

## Some Of My Recent YouTube Comments.

One cynic recently likened the YouTube comments section to graffiti on the walls of public toilets. Although there are undeniably trolls aplenty and endless reams of rubbish there, there's no reason why something more substantial can't also take place in that forum. In any case, it appeals to my non-conformist nature to do something out of the ordinary wherever possible. Their ephemeral nature might seem to make any concerted effort in YouTube comments an utter waste of time. It is in order to circumvent that concern that I am here preserving a few of my recent comments as a more permanent blog post.

Comment to [https://youtu.be/eYG9FQC\\_e-g](https://youtu.be/eYG9FQC_e-g), a video on an Australian white-supremacist channel:

This video (and this whole channel) is based on historical ignorance. The White Australia Policy was only established in 1901. Nineteenth Century Australia was highly multicultural. The census of 1901 records 4,500 Indians; 3,500 Japanese; 1,800 Syrians along with 30,000 Chinese. (See "Michael Cannon Who's Master? Who's Man?" Nelson: Melbourne, 1971, p.247). That's on top of the Jewish and Muslim convicts who were on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd fleets. Not to mention the Irish. Heard of Ned Kelly? I suppose you think Henry Lawson wasn't Aussie either, since his Norwegian father Niels Larsen jumped ship in Melbourne in 1855 to join the gold rush, along with uncounted thousands of other non-Anglos who did the same thing, and so never ended up being counted by official statistics? As Lawson says in his poem "Mostly Slavonic" : "let Kosciusko slumber - we've immortalized his name." (do you even know who Kosciusko was, and why Australia's highest mountain was named after him? Have you ever read Lawson?) This was especially so of Melbourne, as representatives of almost every nation were drawn by the gold-rushes which began in the 1860s. Hugh McCrae in his book of 1935 "My Father and My Father's Friends" records in his piece on "Melbourne in the Sixties" (ie the 1860s) that Bourke Street was "packed with foreign cafés, represented a cosmopolis by night. Fashionable women accompanied by bucks of the period emerged from the Scandinavian Music Hall, among barrowmen selling oysters across gutters that frequently stank. There were brawls: doors flying open, drunkards crashing on to footpaths, figures silhouetted against squares of light, sailors with their doxies, constables in belltopper hats, diggers, soldiers, ticket-of-leave-men, and aboriginals." (p.31) Go back to school you ignorant white supremacists -- sorry, I mean go to school for the first time. Start by reading "Old Melbourne Memories" by Rolf Boldrewood (1884). Then move on to Levi&Bergman "Australian Genesis: Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788-1850" (Rigby Australia, 1974).

Comment to <https://youtu.be/Da4FIeLBus4>, a video exploring the largely ignored debt of the West to the Islamic world:

Arithmetic, algebra, and the concept of an algorithm all came to the west via Mohammed ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's book "Al-jabr wa't muqabalah" and other related works written at the Bait al-hikma ("House of Wisdom") established by al-Mansur, al-Raschid and al-Mamun in Bagdad 809-833 AD. The works of al-Khwarizmi and subsequent scholars such as al-Hamid, ibn-Turk, ibn-Qurra, abu'l-Wefa, al-Karkhi, al-Biruni, al-Hazen, right up to the time of Omar Khayyam (1050-1123) are the only link between the library at Alexandria and the Italian Renaissance. Without them, the west would not have the works of Plato, Aristotle, or Euclid, or have learnt the achievements of the Hindu and Greek mathematicians. Without the Arabic systematization of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and astronomy, the scientific revolution could not have happened, and the west as we know it would not have arisen, nor the digital computer (based on the thinking al-Khwarizmi called algorithmic). Ben Shapiro's fanciful narrative is a fiction based in will to power, not serious scholarship based on historical fact. Anyone who has actually read Aristotle knows that like Christianity and like Islam (but unlike Judaism), Aristotle teaches that human nature is universal, and that all human beings are of one and the same form (called reason or logos), and that every human life deserves exactly the same respect. This is the basis of humanism. Feuerbach's atheistic reformulation of it as man replacing God as the highest object of worship only happens two thousand years later in the 19th century. I hasten to add that the Jews are in no way unusual in considering themselves to be superior to the rest of humanity. From China's ancient Middle Kingdom to Old England's Middle Earth, all ancient peoples have considered themselves superior to whatever they knew of the rest of the world, with special mythological stories they told themselves about divinities granting them favours and special dispensations. The point is that first with Aristotle, then with Christian universalism, then with Islam, the idea of the globally all-inclusive unity of humanity arises for the first time, a realization spreading around the world at a glacial pace, but with likewise glacial inevitability. There is one human race exactly like there is one atmosphere.

Comment on: <https://youtu.be/dHifUIhO5YQ>, an interview with Stella Assange after the first day of extradition appeal hearings in London:

[@davidrathbone4029](#) 8 days ago

This is not only a landmark case, but in fact a focal point in world history. It is actually the revolutionary power of the internet itself which is on trial. The enlightenment which began with Kant 300 years ago has now culminated in a tool able to shed light into the darkest recesses of the militaristic paradigm of power which has operated on the basis of secrecy ever since empires began thousands of years ago. The weight of these centuries is on Assange's shoulders, and the fact that he has not already been crushed attests to his Herculean strength. His is the hardest of fates because his is the greatest of tasks: to be a fulcrum around which history itself pivots. The immanent rise of AI will not spell doom for the human race, but the exact opposite: the beginning of the age of transparency, of which Wikileaks has been only a premonition. Assange's life is not ending. It is in fact just beginning, and his greatest achievements are in the future, not the past.

[@BailelaVida](#) 7 days ago

Alright! Love what you say here david. Excellent.

[@BailelaVida](#) "The laws of ethics are not accidental, but are rationality itself. It is the purpose of the State to make the substantial prevail and to maintain itself in the actual doings of men and in their convictions. It is the absolute interest of Reason that this moral whole exist; and herein lies the justification and merit of heroes." (Hegel, Reason in History, Bobbs Merrill ed p.50.) Julian Assange is such a hero. Try as they might, the powers of vested interest cannot alter the laws of ethics, because reason stands above them. There's no guarantee (yet) that reason will prevail, but prevail or not, reason does not change.

Comment on <https://youtu.be/XHMa-Ba-2Mo> Jordan and his mates take in the outback sights and takes on big brother:

[@davidrathbone4029](#)

China will NEVER invade Australia. With the exception of the border issues with Tibet & Taiwan, China has never invaded anyone in six thousand years. On the other hand, the English have invaded: England (600AD) Ireland (1536) America (1607 AD) Jamaica (1655) Bermuda (1707) Bangladesh (1757) Canada (1763) Australia (1788) South Africa (1806) India (1858) Egypt (1882) Kenya (1920)... (this is not a complete list.) So say you're China, and you're looking at this Anglo track record...

[@giantroboteye5371](#)

Also Korean war, Sino-India war, Vietnam war, and regular skirmishes with India.

[@davidrathbone4029](#)

[@giantroboteye5371](#) ... Iraq, Afghanistan, ...

[@giantroboteye5371](#)

[@davidrathbone4029](#) England definitely has more wars, but it's also been a country 1097 years. The peoples republic of China has only existed 75 years. In those 75 years the UK has has approximately 18 wars, depending how you count them. China has had approximately 9. So UK twice as war like?

[@illogicalslayer9856](#)

[@giantroboteye5371](#) Korean war was backing the legitimate Korean Peoples Republic elected in 1945. Sino-Inda war was a glorified border skirmish and the fault of both I will not mention the border skirmishes recently you mentioned as it is the same, Vietnam war was 45 years ago and he stated in a comment that he was mentioning this as the last time they invaded anyone. Get your "china bad" head out of your arse and realise all that is nothing compared to Iraq alone.

[@davidrathbone4029](#)

[@giantroboteye5371](#) and [@illogicalslayer9856](#) -- We need to distinguish "war" in two senses: (1) defence, which means repelling invaders and settling border disputes around one's own country, and (2) invasion/colonization of other countries. Most of China's wars have been of the (1) kind; most of England's have been of the (2) kind. But this also shows the problem with the vague concept of a "country" which kind of means territory, but kind of means something political (a "nation"), and kind of means a race of people (ethnicity, religion etc). So is "China" the PRC (yes, 75 years old), or the Chinese people stretching back through the ages to the Xia Dynasty around 2,000 BC? Did England begin in 443 AD when the two Angles "Hengest and Horsa, invited by Wurtgern King of the Britons to come to his assitance, landed in Briton in a place that is called Ipwinesfleet; fiirst of all to support the Britons, but they afterwards fought against them"? Or did it begin in 1801 AD when the UK came into being? Or was it already there when the Romans invaded Briton in 60 BC? Or does it go back to the Druids who built Stonehenge? I can't see why you would say it was exactly 1097 years old: what's so special about 927 AD? -- "The year King Athelstan expelled King Guthfrith, and Archbishop Wulfhelm went to Rome", sure, but neither were exactly epochal events. The thing is the palefaces from THAT island have been spreading around the world like a rash since their boats were good enough ca1600, while the Chinese have stayed put in the Middle Kingdom since forever. And yet on the other hand, how many English restaurants are there in the world? (none, UK included), vs how many Chinese restaurants? (I challenge anyone to name a country that doesn't have a Chinese restaurant).