

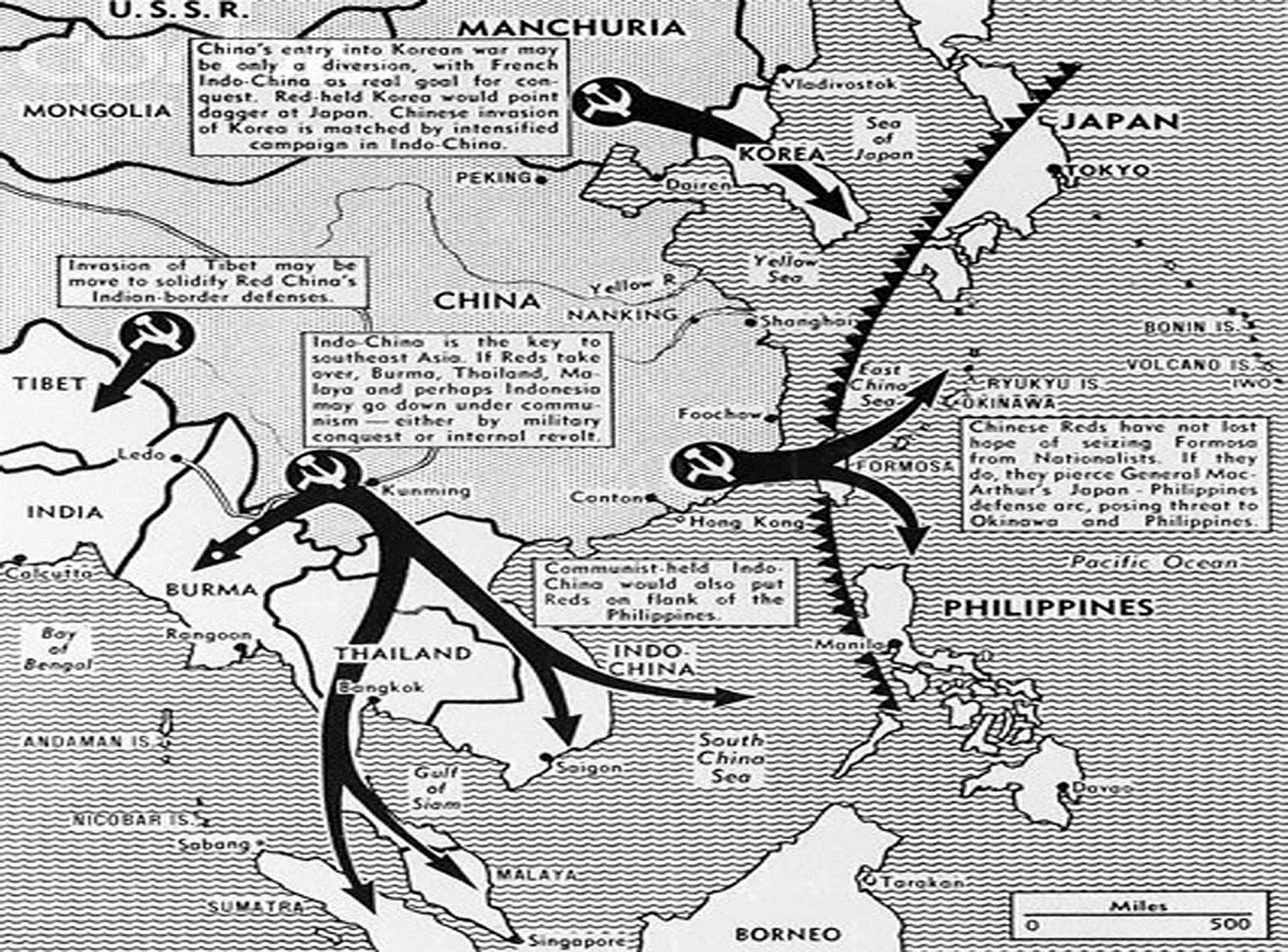


Australian Institute of International Affairs

The Role of Think Tanks in Shaping Asia's Future

Melissa Conley Tyler

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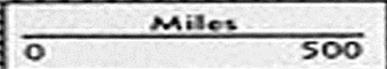
China's entry into Korean war may be only a diversion, with French Indo-China as real goal for conquest. Red-held Korea would point dagger at Japan. Chinese invasion of Korea is matched by intensified campaign in Indo-China.

Invasion of Tibet may be move to solidify Red China's Indian-border defenses.

Indo-China is the key to southeast Asia. If Reds take over, Burma, Thailand, Malaya and perhaps Indonesia may go down under communism — either by military conquest or internal revolt.

Chinese Reds have not lost hope of seizing Formosa from Nationalists. If they do, they pierce General MacArthur's Japan - Philippines defense arc, posing threat to Okinawa and Philippines.

Communist-held Indo-China would also put Reds on flank of the Philippines.



IT COULD HAPPEN. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHEN...

PACIFIC NIGHTMARE

A DEVASTATING ACCOUNT OF
THE THIRD WORLD

WAR

IN THE FAR EAST

SIMON WINCHESTER

THE #1 BESTSELLER IN JAPAN

THE COMING WAR WITH JAPAN



GEORGE FRIEDMAN & MEREDITH LEBARD





The Potential for Think Tanks in Shaping Asia's Future

- Think tanks occupy a place between government and academia and act as a bridge between research and policy
- They can set agendas, articulate alternative frameworks and identify the first steps to bring about change
- As a neutral space, they can help propose what, when and by whom things should be done





Key Issue 1: Inclusive Prosperity

- The challenge is equitable sharing of the fruits of Asian development
- There are still two Asias (one that has benefitted from regional economic growth and development, and one that has not)
- Asia's future must involve greater efforts to share the fruits of development in some way



Key Issue 2: Security

- The Asia Pacific is a tinderbox of security issues
- Territorial disputes, historical grievances and nationalist impulses could lead from miscalculation to escalation
- How can we maintain a “hot peace” and prevent open conflict erupting ?
- Can these problems be solved at all?



Key Issue 3: Environment

- A Western plot to inhibit development?
- Irrespective, we have to deal with and be prepared for the changes brought by climate change. Issues include extreme weather events and disaster risk reduction, ensuring that impacts do not fall disproportionately on people who are unable to cope with them.
- Think tanks are likely to have a key role; states may seek to freeride until the problem becomes critical.

How Think Tanks Add Value

- Governments cannot deal with these issues alone
- Tendency to “kick the can down the road”
- Think tanks can assist with ideas, plans and implementation
- Think tanks can focus on local context and connect with the public to provide support for government action



Organisational Model

The Alla is an independent, non-profit, civil society organisation.

- 1924: established as branch of Chatham House
- 1933: became independent
- Size of organisation:
 - 1,400+ members
 - 150+ volunteers nationwide
 - Small paid staff





AIA as a Knowledge-Broker



Mission:

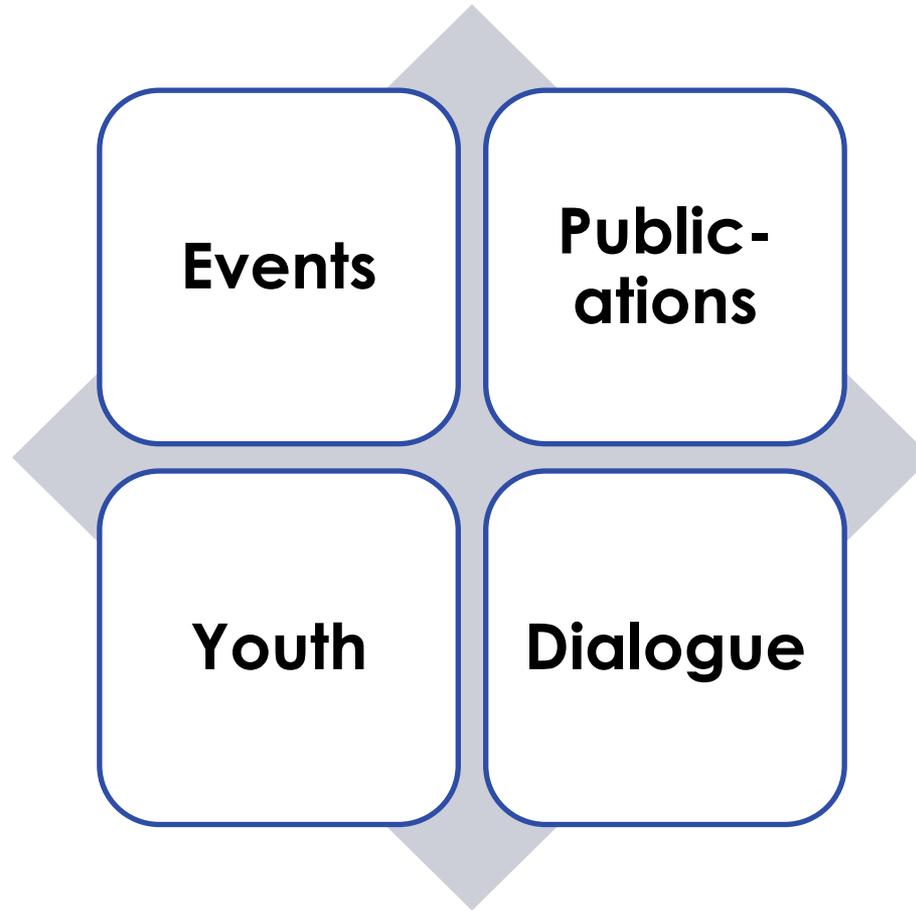
To promote interest in and understanding of international affairs in Australia

Role:

To act as a platform for debate.
The AIA's constitution prevents it from expressing an opinion on any topic in international affairs.



How the AIA Works





How the AIA Works: Events

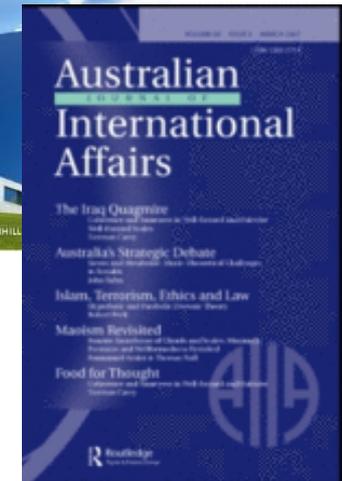
- More than 200 events organised annually across Australia
 - Most are events for the general public organised in states and territories
 - National Office organises policy events





How the AIA Works: Publications

- *Australian Journal of International Affairs*
 - Published since 1947
 - Regularly ranked among the top 50 international affairs journals globally (highest-ranked outside Europe and North America)
- *Australia in World Affairs* series
 - Published since 1950
 - Five-yearly series published by Oxford University Press





How the AIA Works: Youth

Initiatives for/by the AIA's young members:

- Bursaries and scholarships
- Schools program
- Young professionals networks
- Youth publications
- Careers fairs
- Internships in national, state and territory offices





How the Alla Works: Dialogue

- Dialogues allow the Alla to contribute to international affairs policy debates
- Organisational cooperation with other international institutes
- Second-track dialogue allows the Alla to serve as a bridge between official and civil society



What AIA Offers Stakeholders

Key audiences

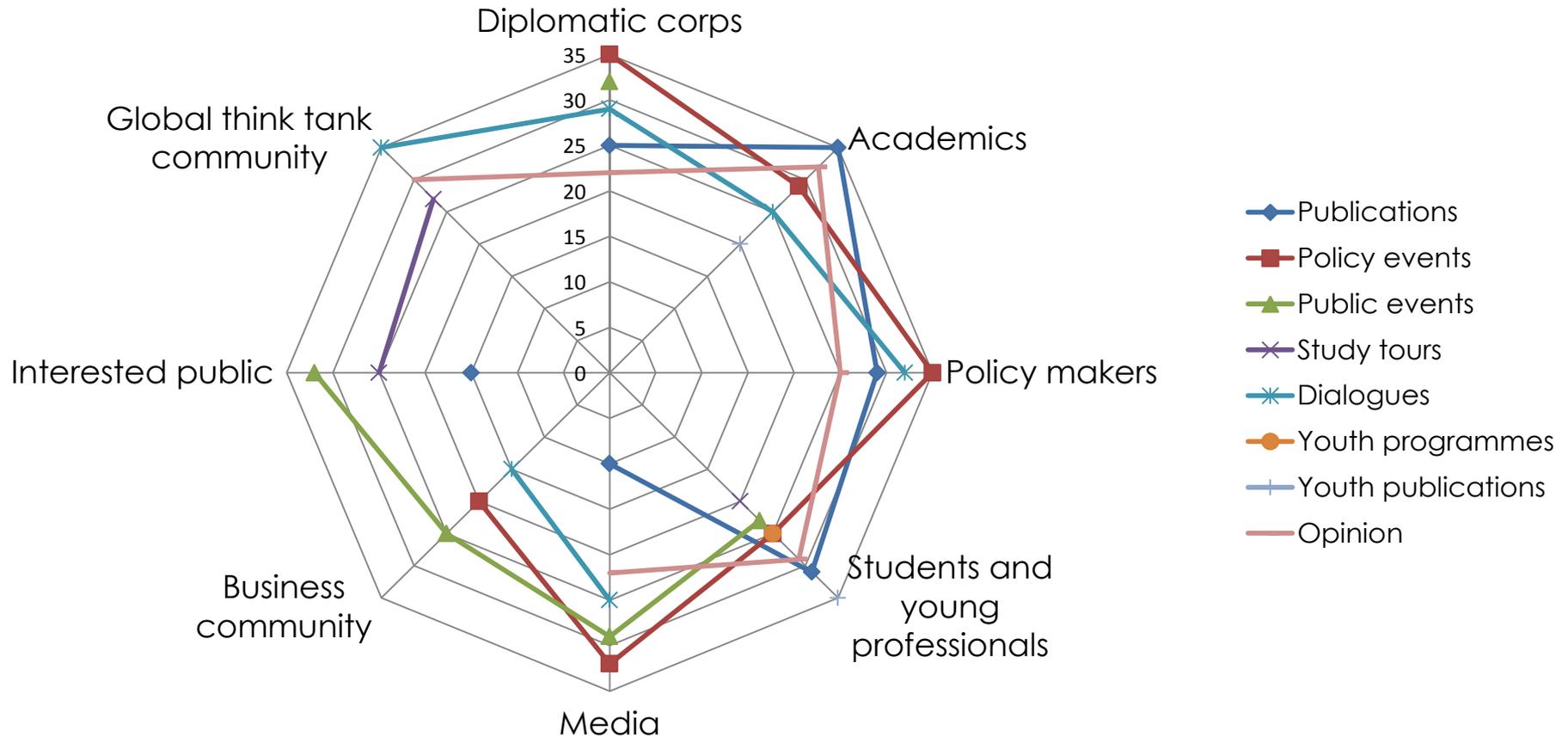
- Policy makers
- Academics
- Students and young professionals
- Diplomatic corps
- Business community
- Media
- Interested public
- Global think tank community

Products/services

- Publications
- Policy events
- Public events
- Study tours
- Dialogues
- Youth programmes
- Youth publications
- Opinion



What AIA Offers Stakeholders





Funding

The Alla is funded through:

- Membership fees
- Donations
- Event attendance
- Publication royalties
- Property rent
- Government grants (especially the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)



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