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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to issue 43 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Councillors** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 examine the situation in international energy trends and Australia's science policy.  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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**The World's Energy Future**](https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-international-energy-agency-issues-a-milestone-statement-about-fossil-fuels)  The target of net-zero by 2050 has become firmly engrained in the minds of climate policymakers around the world. But it is also sometimes easy to loose track of what is actually needed to meet that consensus target. The International Energy Agency’s update this week was a timely reminder of what changes really need to be made to our energy system. The key line in the report, as [**highlighted**](https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-international-energy-agency-issues-a-milestone-statement-about-fossil-fuels) by climate activist Bill McKibben, is that “There is no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply in our net zero pathway.” It is blunt, definitive and accurate. The world has to move, and to a large extent is moving, towards a renewable and battery storage powered future, and that is recognised by the IEA, a body that was once criticised for being captive to the fossil fuel industry. The question for readers in Australia is why the Australian government has not come to the same realisation. The truth is that in the long run, if it comes down to a contest between the laws of politics and the laws of nature, nature will win. Australia cannot keep moving down the energy path it is taking. Australia should take heed the warnings being issued internationally. Image credit: [**Johannes Pelino**](https://unsplash.com/photos/gEKwtUDG43Q) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 was the Climate and Energy Security Fellow at Young Australians in International Affairs in 2020. Alex has served on the Council since 2019. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**Clever Country in a Changed World: Re-Thinking Australian Science Policy**](https://nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/publication/nsc_crawford_anu_edu_au/2021-04/web_nsc_policy_options_paper_no17.pdf)  Global science and technology has undergone massive change since 2000 and is now a key site of geoeconomic competition. For the first time in Australia’s history, its most significant partner for science collaboration will soon be (if it's not already) a country other than the United States. Which country? China. [**According to**](https://nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/publication/nsc_crawford_anu_edu_au/2021-04/web_nsc_policy_options_paper_no17.pdf) Paul Harris (Adjunct Fellow at Georgetown University), Australia’s successful model for science has relied upon uncommonly high levels of international engagement, but this approach also brings risks. There is therefore a need to systematically re-think how the Australian science system engages with the rest of the world and delivers value to the nation. Image credit: [**Amanda Slater**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pikerslanefarm/3447797735/in/photolist-6fES9x-6fFiyX-nqaFDD-6fFdaF-6fKu4d-QBwnAD-6fFhJV-6fERsi-6fK1hG-qQEpvH-6fK25o-6fERNP-6fKpiS-6fJZKS-6fFh1X-6fKrPJ-9KgqhX-D1MVD4-6MmWBB-TAiaoL-ke6ouH-8GBEbn-i75UVo-cpMweA-fPxGqz-TxdtRU-DKiCuC-oWEoas-TnxPDL-SQJiqo-R5ZgTu-YNyUVm-ZdQZ6W-fPxFd8-hiZD9j-28pzgRk-hiZF6Y-Zcp9yM-4PFXT5-8th6N5-4PBHS4-4PBHH8-4PFXQf-4PFXFQ-R5Zhs5-pvKAB3-4PFXK5-4QLjVw-6fEQEv-22b5dX8) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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, Alice Nason and Sanjay Balakumar discuss the implications of the Israel-Palestine crisis for Biden's foreign policy priorities, and the erosion of the rule of law in Myanmar following the military coup earlier this year.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by our interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**Gaza Unrest Gets in Way of Biden's Foreign Policy Goals**](https://www.ussc.edu.au/analysis/gaza-unrest-gets-in-way-of-bidens-foreign-policy-goal)   Recent analysis from the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney [**considers**](https://www.ussc.edu.au/analysis/gaza-unrest-gets-in-way-of-bidens-foreign-policy-goal) the implications of the worsening Israel-Palestine crisis for President Biden’s foreign policy agenda. Reviewing Biden’s vague rhetoric around the crisis so far, Cooper and Mondschein observe Biden’s desire to fight the “propulsive draw of crises in the Middle East” and sustain his committed focus to the Indo-Pacific region. The Israel-Palestine conflict provides a litmus test for whether Biden will resist universal overreach and remain tethered to his visions of a 'foreign policy for the middle class'. Biden’s response to the crisis will be the product of the expertise and perceptions of his cabinet, stocked with seasoned foreign policy experts, and Biden’s own commitment to learning from the mistakes of prior administrations.  Image credit: [**Store Norske Leksikon**](https://snl.no/Joe_Biden) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Alice Nason. Alice Nason is an honours student majoring in politics, international relations and American Studies at the University of Sydney. She is currently preparing a thesis on the use of diplomacy below the president for alliance maintenance in the Indo-Pacific under the Trump presidency. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**The Danger of Defending the Defenseless in Myanmar**](https://thediplomat.com/2021/05/the-danger-of-defending-the-defenseless-in-myanmar/)  Following the military coup in Myanmar earlier this year, the rule of law in the country has gradually eroded. Writing for The Diplomat, Robert Bociaga [**notes**](https://thediplomat.com/2021/05/the-danger-of-defending-the-defenseless-in-myanmar/) that delivering legal representation for those arrested has become far more complicated. Police officers and the military are soliciting bribes to facilitate bail, leaving little room for procedural fairness. Further, recent amendments to legal aid laws place greater eligibility restrictions on arrested individuals, limit their access to legal aid early on in their proceedings, and restrict the power of legal aid boards. The military has also removed basic legal protections and has created new offences to target those critical of the coup and prevent the free flow of information. Lawyers and judges also fear reprisal from the military, having seen many in their profession abducted and arrested by the junta for simply doing their job. These actions by the military raise concerns over the future of Myanmar’s criminal justice system. Image credit: **[Htin Linn Aye](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Protest_in_Myanmar_against_Military_Coup_14-Feb-2021_05.jpg" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Sanjay Balakumar. Sanjay is a fifth-year student at the University of New South Wales, studying for a Bachelor of International Studies and a Bachelor of Laws. His research interests include economic and political security in the Indo-Pacific, the dynamics that shape countries’ elections, climate politics and technology’s impact on informed public discourse. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Next Week - Our Intern Debate**    If you have enjoyed our intern's contributions to Columns this year, tune in to their intern debate next week! They will be debating the topic "That US climate action will force Australia to change its climate policy." Register [**here**](https://aiiansw.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/35323-will-us-action-on-climate-change-lead-australia-to-adopt-more-ambitious-policies) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * The sagging favourability rating of populist leaders as COVID-19 infections soar has exposed populism's limitations as a leadership style, [**argues**](https://www.forbes.com/sites/paullaudicina/2021/05/12/can-populism-survive-the-pandemic/?sh=19efc9406d0a)Paul Laudicina in Forbes. * Following the recent Raisina Dialogue, The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace[**discusses**](https://carnegieindia.org/2021/05/13/what-can-india-france-and-australia-achieve-together-pub-84513) what can be achieved through “plurilateralism” between France, Australia and India as the “coalition of the enthusiastic” in the Indo-Pacific. * Max Suich in the Financial Review [**examines**](https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/china-confrontation-what-were-we-thinking-20210429-p57njs) the reversal of Australia’s China policy over the past 3 years, and scrutinises the necessity of this shift, which has been led by intelligence agencies. * In The Diplomat, Catherine Putz[**reviews**](https://thediplomat.com/2021/05/us-withdrawal-from-afghanistan-another-long-goodbye/) Biden’s withdrawal plan from Afghanistan after 40 years of war and foreign interventions in the country. * In The New York Times, Mujib Mashal and Sameer Yasir [**highlight**](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/18/world/asia/india-covid-doctors-medical-workers.html) the extreme human toll of India’s COVID-19 crisis. * In The New York Times, Catie Edmondson [**discusses**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/18/us/politics/senate-china-science.html?action=click&block=more_in_recirc&impression_id=b832dfb3-b848-11eb-81fe-5bd9b98caeaa&index=0&pgtype=Article&region=footer) rare bipartisan agreement in the US Senate for a $120 billion investment into scientific research to counter China's supply chain dominance. * ABC Radio National's Rear Vision [**delves**](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rearvision/fatah-v-hamas/13342874) into history and complexities of Palestinian politics. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |