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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to issue 47 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 climate finance, the US-China relationship and Chinese diplomats and social media.  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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**Rich Countries Need to do More on Climate Finance**](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/07/15/developing-nations-put-numbers-table-next-climate-finance-goal/)  Venice in some ways is a crude symbol for climate change. It is a city that has been wrestling with the effect of rising sea levels for longer than most. Earlier this month the city played host to the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers, seen as a key summit for climate finance policy. However, [**notably absent**](https://www.e3g.org/news/what-happened-in-venice-on-sustainable-finance-some-progress-no-forward-leap/) from the conference were new commitments to increase the pool of climate finance available to assist developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Climate finance is shaping up to be a defining issue for COP26, which will convene in Glasgow in November. Last week nearly 100 developing countries [**endorsed**](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/07/15/developing-nations-put-numbers-table-next-climate-finance-goal/) a five-point plan for COP26, highlighting their key negotiating priorities. Amongst them is demand for an unequivocal commitment from developed countries to deliver $100 billion per year in climate finance support. That number is not new, it has been around since before the disastrous Copenhagen climate conference in 2009. Neither is it a particularly large sum when you consider the G20 has [**spent $3.4 trillion**](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/20/g20-states-subsidised-fossil-fuels-2015-coal-oil-gas-cliamte-crisis) subsidising fossil fuels since 2015. Expect both numbers to get much more attention between now and November. Image credit: [**Israel Ferrera**](https://unsplash.com/photos/ewxZ27OmFrs) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [The US-China Relationship under Biden](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/561269-biden-cannot-counter-china-with-a-team-that-lacks-expertise) The US-China relationship is critical for our future peace and prosperity and one would hope that it is in the hands of experienced and knowledgeable experts on both sides. It is very concerning therefore to read comments on Biden's China policy team from William Overholt, senior research fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School in [**The Hill**](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/561269-biden-cannot-counter-china-with-a-team-that-lacks-expertise).  In his eyes the qualifications of the team, Antony Blinken, Lloyd Austin, Jake Sullivan and probable incoming ambassador to Beijing Nicholas Burns, are that they are "well-connected, experienced on Middle East issues, and dislike China."  He adds, "The more you see China as a dangerous adversary, the more important it is to actually understand China."   Image Credit: [**Gage Skidmore**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gageskidmore/49537018686/in/photolist-2itqaP5-2h88Y5E-2gv9ieB-2if14oN-2h46mCL-2gY4zT7-2h46wXZ-2gY3Xtc-2itqaYD-2gv9bQE-2igHz5y-2kuoaJc-2igL3MM-2h46ri2-2gYxP7E-2gv9Ld7-2h1gqFT-2h1hdiv-2gY4K1q-2ivodQE-2igLZUm-2jZWCTJ-2jZVTvA-2h1heYp-2itnDm2-2itnDqL-2if4uzN-2if1533-2if3t3F-2h86otr-2if3qdH-2h88hjr-2h1hbE5-2gv9Nfy-2if4udv-2gY4wor-2gY3WGT-2itq6ey-2itnwWo-2itnxFE-2jYXhMu-2jYTymv-2if4iXW-2if11qd-2gX99DF-2gX8oNP-2ivoeXz-2gYxY5V-2ivqLQW-2iuYoaj) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**The Man Behind China’s Aggressive New Voice**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/07/magazine/china-diplomacy-twitter-zhao-lijian.html)  American writer Alex W. Palmer [**tells the story**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/07/magazine/china-diplomacy-twitter-zhao-lijian.html) of how one bureaucrat, armed with just a Twitter account, remade Beijing’s diplomacy for a nationalistic era. From his postings as a Chinese diplomat to Washington DC and Islamabad, through to his fateful 2010 decision to open a Twitter account, this profile charts the rise and rise of Zhao Lijian, the current spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one of China’s original ‘wolf warrior’ diplomats. Image credit: **[OneNews](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Foreign_Ministry_spokesperson_Zhao_Lijian_addressing_the_media_31_January_2021.jpg" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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, our new interns Alexandra Russell Brown and Isabel Freudenstein discuss the EU's Fit for 55 reforms and the future of the coup in Myanmar.   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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [Myanmar: What Will Emerge from the Collapse?](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/burma-myanmar/2021-06-11/myanmars-coming-revolution?utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=lo_flows&utm_campaign=registered_user_welcome&utm_term=email_1&utm_content=20210719) In February of this year, Myanmar’s army destabilised the nation in a coup to remove Aung San Suu Kyi’s government. In Foreign Affairs, Thant Myint-U [**argues**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/burma-myanmar/2021-06-11/myanmars-coming-revolution?utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=lo_flows&utm_campaign=registered_user_welcome&utm_term=email_1&utm_content=20210719) that this junta may consolidate its rule, but that this will not lead to stability for the nation. He argues that the economic, social and health challenges are too severe – as the conflict continues, poverty is sky-rocketing, armed violence is increasing and the health-care system has collapsed. This has developed from the complexity of the colonial legacy of Myanmar (previously Burma), independent in 1948, and a victim of ethnonationalism since. However, COVID-19, this author argues, destabilised the fragile democracy, leaving it vulnerable to military control. However, Thant Myint-U argues there is still hope. The young people of Myanmar are determined to change the course of the country, and as the author establishes, the international community needs to agree to help. He recommends four key strategies to do so.   * The UN Security Council should demand a peaceful transition, with particular responsibilities for China as a result of its close ties in Myanmar * Outside powers should encourage the transformation of Myanmar’s internal politics * Help should be based on an appreciation of the unique history of Myanmar * The international community should assist poor and vulnerable populations, particularly as COVID-19 remains a serious health threat.    Image Credit: **[MgHla (aka) Htin Linn Aye](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Protest_in_Myanmar_against_Military_Coup_14-Feb-2021_02.jpg" \o "User:MgHla (page does not exist)" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Isabel Freudenstein. Isabel is a student of the University of Sydney, where she is currently writing her honours thesis on the changing nature of humanitarian intervention, examining the Responsibility to Protect doctrine. Isabel works with REA Group in their sustainability team and her interests lie in the changing dynamics of the international system, gender, norms of behaviour and migration. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [Europe's Carbon Prices Are Going Global](https://www.wsj.com/articles/europes-carbon-prices-are-going-global-11626269612) On July 14th the European Union announced its latest green policy dossier: ‘Fit for 55’, a wide-ranging package aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 without impeding on the competitiveness of its economy. Significant to the suite of proposed legislation is the ‘carbon border adjustment mechanism’ (CBAM), a plan to levy a tariff on carbon-intensive imports including electricity, iron and steel, cement, aluminium and some fertilisers. Rochelle Toplensky [**argues**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/europes-carbon-prices-are-going-global-11626269612) that this scheme will essentially work to create a global carbon price as it will establish a cost on carbon for certain imports to the EU, which represents one of the largest global markets. If enacted, the CBAM will certainly function as an effective stimulus for countries like Australia and China to decarbonise, yet as Toplensky suggests, the mechanism is subject to a host of political challenges. Particularly pertinent is the risk of the EU violating its WTO obligations by unfairly discriminating against non-European products, potentially causing a cycle of damaging protectionism. Image credit: **[Kenueone](https://pixabay.com/users/kenueone-2397379/" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Alexandra Russell Brown. Alexandra is a student at the University of Sydney, where she is studying Politics, International Relations and Political Economy. Her particular interests include international trade and global environmental politics. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * Mirroring a recent Lowy Institute survey of increasingly-negative Australian attitudes to China, a [**Beijing-based survey**](https://www.themandarin.com.au/161872-chinese-attitudes-towards-australia-becoming-increasingly-negative/) has found that Chinese attitudes to Australia are becoming less favourable. * Eric Li in Foreign Policy [**argues**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/02/ccp-reinvention-anniversary-youth-popularity/) that the Chinese government is succeeding in achieving high education levels, social mobility and political loyalty among the younger generation. * The New Yorker’s Adam Entous [**uncovers**](https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/vienna-is-the-new-havana-syndrome-hotspot)the rise in mysterious health inflictions, similar to the Havana Syndrome, in Vienna that have developed since Biden took office. * Julian Morrow from The ABC [**unpacks**](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/syria---turkey/13438788) the last UN mandated border crossing between Turkey and Syria * Alice Autin from Human Rights Watch [**reflects**](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/16/day-reflect-international-justice) on the Day for International Justice on the successes and challenges in the global fight against impunity. * The Economist [**assesses**](https://www.economist.com/united-states/2021/07/15/can-the-federal-bureaucracy-resuscitate-market-dynamism-in-america) whether Biden’s latest executive order aimed at stimulating competition in business can resuscitate market dynamism. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |