

Media Release



The
Wheeler
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Books
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Ideas

20 June 2011

The Wheeler Centre and the US Studies Centre present **three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, best-selling author and journalist Thomas Friedman** in his only Melbourne appearance.

On **29 July** at the **Melbourne Town Hall**, the **Wheeler Centre** welcomes one of the world's most influential minds. In a wide-ranging conversation about America and the world, and the new Middle East, he will preview his new book, *That Used to be Us: What Went Wrong with America? And How it Can Come Back*, to be published locally this September.

Thomas Friedman has witnessed and reported on the seminal moments of modern times. In 1982, six weeks before Israel invaded Lebanon, **Friedman** took up the post of Beirut Bureau Chief. His coverage of the resulting war garnered him his first Pulitzer. A stint as the Jerusalem Bureau Chief won him another. He became Chief Diplomatic Correspondent for the *New York Times* just in time to get 'a front-row seat for the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet empire, the first Gulf War, and the aftermath of Tiananmen Square.'

Following roles as Chief White House Correspondent and International Economics Correspondent, **Friedman** is now the author of five acclaimed books and writes the Foreign Affairs column for the *New York Times*. It was his columns written in the wake of September 11, 2001 which saw him awarded his third Pulitzer for 'his clarity of vision... in commenting on the worldwide impact of the terrorist threat'.

On the last Friday in July, **Thomas Friedman** will share his unique ability to capture the trends that will shape the future and bring complex issues to life. He talks to journalist and former politician Maxine McKew.

Fri, 29 Jul **Thomas Friedman in conversation with Maxine McKew**

Melbourne Town Hall, 90 – 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8:30pm

Tickets \$35 or \$15 concession through wheelercentre.com

In partnership with the Sydney Opera House and the US Studies Centre, this long-standing and influential commentator on the Middle East and global affairs shares his unique perspective and wealth of experience.

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.