



The Island Whose Fate Determines Australia's: Taiwan

Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Tuesday 3 October: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Taiwan is more prosperous, more democratic and better governed than most UN members, and in many ways can be perceived by Australians as more “normal” than most countries. Its population is similar to Australia's, also with a similar proportion of Indigenous people. It is Australia's fourth largest export market, has placed \$A65 billion funds in Australia, and provides the largest number of young people who come to Australia for “working holidays.” It is a high-tech hub, producing for instance 90% of the world's most advanced chips.



It is holding presidential and parliamentary elections in January, whose outcome is difficult to forecast. Its ruling Democratic Progressive Party is by no means assured of victory in either poll. Today, only about 4 per cent of people in Taiwan view themselves as exclusively Chinese. But the People's Republic of China wishes – with ever-increasing intensity – to subsume Taiwan.

How can – or should – Australia and Australian institutions relate to Taiwan? What might happen in the event of conflict – in whatever form – across the 180km-wide Taiwan Strait? Does the Ukraine war offer insights? What deterrents might prove most effective to prevent conflict and support the status quo? What impact might Taiwan's fate have on Australia's?



Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute, and an expert associate at the National Security College of the Australian National University. He is vice-chair of the Australia Taiwan Business Council. He was Beijing-based China Correspondent of *The Australian* for two terms, following 20 years with *The Australian Financial Review* including as China Correspondent based in Hong Kong. He was also Asia-Pacific Editor for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards. He has written three books published in both English and Chinese - *Comrades & Capitalists: Hong Kong Since the Handover* (UNSW Press, 1998); *Channar: A landmark venture in iron ore* (Hardie Grant, 2012); and *Party Time: Who Runs China and How* (Black Inc., 2013). He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations and of La Trobe University's Asia Institute.

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