

## VWSM Weekly \*

Gordon Burt \*\*

No. 4

Tuesday 29 September 2020

VWSM Weekly provides brief notes on, and provides links to, a selection of items that appeared in the past week, Monday to Sunday. The topics covered (not all of them in this issue) are listed below. See page 13 for the General Background on the project.

<u>Values</u>	Environment	Social	USA election
Truth	Economy	Technology	Trump
Power	Politics, Law	Science	
<u>World</u>	Military	Mathematics	
<u>Society</u>	Crime	<u>Modelling</u>	

\* This is linked to the monthly ANA Commentary

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>;

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### Humanity's future ... Martin Rees

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1dfjX0STek>

### What Trump said to the UN

Video: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-75th-session-united-nations-general-assembly/>

### Trump or Biden 1 or Biden 2: who does China want?

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/518115-whats-bidens-real-policy-on-china-unlike-trumps-its-hard-to-know>

### Chicago Council Survey of American Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy.

<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/lcc/divided-we-stand>

### Adam Kucharski. *The rules of contagion*.

<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Rules-of-Contagion-by-Adam-Kucharski-author/9781788160193>

### “Top 1% emit double the carbon of poorest 50%.”

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/carbon-emissions-richest-1-percent-more-double-emissions-poorest-half-humanity> ;

### Amy Coney Barrett is Donald Trump's nomination for the Supreme Court

Video: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/27/politics/amy-coney-barrett-supreme-court-trump-election-2020/index.html>;

### The Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom league table

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/economic-freedom-of-the-world-2020-annual-report>;

### Importing inequality

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/15037>

### Trump, Comey (FBI) ... Showtime

Video: Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc8XsWOMcs8>

Video: The loyalty dinner: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ\\_Qw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ_Qw)  
<https://www.sho.com/>

### *Encounters with Asian decolonisation* [cover photo of John Burton] David Fetting

<https://scholarly.info/book/encounters-with-asian-decolonisation/>

## Overview

We can think of world society as having a trajectory through a multidimensional abstract space. At each point in time world society is at a certain point in this multidimensional space. Each aspect of world society is characterised by many dimensions and we shall shortly be looking at recent reports on the environment, international relations and economic freedom. Each dimension is in tension with different forces pressing for different changes – or no change - in the current position of society: more or less intervention in the environment in the international arena or in the market, etc. People's opinions about where society should be vary. A key notion is the distribution of people in opinion space. Looking at all the people, issues of power and representation arise.

## World Society

### Humanity's future ... values, world society and modelling

Last Saturday's Times contained an authoritative essay on humanity's future by Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal and former president of the Royal Society. In his final paragraph I found echoes of 'values, world society and modelling'!

"We need some 'cathedral thinking' -global, rational and unashamedly long-term – empowered by 21<sup>st</sup> – century technology but guided by values that science alone can't provide."

"Our world faces many perils but we will prevail. Pandemics, climate change and population growth pose existential threats but with the help of technological innovation and youthful exuberance we will confound the doom mongers."

Times: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-world-faces-many-perils-but-we-will-prevail-3qdtstrks>

Lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1dfjX0STEk>

Interview, 2018: <https://www.quantamagazine.org/martin-rees-on-the-future-of-science-and-humanity-20181205/>

### Power v. values ... UN, 1945; CRS, 1963; John Burton ... Xi, Trump

The UN was founded in 1945. The CRS was founded in 1963. John Burton (1915-2010) was at both. He was a key member of the Australian delegation to the UN conference in San Francisco in 1945. He was the founder of the Conflict Research Society in 1963. His chapter in *Conflict in Society* (1963) contains a critique of the dominant 'realist' or 'power politics' approach to international relations and outlines the key components of an alternative based on reciprocity, co-ordination and cooperation. This contrast was echoed at the session of the UN General Assembly last week to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding: Donald Trump's America First and Xi Jinping's cooperation, (but see discussion below). International perceptions of USA and China have been analysed elsewhere. A Chicago Conference report last week reported an America divided in their perceptions of the international arena.

What Trump said to the UN

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-75th-session-united-nations-general-assembly/>

What Xi Jinping said to the UN

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1073052>

UN 75 commemoration (includes video of 75 year history)

<https://www.un.org/en/un75/commemoration> ;

See pages 10 to 12 below for:

[John Burton \(1915-2020\) ... UN, Australia and Asian decolonisation](#)

## **China, USA and the West**

As the remarks at the UN show, the future of relations between the USA and China is unclear. There is some debate as to who China would prefer to deal with, Trump or Biden. Also a discrepancy has been noted between earlier and more recent remarks on China by Biden.

Trump or Biden 1 or Biden 2: who does China want?

NYT: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/22/world/asia/biden-china-election-trump.html>

The Hill: <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/518115-whats-bidens-real-policy-on-china-unlike-trumps-its-hard-to-know>

The West has expressed increasing concern about China's internal relations, boundary relations and external relations.

China has a new plan to tame Tibet

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/24/opinion/tibet-china-labor.html>

## **World history**

Concerns in the West about China need to be placed alongside the history of the West's relations with China and with Asia in general.

Douglas, Ed. *Himalaya. A Human History*. Bodley Head: 2020.

Dalrymple, William. *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company*. Bloomsbury: 2020.

*Encounters with Asian decolonisation*, David Fettingling

<https://scholarly.info/book/encounters-with-asian-decolonisation/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/david-fettingling>

## **Threat**

Chicago Council Survey of American Public Opinion and US Foreign Policy.

<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/chicago-council-survey-data>

The Chicago Council of Global Affairs was established in 1922 and has an interesting history. Its latest report says that Democrats focus on COVID-19 and climate change whereas Republicans focus on China's rise and international terrorism.

0 Council <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/basic-page/about-us>

1 History <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/basic-page/history>.

2 Paragraph <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/issue/public-opinion>

3 Executive summary

<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/lcc/divided-we-stand>

4 Full report

[https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/report\\_2020ccs\\_america-divided.pdf](https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/report_2020ccs_america-divided.pdf)

## Values

Values are central – see the general comments on page 14. Values as criteria need to be distinguished from values as outcomes.

## Wellbeing

*Big smile, small self: Awe walks promote prosocial positive emotions in older adults*

APA PsycNet Emotion

## Health: how might we think about the pandemic and the statistics?

Adam Kucharski. *The rules of contagion.*

<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Rules-of-Contagion-by-Adam-Kucharski-author/9781788160193>

Worldwide there have been 980,031\* deaths due to COVID-19, almost a million.

Last year 60 million people died from all causes, almost 1% of the population.

Peru has possibly the highest death rate. It has had 48,125\* deaths, 967 deaths per million population, almost 0.1% of the population.

\*September 26 2020

One question that occurs to me is how does that compare with the normal number of deaths? Rather than look at the data and the reality of a dynamic population, I imagined a static population where everybody lived to 100. In such a population the annual death rate would be 1% of the population. Now consider a static population where everybody lived to 50. In such a population the annual death rate would be 2% of the population. Compared with these two theoretical populations the current Peru COVID-19 death rate of 0.1% is a tenth or a twentieth of these two theoretical death rates from all causes.

Back in May, I wrote the following:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo2OTI4ODkyMmY2YzFkYzZj>

“There are 7.713 billion people in the world.

In 2019, last year, 0.060 billion (60 million) people died in total (all causes), almost 1% of the population.

Deaths per million people, per year, all causes, worldwide: 8365.

Now, so far, in the middle of May 2020, six months after the first case of coronavirus in Wuhan,

there have been 0.004 billion (four million) coronavirus cases\*,  
and 0.00029 billion (291,904, three tenths of a million) coronavirus deaths worldwide\*\*.  
Cases per *ten million* population is 5.6. Deaths per cases is 7%.  
Deaths per million people, so far, due to coronavirus, worldwide: 38.

Thus so far the deaths due to coronavirus (291,904 in almost half a year) constitute less than 1% of all annual deaths (60 million in a full year).”

## **Power**

Power has been in the news: the distribution of power, the concentration of power, the separation of powers ... independence of institutions  
... all of the people, their distribution, their representation.

In the USA the relationship between the administration and the FBI and the Supreme Court has come into question.

Trump, Comey (FBI) ... Showtime

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc8XsWQMcs8>

The loyalty dinner: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ\\_Qw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ_Qw)  
<https://www.sho.com/>

In the UK the government ...

... has created rules for the pandemic without the approval of parliament.

... has appointed (or is thinking of doing so) people who are opposed to the BBC to BBC/media roles and who were for Brexit

## **Environment**

### Wildfires in USA Pacific states

As the fires rage, the opinions rage. Are wildfires caused by poor forest management (Trump) or global warming (Biden)? Pre-European practice allowed fires whereas more recent European practice in the USA has been to prevent and put out fires.

Drought and fire change: sink to source

Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/506041a.pdf?origin=ppub>

Jennifer Balch: <https://www.colorado.edu/geography/jennifer-balch-0>

NYT: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/22/climate/climate-change-future.html>

“Top 1% emit double the carbon of poorest 50%.”

Oxfam Stockholm Environment Institute

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/carbon-emissions-richest-1-percent-more-double-emissions-poorest-half-humanity> ;

<https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621052/mb-confronting-carbon-inequality-210920-en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> ;

<https://www.sei.org/> ;

### The range of opinion

Iain Martin of The Times and Bob Ward of LSE offer contrasting reviews of Lomborg's (and Shellenberger's) books on climate change.

Lomborg, Bjorn. *False Alarm. How Climate Change Panic Costs US Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet*. Basic. 2020.

Iain Martin. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/false-alarm-by-bjorn-lomborg-review-7d8r3wd9v>

Bob Ward. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/aug/09/false-alarm-by-bjorn-lomborg-apocalypse-never-by-michael-shellenberger-review>.

Thomas Stoerk, Gernot Wagner, Robert E T Ward. In: *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, Volume 12, Issue 2, 1 August 2018, Pages 371–376, <https://doi.org/10.1093/reep/rev005>

Grantham Research Institute of Climate Change and the Environment, LSE.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/>.

Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal and former president of the Royal Society says:

“Our world faces many perils but we will prevail. Pandemics, climate change and population growth pose existential threats but with the help of technological innovation and youthful exuberance we will confound the doom mongers.”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-world-faces-many-perils-but-we-will-prevail-3qdtstrks>

## Politics

Party competition ...

In the UK the new leader of the Labour Party is ahead in the polls over Boris Johnson and the Conservatives.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/26/labour-takes-poll-lead-as-parties-see-major-switch-in-fortunes> ;

“When you lose an election in a democracy, you deserve to ... You don't look at the electorate and ask them ‘what were you thinking?’ You look and ask yourself: ‘what were we doing?’”

## Law

Points of law are subjective and can be related to political preferences. There are nine judges on the Supreme Court of the USA.

Ruth Baker Ginsberg has died, a liberal member of the Supreme Court for 27 years. She had said she hoped that her replacement would be postponed till after the election.

While Ginsberg was alive there was a 5-4 split: five Conservatives and three Liberals, with John Roberts, the Chief Justice, being the swing voter, usually siding with the Conservatives but not always. Now the split is 5-3 and if a Conservative replacement is appointed the balance will be 6-3.

How to reform the choice of Supreme Court judges

<http://iht.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

The United States badly needs a rebirth of the functional separation of powers idea.

<https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/nulr/vol106/iss2/5>

Amy Coney Barrett is Donald Trump's nomination for the Supreme Court  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/27/politics/amy-coney-barrett-supreme-court-trump-election-2020/index.html>;

Statutory interpretation: agent of the people or agent of Congress

<http://lawreview.uchicago.edu/publication/congressional-insiders-and-outsiders>

<https://law.nd.edu/directory/amy-barrett/>;

<https://law.nd.edu/>

## **Art interpretation**

Amy Coney Barrett's paper on statutory interpretation leads into the issue of interpretation in general ... and in particular in relation to art.

Art interpretation: "the idea of evil fascinated me. I almost tried to imagine that I was living with the Klan."

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/critics-and-scholars-condemn-decision-to-postpone-philip-guston-show> .

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/sep/26/sense-or-censorship-row-over-klan-images-in-tates-postponed-show> .

## **Economy**

### The balance between the state and the market

One of the fundamental issues in world society for a century and more has been the balance between the state and the market. Opinions differ. The Fraser Institute on Canada advocates markets:

"We've been changing the way people think about government and the role of markets for more than 40 years. When the Institute was first founded, many Canadians believed that government should be the principal source of growth and development in the economy.

We have had a number of notable successes changing the climate of public opinion. For example, it is now understood that wage and price controls are no longer considered effective, and deficit spending is no longer endorsed by Canadian politicians."

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/about/annual-reports>

The Institute of Economic Affairs is the corresponding think tank in the UK and is in turn a member of Epicenter, a group of nine like-minded think tanks in the European Union.

<https://iea.org.uk/> ; <https://iea.org.uk/international/> ; <http://www.epicenternetwork.eu/>

The Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom league table. The degree of economic freedom is measured in five broad areas: size of government, legal system and property rights, sound money, freedom to trade internationally, regulation and 'gender legal rights adjustment'.

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/economic-freedom>;

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/economic-freedom-of-the-world-2020-annual-report>;

## Work ... jobs

One aspect of economic freedom is “freedom to trade internationally”, one aspect of globalisation. Yet globalisation is under attack in part because of its impact on jobs and the related issue of immigration:

### “Importing inequality

In this paper we study the contribution of migrants to the rise in UK top incomes. Using administrative data on the universe of UK taxpayers we show migrants are over-represented at the top of the income distribution, with migrants twice as prevalent in the top 0.1% as anywhere in the bottom 97%. These high incomes are predominantly from labour, rather than capital, and migrants are concentrated in only a handful of industries, predominately finance. Almost all (85%) of the growth in the UK top 1% income share over the past 20 years can be attributed to migration.”

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/15037>

The division of labour gives rise to different types of work, different jobs. The previous issue of *VWSM Weekly* noted Goodhart’s distinction between jobs relating to head, hand and heart; and also Sandel’s characterising the division of labour in terms of meritocracy. Earlier this month was the death of David Graeber, author of *Bullshit Jobs*. Goodhart’s reference to dignity and status is apt.

Goodhart, David. *Head Hand Heart. The struggle for dignity and status in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Allen Lane. 2020

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/313/313407/head-hand-heart/9780241391570.html> TR15

Sandel, Michael. *The Tyranny of Merit*. Penguin. 2020.

Coman, Julian. “Populism is a revolt against the tyranny of merit” *The Observer, The New Review*, September 6, 2020: 8-11.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/sep/06/michael-sandel-the-populist-backlash-has-been-a-revolt-against-the-tyranny-of-merit>

David Graeber

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/sep/03/david-graeber-anthropologist-and-author-of-bullshit-jobs-dies-aged-59>

Bullshit Jobs

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Bullshit-Jobs/David-Graeber/9781501143335>

## **USA election**

Looking at six states that voted Trump in 2016, the two states with large margin wins for Trump in 2016 have small margin leads for Biden now; three states with small margin wins for Trump in 2016 have large margin leads for Biden now; but Florida had a small margin win for Trump in 2016 and has a small margin lead for Biden now.

See Table 1 below.

**Table 1** Six states that voted Trump in 2016: Trump winning margin in 2016; Biden lead 27 September 2020.

	Michigan	Penns	Wiscons.	Florida	Ohio	Iowa
2016 Trump win	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.2	8.1	9.4
2020 Biden lead	7.0	4.9	6.5	1.6	1.0	1.6
Electoral college	16	20	10	29	18	6

Source: Observer, 27 September 2020, p. 25.

## Trump

Cohen, M. *Disloyal: A Memoir*. Skyhorse: 2020.

[Trump's lawyer]

<https://www.skyhorsepublishing.com/9781510764699/disloyal-a-memoir/>

## Trump, Comey the loyalty dinner

**The Comey Rule** is an upcoming American political drama television miniseries based on the book *A Higher Loyalty* by former FBI director James **Comey**. The miniseries stars Jeff Daniels as **Comey** and Brendan Gleeson as President Donald Trump. It will premiere on September 27, 2020 on Showtime.

Trailer; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc8XsWQMcs8>

The loyalty dinner: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ\\_Qw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvt2WeQ_Qw)

Guardian review: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/sep/24/the-comey-rule-trump-tv-drama-showtime>

## John Burton (1915-2020) ... UN, Australia and Asian decolonisation

John Burton Centenary Lecture

Representing Australia at the United Nations

Bert Evatt and the UN

Bert Evatt, (1894-1965) Australia Minister for External Affairs, 1945

Obituary for John Burton from *Canberra Times*.

Obituary for John Burton from Sydney Morning Herald

Burton and Nehru 1949

*Australian Officials and Asian Decolonisation 1945-1950.*

*Encounters with Asian decolonisation*, David Fetting

*John Burton undermined by dishonest history*, Pamela Burton (daughter)

John Burton Centenary Lecture

14 September 2015

CRS Conference University of Kent at Canterbury

*“ Tools from the past for a problematic present: How relevant is Burtonian Theory and Practice for 21st century conflict transformation? ”*

Kevin P Clements National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies University of Otago Dunedin, New Zealand

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/conflict-analysis/wp-content/uploads/sites/1511/2019/05/kevin-clements-john-burton-lecture.pdf>

Representing Australia at the United Nations ... John Burton, left, with the then minister for external affairs, H.V.Evatt.



Bert Evatt and the UN

James Cotton and David Lee (eds), *Australia and the United Nations*, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra, 2012.

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/founding-of-the-un>;

“Cultural advice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that Trove contains images, voices or names of deceased persons in photographs, websites, film, audio recordings or printed material.”

Bert Evatt, (1894-1965) Australia Minister for External Affairs, 1945

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/evatt-herbert-vere-bert-10131> ;

... Evatt's opportunity to act with greater effect arose after the Yalta discussions of February 1945, at which the Great Powers agreed to call a United Nations conference on a proposed world organization. Scheduled to begin on 25 April at San Francisco, this gathering was to make Evatt's international reputation.

The Australian delegation included [Frank Forde](#), deputy prime minister and nominally Evatt's senior. It was uncertain whether Forde or Evatt was leader, and it may have

been that the ailing Curtin wanted both men out of the way to bolster [J. B. Chifley's](#) prospects as his successor. Evatt took with him an able team of advisers, among them [\(Sir\) Kenneth Bailey](#), John Burton, (Sir) Paul Hasluck and (Sir) Alan Watt.

Obituary for John Burton (1915-2020) from *Canberra Times*.

<http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/burton-john-wear-15790>

Labor prime ministers and foreign ministers often like to present themselves as working within an activist "Labor tradition" in foreign policy. An enthusiasm for engagement with Asia and the Pacific and a strong commitment to the United Nations and multilateral diplomacy are presented as elements of a distinctly Labor approach to diplomacy extending back to Dr H. V. Evatt who served as minister for external affairs from 1941 to 1949. Evatt steered Australia's diplomacy in the Second World War and championed the United Nations in the post-war period. Sadly the last direct link with that ambitious early phase of Australian diplomacy was broken earlier this week with the passing of economist, diplomat, academic and long time Canberra resident, Dr John Burton. The son of a Methodist missionary, Burton was born in Melbourne in 1915.

He graduated from the University of Sydney in 1937 and went on to complete a PhD at the London School of Economics before joining Australia's infant diplomatic service in 1941. Burton served as Evatt's private secretary and one of his closest advisers as he championed the rights of small powers at the 1945 San Francisco foundation conference of the United Nations. In 1947, aged 32, Burton was appointed as Secretary of External Affairs, becoming the youngest person to ever head a Commonwealth Department. At the time of his death he was also the longest-lived former departmental secretary. As Evatt's right-hand man, Burton played a prominent role in Australian diplomacy, especially in relation to Australia's early engagement with the United Nations, including a term on the Security Council in 1946-47, and the Chifley Labor government's critical decision to lend diplomatic support to Indonesia's independence struggle against the Netherlands. He turned Evatt's commitment to the UN Charter into practical diplomacy and brought his economist's perspective to the challenges of post-war reconstruction in the Asia-Pacific region. After the defeat of the Labor government in December 1949, Burton served as Australian high commissioner to Ceylon but resigned to run as a Labor candidate in the 1951 federal election of that year. He might have been a Labor foreign minister, but was defeated for the seat of Lowe by William McMahon. Burton spent the next few years as a farmer near Canberra and turned to writing ...

Obituary for John Burton from Sydney Morning Herald

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/a-powerful-drive-to-help-people-see-reason-20100720-10je6.html>

Burton and Nehru 1949

*An Australian Response to Asian Decolonisation: Jawaharlal Nehru, John Burton and the New Delhi Conference of Non-Western Nations*

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1031461X.2014.911758?scroll=top&needAccess=true&journalCode=rahs20>

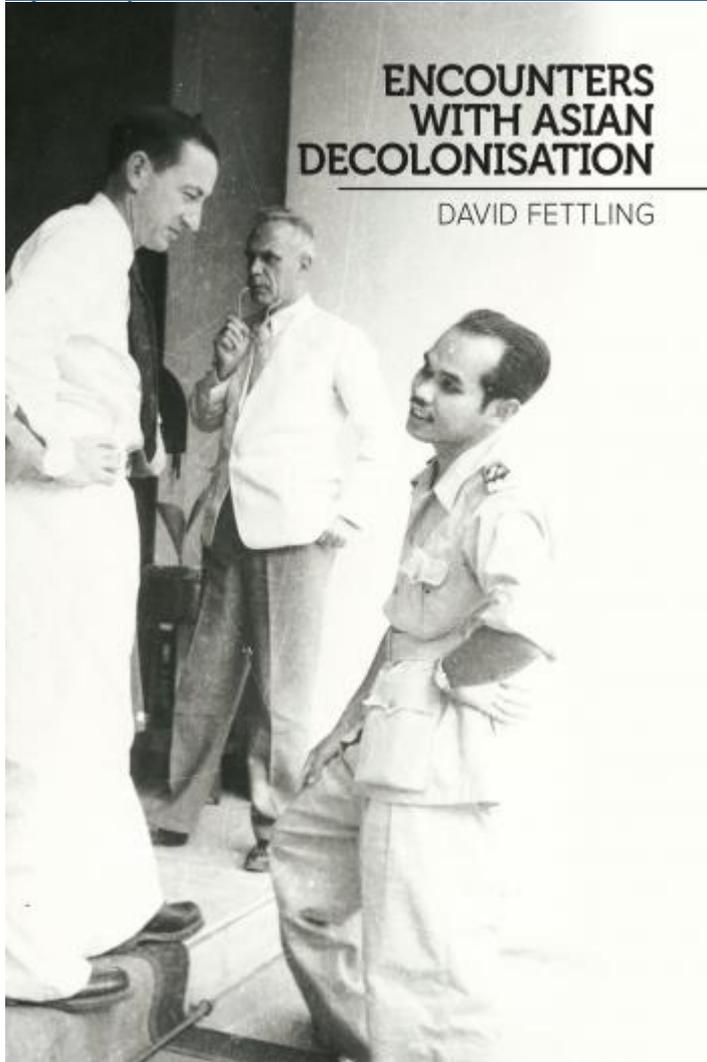
This article examines the 1949 attendance of John W. Burton, Australia's Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, at Jawaharlal Nehru's New Delhi Conference of non-Western nations. It argues that initial ambivalence and unevenness, then a swift process of learning and adjustment, characterised both Burton's response to India and the Chifley Government's stance toward change in Asia more generally. Burton's

relationship with Nehru's India is used as a case study of the ways that intellectual and cultural preconceptions, as well as first hand interactions and experience, shaped Australian government officials in their attempts to craft policy responses to the rise of Asian nationalism.

*Australian Officials and Asian Decolonisation 1945-1950.*

David Fetting's Ph. D. thesis,

<https://history.cass.anu.edu.au/events/australian-officials-and-asian-decolonisation-1945-1950>



*Encounters with Asian decolonisation*, David Fetting

<https://scholarly.info/book/encounters-with-asian-decolonisation/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/david-fetting>

*John Burton undermined by dishonest history*, Pamela Burton (daughter)

<http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/385A-John-Burton-Undermined-by-dishonest-history.pdf>

## General Background on the Project

Ten years ago I wrote a book on mathematical social science entitled *Conflict, Complexity and Mathematical Social Science*,<sup>1</sup> and in recent years I have produced a number of yearbooks on *Values, World Society and Modelling*<sup>2</sup> which have received favourable comment<sup>3</sup>, including a review of the 2017 Yearbook in the *Journal of Peace Research Book Notes*.<sup>4</sup> I have now turned my attention to specific topics. In 2018 I wrote *Football and Mathematics*.<sup>5</sup> In 2019 I looked at the Brexit debate in the UK<sup>6</sup>, and now in 2020 I have been looking at politics in the USA.

### *Trump, America and Mathematics (forthcoming)*

In June I produced a report on the racism protests in the USA following the killing of George Floyd. Over the summer I have produced two reports, one on the 2016 Presidential election;<sup>7</sup> and a second also about USA Presidential elections, but this time their history since 1789.<sup>8</sup> Further reports are planned and I am hoping to put them together to produce a book with the following chapters:

Discourse in the USA: nice and true?  
USA, 1789 to 2020, and world history  
USA presidential elections, 1789-2020  
USA presidential elections, 2016 ...  
... and 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Burt, Gordon. *Conflict, Complexity and Mathematical Social Science*. Bingley: Emerald. 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Burt, Gordon. *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2014*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2016.

Burt, Gordon. *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2015*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2017.

Burt, Gordon. *Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2017*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> 2014 Yearbook, reviews by Professors Oliver Ramsbotham, Kristian Gleditsch and Christopher Mitchell:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/productreviews/61006>.

2015 Yearbook, reviews by Professors Ken Avruch and Glenn Palmer:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/productreviews/61934>.

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<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/productreviews/62623>.

<sup>4</sup> *Journal of Peace Research*, Book Notes. *Review of Gordon Burt (2018) Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook 2017*, by Peter Abell. Published online 2 August 2018. <https://www.prio.org/JPR/BookNotes/?x=1208>.

<sup>5</sup> Burt, Gordon. *Football and Mathematics. Premier League and World Cup*. Newport Pagnell: Mathematical Social Science Publishing. 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Burt, Gordon. *Brexit* website, January 2020. <https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/central>.

<sup>7</sup> USA presidential elections, 1789-2020

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USA presidential elections, 2016 and 2020

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozNmJkZGI5YTFiNDZiMjY4>

The USA racism protests ... the abstract structure of public opinion

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDozMjI1MWMxYTRlZmlyYmJm>.

Police homicides ... gun culture, population density and ethnic density? Some thoughts on a study by Edwards, Esposito and Lee.

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoxOTMzY2Y1MDEzZWwMzEy>

Trump and the USA: the distribution of people and countries on the hate-love continuum worldwide

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoyNzJmMTZiYTQwOTA4OTJi>

<sup>8</sup><https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo0NzI5ODA4MTI0YWZkYzYz>

The USA: violent culture and ethnic structure ...  
... the abstract structure of public opinion  
Trump and the USA: the distribution of people and countries on the hate-love  
continuum worldwide  
COVID-19

## Values

‘Values’ is the first word in the title of my ‘Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbooks’. It is the first word for a very good reason: values are central. Many of the chapters in my books are explicitly about values.

**Table 1** The chapters on values in my books

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in *Conflict, Complexity and Mathematical Social Science*

...

4 Possibility and probability: value, conflict and choice  
5 Theory, evidence and reality: the mean and median of competing groups  
6 Social design, ethics and the amount of value

...

in *Values, World Society & Modelling Yearbook, 2014*

...

2 Individuals and Societies, Needs and Cultures  
3 Individuals: Activities, Happiness and Other Values, Emotion, Personality  
4 Relationships: Family and Friends, Care and Therapy, Nurturing Flourishing  
5 The Life of an Individual ... Feeling at Home in the World  
6 ‘Our Values’: Unanimous? Universal? Exceptional? Good? Safe?

...

in *Values, World Society & Modelling Yearbook, 2015*

...

2 Transcending adversarialism: The John Burton Memorial Lecture 2015  
3 Life as a journey  
4 ‘Our values’: the Enlightenment ... the Prophet

...

in *Values, World Society & Modelling Yearbook, 2017*

...

6 Cultural Trajectories: Languages, Religions and Political Cultures  
7 Value Trajectories: Wellbeing, Wealth, Health, Peace and the Environment

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## Sources

The initial sources for the VWSM Weekly are The Times, New York Times and the Observer (Sunday). I am grateful for the work of their journalists.

## VWSM Website

This issue and past and future issues can be accessed via:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>;