

Chinese Australians prove we must be united, not a bunch of tribes, says Andrew Bolt

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Chinese New Year celebrations in Melbourne's Chinatown. We have xenophobic frenzy over Chinese investment in Australia, writes Andrew Bolt.

DIVIDING Australians into tribes was always dangerously stupid. Some Chinese Australians are just the latest to prove it.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is going to China today to tell its leaders what Australia wants. But he doesn't need to go there to know what China wants.

In Sydney last weekend 60 Chinese "community leaders" told Turnbull to back off from joining the United States to confront China's latest grab for territory in the South China Sea, where vital sea lanes run.

BLOG WITH ANDREW BOLT

These leaders, brought together by the pro-Chinese Australian Action Committee for Peace and Justice, met under a banner reading "Firmly Safeguard the Sovereign Rights of China in the South China Sea".

The AACP's chairman, Lin Bin, seemed to make clear that when it came to sides he was on China's.

"Australia's political elite should have a clear understanding," he said in remarks reported by Fairfax newspapers. "(They) ought to talk and act carefully on the sensitive issue on the South China Sea." Australia should not help the "naked hegemonic behaviour" of the US, allegedly trying to keep China down. The official Chinese media approved of this meeting that the Chinese government or its embassy here apparently helped to organise.

It, too, suggested these Australian Chinese had picked a side that was not necessarily Australia's: "The aims of convening this forum were to ... bring together forces which could protect the core interests of the Chinese nation, to make a call for justice to Australian political circles so that it can make appropriate preparations for a possible 'crisis situation'." Er, what "crisis situation"?

This is not the first time China has used our fast-growing population of Chinese Australians to push its interests. In 2008, for instance, the Chinese embassy bussed thousands of students into Canberra to make a show of Chinese patriotism in front of TV cameras filming the torch relay for the Beijing Olympics.

Some of the crowd fought pro-Tibetan protesters. ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope was in no doubt the Chinese embassy had helped to organise this show of force: "The ambassador has indicated that he was in contact with representative Chinese organisational groups, most part in Sydney and Melbourne."

Such divided loyalty has not been a big problem here — yet. But that could change.

For a start, Chinese here are forming a critical mass, thanks to mass migration. The number of Chinese-born residents has more than doubled in a decade to nearly 500,000, with nearly twice that number of

Australians now claiming Chinese ancestry.

Some suburbs now resemble colonies. In Sydney's Hurstville, more than a third of residents were born in China. A quarter of residents of Melbourne's Glen Waverley have Chinese background.

Second, all migrant groups can maintain their culture and links to their old homelands much more easily than, say, my parents could after migrating from Holland nearly 60 years ago.

The internet, cheap airfares and phone calls, plus satellite television help keep old ties fresh.

Third, there's enough latent racism here to make some Chinese feel not quite home.

Malcolm Turnbull says he will discuss 'the full range of issues' on his first trip to China as PM.

We have xenophobic frenzy over Chinese investment here and the 2015 Mapping Social Cohesion project found 25 per cent of Chinese-born migrants claimed to have suffered discrimination.

Then there's the fourth factor, which could set the rest into play. China is rising and, as it rises, regaining the respect and loyalty of expatriates. If China, now flexing its military muscles, ever clashes with Australia we'll have a serious problem of cohesion here, just as we have already with a dangerous minority of Muslim Australians.

I am certainly not saying most Chinese Australians aren't loyal. They are, and crime statistics show they are more law-abiding than other Australians, too. But we've been given one more reason to rethink our immigration and multiculturalism programs, as well as our suicidal craze for identity politics.

Immigration is now becoming colonisation. Some immigrant groups are now so big that they can create self-sustaining communities.

Multicultural policies encourage that colonisation. This year Yarra Trams even made bilingual announcements on Melbourne trams for the first time, using Vietnamese on routes through the Abbotsford and Richmond enclaves.

Such multiculturalism — never popular with the public — has been pushed by politicians desperate for votes mustered by ethnic bosses.

Labor, for instance, has long pandered to the Muslim community, overturning a decision to deport hate-preacher Sheik Taj El-Din El-Hilali and now attacking Israel to please big Muslim minorities in marginal seats in western Sydney.

It is hard to believe politicians could pursue policies so against the national interest. Surely they must promote what unites us, not fund and cheer what divides.



Hate preacher Sheik Taj El-Din al-Hilaly.

Governments should promote pride in Australia rather than in rival cultures we've imported. Yet what do we see? Schools and universities still teaching that Australia is hateful, a genocidal, land-raping nation.

FALSE — and dangerous. Which immigrant would want to belong to such a foul country?

Which could feel they belonged when government ceremonies regularly tell non-Aborigines they're such strangers here that they must be welcomed by "traditional owners"?

No wonder some children of migrants look for prouder identities.

After all, you don't see the Chinese government insisting China was born in shame. You don't see Muslim preachers constantly telling believers to feel guilt over their culture. Nor, by the way, do many other countries fly the flag of one of their "races" to rival the national one, as Australia does with the Aboriginal flag.

We're seeing the fruit of our great cultural cringe. More Muslim Australians fight for the Islamic State than for our army; more Indian Australians barrack for India at the cricket than Australia; Somali gangs run riot in Melbourne as if it were hostile territory; and now some Chinese Australian "leaders" warn us to let China grab more territory. So perhaps there's one more Leftist piety to challenge: the belief that, in time, all immigrant cultures will merge with our own.

In Britain, Trevor Phillips, former head of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, has admitted they don't.

Years ago Phillips promoted the popular "Islamophobia" slur to damn opponents of mass immigration from the Muslim Third World, but last week he admitted he was wrong.

"For a long time, I too thought that Europe's Muslims would become like previous waves of migrants, gradually abandoning their ancestral ways, wearing their religious and cultural baggage lightly, and gradually blending into Britain's diverse identity landscape," the former Labour politician said.

"I should have known better."

So should we all. Cultural loyalties are strong and multi-ethnic countries like ours must urgently find ways to stop them dividing us.

We must be a people and not these warring tribes.