



# CL Books

## PLAY BY THE RULES

**Michael Pembroke**  
**Hardie Grant Books**  
**RRP \$29.99**

**F**OR anyone who believes Donald Trump is single-handedly destroying the American dream and disrupting global peace and prosperity, this book is worth a read.

Michael Pembroke's gripping rundown of US foreign policy decisions from 1939 to present day shows hubris and exceptionalism were well entrenched in Washington even before Trump's ridiculous reign. He is just incredibly poor at hiding his motives.

From Truman's horrifying decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan in 1945 — despite the fact the island nation was ready to surrender — to the disturbing stories of CIA-orchestrated coups in the name of squashing communism, which have more frequently been about the economic interests of the US or its allies, Pembroke's compression of 70 years of controversial history into

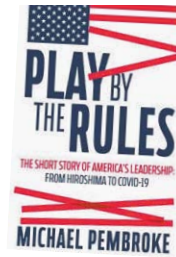
257 pages is enough to make anyone weep, especially this American reader.

He suggests the US has never played by the rules Franklin D Roosevelt so passionately set out in his vision for the United Nations, and since that great man's death in 1945 the self-proclaimed leader of the free world has been on a downward spiral.

It is dragging the whole world with it, and the descent is reaching breakneck speed.

Judging by Scott Morrison's recent move to re-arm and join the militarism movement, Australians should pay careful attention to what has been gained and lost due to the US's defence spending.

Have Google handy when reading. It is worth cross-checking how international media have covered each coup, trade dispute and controversial war.



— **Camille Smith**