

Unveiling the Silent Invasion: China's Growing Influence in Australia

Australia and China have a long and complex history, marked by periods of cooperation and tension. In recent years, China's economic and political power has grown exponentially, leading to increased interest in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia, as a major player in the region, has become a focus of China's growing influence.

Economic Influence

China is now Australia's largest trading partner, with two-way trade exceeding \$200 billion in 2019. This economic dependence has given China significant leverage over Australia. Australia is heavily reliant on exports of iron ore, coal, and agricultural products to China, creating a potential vulnerability to Chinese economic coercion.



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by Clive Hamilton

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Political Influence

China is also seeking to expand its political influence in Australia. This has been achieved through a variety of means, including:

- Financial donations to political parties and candidates
- Lobbying by Chinese government-backed organizations
- Intimidation of dissidents and critics of the Chinese government

These efforts have raised concerns about the potential for China to undermine Australian democracy and sovereignty.



Security Concerns

China's growing military might has also raised concerns in Australia. China has been rapidly expanding its navy and air force, and has been investing in new technologies such as artificial intelligence and hypersonic missiles.

Australia fears that China could use its military power to coerce or intimidate Australia, or even to threaten its territorial integrity.

Australia unveils a strategic review of its defence forces in response to China's growing military prowess



Countering Chinese Influence

The Australian government is aware of the potential risks posed by China's growing influence. In response, it has taken a number of steps to counter Chinese influence, including:

- Increased scrutiny of Chinese investment in Australia
- Expanded security cooperation with the United States and other like-minded countries
- Strengthened protections for Australian democracy and sovereignty

China's growing influence in Australia is a complex and evolving issue. Australia is facing a difficult balancing act, as it seeks to maintain its

economic and political ties with China while also protecting its national interests.

The Australian government has taken a number of steps to counter Chinese influence, but it is likely that this issue will continue to be a source of tension between the two countries for many years to come.



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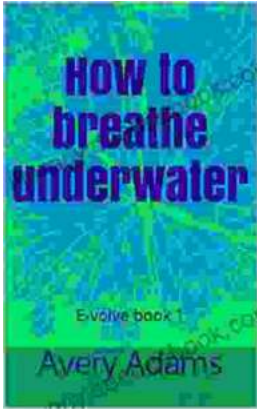
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