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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 lessons from Ukraine, the growing opposition towards AUKUS and the secrecy of Xi Jinping's Communist party.  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 group of people sitting around a table  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [**Lessons from Ukraine**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://substack.com/redirect/55fa72cd-75aa-4c07-9cd3-7e3022513ea7?r%3Dpq1&source=gmail&ust=1661554990216000&usg=AOvVaw3vyLqZuq8o4KqNE9gGE8J_)  Six months after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine the war is dragging on and no end seems in sight, at least in the short term.  Amongst various commentaries inspired by this sad milestone, I [**recommend a report**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://substack.com/redirect/55fa72cd-75aa-4c07-9cd3-7e3022513ea7?r%3Dpq1&source=gmail&ust=1661554990216000&usg=AOvVaw3vyLqZuq8o4KqNE9gGE8J_) from the Washington-based Atlantic Council.  It draws 23 global lessons from the Ukraine war encompassing the military, economics, social, international relations, cyber security consequences of the conflict.  Australians worry less about Russian aggression than Americans do, feeling that Ukraine is far distant from our shores. However, they are concerned about China and Taiwan.  In this context, I would draw readers' attention to the section of the Atlantic Council report written by Tuvia Gering, headed “Today’s Ukraine is not tomorrow’s Taiwan.”  It makes the point that cross-strait relations should not be compared with Kyiv-Moscow relations.  Image credit: [**Just Clicks With A Camera**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/153352659@N03/52269021847/in/photolist-2nCQpaR-2ndwvis-2nnHoT9-2neQdjN-TXu6s5-kKTSc5-2nc8711-6MjLgk-2n7ZYC5-6VqUN7-kKTSaG-29aQwPZ-2nodYt6-2ngzUFK-2nc2WwH-sWHsVS-2nhyd15-sUBa59-sWXbVM-2ncT3vM-sWHsdQ-sEkrzb-sWW8fX-2nCjaUW-2n59b85-s17MoZ-2kSHzVw-sEmTfQ-2nc86YY-2nnnPEe-2nGgRWb-sWXf3t-2n5e64m-sEmYA9-sWWacn-2m2bUYo-YqR5f6-bDLBMJ-oGxDKt-oYLo3t-qdf6HK-r9TKJp-oZ1Zv5-qd4iPb-r7KmbA-2ismuwp-r9Xn9C-2isiRzj-2ismuyP-oZ3PuH) | |

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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 person standing at a podium with flags behind him  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | [**Questioning AUKUS. Opposition is growing**](https://johnmenadue.com/questioning-aukus-opposition-is-growing/)  This article by Nick Deane in Pearls and Irritations provides a [**balanced view**](https://johnmenadue.com/questioning-aukus-opposition-is-growing/) of the positions of opponents to the AUKUS agreement, particularly their concerns about Australia's acquisition of nuclear powered submarines. Some of the opposition to AUKUS is about the nuclear technology and especially its relevance for Australia’s continuing compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), noting the objection lodged by Indonesia at the recent NPT review conference. Others oppose AUKUS because it is likely to result in closer connection with US policy and international actions, at a time of growing fear about potential conflict over Taiwan. My take is that this range of concerns is only natural for such a profound development in Australia’s national security posture that was unveiled in such an abrupt manner.  Image credit: [**van huy nguyen**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/181610326@N07/51515854877/in/photolist-2muhdSr-dbVg4g-6QmFFh-75Zexr-czwiEy-YtYfFK-2mtV9Ry-8ZVsMz-SrE4UH-G885GF-2hxjJBw-2hxfdBL-LG3nox-2n5MsdQ-25juwg4-2iL8vyD-2jhkLpv-2jhhV9T-2g91kQa-2jhn6av-2kffhhs-CRLoBB-23MtxHa-NfhrLL-X7RfQQ-2msDYkG-zUWRqy-crSJB3-2ivMhrQ-JYK7AW-h2kbG-4octfM-kow1ku-oBLtpP-2mDSF2N-2n6MTHE-2aCRjWD-2nuC1ZJ-S9EjvJ-2n7kqZP-25juwiD-2fRV7Zh-2aCRijR-2nFWC7j-2biLXNR-2mrbqHU-2mr2Gmn-mpqEsE-2nmbahS-2nBFLGh) | |

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| |  | | --- | | A building with pillars and people in front of it  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | [The Supreme Court Has Never Been Apolitical](https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/04/03/the-supreme-court-has-never-been-apolitical-00022482) In this Politico article, Joshua Zeitz [**examines**](https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/04/03/the-supreme-court-has-never-been-apolitical-00022482) the US Supreme Court from a historical perspective, asserting that they should not purport to be a neutral actor.  A history lecturer who has taught at Cambridge, Harvard and Princeton, Zeitz argues that contemporary criticisms of the Supreme Court are rooted in a belief that the justices should be apolitical actors and “neutral umpires who just call balls and strikes”.  However, in some ways, the concept of judicial independence is a very recent phenomena.  Zeitz harks back to the landmark decisions of Brown v Board of Education explaining that when the Supreme Court issued that decision four of its nine members were previously politicians, and several of them had never served on the federal bench.  He provides an extensive analysis of the behaviour of former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas and his role advising LBJ during his presidency, though his examples throughout the article span both sides of the political spectrum.  Several current members have asserted that it is, most notably Justice Amey Coney Barrett who argued the court "is not comprised of a bunch of partisan hacks.  Judicial philosophies are not the same as political parties.”  But Zietz view is clear.  Supreme Court has pretended that it is an apolitical instrument but “it never really was, and it isn’t today”.  Image credit:[**Glenn Beltz**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/n28307/) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Grace Papworth. Grace is currently in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Politics) at the University of Sydney. Grace has experience in the legal profession as a law clerk and has worked within the political sphere in the office of US Senator Tim Scott (US Congress) and Senator Andrew Bragg (Australian Senate). | |

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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 edition'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 edition'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 fortnight's newsletter. | |

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