

## U.S-Australia enhanced military alliance in counterbalancing China's rise in Indo-Pacific (2011-2016)

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Abstrak

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The rising importance of the Indo-Pacific to the world's politics, economic and security accompanied with the significant rise of China's economy and military power in the region has shifted the U.S. military focus from the Middle-East to the Indo-Pacific region. In 2011, Obama announced its grand policy called "Rebalance to Asia" as a respond to the rise of China and was manifested as a counterbalancing efforts. In doing so, the U.S. intended to increase its military presence through enhanced military alliance with its allies in the region. Australia is the US staunchest ally in the region under the alliance of ANZUS Treaty. Besides, the two countries also shared converging national interests and threat perceptions towards China's growing military power and assertive in the region. This article discussed the U.S-Australia military alliance as a support to the U.S. Rebalance Strategy in counterbalancing China's rise in the Indo-Pacific region. The enhanced military alliance indicated that the US will remain engage in region. In addition, the research is constructed by using the concept of balance of power and military alliance through qualitative research method.