

**Notes from Search Foundation/New Internationalist Bookshop Event
11 June 2020 - Susan Connelly**

Bernard Collaery:

Australia is no more than a colonial power where trade and export overcame good conscience. All overtook our ethical values.

In Feb 1963 the US asked Sir Garfield Barwick to help bring Portuguese Timor out of the time warp it was in. Portuguese colonies needed to be heading towards independence. The real sell-out of Timor happened here.

DFAT never hedged its bets. Foreign policy flaws, failure abounded.

Australian inherent racism in our region.

Seeing that Australia is cracking down on journalists and is treating Bernard the way it is, Indonesia can see that happening and knows they can do the same.

In Hong Kong – Ordinance 3 is similar to what he is experiencing.

One of the items is that any Judge must give greatest weight to the Attorney-General's opinion.

Democracy is fragile around the world.

Foreign Corporations gained enormous wealth from Timor.

There is no Parliament oversight of intelligence and foreign policy. No operational oversight.

In Australia there are a half a dozen people who are in the know about policy- a small cabal. They influence compliant ministers who lack the intellect and skills to deal with the world. The bureaucrats set the issues. Ordinary politicians have no idea of what's going on. This does not happen in the UK, the US, Germany or France.

The current situation in the Region, including Bernard's, comes from failures of Foreign Policy.

Funding of WA Liberal party by China.

Why is our region turning to China?

Helium, We gave it away to foreign corporations. Have laws been broken?

There should be a full judicial Inquiry into the last Treaty – helium.

There should be a National Apology for Australia's role in the 24 year occupation (as well as into blackbirding).

Intelligence can break laws if **proper and necessary**.

It should be a crime to defame whistleblowers.

There are parallels with West Papua in 1963 and East Timor in 2002.

West Papua is a major issue coming for us. We need a moral/ethical approach and need to plan.

Both parties are embarrassed by donations from China.

Re the cross benches push for an inquiry into China, opposed by both Labor and the Coalition.

Gareth Evans change of heart – we're allowed to develop as human beings.

The rule of law is universal and does not belong to any one party or nation.

Are we acting according to the rule of law? See the Robo Debt.

Read Solzhenitsyn. Don't forget Witness K.