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SUN TZU



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Abalinx 11 May 2016 Peter Adamis

The title itself says it all and is the perfect description of the two major political parties attempting to woo a public that is becoming bored with politics. The wise Chinese Sage Sun Tzu in his art of War knew that to win a battle without physically going to war was the best victory of all.

Today's political leaders all jockeying for position have forgotten this lesson and the end result can only produce a battlefield strewn with bodies destined for the afterlife devoid of any political platform.

A long campaign can only benefit those ill prepared to meet the gruelling months of media and public scrutiny. One tiny error of judgement can have the effects of unravelling a well-oiled political campaign machine's capacity to function effectively and grind it to a halt. All political parties are using this long campaign period to shore up their defences, build up their material and manpower resources and cover their attacks with smoke, mirrors and an abundance of noise to confuse their opponents and that of the public.

It took me a while to come to grips with the strategy being played out in Victoria between the Liberals, Labor and the Greens and when it dawned upon me, I was surprised at the simplicity of it all. Vast sums of money is being expended, manpower being stretched to the limit and material assets being consumed like no other campaign in Australia's history. [The Labor and Liberal Party leaders](#) at the Federal level say that they will not entertain a coalition government with the Greens while the Liberals would consider referencing the Greens in selective seats. This can only benefit the Greens.

The last time I can remember the Labor party working overtime to achieve a stunning victory was the ["ITS TIME"](#) campaign with Gough Whitlam and the battle for the [Frankston By Election](#) on the death of its member, Peter McClelland, who was running as an independent, resulting in a Labor win which brought them to power post Kennett era. What does this translate into today's Federal election is that the [Liberal Party Victorian President, Michael Kroger](#) has cleverly placed a cat in the midst of the pigeons comprising of Labor and the Greens. This has in effect caused a domino effect in the Labor Party ranks creating havoc and consternation as to why the Liberals in Victoria are courting and referencing the Greens.

Michael Kroger has correctly identified the public's anger, and resentment and that the grassroots were seeking alternatives to the current two party system; and as such has tagged the Green with that of the Liberals blue brand. He has even been noted to say that the Greens are no longer the nutty groups they were once were as and such has selectively targeted seats such as [Wills, McEwen, Corangamite, Chisolm and Batman](#) that would benefit the Greens and Liberals at the expense of Labor without evening firing a shot or going into battle. Clever yes, smart yes, but will in the long term emerge a coalition of Labor and the Greens.

Over the next few weeks of the campaigns the media will be in full swing hanging on every word, gesture and policy statements being made by the political parties in order to identify the policies that the campaign will be decided upon. Negative gearing, education, jobs and growth, consumer confidence, foreign investment, defence, research and innovation, Medicare, health, an ageing population, superannuation and tax cuts are all up for consideration. However I am of the opinion that the public is concerned as to the future of this nation and whether the generation of today and into the future will be able to benefit from such pork barrelling exercises.

As always, my apologies for the poor grammar, punctuation and savagery of the English language. All that I can say is that it is great to be alive and one does not give up in the face of adversity.



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