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| |  | | --- | |  | | [How to Avoid a Great-Power War](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=c52b4383cb&e=84738c8dae) General Mark Milley is the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. When he gives an interview on international affairs, his views should be widely read and respected. Foreign Affairs Editor Daniel Kurtz-Phelan, recorded a discussion with Milley on 2 May as a [**podcast**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=c3e47aecd4&e=84738c8dae)that is also available in transcript. They talk about developments in the Ukraine war, European reactions, compare China and Russia, and, most importantly, how to avoid a great-power war in the future. Milley notes bitterly that nowhere in the world is there any soldier who has experienced a great-power war, and he cannot name any serving politician with firsthand experience. He concludes by saying that we should be committed to preventing such a horrific catastrophe and use all possible non violent means to resolve differences.  Image credit: [**US Navy**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=085896dd53&e=84738c8dae) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This podcast was selected by Jocelyn Chey AM FAIIA. Jocelyn is an Adjunct Professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney, a 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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| |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors' recommendations, we invited our interns to share with you what they have found insightful or interesting in the world of international affairs over this week. This week Roisin Browne discusses the role of the Biden administration in the conflict in Sudan, and Isobel Logan shares a podcast exploring the current state of the international-rules based system and future of contemporary power politics.   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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| |  | | --- | |  | | [How US Efforts to Guide Sudan to Democracy Ended in War](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=aa4d8a7ca1&e=84738c8dae) Just weeks ago, US diplomats believed that Sudan was on the verge of a breakthrough agreement that would advance its transition to becoming a democracy. Now, the country is in crisis.   Edward Wong, Michael Crowley and Declan Walsh [**attribute**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=f51c5f236a&e=84738c8dae) US involvement in Sudan to Biden’s wider foreign policy strategy of strengthening democracies worldwide in an attempt to allow nations to stand as bulwarks against the influences of China, Russia and other autocratic powers. However, the failure of the Biden administration to guide Sudan toward democracy is in part due to its lack of understanding of the country’s complex political landscape. The authors note that the US prioritised negotiations with the military council in Sudan, which had been involved in the overthrow of former President Omar al-Bashir, but failed to engage with other opposition groups. This resulted in a power struggle between the military council and civilian-led opposition groups, culminating in a violent crackdown on protesters in June 2019.   Critics say the Biden administration failed to empower civilian leaders and instead prioritised working with the two rival generals, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and General Mohamed Hamdan. With Sudan quickly becoming the power vacuum that President Biden was hoping to avoid, congressional leaders are now calling for the US and UN to appoint special envoys to the conflict-ridden country.  Image credit: [**International Crisis Group**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=4c97831b02&e=84738c8dae) | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Roisin Browne. Roisin is a fourth year Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies student majoring in Politics/ International Relations and Advanced French. Roisin is currently completing her honours thesis on GCC involvement in Yemen and Somalia. | |

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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. | |