

Warmongering Marles commits Australia to US war against China amid Iran mayhem

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The craven appeasement of Benjamin Netanyahu by Western media and political elites has brought the world to the brink of war. Now Richard Marles says Australia's part in a US war against China is a *fait accompli*. **Michael West** reports.

The closest Deputy PM Richard Marles has come to war may well be a school debating stoush at Geelong Grammar but here he is today, on page 1 of Rupert Murdoch's warmongering *The Australian*, committing young Australians to war against China. Should it transpire.

Our major trading partner, which has posed us no threat but buys 40% of our exports and has delivered nothing but prosperity to The Lucky Country.

Given the way things are shaping up in Europe, America and the Middle East, the spectre of World War 3 has never loomed so large. This morning Donald Trump warned Iranians to evacuate Tehran, the capital and home to 10 million people. Now there are reports of Trump seeking executive orders to invade.

There is little doubt that the Neville Chamberlains in Western governments and media, these sapless appeasers of the political and media elites, who have supported 'our friend Israel' and its demonic leadership of *genocidaires*, are culpable for the deaths of

thousands (in Gaza and the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and now Iran). They are guilty of genocide, the world's most egregious crime, and now Israel's attacks on Iran, in a world daily edging closer to WW3.

They could have stopped this. Cowed by Israel money and the fear of being called antisemitic, they didn't. Who loses this? Everybody, Israel included. The first casualty of Israel's unprovoked assault on Iran last week was a child, buried under rubble.

It is Western appeasement of the Netanyahu government which has led to this; principally the US, UK and Germany, with Australia a bit player albeit with blood dripping from its hands.

Sucked in by Benjamin Netanyahu, again, sucked in by the Israel propaganda of Iran's nuclear program, world mainstream media again – the very people who fell for the '40 babies beheaded' and mass rapes of October 7 – are now running Israel's 'regime change' narrative.

Plus ca change

We've seen it before: in Vietnam the 'domino theory', in Iraq the fabled WMD which turned regime change when that was found out. "Liberty, freedom and democracy" they cried, after Netanyahu sold them into that war. A million dead, a spate of world terrorism. Islamic State.

And Afghanistan, whose cause turned from Osama bin Laden to regime change to remove the Taliban. Twenty years later the Taliban were back in office.

These abysmal failures, one after another, and now we've got Murdoch again beating the drums of war for an attack on China.

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DEFENDING AUSTRALIA

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Calling attention to the strategic threat posed by China has been strangled by political timidity and largely absent from Anthony Albanese's conversation with the nation. **SIMON BENSON p7**

secretary Dennis Richardson told the nation that if the US and China went to war over Taiwan, Australia would be unable to avoid being dragged into the conflict. "Whether it be Pine Gap, whether it be the disbursement of US funds, we would be involved," Mr Richardson said. Former House Affairs secretary Michael Pezzullo told the nation that last year's low-level drills and circumnavigation of Australia by a Chinese naval flotilla was not alone off-ent. "As an expanding blue-water navy, we should expect the Chinese navy to undertake similar

them the space, we don't know what the tensions are doing with the land that we've given them. We need to think much more deeply about this question."

Admiral Johnston, who last week warned the ADF might need to conduct combat operations from Australian soil, told the nation that last year's low-level drills and circumnavigation of Australia by a Chinese naval flotilla was not alone off-ent.

He said if Australia was attacked in the context of a US-China war, we would not be "sitting back saying 'well, we missed

Forty-eight hours before Anthony Albanese's meeting with Donald Trump in Canada, Mr Marles defended the government's refusal to announce fresh military spending in line with US demands, saying new funding decisions would not be made until next year. At the same time, the Defence Minister flagged reforms to his department reforms that would put "everything on the table", and the opening sale of billions of dollars worth of surplus Defence land to raise funds for critical capabilities. Mr Marles said while Australia was not under threat of invasion by China, it would play a key role if war broke out between the US and China. "Our continent is more relevant to great power contest now than it's ever been before," he told The Australian's Defending Australia summit in Canberra on Monday. "That is as much of a question in the here and now as in the build-up of our defence capability."

The comment came days after the Prime Minister refused to say whether China presented a military threat to Australia, and followed last year's declaration by the former head of the US Congress foreign affairs committee, Michael McCaul, that Australia had become America's "central base of operations" in the Indo-Pacific. Australia regularly hosts nuclear-capable US bombers from

Top End bases, which have been expanded and hardened to meet American requirements, and is home to joint US-Australian defence facilities at Pine Gap and Tinduff. More than 2000 US Marine Corp personnel are also based in Darwin for six months a

year while US nuclear submarines will begin to operate from Western Australia by 2027. Former Defence Department

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The Australia page one today

Australia is walking into another disastrous war by kowtowing to the US. AUKUS – the controversial security alliance – has made us less safe, not more safe.

The government of Anthony Albanese, feebly abetted by a warmongering Coalition and media, dead-set scared of what the US will say, or the chicken-hawk Coalition, is wedged ... if they don't go all the way with Donald J.

Real strength is being able to stand up to bullies and make the right decisions, not cravenly cave to the demands of our 'allies' carrying out a genocide in Gaza and now destabilising the whole world. The 'global rules based order' is a sick joke.

Iran support

And make no mistake, that is what we are doing, destabilising the world. China has said it would back Iran in the face of Israeli aggression, Russia has its own thing going with Ukraine but presumably backs Iran. Pakistan, a neighbour and ally of Iran, says it will nuke Israel if Israel nukes Iran.

North Korea – whose decision to get nukes has been entirely vindicated by Western aggression – backs Iran. It is topsy turvey. In Syria, Israel and the US have installed a puppet regime of former Isis and Al Qaeda types – yes the very terrorists who they funded to commit war crimes are now their allies.

This is an almighty mess, and at its epicentre is Israel which decries the regime in Iran, a country which has not attacked another country in 300 years, a country where, despite an authoritarian government, embraces freedom of religion. Mosques, churches and synagogues are free.

In Palestine and Lebanon, Netanyahu and his cronies have been gleefully bombing mosques and churches. No arabs or Thai workers have been crowding the bomb shelters this week as Israelis scurried for cover from Iran's retaliatory strikes, crying victimhood. In this apartheid state, bomb shelters are only for Jews.

Plainly, we are on the wrong side, the 'genocide'. And now we see Richard Marles and his media proxies talking about the threat from China and the inevitability of joining a US war.

As Israel continues to murder dozens of civilians daily under cover of media blackouts, starving and murdering Gazans as they scramble for food – and annexing the West Bank – the war crimes by the US/Israel alliance are legion, too many to be listed here; they are daily.

This morning Israel bombed an Iranian TV station mid-broadcast, unapologetically gloating about it in the media; like the grotesque terrorism of its pager explosives, another war crime, targeting journalists going about their jobs.

Follow the money

Trump, the self-described peacemaker, has lost control. And behind it, if we follow the money is an epic laundering operation which has dragged in the entire political class in the US.

It is quite simple: America sends billions in public money, earned by their taxpayers, to support Israel every year. Israel in turn sends money to its lobby groups such as AIPAC, bribing almost every politician on Capital Hill to support its genocide and deny its daily war crimes, its land theft, rape and torture of prisoners, its unrelenting, barbaric military aggression.

And Australia, we are sending our tributes to these US warmongers via AUKUS for submarines which may never arrive, certainly not in time for this looming war, if it occurs. We can only hope common sense prevails. But when it comes to cajoling Australia into its next useless war, the US only has to pamper one man, and that's Albo.

War powers reform

We can be thankful it's not Peter Dutton. But few would put store in Albo to stand up to US pressure. The rub is that, in the UK and US, the decision to go to war is made by a vote of Parliament or Congress. In Australia, there is no vote. It is down to the PM, one man. It's Albo's call.

So what can we expect? The warmongers of the media are stepping up their campaigns. We have seen it all before, it will all be about downplaying Israel's aggression. It will all be about demonising the Iranian regime, driving spurious arguments for regime change as if it is our right to meddle in the affairs of countries which want peace and which have done no wrong.

It will be about the elusive, unfounded threat of Iranian nukes, it will dehumanise Iranians, just like it did the people of Gaza. the machine will do all it can to manufacture consent for war. This – Fox News 'secret Iranian nuclear weapons site revealed' – is a taste of things to come.

Iran compliant, Israel not

Let's never forget the truth, that Iran is compliant with its international nuclear reporting; Israel is not. Israel doesn't even allow the IAEA to check their nuclear facilities, Iran is a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, unlike Israel.

These facts will be dutifully buried in an avalanche of lies and spin but if the world needs regime change, they should start with Israel, not Iran. Somehow Netanyahu has managed to – in his jungle of lies – inveigle the US into war with Iraq and 'regime change' in a plethora of countries.

He has trashed the reputation of his country forever, demolished any credibility it might have enjoyed, lost to the Palestinian resistance in Gaza after almost two years, and failed miserably in his two stated aims of ousting Hamas and returning the hostages.

And this despite America and the US deploying more firepower than Nagasaki and Hiroshima, killing and maiming 100s of thousands of civilians. And now starving them to boot.

Still the IDF can't summon the guts to go down in the tunnels and take Hamas on, *mano a mano*, preferring instead to frock up in the lingerie of their victims and blithely prance around on social media celebrating their war crimes.

Netanyahu and his cronies, including America, have destroyed Israel through their brutality and stupidity and given rise to antisemitism. While blaming everybody else from peace protestors to Palestinians, they are squarely to blame.

It is not the generals emblazoned with their medals who will pay the price if we march off to another worthless American war. It is not the pusillanimous media pundits, nor the preening politicians. It is young Australians who will pay the price.

| Rudd talking the AUKUS talk in Washington, but is the US walking?



Michael West

Michael West established *Michael West Media* in 2016 to focus on journalism of high public interest, particularly the rising power of corporations over democracy. West was formerly a journalist and editor with Fairfax newspapers, a columnist for News Corp and even, once, a stockbroker.