



Silent Invasion: China's Influence In Australia

Clive Hamilton

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In 2008 Clive Hamilton was at Parliament House in Canberra when the Beijing Olympic torch relay passed through. He watched in bewilderment as a small pro-Tibet protest was overrun by thousands of angry Chinese students. Where did they come from? Why were they so aggressive? And what gave them the right to shut down others exercising their democratic right to protest? The authorities did nothing about it, and what he saw stayed with him.

In 2016 it was revealed that wealthy Chinese businessmen linked to the Chinese Communist Party had become the largest donors to both major political parties. Hamilton realised something big was happening, and decided to investigate the Chinese government's influence in Australia. What he found shocked him.

From politics to culture, real estate to agriculture, universities to unions, and even in our primary schools, he uncovered compelling evidence of the Chinese Communist Party's infiltration of Australia. Sophisticated influence operations target Australia's elites, and parts of the large Chinese-Australian diaspora have been mobilised to buy access to politicians, limit academic freedom, intimidate critics, collect information for Chinese intelligence agencies, and protest in the streets against Australian government policy. It's no exaggeration to say the Chinese Communist Party and Australian democracy are on a collision course. The CCP is determined to win, while Australia looks the other way.

Thoroughly researched and powerfully argued, *Silent Invasion* is a sobering examination of the mounting threats to democratic freedoms Australians have for too long taken for granted. Yes, China is important to our economic prosperity; but, Hamilton asks, how much is our sovereignty as a nation worth?

'Anyone keen to understand how China draws other countries into its sphere of influence should start with Silent Invasion. This is an important book for the future of Australia. But tug on the threads of China's influence networks in Australia and its global network of influence operations starts to unravel.' –Professor John Fitzgerald, author of *Big White Lie: Chinese Australians in White Australia*

Silent Invasion: China's Influence In Australia Details

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Diana Reynolds says

This is an absolute gobsmacker of a book and one every Australian should read. It lifts the lid on so much that has been going on with the elites of Australia - politicians, leaders of industry, the education sector and beyond. We mere mortals, the general public have been conned with slogans and moral imperatives, given snippets and edited truths about what is really going on and has been for the last 50 years! Meanwhile our country's sovereignty continues to be bartered under our noses to foreign powers with a massive hidden agenda. Written in neither left or right political speak, 'Silent Invasion' spares neither party but gives a well researched perspective that the powerful would prefer we don't know about.

Marie Belcredi says

Having met Clive Hamilton, read his books and having a great respect for The Australia Institute, I was curious why he would stick his neck out and write a book so controversial that would make him open to being labelled a racist or anti-Chinese. Hamilton is a brave person who will speak out and he has in this well researched book. There is nothing in this book that is not supported by ample evidence. I read this book with one marker in the Notes and one book mark to my current page.

Australians are shown to be naive, easily bought and have a short term outlook. The example of Andrew Robb comes up in the book. Andrew Robb was Australia's minister for Trade and Investment and was involved in negotiating trade deals with other countries including China. These deals, negotiated for Australians were, however, highly secret until they were a fait accompli. Why, I asked many times, are the people who will be affected by this, not allowed to know what is being agreed to? Funny! Less funny is that he then retired and went straight away to work for Landbridge, the current owners of the Port of Darwin. Obviously a conflict of interest issue but Robb got away with it.

Other examples of politicians being bought. Sam Dastyari comes to mind. Hamilton takes the reader through many ways that the Chinese government is infiltrating our industries, buying up assets, farming lands and spying and stealing our IP, yet the average Australian either does not know or is scared of speaking out. Food for thought indeed and so glad Hamilton wrote this book.

Locky says

When I was in primary school and aged about 11 (circa 2000), we would travel to Melbourne for school excursions to places like the zoo and the Holocaust museum (gotta gettem while they're young, right?). A game we used to play on the bus through parts of Melbourne as innocent kids was called 'spot the Aussie' - all you had to do was spot the Caucasian amongst the sea of Asians. There was no malice in the game, just kids being kids. As the years have rolled on, the subject of immigration to Australia has become a polarising one, particularly when it comes to the Chinese.

Hamilton, in this dense and well researched book, does a great job in exposing how deep Chinese influence runs in Australia and just how lacking of a spine Australia's politicians are. Someone quotes in the book that

'money talks, and it speaks Mandarin' when it comes to politicians and people of influence within Australia. Silent Invasion deals with most of the problems that arise with the heavy amounts of Chinese immigration that are currently occurring - from Australian businesses being bought up, policies changing to reflect Beijing's, history revisionism by the Chinese (did you know that the Chinese actually discovered and colonised Australia in 1432 according to the Chinese Communist Party?!), the negative effect on the Australian housing market, communist infiltration into the intellectual academies, the degradation of Australia's defence system and basically how quickly and deeply those loyal to China first have become prominent in Australian society.

This is a book that can almost be deemed tedious with how thoroughly it is researched, yet that makes it all the more important for Australians to read. Recommended to all Australians and those who want a clearer understanding of Chinese subversion tactics.

Ryan Woo says

This book is a hair-raiser. The author did a good job investigating and reporting the infiltration from China to Australia. The original publishing company withdrew to publish this book is very telling that the influence of China is very strong. The freedom of speech in Australia is being sabotaged.

Matthew says

I cannot recommend this book enough. A damning portrait of how the Chinese government is employing soft power to erode Australia's sovereignty and make Australia a virtual tribute state to the new modern China. It is clear the CCP is determined to move heaven and earth to do this. Methods include intimidation, buying access to politicians, silencing critics in universities and schools, and buying up real estate and agricultural resources. I ultimately worry about the future of Australia in 20 years or so.

Jaanus Tamm says

It gives good overview and lots of examples how communist party runs china foreign policy and foreign investments to other countries. Handbook of behaviour what to expect in Europe soon (or already happening). Shows how much China influence has been increased in Asia and how countries consider to hedge declining US power there.

Jxliu says

This is probably the best book I have ever read on contemporary China and its mission against our civilisation. Indisputably principled in political economy theories, it is unbiased, balanced, and comprehensive, demonstrating an unusual entirety of coverage of the issues Australia has to face against CCP China's aggression. It is a book of hope for those who love Australia and its values. It is also a book of fear for China and for those whom it is gracing. It may seem a tiny ripple at the moment but will grow into a tsunami in the near future--let us give it 10 years. Caution: although this book is incredibly unpedantic and

exceptionally accessible, some high school level economics training is required to appreciate its wit and wisdom.

Patricia says

I was drawn to this book because of its author, Clive Hamilton, who had impressed me as the founder of the left-wing think tank, The Australia Institute. Knowing Hamilton's political persuasion made wanting to read this book all the more compelling. This book is no apology for China's poor record on human rights, or its positions on Taiwan and Tibet, but is an excoriating critique of this country's involvement and influence in every sector of Australian life: science and technology, defence, education, politics, and trade. He even demonstrates how China has attempted to rewrite Australia's history by inserting a Chinese presence in the First Fleet and its discovery of Australia before the Europeans, and how, to the dismay of other Asian countries, China has replaced the name of the Luna New Year with Chinese New Year in Australia. Meticulously researched and referenced as one would expect from a seasoned academic, this book is a wake-up call for all Australians to be aware of and to resist the insidious presence of China in all spheres of Australian social and political life. The only improvement to this book would have been a glossary of abbreviations of organisations eg CSSA, PLA which are all tentacles of that huge beast that is the CCP (Chinese Communist Party).

Peter Franklin says

A very interesting book that raises many worrying things that are happening in Australia. Several of the episodes are publicly known but much more is not and politicians and the media are mostly quiet about the situation.

James Edward Hansen says

This is a very disturbing book. Aussies are far too naive and complacent for their own good, and are very poorly led. Wake up, lest you lose your country and not even know what happened.

Sarah King says

A very interesting insight into the influence that the CCP has over its citizens and how it is trying to influence the two nations that are weakened (Australia and New Zealand) by geography. It is also interesting the narrative the CCP is trying to force onto the Australian population.

There was an interesting comment made about that Chinese students take the slightest offence at something and think its an attack on the motherland and it can whip up a 'jingoistic fervour' in them. As well as how fast Chinese students can be mobilised for the state or how fast they can be punished for comments made against the CCP.

Another point is how easily Australian politicians can be quick to accept money from donors for comments

and a pro-Beijing point, an interesting point to be on the lookout for in the future.

Tom Evans says

An alarming look at Beijing's influence in Australia, particularly of geoeconomics, how any nation angering the Chinese government has been responded by swift and damaging sanctions. Most importantly it presents researched, factual findings, and is not a book riddled with sensationalism as I thought before reading it.

Lorelle says

The book is a Must Read for all Australians. Well researched, well written, if this isn't a wake up call for politicians, universities, the Defence Force and media then I don't know what is.

Simon Robinson says

Essential reading for any Australian wishing to be politically aware, especially considering that the Chinese Communist Party repeatedly attempted to thwart its publication for the truth contained therein. After witnessing thousands of Chinese students aggressively overtake a small protest by Tibetans in front our Canberra Parliament during the 2008 Olympic torch relay, and the complete lack of media coverage of same, Hamilton was left gobsmacked, and subsequently driven to investigate how and why such a thing could happen. Where did so many pro CCP people come from? Why were they so angry and determined? Why was there no media coverage or police response? His work systematically outlines how the CCP is using soft power, money, economic addiction and the race card to undermine our democracy and turn it to its own purposes. Recent headlines clearly serve to drive home his points. Hamilton's main aim is raising awareness. He offers no solution - that's up to us. Although he concludes that Aussie naivety and complacency are Beijing's strongest assets in their silent invasion.

Benjamin Farr says

A phenomenal, well-researched account of the rising influence of the Peoples Republic of China upon Australia. The book explores the entangled web that the Communist Party has spun across Australia's cultural institutions, former and current leaders, universities, media and the CSIRO.

Excellent book - 5 stars.
