

EXPAND AUKUS PILLAR TWO

<p>ISSUE</p>	<p>AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Pillar One focuses on Australia’s acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines. Pillar Two focuses on cooperation in emerging technologies and functional areas; currently, these include advanced cyber, artificial intelligence and autonomy, electronic warfare, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities, information sharing, innovation, quantum technologies, and undersea capabilities. Pillar Two should be expanded to include Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea to strengthen collective defense capabilities, promote technological innovation, and fortify economic ties.</p>
<p>SIGNIFICANCE</p>	<p>As the Indo-Pacific region faces growing security challenges from China’s military modernization and more ambitious foreign policy, the United States and its allies must adapt their security cooperation to meet the needs of an increasingly tech-centric balance of power. Expanding Pillar Two will help enhance defense-related technological capabilities, create a stronger coalition of like-minded countries, and send a message of unity and deterrence to Beijing.</p>
<p>EXPECTATIONS IN THE REGION</p>	<p>Many Indo-Pacific countries hope that Washington will maintain or even bolster its support for regional security. Expanding AUKUS Pillar Two would boost confidence in the U.S. commitment to the region while fostering closer ties with countries seeking to counterbalance China’s rapid military modernization. This expansion should be pursued with an emphasis on the defensive and deterrent nature of AUKUS.</p>
<p>DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS/ CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p>With due care for information security and intellectual property, sensitive technology can be shared and co-developed with current and additional AUKUS partners in ways that benefit the U.S. defense industrial base, enhance technological competitiveness, and reinforce global stability.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION</p>	<p>AUKUS Pillar Two should expand to include Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea—although this can be done progressively and does not need to involve all four countries in all eight areas. These nations are suitable because they have all expressed interest, share meaningful security interests with the United States, and possess strategic technological interests. Japan has extensive advanced manufacturing capabilities, South Korea is a force in defense industries such as hypersonics and shipbuilding, and Canada and New Zealand are members of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing arrangement with the AUKUS countries. Expanding Pillar Two is a vital step in countering China’s advances in critical technologies for military applications, and cooperation with allies and partners will accelerate U.S.-led progress in critical defense technologies to help outpace China’s efforts while improving allied interoperability.</p>