

About the Book

This volume commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC). The Centre is Australia's largest body of scholars dedicated to the analysis of the use of armed force in its political context and one of the earliest generation of post-World War II research institutions on strategic affairs.

As a leading international research institution specialising in strategy and defence, SDSC seeks to:

1. provide 'real world'—focused strategic studies that is research-based, research-led and world-class. Our primary expertise within the broad field of strategic studies consists of three related research clusters: Australian defence, military studies, and Asia-Pacific security. Our scholarship in these areas is intended to be recognised internationally and of value to the Australian policy community
2. prepare and educate the next generation of strategic leaders — military, civilian and academic — in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region by providing world-class graduate and undergraduate programs in strategic and defence studies
3. contribute toward a better informed standard of public debate in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region using high-quality outreach and commentary on issues pertaining to our core areas of expertise.

This book contains contributions by the Centre's six successive heads: Dr T.B. Millar (1966–71, 1982–84), Dr Robert O'Neill (1971–82), Professor Desmond Ball (1984–91), Professor Paul Dibb (1991–2003), Professor Hugh White (2004–11) and Dr Brendan Taylor (2011–). It also includes contributions by three of its leading scholars over the half century: Dr Coral Bell, who was present at the creation of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London in the

1950s, and was a visiting fellow in SDSC from 1990 until her death in 2012; Professor J.D.B. Miller, head of the Department of International Relations at The Australian National University from 1962 to 1987, who, together with Sir John Crawford, then the director of the Research School of Pacific Studies, conceived the idea of the Centre in early 1966; and, finally, Professor David Horner, Australia's foremost military historian, having led several official history projects on peacekeeping and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, and who studied at SDSC and joined the Centre full-time in 1990.

These chapters are replete with stories of university politics, internal SDSC activities, cooperation among people with different social and political values, and conflicts between others, as well as the Centre's public achievements. But they also detail the evolution of strategic studies in Australia and the contribution of academia and defence intellectuals to national defence policy.

This text is taken from *A National Asset: 50 Years of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre*, edited by Desmond Ball and Andrew Carr, published 2016 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.