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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 consider elections around the world, oil prices and the UN's role in Ukraine.   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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| |  | | --- | |  | | [**Elections that will Shape the World**](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/may/25/xi-by-kerry-brown-review-the-man-who-became-chinas-president)  There are state elections coming up soon in New South Wales and Victoria, but their significance pales in comparison with others around the world.  The first to consider is China's National Party Congress, due to open on 16 October, when Xi Jinping is predicted to be confirmed as Party Chairman for a third term.  Xi is surely the most powerful man in the world, so this election, even if undemocratic by the standards of the western world, is certainly very significant.  An excellent introduction to the person and statesmanship of President Xi is a book by Kerry Brown, Xi: A Study in Power, reviewed by Jeffrey Wasserstrom for [***The Guardian***](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/may/25/xi-by-kerry-brown-review-the-man-who-became-chinas-president). Other October elections around the world will also shape the next decade.  On 2 October Brazil faced a contest between ultra-right wing Jair Bolsonaro and the possible return of leftist Luis Ignacio Lulu da Silva, commonly known as Lulu.  There was a good analysis of the policies and issues at play in these elections by Flavia Bellieni Zimmerman in [***The Conversation***](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/brazils-ultra-conservative-surge-and-the-2022-presidential-elections-is-bolsonaro-over-yet/).  Lulu won, as most commentators expected, but the results were so close that there will be a run off later this month.  Italy's recent election demonstrated a swing to the far rights in European politics. Sofia Ammasari and Duncan McDonell published an insightful commentary in [***The Conversation.***](https://theconversation.com/what-will-its-first-far-right-leader-since-wwii-mean-for-italy-190655) Elections in Indonesia are not due until 2024 but already key players are jostling. Joko Widodo is likely to step down and be replaced by Prabowo Subianto, or other candidates from the PDI-P, the only party able to garner enough votes to win. There is a good commentary by Jefferson Ng in [***The Diplomat***](https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/who-will-lead-indonesias-pdi-p-into-the-2024-election/).   With each of these elections the world will shift a little on its axis.  Image credit: **[Midia NINJA](https://www.flickr.com/photos/midianinja/51858711649/in/photolist-2n1zsf6-2mLFLvt-2mLKemu-2mLBFqT-2mLHcZ9-2mLLj82-2mLHd1g-2mLLj9e-2mLHd2J-2mLBFvT-d9BNMb-7rzgzN-2mKGLPi-7rzfEs-2n1B8si-9ZP68f-cMUBry-9ZP5mG-9ZLc9i-cMUeFj-bE5Kij-83rME3-6c6bGo-6c4fbh-838v2H-83bDiU-83bDh1-83bDe1-72p7KC-72k8m8-83oFdc-cMUjsh-cMUh1h-cMUyGG-4wQn2x-cMUwg3-cMUp4d-cMUtQ7-d4xpa7-cMU9hG-cMUcHQ-cMUmMW-cMULeu-23JMWM5-E8vXuF-d4xnpW-bE5Pzo-bSZw56-d4xkXQ-cMUEtd" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | | These articles were 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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| |  | | --- | |  | | Penny Wong Wants Australia to Be More Than a Supporting Player For many years, Penny Wong has been articulating a new approach to Australia’s foreign policy - one that sees the country’s middle power status as an asset to strengthen engagement and influence with the Indo-Pacific. For [**Foreign Policy,**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/10/01/penny-wong-australia-foreign-policy/) Margaret Simons compiles a profile of now Foreign Minister Wong’s foreign policy strategy, what influences have formulated it and how it might succeed. Noting Wong has already overseen an extraordinary surge in international engagement since the election, including meeting her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Simons suggest Wong’s new “vigorous activism” is designed to contrast the bellicosity both of China and of the previous Australian government to promote better engagement with non-aligned states in the region. Wong’s own Southeast Asian heritage is a key influence on her ambition to reframe ASEAN’s perception of Australia as a multicultural, Indo-Pacific state rather than simply as a US outpost in the region. On Australia’s role in the great power competition, she has said that the US and China “must be prepared to live with each other as a major power” and has advocated for Australia to help shape a “settling point” for the two superpowers in the region. Simon’s profile of the foreign minister paints a clear picture of what long-term foreign policy strategy Wong wants to realise and suggests a number of paths she may take to get there.     Image credit: [**Jenny Scott**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/adelaide_archivist/51907272047/in/photolist-2n5Skyk-TYfSKw-SNbrrD-EFeLCY-TYg6Z7-TQkoxT-2nn6voY-vrCMgq-TYfMDu-2gVpBrR-TYgeNo-EFzAXp-VN5P8b-9CKt9o-U2SZni-TQkaw2-TMYmRS-2kznMvg-B4yC93-9F6RPr-TMY1Qu-U2SU7Z-9F9MD3-9F9LSS-TQk7ac-TYfUGs-TrRpH5-U2SAbi-9F6RzF-9CK743-8pkwXt-TYfRhm-TQkkqF-SKpPdY-U2TaAz-TQjZxe-TQk6k6-SKpdUY-SNbqvk-A8J2AG-TYfNQN-U2T6YV-TQjKB8-SNbHc6-U2SRsR-o2TDxo-U2TfTt-9D5mba-TMXTzY-VPQZ6y) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ralph Housego. Ralph is a fourth-year student at the University of Sydney studying a Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies (Politics and International Relations, Political Economy). Ralph currently works as a media analyst at GRACosway, a strategic communications and public affairs consulting firm, and as a research assistant at the digital government advocacy platform, Advoc8. Ralph’s areas of interest centre on Australia’s trading relationships with its Indo-Pacific neighbours as well as broader geostrategic and economic issues in the region. | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Teague Mirabelle. Teagueis currently undertaking a double Masters in cyber-security analysis and international affairs at Macquarie University. He has previously worked in eastern Zambia in developing English programs in collaboration with local governments and NGOs. His current research is centred around Australia’s developing relationships with its Indo-Pacific neighbours and on emerging risk trends in national security especially in the cyber landscape. | |

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