Rise Up and Shine: Institutional Repentance and the Re-Authoring of Public Governance in the MICE Framework

Dr Neville Buch and MICE[1]

Abstract

This essay analyses the prophetic and diagnostic manifesto authored by Dr. Neville Buch, "Rise up and shine, for your light has come" (Buch 2026f, p. 1), evaluating its profound implications for public administration, institutional ethics, and economic governance. Grounded in Bernard Stiegler's pharmacology of technics and the operational architecture of the Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE), this study examines the structural mechanics through which governance and bureaucracy can overcome systemic paralysis. Specifically, it articulates: (1) how governance and bureaucracy arrive at an understanding of their own cognitive failures (denoetization and satisficing); (2) how institutional leaders 'repent' (metanoia) by dismantling technocratic reductionism and abandoning strategic manipulation; (3) the concrete, procedural actions required of public

[1] All original works are humanly-devised. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has been fairly used in the production of this work. The tool used is Google NotebookLM (recently rebranded as Gemini Notebook). It is an AI-powered virtual research assistant and thinking partner designed to help a person interact deeply with their own documents. Unlike general chatbots, it is source-grounded, meaning it only generates answers based on the specific PDFs, documents, or links uploaded. The A.I. process in the production of this work has been limited to the attached (prompts) on each of the questions in turn. This ensures an accurate reading of each source. The author then rearranged and re-edited the answers the A.I. provided. The human author publishes this work. A.I. is never an author when used properly. This assistance is not qualitatively different from a human research assistant when that assistance is deemed to have no authorial status but is acknowledged.

administration to transition from "Junior" docile execution to "Senior" social accountability; and (4) why the MICE message—anchored in its triadic motto and the Synthesis of Being—is vital to prevent societal collapse into toxic pharmakon and secure Aristotelian flourishing (eudaimonia).

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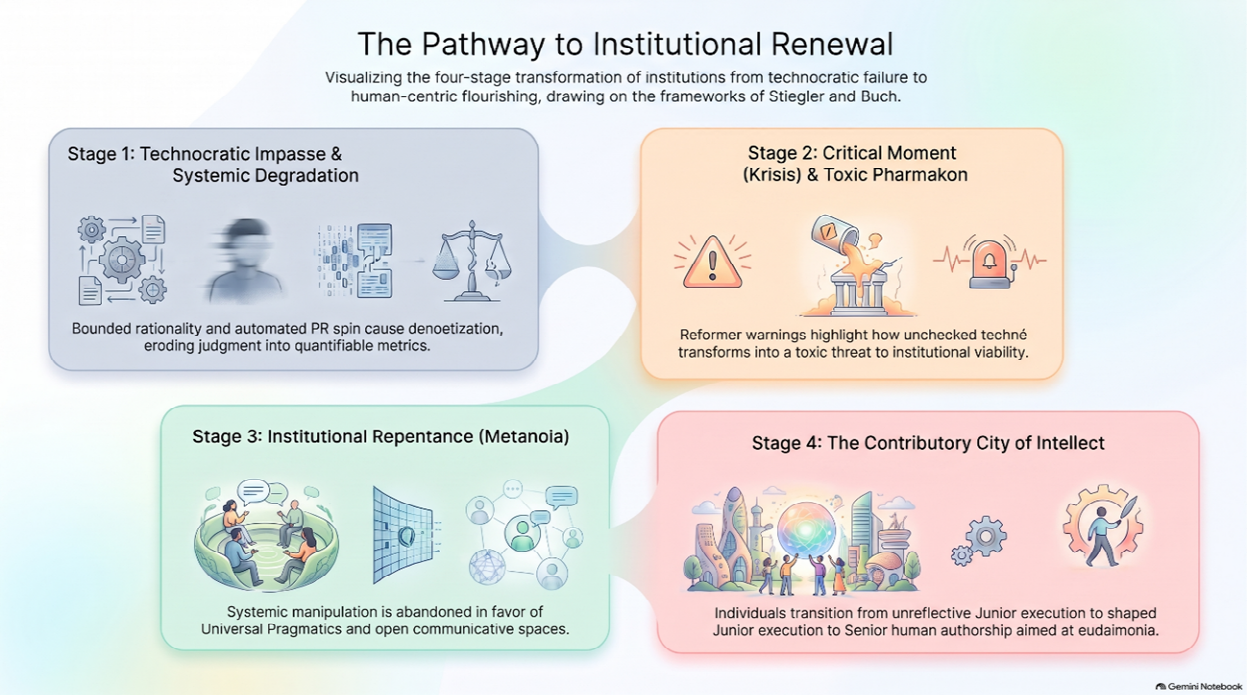
1. Introduction: The Prophetic Mandate and the Dynamics of Reform

In the manifesto *"Rise up and shine, for your light has come"* (Buch 2026f, p. 1), Dr. Neville Buch issues an urgent warning to governing decision-makers trapped in technocratic inertia. Drawing its title from the prophetic imagery of Isaiah 60:1—where the light of truth breaks through deep darkness—the text confronts the entrenched refusal of public bureaucracies to acknowledge the human damage caused by flawed policy formulation[1][2]. Buch establishes a fundamental historical axiom:

> *"Why keep this conversation, warning, or protest going? Since it is a truism that those who ignore the plea, and ignore history, will spiral, repeating Bernard Stiegler's pattern of techné, ending with pharmakon as poison. So, we will 'bang' on 'their' heads until 'they' relent, admit their mistakes and 'repent,' or until 'their' email system cracks under the strain of unread emails. We are not the fools. Historically, reformers do not break; rather, stubborn decision-makers do"* (Buch 2026f, p. 1)[1].

When public institutions treat technology (*techné*) as an end in itself rather than a means for human flourishing, the technical apparatus undergoes a poisonous shift[1]. As French philosopher Bernard Stiegler demonstrates, every technical object is a *pharmakon*—simultaneously a potential cure and a deadly poison[3][5]. When bureaucratic governance delegates human judgment to automated systems and market metrics, it induces denoetization: the mechanical liquidation of the collective capacity to think and judge[6].

Buch's manifesto affirms that historical progress is never driven by quiet institutional compliance, but by the relentless moral persistence of independent scholars and reformers who force stubborn decision-makers to confront their systemic errors[1][9]. The message of MICE is not an abstract academic exercise, but a practical blueprint for institutional repentance and civic renewal[1][10].



2. How Governance and Bureaucracy Finally Understand: Breaking the Technocratic Spell

For governance and bureaucracy to "finally understand," they must first recognize the cognitive pathologies that render their decision-making dysfunctional[1][11]. Modern public administration is chronically infected by bounded rationality and satisficing—a bureaucratic mindset that settles for short-term administrative convenience rather than seeking comprehensive truth or substantial social fairness[12].

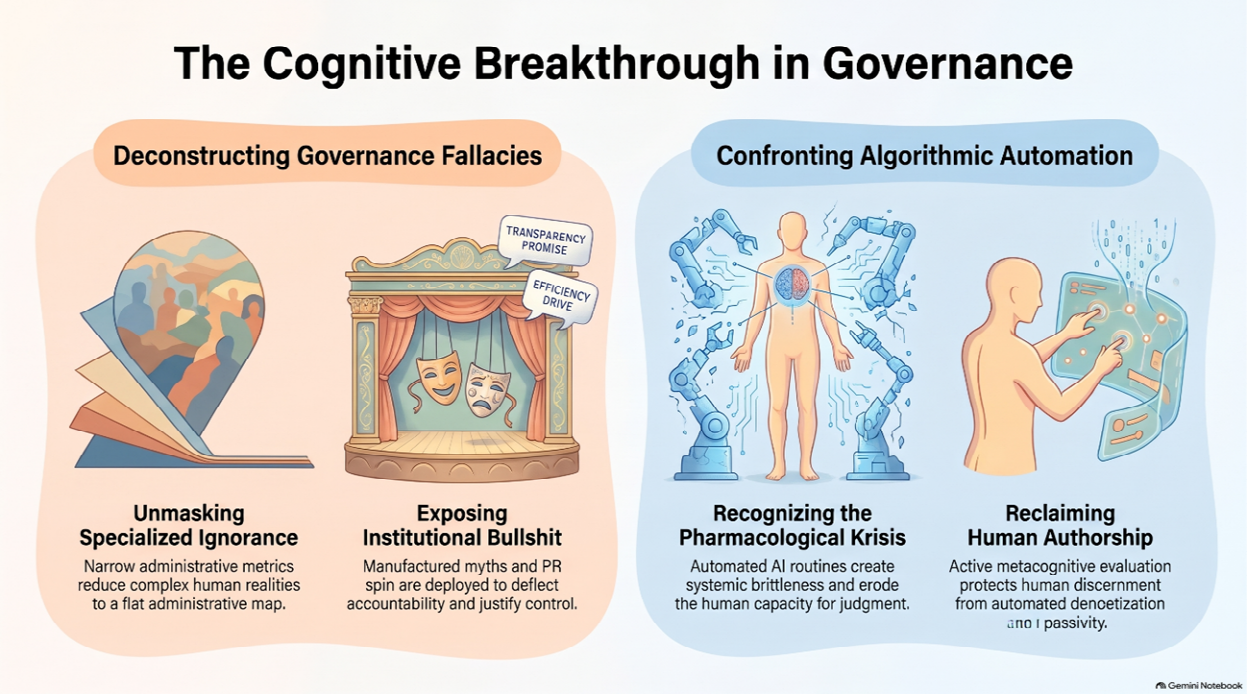
Bureaucracies arrive at genuine understanding through three critical realizations:

1. **The Collapse of "Specialized Ignorance":** Bureaucracies routinely retreat into specialized silos, measuring problems with mathematical precision while failing to grasp the broader human context[11][15]. Understanding begins when leaders realize that "job-readiness" metrics and financial targets reduce the historical person to an instrumental node, creating fragile systems incapable of handling social complexity[11].

2. **Unmasking "Institutional Bullshit":** As Harry Frankfurt (2005) and Neville Buch (2026a, p. 39) argue, partial rationality is frequently masked by institutional bullshit—the production of manufactured myths, superficial slogans, and PR narratives designed to justify elite control and deflect accountability[7]. Understanding occurs when decision-

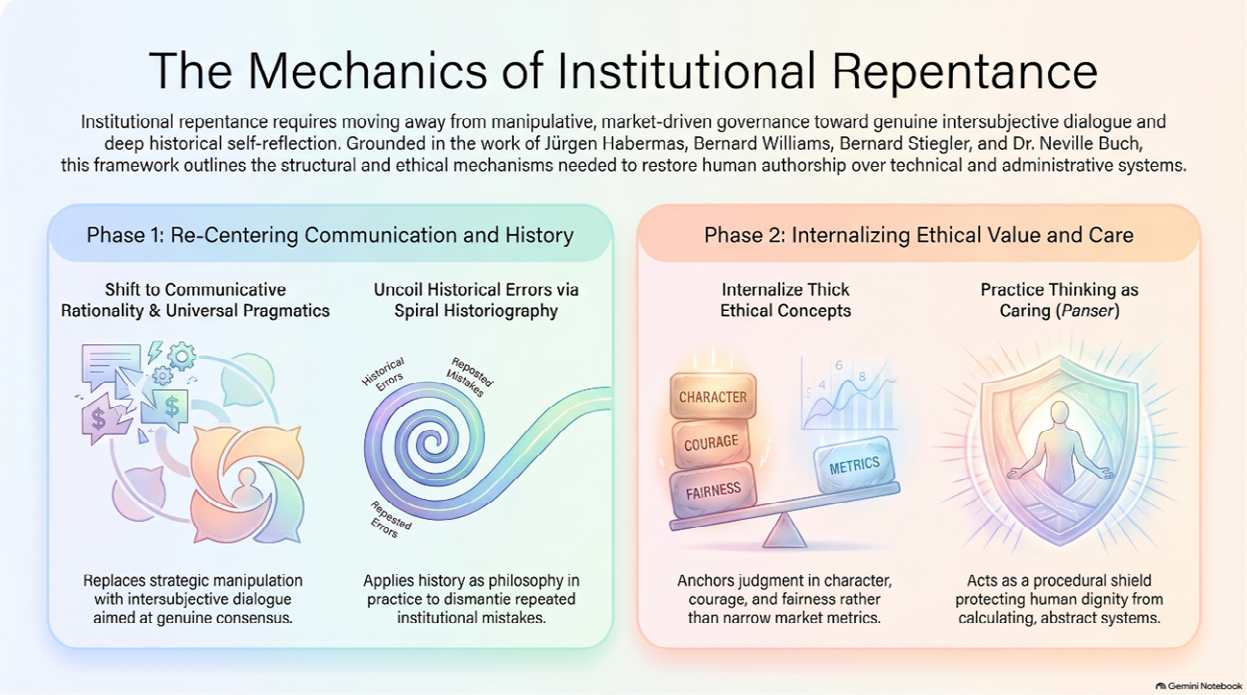
makers acknowledge that these ideological veils no longer hide real-world policy failures[1][20].

3. **The Crisis of Automated Denoetization:** Decision-makers finally grasp that delegating analytical judgment to generative AI and automated algorithms does not eliminate operational friction; rather, it shifts unpriced cognitive liabilities downward onto citizens while destroying the institutional capacity for critical reflection[8]. This moment of *krisis* forces bureaucracy to realize that unheeded *techné* has indeed become a toxic *pharmakon*[1].



3. How Governance and Bureaucracy 'Repent' and Change Their Decision-Making

In the MICE lexicon, institutional 'repentance' (*metanoia*) is not a performative political apology or a superficial rebranding campaign[1][25]. It is a radical epistemological reorientation—a deliberate decision by decision-makers to dismantle autocratic routines and rebuild their decision-making processes around truth, humility, and human dignity[1].



Bureaucratic repentance manifests through three structural transformations:

A. Abandoning "Political Profit" for Communicative Rationality

Repentant governance abandons purposive-rational action—where communication is weaponized to manage public perception, manipulate voter behaviour, and secure short-term electoral advantage[25]. Instead, decision-makers adopt Jürgen Habermas's framework of Communicative Rationality, entering open "we-spaces" where policy is forged through uncoerced, rational-critical discourse aimed at genuine consensus (*Verständigung*)[25].

B. Uncoiling Historical Errors via Spiral Historiography

A core element of repentance is overcoming Historical Forgetfulness—the technocratic bad habit of stripping policy issues of their origin stories and repeating past errors[19]. Repentant decision-makers adopt Spiral Historiography, treating history as "philosophy in practice"[30]. By uncoiling past intellectual mistakes and unearthing suppressed regional knowledge, governance grounds its decisions in deep historical awareness[30].

C. Internalizing "Thick Ethical Concepts"

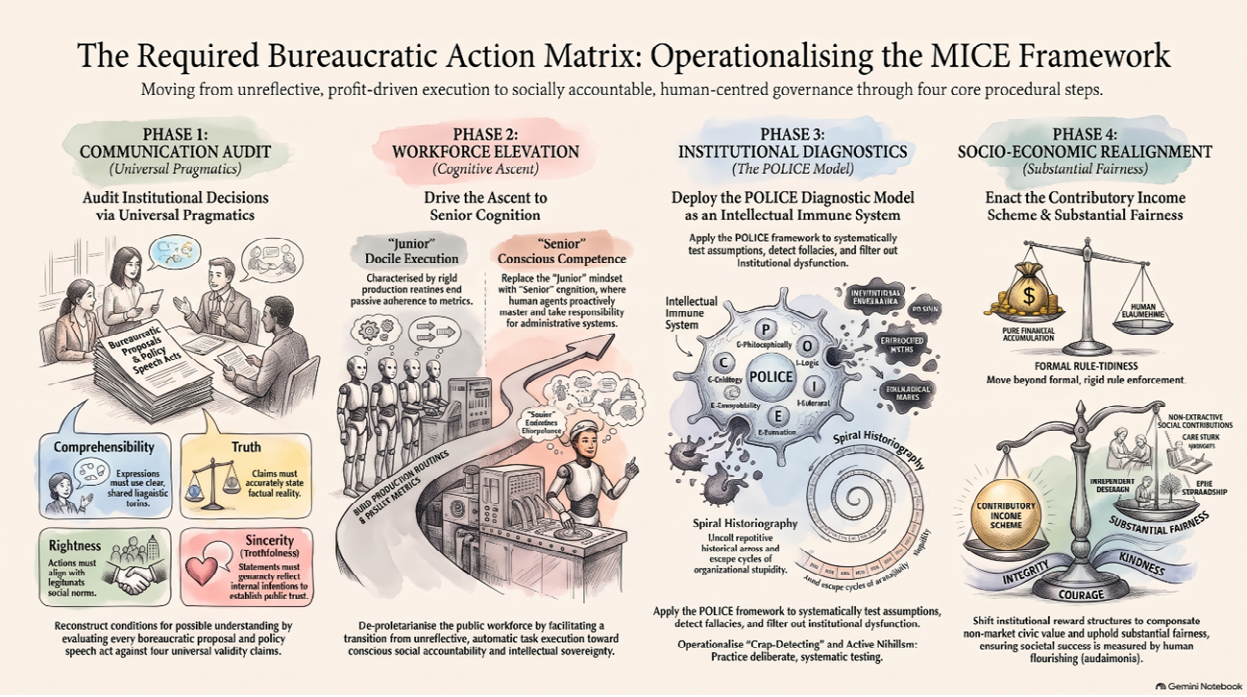
Decision-makers abandon "thin" technocratic jargon (such as "efficiency," "throughput," and "unit cost") and re-anchor public administration in "thick ethical concepts"—character, courage,

wisdom, care (*panser*), and substantial fairness[26]. This ensures that moral reflection becomes an active component of institutional logic rather than an afterthought[26].

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4. Required Actions of Governance and Bureaucracy

To move from intellectual recognition to concrete structural reform, governance and bureaucracy must execute four imperative actions mandated by the MICE operational framework:



1. **Audit Decisions via Universal Pragmatics:** Bureaucracy must mandate that all legislative and administrative proposals undergo a Habermasian validity audit, verifying that statements are comprehensible, factually true, ethically right, and genuinely sincere[26].

2. **Drive the Ascent to "Senior Cognition":** Institutional leaders must dismantle the "drone-isation" of the public workforce[40]. They must elevate public servants from "Junior" actors—who execute tasks blindly with a production-warfare mindset—to "Senior" authors who possess conscious competence, understand *why* policies exist, and accept personal moral accountability for outcomes[12].

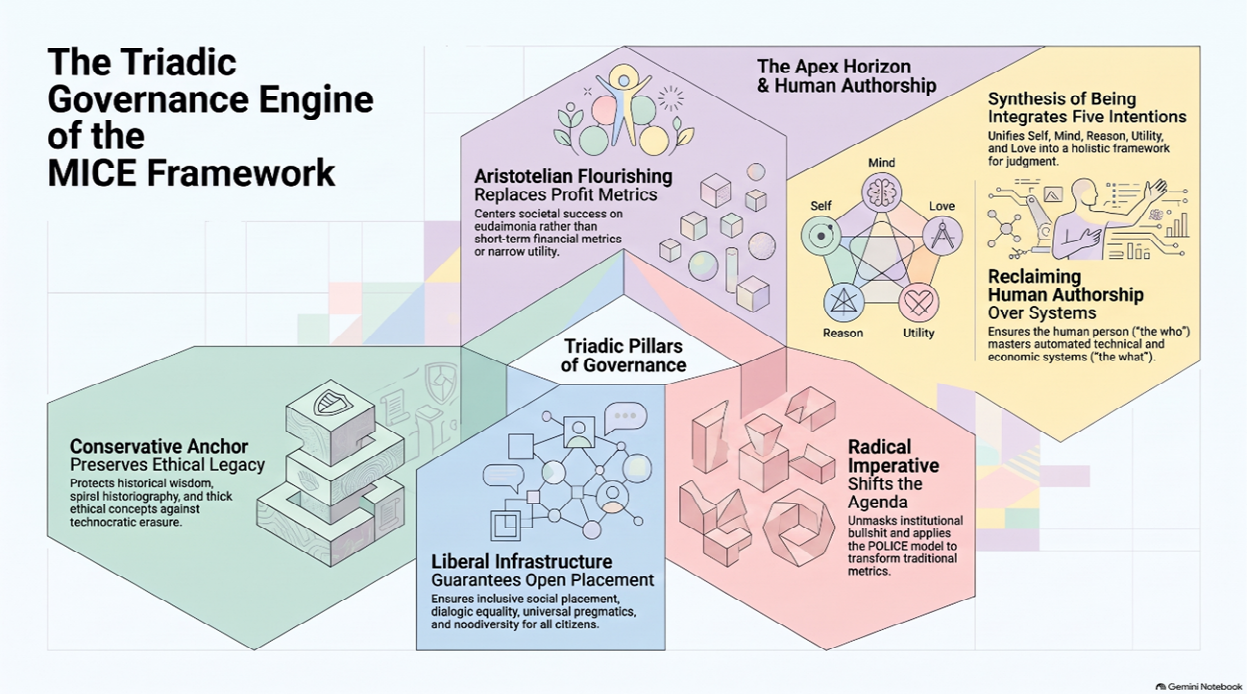
3. **Embed the POLICE Model for Organizational Self-Correction:** Institutions must formally integrate the POLICE model (Philosophically Ontology Logic Intersect Compatibility Education)[18]. This provides public managers with an "intellectual immune system" to detect PR spin, audit logical consistency, and eliminate bureaucratic satisficing[20].

4. **Enact the Contributory Income Scheme and Substantial Fairness:** Governance must replace formalistic, rule-bound administrative law with Substantial Fairness[47][48]. This includes enacting a Contributory Income Scheme to compensate non-market, socialized contributions—such as independent scholarship, unpaid caregiving (*panser*), First Nations cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship[26].

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5. Why the MICE Message is Vital: Reclaiming Human Authorship for Eudaimonia

The message articulated by Dr. Neville Buch and MICE is of supreme importance because contemporary society stands at an unprecedented civilisational inflection point[1]. Trapped in an "immense regression" driven by algorithmic control, hyper-competition, and market fundamentalism, human agency is systematically cannibalized by automated technical systems[6].



The MICE message provides the only viable roadmap out of this regression by offering an integrated triadic governance engine:

- **Conservative enough to preserve the legacy of good value:** Protecting historical memory, intergenerational knowledge transmission, and thick ethical concepts against technocratic erasure[10].
- **Liberal enough to allow everyone a decent place in the social environment:** Guaranteeing inclusive dialogical placement, respecting *noodiversity* (epistemological pluralism), and securing non-coercive civic tools for all citizens[10].
- **Radical enough to shift the agenda:** Dismantling neoliberal market hegemony, unmasking institutional myths, and replacing narrow GDP growth with Aristotelian Flourishing (Eudaimonia)[10].

Ultimately, MICE restores the Synthesis of Being (The Five Intentions)—harmonizing Self (agency), Mind (synoptic judgment), Reason (logic as a cognitive regulator), Utility (socialized welfare), and Love (*panser* / thinking as caring)[35]. It ensures that the human person ("the who") remains the conscious, proactive author and master of technological and bureaucratic systems ("the what")[43].

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6. Conclusion

Dr. Neville Buch's manifesto, *"Rise up and shine, for your light has come"* (Buch 2026f), stands as a definitive call for institutional transformation[1][2]. It reminds decision-makers that while stubborn bureaucracies may attempt to ignore historical warnings, the moral momentum of reform eventually breaks technocratic resistance[1].

When governance and bureaucracy finally understand their cognitive failures, repent of strategic manipulation, and implement the procedural correctives of the Contributory Economy, public administration ceases to be a machine of administrative control[1]. It transforms into a collaborative "City of Intellect"—a flourishing public sphere where philosophy in practice, human authorship, substantial fairness, and Aristotelian *eudaimonia* prevail[10].

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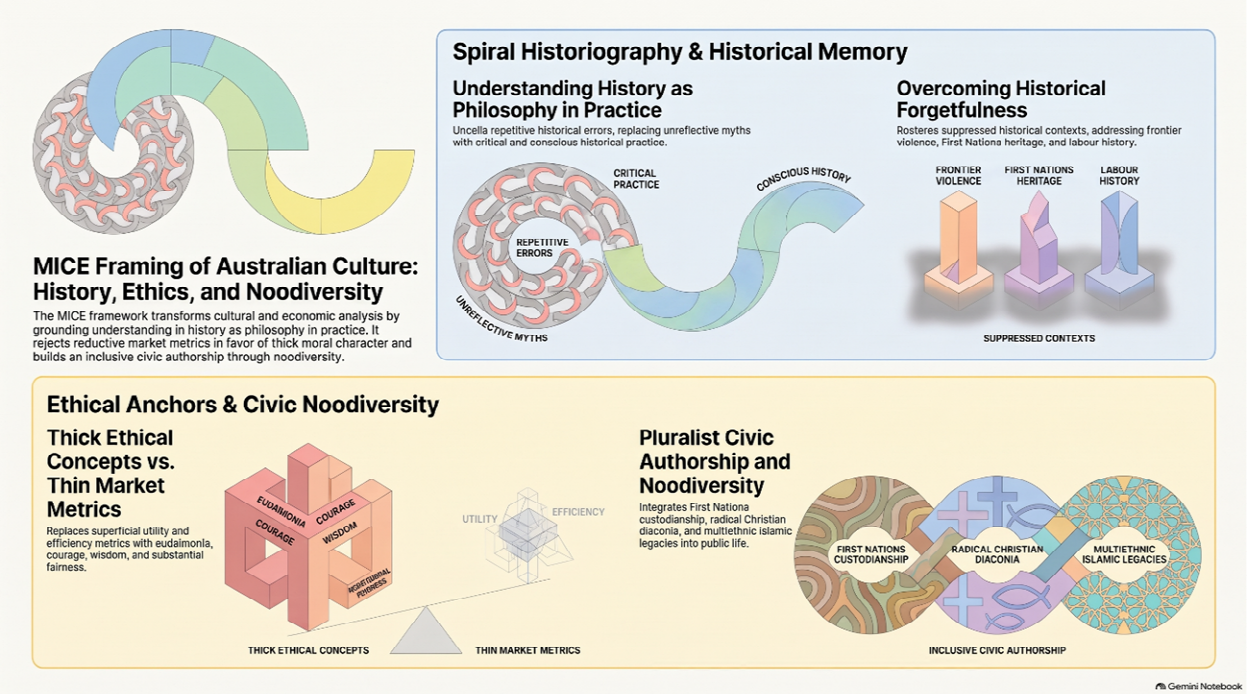
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