

## **On Australia's Social Foundation: Multiculturalism with Shared Values and Vision**

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In recent years, the debate surrounding Australia's immigration and multicultural policies has remained unceasing. Pauline Hanson, the leader of One Nation, has publicly declared that Australia should abandon multiculturalism and pivot toward a "monoculture." Regardless of whether this rhetoric carries racist undertones, its underlying logic suffers from severe flaws. Hanson's greatest cognitive blind spot lies in her complete conflation of two distinct concepts: "civilization" and "culture."

To clarify this core issue, one must first recognize the fundamental difference between civilization and culture. Culture operates at the level of daily life, possessing an immense capacity for coexistence and inclusivity. It encompasses various aspects, including language, customs, religious beliefs, cuisine, and the arts. History has proven time and again that diverse cultures can coexist in perfect harmony. For instance, Jewish communities have existed in Europe and the United States for centuries; they have consistently maintained their unique cultural identity, religious traditions, and way of life, yet this has never prevented them from becoming an integral part of Western society.

Conversely, what a nation must adhere to is a unified civilization, namely, a shared framework of core values. Civilization defines the relationship between individuals and determines the core values of its people. In Australia, these values manifest as the pursuit of liberal democracy, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law and the spirit of contract, the principle of equality before the law, and an allegiance to the social contract of a "Fair Go." Regardless of where immigrants come from or what their native culture may be, they must operate within this shared framework of civilization and values.

The social fragmentation that Hanson fears is not, in fact, caused by multiculturalism, but rather by her failure to distinguish the boundaries between these two concepts. Mistakenly believing that maintaining cultural diversity would shake the nation's foundations, she advocates for an impractical and detrimental "monoculture."

In reality, cultural and linguistic diversity by no means hinders an individual's identification with the national civilization or their social integration. According to my own observation, in many Chinese immigrant families, parents and children speak Mandarin or their own dialects at home, yet this does not impede them from using English to integrate into broader Australian society. In particular, the bilingual and bicultural backgrounds of many second-generation immigrants, far from weakening their national identity, grant them a unique advantage in serving the Australian community.

Australia is a quintessential immigrant nation, whose prosperity and future depend on the continuous recruitment of talented and capable immigrants. Objectively speaking, Australia's current economic structure remains heavily reliant on mineral resources and the export of primary commodities such as wool, seafood, and wine. Over the past few decades, domestic manufacturing has been virtually hollowed out, the homegrown high-tech sector remains weak, and the country lacks a mature, Silicon Valley-style incubator mechanism for technological industries. This has led to a severe brain drain, not only are many top local talents lured to the United States, but many high-level immigrant talents have also chosen to return to their home countries. As the world undergoes a technological revolution driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Australia has fallen somewhat behind. If we fail to catch up, it will be exceedingly difficult to secure a leading position in the future global landscape. Faced with the harsh challenges of technological iteration and industrial upgrading, Australia can only triumph in the global war for talent by relying on an open and inclusive soft environment. Therefore, as members of this nation, what we truly need to champion and safeguard is a shared civilizational framework and core values. Upon this foundation, we must offer full tolerance and encouragement to multiculturalism, allowing different ethnic groups to seek common ground while reserving differences in harmonious coexistence, and to achieve mutual benefit in collective development.

**Multiculturalism with Shared Values and Vision**, this is the true wisdom required to align with the trends of the times and to ensure Australia's long-term peace, stability, and enduring prosperity.