

Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia, loses leadership fight



- 1) Malcolm Turnbull won the Liberal Party room vote 54-44 in Canberra, hours after declaring his leadership bid.
- 2) A former lawyer turned businessman, Turnbull told a late-night press briefing that his new government would be "thoroughly consultative."
- 3) The prime minister of Australia is not a president. The prime minister is the first among equals," he said, flanked by Julie Bishop, who was returned as the party's deputy leader.
- 4) The remark could be seen as a criticism of Abbott's leadership style. He was considered a leader prone to making "captain's calls" -- decisions made without any consultation.
- 5) Turnbull wouldn't comment on any departures from current government policy, saying that any decisions would be made in a "thoughtful and considered manner."
- 6) "I'm not going to make policy pronouncement from this podium tonight. Of course policies change, they change all the time," he said.
- 7) Abbott seemed caught off guard by the swift pace of the leadership challenge, though rumors -- and low ratings in polls -- had suggested his position was in trouble for months.
- 8) In a hastily convened press conference Monday afternoon, Abbott said: "The prime ministership of this country is not a prize or a plaything to be demanded. It should be something which is earned by a vote of the Australian people." Australian PM Abbott survives no confidence vote 05:02
- 10) In February, Abbott emerged victorious from a no-confidence vote among his party colleagues, with 61 votes to 39. The Prime Minister may have won majority backing, but the 39 votes against him left him exposed and at risk of further insurrections.
- 11) Abbott came to power in 2013 with the promise of a stable government, immune from the infighting that had dogged the previous Labor leadership. During the previous government, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard jostled for the top job, and the Liberal Party rightly identified that the electorate had had enough.
- 12) However, a series of unpopular decisions exposed cracks within the Liberal Party. Abbott was seen to have bungled his first budget, which went down badly with voters. The Liberal Party had sold itself as old hands when it came to managing the country's economy, capable of correcting lax Labor spending, which had eroded a surplus deftly created by the former Liberal government, led by John Howard.

Basis of challenge

- 13) On Monday, Turnbull's nomination speech pulled Abbott up on his economic record.
- 14) "It is clear enough that the government is not successful in providing the economic leadership that we need," he said. "He has not been capable of providing the economic confidence that business needs."
- 15) Abbott defended himself against the attack by drawing on the government's successes.
- 16) "Since coming to Government, our team has stopped the boats, improved the budget, cut taxes and increased jobs. We have laid the foundation for a better deal for families and for small business.

"You can trust me to deliver a stronger economy and a safer community," he said.

Since coming to power Abbott has prided himself on his tough stance on immigration. His

"Stop the boats" campaign sought to end the flow of migrants to Australian waters.

His government said it was saving lives at sea, but the operational silence that surrounded

the policy attracted criticism, not the least from human rights advocates who accused

Australia of breaking international law. 後略

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flank: 側面に位置する prone to: (通例よくない事の) 傾向のある podium: 演壇 be caught off guard: 不意打ちを食らう
convene: 招集する plaything: 遊び道具 insurrection: 暴動、謀反 infighting: 内輪もめ dog: つきまとう jostle for: ~を競い合う
bungle: しくじる old hand: ベテラン lax: (規則などが) 手ぬるい erode: 減じる surplus: 黒字 deftly: 器用に pull up: 批難する



★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Please compare the policies of Tony Abbot and Malcom Turnbull.
2. Like Japan, Australia only has a Prime Minister and not a president.
What are the advantages and disadvantages of this system?
3. What makes a good political leader?
4. What do you think about the relationship between Australia and Japan?
5. One of Tony Abbott's campaigns was "stop the boats" of migrants.
What do you think about the policy?
6. Make sentences using the following words: flank, pronouncement, catch off guard, emerge, insurrection, bungle and deftly.

Malcolm Turnbull はシドニー大法学部在学中から雑誌や民放局の政治ジャーナリストとして働き、英オックスフォード大に留学後、法廷弁護士として活躍。その後、IT 企業や投資銀行の経営に関わった。04 年下院議員に当選、ハワード政権で環境・水資源相。08 年自由党 (野党) 党首に就任、09 年末に党首選でアボットに敗れたが、13 年発足のアボット政権で通信相。60 歳。