

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The widely-acclaimed demise of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union is welcome news, for, whatever the advocates of Communism may have intended, it has proved to be the master of despotic systems.

What does this demise mean to the "Western" world? It is hard to imagine that current Capitalist leaders would be advocating anything different from the status quo as it exists within their own countries.

That there is an opportunity for the leaders of the Russian states to do the "right thing" is undoubted, but do they know what the right thing is? Alas, the answer is the same as for the capitalist West - No. The State owns all the land within the Soviet Union. Is it not then a simple matter of renting it out to the highest bidder? I did note that before they could use land (all of it?) in "East Germany" they had to find "owners". Perhaps they thought the land might disappear.

As any reformer knows, privilege does not die easily. Proponents of any privilege can be found years after the actuality has disappeared. Power is the most sought-after prize in the human repertoire. We need look no further than our own country for examples of "politics" (power-broking) to see what it can do for and to people. Communism is not quite dead, remnants remain in power in many places. Other than China, few, if any, are of any import, unless you live in one of those places.

For more than seventy years Communism has been a major player on the political scene. You are (were) either a "Capitalist" or a "Communist". Neither side wished to recognise the third force on the political scene. Communism had already usurped it and capitalists were happily rid of an enemy to whom they were slowly but surely losing ground. The side-runner with Communism has always been the Socialist, a pink version, basically the same as the red version, but not so revolutionary. What is interesting is that there is now no major opposition to "Capitalist" thinking. We are back where we were prior to the 1917 revolution. Our present Federal Government is a typical example of the hiatus that exists on the political scene. It is "Labor" (Socialist) in name but not in action (there are a few minor doctrines being adhered to for the sake of a few more years in power). Across the whole political scene there is confusion.

The third force may now resume its opposition to the monopoly capitalist system. We are beset by airy fairy pinks, pinker than pink, only a little socialistic, pale blues, do-gooders, and large groups dedicated to confused thinking and terminology. Big Brother may never come but it won't be for lack of trying on some politician's part.

David Brooks,
Minto, N.S.W.