

BOOK REVIEW:

Australia's American alliance

edited by Peter J. Dean, Stephan Frühling and Brendan Taylor
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The Australia-United States (US) alliance has been crucial to Australian foreign and defence policy since the ANZUS Treaty was signed in 1951. For 63 years, it has been an enduring feature of Australian defence planning, yet the contemporary alliance is in one of the more important phases of reinterpretation; and that was before the election of Donald J. Trump.

This book is designed as a companion volume to *Australia's Defence: Towards a New Era?* published in 2014. It specifically focuses on Australian perspectives and policy choices, while providing context on the role of the US in the Asia-Pacific and its position as a global power.

John Howard, Australia's 25th prime minister, said that: "The central importance of the US-Australia alliance has been self-evident for decades. Its relevance remains today, despite the intervening collapse of the Berlin Wall; the rise of China; the threat of international terrorism, and the economic transformation of the Asia-Pacific region. [The book] draws together, in a timely way, a detailed

analysis of a relationship of enduring importance to our nation."

In addition to the three editors, other contributors include Kim Beazley, Richard Brabin-Smith, John Blaxland, James Brown, Andrew Carr, Amy King, James Goldrick, David Feeney, Thomas G. Mahnken, Elsin Wainwright and Michael Wesley. The thirteen papers are arranged into four parts: the US alliance and Australia's strategic policy; strategic context; mechanics of alliance co-operation; and managing trade-offs. The book is a comprehensive collection of perspectives. Its editors have managed duplication and stitched gaps between the papers well. Brendan Taylor's final paper draws together the many threads discussed throughout the book.

I commend *Australia's American Alliance* to those who seek to better understand the context, complexities and challenges of Australia's security relationship with the US. It is a timely volume given the potential for paradigms to be challenged under a new US administration.

Marcus Fielding