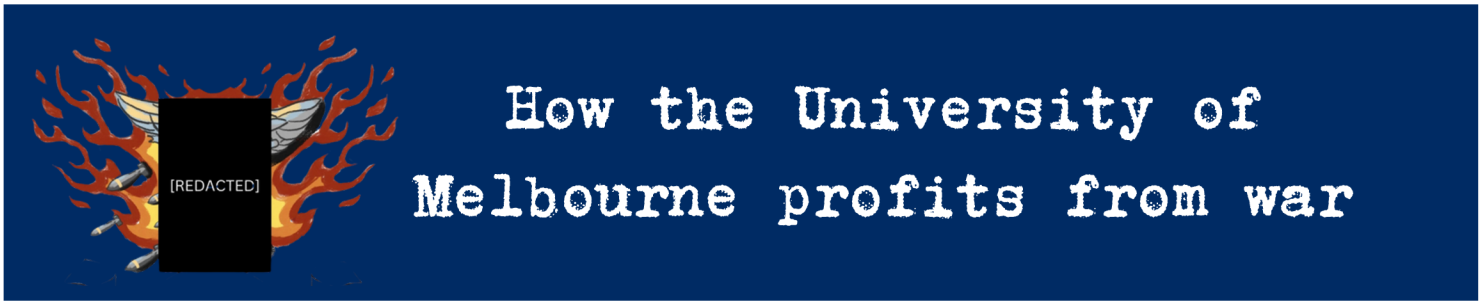
HOW

[THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE]

PROFITS FROM WAR

**the University threatened us for our creative parody of their logo. Is their brand identity more important than the lives of Palestinians?*



Lockheed Martin. Boeing. Raytheon. BAE Systems.

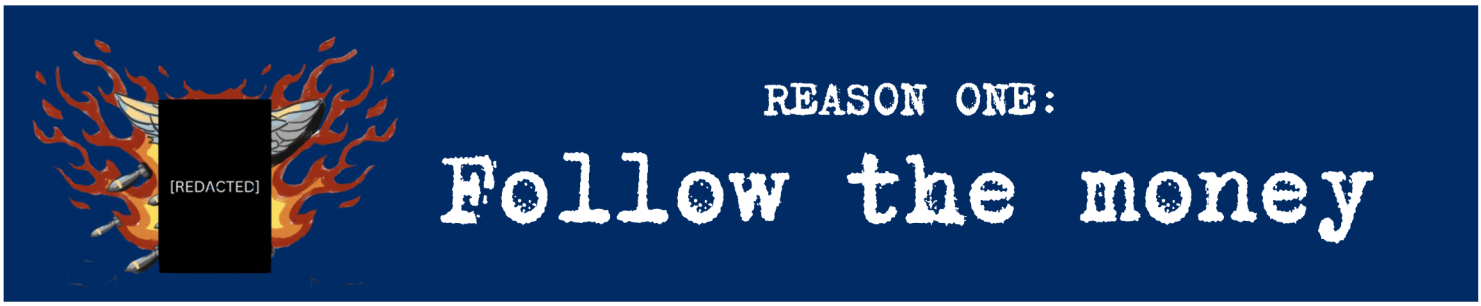
These are just some of the major weapons manufacturers the University of Melbourne has close ties with, all of whom have direct links to Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

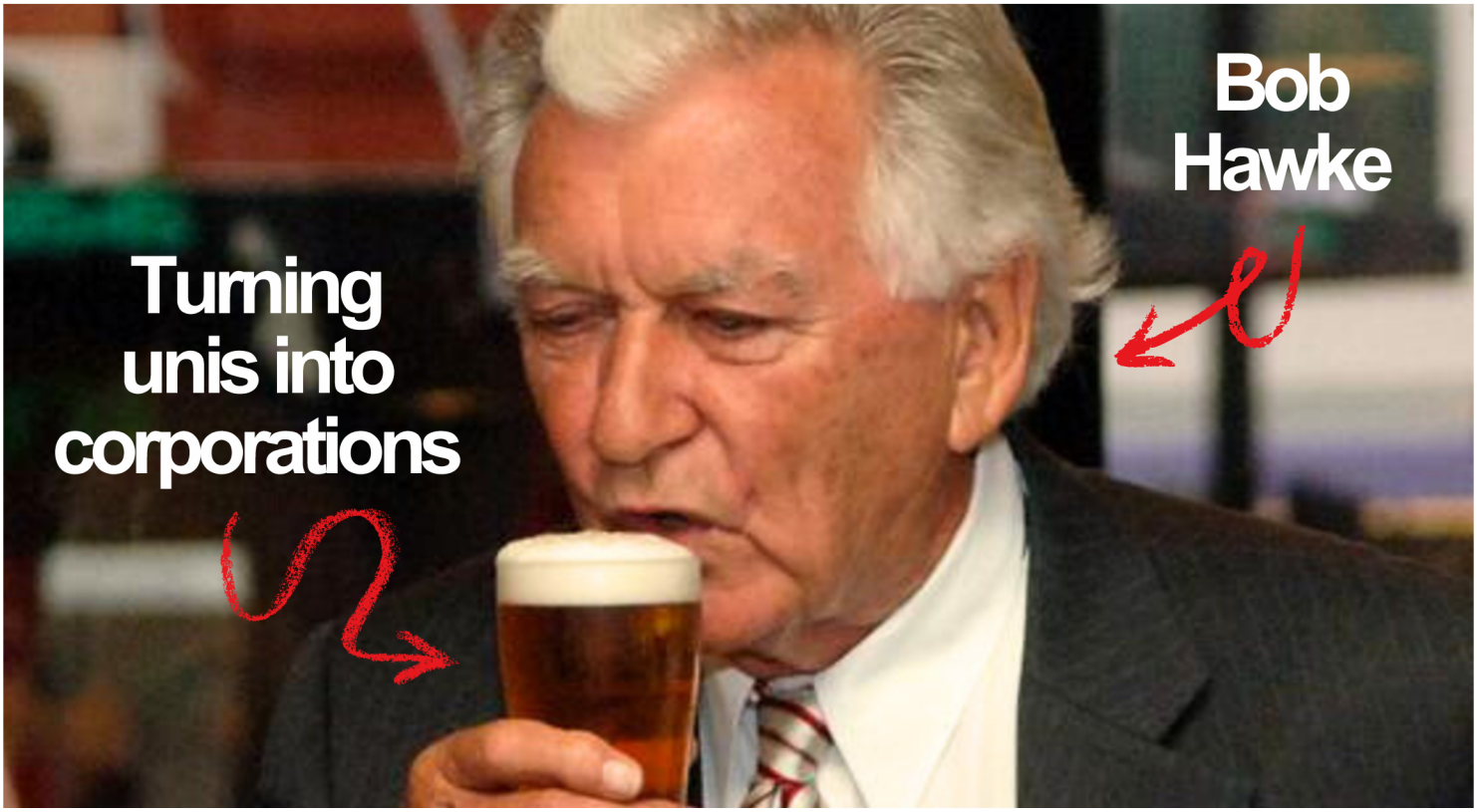
This year UniMelb wrapped up a research project with the Australian defence company Rosebank Engineering. The project developed technology for repairing military aircraft, including the **F/A-18 Hornet attack bomber and Lockheed Martin's notorious F-35 fighter jet, which has been used in Israel's bombing of Gaza.**

As well as receiving direct research funding from 13 different weapons manufacturers, UniMelb also has a new Vice-Chancellor - Professor Emma Johnston - who brings with her a history of deals with weapons manufacturers. In 2022, she signed a landmark deal with Thales for the University of Sydney.

So, why do universities partner with weapons companies?

FUN FACT: Thales been accused of war crimes in the International Criminal Court





PROFIT$

The first and most obvious reason that universities make and keep close ties with weapons companies is, of course, profit.

After the Hawke Labor government introduced student fees and started deregulating the tertiary education sector, universities were forced to partner with corporations and focus their research on things that were in line with the interests of profitable industries, including one of the most profitable: **war.**

Research contracts usually involve a cost multiplier, where the uni gets a nice chunk of revenue for itself based on the cost of a project.

Commercial research projects like the ones UniMelb has with 13 different weapons manufacturers often have a 3x cost multiplier, meaning that a $200,000 research project requires an additional $400,000 that goes directly to university coffers.

The University of Melbourne takes in over $200 million per year from commercial research contracts.

AUKU$ PILLAR 2

These are not random, one-off contracts either. **UniMelb is structurally tied to the Australian military and the defence of Australia's "national interests".**

For example, UniMelb is heavily involved with AUKUS, the military partnership between Australia, the UK and the US.

You might have heard of the nuclear submarine deal in AUKUS Pillar 1, but did you know AUKUS Pillar 2 seeks to promote collaboration between universities, militaries and weapons companies? This is to "ensure that each nation has the capabilities needed to defend against rapidly evolving threats".

UniMelb is one of eight Australian universities that AUKUS is funding to conduct research into "cyber offence, naval combat, weapons systems, and electronic warfare".

In the words of UniMelb's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Mark Cassidy, a big part of this AUKUS deal is to "grow the STEM talent pipeline". Or, in other words, to **turn the STEM students of today into the war criminals of tomorrow**.

how it started:

how it's going:

WAR ON CHINA

What are the "rapidly evolving threats" that require universities like UniMelb to play a leading role in the military industrial complex? **The stated reason: China.**

Think tanks like the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) openly argue the AUKUS partnership is necessary in order to "maintain a technical edge over China". This kind of rhetoric is backed by UniMelb's very own Michael Wesley, who has published articles arguing **the Australian government should increase military spending in response to "the collapse of Australia's defences in a contested Asia".**

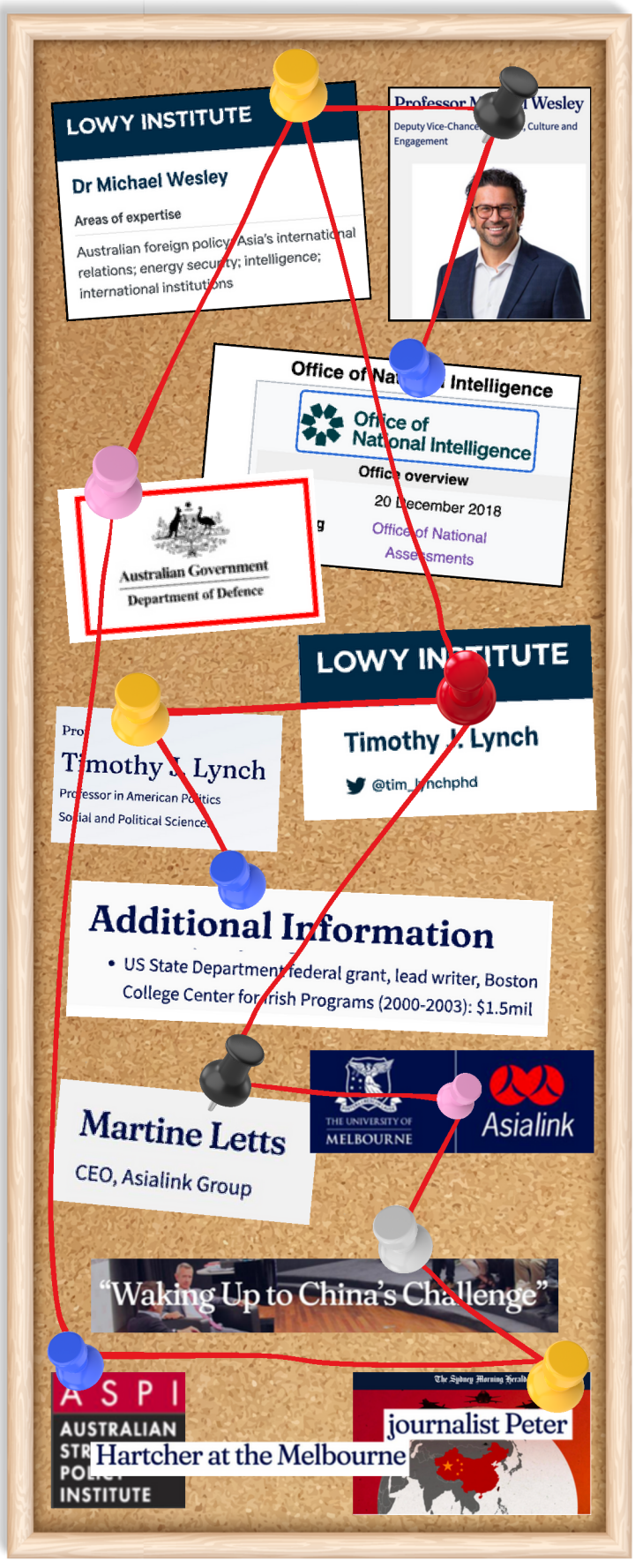
This is from the same guy who wrote a piece titled "Towards a Realist Ethics of Intervention," where he advocated for "the just use of coercive force," and who praised the invasions of Afghanistan and Haiti which killed over 250,000 people.

Toward a Realist Ethics of Intervention

*Michael Wesley**

Abstract

In this article, I explore the possibilities for developing a realist-informed normative framework for humanitarian intervention in the context of the post-September 11international concern with transnational threats.

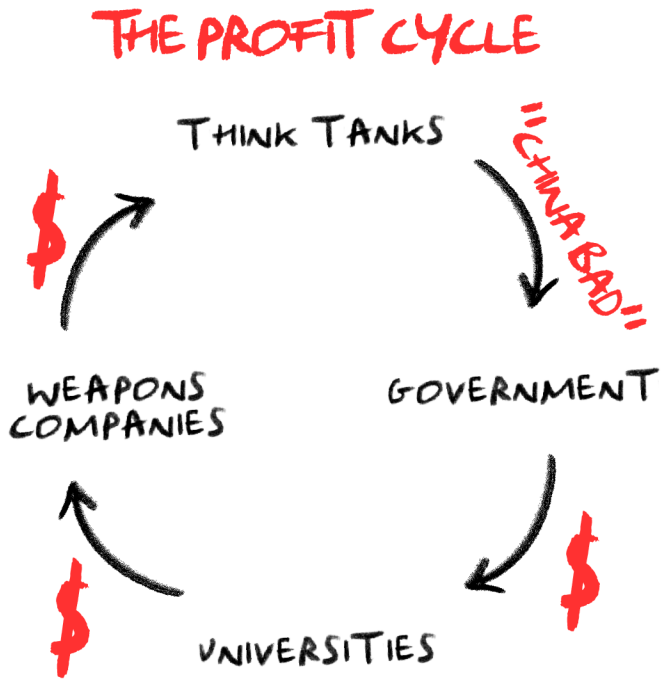


REASON THREE:

WHO'S THE ENEMY?

PROFITING OFF ANTI-CHINA

But think tanks like ASPI, far from being "independent," are **directly funded by the same weapons manufacturers that profit from these research deals. This is a clear conflict of interest:** weapons companies fund think tanks to publish articles about the China threat in order to manufacture consent for more military spending, which leads to research grants that are profitable to both universities and weapons companies. The picture becomes even more sinister when we consider the revolving door of personnel between the university, the government, and weapons manufacturers.



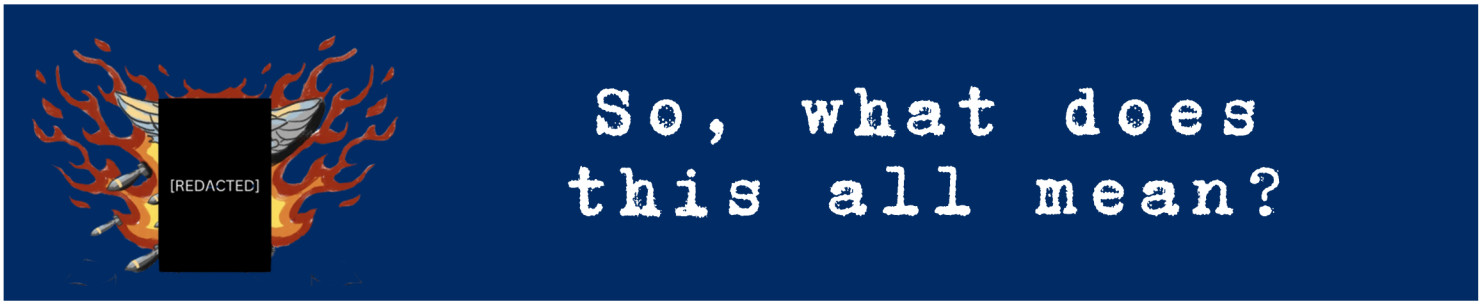
Pine Gap, a US surveillance base in Alice Springs which has been used against Palestine, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Iraq & many other US military interventions

IS CHINA THE ENEMY?

Everyday, we're bombarded with media rhetoric like the above about the threat of China. But is China a threat?

China doesn't have military bases stationed around Australia, but the US does, such as Pine Gap— a global intelligence and surveillance network near Alice Springs which assists the Israeli genocide. China hasn't invaded more than a dozen countries in the last 40 years, but the US has.

So, who's the real enemy?



So, what does this all mean?

The recent Palestinian solidarity movements around the world have revealed the deals universities are signing with weapons companies, including right here at UniMelb.

But while student and faculty protesters have been steadfast in holding the uni to account, UniMelb still has not cut its ties with weapons companies.

Instead, the Vice Chancellor banned indoor protests at the start of this semester, clearly in response to the Palestinian solidarity protests held at Mahmoud's Hall (formerly the Arts West building) last year.

This is unacceptable and we must fight back. We demand that UniMelb divest not only from all its ties to weapons companies, but also from conducting R&D for the military, from turning science students into war criminals, and from pumping out "research" that's really just anti-China propaganda paid for by foreign governments.

The Australian government, along with the US and UK, are using universities to aggressively expand our military capacity in the cold war with China. This doesn't serve anyone but billionaires, arms manufacturers and the political elite.

It's time to demilitarise our universities.

Want to know more?

Full References Available Here

Unimelb4Palestine, Expose Report,
"Unimelb's Complicity in Genocide: Ties to Weapons Manufacturers"
(Not affiliated)

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which this zine was made, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.

Sovereignty was never ceded.
This always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

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