

On the underlying issues

Threats opportunities weaknesses and strengths

The media hysteria generated by the events of this week has so far failed to drill down on the underlying issues surrounding the arrests this week

Issues like:

- What is the underlying source of discontent that motivates Maori and other activists within this country?
- How may these be resolved in a just manner in which all parties have confidence in?

Instead the media focus's is on individuals and small groups ... failing to recognise that the seeds of civil war will only germinate upon the fertile fields of injustice.

100 or so years ago it was Rua Kenana, before him it was Te Kooti, today its Tameiti tomorrow it will be someone else ... on into the future

The government can chose to take groups and individuals out ... but that won't solve the underlying issues, it WILL harden attitudes and ratchet up responses ... such is the nature of a punitive response to unresolved problems..

Branding anyone who challenges the authority of the state as a terrorist is a tired and worn out reaction much overused by the American government.

We are better than that, we need to push our government beyond such trite response.

The issues need to be put on the table and dealt with in a more honest and constructive way or we will all pay the price of this failure.

There's many lessons to be learnt from the events that have unfolded over the last couple of days.

"Mainstream" Maori leaders need to convene an emergency national hui to de-personalise the issues and bring clearly into focus the underlying cause of discontent which is not confined to so called fringe groups or individuals but lies at the heart of the matter.

(And if you spies from the government or political parties attempt to capture this process ... it will surely fail so don't fuck it up)

E hoa ma kaua e matakū
Whakapiri tatou ki a tatou
Ahakoa ko wai, no hea
Whaia te pono me te tika mo tatou me nga tamariki mokopuna

Mike Smith