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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Text  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to issue 42 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing text  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 global climate action, Taiwan and the future of multilateralism.  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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing sky, outdoor, windmill, sunset  Description automatically generated | | [**A Decisive Year Begins with a Promising Start**](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56837927)  This year will be a crucial year for action on climate change. In November world leaders will come together (either in person or online) when Glasgow hosts COP26, a major climate summit at which nations are expected to update their Paris Agreement pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Throughout the year there will be increasing focus on how countries’ pledges are shaping up and two weeks ago at President Biden’s climate leaders' summit we got the strongest indication yet about the global direction of travel. Biden promised to reenergise the global climate action push and the US surprise pledge to reduce its carbon emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by the year 2030, announced at the summit, certainly helped do that. The summit was not a universal success. Countries like Australia and Brazil still seem determined to drag their feet. But overall, it seemed to be a hopeful start to the long pre-COP program. Matt McGrath, the BBC’s Environment Correspondent, [**summarised**](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56837927) the summit's highlights. Image credit: [**Jason Blackeye**](https://unsplash.com/photos/9HEY1URQIQY) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing person  Description automatically generated | | [**The Most Dangerous Place on Earth**](https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/05/01/the-most-dangerous-place-on-earth)  The world now seems to have its eyes firmly fixed on China’s actions and what it may do next. Many countries seem to be quite concerned. China’s movements especially in the South China Sea, and within Hong Kong have raised alarm for what may lie ahead for Taiwan. This article [**explores**](https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/05/01/the-most-dangerous-place-on-earth) the possibilities of whether China may try to fully unify Taiwan, and possibly by force. As well as what this may mean for American actions and relationships within the region. Although the article doesn’t mention Australia, these future actions will have consequences on an already strained Australian-China relationship. Image credit: **[Nhat Nguyen Hoang](https://unsplash.com/photos/yB4xgwclGuY" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Nicole King. Nicole is a recent graduate of the University of Sydney with double degree in Arts (Government and International Relations, Spanish  of 1314 and Latin American Studies) and Economics (Environmental and Resource Economics). She is particularly interested in the intersection of environmental politics and international security. Nicole has served on the Council since 2018. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing outdoor, grass, colorful, lined  Description automatically generated | | [**Emerging Narratives and the Future of Multilateralism**](https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/emerging-narratives-future-multilateralism/)  [**According to**](https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/emerging-narratives-future-multilateralism/) Amrita Narlikar (a Professor at Hamburg University), there’s a big split in the multilateral system, and it’s not between the US and China. Rather, it’s a split between two narratives: the first narrative (‘resuscitate and reinforce’) seeks only minimal reform of the multilateral system; the second (‘restructure’) pushes for the system’s total overhaul. [**According to**](https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/emerging-narratives-future-multilateralism/) Narlikar, the outcome of this conceptual struggle will determine whether we harness international cooperation for global peace and prosperity, or decline into disengagement, fragmentation, conflict and war. Image credit: [**Mathias P.R. Reding**](https://unsplash.com/photos/yfXhqAW5X0c) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 Pailey Wang and Adjoa Assan discuss China's economic statecraft and geopolitical might, as well as the transition of power in Chad after the death of longstanding leader Idriss Deby.  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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a spider  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | [**How Not to Win Allies and Influence Geopolitics**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-04-20/how-not-win-allies-and-influence-geopolitics)  China is viewed by many observers as a master of economic statecraft, harnessing its economic might to retaliate against nations which criticise it, and increasingly leveraging regional loaning and investment through the Belt and Road Initiative. However, the reality of this image is less impressive according to Audrye Wong. Painting Chinese policy as being driven by a complex web of internal actors, she views China as advancing its principal aims of protecting its own interests of stability and survival, rather that exporting its authoritarian views to other nations. Wong [**paints**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-04-20/how-not-win-allies-and-influence-geopolitics) China as an opaque actor, which induces unaccountable elites in illiberal governments with kickbacks in exchange for lucrative investments, military installations, and the promotion of Chinese foreign policy. However, these tactics have been met with failure and criticism in more accountable nations, where China has achieved greater success in luring foreign partners legitimately. However, Wong believes these relationships as far more difficult to maintain, as well as shallower and more short-term. Image credit: [**Macau Photo Agency**](https://unsplash.com/photos/vtHmsuXyEqM) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Pailey Wang. Pailey is a student in a dual-degree program between Sciences Po (The Paris Institute of Political Studies) and the University of Sydney, where he is undertaking majors in Politics and Government and Political Economy respectively. His particular interests lie in international economics with a focus on environmental and socioeconomic transitions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person in a suit and tie  Description automatically generated with medium confidence |  |  | | --- | | [**Chad: Transitional Government or Unlawful Seizure of Power?**](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/2/chad-military-council-lifts-curfew-imposed-after-deby-death)  Following the death of Chad’s long-standing leader, Idriss Deby, his 37-year-old son Mahamat has been announced as head of a “Transitional Military Council" (CMT in French) with 40 new ministers and deputy ministers, [**reports**](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/2/chad-military-council-lifts-curfew-imposed-after-deby-death) Al Jazeera. The opposition calls theappointment of Deby’s son as interim ruler of the country an “institutional coup d’état” in violation of Chad’s constitution. Article 76 of the constitution states, subject to exceptions, that if the presidency becomes vacant the president’s powers should be provisionally exercised by the President or the First Vice President of the National Assembly. Although the CMT has said it will conduct democratic elections after 18 months, there is – as expected – serious opposition to the new arrangement. Chad faces possible civil unrest, and there are broader questions of security in the Sahel region and French influence in Chad’s political future.  Image credit: [**Rama**](http://https/commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Idriss_Deby_Itno_IMG_3730.jpg) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Adjoa Assan. Adjoa is a fifth-year student at Western Sydney University studying a Bachelor of International Studies/Law and a Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical Thinking. She has a particular interest in African affairs and global perspectives and would like to work in the areas of international diplomacy, policy-making and human rights, also pursuing opportunities at multilateral institutions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s deft diplomatic messaging keeps both domestic audiences and China happy, Bryce Edwards [**argues**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2021/may/03/arderns-speech-was-not-an-attack-on-china-or-even-a-shift-away-from-beijing) in the Guardian. * A new generation of protesters is learning from the mistakes of the Arab world’s failed uprisings a decade ago, and is navigating electoral politics and state-building, Kim Ghattas [**relates**](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2021/05/arab-spring-democracy-protest/618774/) in the Atlantic. * The Economist [**charts**](https://www.economist.com/international/2021/05/01/diplomacy-has-changed-more-than-most-professions-during-the-pandemic) how the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken up the way diplomacy is conducted with technology, and heralded the arrival of a new hybrid model. * Mark Bowden in The Atlantic [**discusses**](http://https/www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/04/how-special-ops-became-the-solution-to-everything/618080/) the little-noticed expansion of the role of US Special Forces in overseas military engagements. * Hannah Giorgis in The Atlantic [**examines**](http://https/www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2021/04/fleeting-promise-peaceful-ethiopia/618749/) the violence in the Tigray region and the issue of identity in both Ethiopia and the wider diaspora. * In [**Foreign Policy**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/27/anti-china-alliance-quad-australia-india-japan-u-s/), seasoned Singapore strategic analyst Kishore Mahbubani questions the cohesion and effectiveness of the “Quad” (Australia, India, Japan and the US) in contesting China's reach. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |