

Lose History ... Lose Hope??

By Russell Rigby

Should our apparent economic reality shape everything?

An article on education in *The New Zealand Herald* (16 October, 2017)¹ suggested that 'rote learning' and 'history' are not what employers want and should be dropped from curriculums. Well, I do not want to argue for rote learning, but I certainly do for history. Our history helps us know why things might be as they are. For example ...



The New Zealand Herald (16 October, 2017)



The New Zealand Herald (13 October, 2017)

David Stevenson's article Time for a circuit breaker on Korean peninsula in The New Zealand Herald on 13 October² illustrates this. He reminded us of our 1950s, when a large group of UN nations, including New Zealand,

made war on Communism in North Korea; and dropped more bombs on it than the Allies did on Germany in World War 2. He quotes American General Curtis LeMay as saying this bombing killed 20% of the North Korean population. No wonder they are where and what they are today! He also suggests our present response to North Korea could be to acknowledge regret for what happened back then.

Makes sense to me. History matters. It can enable perspectives that help us be wiser about how we live, and relate to, others today.

continues ➡

1. See the online version of the article at tinyurl.com/ADCOSS-NZHerald-1
2. See the online version of the article at tinyurl.com/ADCOSS-NZHerald-2

We have seen this several times over recent years. Those, who as children in war-worried Britain who were uplifted to Australia, and often abused, were apologised to by the Governments for it all. It helped.

More recently the *New Zealand Police* apologised to the Tuhoe people for the raids they suffered; and our Government apologised for the 1890's invasion of *Parihaka Marae*, and made restitution. These enabled healings to happen, life to flow again, seeds of new health were sown.

But often real history is ignored for comfortable 'alternative facts'. This pretence just adds convolutions; is certainly not wisdom.

History needs to be taken more seriously in schools. Our 'global village' is too small for ignoring it, or creating 'alternative facts' stuff.

