

Citation

Charles Garrard ('Garry') Woodard is an outstanding intellectual - a man of immense personal integrity who has honorably served his country at the highest diplomatic levels and in academe. Best known for his work as a diplomat, his appointments in public service comprise a series of high level diplomatic and advisory posts, over a period of over thirty years commencing in 1952, including periods of service in policy leadership and later as ambassador and high commissioner in several countries. Less evident is the trust which Woodard's seniors placed in the application of his intellectual capacities and personal integrity to policy issues in various non-ambassadorial positions. His diplomatic service was mirrored by appointments in the national assessment field in the Department of Defence.

Woodard's research publications and academic contributions in the years following his retirement from public service mark him as the premier diplomatic historian of his generation. Few scholars have written with Woodard's combination of historical rigour and analytical clarity, extensive archival research, while drawing on personal acquaintance with many of the major players, with judicious and clear assessment of aspects of Australian diplomatic and policy history.

His magisterial work *Asian Alternatives* (Melbourne U.P., 2006) is a subtle but sharp assessment of Sir Garfield Barwick as one of Australia's most distinctive foreign ministers, and a complex and well-balanced account of the decision to send Australian troops to Vietnam. No other work addresses the topic with such a combination of intellectual sophistication, personal knowledge of the major protagonists, and commitment to exploring the enduring importance of the historical issues canvassed.

Garry Woodard has served the University with distinction as an Honorary Senior Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences in the Faculty of Arts. He continues to confer with academic colleagues and expert media commentators, providing expert advice on Australian foreign policy, critically commenting on drafts of chapters and papers for a remarkable number of scholars - both young and established. He has lodged his historically important collection of private papers and provided a detailed oral history record for the National Library in Canberra.

In 2019, he was awarded an AO in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to international relations, particularly to Australia-Asia foreign policy, as a researcher, author and diplomat. He has been a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs since 2011 and was its National President 1991-1993.