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This week, our Councillors take a look at how a Biden presidency could restore the US' influence in Asia, the artistic fusion of Chinese and Indigenous Australian culture and the intensifying second wave of COVID-19 in Europe.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person standing in a room  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**How a Biden Administration Could Restore US Influence in Asia**](https://pacforum.org/publication/pacnet-62-how-a-biden-administration-could-restore-us-influence-in-asia)  A prospective Biden Administration in the US is likely to prompt three months of opinion pieces on what that Administration can and should do. [**This piece**](http://pacforum.org/publication/pacnet-62-how-a-biden-administration-could-restore-us-influence-in-asia) by Amitav Acharya for Pacific Forum focuses on the opportunities a Biden Administration has in restoring the reputation of the US in Asia. In the ten weeks until inauguration day on January 20th 2021, the Trump administration can still do much to damage that reputation. Who knows what the starting point in Asia will be for the incoming Biden Administration? A more nuanced, less loud approach to China will be the central issue for most regional countries. Image credit: [**Gage Skidmore**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gageskidmore/49537230877/in/album-72157713113960836/) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Thom Dixon. Thom is the Vice-President of AIIA NSW. He is undertaking a PhD at Macquarie University looking at emerging technology and international security, and is an honorary research fellow with Remi AI. He regularly writes on issues in research, innovation and international affairs. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Existing: The Story Among Humans, Land and Spirit**](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aciac/events/inspired_and_inspiring_a_candid_conversation_with_artist_zhou_xiaoping)  "[**Existing: The Story Among Humans, Land and Spirit**](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aciac/events/inspired_and_inspiring_a_candid_conversation_with_artist_zhou_xiaoping)" is the title of a new exhibition by Chinese Australian artist Zhou Xiaoping that opened at the LiveinArt Gallery in Sydney. Zhou, locked down in Melbourne, participated in the 6 November launch via video link. There will be another chance to hear his story and discuss his art in [**a seminar talk**](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aciac/events/inspired_and_inspiring_a_candid_conversation_with_artist_zhou_xiaoping) hosted by the Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture on 26 November.   Indigenous Australian art has taken the international art world by storm and is highly collectible. Australian cultural diplomacy must surely start with promotion of our Indigenous culture, but there are few who are able to interpret it meaningfully for foreign audiences.  Zhou Xiaoping has spent some thirty years living with Indigenous people in central and northern Australia, and [**his work**](http://www.xiaopingart.com/) presents a unique spiritual and artistic fusion of Chinese and Indigenous Australian culture. Image credit: [**Western Sydney University**](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aciac/events/inspired_and_inspiring_a_candid_conversation_with_artist_zhou_xiaoping) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This book 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 screen shot of a person  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**The Pandemic Rages On**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/11/07/the-second-wave-of-covid-19-has-sent-much-of-europe-back-into-lockdown)  With all eyes focused on the US election last week, a significant amount of attention has been diverted away from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The ferocious second wave of the pandemic rages on, particularly in Europe, with France, Germany and the UK all now back in strict lockdown. Having endured the pain of weeks of confinement once before many are reticent to do it again, and could be less compliant the second time. The consequences of that lower compliance could be severe. A briefing by The Economist [**takes a look**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/11/07/the-second-wave-of-covid-19-has-sent-much-of-europe-back-into-lockdown) at the progress of the pandemic across Europe, what went wrong during the first wave and what lessons authorities need to learn to respond more effectively during the ongoing second wave. Image credit: [**Tim Dennell**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/shefftim/50104691688/) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article 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. He is currently the Climate and Energy Security Fellow at Young Australians in International Affairs. Alex has served on the Council since 2019. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors, we invite 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, Marcus McCulloch explores Trump's potential legacy in US foreign policy and the bloody but often forgotten conflict in the Caucasus region of Nagorno-Karabakh.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A view of a tall building  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**The end of 'America First'?**](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/09/us/politics/biden-foreign-policy.html)  After four years of Trumpism, both the credibility of the United States and its alliances are in serious disrepair. In [**this article**](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/09/us/politics/biden-foreign-policy.html) for the New York Times, David Sanger describes the foreign policy project of President-elect Joe Biden as the 'Great Undoing’. Biden has stated that he plans to re-sign the Paris Agreement on climate change, resurrect the Iran deal, double down on commitments to NATO and stand up to Russia and China. However, Sanger predicts that in a fractured foreign policy landscape where the values of the United States often conflict with its interests, undoing Trump’s legacy will prove easier said than done. Image credit: [**GPA Photo Archive**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/iip-photo-archive/15031496899/in/photolist-oUhmkD-6x6vDM-riSRxb-TfbeCm-6LdvCT-aqJD5g-61sUgT-9N7H4a-kDeZDa-9N9HiN-9Lev6p-9LhhVN-SsfNCF-TfbbPL-23cL95K-jTbmbV-D5F6DT-jTiYM7-jTawdT-jT3b9N-jTj5YL-2iqMN7y-jT3afo-rckt89-7JNbbC-jT7d6W-jTcVNJ-7Dwypm-SbzASE-YR8S8y-jTcSby-jT4E5B-diWNND-ZT4oqL-jTiV2w-jTaFGn-jTcP7Y-i154hc-rfStfn-5nuHxm-rh9xF8-e4CcmK-kEEA1x-8Gyd4-kF4MUB-9N6ECD-reRkmA-rh6St1-mGrdZ-RvvfzN) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A large ship in the background  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Nagorno-Karabakh: The Forgotten Conflict**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/nagorno-karabakh-the-forgotten-conflict/)  The resurgent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave in the South Caucasus, was explored in Columns 29. Since 1992, Dr Bruce Mabley writes in [**this article**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/nagorno-karabakh-the-forgotten-conflict/) for Australian Outlook, "not a week goes by without reports of shelling and skirmishes." In the current flare-up of violence, Azerbaijan appears to be gaining ground. According to Mabley, this can be attributed to the actions and omissions of its neighbours: Russia and Turkey have lent their support to Azerbaijan, while Georgia and Iran have remained neutral. Whether a reinvigorated NATO will step in remains to be seen. Image credit: **[Blackwych](https://www.flickr.com/photos/blackwych/3943480135/in/photolist-71tnfP-uYyxz9-uji7SK-2jMSNBL-5kG2UL-uNmE7k-71xnKy-5tYqKG-6KznB5-uTCv8X-62qbuz-uTuvms-uYwSWj-cksErY-5kG2Sj-vb56fe-uYv62W-v83grq-cbfeBG-5kBLKD-c7cXnw-7Sxn4N-uYySLA-6KwHB2-vaCuMy-9xVt4D-e9uoet-QkNqa-ckqFQQ-vg7UiP-uNdut9-uYuN5s-v5iWKd-ubytcb-5kBLQe-v8RBnc-ciNU8f-uW5C3f-uegrb2-cksQkb-5kG2HE-agnzkJ-cksLto-ckqHa1-5kG2KG-uW5ZSs-ckt1j7-7SxnRQ-59TY4d-ckqy9Y" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Marcus McCulloch. Marcus is undertaking Honours in Political Economy at the University of Sydney, writing a thesis on industrialisation in the Soviet Union. He is a keen debater, and recently reached the finals of the World Universities Debating Championship in Bangkok. Marcus has been interning with AIIA NSW since February 2020 | | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * In Pearls and Irritations, former President of AIIA NSW and current AIIA Fellow Colin Chapman [**highlights**](https://johnmenadue.com/the-real-originator-of-fake-news-is-trump/) how media outlets covered the US presidential election as results progressively trickled in. * Dan Flitton [**outlines**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/joe-biden-big-questions-and-great-expectations)some of the big questions facing a Biden administration's foreign policy for the Lowy Institute's The Interpreter. * Julian Broger, world affairs editor at The Guardian, [**explores**](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/nov/10/donald-trump-mark-esper-foreign-policy-joe-biden-iran) disruptive foreign policy actions Trump could take in the final days of his presidency. * Brendan Nicholson [**summarises**](https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/germany-plans-a-greater-peace-and-security-role-in-the-indo-pacific/) the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's recent event with Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds and German Federal Minister of Defence Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. * In the Australian National University's Devpolicy Blog, Terence Wood [**examines**](https://devpolicy.org/nz-aid-under-the-new-labour-government-20201106-2/) the likely aid and development policy of the reelected Ardern government in New Zealand. * For The Diplomat, Tom Corben [**looks at**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/nuclear-power-and-japans-2050-climate-pledge/)Japan's recent pledge to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the role its beleaguered nuclear industry could play in this transition. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Letters to the Editor** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Get involved!**  We're committed to keeping conversations about international affairs going, so get involved in our Letters to the Editor section!  Each week, we publish letters from our subscribers about what they think of the issues we’re discussing.  You can take part in the conversation by emailing us with your comments on each week’s articles. There are just a few simple guidelines: letters should be no more than 100 words in length, and should only be about the previous week’s articles. Please include your name and affiliation, and a mobile number (which won't be published). If you are a university student, please include your university and current degree.  Send all letters to the editors at [**aiianswletters@gmail.com**](mailto:aiianswletters@gmail.com) by Wednesday at 5pm Sydney time for the chance to be published in the following week's newsletter. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
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