The spiritual and moral

A curriculum for a diverse society
Presenter background

• B. Sc. (UNSW)  B.A. Hons (Sydney) Dip. Ed
• Taught for 37 years primarily in Government schools in country and metropolitan NSW.
• Head of History Faculties for 17 years
• History main subject but have also taught English, Legal Studies and Studies of Religion
• Have contributed to many textbooks under Jacaranda/Wiley imprint including a set for the National Curriculum - Retroactive
• Main interests include World History and histories of Japan, China, India and the Middle East
• Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and Chair of the College Policy Committee
Donnelly & Wiltshire Review of the Australian Curriculum

Recommendation 15

ACARA revise the Australian Curriculum to place more emphasis on morals, values and spirituality as outlined in the Melbourne Declaration, and to better recognise the contribution of Western civilisation, our Judeo-Christian heritage, the role of economic development and industry and the democratic underpinning of the British system of Government to Australia’s development.
The history curriculum is especially singled out [by the IPA] for criticism on the basis that it over-emphasises the themes of the environment, colonialism, **multiculturalism**, social history, class and minority groups, and privileges anti-modernism.

In addition, IPA’s submission argues that the history curriculum either undervalues or ignores the history of ideas, liberalism, economic growth and technology, political history, **Western civilisation and religion**.

*Review’s summary of the Institute of Public Affairs submission*
Migration out of Africa
Religions in Australia

2011 Census

- Catholic 28%
- Anglican 19%
- Uniting Church 5%
- Other Christian 15%
- Buddhism 3%
- Hinduism 1%
- Islam 2%
- Judaism 1%
- Other non-Christian 1%
- No Religion 25%
- Other non-Christians 1%
Religions in Australia

McCrindle Survey 2013

- Christianity: 39%
- Hinduism: 1%
- Islam: 1%
- Buddhism: 3%
- Judaism: 1%
- Other: 5%
- Spiritual no main religion: 19%
- None: 31%
Prof. Gregory Melleuish on decline in religious practice:

Melleuish refers to Kaldun, a 14th Century Islamic Historian and Philosopher and his concept of asabiya or social solidarity:

What erodes social solidarity is a potent mix of unbridled individualism and an addiction to comfort and niceness, a faith that if God exists He does so to ensure that an individual lives a comfortable and anxiety free existence.
‘Spiritual and moral’ in the Australian Curriculum

Donnelly and Wiltshire in the review:

Indeed, in the context of the Melbourne Declaration’s aspiration that the national curriculum would enable students to understand the ‘spiritual and moral’ dimensions of life, there appears to be a distinct imbalance in the Australian Curriculum as these key aspects have been neglected. (Page 5)

What the curriculum actually says under Personal and social capability:

Personal and social capability supports students in becoming creative and confident individuals with ‘a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing’, with a sense of hope and ‘optimism about their lives and the future’.
The early witnesses to Jesus of Nazareth

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<td>Paul’s letters</td>
<td>65-75 CE</td>
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<td>Mark</td>
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<td>John</td>
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Source: L Michael White “From Jesus to Christianity”
The angels said to Mary: ’God bids you rejoice in a word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary. He shall be noble in this world and in the hereafter, and shall be favoured by God. He shall preach to men in his cradle and in the prime of manhood, and shall lead a righteous life.’

‘Lord,’ she said, ’how can I bear a child when no man has touched me?’

He replied; ‘Such is the will of God. He creates whom He will. When He decrees a thing he need only say: ‘Be and it is.’

The Quran, Sutra 4
The second big external threat to the West is the rise of new powers, or old powers newly emboldened, taking advantage of the weak and feckless leadership provided by Barack Obama. The US President is the de facto head of Western civilisation. Not since Jimmy Carter has there been a leader of such little strategic consequence. He is a President of fine words and strategic failure.

Source: Greg Sheridan “Western civilisation in the midst of a profound crisis” in The Australian, March 12, 2015
“Reason” as opposed to “Authority”

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen

Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, April 1521
If God had willed it, each of us could have been another!

It is PURE CHANCE WHO we are!

Be friends!
Your children are waiting!

I COULD BE YOU!
Thank You

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