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## Australia's Elections

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# Elites conspire vs. economic nationalists

by Robert Barwick and Allen Douglas

Australian Prime Minister John Howard was narrowly re-elected to a second term on Oct. 3, following one of the most unusual election campaigns in Australian history. Howard's coalition, made up of his own Liberal Party and the rural-based National Party, saw its previous huge majority slashed from 27 seats to just a handful, over voter disgust for his policies of globalism and austerity, known in Australia as "economic rationalism," which included his promise to ram through a 10% "goods and services tax." Howard's coalition actually *lost* the popular vote, despite an impotent campaign run by Australian Labor Party (ALP) leader Kim Beazley.

Beazley's impotence was not surprising: The election was less between the ALP and the coalition, than it was the two of them conspiring to hold down the vote for the best-known economic nationalist force in the election, the One Nation Party of independent Member of Parliament Pauline Hanson. In the face of the two major parties ganging up on her, Hanson lost her seat after just one term, and her party failed to capture any seats save for a solitary position in the Senate. Though Hanson, like the two major parties, completely ignored the global financial crisis, her policies of national banking, re-industrialization, and tariff protection are the basis around which Australia could be re-organized as the crisis deepens. Thus, Australia's Anglophile establishment was determined to destroy her political influence.

On Aug. 26, former ALP Prime Minister Bob Hawke, the man who introduced economic rationalism to Australia in the early 1980s by floating the dollar, deregulating the banks, privatizing state assets, and opening Australia up to international banks, set the tone for the election when he gathered a coalition of religious, union, business, and ethnic leaders to oppose Hanson. Two of the group were Stan Wallis, the head of the Business Council of Australia, the nation's peak big business body, and the principal of the 1996 Wallis Inquiry which had recommended even further deregulation for Australia's banking sector, and Sir Gustav Nossal, a longtime director of British mining giant Rio Tinto, which dominates Australia's Anglophile establishment; Nossal is also a leader in Prince Philip's Rio Tinto-funded campaign to splinter Australia and steal its raw materials through promoting Aboriginal "land rights." Hawke's coalition whined that One Nation

"threatens Australian jobs by undermining the growth that flows from an open economy."

All the major parties — the Labor Party, Howard's Liberal Party, the National Party, and the Democrats — fell in behind their big business donors and immediately pledged to place One Nation last in their preferences on their "how-to-vote" cards. Under Australia's preferential voting system, voters number the candidates on the ballot paper in order of preference. In the many cases where candidates do not achieve a clear majority of "primary votes," the preferences of the runner-up candidates are distributed between the two front-runners, until one candidate can finally claim a majority. This result is known as "2 party preferred," and often creates the curious situation where the candidate who polled the second highest number of primary votes actually wins the election. Under this system, with the globalist major parties in effect *voting for each other ahead of One Nation*, and the major news media running a McCarthyite campaign against Hanson as a "racist" for her stand against Aboriginal land rights (a scheme concocted by Britain's House of Windsor), her party secured only a lone seat in the Senate. Hanson herself failed in her re-election bid, despite winning double the number of primary votes as her victorious Liberal Party opponent. Free trade lunatic Tim Fischer, who is Deputy Prime Minister and National Party leader, and whose rural-based party was most at threat from One Nation, hailed the result as the National Party's "finest hour," despite the fact that One Nation had outpolled the Nationals nationwide, and that under the electoral system of almost any other country in the world, One Nation's national vote of 8.5%, which was much higher in certain areas, would have translated into a stunning success. According to her chief adviser, David Oldfield, Hanson will most likely take up a paid position as president of One Nation, which will receive \$3 million in federal funding, based upon the number of votes cast for it in the election. Hanson herself has said that she intends to remain politically active, to keep her ideas before the public.

The only exception to the pact among the political parties, including Hanson, to ignore the global financial crisis, was the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), the Australian co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche. While other parties ran the standard 30-day campaign, most of the CEC's 36 candidates began their campaigns in November 1997, on the necessity for Australia to adopt LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal for reorganizing the bankrupt international banking system.

Despite the presence of One Nation on the ballot (which has benefitted over the last 18 months from millions of dollars in free, if often adverse, publicity from the establishment media), whose domestic economic policies strongly echo those of the CEC, and some 34 minor parties and hundreds of independents on the ballot, the CEC won a nation-wide total of 16,000 votes; under the circumstances, this constitutes a solid vote and the basis for a rapid expansion of LaRouche's ideas.