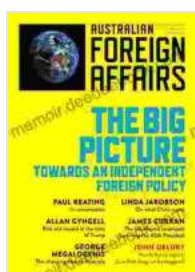


# Towards an Independent Foreign Policy for Australia: A New Path for Australian Foreign Affairs

Australia's foreign policy has long been shaped by its close relationship with the United States. However, in recent years, there has been a growing debate about the need for Australia to develop a more independent foreign policy. This article argues that Australia should adopt an independent foreign policy that is based on its own national interests and values.



## AFA1 The Big Picture: Towards an Independent Foreign Policy (Australian Foreign Affairs) by Richard L Muehlberg

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1777 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
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## The Case for an Independent Foreign Policy

There are a number of reasons why Australia should adopt an independent foreign policy. First, Australia is a sovereign nation with its own unique identity and interests. As such, it should not simply follow the lead of other

countries, such as the United States. Second, Australia's close relationship with the United States has sometimes led to Australia being drawn into conflicts that are not in its national interest. For example, Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was largely due to its alliance with the United States. Third, an independent foreign policy would allow Australia to play a more active role in the world. Australia could use its influence to promote peace, security, and human rights.

## **The Principles of an Independent Foreign Policy**

An independent foreign policy for Australia should be based on the following principles:

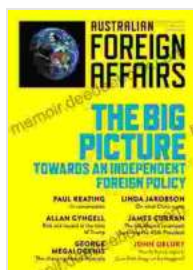
- **National interests:** Australia's foreign policy should be based on its own national interests. This means that Australia should only take actions that are in the best interests of the Australian people.
- **Values:** Australia's foreign policy should also be based on its values. These values include democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.
- **Independence:** Australia should not simply follow the lead of other countries. It should develop its own foreign policy that is based on its own national interests and values.
- **Engagement:** Australia should play an active role in the world. It should use its influence to promote peace, security, and human rights.

## **The Benefits of an Independent Foreign Policy**

An independent foreign policy would have a number of benefits for Australia. First, it would allow Australia to pursue its own national interests without being constrained by the interests of other countries. Second, it

would reduce the risk of Australia being drawn into conflicts that are not in its national interest. Third, it would allow Australia to play a more active role in the world and to promote its values.

Australia is a sovereign nation with its own unique identity and interests. It should not simply follow the lead of other countries, such as the United States. Instead, Australia should adopt an independent foreign policy that is based on its own national interests and values. An independent foreign policy would have a number of benefits for Australia, including greater freedom, reduced risk of conflict, and a more active role in the world.



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