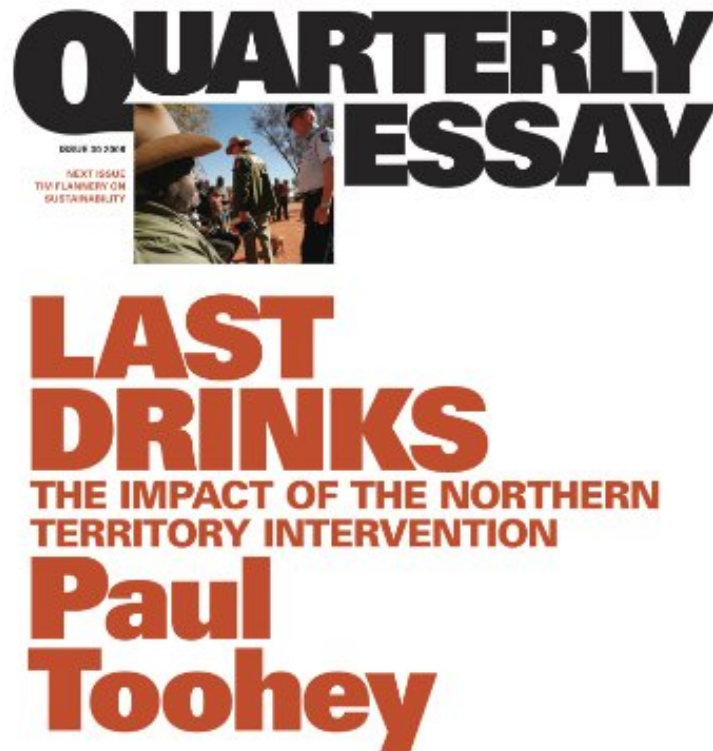


Quarterly Essay 30 Last Drinks: The Impact of the Northern Territory Intervention

Paul Toohey

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Paul Toohey : Quarterly Essay 30 Last Drinks: The Impact of the Northern Territory Intervention before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Quarterly Essay 30 Last Drinks: The Impact of the Northern Territory Intervention:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A though provoking essay on an insufficiently considered topicBy kyle peytonI thought this was a well written piece, gritty and insightful. I'd read criticisms in the Crikey blog about this piece that I thought were more lazy and personalized than thoughtful. Another source called it a "racist diatribe". I think that's way off base and there is plenty of value in this piece, chiefly in painting the political context and community and government dysfunction. Toohey did make statements that would make the urban political elite in

Australia uncomfortable but I think it's on the onus of the reader to do further investigation, and perhaps they should relax their partisan priors. Of course, there are many assertions made and anecdotes recounted that the reader needs to take at face value and trust in Toohey's faithful reporting of the evidence. It's hard to square everything with an unbiased historical account of the Intervention though as there is such a lack of quality scholarship on the Intervention and none of the social policies implemented in the NT from 2007-2012 have been transparently and adequately evaluated and made part of the public debate. This is an important contribution to public debate and a thought provoking piece worth reading. Richard Broome's "Aboriginal Australians" has a good chapter on the NT Intervention that provides a considered account that should also be read. I was surprised to see that Toohey's piece wasn't referenced there.

When Mal Brough and John Howard announced the Northern Territory intervention in mid-2007, they proclaimed a child abuse emergency. In this riveting piece of reportage and analysis, Paul Toohey unpicks the rhetoric of emergency and tracks progress. One year on, have children been saved? Will Labor continue with the intervention? What are the reasons for the social crisis - the neglect and the violence - and how might things be different? Toohey argues that the real issue is not sexual abuse, but rather a more general neglect of children. He criticises the way both white courts and black law have viewed violent crime by Aboriginal men. He examines the permit system and the quarantining of welfare money and argues that due to Labor's changes to these, the intervention is now effectively over - though the crisis persists. In *Last Drinks*, Paul Toohey offers the definitive account of how the Territory intervention came about and what it has achieved. What if the greatest threat to a home came not from outside its walls but from within? Such was the charge levelled against Aborigines on 21 June 2007, the day the intervention was announced. Paul Toohey, *Last Drinks* Paul Toohey is chief northern correspondent for the Australian. He won a Walkley Award for his first Quarterly Essay, *Last Drinks: The Impact of the Northern Territory Intervention*. He was previously a senior writer at the Bulletin and is the author of three books: *Gods Little Acre*, *Rocky Goes West* and *The Killer Within*. He has won the Graham Perkin journalist of the year award and a Walkley award for magazine feature writing. He lives in Darwin.