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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 explore Russia's use of force, internet regulation and regional media coverage.  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 outdoor, pile, old, outdoor object  Description automatically generated | | [**Russia,**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/06/russia-ukraine-war-democracy-sovereignty-right/661231/)[**Ukraine and the Use of Force**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/06/russia-ukraine-war-democracy-sovereignty-right/661231/)  Understandings about the use of force have [**altered**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/06/russia-ukraine-war-democracy-sovereignty-right/661231/) since the creation of the United Nations in 1946. According to the Charter there are only two legitimate uses of force in international relations: national self-defence; and support of actions sanctioned by the UN Security Council. Since then, definitions of what constitutes ‘self-defence’ have conceded that a state does not have to wait to be attacked before it can legitimately respond, provided that an attack on it is imminent. It has been less acceptable to use force if a state suspects that another might attack it. Pre-emption and the demonstration of imminence are in, but prevention is not. In the case of Ukraine, Russia has not demonstrated that there is an imminent threat from Kiev. Moscow’s attack looks more like prevention; for this among many [**reasons**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russian-federation/2022-06-10/ukraine-strategy-long-haul) it has been viewed as illegitimate. Russia’s strategic interest is understandable, but great powers have a responsibility to deal with strategic vulnerability without violating fundamental [**norms**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russian-federation/2022-06-10/ukraine-strategy-long-haul) of international behaviour.  The view that self-defence is no longer the only legitimate grounds for the use of force has developed to include “wars of national liberation” – conflicts between aspiring states and their former colonisers. A growing acceptance of “humanitarian intervention” led the UN in 2005 to adopt the doctrine of a [**Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**](https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/Ukraine/). But none of this lets Russia off the hook. Moscow argues that its “special military operation” was necessary to protect Russian speakers in Ukraine from oppression. But it has not provided convincing evidence that they were being oppressed, or followed the procedural requirements of the R2P doctrine. Subjecting the use of force to law is a noble and urgent challenge, and every departure from the relevant norms is a blow to our fragile international security architecture.  Image credit: **[manhhai](https://www.flickr.com/photos/13476480@N07/51985665513" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | | Map  Description automatically generated | | [**Perspectives from Beyond Australia**](https://johnmenadue.com/in-asia-media-this-week-june-11/)  It is useful to broaden our sources of information beyond the mainstream English-language media, which all too often just repeats and copies news and commentary from inside the group. David Armstrong is an experienced Australian journalist now retired and living in northern Thailand.  I knew him personally when he was Editor-in-Chief of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong.  I always read his weekly summary of the Asian media in the current affairs blog Pearls and Irritations.  His[**latest post**](https://johnmenadue.com/in-asia-media-this-week-june-11/) covered Prime Minister Albanese's visit to Jakarta, US-China relations, the Myanmar crisis, Thailand's legalisation of pot and Biden's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.  Plenty of links to follow up for the interested reader.  Image credit: [**Z**](https://unsplash.com/photos/TrhLCn1abMU) | |

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| |  | | --- | | A close up of a keyboard  Description automatically generated | | [**Social Media: Bringing Law to the Lawless**](https://nic.suzor.net/lawless)  One of the biggest questions on many policymakers’ minds today is how, or even if, they can regulate the major social media companies. While these platforms are no longer novel inventions and their various negative effects are becoming clearer, they are still not well understood. They are often headquartered overseas and it's uncertain what, if anything, can be done to make them more accountable. Nicolas Suzor, Professor of Law at Queensland University of Technology, is one of the foremost thinkers about internet governance. In his (free to download) book [**Lawless**](https://nic.suzor.net/lawless) he unpacks the murkier and less understood side of internet regulation - how the major platforms govern themselves. He looks at what the major platforms are doing now, where it is going wrong and how it can be improved in the future. Now a member of Meta’s Oversight Board, which hears appeals against decisions made by Facebook and Instagram’s moderators, it would be fair to say Suzor and his work is having a real effect on how these companies are regulated. His book deserves close attention.   Image credit: [**T**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indo-Pacific_Economic_Framework_for_Prosperity_Launch_Event.jpg)[**oday Testing**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Social_Media_Marketing_Strategy.jpg) | |

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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, our interns Emily Shelley and Victor Liang explore the future of Australian aid and conflict over Taiwan.  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 text, stack  Description automatically generated | | [Where Now for Australian Aid?](https://devpolicy.org/where-now-for-australian-aid-20220607/) Writing for Devpolicy Blog, Research Fellow at the ANU's Development Policy Centre Terence Wood provides a critical [**analysis**](https://devpolicy.org/where-now-for-australian-aid-20220607/) of the future of Australia's foreign aid budget under the Albanese government.  Despite labelling it as a 'pro-aid government', the author is unsure whether Labor's pre-election promises will signal an actual, material increase to the Australian aid budget, which has been subject to numerous cuts and transformations over the past decade. Wood also explores the potential challenge that China's aid in the Pacific poses for the new government, ultimately warning that ‘the more Australian aid is focused on countering China and shoring up allegiances with political elites in Pacific countries, the less likely it is to actually help people in need.’ Lastly, the author calls into question DFAT's capacity to effectively deliver aid, arguing that development experts are 'spread too thin' throughout the organisation and that urgent structural changes are needed to counter this. This is ultimately a thought-provoking argument that raises important questions for any future Australian aid projects.  Image credit: [**DFAT**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dfataustralianaid/25235441956/in/album-72157662668043703/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | Emily Shelley is a fourth year student at the University of New South Wales, studying a Bachelor of International Studies and a Bachelor of Media (Communications & Journalism). She has a particular passion for using digital and social media to educate youth about diplomacy and international affairs. Currently, Emily is a Digital Communications Officer at Young Australian in International Affairs and an Editor with the AEAN-Australian Strategic Youth Partnership. | |

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