

# Australia: Security in the Indo-Pacific

Week 4

# Strategic Cycles

- 5 cycles since Federation
  - After the Boer War
  - After the First World War : Singapore strategy
  - After Second World War: Forward Defense
  - After the Vietnam War: Defence of Australia

- Balance commitments and resources
- Two poles:
  - Cannot defend themselves
  - The region
- Government: strike a balance

# Boer War

- 1899-1902
  - 16,000 men (pop.<4 M)
  - horsemen
- Federation 1901
  - Department of Defence
  - Australian Army
- Court martial of Lieutenant 'Breaker' Morant and Lieutenant Handcock in 1902



# The Singapore Strategy

- Before WW2 : +++ Great Britain and British Commonwealth
- fortress of Singapore = Australia's guarantee of security.
- arguments between Australia and Britain
  - return of Australia's troops from the Middle East
  - fall of Singapore to the Japanese
- Australia realised Britain unwilling and unable to provide support

# WW2

- Prime Minister John Curtin
  - “Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom.”
  - December of 1942

# Forward Defence

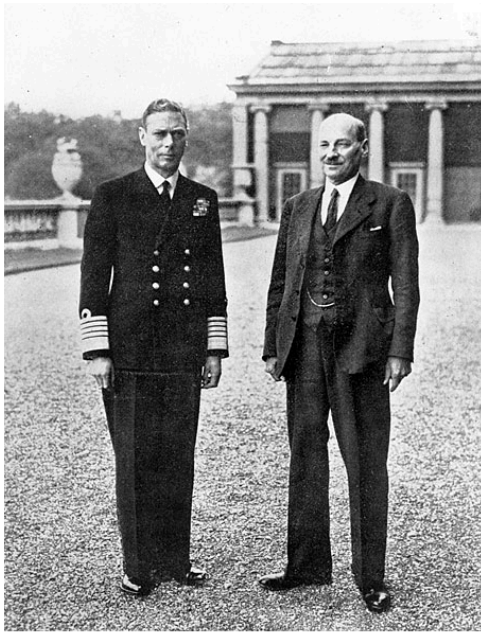
- Japan vanquished X immediate threat.
- Threat:
  - post-colonial Indonesia
  - communist China and
  - the Soviet Union.
- Strategic Environment:
  - communist insurgencies,
  - « democratic »/communist battle.
- communism rather than imperialism.
- post-colonial states in the region were affected by
  - weak institutions
  - Insurgencies
  - corrupt governments
  - coups and military dictatorships
- Formal alliances:
  - **1951: ANZUS Treaty.**
  - **SEATO** in 1954
- Immediate region

# Forward Defense

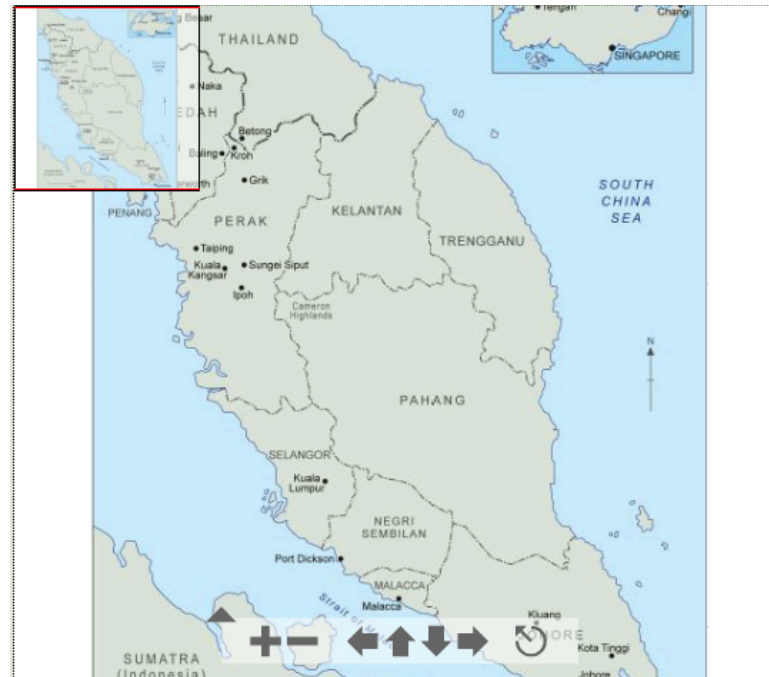
- Malayan Intervention
- Konfrontasi
- Vietnam War



# Malayan Emergency



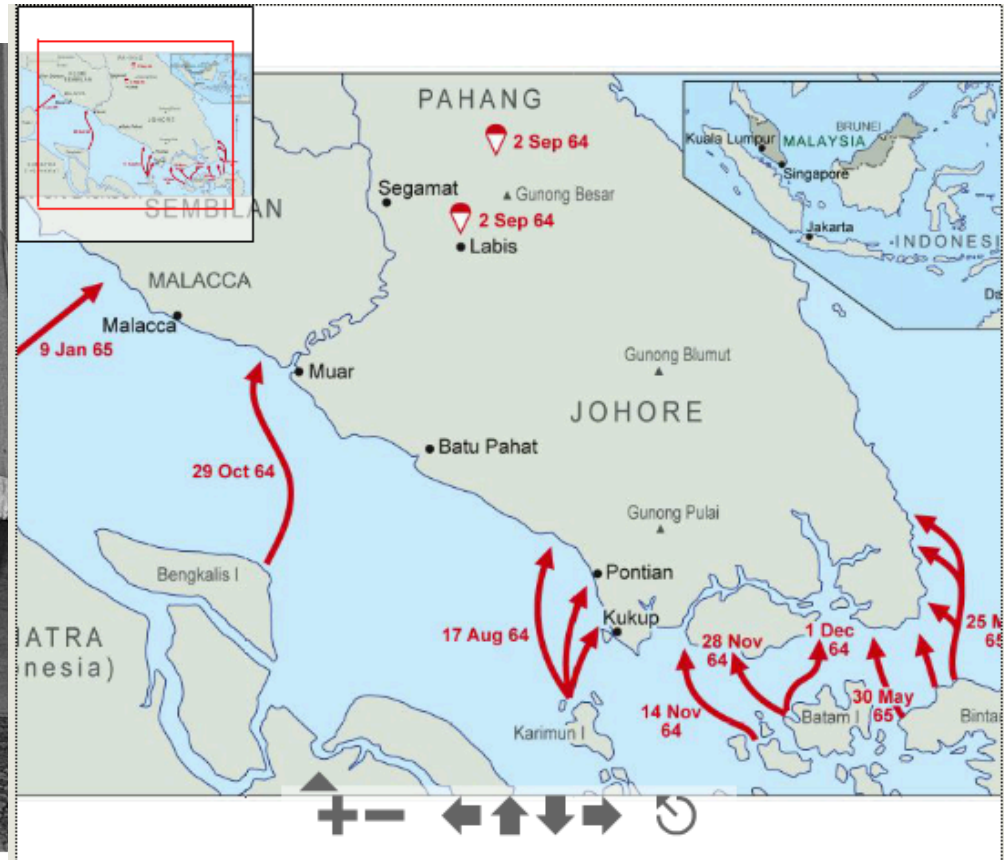
British Prime Minister Clement Attlee alongside King George VI (in uniform). Succeeding Winston Churchill, Attlee was Prime Minister during the vital years between 1945 and 1951. His government's foreign policy was marked by contradictions: the seemingly eager move away from colonial rule in the sub-continent contrasted with a 'new colonialism' in Africa. The British administration's policy in post-war Malaya was also characterised by contradictions and changes of heart. [AWM P02018.404]

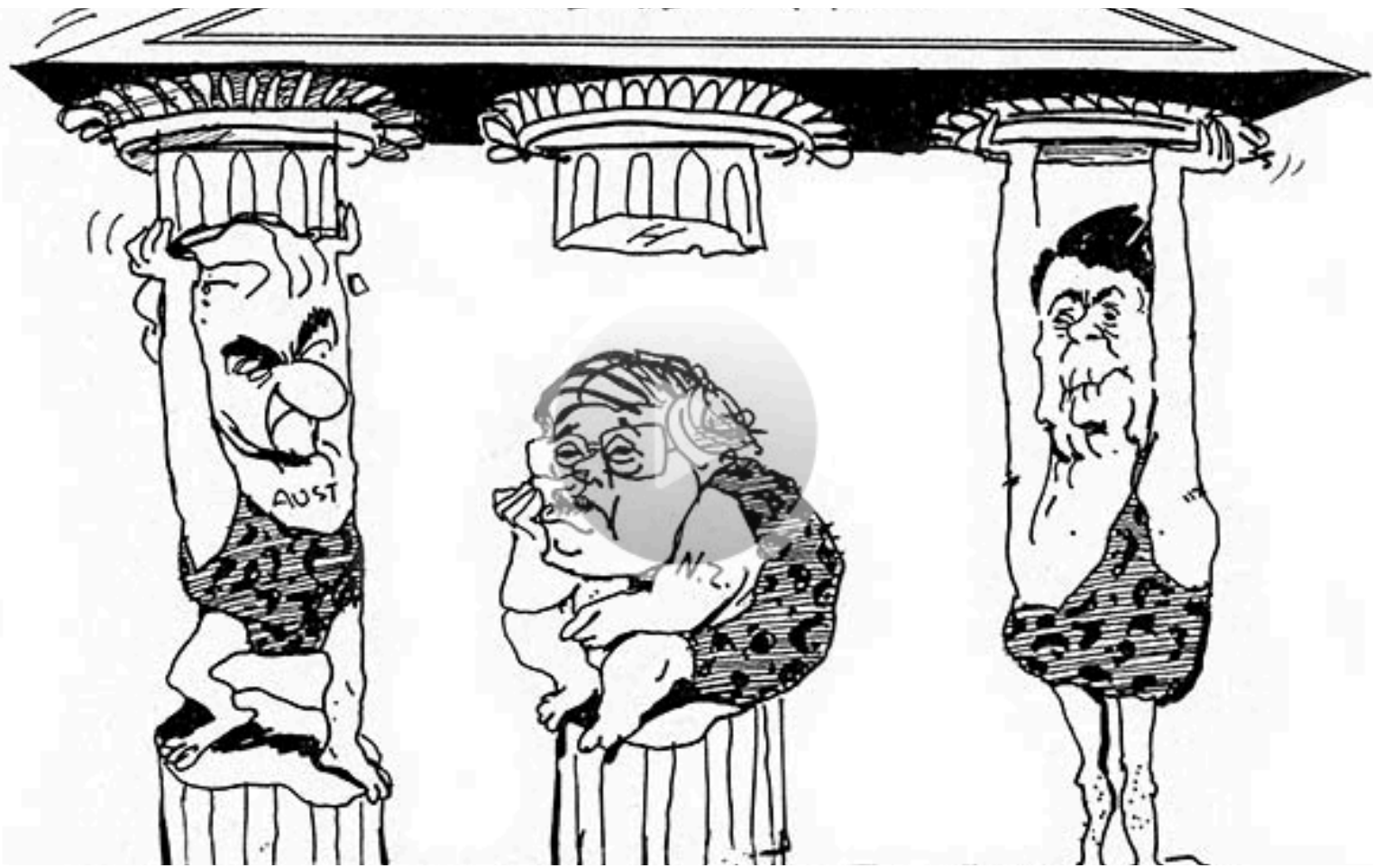


# Konfrontasi



From right to left, Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies, Indonesian President Sukarno, Dame Pattie Menzies, and Mrs Hartini Sukarno at the Indonesian presidential palace in 1959. Well educated and fluent in several languages, President Sukarno was entirely at home on the world stage. He nevertheless pursued an expansionary and largely anti-western foreign policy. [National Archives; image noA1775, RGM73; barcode 11668194]





# Vietnam War

- American confidence and prestige depleted
- 1969 : Nixon 'Guam Doctrine'

# Defence of Australia

- 1960s Sukarno → Suharto
- 1969: Nixon Guam Doctrine
- 1973: 'Australia must now assume the primary responsibility for its own defence against any neighbourhood or regional threats'
- 1976 White Paper
- *Defence of Australia 1987.*
  - Dobb argued that the continent of Australia could be defended by using high-tech air and naval forces to dominate Australia's northern air and maritime approaches
- Self reliance

# Timor- Leste: Five key stages

- 1600's A Portuguese colony.
- 1975 The Indonesian invasion.
- 1975-1999 Indonesian occupation
- 1999 The gaining of independence
- 2006 Political difficulties.

# East Timor



**Facts and Figures**

**Population:** approximately 850,000

**Religion:** predominantly Roman Catholic

**Per capita income:** less than 1 US dollar per day (2000 World Bank estimate)

**Demographics:** 15 percent of population under 5 years of age

**Major exports:** coffee, sandalwood

**Armed forces (projected):** 1,500 active, 1,500 reserves

**Area:** 15,007 square kilometers

**Boundary with Indonesia:** 228 kilometers

**Coastline:** 706 kilometers

How did East Timor succeed in becoming an independent state?

3 FACTORS:

- The armed resistance
- The civil resistance
- The international diplomatic front



# East Timor

- high-tech naval and air units played a critical role in the operation
- the limited availability of deployable logistic units and infantry



Nicholson

11.19.04