

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

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Independent Political Party

30 September 2015

Syria could be Australia's moment of truth: will we be independent?

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has repeatedly conceded in the past few days that the policy pursued by Australia's major allies to resolve the Syria crisis, premised upon the overthrow of Assad, hasn't worked.

Bishop told *The Weekend Australian*, "Given Australia's significant contribution to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq and our involvement in militant operations against Daesh, it is inevitable that we will play a role as an advocate for a political solution in Syria. It is evident there must be a political as well as a military solution to the conflict in Syria. *There is an emerging view in some quarters that the only conceivable option would be a national unity government involving President Assad.*" (Emphasis added.)

Initially, Bishop's statements coincided with a shift by the Obama administration towards dialogue with Russia over Syria, including the first telephone call between the US Defence Secretary and Russian Defence Minister since April 2014, and Barack Obama's agreeing to meet Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the UN this week; the UK government has similarly adjusted its rhetoric.

Suddenly, however, Obama has dug in his heels, to once again insist on regime change in Syria as a prerequisite to peace. Given that the US Defense Intelligence Agency's own documents from 2012 have revealed that Obama and his British, Saudi and Turkish allies knowingly created ISIS in order to topple Assad, it is clear that Assad is not the obstacle to peace, Obama is.

The question now is, will the Australian government backflip on the statements its Foreign Minister has made in the last few days, to fall into line with Obama's dangerous new mood?

Until his death in March this year, former Liberal Party Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser argued passionately, including in his 2014 book *Dangerous Allies*, that Australia must turn away from its strategic dependence upon Great Britain and the United States, and become an independent nation with an independent foreign policy.

That has never been more urgent than now. If Julie Bishop rescinds her recent statement under orders from the US, Australia will be contributing to a potential war with Russia.

Russia will not accept the overthrow of Assad, because they know Assad is a target only because he is the ally of Russia. It must be noted that Assad's ostensible war crimes happened after Obama and co. backed an uprising against him in 2011, following their overthrow and brutal murder of Qaddafi in Libya. In other words, Obama was already targeting Assad for regime change before any alleged war crimes.

Russia is offering to work with the West to defeat ISIS in a way that is legal under international law: through Russian action in Syria, where it is present legally at Syria's invitation, working with the US-led coalition action in Iraq, operating legally at Iraq's invitation. This is the best, and only, solution to the crisis that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions more. But it requires the US and UK to drop their regime change agenda, which anyway is completely discredited after the total folly of Iraq and WMDs, and the disaster that Libya has become.

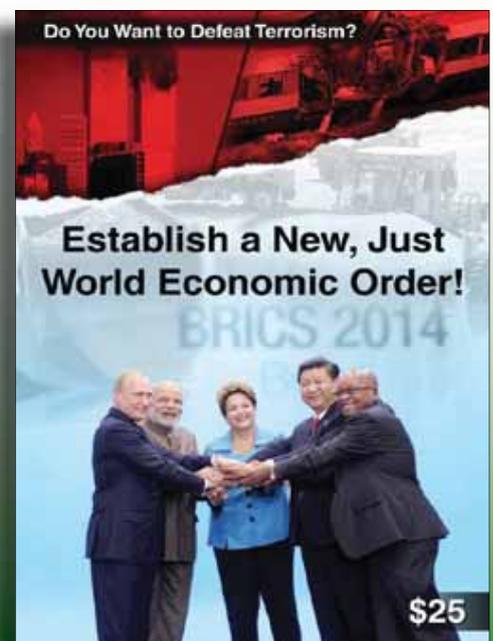
Australia can play its role in the shift that is required to achieve peace, by ending our subservience to Anglo-American foreign policy; we can start by sticking to the approach stated by Bishop this week.

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31 August 2015

Amidst explosive new revelations: Will Australia join Obama in supporting ISIS?

If Australia follows the United States into a war in Syria, as Prime Minister Tony Abbott is so very eager to do, it will be the crowning insanity of the entire 'war on terror'—because explosive new revelations prove that the Obama administration *deliberately created ISIS in the first place*, as a weapon against the Assad government.

Lieutenant General (ret.) Michael T. Flynn, who as head of the Defence Intelligence Agency was America's top military intelligence official from April 2012 to August 2014, stated this truth bluntly when he told *Al Jazeera's* Mehdi Hasan, in an interview¹ aired 31 July, that rejecting strong DIA advice to the contrary, the Obama administration made a "wilful decision" to arm and support known terrorist groups in Syria including *Al-Qaeda* so that they could make war against the Syrian government. Not only did Obama and the groups' other supporters know full well that their actions would mean the declaration of an Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Gen. Flynn charged, but they welcomed it.

Hasan read out an excerpt of a DIA memorandum² dated August 2012 (one of several declassified this May after a freedom of information application by watchdog group Judicial Watch), which stated, "There is the possibility of establishing a declared or undeclared Salafist principality in eastern Syria ... and this is exactly what the supporting powers to the opposition [named elsewhere in the memo as 'the West, the Gulf States and Turkey' – ed.] want, in order to isolate the Syrian regime". That sparked the following exchange:

Hasan: "Did you see this document in 2012? Did this come across your table?"

Flynn: "Oh yeah, I paid very close attention to all this. I sure did."

Hasan: "So when you saw this, did you not pick up a phone and ask, 'What on earth are we doing supporting these Syrian rebels?' ... Did you say, 'We shouldn't be supporting these groups?'"

Flynn: "I did... I do believe that the intelligence was very clear..."

Hasan: "...In 2012, your agency was saying, quote, 'the Salafists, the Muslim Brotherhood and *Al-Qaeda* in Iraq are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria.'"

Flynn (nodding): "Uh-huh."

Hasan: "In 2012 the US was helping co-ordinate arms transfers to those same groups! Why did you not stop that, if you were so worried about the rise of 'Islamic extremism?'"

Flynn: "I hate to say, it's not my job; my job was to ensure that the accuracy of our intelligence ... was as good as it could be. And I will tell you, it goes [back] before 2012... before there was a decision to pull out of Iraq in 2011, I mean it was very clear what we were going to face; very clear what we were going to face."

Hasan: "...Before we move on, just to clarify once more: you are basically saying that even in government at the time,

you knew those groups were around, you saw this analysis, and you were arguing against [supporting them], but who wasn't listening?"

Flynn: "I think the Administration."

Hasan: "So the Administration turned a blind eye to your analysis?"

Flynn: "I don't know if they 'turned a blind eye', I think it was a decision. I think it was a wilful decision."

Hasan: "A wilful decision to support an insurgency that had Salafists, *Al-Qaeda* and the Muslim Brotherhood?"

Flynn: "A wilful decision to do what they're doing, which you have to really—you have to really ask the President, what is it that he actually is doing, with the policy that's in place?"

What President Obama is doing now is exactly what he set out to do: having created a tar-baby for the US, and its allies like Australia, to flail at, Obama openly seeks a direct confrontation with the Syrian army by declaring his right to launch air strikes against *anyone* who interferes with the American-trained and -armed 'opposition' group Division 30—which has just announced its alliance with the *Al Nusra Front*, *Al-Qaeda's* formal affiliate in Syria. Obama's immediate goal is to topple President Bashar al Assad and shatter Syria into a mess of warring tribes, essentially repeating the Libya operation. As the CEC first warned in a February 2012 media release, "The Assad regime is not targeted for overthrow because of ostensible 'human rights abuses', but because Syria is an ally of Russia (hosting Russia's only naval base in the Mediterranean, for instance), and the British and their puppet Obama are driving for a thermonuclear first strike against Russia and China ... the British have no intention of letting Russia, China and India emerge as the world's dominant powers while Britain, Europe, and the United States just disintegrate in a self-inflicted financial holocaust worse than that of the 14th century 'New Dark Age'."

The phenomenal success of the BRICS nations in setting up their new, development-oriented alternative economic architecture, centred around the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the BRICS New Development Bank, and world-spanning 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, has only added to Obama's desperation, as the London/Wall Street financial empire which controls him now hovers on the brink of a new, far worse GFC than that of 2008.

Under the US Constitution, the President must ask Congress's consent before waging war, which Obama has not done. He is therefore violating the Constitution with his undeclared wars in Iraq and Syria, as numerous US Congressmen and Senators have charged. Nor has the US-led invasion of Syria been approved by the UN Security Council. The clear outcome of his illegal, undeclared war in Syria is to foster a dramatic rise in the power of ISIS. Is that what Abbott, who claims to be waging a "war against terror" in Australia, seeks as well?

1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG3j8OYKgn4>

2) <http://www.judicialwatch.org/document-archive/pgs-287-293-291-jw-v-dod-and-state-14-812-2/>