

# Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

Postal Address: PO Box 376, Coburg Vic 3058

Phone: 1800 636 432 Fax: 03 9354 0166

Home Page: [www.cecaust.com.au](http://www.cecaust.com.au) Email: [cec@cecaust.com.au](mailto:cec@cecaust.com.au)

Authorised by R. Barwick, 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058. Printed by Citizens Media Group Pty Ltd., 595 Sydney Road, Coburg, Victoria 3058.



Independent Political Party

3 November 2016

## Philippines breaks with US war drive—which way Australia?

Barack Obama's dangerous military escalation against China has backfired and pushed key ally the Philippines to separate from the USA and instead look to China for military and economic cooperation. As Australia is also part of Obama's "Asia Pivot" military containment of China, which has put the region on the path to war, we face the same decision: will we continue to support the USA's military expansion, at great danger to the region and our nation, or will we establish an independent foreign policy and act to avert war?

Obama's Asia Pivot was announced in November 2011 by his then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This was just weeks after Clinton had organised, and then gloated about, the murder of Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi, following the regime-change intervention that a UK House of Commons report has since condemned for being based on false intelligence and for turning Libya into a failed state and a haven for al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorists. China opposed that intervention, as it had the Iraq invasion in 2003, and as it does the present regime change operation in Syria, where the USA, UK, France and Australia are siding with al-Qaeda and ISIS. Yet the premise of the Asia Pivot is that China is the "threat", so after emulating his predecessor George W. Bush in making such a mess of the Middle East and North Africa, Obama shifted his attention to the Asia-Pacific, to contain the ostensible China threat.

### Fraser's nuclear warning

This black-is-white inversion of reality, and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard's breathless embrace of Obama's agenda when she announced Australia would host US Marines in Darwin, moved the late former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser to warn that the Asia Pivot risked a military conflict that could escalate into a *nuclear exchange*: "Australia has under this Labor Government and with apparent



This graphic from a 29 March 2012 feature in *The Australian*, headlined "The battle for the Pacific", illustrated Obama's Asia Pivot was a military containment of China, using US allies like Australia and the Philippines. The Philippines has now broken with the USA to work with China on economic development; more nations will follow, and Australia should too.

consent of the Coalition, become the southern bastion of America's re-arming in the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia", Fraser said in a 25 September 2012 speech to Melbourne University's Asialink centre. "This is an extraordinary consequence of Australian Government's ineptitude, and of military planning which might recognise America's interest, but pays little account of our own. [Emphasis added.] ... Any use of nuclear weapons between the United States and China would be a global humanitarian catastrophe, and any armed conflict between nuclear-armed powers risks nuclear escalation." Fraser called for an independent foreign policy to promote Australia's national interest, rather than blind adherence to the geopolitical schemes of our "dangerous allies", as he called the USA and UK.

