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Mainstream media is not being even-handed in its position on Chinese militarism in the South China Sea. Why would be in Australia's interest to act as deputy for the US in the Pacific and ramp up a military response to this conflict instead of advocating diplomacy in the UN?

Our great friend and ally, the US, is responsible for 34 per cent of global spending, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and has 800 bases in foreign countries. It has not made the world safer, quite the opposite.

Do we hear much about the reluctant host populations of US bases in the Pacific, such as Jeju Island, off South Korea where people have been fighting an eight-year campaign against a naval base? The people of Guam and Okinawa have been upset by the autocratic imposition of US bases as well.

How about being a country that builds peace and not endless war?

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