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**AUSTRALIAN
POLITICAL ECONOMY
OF VIOLENCE AND
NON-VIOLENCE**

Erik Paul



Australian Political Economy of Violence and Non-Violence

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To Keiko

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Violence

Abstract Australian democracy is largely defined by the character and function of the country's political economy incorporated in the existing neoliberal corporate security state. Violence is built in a hegemonic order characterized by the concentration of private power and wealth, the commodification of people and nature, the construction and manipulation of antagonisms and enemies, and the politics of fear as a US client state. Australian politics is conducted as a one-party state, a new authoritarianism by privileged elites. Democratization requires a clearly defined opposing hegemonic order, a radical democracy, and a counter-culture to the existing one. Its potential exists in progressive non-violent movements, parties, unions, and other formations struggling for a new political economy based on social, economic, and political equality.

Keywords Political economy • Neoliberal corporate security state • Systemic violence • Radical democracy • Counter-hegemony • Equality

What is the purpose of Australia? Australia, like other nation-states, is the site of a political struggle over equality: the social, economic, and political equality of its citizens. The core of this struggle is about the nature of democracy and the role and function of the country's economy, in other words, the purpose of the Australian economy, how should it be organized and why, and for whose benefit?