

University of Western Australia Press

# Media Release

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## THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY

Conservative Opinion in the Australian Press

By Niall Lucy and Steve Mickler

This provocative new title asks challenging questions about the published ideas of seven of Australia's most influential media commentators - **Luke Slattery, Miranda Devine, Gerard Henderson, Janet Albrechtsen, Andrew Bolt, Michael Duffy and Christopher Pearson** – unmasking a dubious political and social agenda which, according to the authors, is mad, bad and dangerous to know.

In *The War on Democracy*, authors Niall Lucy and Steve Mickler ride the roller coaster of recent changes in Australian political and cultural life and demonstrate how long-cherished democratic ideals in this country have been eroded and/or co-opted by various interest groups.

For if current conservative opinion writers are to be believed, Australian politics and culture continue to be infiltrated and dominated by left-wing ideologues, 'Marxists' and 'extremists' who are at odds with the gaggle of honest conservatives – or 'hon cons' – who represent the interests of 'ordinary' Australians. But as Lucy and Mickler reveal in their informed and engaging critique, the hon cons' discursive slight of hand is exactly that – a self-serving trick protecting the interests of a powerful and privileged few.

*The War on Democracy* is must-read for Australians of all persuasions interested in media, politics and the fate of democratic ideals. A savage journey to the heart of the conservative dream, this topical new title from UWA Press makes for compelling reading and is guaranteed to spark national media debate.

### LAUNCH INFORMATION

*The War on Democracy* will be launched by renowned comedienne Judith Lucy at Gleebooks (49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, Sydney) on Thursday 9 November, 2006 commencing at 6pm.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Niall Lucy** is a Fellow of the Australian Research Institute at Curtin University. His previous books include *A Derrida Dictionary* and *Beyond Semiotics: Text, Culture and Technology*.

**Steve Mickler** is Head of Media and Information at Curtin University and is the author of *The Myth of Privilege: Aboriginal Status, Media Visions, Public Ideas* and *Gambling on the First Race: Racism and Talkback Radio*.

### ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA PRESS

*Unique Australian Perspectives*

From new fiction, natural history and biography to children's books, the environment and contemporary issues, UWA Press gives fresh voice to exciting stories which have the capacity to captivate and entertain readers of all ages.

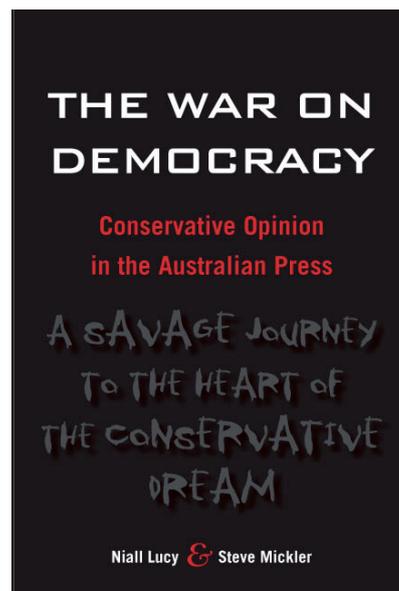
### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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