

## Gray Zone – The Alliance is the Message

### Description

Episode 79 of the *Irregular Warfare Podcast* explores the gray zone and how the US-Australia alliance enables [irregular warfare campaigns](#) in the Indo-Pacific theater of operations.

Our guests begin by defining the gray zone and what is meant by the term influence. They then discuss examples of China’s gray zone strategy in the context of global security challenges. Our guests conclude with recommendations on why the alliance between Australia and the United States is critical in effectively competing in the gray zone.

[Clementine Starling](#) is the director of the Atlantic Council’s Forward Defense program. In her role, Clementine shapes the Center’s US defense research agenda, leads the Forward Defense team, and produces thought leadership on US security strategies and the evolving character of warfare. Clementine’s 2021 strategy paper, [“Seizing the Advantage: A Vision for the Next US National Defense Strategy,”](#) is the focus of this podcast.

[David Van](#) is a member of the Australian Senate for Victoria. During his time in the Senate, David has spoken in chambers extensively on foreign affairs, defense and trade, and energy and the environment. He is a vocal advocate on gender issues and Australia-Israeli ties. David is the deputy chair of the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs and a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Trade as well as deputy chair of the Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation.

[Adam Darnley-Stuart](#) and [Julia McClenon](#) are the hosts for Episode 79. Please reach out to Adam and Julia with any questions about this episode of the [Irregular Warfare Podcast](#).

The *Irregular Warfare Podcast* is a production of the [Irregular Warfare Initiative](#) (IWI). We are a team of volunteers dedicated to bridging the gap between scholars and practitioners in the field of irregular warfare. IWI generates written and audio content, coordinates events for the IW community, and hosts critical thinkers in the field of irregular warfare as IWI fellows. You can follow and engage with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

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