



Reliability and Interdependence in America's Asian Alliance System

Monday 28 November, 5:30pm — 7pm

Speaker

Iain Henry

The Australian National University

Location

Lecture Theatre 1

Hedely Bull Building, Garran Road, ANU

Registration

<http://bit.ly/2efzMsJ>

Contact

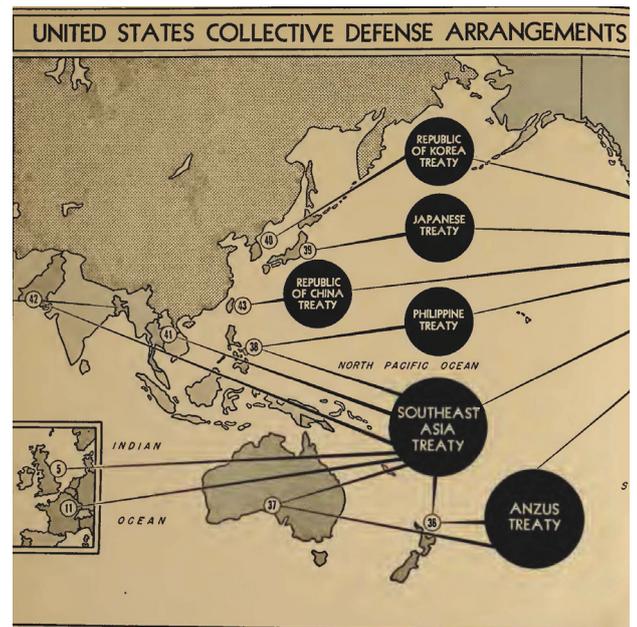
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Are alliance commitments interdependent? Do events in one alliance relationship affect other alliances and if so, how? For America's bilateral alliances in Asia, policymakers and academics have argued that loyalty underpins alliance interdependence. They have assumed that Washington's disloyalty to one ally will automatically cause other allies to doubt America's security reliability.

New research challenges this assumption. Working deductively from neorealist alliance theory, this research suggests that America's allies in Asia are unconcerned

about America's general loyalty to other allied states. Instead, they monitor America's behaviour in order to reassure themselves that American remains a reliable security partner — that Washington continues to share and value common interests. Counterintuitively, American disloyalty to one ally might be welcomed by other allies so long as this demonstrates that Washington remains a reliable security partner.

This research, based on archival research of significant cases during the first twenty years of the Cold War, shows that when allies doubted American reliability, they acted to mitigate this risk. An awareness of alliance interdependence ensured that American policymakers managed their alliances appropriately, thus ensuring their persistence and relevance. Although America's bilateral alliances in Asia are legally discrete, they can be interdependent in practice. These findings have significant implications for how the US alliance system will operate in the future.



This is a free event open to the public

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Iain Henry is a PhD Candidate at the Australian National University's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. As a Fulbright Scholar, in 2014 he studied at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Iain has previously worked for the Australian Public Service, the Australian Army, and Qantas.