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| |  | | --- | |  | | [Chip Wars](https://www.csis.org/analysis/choking-chinas-access-future-ai?amp=&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email) The United States has tightened its restrictions on export of AI and semiconductor technology to China on the grounds that it could have military applications.  Gregory Allen of the US Center for Strategic and International Studies [**explains**](https://www.csis.org/analysis/choking-chinas-access-future-ai?amp=&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email) the scope and intention of President Biden's new policy, clearly designed to thwart the development of AI in China and keep the US strategic advantage.  There is an excellent survey of the global distribution of the chip manufacturing industry by American researcher [**Samuel Goodman**](https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/10/02/onshoring-semiconductors-is-a-chipped-ambition/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter2022-10-02), with a cogent argument that decoupling and on-shoring is impossible.  This is a really tricky situation and Australia will not be immune to the outcomes, whatever they are.  Chips are essential components of a huge variety of household, industrial and recreational manufactured goods and the manufacturing supply chains are complex and involve multiple sources so that costs will rise as well as delays due to re-routing once the US embargo takes effect. James Laurenceson [**discusses**](https://www.australiachinarelations.org/content/where-chips-fall-containing-china-us-can-leave-australia-out) some of the implications in an article published in the Lowy Interpreter.   Image credit: **[Xoneca](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Integrated_circuit_optical_sensor.jpg" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | |  | | [**US dominance in Australian defence decisions**](https://johnmenadue.com/four-corners-australia-the-spear-carrier-for-the-us-in-our-region/)   The AUKUS agreement, under which Australia plans (among other defence arrangements) to acquire a new, probably American, submarine fleet with first deliveries in the 2030s, was accompanied by Australian agreement to immediate increases in the US defence presence in Australia. John Menadue in Pearls and Irritations [**sets out**](https://johnmenadue.com/four-corners-australia-the-spear-carrier-for-the-us-in-our-region/) the extent of these increases, which have now received some mainstream media coverage (Four Corners, Sydney Morning Herald) focussed on the stationing of nuclear-capable B52H Stratofortress bombers in northern Australia. (For more detail see [**here**](https://johnmenadue.com/the-lunatics-course-the-northern-territorys-increased-militarisation/).)   A closely-documented [**report**](https://johnmenadue.com/captive-media-what-does-the-submarine-scandal-tell-us-about-our-defence-correspondents/) in the Washington Post in mid-October, now covered in a Sydney Daily Telegraph item by Charles Miranda on 31 October, revealed the role played by senior US military personnel – six former US admirals, three US navy civilian chiefs and three US ship building executives – in advising the Australian government on defence purchases. Miranda reports that former US Navy Secretary Donald Wilson had recommended that the Morrison government abrogate the Turnbull government’s submarine contract with France. Defence officials have dismissed any concerns about security or conflict of interest.   The incoming Albanese government has reaffirmed AUKUS and the submarine (and other defence capability) plans, with Defence Minister Richard Marles making repeated references to inter-operability between the Australian and US defence forces. If the submarine deal is finalised, the US will in effect have acquired additions to its submarine capability paid for (and staffed) by Australia.    Concern about Australia’s defence decisions being too closely enmeshed with those of the US was evidenced in commentary by veteran intelligence and defence analyst Hugh White at the AIIA national conference last week: he predicted that the US will almost certainly go to war with China over Taiwan, that Australia will almost certainly join any US action, and that the conflict will almost certainly become nuclear - with grim consequences for Australia given China's likely targeting of US facilities here.  Image credit: [**U**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/meaindia/49011217371/in/photostream/)[**.S Navy**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Official_U.S._Navy_Imagery_-_HMNZS_Endeavour_refuels_HMNZS_Te_Kaha_and_ROKS_Choi_Young..jpg) | |

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| |  | | --- | |  | | Tribalism and the USA Reuben E Brigety II [**discusses**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2021-02-16/fractured-power?check_logged_in=1) in his article, published by Foreign Affairs magazine, the current growing political division occurring in the USA and the attempts made to constrain it. The US is a foreign policy powerhouse with an arsenal of tools and agencies to assess levels of growing conflict within nation-states and between them. One such tool is the US Agency for International Development’s Conflict Assessment Framework (CAF), capable of highlighting underlying dynamics within countries that feed into internal strife. When these same tools are used to assess America, however, a disturbing picture is formed.  In 2019 it was reported by the Pew Research Centre that 60% of the US population is reporting growing levels of distrust towards their government and the same year saw a spike in racially and ideologically motivated hate crimes in over 20 years. These are but a few statistics that paint a picture of growing tribalism with the US. As this trend grows so does the polarisation of the different factions and a resulting decrease is seen in the cooperative dealing with ‘non-members’. With a population of over 330 million there is an array of different factions contributing to this tribalism but the most significant contribution comes from the divide between Republicans and Democrats. A healthy government requires balanced and critical voice to critique the current administration but the fractured relationship between the two sides has begun eroding that health. How can the USA heal from this? Strong leadership is key and with the primary elections approaching, will play an integral part in either the healing or continued fracturing of the state.  Image credit:[**Vagabond Rythm**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/vagabondrhythm/90581851/in/photolist-bx1re5-91fQ4-b7Afdv-ajLCEb-zrtQP-dpiuuW-91k3X-4ifYdt-6862C4-68ad2u) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ashrika Paruthi, a third-year Dalyell Scholar and Vice Chancellor’s International Scholar, undertaking a Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies, majoring in International Relations and Politics, at the University of Sydney. Presently, she is the Ethnocultural and International Students’ Officer on the University of Sydney Students’ Representative Council and a Young Leader at the Australia-India Business Council. | |

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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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