Biden’s America and Great Power Conflict
David Kilcullen in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 17 February 2021: 6pm-7pm AEDT

In *The Dragons and The Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West*, the eminent soldier-scholar David Kilcullen offers a wide-ranging analysis of the global security environment since 1993 and asks what opponents of the West have learned during the last quarter-century of conflict. The *Dragons* he refers to are nation-states such as China and Russia; the *Snakes* are guerrilla and terrorist organisations.

Western dominance over a very particular, narrowly-defined form of warfare since the Cold War has forced adversaries to adapt in ways that present serious new challenges to America and its allies, and state and non-state threats now increasingly overlap and intersect.

For President Joe Biden, the post-Trump era is fraught with challenges, ranging from increasing great power rivalry, economic uncertainty, insecure allies and domestic challenges – nowhere is this more evident than in Australia's own region. While the nation's geographic isolation has provided Australia with a degree of protection from the major conflagrations of the 20th century, the 21st century's great power rivalry impacts closer to home.

We are consistently told that as a nation we are torn between our economic relationship with China and the longstanding strategic partnership with the US, placing the country at the epicentre of a great power rivalry – but does it have to be that way?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Richard Iron in conversation with David Kilcullen.

**Dr David Kilcullen** is Professor of International and Political Studies at University of New South Wales, Canberra and also serves as Professor of Practice in Global Security at Arizona State University. Kilcullen is a former soldier and diplomat, and a scholar of guerrilla warfare, terrorism, urbanisation and the future of conflict, who served 25 years for the Australian and United States governments. *During the Iraq War, he served in Baghdad as a member of the Joint Strategic Assessment Team, then as Senior Counterinsurgency Advisor, Multi-National Force Iraq in 2007, before becoming Special Advisor for Counterinsurgency to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2008.* Kilcullen was named one of the *Foreign Policy Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2009.* His previous acclaimed books are *The Accidental Guerrilla; Counterinsurgency; Out of the Mountains*; and *Blood Year: Islamic State and the Failures of the War on Terror.*

**Richard Iron CMG OBE** is President of AIIA Victoria. *He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair’s Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 17 February at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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