



Analysing Xi Jinping: Kevin Rudd and the Challenge of China in Our Time

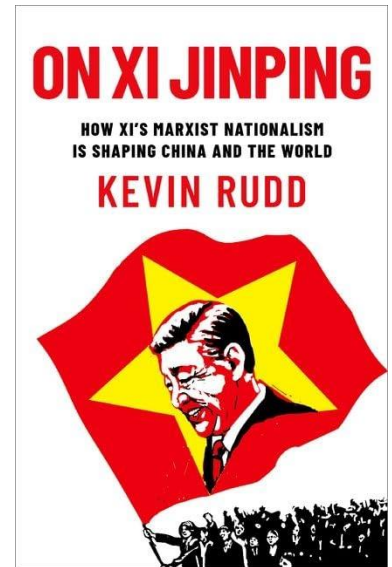
Dr. Paul Monk

Wednesday 12 March 2025: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

In his new book [*On Xi Jinping - How Xi's Marxist Nationalism is Shaping China and the World*](#) (Oxford University Press, 2025), Kevin Rudd analyses the ideological worldview driving Chinese behaviour both domestically and on the world stage — that of President Xi Jinping, who now holds near-total control over the Chinese Communist Party and is now in effect president-for-life.

Rudd argues that Xi's worldview differs significantly from those of the leaders who preceded him, and that this ideological shift is reflected in the real world of Chinese policy and behaviour.

Focusing on China's domestic politics, political economy, and foreign policy, Rudd characterises Xi Jinping's ideological framing of the world as "Marxist-Leninist nationalism", to show that Xi has moved China from a relatively market-oriented economy to a highly mercantilist and state-dominated one, and from a cautious to an ambitious military and geopolitical stance.



Drawing on earlier works such as Professor John Fitzgerald's [*Cadre Country: How China became the Chinese Communist Party*](#) (UNSW Press, 2022) and [*Surveillance State: Inside China's Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control*](#) (St Martin's Press, New York, 2022) by Josh Chin and Liza Lin, Paul Monk will cast a critical eye over *On Xi Jinping*, and evaluate how this detailed and scholarly work contributes to our knowledge of how Xi is transforming both China and the international order, and, most importantly, why.



Dr Paul Monk is a public intellectual, poet, former senior intelligence analyst and consultant in applied cognitive science. In 2022, he was inducted as a Fellow of the London and New York based Institute for Law and Strategy. He served as an intelligence analyst on East Asia for the Defence Intelligence Organisation, between 1990 and 1995. He headed the Japan and Koreas Desk by 1992 and the China desk from 1994. Paul Monk has spent several years teaching Chinese politics and strategic affairs in leading universities, before co-founding a consulting company, in 2000, specialising in applied cognitive science and structured argumentation. As a principal consultant, he facilitated training workshops and analytic projects for numerous clients, including ASIO, the CIA, and the ANZ bank. He is the author of numerous books and has written scores of essays for the Australian Financial Review, opinion pieces for The Age and reviews, op eds and features for The Australian.

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