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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 10 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 Malaysian politics, Australia's G7 invite and what this expanded G7 might look like.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Malaysia: Unresolved Political Turbulence**](https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/insights/this-trial-from-god-the-politics-of-covid-in-malaysia)  In an [**address**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/news-item/the-new-malaysia-2/) to a joint meeting of AIIA NSW and the Australia-Malaysia Business Council NSW on 22 March, experienced Southeast Asian analyst Greg Earl analysed the background to the unexpected appointment of a relatively low-profile politician, Muhyuddin Yassin, as Malaysia’s prime minister, presiding over a heterogeneous coalition of mainly Malay politicians. An [**article**](https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/insights/this-trial-from-god-the-politics-of-covid-in-malaysia) on 26 May by Asialink senior adviser Donald Greenlees explores Muyhiddin’s recourse to the Covid-19 crisis – which his government has handled with reasonable success, implementing lockdowns and economic stimulus packages – to shore up his fragile coalition. Slender though his support is, it probably won’t be challenged until parliament resumes in July. Among those jockeying for power will be perennial pretender Anwar Ibrahim. Image credit: [**M+M Photographers**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/magda-maciek/3880411582/in/photolist-6UU8aY-dcavwN-ffeRyz-59WumR-PesZ5-4Jix21-8r4VQv-4JivPG-4JizKq-5gFNyj-5a1Xhf-59WzWT-2iSz41q-5a1Sad-24EA9YR-5a1V43-5a1NQj-4Jemtz-59WuEg-8r7ZaL-5a1NtG-59WwdM-SCsxgh-2dEBLnJ-59WwHP-59WJr6-4JemVi-5a1PUu-5a1KVo-4JiwJs-4Jek2a-59WvZr-5a1HA1-59WErD-5a1QFJ-5a1L2h-5a1TEJ-5a1U2N-4Jei8V-5a1Kpo-5a1KGy-4Jei1v-59WHWD-59WFDD-4JekzZ-2dEBLNd-24a7t1n-59WwsF-59Ww5F-59Www8) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ian Lincoln, President of AIIA NSW since 2017. Ian was in the Department of Foreign Affairs for 33 years including postings in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific. He was later an appellate member of the Refugee Review Tribunal and has worked in a number of community organisations. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Post-COVID Inclusion to G7+ Means Australia Needs to Step Up Its Game**](https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/key-enablers/6194-post-covid-inclusion-to-g7-means-australia-needs-to-step-up-its-game?utm_source=DefenceConnect&utm_campaign=01_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2&utm_emailID=20cf2edc015982f5a687fcef5f8e56a1a7d8a3a92d50585817a9f05c04bc97cb)  The US President’s idea of including Australia in the next G7 meetings heralds a major shift in the nation’s standing on the world stage. But Stephen Kuper [**writes**](https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/key-enablers/6194-post-covid-inclusion-to-g7-means-australia-needs-to-step-up-its-game?utm_source=DefenceConnect&utm_campaign=01_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2&utm_emailID=20cf2edc015982f5a687fcef5f8e56a1a7d8a3a92d50585817a9f05c04bc97cb) in the defence industry newsletter Defence Connect that inclusion in the G7 will mean the nation has to take greater control of its economic and strategic destiny in the 21st century. Australia's inclusion in the G7 would mark a major milestone in the nation's position as a post-Second World War 'middle power' essential to the longevity and sustainability of the economic, political and strategic order that all nations, including China, are dependent upon for the current status quo. Image credit: [**G20 Argentina**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Llegada_de_Scott_Morrison,_primer_ministro_de_Australia_(45198522685).jpg) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Chris Skinner. Chris served thirty years in the Royal Australian Navy in warships that participated in the South East Asian Treaty Organisation, the Vietnam War and surveillance of the North-West Indian Ocean. He joined the AIIA NSW Council in 2019. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**A G7+?**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/g7)  In the Lowy Institute’s The Interpreter, Daniel Flitton [**argues**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/g7) that US President Donald Trump’s recent proposal to expand the G7 to include South Korea, India, Russia and Australia is ‘flattery with a catch’. While providing nations a seat in one of the most powerful international groupings, the deliberate exclusion of China means that an expanded G7 still fails to reflect contemporary economic realities. There are, however, broader questions about the effectiveness of a G7+. What would it actually do? Is there space for yet another summit in the diplomatic calendar, and if so, does something else need to give? Without purpose or direction, the G7+ could suffer the same problems as the G20 – expensive, complex, stale and potentially lacking consensus. Image credit: [**Prescott Pym**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ppym1/434390436/in/photolist-Eon9h-5voLD7-cMpek-w35VUY-7TcUXY-GHnMUm-bcUcv-2jcsY-cAWmhj-fWN2f-7yLtTo-7yLAE9-7yLw8Q-7yMPWu-7yGHvk-7yLybJ-7Tchm1-2eCuZ5d-2igxgfE-aN2cf-an4UW8-6ZU1Ps-7T9Fvv-f5x3RN-7T9GGF-7T9qgk-7T95Q4-7JvEQK-f5SKWc-dinajX-7TcPjh-23ULUq4-2hQTdwc-2hQUbpf-7T9CDx-kbhWNY-65rTKh-7T9FMt-7TcqrL-2eCvjiU-7TcWs9-7T9jVM-7T9A5x-7TcULL-7T975P-7TcU29-bmnUgP-5YAg5T-nW3rj-7T99vB) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Euan Moyle. Euan is a final-year Master of International Relations student at the University of Sydney. He is currently a risk analyst and editor for Foreign Brief, and a Young Leader with the US-based international affairs think-tank Pacific Forum. He has formerly interned with the Lowy Institute. Euan has served on the Council since 2019. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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, Evangeline Larson looks at recent events in the United States and Hong Kong, and how they might develop into the future.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Waking Up America ... Again**](https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2020/05/divisive-politics-united-states-200531200511044.html)  Riots have rocked American cities in the last few days as people to take to the streets, despite the risk of coronavirus, to protest against inequality and racism. The murder of George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer has provoked national outrage about the deaths and maltreatment of Black Americans. These protests have been called a “wake up call” and yet the news of white supremacism feels like old news. A [**panel discussion**](https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2020/05/divisive-politics-united-states-200531200511044.html) from Al Jazeera’s Inside story asks three activists and professors whether, with Trump at the helm of a spiralling crisis, it is possible for the US to overcome its divisions? Image credit: [**Fibonacci Blue**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fibonacciblue/17130481120) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Countdown to 2047**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/what-changes-in-hong-kong-could-mean-for-australia/)  According to political analyst Grant Wyeth in an [**article**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/what-changes-in-hong-kong-could-mean-for-australia/) for The Diplomat, Australia needs to start thinking about the implications of Hong Kong’s future long before 2047. With China unlikely to honour the special autonomous status of Hong Kong, many residents are considering emigrating and Australia is high on the list of options. Professor John Wong's [**address**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/news-item/hong-kong-from-a-barren-rock-to-a-barren-rock/) earlier in the year at AIIA NSW brought to light the pessimistic reality of Hong Kong’s future. With this in mind, it is clear that Australia will have to think deeply about how its migration program will support those seeking a new life in a country that values freedom and transparency. Image credit: [**Studio Incendo**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/studiokanu/48132237366/in/photolist-2gkhigu-pqNvVi-2gKeq7X-2gE1D7e-pid9a7-oLom7y-DtzYk-2gcwsmk-2hb7XpG-pqMToS-2h47147-pqMTi1-prGQZ8-qmXpnk-q7qfoz-pmtwdf-2i5bXpz-2gywRnn-2i5d1at-2i5cD7R-2i5d15Z-pxyZ3e-prY2Z1-2gpgkKS-2gjtELJ-2gt7jnq-pXU6FS-2h8kFbb-pmsgqn-2gpghq9-pAVs8U-2gpgkj6-2gt7jix-2gt7jeE-2gS5eTk-2gt74Xs-2gjtDTS-2gt7jxW-2gpfWQT-2gt7544-2hcbM3U-2gt751P-pgmbNj-qEDAtr-2h46WFF-2h46e2c-qfmU86-2h46XcW-2h1euBJ-cX8YZf) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Evangeline Larsen. Evangeline is in her final semester of a Dual Bachelor of Arts between the University of Sydney and Sciences Po, France where she majors in French and International Relations. Having recently spent a semester in Lebanon, she is particularly interested in Middle Eastern politics and peace-building initiatives. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * The FiveThirtyEight team [**discuss**](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/politics-podcast-what-bidens-vp-picks-say-about-him/) the significance of vice presidential picks for party nominees and the considerations that the Biden campaign is currently making as it vets potential running mates. * Still on US politics, check out live results and analysis of Tuesday's US primaries with this [**interactive**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/02/us/elections/results-iowa-new-mexico-pennsylvania-primaries.html?action=click&module=ELEX_results&pgtype=Interactive&region=Navigation) from the New York Times. * The Economist [**checks in**](https://www.economist.com/britain/2020/05/28/deadlock-looms-at-brexit-talks-next-week) on the progress in negotiations for a post-Brexit EU-UK trade deal and the prospects of a deal before the end of the year. * The South China Morning Post [**reports**](https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3087074/australia-carefully-and-closely-watching-us-china-phase-one) that Australian Trade Minister Simon Birmingham is concerned at potential trade diversion, contrary to WTO rules, of beef and barley exports to China from Australian to US suppliers. * A report by German broadcaster ZDF on ABC's Four Corners [**looks at**](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/four-corners/series/2020/video/NC2003H017S00) the ways that North Korea has managed to circumvent UN sanctions in order to acquire cash. | | |