and flax and hemp for sails, cables and cordage. Britain's own forests had long since been cut down, so she largely secured such supplies from Russia and the Baltic nations. Russia, however, was now an uncertain quantity, as were Denmark and Sweden, both of whom had joined Russia to initiate the pro-American League of Armed Neutrality, but whose cooperation following the American victory was essential for British shipping from the Baltic. In the Pacific, Captain Cook had determined that the only major sources of timber and flax were New Zealand, and Norfolk Island some 1,000 miles north-east of Botany Bay.

The Church of Saint Mark was the headquarters of the Venetian financier maritime empire. In response to the rise of nation states in the 15th Century Golden Renaissance, the tiny city-state of Venice, the capital of monetarist imperialism since 1000 A.D., used her fabulous wealth to colonise Holland and England, resulting in the London-centred Anglo-Dutch imperialism of today.

Britain's rivals

From 1784 to 1786, British diplomats and spies reported that the French were building up their fleet and constructing major harbours and other naval preparations. Alarming reports flooded into Admiralty Headquarters in London, of plans for a combined Dutch, French and Spanish attack against Britain. Indeed, French blows against the British fell fast and furious during that period:

* France made a treaty with the Swedes, giving France the island of Gothenburg for a naval depot at the entrance to the Baltic;

* She negotiated a trade treaty with Egypt, which also allowed her to send and receive goods from her remaining outposts in India via Egypt.

* She sponsored a grouping of French merchants to trade with India, providing them with ostensibly "decommissioned" 64-gun warships of the French navy.

* She concluded a military alliance with the Dutch, with the rights to use Dutch bases at the Cape of Good Hope and in the Pacific. Its included purpose, in the words of one French official, was "to prepare the way for decisive blows in concert with Holland about the coast of India". In fact, war plans for a combined French/Dutch assault to drive the British from India had been drafted both in France and in Holland.

The British (and foolish Australians) call longtime Royal Society president and satanist Joseph Banks, "the founding father of Australia".

In early 1785, the British Admiralty's spies reported that the French captain LaPérouse had set sail on a supposedly "scientific expedition" with 60 convicts, but with the secret intention to establish a naval base on the eastern coast of New Holland, as eastern Australia was then known. Alarmed, Shelburne and his Board of Control which oversaw the British East India Company rushed through plans for a British fleet to colonise New Holland before the French could get there. One of the chief public propagandists for the effort was Joseph Banks, the president of the Royal Society. Banks had accompanied Cook on his first voyage, and had achieved a reputation as the foremost authority on Australia. But whereas he had earlier pronounced the continent unfit for settlement, he now changed his mind and led the lobbying effort in parliament and elsewhere to establish a colony there.

The 11-ship fleet, known to Australian history as the "First Fleet", set sail on 13th May, 1787 under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. Phillip had crucial qualifications for the job. On secondment from the British Navy, he had served in the Portuguese navy in Portugal's colony of Brazil; he had been one of the Admiralty's top spies deployed against France and Spain; and, together with Shelburne's personal agent Captain John Blankett, he had not only drafted detailed invasion plans against the Spanish colonies in South America, but had actually led such an invasion in 1783, which was only thwarted by stormy weather. Among other personal ties between Phillip and Shelburne, they were both members of a group promoting the then-controversial doctrine of "free trade", whose most famous apologist was Adam Smith, the tutor of Shelburne's own brother (who lived in Smith's home). In a famous carriage ride in 1761, Shelburne had instructed Smith to write *The Wealth of Nations* as an economic warfare manual, in particular against the increasingly independent American colonies.

Englishmen who visited Venice on the "Grand Tour" and returned home to ape Venetian culture and manners, were known as "macaroni". The botanist Banks, shown in this contemporary caricature, was one of them.

Racing the French to Port Jackson

Believing the French to be on his heels, Phillip and three other ships hurried on ahead of the rest of the First Fleet as it approached New Holland, and he arrived at Botany Bay on 18th January, 1788. Aware that Port Jackson to the north was a far superior harbour, Phillip, in less than a week, packed up his entire fleet and set sail for Port Jackson. The strategic urgency to beat the French was such that a ship's surgeon reported that Phillip's ships had only got out of Botany Bay "with utmost difficulty and danger with many hairbreadth escapes … with everyone blaming the rashness of the Governor in insisting upon the fleets working out in such weather, & all agreed it was next to a Miracle that some of the Ships were not lost." Phillip arrived at Port Jackson on 26th January, where he named Sydney Cove after Lord Sydney, whom Shelburne as prime minister in 1782-83 had appointed Home Secretary, and who continued in that post under Shelburne's protégé, William Pitt the Younger. In the meantime, LaPérouse and his ships had arrived at Botany Bay. A mere three weeks after landing at Port Jackson, Phillip dispatched a small party to claim Norfolk Island and its valuable naval stores before the French could claim it.

Governor Arthur Phillip (upper left) reported from Australia to his superior in London, Venetian Party head Lord Shelburne.

Look at Australia's strategic importance. From there, the British could attack Spain's colonies across the Pacific in South America—for which they had drawn up detailed plans as early as 1731. The distance is deceptive, because the trade winds blow from west to east ten months of the year, enabling a relatively easy one-month voyage. From their new base of Australia, they could also challenge Spain's claims to the northwest coast of the American continent. In fact, the British conflict with the Spanish at Nootka Sound on that coast brought the two countries to the verge of war in 1790, a war for which the British had drafted plans to send a military force from Australia, including a contingent from the New South Wales Corps. From Australia, the British could also attack Dutch and French bases and territories in the Far East. Whereas it took six to eight months to sail from Britain to India, from Australia it was only a one-month sail to the Cape of Good Hope; only five weeks to both India and China; and just one month to Batavia, now known as Jakarta, the capital of the Dutch spice trade in the East Indies for 200 years. Additionally, there were no comparable British bases in the Pacific to support India, the jewel of the British Empire after her loss of America.

The British East India Company commissioned this 1778 painting by Venetian artist Spiridione Roma for the ceiling of its Revenue Committee room. Titled, "The East Offering Its Riches to Britannia", it celebrates Britain's world imperial rule after 1763, on the model of ancient Rome. The pagan god Mercury (right, with staff) commands the enslaved of Asia to deliver tribute to Britannia, the mother goddess of England when it was occupied by the Roman Empire. Lower left is Old Father Thames, and a BEIC ship is in the centre background.

The palatial London headquarters of the British East India Company. This private company, an outgrowth of England's trade with Venice dating back to the late 16th Century, ran the far-flung British Empire.

In the tense strategic situation of 1784-86, Shelburne et al. were not so stupid as to publicly debate the relative strengths and weaknesses of Britain and her enemies in the Pacific. Thus, they concocted the "convict dumping ground" story to mask their true intentions. However, extensive documentary evidence shows that Britain's rivals were not fooled for a moment by the story that the British would launch such an enormous deployment of ships, manpower and money just to dump a bunch of convicts 13,000 miles away. Not to mention that Shelburne et al. had to face down the bitter—and still powerful—opposition to the new colony from the more narrow "commercial" interests of the British East India Company typified by the shipowners lobby and many of the company's stockholders, who were certain that it would ultimately break its two-century-long monopoly on the Pacific trade, as it soon did. Some months after arrival, Governor Phillip, a longtime subordinate of Shelburne, whom he had met immediately before parting in command of the First Fleet, wrote to Shelburne that "it will be four years at least, before this Colony will be able to support itself." Notwithstanding that expense, and alluding to strategic matters well beyond the dumping of convicts, Phillip continued, "still, My Lord, I think that perseverance will answer every purpose proposed by Government, & that this Country will hereafter be a most Valuable acquisition to Great Britain from its situation." In gratitude for the sponsorship of Shelburne, another of whose titles was the 1st Marquis of Lansdowne, Phillip named the southern part of the Blue Mountains, the "Lansdowne Hills".

Another America?

Notwithstanding the new colony's clear strategic importance, the East India Company "commercial" interests, along with many even in Shelburne's own, Venetian Party camp, argued that such a new colony so far from London would inevitably "go the way of America", and establish itself as a new, independent nation. Typical were the warnings of leading British East India Company official Alexander Dalrymple, the company's expert on the Pacific since the 1760s, who admonished:

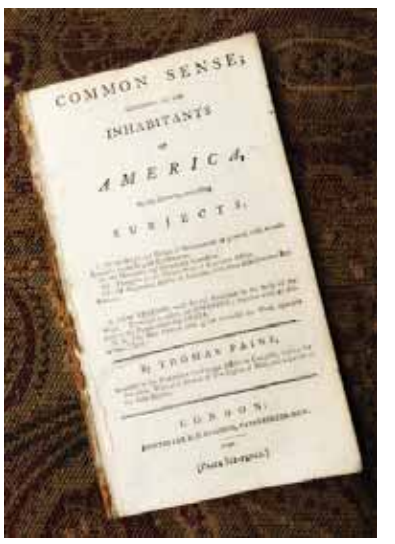
"If an European Colony be established, on that extensive Country, it is obvious it must become very soon independent; and, I will add, very dangerous to England."

Even Shelburne ally Sir Francis Baring, the East India Company chairman and head of Barings Bank, warned already in 1793 of "the serpent we are nourishing in Botany Bay."

From the very outset, this concern that the new colony might become "another America", was to shape almost every aspect of the British governing of New South Wales, beginning with their barbaric treatment of those unfortunate human beings shipped out to this no-man's land for the rest of their lives.

The British had good reason to be afraid of a new America in the Pacific. In both America itself, and throughout Europe, those who had organised and supported the American Revolution, conceived the United States to be a "Temple of Hope" and "Beacon of Liberty" for the entire world, which would inspire and aid American-style revolutions back in Europe. It unleashed enormous hope and optimism in the looted, desperately poor subject nations of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and even in England itself, whose abject poverty in the late 18th Century surpassed even that portrayed by Charles Dickens decades later. Thus, the English-born American revolutionary Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* sold an astonishing one million copies among the 14 million population of the British Isles. When General Washington's embattled army, many of whose soldiers lacked even shoes, was struggling to survive the bitter winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1776, Paine penned these immortal words to keep up their courage, and that of their fellow citizens: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly."

Francis Baring (1740-1810), head of Barings Bank, Chairman of the British East India Company, was terrified that Australia might become another America.



The republican Thomas Paine (1737-1809) wrote stirring pamphlets in defense of the American Revolution, such as his January 1776 "Common Sense" which called for American independence from Britain.

Irish republicans led the Castle Hill Uprising (Vinegar Hill) in NSW in March 1804 against British tyranny and torture. It's time for another.

Irish passion for independence

But of all nations in the world, none carried out the fight for freedom so boldly, so successfully, and in such close coordination with America, as the Irish. Perhaps none had been so cruelly oppressed for so long, as they, and no nation, outside America itself, has had such an impact on Australia. Of the 160,000 prisoners transported here between 1788 and 1868, 50,000 were Irish, the majority of them political prisoners of the fight for Ireland's freedom. An estimated one-third of Australians have Irish ancestry, more than any country outside Ireland itself.

Ireland contained the richest agricultural land in Europe, whose produce had been systematically looted by the Venetian Party in England since the late 16th Century. In successive waves since then, the overwhelmingly Catholic majority had been dispossessed of their land, 95 per cent of which was by the 1770s owned by Protestant landlords, to whom the Catholics were effectively enslaved. Indeed, eyewitnesses uniformly reported throughout the 18th Century and later, that black slaves in America or the West Indies lived better than the majority of the Irish. By the 18th Century, Ireland's agricultural bounty was absolutely vital to the British Empire.

Already in 1771, four years before the American revolution, Benjamin Franklin visited Ireland to build an alliance against the British. Writing home, Franklin reported that he found Irish patriots, "to be friends of America, in which I endeavored to confirm them, with the expectation that our growing weight might in time be thrown into their scale, and, by joining our interests with others, a more equitable treatment from [the English] might be obtained for them as well as for us." After Franklin moved to France in December 1776 to organise money, arms and allies for the Americans, he continued to organise in Ireland. He served as American ambassador to the Irish, and, in November 1778 issued an open letter to the Irish people demonstrating the common cause between the American colonies and Ireland. Irish patriots were by then arming and drilling in the "Volunteers" movement. An alarmed Lord Shelburne wrote from his vast estates in Ireland, that he found "all classes here more animated about America than in England. In every Protestant or Dissenter's house the established toast is success to the Americans."

By the end of 1779, the Volunteers had over 100,000 men in arms. Since British rule forbade Irish Catholics to own land, to own weapons, to hold office, or to speak out against their condition, almost all were Protestants, though not, of course, of the Protestant landed oligarchy which ruled Ireland for the British. In France, General Lafayette interviewed Franklin's Irish collaborators about the possibility of a joint American/French invasion of the British Isles, while in America, such a large proportion of General George Washington's army were Irish, that he proclaimed a day of rest in March 1780 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and the American-Irish alliance. The patriots of Ireland, wrote Washington, aim "to remove those heavy and tyrannical oppressions to their trade, [and] to restore to a Brave and Generous People, their ancient rights and Freedom, and by their operation, promote the cause of America." By early 1782, the Irish Volunteers army numbered 280,000.

Viscount Hillsborough, British Secretary of State for the Southern Department wrote on 12th March, 1782 to British intelligence official William Eden:

"Your cursed Volunteers, and Patriots have alarmed us here very much … That infamous Franklin by his agents is certainly attempting mischief in Ireland." Two weeks later the British government resigned, and a new government headed by Prime Minister Lord Shelburne came to power. He was forced to acknowledge the independence of the United States, and his Parliament also passed *The Renunciation Act*, which *formally abandoned British rule of Ireland*. Almost immediately, Ireland's newly independent legislature enacted tariffs to stop Britain's trade war; made credit available for manufactures; offered bonuses for new inventions; and began work on canals and other national infrastructure. State control over the grain market was established to protect the farmers; a national postal system was established; a vigorous publishing industry started; and all restrictions on Catholic landholding were repealed.

Though forced to grant Ireland its independence, the British plotted unceasingly for the next two decades to reconquer the country. Gradually, through economic warfare; by encouraging sectarian warfare between the minority of Protestants and the majority Catholics; and by sheer force of arms, Britain reasserted its power. Among other tactics, the British encouraged Protestant landlords to loot their Catholic tenants; financed atrocities including widespread use of torture against the Catholics by fanatical Protestants and the British military; and then deployed agents provocateurs to trigger bloody, but hopeless uprisings. This, as British oligarchs such as the later prime minister, Lord John Russell, admitted, gave Shelburne's puppet, Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger (1783 – 1801), the excuse he needed to openly reconquer Ireland, as concretised in the 1801 act proclaiming the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland".

Against the strategic threat of rapid population growth in both America and Ireland, Shelburne himself sponsored the "gloomy parson", the Reverend Thomas Malthus, a lifetime East India Company employee, whose scribblings on the danger of "overpopulation" were all plagiarised from the Venetian Giammaria Ortes. For decades Ortes had issued a stream of rants against the rapidly growing American colonies, and in particular against Benjamin Franklin's 1751 manuscript, "Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries", which forecast that within a century the American population would surpass that of the British. Ortes and the Venetians were terrified, as they had been since the Renaissance, that growing, literate populations would break out of imperial control. *All* population growth is disastrous, claimed Ortes, as faithfully copied by Malthus, because "population increases geometrically, while food supply grows only arithmetically". Besides America's surging population, the British were also terrified by that of Ireland. Malthus wrote tracts about Ireland, warning that the culprit was the easily-cultivated potato, and that if this population continued to grow, then the British might lose control of Ireland by early in the 19th Century. But, "If we can persuade the hare to go to sleep", Malthus wrote of Ireland's rapidly expanding population, "the tortoise may have some chance of overtaking her."

The most infamous, but characteristic result of Britain "persuading the hare to go to sleep", was to be the so-called "potato famine" of 1845-49. Culminating in that orchestrated famine, and under debt slavery to their British landlords, two million or more of Ireland's eight million people starved to death or emigrated, even as British troops guarded the ships which exported Ireland's huge harvests.

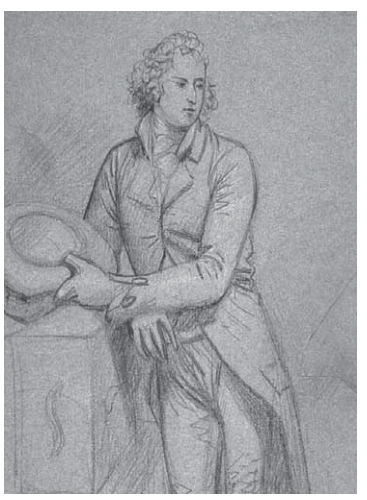
This Dublin statue commemorates those who suffered, died, or were forced to emigrate as a result of the Great Famine of Ireland from 1845-49, one of several such atrocities. Orchestrating famines was a keystone of British colonial rule, as also in India, which suffered 16 major famines under East India Company rule from 1765 -1858— eight times the rate before British rule. East India Company employee Parson Thomas Malthus provided the "scientific explanation" for such genocide. Sculptor: Rowan Gillespie, 1997.

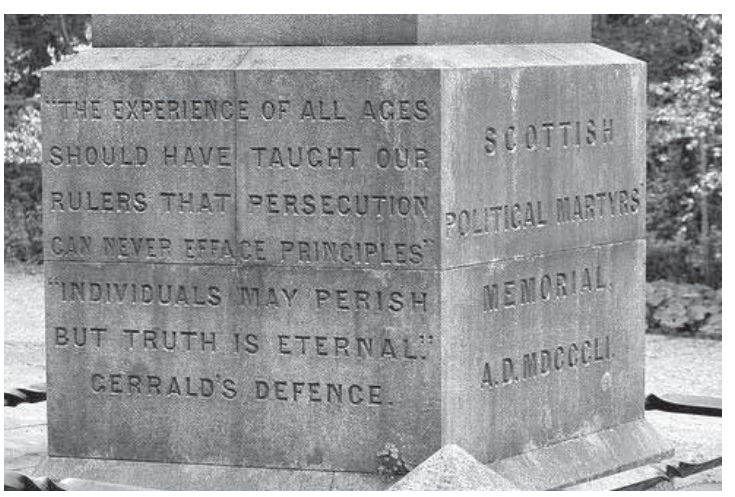
Inspired and aided by the Americans, the Irish Volunteers army drove the British from Ireland in 1782.

Generals Lafayette (l.) and Washington (r.) at George Washington's home in Virginia. Lafayette played a crucial role in the American Revolution, and schemed for Irish independence as well.

Scottish Martyrs

Meanwhile, the British looted Scotland almost as savagely as they had Ireland, notably through the notorious "enclosures", in which the Scots were evicted wholesale from their land in order to turn them into sheep runs for British landlords. Those who resisted, or who espoused the ideals of the American Revolution, were, like the Irish, also shipped to Australia. The most famous of these were the "Scottish Martyrs": Thomas Muir, Maurice Margarot, Joseph Gerrald, Thomas Fyshe Palmer, William Skirving, and John Horne Tooke. Scotland's beloved national poet and republican, Robert Burns, penned his poem, *Scots Wha Hae*, in honour of their leader, Thomas Muir:



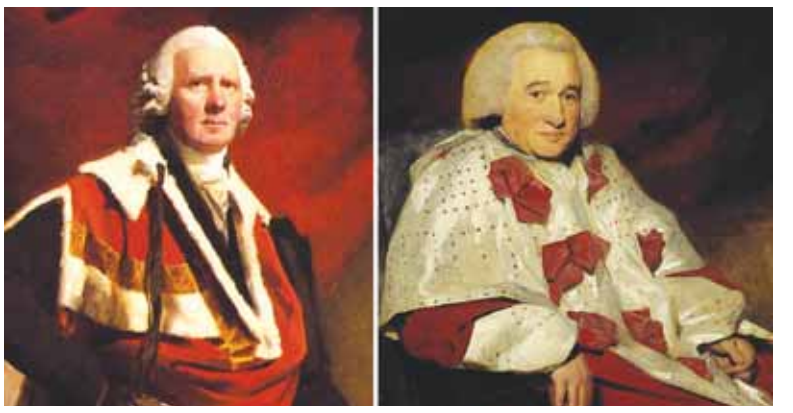


(l.) Thomas Muir, leader of the Scottish Martyrs. (c.) The stirring words of Joseph Gerrald at his trial. (r) Scotland's national poet, the republican Robert Burns.

"By Oppression's woes and pains, By your sons in servile chains, We will drain our dearest veins, But they shall be free! Lay the proud usurper low! Tyrants fall in every foe! Liberty's in every blow!—Let us do or die!"

So terrified were the British of republican organising in Scotland, that Henry Dundas, a Shelburne crony who had replaced Lord Sydney as head of the BEIC's Board of Control, and who as Lord Advocate for Scotland was its top legal official, personally prosecuted Muir for sedition. The notorious "hanging judge" of Edinburgh, Lord Justice Braxfield, sentenced Muir to transportation, a blatant illegality since the English laws allowing transportation did not even exist in Scotland. Said Muir at his sentencing,

"Were I to be led at this moment from the bar to the scaffold, I should feel the same calmness and serenity which I now do. My mind tells me that I have acted agreeably to my conscience and that I have engaged in a good, a just, and a glorious cause—a cause which sooner or later must and will prevail, and by a timely reform, save this country from destruction."



Two British butchers: (l.) Head of the BEIC's ruling Board of Control, Henry Dundas, was also Scotland's Lord Advocate, its top legal official, and (r.) Lord Justice Braxfield of Edinburgh, the notorious "hanging judge."

Vicious British law

As for the "thieves" and other non-political prisoners, many of them were just hapless victims of the grinding poverty in London and elsewhere in England, and of Britain's infamous justice system. Known as the "Bloody Code," 160 offenses carried the punishment of death; public executions and torture were commonplace, and you could be sentenced to "transportation" for stealing a loaf of bread to feed your starving family, or for a host of other minor crimes. Amidst this desperate poverty, riots were almost a daily occurrence, whether spontaneously, or sponsored by Lord Shelburne against his opponents, such as the week-long Gordon Riots of 1780, in which large parts of London were burned and 700 people killed. Longtime London resident Benjamin Franklin observed, "I have seen, within a year, riots in the country, about corn; riots about elections; riots about workhouses; riots of colliers; riots of weavers; riots of coal-heavers; riots of smugglers, in which custom house officers and excisemen have been murdered, the King's armed vessels and troops fired out."

For trying to organise trade unions, you could be convicted of "administering an illegal oath", and shipped out. In a typical such case, a Lancashire weaver, Thomas Holden, was transported for seven years. He wrote to his wife:

"It's with sorrow that I have to acquaint you that I this day receiv'd my Tryal and has receiv'd the hard sentence of Seven Years Transportation beyond the seas…. If I was for any Time in prison I would try and content myself but to be sent from my Native Country perhaps never to see it again distresses me beyond comprehension and will Terminate with my life….[T]o part with my dear Wife & Child, Parents and Friends, to be no more, cut off the Bloom of my Youth without doing the least wrong to any person on Earth—O my hard fate, may God have mercy on me…. Your affec. Husband until Death."

Horrific as was the Bloody Code, it was more mild than the treatment which transportees received in New South Wales, where the execution rate was over 300 times higher than in Britain on a per capita basis. Between the years 1827 and 1830, 153 people were hanged in NSW. To equal that figure on a comparative basis, taking today's population, there would have to be 14,000 executions a year in Australia, or 30 per day. But the worst torture, and the highest execution rates, took place already on the ships on the six-or eight-month voyages out, and not accidentally.

By the time transportation to New South Wales had begun in the late 1780s, Britain had kidnapped and shipped millions of human beings from Africa to its colonies in America, the West Indies, or elsewhere. But for various reasons, the slave trade was growing unprofitable, particularly compared to the fabulous riches of Britain's rising India-to-China opium trade. To free up ships for the dope trade, as well as to assume a Liberal "friend of mankind" posture in the wake of the American Revolution—all the better for Lord Shelburne and his stooge, Jeremy Bentham to sponsor revolutions against their rivals among the monarchies of Europe—the British decided to turn over the slave trade to the Spanish monarchy, which had fallen under British control since the death of the pro-American King Carlos III in 1788. The Brits' "anti-slavery" campaign was led by a religious kook named William Wilberforce, whose other pursuits bespoke the real story behind this "anti-slavery" crusade. Even as he campaigned to end black slavery, Wilberforce co-founded the Africa Society together with Joseph Banks, satanist and longtime Royal Society President. The Africa Society's intent, explained Banks in the early 1790s, was to seize the entire west coast of Africa for the British Empire. No longer were individual slaves to be kidnapped, at least by the British; rather, the British would enslave those swaths of the African continent.

The Irishman John Fitzpatrick was transported for ten years for stealing two cows during the great 1845-49 potato famine.

Under Britain's "Bloody Code", 160 offenses—many of them minor—carried a penalty of murder; hangings were a regular occurrence, both in London and in New South Wales.

William Wilberforce (1759-1833), the great "anti-slavery" demagogue. He co-founded the Africa Society to try to seize the entire west coast of Africa, and, despite repeated pleas, said nary a word about the horrors of transportation.

Transportation horror

So, with fewer African slaves to carry, the British instead assigned some of their previously constructed, specially-built slave ships to transport prisoners to Australia. The notorious British East India Company contracted for that trade, as did the London firm of Camden, Calvert and King, the single largest contractor for the First, Second, and Third Fleets and the largest slave transporter in the British Empire. But, for the voyages to Australia, they refitted the slave shackles. No longer did they use chains and ankle irons, which, barbaric as they were, still allowed the slave's leg some movement. Instead, they substituted short rigid bolts between the ankles about nine inches long. William Hill, a captain in the NSW Corps who sailed on one of these ships, reported, "It was impossible for them to move but at the risk of both of their legs being broken." As they were to be for all fleets in the first 20 years, prisoners were chained for the entire eight-month journey out, across 13,000 miles of treacherous open seas.

Hill recounted that the starving prisoners "lay chilled to the bone on soaked bedding, unexercised, crushed with salt, shit and vomit, festering with scurvy and boils." Hill named two of the ships' masters of the Second Fleet, Donald Traill of the *Neptune* and Nicholas Anstis of the ship *Scarborough*, as "demented sadists", whose "interests coincided with the contractors":

"The more they can withhold from the unhappy wretches, the more provisions they have to dispose of on a foreign market, and the earlier in the voyage they die the longer they can draw the deceased's allowance to themselves; for I fear few of them are honest enough to make a just return of the dates of their deaths to their employers."

One prisoner reported, "[We were] chained two and two together and confined in the hold during the whole course of our long voyage… [we] were scarcely allowed a sufficient quantity of victuals to keep us alive, and scarcely any water; for my own part I could have eaten three or four of our allowances, and you know very well that I was never a great eater…[W]hen any of our comrades that were chained to us died, we kept secret as long as we could for the smell of the dead body, in order to get their allowance of provision, and many a time have I been glad to eat the poultice that was put to my leg for perfect hunger. I was chained to Humphrey Davies who died when we were about half way, and I lay beside his corpse about a week and got his allowance."

Notwithstanding their chains, many of the convicts were flogged en route, some of them to death. Thomas Dennott, the master of the *Britannia* which sailed in 1796 with 144 male and 44 female Irish on board, dished out 7,900 lashes to some prisoners he suspected of planning a mutiny, killing six of them.

Who can begin to comprehend the horrors of transportation!

But the starvation, the ankle rods and the flogging were not the end of the torture. The bilges in the ships were foul beyond description. As the fleets left Portsmouth they traveled down the west coast of Africa and across to the Port of Rio De Janeiro in South America. The tropical regions were almost unbearably hot and humid, and when the ships entered the tropics, waves of bedbugs, lice, cockroaches, and fleas would creep up from the bilges. Though officers and convicts alike were tormented by them, the officers could use gunpowder to light fires between decks to burn off the vermin, or use oil and tar as an antiseptic to turn the vermin off in another direction, down to the convicts' quarters. The stink of 18th Century slave ship bilges was horrific, a fermenting slosh of sea water mixed with urine, vomit, feces, rotting food, and dead rats. One officer reported of his trip in which the bilge "had by some means or another risen to so great a height, that the panels of the cabin, and the buttons on the back of officers, were turned nearly black, by the noxious effluvia. When

Departure for Botany Bay, facing torture—and likely death.

the hatches [to the convicts' hole] were taken off, the stench was so powerful that it was scarcely possible to stand over them."

When the Second Fleet arrived, the colony's Anglican chaplain, Reverend Richard Johnson reported that although he "braved the tween-decks stench of the *Surprize,*" he could not face going below in the *Neptune*. When the convicts were finally landed, Johnson estimated that one man had at least ten thousand lice swarming on his body, and he was just thrown ashore, Johnson said, "as they would sling a cask, a box, or anything of that nature. Upon their being brought up to the open air some fainted, some died upon the deck, and others in the boat before they reached the shore. When come on shore, many were not able to walk, to stand or to stir themselves in the least, hence they were led by others. Some creeped upon their hands and knees, and some were carried on the backs of others."

In the First Fleet, only one third of the 717 prisoners arrived fit to work. But, when the Second Fleet, "the Death Fleet", run mostly by Camden, Calvert and King, reached Sydney, and scraped its cargo of the dead, the dying and the sick off the boats, the first thing that they did was to open a market on the shore, selling the left-over provisions to the half-starved convicts of the First Fleet. Of the 499 prisoners that embarked off the *Neptune*, on that journey only 72 landed in fair health, 269 were incapacitated, and 158 died. Most of the dead were the Irish. The ships of *Scarborough* and *Surprize* faired only marginally better. Of the 1017 able-bodied convicts despatched from Portsmouth, only 759 survived, with more than 500 of even the survivors near death from starvation and abuse. The mortality rate on this fleet was to be the highest in transportation history to Australia.

The specially-made leg irons which transportees wore for the entire eight-month journey to NSW, were more cruel than those of the African slave trade.

White slavery

Unlike African slaves, who were regarded as valuable human cargo, there was no limit as to how these white convicts could be starved, tortured or simply murdered on board. This unspeakable suffering and death provoked many in Britain and in New South Wales to plead with the great anti-slavery leader William Wilberforce to speak out against it. He said nary a word.

Despite the wholesale slaughter conducted on the Second Fleet, in which 30 per cent of all convicts died, Camden, Calvert and King were given a slap on the wrist by the British government, which contracted them once again for the Third Fleet in 1791!

If the prisoners survived, and if they were not executed in NSW for some possibly real or just imagined crime, they were almost continually flogged at the slightest excuse. Shelburne et al. issued secret "special instructions" on the treatment of the political prisoners, in particular, in order to beat and terrify their ideals out of them. And many of these political prisoners, including entire shiploads, had been just rounded up and shipped out from Ireland with no record of their trials or their sentences. Sentences were typically seven years, 14 years or life; but, any prisoners with no records were automatically assumed to have *life sentences*, adding to a general mood of desperation and hopelessness. Between 1787-1810, 11,800 were transported, one-third of them Irish.

The typical punishment was flogging, carried out with the cat-o' nine tails. Commonly called "the cat," it was a multi-tailed whip which had originated as an instrument for punishment in the Royal Navy. It had nine lengths made from platted rope,

Reverend Samuel Marsden (1765-1838). Especially cruel, he sometimes ordered 1,000 lashes.

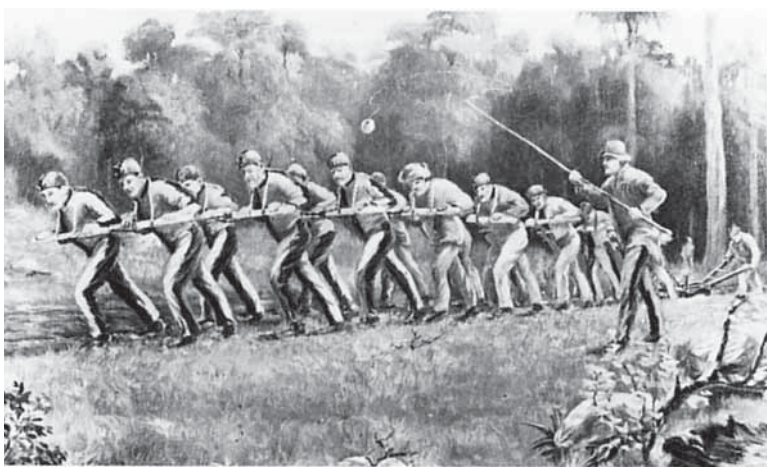
but, uniquely for convicts being transported to Australia, those nine lengths were also knotted at the end to inflict harsher floggings. For those transported to Norfolk Island, a lead weight was inserted into each of those knotted ends, so as to cut even deeper.

The records are replete with accounts of prisoners receiving 500 or even 1000 lashes with the cat, such as the case of the Irishmen Maurice Fitzgerald and Paddy Galvin, as recounted in Robert Hughes' *The Fatal Shore* and in *The Battle of Vinegar Hill: Australia's Irish Rebellion 1804*, by Lynette Ramsay Silver, among other sources:

"Marsden and King applied the idea that beating some to near death would give them information about any impending rebellion. Marsden who was also suffering from paranoia, decided that this Irishman who only spoke

Floggings were incessant in the new colony. A mere 200 lashes was called "the feeler".

The "Separate Prisons" at Port Arthur featured underground cells to break men's spirits.



Convicts were lashed to the plough at Port Arthur. Note the spiked ball at the end of the overseer's whip!

Gaelic was speaking in code and that he was hiding something. He decided that he and his friend would be the ones to break. The first one up was Maurice Fitzgerald who was given 300 lashes and here's the account from his friend.

'The place they flogged them their arms pulled around a large tree and their breasts squeezed against the trunk so the men had no power to cringe….There was two floggers, Richard Rice and John Johnson the Hangman from Sydney. Rice was a left handed man and Johnson was right handed, so they stood at each side, and I never saw two threshers in a barn move their strokes more handier than those two man-killers did.

'The moment they began I turned my face round towards the other side and one of the constables came and desir'd me to turn and look on. I put my right hand in my pocket and pulled out my pen-knife, and swore I [would] rip him from the navel to the chin. They all gathered round me and would have ill used me … .[but] they were obliged to walk off. I could compare them to a pack of hounds at the death of a hare, all yelping.

'I was to leeward of the floggers … . I was two perches from them. The flesh and skin blew in my face as it shook off the cats. Fitzgerald received his 300 lashes. Doctor Mason —I will never forget him—he used to go feel his pulse, and he smiled, and said: "This man will tire you before he will fail—Go on."… During the time [Fitzgerald] was getting his punishment he never gave so much as a word—only one, and that was saying, "Don't strike me on the neck, flog me fair."

'When he was let loose, two of the constables went and took hold of him by the arms to keep him in the cart. I was standing by. [H]e said to them, "Let me go." He struck both of them with his elbows in the pit of the stomach and knocked them both down, and then stepped in the cart. I heard Dr. Mason say that man had strength enough to bear 200 more.

'Next was tied up Paddy Galvin, a young boy about 20 years of age. He was ordered to get 300 lashes. He got one hundred on the back, and you could see his backbone between his shoulder blades. Then the Doctor ordered him to get another hundred on his bottom. He got it, and then his haunches were in such a jelly that the Doctor ordered him to be flogged on the calves of his legs. He got one hundred there and as much as a whimper he never gave. They asked him if he would tell where the pikes were hid. He said he did not know, and would not tell. "You may as well hang me now," he said, "for you never will get any music from me so." They put him in a cart and sent him to hospital.'

"Marsden complained bitterly to King that these Irish would die before they would divulge anything, so they rounded up as many as they could, flogged them and sent them to Norfolk Island for life."

Norfolk Is land was a still lower level of hell, characterised by extreme brutality and sexual perversion, especially under the leadership of Major Foveaux, described as the "Count de Sade of Australia". Conditions there were summarised by Thomas Naylor, chaplain from 1841-45, who reported that there were some genuine villains on Norfolk, but that:

"With these scoundrels the English farm labourer, the tempted and fallen mechanic, the suspected but innocent victims of perjury or mistake, are indiscriminately herded . … In the open day the weak are bullied and robbed by the stronger. At night the sleeping-wards are the very cesspools of unheard-of vices. I cannot find sober words enough in which to express the enormity of this evil. ... I watched the process of degradation. I saw very boys seized upon and lost; I saw decent and respectable men, nay

The cat-o' nine tails ("the cat"). It was specially made for transportees, to inflict further suffering.

gentlemen … thrown among the vilest-ruffians, to be tormented by their bestialities."

The prisoners were deployed in forced-labour brigades, which even Lord John Russell, British Prime Minister from 1846-52, later proclaimed to be "pure slavery", while his Secretary of State for War and of the Colonies, Earl Grey, wrote in his book, *Colonial Policy* (again, safely after the fact), that "the assigned servants were in fact slaves, and there is only too painful proof that in many instances the evils inseparable from slavery were experienced." Still, no squeak of protest issued from "Amazing Grace" Wilberforce, who, along with several Bank of England officials and some of London's wealthiest merchants, was to be a founding stockholder in the Australian Agricultural Company, a vast pastoral company founded entirely upon the use of convict slave labor—which is still today the largest landowner in Australia. Bad as were conditions in the main colony in NSW, transportees who "misbehaved" or were deemed dangerous

political prisoners, were shipped off to draconian camps: Moreton Bay in Queensland; Port Macquarie on the north coast of New South Wales; or to the notorious hellholes in Van Diemen's Land of Macquarie Harbour, Maria Island and Port Arthur. The most notorious of all, was that on Norfolk Island.

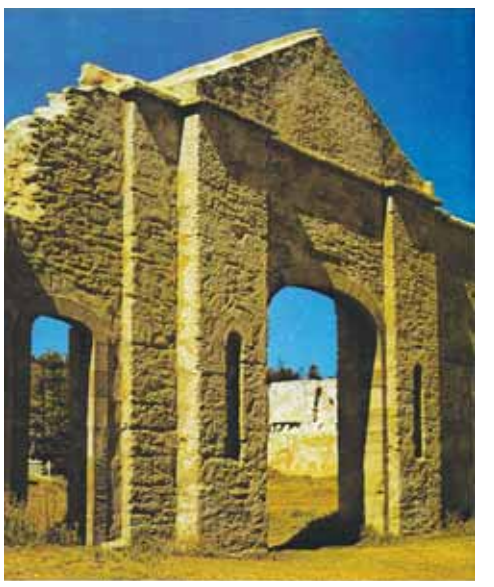
The entrance to Macquarie Harbour is known as the Gates of Hell, and, according to one standard history, "the records speak of cannibalism, of murders, of sadism and almost inhuman suffering". Floggings were routine; in one five-year period over two-thirds of the 240-some prisoners there were flogged at least once with the special Port Macquarie cat, larger and heavier than the normal scourge, with over 7,000 lashes delivered in one year. Prisoners in Van Dieman's Land were often yoked to ploughs, 20 or 30 at a time, and driven over the fields by guards using long whips and ropes with a heavy spiked ball at the end. At night they were locked into boxes which held 20 to 30 men, where, according to a contemporary account, prisoners "can neither stand upright nor sit down at the same time except with their legs at right angles

The Australian Agricultural Company, founded by London bankers, MPs, other oligarchs—and William Wilberforce—produced its own buttons for its 4-5,000 convict workforce.

to their bodies. … and liable to suffer flagellation for even a trifling offence." Many prisoners in Port Arthur went insane from being kept in total isolation; records show that many cut their ears, fingers, and even legs and arms off, or banged their heads against the walls until covered in blood. The worst offenders, however, were locked in what was called the "Separate Prison" in Port Arthur, where they were forced to wear a mask with only slits for the eyes, so they could not recognise each other, and where they sat in pitch black, absolute silence 24 hours a day, for months or even a year at a time.

At Norfolk Island, records show severe floggings for such so-called "crimes" as: "100 lashes for saying 'O My God' while on a chain gang; 100 for smiling while on the chains; 100 for singing a song; 50 for getting a light to smoke; 50 for asking a jailer for a chew of tobacco." Head jailer Robert Jones recalled, "A day's convict work was breaking five cartloads of stone per man. When the picks and hammers broke, for they were of poor quality, their users were severely flogged. The hours were long and the food bad. The pork was so soft that you could put your finger through it, it was always rotten. … It would be impossible to detail the torture received …[from] the commandant, his servants and overseers. One of the favourite punishments was to make leg irons more small each month so that they would pinch the flesh. There was also the black isolation cell, water pit below the ground where prisoners would be locked, alone, naked, and unable to sleep for fear of drowning, for forty-eight hours at a spell."

The commandant there, Major Foveaux, who headed the New South Wales Corps for three years, from 1796 to 1799, was known as a particularly cruel overseer. He laughed and smiled as men were flogged to death, and proudly justified his torture by the fact that "my orders were to murder all the prisoners under my care should any foreign nation bear down upon us." The convicts called Norfolk "the old hell" and Sydney, "heaven". Many committed murder on Norfolk Island to release themselves from the endless torture by being sent to Sydney to hang on the gallows—"heaven". Sometimes, a group drew straws, with the two shortest being the one to die and the other to kill him. One convict, Fitzgerald, after having drawn the shortest straw encouraged his comrades not to feel bad for killing him, "I am sorry boys that I am leaving you, but I am not the man to tell a lie—you'll have fine fun going to Sydney and a chance of giving them the go-by. Think of me, boys, you'll get off alone. Tell old Dowling the judge that it's my own free will, and that Pat Larkins sticks me. I am all ready now. Come on. My heartys … now, quick, please yourself and give me as little pain as you can."



The Gate to the Gallows at Norfolk Island. The gallows were in constant use.

Appendix

The Grey Eminence of the Settlement of Australia: Lord Shelburne

The commanding figure in British politics throughout the entire decade of the 1780s, during which the strategic decision to settle Australia was made, and carried out, was William Petty, the 2nd Earl of Shelburne (1737-1805). Each of the trio which implemented that British settlement, were his hand-picked agents, personally installed by him in office. They were: Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806; PM 1783-1801); Pitt's Home Secretary, Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney (1732-1800), previously Home Secretary to Shelburne, 1782-83; and Lord Sydney's Under-Secretary, Sir Evan Nepean, the official head of the British Secret Service (for whom the Nepean River in NSW is named). Captain Arthur Phillip, who commanded the First Fleet, was also a longtime Shelburne subordinate, as was Captain John Blankett, the second choice to command that fleet.

William Petty, the 2nd Earl of Shelburne

"Shelburne?!", one might ask, incredulously. "Never heard of him!" You weren't meant to. Because to understand Lord Shelburne—the head of the Venetian Party in Britain in the late 18th Century—is to lay bare some of the darkest secrets of the last three centuries of world history, including the strategic reasons for settling Australia. In his book *Sybil*, Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, himself of Venetian heritage, explained the Shelburne matter as follows:

"If the history of England be ever written by one who has the knowledge and the courage, and both qualities are equally requisite for the undertaking, the world would be more astonished than when reading the Roman annals by Niebuhr. Generally speaking, all the great events have been distorted, most of the important causes concealed, some of the principal characters never appear, and all who figure are so misunderstood and misrepresented, that the result is a complete mystification, and the perusal of the narrative about as profitable to an Englishman as reading the Republic of Plato or the Utopia of More, the pages of Gaudentio di Lucca or the adventures of Peter Wilkins…."

For instance, Disraeli said, take the famous William Pitt the Younger:

"The name of the second Pitt remains, fresh after forty years of great events, a parliamentary beacon. He was the Chatterton of politics; the 'marvellous boy.' Some have a vague impression that he was mysteriously moulded by his great father: that he inherited the genius, the eloquence, the state craft of Chatham. His genius was of a different bent, his eloquence of a different class, his state craft of a different school. To understand Mr Pitt, one must understand one of the suppressed characters of English history, and that is Lord Shelburne…."

After elaborating Shelburne's unrivalled mastery of the "economic science of Europe" (i.e. "free trade" aka British imperial economic warfare) for which Shelburne's agent Adam Smith was a prominent mouthpiece, Disraeli sketched the still Venice-centred European-wide intelligence now overseen by Shelburne as the de facto head of the British East India Company, the private, corporate form of that Venetian empire after 1763:

"His knowledge was extensive and even profound. He was a great linguist; he pursued both literary and scientific investigations; his house was frequented by men of letters, especially those distinguished by their political abilities or economical attainments. He maintained the most extensive private correspondence of any public man of his time. The earliest and most authentic information reached him from all courts and quarters of Europe: and it was a common phrase, that the minister of the day sent to him often for the important information which the cabinet could not itself command."

For his incessant treachery, Shelburne bore the nicknames, "Malagrida", after an Italian Jesuit who had tried to assassinate the King of Portugal in 1758, or, simply, "the Jesuit of Berkeley Square", after the address of his London mansion. (The nicknames carried an irony no doubt well-appreciated by those who bestowed them, bespeaking more than Shelburne's constant intrigues, deceptions, and lies: the notoriously duplicitous Jesuit order had been founded, lawfully, in Venice itself in the late 16th Century.) As a subject of such universal opprobrium, even hatred as "a traitor to Britain", Shelburne himself could rule as Prime Minister from only July 1782 to February 1783. During that brief, decisive period, however, he conducted the negotiations leading to the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended the revolution in America (which Shelburne schemed to reconquer over the longer term); sowed the seeds to divide the anti-British alliance which had supported that revolution, which included powerful factions in Holland, France, and Spain; reorganised Britain's Home and Foreign offices into the basic form they remain today, including a vast expansion of the British intelligence services; reorganised the East India Company itself, as consolidated in the momentous, bitterly-fought *India Act 1784*, which vested ultimate control of "John Company" not in its board of directors, as previously, but in the Crown's Privy Council—but a Crown under George III, which, despite George's episodic protests (like William III before him) against becoming a "doge", Shelburne had consolidated as an instrument of Venetian policy, even against the more narrow interests of the British Isles (a case of the host being ruled by the virus it swallowed, as LaRouche once put it); laid the basis, through his control of the East India Company, for a massive expansion of the British opium traffic from the northeast Indian province of Bengal to Canton, China, which, according to author Michael Greenberg's *British Trade and The Opening of China 1800-42*, soon became "*probably the largest commerce of the time in any single commodity*" (emphasis in original); and finally, he solidified Britain's turn to a policy of "free trade", notwithstanding intense opposition from even factions of the East India Company itself who prized more short-term "commercial" interests than did Venetian Party head Shelburne, and therefore saw their monopoly of whole areas of the globe threatened, as in the Pacific from a new colony at New South Wales, which indeed soon happened.

Three Shelburne stooges. (l. to r.) Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger; Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney; Sydney's Undersecretary, Sir Evan Nepean.

A short time later, Shelburne organised and oversaw the bloody jacobin French Revolution of 1789 in a France devastated by his free trade policies, to prevent the establishment of a pro-American constitutional monarchy in that keystone European nation, as planned by the American ally, the Marquis de Lafayette. The Jacobins' fiery speeches, for instance, were written by a "radical writers" stable headed by Jeremy Bentham (the uncrowned, actual head of British intelligence, who lived at Shelburne's Bowood estate), then translated into French and duly delivered to the mobs rampaging in the streets of Paris.

Contrary to the "overflowing convicts" myth which depicts the European settlement of Australia as an afterthought, a mere footnote to history, Prime Minister Pitt himself meticulously supervised every aspect of the project, even despite other, enormous demands on his time. Shelburne had been the longtime lieutenant of his father, Pitt the Elder (1708-1778; PM 1766-1768), and then as PM himself had launched "the Younger" into politics in 1782 in the vital position of Chancellor of the Exchequer. From the shadows, the following year he orchestrated the appointment of Pitt to succeed him at the tender age of 24—"the boy prime minister" as Pitt was almost scornfully called at the time. As PM, Shelburne appointed Lord Sydney as his Home Secretary, who thereby succeeded Shelburne himself in that post, and continued his projects, including for the Pacific. While PM, Shelburne had also launched Nepean on his career, appointing him Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department; Nepean later supervised the myriad logistics of the First Fleet and the settlement itself, including sending his brother Nicholas out in the NSW Corps as one of his spies.

It was no surprise, then, that on the eve of departing in command of the First Fleet, Captain Arthur Phillip met with Lord Shelburne—the man who had delivered the formal request to King George III to finance Cook's first voyage, so many years before. Nor, although the appellation has since largely faded from history, that Phillip anointed the southern part of the Blue Mountains—the second most striking aspect of the colony's landscape following Sydney Harbour itself—as the "Lansdowne Hills" after Shelburne, who also held the title of 1st Marquis of Lansdowne. This, for a man who had ostensibly been out of power for the previous five years.

Nor, given this history of our origins, is it a surprise that despite the episodic pro-republican challenges chronicled elsewhere in this *New Citizen*, Australia today, under the Mandarin-speaking Kevin "007" Rudd, remains as of this moment—pending your personal actions together with the CEC to change that—what it was founded to be: a strategic outpost in the Pacific, of the Venetian Party's British Empire.

Terrified of a republican revolution in France as had just happened in America, Shelburne and Venetian intelligence agents such as the notorious Cagliostro organised the bloody jacobin French Revolution of 1789.