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Authors are available for interview
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For more information please contact:

Tessa Connelly at MUP
on 03 9035 3590 or 0434 626 779 or
tessa.connelly@unimelb.edu.au

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AUSTRALIA'S AMERICAN ALLIANCE

Towards a New Era?

By Peter J Dean, Stephan Frühling and Brendan Taylor

'The central importance of the U.S. – Australia alliance has been self-evident for decades. Its relevance remains today, despite the intervening collapse of the Berlin Wall; the rise of China; the threat of international terrorism, and the economic transformation of the Asia-Pacific region. This publication draws together, in a timely way, a detailed analysis of a relationship of enduring importance to our nation.' —John Howard, 25th Prime Minister of Australia

This is a companion volume to *Australia's Defence: Towards a New Era?* (2014).

The Australia-United States Alliance has been critical to Australian foreign and defence policy since the ANZUS Treaty was signed in 1951. For over sixty years it has been at the cornerstone of Australian defence planning, yet the contemporary alliance is arguably, in one of its more important phases of reinterpretation. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and the changing strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific including the rise of China, the United States 'rebalance', increasing tensions in the East and South China Seas, Australia's economic ties to China, Asian military modernisation and questions over United States resolve have reignited the debate in Australia about the future of the Alliance.

This work brings together leading experts to examine the international context for the Australia-United States alliance, its role in Australian and United States strategic policy, the mechanics of alliance cooperation, strategic trade-offs, and capability development. As the country navigates its way through a new strategic era this book provides an in-depth overview and key insights into the past, present and future of 'the Alliance' in an increasingly complex world.

Dr Peter J Dean is a Fellow and Director of Studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. **Dr Stephan Frühling** is a Senior Lecturer at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. **Dr Brendan Taylor** is Head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University.

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