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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 9 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Councillors** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors will share with you a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week we look look at the post-COVID world, the letters of an Australian diplomat, and a political podcast full of big ideas.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Welcome to the brave new world post COVID-19!**](https://www.eastasiaforum.org/)  “Do not expect a return to normality,” we are constantly being advised. Those who wonder what the world will look like once the corona virus is contained are recommended to read a [**series of posts**](https://www.eastasiaforum.org/) by international affairs scholars on the East Asia Forum of the ANU. Recent articles include for instance one on geopolitical competition in Asia by Jurgen Ruland of the University of Freiburg, on China’s new diplomacy by Jia Qingguo of Peking University and on Malaysia’s refugees by Thomas Daniel of ISIS Malaysia. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Jocelyn Chey AM. Jocelyn is an Adjunct Professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney, Visiting Professor at the University of Sydney and an Adjunct Professor at the Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture at Western Sydney University. She was previously a senior officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Jocelyn is a Fellow of Australian Institute of International Affairs. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**A Podcast to be Cheerful About**](https://www.cheerfulpodcast.com/reasons-to-be-cheerful-ed-miliband-geoff-lloyd)  I will be the first to admit that when I first heard that former UK Labour Leader Ed Milliband had a podcast I was a bit sceptical. Podcasts by politicians often lack charm or nuanced discussion or both. [**Reasons to be Cheerful**](https://www.cheerfulpodcast.com/) is not one of those! Each week Milliband and his co-host UK radio presenter Geoff Lloyd undertake political “blue sky thinking” asking big questions and looking for unusual solutions to modern day political dilemmas. The podcast tackles a wide range issues from deliberative democracy to climate change, trade and economics. It combines thought provoking political discussion with lighthearted anecdotes about daily life that makes for easy listening. This podcast is ideal for any political junkie stuck in isolation! Image credit: [**Cheerful Podcast**](https://www.cheerfulpodcast.com/about) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This podcast was selected by Alex McManis. Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Government and International Relations from the University of Sydney, where he wrote his thesis on the European Union's behaviour at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. He has served on the Council since 2019. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Intermittent Diplomat**](https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?isbn=052284359X&cm_sp=mbc-_-052284359X-_-all)  [**Intermittent Diplomat**](https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1113&context=artspapers), the Japanese and Indonesian diaries of the late Professor **[Macmahon Ball](http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ball-william-macmahon-12166)**, edited by Professor Alan Rix, is well worth reading at this time, when there is so much discussion of Australia’s actual and potential role as an “active middle power”. Ball, a noted University of Melbourne academic, was asked by Prime Minister Chifley at the end of World War II to carry out short term diplomatic missions to the Netherlands East Indies and to Japan. His role in Japan was to represent the British Commonwealth on the Allied Council for Japan, set up to advise the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, US General Macarthur. Macarthur didn’t feel he needed advice, and some in the British Government questioned the agreement between Australia and Britain to have the Commonwealth represented on the Council by Australia. Ball didn’t get on with Evatt, the Minister for External Affairs, and was in an almost impossible position from the start. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This book was selected by guest contributor Geoff Miller AO FAIIA, President of AIIA NSW from 2000-2004 and National Vice-President from 2005-2009. Geoff was a diplomat and senior official for over 40 years, serving as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Ambassador to Japan, head of the national intelligence assessment agency (ONA) and High Commissioner to New Zealand. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors, we will be inviting one of our interns to share with you what they have found insightful or interesting in the world of international affairs over the past week. This week, Thomas Shortridge introduces us to Naomi Klien's dive into post-pandemic politics, and plunder in Africa.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Naomi Klein on the Society after COVID-19**](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/may/13/naomi-klein-how-big-tech-plans-to-profit-from-coronavirus-pandemic)  The pandemic has inspired many to speculate about the societal changes that this global crisis will usher in after its conclusion. Naomi Klein [**offers**](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/may/13/naomi-klein-how-big-tech-plans-to-profit-from-coronavirus-pandemic) a particularly dystopian image of what this future may hold. Drawing on existing proposals and technologies, she shows that large tech corporations already have plans to use the fear of human bodies as potential carriers of disease to automate vast sectors of the workforce. Alongside this, governments will use the opportunity to entrench surveillance and tracking methods in their populations. If you are to read only one outlook on a post-covid world, it should be this one.  Image Credit: [**Colombia GSAPP**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsapponline/15207989277/in/photolist-psmP1i-paSVnF-7ozfV9-7VZh23-8RgCbY-34wPwQ-dg42dg-NLhP4t-aqso8N-cKF1Dw-ds3iPN-4EMFfP-GCyd6y-HNrv-CABSsz-qMXvhe-oPbPdq-dGCTta-oPbLCW-oRbEJW-7mXM9m-7mTTFa-7mTThv-7mTTKF-7mXMnE-4G9ZEP-ps5yiv-paSVXi-psmP56-paSW8Z-paRHFZ-psmMQn-ps5ysi-paSVBD-paSXf8-paS5UG-paSw9C-paRH7T-paRJKH-paS5hu-paSWHg-ps5yaK-psmNPr-ps5xZp-paSvGf-ps5y2P-paS5py-5ABx2u-5ABxeS-5Axi8i/) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Anatomy of a Bribe: Plundering Namibia**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=_FJ1TB0nwHs&feature=emb_logo)  In a break from COVID-19 news, [**this video**](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/anatomy-bribe-deep-dive-underworld-corruption-191201083510578.html) from Al Jazeera’s investigative reporting team comes from December last year. Yet the story it tells is unfortunately seemingly timeless. The documentary goes in-depth into a corruption scandal in one of Africa’s most stable democracies: Namibia. Anatomy of a Bribe tracks a specific Icelandic fishing company using illicit ‘donations’ to gain access to lucrative fishing sites in Namibia. The documentary is a broader condemnation of how multinational corporations continue to plunder developing nations and how all too often, this extraction is done in tandem with those nations’ own governments.  Image Credit: [**Al Jazeera**](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/anatomy-bribe-deep-dive-underworld-corruption-191201083510578.html) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Thomas Shortridge. Thomas is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. He also oversees the New South Wales Debating Union. His research interests focus on comparative politics, authoritarian regimes, democratic transitions and African politics. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * In an AIIA Victoria webinar on [**Asia after the pandemic**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suyC8bvJnj0&feature=youtu.be), Nick Bisley, Professor of International Relations at Latrobe University, foresees low economic growth, reduced China-US interdependency and increased strategic competition. * Lowy Institute researcher, Lavina Lee, argues in a [**new paper**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/assessing-quad-prospects-and-limitations-quadrilateral-cooperation-advancing-australia) that cooperation between the Quad countries is more important than ever since China is challenging the international rules-based order. * On Tuesday night the ABC aired the first episode of a new documentary series [**The Road to Now**](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/road-to-now)looking at how the world has changed since the fall of the Berlin Wall. * AIIA NSW Councillor Jocelyn Chey, [**writing**](https://johnmenadue.com/jocelyn-chey-hong-kongs-fate-in-the-balance/?mc_cid=ea35424ef0&mc_eid=a67e3c4e2d) in Pearls and Irritations, discusses how China's National People’s Congress could shape the future of Hong Kong. * Veteran defence analyst Brian Toohey reminds us of his [**concerns**](https://johnmenadue.com/brian-toohey-a-star-spangled-spanner-in-the-works-how-us-secrecy-controls-australian-weapons-smh-25-5-20/?mc_cid=525b5b2dd5&mc_eid=3b44e64159) about excessive dependence of Australian defence equipment on US systems and the lack of US reciprocity in defence commitments. | |  |  | | --- | |  | |