

"Russia and the West – the last two action-packed years 2017-19" (self-published, 2019).

3.I am active in the public discussion of foreign policy issues of concern to Australia as a sovereign country and UN member nation that supports an international rules-based order.

4.It is relevant that I testified before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security in early 2018 on its reference to examine the government's Foreign Interference Bills. I believe my testimony contributed to the Committee's suggested amendments, which the Government and Opposition both accepted, to remove the requirement for Australians to report their contacts with accredited foreign diplomats here. My testimony on that occasion is readily accessible in Hansard.

5.In these opening remarks I wish to pay tribute to the major commemoration in Moscow yesterday of the 75th Anniversary of the final surrender of Nazi forces in Berlin on 7 May 1945. The Soviet Union bore the brunt of WW2 in Europe. We must never forget that twenty-six million Soviet citizens, both military and civilian, paid with their lives for the alliance's heroic victory over Nazism.

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6.I have argued in my written submission why the use of 'autonomous sanctions', that is to say, sanctions imposed outside UN Security Council authority, should be considered unlawful under international law.