

THE PEOPLE'S INQUIRY: EXPLORING THE CASE FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL AUSTRALIA



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Australia talks about its foreign policy, but throughout settler Australian history, that has never been independent of our major allies, and so has never advanced our national interests as distinct from theirs.

When the UK or the US wanted troops for a war, Australia provided them. When they wanted support for suppressing nationalist and non-aligned movements, Australia agreed. But Australia is in the Asian region, where in our own interests we can and should be a good neighbour and a good international citizen.

When we have acted more or less alone, and peaceably, as in East Timor, Cambodia, and the Solomon Islands, it worked. But Australia has dodged the problem of China's rise and its challenge to the US Alliance for decades: it now confronts us. This is the moment when Australians must choose between peaceful, lawful coexistence or militaristic, illegal aggression. Reviving Australian diplomacy is an urgent task, for the alternative will be disastrous.



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