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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 examine US-Japan relations, changes in Cuba and funding for Australia's foreign policy institutions.  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 person standing at a podium  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [The Many Narratives of China-Japan Relations](https://fpcj.jp/en/j_views-en/magazine_articles-en/p=89825/) The ties between the two NE Asia neighbouring powerhouses, China and Japan, are either strong or brittle, depending on whose account you choose to believe. Tobias Harris in [**Foreign Policy (USA)**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-05-04/surprising-strength-chinese-japanese-ties?utm_medium=)distinguishes between the views of the hawkish Japanese military and those of business leaders and the general public. Japanese Ambassador Yamagami Shingo gave an [**unremarkable address**](https://iview.abc.net.au/video/NC2111C025S00) to the National Press Club on 21 July, focusing on bilateral relations and the Tokyo Olympics. The Australian media ignored his positive messaging and reported only his comments on China. The [**ABC for instance**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-21/japan-ambassador-yamagami-australia-china/100312044) said that according to the Ambassador, Japan was "struggling every day" with China, putting a negative slant on his remarks that was not inherent in those words. Several different perspectives again can be seen in a recent [**magazine article**](https://fpcj.jp/en/j_views-en/magazine_articles-en/p=89825/) from the Foreign Press Centre Japan, which also canvasses how Japanese scholars and commentators believe their country should engage with China. Image Credit: [**UNIS Vienna**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/unisvienna/51011282716/in/photolist-2m4WKoX-2m4YGJA-2m4ZEui-zv65wn-2hKHgzt-zdujNs-yycAtx-zsLVzU-zu1AM5-zv658g-2m4Q23v-2m4Q22t-2m4YGKn-2m4UFvq-2jH564t-2kz5Ja1-2kHCvXE-2kHGa9q-2gds4dG-2jPZgpB-sg7B7P-2kLwAj8-2kLsnKV-2kLwApi-2kLsnQu-2kLwAE3-2kLsnUh-2kLw89F-2kLw8ek-pgpJk3-tZvxmJ-tZvxFG-tHhpCC-2kK9qMh-2kK5cfM) | |

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| |  | | --- | | 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. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A picture containing text, tree, road, outdoor  Description automatically generated | | [**Change in Cuba**](https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n13/tony-wood/you-say-embargo)  Tony Wood of Princeton University, in the 1 July edition of the London Review of Books, uses a [**review**](https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n13/tony-wood/you-say-embargo) of two recent works on Cuba as a vehicle for surveying Cuba’s post Cold War history. The long-standing US embargoes were tightened in the 1990s; the Cuban people responded with stoicism rather than the political restiveness intended by US policy, although there were anti-government demonstrations in 1994 (the first in 30 years). The economy improved from the late 1990s with reduced dependence on sugar and a better growth rate than elsewhere in Latin America. Fidel Castro’s successor, his brother Raul, reshaped economic and social policy from 2010 after public consultations, instituting reforms comparable to the “socialist market economies” of Vietnam and China. COVID-19 has delivered a severe economic shock, with tourism falling 90 per cent, but death rates have been much lower than in neighbouring countries and 20 times fewer per head than in Britain. Monetary reforms introduced by the current president, Miguel Diaz-Canel, have affected exports and the cost of living. Reductions in US sanctions during the Obama administration were reversed under Trump; the [**Biden administration**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/18/biden-cuba-missed-opportunity-humanitarian-crisis-embargo/) has given no indication of easing them. Image credit: **[Yerson Olivares](https://unsplash.com/photos/JltzgtntbQ8" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ian Lincoln, President of AIIA NSW since 2017. Ian was in the Department of Foreign Affairs for 33 years including postings in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific. He was later an appellate member of the Refugee Review Tribunal and has worked in a number of community organisations. | |

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| |  | | --- | | A group of people holding signs  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [Flash point: Israeli Court offers deal on Palestinians facing eviction](https://www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/israeli-supreme-court-offers-a-compromise-deal-with-palestinians-facing-eviction-20210803-p58fb3.html) In the Sydney Morning Herald, Shira Rubin [**analyses**](https://www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/israeli-supreme-court-offers-a-compromise-deal-with-palestinians-facing-eviction-20210803-p58fb3.html) the political and historical events that are causing Palestinian families to face eviction in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem. Despite the recent changes in both US and Israeli leadership, Israeli courts are still being used to evict Palestinians over a contested area in East Jerusalem. The continued escalation of violence and tension that has continued between the two states, is now playing out in the community, resulting in a recent 11-day conflict. The four families who applied to the Israeli Supreme Court have been offered a deal that would protect them from eviction but would require them to recognise their evictors, far-right Jewish settlers, as their landlords. The contestation of Sheikh Jarrah has left Palestinians feeling that another attempt has been made to “Judaise” Jerusalem, and the Jewish community feeling outraged that their claim to the land is being disputed.  Image Credit: [**Lisa Goldman**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lisang/4295942246/in/photolist-2m1cckC-2kZ2gf2-2m1hWiF-2m1g9YK-2m1mSxR-2m1chPm-2kZDpB1-2m1Coxj-2m65iTw-2kZq2Pd-2m65h8c-2kZq2VW-2m1bgyC-2kXESHX-7LGiiR-7XwY3C-7xBPXL-K76DCD-7CuAFP-7xBN7C-7FAd2F-6GkyYr-7xE76b-2kZ45Xe-7Xj2mv-7G2MYr-2m1bajW-2kYZmxP-2kYa9h1-7XwKvC-2m3AgVP-8QXr3v-98SEiC-98PxDX-7FA9dT-7U2PW3-7U2PTj-6GpD8y-9dQUp5-9dMQcZ-7xBywu-98SDNW-7JPUs2-7UqGhH-8byaYf-6GpD43-8byaZo-9e46y5-2kYdsFL-2kYQJjw/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Niki Farah. Niki is studying a Bachelor of Arts / Advanced Studies (Politics and International Relations, Music). She is currently a Parliamentary Liaison at Jasiri Australia, facilitating the NSW Girls Takeover Parliament program. Niki has also volunteered with non-profit organisations and had the opportunity to teach English for 2 months in Sri Lanka. She is interested in human rights, ethnic conflict and women's issues and rights. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Career Opportunities with Asian Languages**  May I draw your readers' attention to a valuable [**online Zoom panel**](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/building-a-career-with-asian-languages-tickets-165609501477)and Q&A being organised on 2 September by the Australian Society for Asian Humanities on the ways that the study of Asian languages can open up career opportunities? This panel will showcase how Asian language training is useful and relevant across a wide variety of professions, from government to journalism.  **Professor Jocelyn Chey, AIIA NSW Councillor** | |

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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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