

Up until now Australia's active involvement in US-led wars have taken place in countries outside of Australia. None have spilled over onto the Australian land mass.

The wars themselves have been unjust and Australia's involvement has been unjustified in all cases. This is intolerable and inhumane in itself.

However, there has been a qualitative change recently in the US's "next project". The US is rapidly provoking a war with China. Should such a war eventually break out it will no doubt be like no other. So far the US wars have been against countries whose military might is nowhere near that of the US. Even in those cases the US has become bogged down and unable to extricate itself. When it eventually does pull out, it has in every case been a defeat for the US. The sad outcome though is that the only thing that it achieves is death and destruction in the targeted countries, with subsequent long term suffering, more deaths, refugees and crippled nations.

If the US is unable to win a war against such countries, does it seriously expect to do any better against a more closely militarily matched adversary such as China?

The prospects are scary.

Should the US wish to be so foolhardy then that is its business. Hopefully the people of the US will not stand for this and instead take action to reign in this behaviour of its government.

But for Australia to participate alongside the US in such a war is total madness. Australia has no reason to fight a war against China. China is no threat to Australia.

However, Australia's recent abrasive behaviour towards China in uncanny unison with the US, its willingness to station US troops here permanently, its purchase of military equipment not so much for Australia's defence but to supplement the offensive fighting capability of the US so it can join in with the US in battle and the US communications/intelligence bases here logically make Australia a definite military target in such a war.

In Australia we are extremely fortunate to be able to live in peace. We have never had war on our soil (except the frontier wars and a brief attack by Japan in WWII). We do not have to worry about being hit by flying bullets or bombing raids. We are able to get on with our lives without that sort of threat. This is very special and in my view, **the most precious thing that we have**. There are not that many countries that can claim to have this.

The biggest cost of Australia's alliance with the US – bigger than the important eight areas which the Inquiry is addressing - is losing this privilege of living our lives in peace.

And all for what, and why? Simply because our current government is ideologically driven. It is putting its extreme ideology high above its responsibility to protect the wellbeing of Australia's citizens. There is no other explanation for the Australia-US alliance as it stands.

The Australian government prattles on about protecting our national sovereignty. However, the government has all but relinquished our national sovereignty to the US. Australia has without doubt become an appendage of the US. The US is dictating our involvement in its military plans and strategies. Whether we want to participate in a war with China or not, the US is compelling us to do so. There is also no doubt that if Australia refuses to participate, pressure will be brought to bear on it. The US is a master at this. Just look at the number of countries that have had crippling embargoes/sanctions or other economic pressures placed on them for not toeing the US line. The MPs that make up the current Australian government are either corrupt, morally bankrupt (eg, water rights, a "gas led recovery", expanding military manufacturing and many other shonky decisions) or inept to a man. As things stand, the prime minister can make a unilateral decision to go to war (as occurred with the war on Iraq). Even if this is changed so that parliament must make this decision, this is still not good enough given the level of corruption and ineptitude of our parliamentarians. **Nothing short of holding a referendum of the Australian people should determine whether the country goes to war or not. Because of the seriousness of such a decision, the outcome of the referendum should not be based on a simple majority. It should require a majority of 70% support for going to war** (or a number >>50% to be determined).

Even if Labor was in power, it would find it difficult not to go along with the US. One does not read of the ALP opposing the Australia-US alliance.

We are seeing the Australian population being softened up for being supportive of Australia's involvement in a war against China. They are daily being fed lies and exaggerations about China's behaviour and intentions in order to convince them that China is a threat to our sovereignty, a military threat, a warmonger and the proponent of a war. Even as I write this submission [this little beauty](#) has been published. The truth is virtually being turned on its head. These myths have been debunked, but **the peace movement must make every effort to ensure that the Australian people are made aware of the true situation**. That is, that the US is the main threat to Australia and to war. It is rapidly approaching the point where those who criticise the unsubstantiated rhetoric against China, will be seen as engaging in actions against the interests and national security of Australia. With the swag of "national security" and other anti-democratic legislation introduced in recent years, I am sure that the authorities have means to "deal" with such people.

That is not to say that China should not be called to account when it does actually impinge on our sovereignty. The reality is that the threat to our sovereignty comes from the US. Our economic sovereignty has been ceded to it. It is by far the biggest investor in Australia, whereas China's investments here are quite minor in comparison. Certainly we need to diversify our trade relations, but that is in our hands. We must also not allow the purchase of land, real estate and key infrastructure by China or any other country for that matter, including the US. Sovereignty of our military and foreign affairs have also been ceded to the US. These are gone, and will be difficult to reclaim, but we must fight to reclaim our sovereignty.

Where there are real rather than perceived differences between Australia and China these should be resolved through negotiations and mutual respect. However, this will only be possible if we break from the current Australia-US alliance.

The US was for a period of time on the ascendancy as a world economic power, eventually reaching the status of the world's biggest economy. As such it has behaved as the world's biggest bully against other countries, not batting an eyelid to unilaterally engage in activities which cause devastation and suffering to peoples of many nations in order to further its own interests. Those days are now over. The US is on the decline both economically and militarily, while China is now on the ascendancy. Let's hope that China does not eventually behave in the same vile manner as the US has and still does.

The US is unwilling to accept this change, and is so desperate to try to maintain its position as "top dog", that it is bringing the world closer to war. The more desperate it becomes the more dangerous its actions become. The Australian government instead of hanging onto the coat tails of the US and supporting its warmongering at every turn, thereby itself escalating the threat of war, must instead play a role of attempting to diplomatically convince the US that it must accept the changed reality and learn to operate according to circumstances of a different world. If the Australian government does indeed have such a close relationship with the US as it claims, then this is how it must use the Australia-US alliance.

What is more tragic than war on our soil, is war on our soil for all of the wrong reasons.

The only war we must engage in is the one against environmental degradation and climate change. A major military war between nations only diverts precious time, effort and resources from this - the most pressing task since the existence of humanity.

End the Australia-US alliance and put in place independent Australian foreign and defence policies.
No Australian involvement in a US led war against China.
Remove the threats to a war on Australian soil.