

## POST EVENT ARTICLE

from the AICC(WA)'s Annual Geo Political Event in Perth WA on 25 November 2021,  
featuring directly online from the USA

**Mr Gregory R. Copley AM, President ISSA, The International Strategic Studies Association,  
Washington DC.**

This event was hosted by [Mills Oakley](#) and co-sponsored by [Livingonline](#)



**From L to R: Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region, Legalise Cannabis WA, Mr John Cluer, Chief Executive, Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (WA), Ms Meriel Steadman, Partner, Mills Oakley, Mr Andrew Pickford, Senior Fellow, ISSA – The International Strategic Studies Association, Washington DC, USA, Mr Mike Deeks, Group MD, Blue Ocean Monitoring, Mr Brendan Taylor, Partner, Mills Oakley and Mr Evan Cunningham-Dunlop, CEO & Founder, Living Online**

Described by AICCWA Chief Executive Mr John Cluer as one of the great thinkers, philosophers, writers and commentators of our time, Mr Greg Copley AM, features regularly in the Chamber's annual geopolitical events. To a "full house" with sweeping City views in the ideal setting of law firm Mills Oakley, Managing Partner Mr Brendan Taylor welcomed guests.

### Why Israel

The AICC(WA) [www.aiccwa.org.au](http://www.aiccwa.org.au) is a unique and highly effective Chamber of Commerce that facilitates bilateral trade, delegations and information exchange between Israel and

Western Australia. The strength of the Chamber extends to local business networking and events, and to connecting business opportunities with both a local and global focus.

Mr John Cluer, Chief Executive provided an overview of Israel's current economic activity, and shared a [video presentation](#) of Israel's culture and ethos. Some of Israel's recent economic accomplishments mentioned by Mr Cluer include;

- Israel accounts for some 8% of global unicorns, but for just 0.1% of the global population. There are now 74 Israeli-founded unicorns with a combined value of \$US201 billion. The number of new unicorns in Israel is continuing to grow at an “unprecedented rate,” with 24 new ones, almost one a week, announced in the first six months of 2021 alone.
- In Israel, tech firms raised a staggering \$US17.8 billion in the first three quarters of the year, 71% more than the amount raised in all of 2020, itself a record year. A further \$US3 billion has been raised in October 2021.
- Israel's tech industry, which as of end 2020 accounted for over 50% of the nation's exports, has been instrumental in fuelling the nation's economy over the past few years and has been key to mitigating the blow of the pandemic. Overall, exports for the full year are forecast to reach \$US135 billion, a 24% increase from 2020.
- Australian Minister of Trade, Tourism and Investment Mr Dan Tehan recently met with Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Ms Orna Barbivai to examine the viability of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the countries, and to examine ways and tools to strengthen trade relations between Israel and Australia.
- Israel has a very strong talent pool and has been acknowledged as a world leader in the quality of scientific research institutions. This is complemented by Venture Capital markets and academic Technology Transfer structures that provide innovative models to support commercialisation. Israeli technology development continues to substantially grow, with many Israeli companies looking to partner and invest offshore.

Israel has been economically challenged by COVID19 as much as any other nation, yet has led global decision making on vaccination programs, border control and scaled lockdown. The country has broadened its global economic influence through sustained innovation and start-up business, which in turn has continually strengthened its geopolitical standing overtime.

Nonetheless it is the resilience of existential challenge and economic drive that modern Israel has endured over its brief history that has assisted the country to both manage and control threats of all manner, to overcome the most complex of problems, and to overlay this with a culture of happiness and optimism. Mark Regev explains “While being more and more entrepreneurial, Israel, with all our internal fissions, still maintains a high degree of social solidarity, at the same time displaying a progressive tolerance and acceptance of diversity. And despite embracing dynamism, technology, innovation and globalism, Israelis tend to be grounded in their unique cultural and historical heritage.”

It is this context that links the experience of Israel to the global geopolitical outlook described by Mr Copley through his presentation.



Mr Gregory R. Copley AM, President, ISSA-The International Strategic Studies Association, Washington DC, USA

### Keynote Address

Mr Copley's conversation was facilitated by Mr Andrew Pickford, on the topic of his [recent book](#) "The New Total War of the 21st Century and the Trigger of the Fear Pandemic".

Mr Pickford noted Mr Copley has a vast track record of seeing trends within foreign policy before others can, which was ably demonstrated through his address.

Mr Copley advocated that the new total war of the 21st Century began as far back as the end of the Cold War. "War is complex, and became exponentially more complex as the 21st Century grew".

He says that a simmering conflict became a "total war" of a new type, erupting in 2020, openly from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). "We have entered an inflection point of history and potentially the end of an unprecedented era of scientific and economic growth".

He also contextualised Australia and the Western world central strategic challenge by noting that contemporary war is no longer a military battle between nation states. The premise of war itself has changed to incorporate a wide range of activities that are not always perceived as hostile actions of a belligerent power.

The kinetic war of the battlefield is also driven by social and cultural conflict.

Focussing on the notion of the "fear pandemic", a subtitle of Mr Copley's book, the topic of regional hegemony was framed as a power struggle between two ideological positions.

Many individuals are torn through this culture war between the emotions of mass psychosis and individual sovereignty.

Leaving no doubt that it will be economic levers that drive what will next occur, Mr Copley proposed that the impact of inflation will be stronger than the impact of war.

Citing an extended period of economic growth and prosperity, Mr Copley linked intractable and overwhelming debt levels, and a two year hiatus of economic suspension as the key areas of risk.

Australia is impacted by both a reduction in productivity, and the not yet fully disclosed economic position of China.

Another trend was a change to the type of technology now being evolved. Whilst more technically sophisticated, current technological innovation may not be as disruptive to the many economic, lifestyle and political expectations that sit within Western Society.

Mr Copley suggested that although geopolitical tensions remain high, an interdependency between the USA and China for food trade, aspirations for economic self-sufficiency, and the emerging powerbase of countries such as Russia and India will be enough to avoid kinetic warfare in the current age.

He cited Russian authorities who remarked that “80% of warfare into the future will be non-military”, and quotations from the PRC that suggested nearly all conflict would be non-military, or at least would not engage the military in kinetic operations.

Through dialogue with his audience, Mr Copley went on to discuss military procurement. There was considerable focus on the relevance and importance of the new AUKUS agreement, the creation of an Australian nuclear industry, and the yet to be considered full consequences of this strategic shift.

On the topic of COVID-19, Mr Copley suggested that the valid theories regarding the Wuhan laboratory origins of the virus, whether deliberately released or not, remain inconsequential to the way in which the conversation was weaponised following the outbreak of the pandemic.

Mr Copley concluded that Australia is best positioned to explore greater efficiency through self sufficient manufacturing, the evolution of robotics, and other initiatives to insulate against global supply disruption.

Australia will be unable to remain passive in an escalating environment of global geopolitical tension, but at the same time, across the world it will be society, and not the state, that will dominate the conduct of the New Total War.

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To view Greg R. Copley's bio [CLICK HERE](#)

And visit The International Strategic Studies Association website: [www.StrategicStudies.org](http://www.StrategicStudies.org)

Please scroll down to see event photographs below....



Event Q & A Facilitator, Mr Andrew Pickford, Senior Fellow, ISSA – The International Strategic Studies Association, Washington DC, USA



**Welcome Address by Mr Brendan Taylor, Partner, Mills Oakley**



**Vote of Thanks by Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region, Legalise Cannabis WA**



**Call to visit Israel by former AG WA Govt UK/Europe Office & AICC(WA) Delegation to Israel Trade Co-Leader in 2018, Mr Mike Deeks, Group MD, Blue Ocean Monitoring**



**Mr Jon Wilson, Director, 3 Pillars Asia Pacific and Dr Howard Carr Business Development Consultant, All Classic Enterprises, Dr Stuart Silbert OAM and Mr John Silbert, Architect**



**Mr Darryl Bruce, State Manager, FIG Securities, Mr Steve O'Keefe, Director, SA O'Keefe & Associates Pty Ltd, Mr Kelechi Anyaegbu, Founder & Principal Consultant, Data Engineering Pty Ltd and Hon Keith Wilson AM, Director, Meeting for Minds**



