



The Library Hour with Stephen Cutting

David Kilcullen- The Dragons and the Snakes

How the Rest Learned to Fight the West

Our fortnightly program 'The Library Hour' on UGFM normally runs from 10am on the second and fourth Friday of the month. It is not currently running in its usual format, but interviews continue to be recorded via skype and shared with the UGFM audience.

This is the first in a series of interviews with authors who reside overseas and write for an international audience.

On this episode of The Library Hour, presenter Stephen Cutting interviews David Kilcullen on his book THE DRAGONS AND THE SNAKES - How the Rest Learned to Fight the West.

Just a few years ago, people spoke of the US as a hyperpower - a titan stalking the world stage with more relative power than any empire in history. Yet as early as 1993, newly appointed CIA director James Woolsey pointed out that although Western powers had 'slain a large dragon' by defeating the Soviet Union in the Cold War, they now faced a 'bewildering variety of poisonous snakes'.



In *The Dragons and the Snakes*, the eminent soldier-scholar David Kilcullen asks how this has come to pass, and what opponents of the West have learned during the last quarter-century of conflict. Applying a combination of evolutionary theory and detailed field observation, he explains what happened to the 'snakes'-non-state threats, including terrorists and guerrillas - and the 'dragons'-state-based competitors such as Russia and China.

He explores how enemies learn under conditions of conflict, and examines Western dominance over a very particular, narrowly defined form of warfare. David examines how this definition since the Cold War has created a fitness landscape that forces adversaries to adapt in new ways, presenting serious new challenges to America and its allies.

