

We Now Know: How Australia Went to War in Vietnam

*Garry Woodard in conversation
with Joe Siracusa*

This Thursday 10 August

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War prompted debate, division and discord in Australian society. **University of Melbourne Senior Fellow in Political Science Garry Woodard** has delved through the files of the Department of External Affairs to uncover the truth about how Australia went to war in Vietnam.

His 2004 book *Asian Alternatives: Australia's Vietnam Decision and Lessons on going to War* has recently been reissued by Melbourne University Press. In it, he argues that **Australia's involvement in Vietnam was not predetermined** and that there were other priorities in South East Asia which should have taken preference. In a recent appendix, **Garry looks at lesson we can learn from Vietnam** setting out fifty features of decision-making on going to war in Vietnam which seem consistent with recent history in regard to Iraq.

RMIT Associate Professor Joseph Siracusa teaches International Relations and Security and Diplomacy at RMIT. A graduate of American Universities, he has lived and taught in Australia for thirty-three years and has recently published *Real-World Nuclear Deterrence The Making of International Strategy* (Pub. Praeger 2006).

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6 to 7pm

In the Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Sidney Myer Asia Centre,
University of Melbourne

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