

RIGHT-WING QUEENSLAND - A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY?

CONSERVATIVE CAPITALIST FORCES ACTIVELY CONTEST EVERY REALM OF HUMAN LIFE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE, AS THEY DO ALL OVER PLANET EARTH. BUT DOMINATION IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED.

‘THE CONTRAST BETWEEN RADICAL STRUGGLE & RIGHT-WING REACTION HAVE BEEN NOWHERE MORE GLARINGLY DISPLAYED THAN IN THIS STATE’ - JIM MCILROY, SOCIALIST AUTHOR

1. IN HIS VICTORY AGAINST THE QLD STATE IN ‘88, EDDIE MABO SECURED ABORIGINAL NATIVE TITLE RECOGNITION; A HIGH COURT DECISION THAT WAS HUGELY CONSEQUENTIAL NATION-WIDE. THE SAME YEAR, QLD SAW THE COUNTRY’S BIGGEST ANTI-BICENTENNIAL MARCHES.
2. QUEENSLAND VOTED TWICE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION OF YOUNG MEN AS FODDER IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR. DURING THE SECOND REFERENDUM, PRIME MINISTER HUGHES WAS EGGED IN THE REGIONAL TOWN OF WARWICK.
3. AFTER THE 1919 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, COMMUNISTS IN BRISBANE WERE ENERGISED, CULMINATING IN FEVERED STREET BATTLES CALLED THE ‘RED FLAG RIOTS’. THE COMMUNIST PARTY SOON BOASTED 8+ BRANCHES ACROSS ‘THE RED NORTH’, LED BY ITALIAN MIGRANTS.
4. THE WOMEN’S PROGRESS CLUB OF THE 1930S WORKED TOWARD ‘SOCIAL WELFARE’, SUPPORTED ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLES & REINFORCED THE DOCKWORKER ANTI-WAR BAN ON THE EXPORT OF PIG-IRON TO JAPAN.
5. QLD WAS ARGUABLY THE BIRTHPLACE OF AUSTRALIAN PUNK MUSIC, WITH THE 1970S SEEING INFLUENTIAL BANDS LIKE THE SAINTS EMERGE PARTLY AS A RESPONSE TO JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN’S ABSOLUTELY FUCK-EYED STATE GOVERNMENT.

WE REPEAT INCANTATIONS ABOUT QUEENSLANDS PERCEIVED LIMITATIONS, BREATHING LIFE INTO FERAL GHOSTS AS WE REPEAT THESE MANTRAS.

6. ONE OF THE FIRST MAY DAY MARCHES IN THE WORLD, AND THE FIRST IN AUSTRALIA, TOOK PLACE DURING THE 1891 SHEARERS STRIKE IN BARCALDINE. AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST INDUSTRIAL CONFRONTATION ALSO BIRTHED THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY – THE WORLD’S FIRST NATIONAL LABOR GOVERNMENT.

7. IN 1983, ACTIVISTS STAGED THE DAINTREE BLOCKADE, A 10-MONTH PROTEST TO PREVENT THE BULLDOZING OF 180 MILLION YEAR OLD NATIVE FOREST. THIS WAS A RADICAL, PIONEERING & VICTORIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN. IT DREW UPON NETWORKS & LESSONS FROM THE ANTI-NUCLEAR BATTLES OF PRECEDING YEARS.
8. LARGE NUMBERS OF LEFT-WING ITALIAN, YUGOSLAVIAN AND SPANISH MIGRANTS FLEEING POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN THEIR HOMELANDS CONTINUED THEIR IDEOLOGICAL PROJECTS IN QUEENSLAND. MANY ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR.
9. THE QUEENSLAND GREENS ARE ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE BRANCHES IN THE COUNTRY. WHILE THE GREENS VOTE STAGNATED AT A NATIONAL LEVEL IN THE 2019 ELECTION, THE PARTY ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT SWINGS IN SEVERAL QUEENSLAND SEATS.
10. IN 2017, 60.7% OF QUEENSLANDERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE POSTAL VOTE CAST THEIR BALLOT IN FAVOUR OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY. IN 2020, QUEENSLAND BECAME THE FIRST STATE IN AUSTRALIA TO BAN THE BARBARIC AND HOMOPHOBIC PRACTISE OF 'GAY CONVERSION THERAPY'. OTHER STATES SOON FOLLOWED SUIT.

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- WORKERS BURNT CANEFIELDS AFTER LONG STRIKES IN MOURILYAN, SOUTH JOHNSTONE AND GOONDI
 - FRED PATERSON WAS THE ONLY COMMUNIST EVER ELECTED TO AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT (TOWNSVILLE, 1944).
 - 60S & 70S: ANARCHISTS IN QLD WERE ARGUABLY MORE ORGANISED & POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER TIME OR PLACE IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. (SIGN READS: THE SMG (THE SELF-MANAGEMENT GROUP))

WHOSE INTERESTS ARE SERVED WHEN WE UPHOLD THE NARRATIVE OF A IRREVERSIBLY CONSERVATIVE QUEENSLAND?

& WHOSE STRUGGLES COULD WE CLICK INTO TODAY?

“CAIRNS – A HOTBED OF ABORTION RADICALISM AND REFORM SINCE 1998 - HELPED KICK-START THE CAMPAIGN THAT BROUGHT RU486 TO AUSTRALIAN

**WOMEN, FOUGHT FOR THE ACQUITTAL OF THE FIRST QUEENSLAND WOMAN CHARGED WITH PROCURING HER OWN ABORTION, AND WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE MOVEMENT TO DECRIMINALISE ABORTION LAW.”
CAROLINE DE COSTA – WOMEN’S HEALTH ADVOCATE.**

“FOR A MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS, QUEENSLAND IS MORE A STATE OF MIND THAN A STATE OF THEIR NATION. AS SUCH, ‘QUEENSLAND’ EXCUSES THEM FROM DOING MUCH ABOUT WHAT IS WRONG IN THEIR OWN STATES: ‘IF THINGS ARE SO BAD THERE, THEN WE CAN’T BE TOO BAD HERE’.” - HUMPHREY MCQUEEN

THE STRUGGLES DESCRIBED ABOVE TOOK PLACE ON UNCEDED ABORIGINAL LAND. THIS IS NOT THE QUEENS LAND.