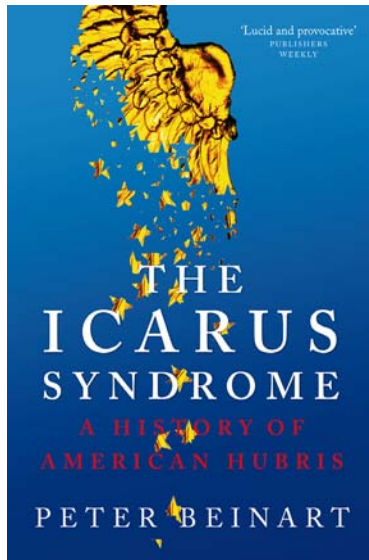


MEDIA RELEASE

Books with spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



MUP RRP \$34.99

PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE
01 July 2010

Peter Beinart will be visiting Australia from the US from 24–29 August. He will be attending the Melbourne Writers' Festival and will be available for interview.

For more information please contact **Dina Kluska** at MUP on 0409 011 092, or email dkluska@unimelb.edu.au

THE ICARUS SYNDROME A History of American Hubris

by Peter Beinart

'A cautionary message to avoid hubris and to recognize the messy reality of world politics.'

Paul Kennedy, author of The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers

The Icarus Syndrome tells a tale as old as the Greeks—a story about the seductions of success. Peter Beinart portrays three extraordinary generations: the progressives who took America into World War I, led by Woodrow Wilson, who for a moment became the closest thing to a political messiah the world had ever seen. The Camelot intellectuals who took America into Vietnam, led by Lyndon Johnson, who lay awake at night in terror that his countrymen considered him weak. And George W. Bush and the post-cold war conservatives, who believed they could simultaneously bludgeon and liberate the Middle East. In each case, like Icarus, America's leaders crafted 'wings'—a theory about America's relationship with the world. They flapped carefully at first, but gradually lost their inhibitions until, giddy with success, they flew into the sun.

In each case, new leaders and thinkers found wisdom in pain. They reconciled American optimism with the realities of a world that will never fully bend to our will. In their struggles lie the seeds of American renewal today.

Peter Beinart is Associate Professor of journalism and political science at the City University of New York and former editor of *The New Republic*. He is the senior political writer for *The Daily Beast* and a contributor to *Time*. Beinart is the author of *The Good Fight* (MUP, 2007). He lives with his family in Washington, D.C.

MELBOURNE · UNIVERSITY · PUBLISHING

MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · mup-info@unimelb.edu.au · www.mup.com.au