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| |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors and interns share a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week, our Councillors take a look at Australia's soft power, Bolsonaro's waning legitimacy and China after the pandemic.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A picture containing sunset  Description automatically generated | | [**Australia's soft power disregarded**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/what-happened-australia-s-soft-power)  Brandfinance publishes the world's most comprehensive survey of national soft power.  The [**2021 surve**](https://brandirectory.com/globalsoftpower/)[**y**](https://brandirectory.com/globalsoftpower/) of 100 nations ranked Australia number ten, up three places, ahead of South Korea but behind Sweden at nine and China at eight. Interestingly, China had slipped from five in 2019 and the US had slipped from one to six. This is not a bad result for a year when everyone was preoccupied with Covid-19 and international borders were virtually closed. In [**a comment for the Lowy Institute**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/what-happened-australia-s-soft-power), Melissa Conley Tyler wonders why the Department of Foreign Affairs has quietly dropped its announced intention to conduct its own review of Australia's soft power and suggests that it may have something to do with Canberra's current preoccupation with other countries' soft power activities, which are branded as "foreign interference." Image credit: **[Azri](https://www.flickr.com/photos/azriadnan/2119410853/in/photolist-4ehx1r-27LtUQk-b82SS-xTCcS-xTEux-2kDe7gq-ornJd-A5PfiY-2jo9wy7-2jCkEyE-e75RTe-5gnep1-5YDTi7-4ehwmz-mfBNib-LBeDH-573gPb-ornDk-ornQp-4bkXbY-EcwBFk-2i4PVUo-4evEnX-xTC2D-xTCoi-xTDDj-xTDn8-xTDvm-4emwGG-8bTPLp-2hzQPy9-8WZ3rS-ac8fZE-843dwe-ornLg-843uQg-6sBRga-2ia86ZR-843xsP-82xa69-9ezCtu-5FqyWb-xTDHv-Rsv7UN-2hy2XXX-M8Q1ab-HQ5dDi-cAFvG7-dNh49n-4kA6u" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | | This resource 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. | |

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| |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors, we invite 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 they discuss the rationale behind Taiwan's recent cabinet reshuffle and the changing US-Australia alliance.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | Alice Nason is an honours student majoring in Politics, International Relations and American Studies at the University of Sydney. She is preparing a thesis in American foreign policy concerning the role of public diplomacy below the presidential level in sustaining the confidence of American allies in the Indo-Pacific during the Trump administration. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **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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