

**Jump TO Article**



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**Jump TO Article**

## LETTERS

### 2014 Sir Herman Black Lecture

I very much enjoyed reading the thought provoking 2014 Sir Herman Black Lecture by Peter Hartcher [*United Service* **66** (1), 9 – 13, March 2015].

The common factor with the three examples he gave of 21st century imperialism – the Islamic State, Russia and China – is that they all seem to have an urge for territorial expansion justified by historical precedent and perceived injustices.

The 'Western' world order, in contrast, seems inclined to maintain the post-World War II/post-decolonisation/post-Soviet Union *status quo*, where the United States is the global leader and security guarantor of choice.

Australia's strategic dependence on the United States for its defence is a national vulnerability that must be addressed.

**Marcus Fielding**

Royal United Services Institute, Victoria, 3 March 2015