

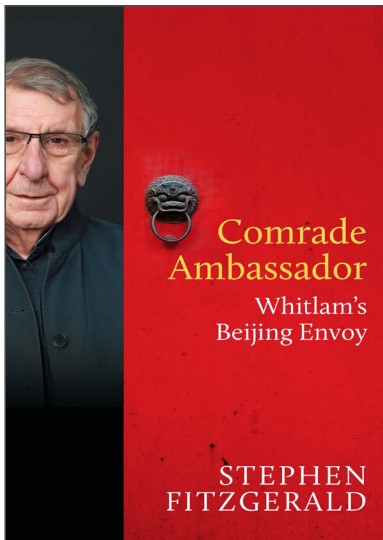
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Stephen FitzGerald will be available for interview from September.

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## COMRADE AMBASSADOR Whitlam's Beijing Envoy by Stephen FitzGerald

Modern Australia was in part defined by its early embrace of China. A turning from the White Australia Policy of the 1950s to the country's acceptance of Asian immigration and engagement with Asian neighbours. It saw the far-sighted establishment of an embassy in Beijing in the 1970s by Gough Whitlam, with Chinese-speaking FitzGerald appointed as Australia's first ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

In *Comrade Ambassador*, FitzGerald's own story is interwoven with the wider one of this dramatic change in Australia's history. His tale takes us from an apprenticeship as China-watching diplomat in intrigue-ridden 1960s Hong Kong and Taiwan, through his near-lynching by Red Guards in China's Cultural Revolution, adventuring in China with Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser and excursions in North Korea, to his involvement in scenes both sobering and comic from the Australian 'discovery' of China.

*Comrade Ambassador* also highlights the challenge Australia faces in managing itself into an Asian future.

**Stephen FitzGerald** - international relations consultant, academic and author - was Australia's first ambassador to China, a post he held from 1973-1976. In 1980 he established the first private consultancy for Australian business and government in China. He is currently a Board Member of the independent public policy initiative, China Matters, and an Honorary Fellow at the China Studies Centre at Sydney University.

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