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From:

To:

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 10:48 AM

Subject: FYI - The death of the "Stolen Generations" myth

The death of the "stolen generations" myth

Andrew Bolt – Saturday, January 30, 10 (07:59 am)

Another myth crumbles - this time the "stolen generations" claim that racist Australia committed genocide by stealing up to 100,000 children from their Aboriginal parents just to wipe out their race.

Keith Windschuttle today shows how few children were actually removed from their Aboriginal parents, and that many of those in the few homes that in fact existed were actually sent there for good reasons. For instance:

In the post-war Northern Territory, 80 per cent of children in the Retta Dixon Home in Darwin and almost all those at the St Mary's hostel in Alice Springs (the Territory's sole institutions for part-Aboriginal children) were of school age, between five and 15. This was not surprising since the main reason for these homes' existence was to provide board for children sent by their parents to go to school.

Windschuttle also demonstrates the brazen falsity of Professor Robert Manne's claim that a keep proof of the "stolen generations" was that the Australian government in the 1930s had endorsed a genocidal policy to "breed out the colour". First, says Windschuttle, Manne is talking about some proposal to discourage part-Aboriginal women from marrying Aborigines, and not about a plan to steal their children. Second:

(Manne) stopped short of revealing that the events concluded with cabinet throwing out the proposal and the minister denouncing it in parliament. To have told it all would have publicly disproved his case about the Stolen Generations and the allegedly racist and genocidal objectives of government policies in the 1930s.

The historian who invented the "stolen generations" label, Professor Peter Read, is also found out (again):

Read claimed the files of individuals removed by the (NSW) Aborigines Protection Board revealed the motives of those in charge. "The racial intention was obvious enough for all prepared to see, and some managers cut a long story short when they came to that part of the committal notice, 'reason for board taking control of the child'. They simply wrote 'for being Aboriginal'."

My examination of the 800 files in the same archive found only one official ever wrote a phrase like that. His actual words were “being an Aboriginal”. But even this sole example did not confirm Read’s thesis. The girl concerned was not a baby but 15 years old. Nor was she sent to an institution. She was placed in employment as a domestic servant in Moree, the closest town to the Euraba Aboriginal Station she came from. Three years later, in 1929, she married an Aboriginal man in Moree.

In short, she was not removed as young as possible, she was not removed permanently, and she retained enough contact with the local Aboriginal community to marry into it. The idea that she was the victim of some vast conspiracy to destroy Aboriginality is fanciful.

Read the whole piece, or, better still, Windschuttle’s new book on the creation of the “stolen generations” myth and the role of academics in this great fraud.

Windschuttle concludes:

Rather than acting for racist or genocidal reasons, government officers and missionaries wanted to rescue children and teenagers from welfare settlements and makeshift camps riddled with alcoholism, domestic violence and sexual abuse. In NSW, WA and the Territory, public servants, doctors, teachers and missionaries were appalled to find Aboriginal girls between five and eight years of age suffering from sexual abuse and venereal disease. On the Kimberley coast from the 1900s to the 1920s they were dismayed to find girls of nine and 10 years old hired out by their own parents as prostitutes to Asian pearling crews. That was why the great majority of children removed by authorities were female...

Government officials had a duty to rescue children from such settings, as much then as they do now.

And should you doubt Windschuttle’s evidence that the “stolen generations” is a myth, I repeat the challenge I’ve put for years to Manne and others. You have said that between 25,000 and 100,000 children were stolen from their parents in a racist scheme to destroy the Aboriginal race. Name just 10 such children.

Manne has tried three times to answer my challenge and failed. Hundreds of thousands of Australians who were taught the “stolen generations” myth as fact in their schools must now ask what it says about our education system that it can be so hijacked and corrupted by ideologues. And what does it say about our academics that they, more than anyone else, are responsible for the manufacturing of a grotesque and completely unsubstantiated myth?