



Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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Governor of Victoria



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Martin Holme

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LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

**Defence Plaza – 661 Bourke Street
1200 – Auditorium One**

*****Tuesday 3 June*****

Colonel (Rtd) Richard Iron CMG, OBE
Visiting Fellow at Oxford University

The Changing Character of War

Colonel Richard Iron was originally commissioned in 1975, with early service in Germany, Kenya and the Falkland Islands. He served three years in the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces and several tours in Northern Ireland. He attended both the British and US Army staff colleges.

He subsequently commanded 1st Battalion of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, a mechanised infantry battalion, serving in Bosnia and Macedonia/Kosovo. During two years as an instructor at the UK's joint staff college he was responsible for development of campaigning concepts. He was subsequently responsible for development of British Army doctrine, including its capstone Army Doctrine Publication Land Operations. In this latter post he also deployed to the Coalition Land Component HQ in Kuwait in 2002-03, where he led a UK/US planning team for the invasion of Iraq. He was also responsible for the British Army's subsequent analysis of the preparation for and execution of that invasion.

He has since served as the UK's National Liaison Representative to NATO's Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. For six years he led the development of land doctrine in NATO, including counter-insurgency doctrine. In addition, he was an expert military witness for the prosecution in the Sierra Leone War Crimes trials, where he worked with members of various guerrilla groups and gained valuable insight to the internal dynamic of such groups.

From December 2007 to November 2008 he served as the Chief Mentor to the Basra Operations Commander in Iraq, and commander of the British Advisor Team to the Basra Operations

Command. In this appointment he was largely responsible for development and implementation of the Iraqi counter-insurgency plan for Basra, including Operation Charge of the Knights. He also developed the security plan for the Iraq/Iran border through engagement with the Marsh Arabs.

He contributed to and edited the book *British Generals in Blair's Wars* (Ashgate, 2013) and is currently working on a military history of the Sierra Leone War 1991-2002.

Richard Iron is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Changing Character of War (CCW) Programme at the University of Oxford.

Time: Address 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm,
Coffee and Tea from 11.30 am

Entrance fee: \$10.00

For security reasons please advise the Office, of your attendance by email to martin.holme@defence.gov.au or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Friday 31 May. These names are provided to Security to issue Access Passes. If your name is not on the list you will experience a delay in gaining access.

Remember to bring a photo ID with you.

Changed Date: there will not be a meeting on 29 May

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May Newsletter

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Opinions expressed in the RUSI VIC Newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Institute.

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From The President: Commander Warren Kemp RFD, RANR



It is with pleasure that I can inform you that the new officer in command of HMAS Cerberus and Senior Naval Officer, Victoria, Captain Stephen Bowater OAM RAN has accepted my invitation to be a Vice Patron of RUSI Victoria and we look forward to a long and close relationship with him. He is a Victorian, having joined the Navy from Gippsland, and is prepared to speak to us about his interesting career in the service.

The Lunchtime address given by professor peter Edwards in March was, as anticipated, not only an excellent summary of the Vietnam War, but also a concise summary of the Cold War, decolonisation in Southeast Asia and Australian domestic politics. His latest book complements his previous 'Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975', but is much easier to read!

It is always nice to have an address by one of our members and on Anzac Eve we heard about the most interesting and little-known story of 'The Air War Over Gallipoli' by one of our Councillors. Squadron Leader Hugh Dolan was an RAAF Intelligence Officer and he has made a special study of these events, beginning with the intelligence assessments and collecting his information from the primary documents and signals. He is an entertaining speaker, with a new approach and consequently a new story to tell about an old subject that was thought to be very well known.

Our address in May was cancelled, because we are having an unexpected visitor in early June. Colonel Richard iron CMG OBE will be in Melbourne for only two days and the opportunity was too good to miss. He is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University involved in 'The Changing Character of War' programme and this will be his subject to us on Tuesday 3 June. We look forward to his presentation with much anticipation.

I had the honour to represent RUSI Victoria at the RSL Reception at Anzac House on 22 April and again at the Anzac Memorial Service held by the Victorian Association of Jewish Ex Servicemen and Women at the Glen Eira Town Hall on Sunday 27 April. I was made very welcome was pleased to see a number of our members at each of these events.

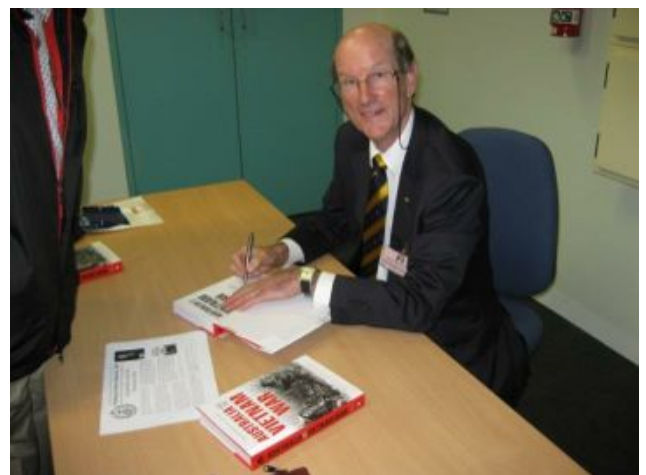
Rear Admiral John Lord, AM, RANR, has been appointed Chairman of the Victorian Veterans' Council, so I invited him to visit. He came on 5 May to inspect our premises and so that Major General Mike O'Brien and I could brief him on our programmes and activities, particularly on our proposed WW1 Centenary Seminar and the 125th Anniversary of RUSI Victoria. He was very helpful and was most interested to hear about our Intern Programme and to meet Kirill Kovalenko.

Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers for their assistance and contribution to the welfare of RUSI Victoria and I hope that we are able reciprocate by making their contact with us a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Yours Aye,
Warren



Prof Peter Edwards addresses the March Meeting



... and signs books.

From The Secretary

Captain Martin Holme

Since the March Newsletter, we have had two excellent speakers at the Lunchtime Addresses. In March, Professor Peter Edwards AM, spoke on 'Australia and the Vietnam War'. His interesting presentation elicited many intriguing questions.

The April speaker was our own Squadron Leader, Hugh Dolan, who spoke with his characteristic flair and vigour, on 'Gallipoli's Air War'. It was a most entertaining and in some ways controversial presentation.

Please take note that there will be **NO** Lunchtime Address at the end of May, so please don't turn up on 29 May – the last Thursday of the month.

In its place, there will be an Address at the usual venue, in Bourke Street, on **Tuesday, 3 June**, when as per the front page of this Newsletter, Colonel Richard Iron CMG OBE, a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University, will talk on 'The Changing Character of War'. It should be a most interesting Lunchtime Address and we thank Councillor MAJGEN Ian Freer for facilitating the occasion.

We have heard excellent reports regarding Mr Tom Trumble's 26 June talk on 'Rescue at 2100 Hours' – the dramatic tale of a daring escape from Timor during the Second World War, via a submarine rendezvous.

I end by encouraging Members to contribute to the Newsletter by way of letters or articles on subjects that might be of interest to all.

Future Program Dates

3 June Lunchtime Address at defence Plaza –
Colonel Richard Iron CMG OBE

The Changing Face of War

26 June Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Mr Tom Trumble

Rescue at 2100 Hours

31 July RADM Tim Barrett AO – Commander
Australian Fleet
(To be confirmed)

28 August Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Professor Marilyn Lake,

The Militarisation of Australian History

25 September Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Dr David Wright-Neville

Terrorism and the Threat to Australia

Your Annual Subscription Notice is included with this mail-out. It is timely to remind Members that they should consider asking like-minded friends if they would like to join RUSI. We are always on the look-out for new Members!

We have a range of excellent Military/Defence related books for sale at ridiculous prices, here on display in the Library. So please consider dropping in to see if anything catches your eye. Remember to contact me on 9282 5918 before you come, to make sure that I am in the Office.

Lastly, in case you think something is missing from this page, I hasten to add that there have been no Departures or Arrivals since the last Newsletter.

Widows and Continued Membership

Recent discussion raised an issue that is worthy of mention.

We understand that, in the past, wives of some of our Members have enjoyed attending our functions and reading the Newsletters.

A few, at the sad time of the passing of their husbands, have expressed an interest in maintaining the contact. We, as an Institute, wholeheartedly support such involvement and encourage widows who might be interested in keeping the contact, to consider continuing their husband's membership, in their own names.

Anyone interested in this should contact the Secretary, Martin Holme, on 9282 5918.

Geelong Branch Notes

The Geelong Branch continues to move forward as the year continues.

The next event scheduled is the second Luncheon Meeting which is to be held at The Geelong Club, 74 Brougham Street on Monday 19 May commencing at 1200 for 1230. The presentation will be given by our member LTCOL Alistair Robb.

Looking further ahead the 65th Annual Dinner Meeting will take place on Monday 16 June at The Geelong Club.

Metropolitan Members of the Institute are reminded that they are most welcome to attend activities conducted by the Geelong Branch, contact MAJ Ian Barnes or Mrs Margaret Barnes on 5243 9569.'

China's Future Growth

Headline – Weekend Australian Business 15-16 March 2014, **Fears of China Slowdown Hit Global Markets.**

The world is sensitive to China's economic growth, and used to the growth rates of 10% a year experienced throughout the 1990s. In 2014 the growth rate dropped to 7.4%. The US economy has a strong relationship with China. In the 2000s prior to the Global Financial Crisis, China financed the US consumer debt boom, and provided cheap quality goods from its low wage factories.

The Australian business and political community is attune to the 21st Century as *the Asian Century*, *the Asia/Pacific Century* or *China's Century*. The opportunity perceived is the market presented by the expanding Chinese middle class and their increasing demand for food and high value goods and services. Australia's view of China has changed from *the Yellow Peril* of the 1890s, to the *Communist Hordes* in the 1950s, to the *Domino Theory* of the 1960s. China has now morphed from a threat to be our predominant trading partner.

The most significant fact to realise about China is scale. It is BIG. China is currently the world's most populous country with a population of 1.3 billion. That's 1,300 million. Australia has 23 million, about the same as the largest Chinese city - Shanghai. China has 160 cities with populations greater than 1 million, 20 with populations greater than 3 million, and seven with populations greater than 10 million, including Chongqing 15 million, Beijing 19 million and Shanghai 22 million.

China has for centuries been continentally focussed as the *middle kingdom*. It has borders with 14 countries, including Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, North Korea and Pakistan.

China held the title of the world's largest economy until 1890 when it was overtaken by the US. China is on track to regain that title soon. Currently it is second to the US and ahead of Japan. *The Economist* magazine suggests that by some measures China will overtake the US by the end of this year.

Understandably, most of the financial pages have been concerned with China's short-term economic outlook. Less prominent, a number of economic, historic and multi-disciplinary studies have addressed China's long-term prospects, particularly in the context of why the West has led the way in development. In assessing China's future growth this article is based on these findings.

China has functioned as a unitary state since 221BC. A succession of imperial dynasties stretched from 221BC until 1912. Imperial rule was through a mandarin state of Confucian scholar/bureaucrats with most of the characteristics of a modern public service. This was a meritocracy open to all social classes

Confucian virtues of order, harmony, benevolence, stability, justice and self-discipline, aimed to produce fairness, incorruptibility, and responsiveness to the preferences of the people.



Where the wishes of the people were not met, the traditional response was through revolts, riots and rebellions - not revolution. Most Chinese were small landholders whose property rights were enforced by the administration. China was primarily an agricultural country, and Confucian thought was not favourably disposed to foreign trade, entrepreneurs or overseas technology.

By 1500, Chinese technology had led the world for centuries with the introduction of cast iron, the compass, gunpowder, paper and printing. For a time China was also a significant naval power. Chinese Treasure fleets in the early 15th Century had crossed the Indian Ocean to the East coast of Africa.

China suspended exploration fleets and shipbuilding due to a power struggle within the imperial court, and a mongol threat on the western border. One decision stopped fleets over the whole of the country. The emperor abandoned: overseas navigation, shipbuilding, mechanical clocks, other mechanical devices and technology in general. Trade with overseas merchants was restricted. China was bypassed by the renaissance, the enlightenment and the industrial revolution.

Following China's humiliating defeats in the opium wars of the mid 1800s, the authority of the emperor was weakened and the administration was progressively wracked by corruption. The fall of the Qing dynasty in 1912 was followed by years of instability with landlords, warlords, nationalists, communists, Japanese invaders, World War II and finally the Communist Revolution.

From 1949 People's Republic of China (PRC) was a communist, one party, state along the lines of the Soviet Union with a centrally controlled economy. Following a series of economic and social disasters culminating in the Cultural Revolution, from the late 1970s the economy has been progressively transformed into a market economy. There has been very rapid economic growth from a low base, with an annual growth rate through the 80s and 90s of around 10% per year.

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China ... Continued from Page Five

There was a huge catch-up in building cities and transport infrastructure which required massive amounts of concrete and steel. Steel consumption in turn required iron ore and coal – the Australian connection.

These economic reforms have lifted millions of people out of poverty, and stimulated consumer demand among an emerging middle class. China now has modern mega cities, and modern air, rail and road networks. As a country with no privately owned cars in 1978, China has become the largest car market in the world, purchasing about 20 million vehicles in 2013.

However, due to this mixing of market and planned economies, the PRC is faced with a number of problems associated with each, including unemployment and an increasing rural–urban income gap.

China's future growth may be hampered by friction in its relationships with its Asian neighbours. Regional entanglements could even result in a coalition against China, comprising Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, and Japan with US involvement. As well as the long standing sovereignty issue over Taiwan, China also has disputes with a number of nations over the ownership of several groups of islands in the South China Sea.

Within its borders China has ongoing problems with social unrest associated with ethnic minority regional groups which perceive inequalities and injustice.

The majority Han Chinese population have their own social problems. China's one child policy introduced in 1979 has reduced population growth but at the expense of demographic problems associated with the health and welfare burden of an ageing population. Unlike the West, in China age has been venerated and the family has traditionally shouldered the burden of ageing parents. As well as the one child policy, there is also a very significant gender imbalance in some provinces with 30 per cent more males than females.

China has massive problems of air, water and ground pollution. Particulate air pollution from cars and small, old inefficient furnaces, particularly around Beijing is a serious health risk. The government is addressing the problem, and among other actions is shutting down some 50,000 small coal fired furnaces. Environmental directives to the various levels of the bureaucracies are muted as each individual official's performance assessments relate primarily to economic growth.

Food security is another worry. Part of the reason for China's very early political unity was the need for central coordination and water management in an agricultural country subject to an unreliable rainfall. Progressively greater demand from an expanding population and lower than usual rainfall have seen agriculture supplied from underground sources. Water from ancient aquifers has been seriously depleted and future water shortages appear likely. The government has been active in

seeking overseas food supply both from normal trade sources and by buying up large tracts of arable land in Africa and Australia for large scale agriculture.

Future social unrest might also be related to a rising middle class that is increasingly well educated, urbanised and internet connected, wanting political rights and democracy. On the other hand China has a long history of authoritarian government. If the government is successful in raising the standard of living of most of the people, meeting their material needs and is not harshly oppressive, there may not be a groundswell for democracy.



Niall Ferguson's book and TV Series – *Civilization – The West and the Rest*,¹ explains that the mainsprings of global power and the ascendancy of the West have been six identifiably novel complexes of institutions and associated ideas and behaviours: Competition, Science, Property Rights, Medicine, The Consumer Society, and The Work Ethic. Competition is defined here as *a decentralization of both political and economic life*.² China has been in rapid catch-up mode in respect of most of these applications. While property rights have a longer history in China than in Europe, they were abrogated during the Mao Zedong period, and with competition, stand out as having incompatibility with the one party state.

Good institutions include: the effective rule of law, enforcement of contracts, protection of private property rights, lack of corruption, low frequency of assassinations, openness to trade and flow of capital incentives for investment. Most economists believe that these good institutions are overwhelmingly the most important explanation of national wealth differences.³

Acemoglu and Robinson (A&R), (2012) *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, explain how nations have prospered or declined over the last 300 years according to the interaction of their economic and political institutions.

¹ Ferguson, Niall, *Civilization – The West and the Rest*, Allen Lane, 2011.

² Ferguson, p12.

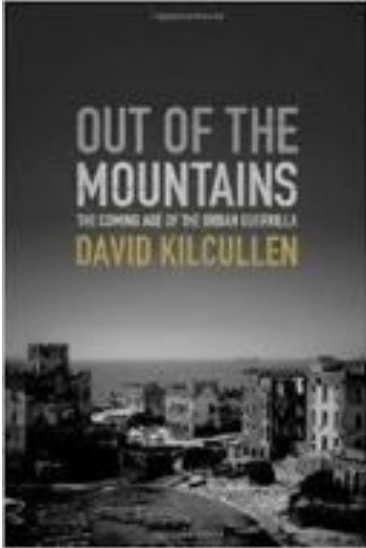
³ Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, Norton, 1999, (Afterword, 2003), p438.

Book Review

David Kilcullen

Out of the Mountains: the Doming Age of the Urban Guerilla

Scribe Publications, 2013



The title of David Kilcullen's book, *Out of the Mountains* is attributed to words of advice given by Osama Bin Laden to his son. Bin Laden's proclamation states, that in case of war, even those who are mountain warriors at heart, accustomed to a very particular type of armed resistance that has served them well for generations, should nonetheless resist falling into the traditional rural guerilla role. Instead, the

changing face of insurgency fuelled by technology, economy and demographic changes, dictates that the urban landscape has increasingly become the guerilla's best friend. Indeed, Bin Laden's eventual death in Abbottabad comes to prove that he truly espoused this idea, choosing to embed himself in the complexity of the urban rather than the isolation of the rural.

With a mixture of deep analysis, pertinent case studies and personal reflection, Kilcullen presents a fascinating, highly concentrated introduction to this phenomenon: the "urbanization" of the guerilla and the changing face of counterinsurgency. The insights which he offers follow on from the ideas of Baudrillard, who claimed that globalization and terrorism inevitably go hand-in-hand and that the violent reactionary must necessarily embrace the systems of modernity which they claim to seek to destroy. However, far from merely extrapolating from a philosophical presupposition, *Out of the Mountains* is built from the ground up through a variety of methods making it much more detailed and well-rounded as a theory of contemporary and future group violence.

Kilcullen covers such a broad spectrum of concepts, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer scope of his analysis. However, it is worthwhile to remember that all of the conclusions are grounded on several important "megatrends", which he claims are significant and objective enough to base a very broad systems-theory on. These trends are: population growth, urbanization, littoralization and networked connectivity.

Everything which is covered in the book can be explained by reference to these developments, alongside an urban-systems understanding of the city as a "metabolism", wherein there is a logic to its inputs, outputs, demographics and patterns of violence. Overall, the book is well structured and presents its multi-layered analyses commendably.

Out of the Mountains invites us to look deeper into dynamics of conflict we may already claim to understand and recognize that there is nothing neutral and self-contained within the imperatives which cause people to take up arms, especially in a world which is hyper-connected made up of innumerable complex individuals all looking out for their own best interests. Kilcullen draws upon his extensive personal experience to flesh this out. Most strikingly, the book opens with his deconstruction of an amateurish ambush he experienced in Afghanistan and the surprising conclusions that he draws out regarding the motivations of the people firing upon him. "Perhaps it has nothing to do with the Taliban", he writes, "and everything to do with perverse incentives created by a rapid and uneven development."

A "Theory of Competitive Control" is cited to explain the intersection between governments, populations and insurgencies, wherein the watchword is "predictability" and the ability to institutionalize it within the urban area. A complex interplay of needs and interests accounts for the failure or success of both governments and armed groups, both of whom struggle to attain legitimacy in the eyes of the populace. Most interestingly, Kilcullen does not abide by the conventional break between law enforcement and military action, claiming that such a distinction is hardly relevant within the large-scale dynamics of violence he is focused on.

These urban systems of control are the grist for the mill to the "megatrends" already mentioned. Although such an approach verges on being too reductionist, it does convincingly span the gap from micro level social interactions to dynamics of grander, international significance. What emerges in the book is a vision of a world where the primary focal point of conflict is the "urban jungle" or the "feral city". In numerous and diverse examples, Kilcullen demonstrates how terrorists and criminals are already adapting and taking advantage of this changing world and leaving us with a challenging question regarding future security. The potential adversary has already shown to have come "out of the mountains"; however, with militaries that have been tempered over the last decades by mostly rural counterinsurgency and with conventional doctrine stating cities as isolated "strongpoints" to be bypassed if possible, how long will it take for our strategists to do the same?

Kiril Kovalenko

China ... Continued from Page Six

Economic institutions are critical for determining whether a country is poor or prosperous, but politics and political institutions determine what a country's economic institutions are.

The A&R theory of world inequality shows how political and economic institutions interact in causing poverty or prosperity. Because historical organisation of society tends to persist, different patterns of institutions are deeply rooted in the past.

In the western democracies *inclusive* economic institutions enforce property rights, create a level playing field, and encourage investments in new technologies and skills conducive to economic growth. Economic institutions are in turn supported by, and support, *inclusive* political institutions that distribute power widely in a pluralistic manner.⁴

Extractive economic institutions are structured to extract resources from the many by the few, and fail to protect property rights or provide incentives for economic activity. *Extractive* institutions enable the elite few to benefit from the many, while inclusive institutions provide benefits for all of the people. *Extractive* institutions persist through a vicious circle and the iron law of oligarchy, whereby elites compete to control a nation's wealth, and exploit the people. It is only at *critical junctures* that this mold has the potential to be broken.⁵

In China the death of Mao Zedong in 1976 was a *critical juncture*, as it allowed to Deng Xiaoping to redirect the economy to more inclusive economic institutions, resulting in spectacular economic growth. A&R believe that this growth will not be sustained as China's political institutions are authoritarian and extractive and will inhibit the *creative destruction* associated with economic growth. Creative destruction occurs when old businesses are allowed to fail when they are unable to compete with new innovative businesses. Creative destruction is less likely in states with extractive political institutions as vested interests opposing change have both economic and political power.

A relevant comparison with China today, is Japan in the 1980s. Japan was then the world's second largest economy and expected to pass the US. But because Japanese economic and political systems were not truly competitive a real estate and stock-market bubble and bust in 1989 saddled the country with zombie banks, flat growth and deflation, from which it only now appears to be recovering.

A problem endemic in extractive institutions is corruption. In China, despite publicity given to extreme punishments meted out to high level officials found guilty of corruption, graft and corruption by members of the state and party bureaucracies is widespread,

particularly at the level of local administration. As in democracies fortunes are made in land development and construction, and in their facilitation. Success requires the availability of land and finance, both of which are effectively under state control. The Beijing government is committed to clean-up corruption, but has not acted to effectively grapple with the scale of the bureaucracies involved. As in Imperial days, in the words of an old Chinese aphorism, *Heaven is high and the Emperor is far away*.⁶

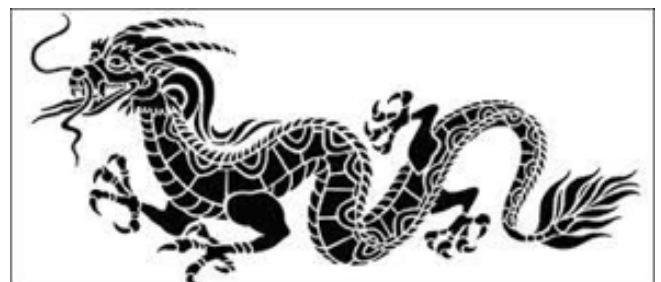
China's rapid development into the workshop of the world and a growing world power has been brilliantly successful. The economy now faces a transition from the building of physical infrastructure to fixing social and environmental problems. While building appears to be experiencing short-term overcapacity, urbanization of the remaining rural population will support building construction for decades, but the demand for steel is unlikely to increase. China's growth rate will slow further as the economy matures.

The extractive nature of China's political and economic institutions is supported by the exclusive dominance of the so called Communist Party and continued State ownership of most major companies and banks. China has a long-way to go in matching most of the economic institutions that have underpinned the prosperity of the West. Circumstances could also arise where China suffers the worst of both worlds when the boom-bust cycle of capitalism meshes with the rigidities of the centrally controlled economy.

While one party rule will hopefully become more liberal, and Chinese intellectuals may desire democracy, 2000 years of Confucian culture suggests that this will be a long time coming.

Australian governments have identified the demands of the emerging Chinese middle class: food, quality niche manufactures, bio-medical products and tourism. Australia is potentially well placed, to sell into this market. However, as well as constituting a growing market for Australian goods and services, the Chinese middle class will also be competitors in providing traded services over the internet. And, remember the scale of China. It's BIG.

Mike Rawlinson



⁴ Acemoglu & Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* 2012, p430.

⁵ Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012, p110.

⁶Hutton, Will, *The Writing on the Wall, China and the West in the 21st Century*, Little Brown, 2007, p48.

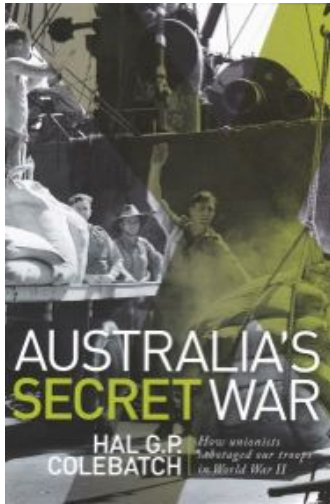
Book Review

Hal G P Colebatch

Australia's Secret War: How Unions Sabotaged Our Troops in World War II

Hardcover 340 pages Outline Chronology, Notes and Index

Quadrant Books, Sydney, 2013. RRP: \$44.95



It only takes two pages of the Introduction for the reader to wonder and ask 'How could they?' Theft, sabotage and economic blackmail were only part of the lengths that unionists were prepared to stoop to in order to disrupt Australia's war effort.

Dr Hal G. P. Colebatch is a prolific author of works ranging from political economy to biography, poetry and fiction (including science fiction).

As a lawyer he worked for several years as a solicitor for a major trade union. It took him twelve years to find a publisher for *Australia's Secret War*, but it has already been reprinted in 2013 and 2014!

Responders to newspaper advertisements have provided first-hand accounts of wartime events. Most senior commanders had passed away by the 1990s, and so those quoted are men and women who were young (and junior) at the time. Few have asked to remain anonymous, but many sources also have Service numbers provided.

Each of the wartime ports are discussed in turn with a litany of union 'misdemeanors' mentioned — from aircraft engines dropped onto wharves, planes being lifted by crane whilst still being bolted to a ship's deck, radio valves and accumulators being stolen, petrol drums being replaced by drums of water, strikes delaying the loading of ammunition and heavy weapons and vehicles. As one soldier saw it: 'They won't be out for too long — if they're not here, they can't pilfer.'

Special mention is made of the problems the RAAF experienced in Darwin. 'Go slow' tactics resulted in little preparation of defences and caused the harbour to be dangerously congested prior to the Japanese bombing raid in February 1942, thus greatly increasing the loss of life, ships, planes and war materiel. Australian Navy personnel eventually manned Darwin and Sydney wharves, while the US Army manned the Brisbane and Cairns wharves. Ships in the New Guinea and Pacific islands turned over unexpended supplies, including ammunition, to replacement ships before they returned to Australia — unarmed.

Whilst servicemen were receiving five shillings per day, unionists on wharves were being paid ten shillings per hour (not including up to quadruple rate to break strikes). It is no wonder that in one instance senior officers removed returning troops on disembarkation to camp in the local show grounds to 'cool off' before allowing them a celebratory victory street march without rifles and bayonets a week later. Prisoners of the Japanese for three and a half years were forced to remain onboard at the wharf on their return for 36 hours due to a strike in 1946.

Ship repairs and refits were a military nightmare. The Boilermakers' Federation of Australia was not interested in developing shipbuilding in Australia in 1941. HMAS Arunta was launched in Nov 40 and then took two years to fit out. 'Work to regulation' saw unbelievable delays for the most trivial of items to be attended to, and delays resulted in some troops being on the point of starvation in the Pacific theatre.

Colebatch looks outside the Australian ports. Workers in the NSW coalfields made life extremely difficult for the war effort to continue uninterrupted, with frequent electrical blackouts and vital industries grinding to a halt. Engineering and metal works were often at the mercy of union whims. Official records from Australian Year Books indicate 4123 strikes (3662 in NSW) during World War II resulting in 5.8 million working days being lost directly. Conservatively this could be markedly bolstered when flow-on losses in other areas are included. Australia's military machine was eventually forced to commit 100,000 servicemen from all Services to maintain essential supplies and services.

Both Menzies and Curtin, as Prime Ministers, were both wary of taking strong action that may well result in a National strike. John Curtin's time as prime minister, the events and the attitudes and actions of some of his Cabinet members have been examined in detail. The author truly believes that his early death was a direct result of union-created problems. The rationale behind the unionists' actions is examined. Ideological grounds, blatant opportunism to line their own pockets at someone else's expense, the opportunity to be paid for as little work as possible; and then the easing off during the period of threat of Japanese invasion are all closely considered.

The subject of this work has been 'conveniently stepped around' for years. There is a comprehensive analysis of the works of past and current writers who have simply chosen to ignore situations as they existed during this period of conflict — endeavours to write history they way they would have it written.

As referred to in the second and preceding paragraph, 'Australia's Secret War' has had a difficult time making it onto our literary scene. Hal Colebatch is to be commended in having the fortitude to hang in there, and at the same time provide a most readable 'from the shoulder' account of Australia's wartime effort and the difficulties it encountered.

Neville Taylor

Nurses United in Service – Then, Now, and Into the Future

The Nurses Memorial Centre ('NMC') was established as a living memorial to nurses who died during World War II. Service nurses who survived were determined that their colleagues who died in the Banka Island Massacre in Indonesia, in the sinking of the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur off the coast of Queensland, and who died as POWs in Indonesia would be remembered.

After the war, the NMC's founders Vivian Bullwinkel and Betty Jeffrey developed their vision of the NMC as a living memorial and to support the professional development of nurses into the future. NMC's mission is therefore to honour nurses, past, present and future.

The NMC is a living memorial: living, because it actively supports the education and professional development of nurses through the annual award of scholarships to outstanding graduate nurses; and a memorial, because it is committed to ensuring that the service and sacrifice of all Australian nurses who died in wars and conflicts - before or since the seventy-eight women who were killed on active duty during the Second World War - is not forgotten.

The NMC runs a number of events during the year including its Annual Scholarship Presentation Evening, an ANZAC Commemorative Service For Nurses, and The Vivian Bullwinkel Lecture. It also supports other events celebrating nurses and nursing, their education and professional development, and the history of our profession.

Importantly, NMC offers a number of scholarships to exceptional nursing student candidates, including the The 'Babe' Norman Scholarship (one of the most prestigious and generous academic scholarships in Australia), The Vivian Bullwinkel Award, The Betty Jeffrey Award, The Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women Scholarships, and the Prince Henry Affiliates Scholarship.

New members are always welcome - visit us online at <http://www.nursesmemorialcentre.org.au> or ring 9866 3756.

Murray Pearson, NMC Board Member



B737BB

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Eight P-8A Poseidon, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, (based on the B737-800 fuselage).



E7A Wedgetail



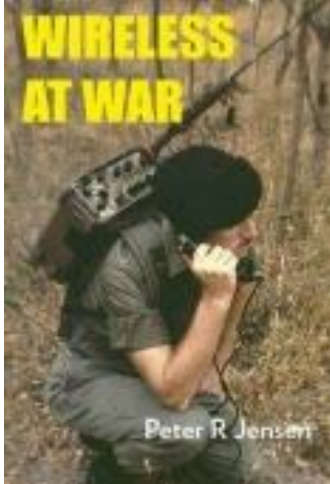
P-8A Poseidon

Book Review

Peter R. Jensen

Wireless at War: Developments in Military and Clandestine Radio 1895-2012

Rosenberg Publishing: NSW, 2013



'Wireless at War' is written primarily with the technical enthusiast in mind. If you are a reader who likes lots of schematic diagrams, and are prepared to struggle through highly technical analyses of technological change in wireless/radio you will enjoy this book. Jensen unravels the technology of wireless communication with 100 (approximately) schematic diagrams, numerous photographs and pictures, all of which illustrate the development of military radio/wireless from 1895-2012.

Jensen begins by referring to Heinrich Hertz (1885) and his work on electromagnetic radiation, Wilhelm Röntgen (1895) and his discovery of X-rays, the British Marconi Company (The Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company) and the German company Telefunken. He describes in some detail the early development of wireless/radio and how it was used during the Boer War, the Great War, the 1939-1945 War, the Malayan Emergency, and the Vietnam War. There is also a section on warfare in the future.

In addition to the main theme focusing on the development of military radio/wireless, there are two other sub-themes which are concurrent in 'Wireless at War'. One is a history of key events from 1895 leading up to and including the Boer War, the Great War, the interwar years, the 1939-45 war, the Malayan emergency, Vietnam; and the second is the author's practice of referring to the interesting people and personalities who came to notice during these momentous times. For example, Erskine Childers, Lawrence of Arabia, Alan Turing, Lord Haw Haw, Heinz Guderian, Albert Einstein, Tokyo Rose and Bao Dai all get a mention.

There are numerous other references to and photographs of members of the British and Australian armies who were closely involved with developments in military and clandestine radio. So the reader is really getting three stories instead of just one.

The technical detail involved in describing the development of wireless apparatus is impressive. From the detailed descriptions of Marconi's induction coil-based spark transmitter and the cohere-based receiver to descriptions of microlight radios and personal role radios (PPR), the author has demonstrated his technical expertise and 'know-how'. There are some sections about technical aspects of change in wireless which will require careful reading. For example, US Army engineer Armstrong whose inventions of the regenerative receiver, and later the superheterodyne principle of radio reception is just one example. This is really a fascinating book covering a wide range of subjects, probably not for the general reader, but for the enthusiast who likes technical detail about the growth and development of transmitters and receivers this will be a very valuable resource.

Michael Small

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Library Notes :

At present the size of our collection has reached the stage where, at least in theory, it exceeds the number of books in the RUSI London. This is a considerable achievement!

We have commenced a spectacular display of pictorial items relating to the First World War outside our office at Victoria Barracks.

In the last few months we have received several donations, notably from Mr Gary Morgan. Mr Morgan has also been kind enough to offer his Collins Street office as the venue for a presentation on our library in July as part of Rare Book Week. Further details on this presentation will be announced soon. What would we do without our benefactors?

Among our new acquisitions are:

Prof J.M. Winter (ed), *The Cambridge History of the First World War* (2014) [An expensive three volume landmark history, taking a transnational view]

Prof Peter Edwards, *Australia and the Vietnam War*. (2014)

David Horner & John Connor, *The Good International Citizen – Australian Peacekeeping in Asia, Africa and Europe, 1991-1993*. (2014) [The latest volume to be issued in the series *The Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and Post-Cold War Operations*]

All these books have been purchased from our funds.

As always, I would offer my sincere thanks on your behalf to our library volunteers. To see their handiwork, ring Martin Holmes to enter the Barracks!

Mike O'Brien

Books for Sale

A selection of surplus books is on display in the library. The books are in reasonable to good condition, and subjects cover a wide range of military history. If you are interested and unable to visit the library we would be happy to Email or post you a list of what is currently available.

Paperbacks are \$2 and hardbacks are either \$5 or \$10 depending on condition. Collection or delivery of the books would be by means most convenient to the purchaser.

Brian Surtees



Prof Peter Edwards signs books for RUSI VIC members Jan Roberts-Billett and BRIG Terry Nolan

