

Foreign Policy White Paper Submission – Jacob Choi,

Australia is known as “the lucky country” because we have always been the “young and the free” – we remain a new country in the context of world history, but we have gained international responsibilities that have built and solidified our reputation as one of the world’s leading economies and populations that suffers least from corruption, poverty and strife.

As such, a child born in Australia in the 21st century has “won the lottery in life” and will be guaranteed a lifetime of the good healthcare, education and job opportunities that will be supported, funded and advocated by the Government. With this perspective in mind, we should care for our international neighbours by:

- **Continuing to represent an ideal of fairness, diversity and harmony in our Australian communities** to communicate a framework of coexistence to the global stage.
- **Advocating for human rights in nations where abuses, neglect or lack of infrastructure/funding is apparent**
- **Engaging with international stakeholders** for the continual improvement of global issues to counter current and emerging threats, enhance standards of living to close the poverty gap, and training of governmental capabilities to improve joint interoperability.

We should **continue** to engage major powers and honour the trade agreements, alliances and treaties that have sustained our growth. Groups such as the APEC, G20 and G8 offer us a place in the world to convey the interests of the least privileged who may not enjoy the best opportunities that Australians enjoy. Initiatives such as the New Colombo Plan should remain attractive to engage international relationships with education, and exchange ideas across neighbouring nations.

We should **challenge** the America First policy set by the Trump Administration, embracing the local Asia Pacific nations that have strong economic and security ties with Australia. Military exercises, in particular, are good demonstrators of bilateral joint force training where Australia and partner nations can ensure that interoperable capabilities are extended across the Asia Pacific region.

Finally, we should **recognise** rising powers in Asia, specifically the dynamics of megacities and urbanisation in China and India as the two emerging superpowers. Japan’s military growth away from its pacifist past, and Korean peninsula conflicts will be of particular interest as we have close ties to South Korea and Japan. The South China Sea will be the main point of contention and Australia should be best prepared to be an arm of surveillance, holding the four major players of China, Vietnam, Philippines and Japan to account for their actions that may lead to kinetic conflict.