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The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**America's Best Bet in the Indo-Pacific**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/americas-best-bet-indo-pacific)  As the Quad has matured, the new horizons for the United States’ partnership with India have commanded more and more attention. US Defence Secretary Austin’s [**recent visit**](https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3416249/secretary-austin-concludes-india-visit/) to India reinforces the considerable intentions the United States has for the bilateral defence relationship, which it views as 'vital' to regional security. Certainly, US defence and technology cooperation with India is reaching new heights. However, increasingly converging interests between the two countries must not be mistaken for alignment.    Arzan Tarapore [**wrote convincingly**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/americas-best-bet-indo-pacific) in Foreign Affairs last week that US-India cooperation risks being soured by unrealistic expectations. Though India's views of China have changed rapidly following 2020 border clashes, India has never pretended it would behave like a treaty ally of the United States. To avoid strategic miscalculation, US decision makers must appreciate what is in the realm of the possible in the near-term. Tarapore argues that dedicated, limited cooperation in the Indian Ocean region and support for advancing India’s niche capabilities can deliver real benefits in the Indo-Pacific. Such efforts can contribute to a more resilient and realistic partnership between the two countries going forward.   Image credit: [**Sikandar Khan**](https://www.csscurrentaffairs.com/2022/07/quadrilateral-security-dialogue.html) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Alice Nason. Alice is a Research Associate in the Foreign Policy and Defence Program at the United States Studies Centre. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Advanced Studies in Politics, International Relations and American Studies with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney. She has served on the Council since 2023. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [****South East Asian security: Indonesia’s bridging role****](https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3222952/indonesia-host-great-power-rivals-china-us-rare-joint-naval-exercises) Joseph Rachman, in a 5 June [**article**](https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3222952/indonesia-host-great-power-rivals-china-us-rare-joint-naval-exercises) in the South China Morning Post, interprets Indonesia’s current hosting of joint military responses to humanitarian disasters – the Komodo exercises – as a modest but positive step toward regional cooperation on security issues. This comes at a time when greater attention is being given to more confrontational approaches, illustrated by AUKUS and China-US positioning at the Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore last week. He compares the Komodo exercises to Indonesia’s successful hosting of last year’s G20 meeting in Bali, in the shadow of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.   The exercises bring together 49 countries, including long-term rivals such as North and South Korea and India and Pakistan. In its capacity as host, Indonesia, Rachman suggests, is quietly filling the role of neutral broker in a region marked by strongly competing claims to seas and territories. He sees Indonesia as an avowedly neutral country intent on exercising a greater international role, matching its place as Southeast Asia’s largest economy - roughly three times the size of Thailand’s and six times Singapore’s - and the world’s fourth most populous nation.   While the Komodo exercises focus on practical, humanitarian cooperation among regional and outside powers, including the US, China, Taiwan and Russia in responding to human emergencies, Rachman cites observers’ comments that the exercises will provide the opportunity for communication protocols and inter-service dialogue as naval chiefs meet up in parallel operational activities at sea.   Image credit: [**Australian Defence Images**](https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=20211004_2822428_2103.jpg&Type=Filename) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ian Thomson, an AIIA NSW Councillor since 2022. His international businessexperience includes working with Westpac Banking Corporation, Leighton Contractors and the Sydney Airport Corporation. His international involvement has included operations in Shanghai, Beijing, Macau and Hong Kong, where he resided from 2007 to 2022. During the last decade he has been a university lecturer in accounting and finance. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**A History of These Times**](https://unherd.com/these-times-with-tom-mctague-and-helen-thompson/)  International affairs is rarely straightforward. Often the issues that confront us have long histories, with many inflection points that bring us to the present situation. It is sometimes difficult to know where to start. [**These Times**](https://unherd.com/these-times-with-tom-mctague-and-helen-thompson/), a new podcast from Unherd Political Editor Tom McTague and Professor Helen Thompson of the University of Cambridge, attempts to take a longer view of today’s big political topic and seeks to unravel some of the history of the great issues of politics today. The two hosts are experience political commentators. Thompson was previously a regular guest and co-host of Talking Politics while McTague was a staff writer at the Atlantic. The podcast's early episodes have covered topics including the history of royal coronations in Britain, national conservatism and how the “Made in China 2025” policy is change global politics. The latter episode provides a particularly good guide to how Chinese and US economic policy have interacted over the years and how the rest of the world are likely to be impacted by Xi's key economic policy in the future. With easily accessible insights into a wide range of topics, and a refreshing broad view of issues facing us today, it is easy to understand why the podcast has rocketed up the news podcast rankings in the UK.   Image credit: [**Murray Campbell**](https://unsplash.com/photos/B_TdfGFuGwA) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This podcast was selected by Alex McManis. Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Government and International Relations, and a Juris Doctor both from the University of Sydney. He was formerly the Climate and Energy Security Fellow at Young Australians in International Affairs. Alex has served on the Council since 2019. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 possibility of a Saudi-Houthi peace deal in Yemen while Ryan Lung explains the geopolitical significance of a prominent US venture capital firm's decision to leave the Chinese and Indian technology markets.  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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [A Saudi-Houthi deal won't bring lasting peace in Yemen](https://www.mei.edu/publications/saudi-houthi-deal-wont-bring-lasting-peace-yemen) The recent agreement to restore diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran has sparked hope in the international community that the war in Yemen, in which Tehran and Riyadh back opposing sides, could be brought to an end. In light of this, Al-Dawsari [**urges**](https://www.mei.edu/publications/saudi-houthi-deal-wont-bring-lasting-peace-yemen)that Yemen not be treated as the “sacrificial lamb” for improving Saudi-Iran relations or as an opportunity to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Instead, Yemen must be understood in recognition of its own internal dynamics that are defined by the complex interplay between regional actors.   As Saudi-Emirati tensions surge in South Yemen, the Houthis are capitalising on the lack of strategy from their rivals while continuing to receive direct military support from Iran and Hezbollah. The Houthis' military gains have allowed them to shape the path of international diplomacy in Yemen, aware that Saudi Arabia is desperate to wash its hands of the war. While the Houthis currently refuse to negotiate with the Presidential Leadership Council, there is a possibility that the Houthis and Iran might strategically de-escalate tensions and accept a political settlement to remove the Saudis from the situation. A ‘peace’ deal will allow the Saudis to extricate themselves from the war but may also ultimately relinquish control over Yemen to Iranian influence. With this in mind, Al-Dawsari notes the possibility of a Saudi-Houthi alliance to undermine UAE influence in South Yemen as part of Riyadh’s wider strategy of quashing its assertive neighbour.  Image credit: [**Ali Owidha**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sikk/50247492572/in/photolist-2bZVKST-2mZXjFL-2owAMtD-2njFVnt-2b1wHrC-2b1wHA5-2aHJ1xc-2b1wHmh-Hymvyv-HbEABd-Hh7ueA-pTdRVa-oNe5dL-2ehdgEw-HbEzud-He1ePZ-GUNDfs-psF9gS-2jycwWQ-qBLbnB-GpwHSy-HbENY7-HbEQEd-FCqegb-HymEYc-HbEWLb-GpF2Kv-HbEhVm-8Eztrp-ryxv8k-8EztmD-ryrExv-rwgJF7-ryrWCC-2gRYSEU-2gRYSsu-Hh7MMS-GpFrbt-GJZtnH-GUNEV1-HpmWVB-Hpnizx-23HuKuA-23LrrbZ-Hk3Qrt-HymFdF-23Lor6K-GUNkww-8ECCRs) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Roisin Browne. Roisin is a is a fourth-year student at the University of Sydney studying a Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies (Politics and International Relations, Advanced French). Roisin is currently completing her honours thesis which focuses on the Gulf Cooperation Council's contradictory projects in Yemen and Somalia. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**The US Tech Sector and "De-Risking" in China**](https://www.axios.com/2023/06/06/sequoia-capital-splits-up-china-india)  The [**announcement**](https://www.axios.com/2023/06/06/sequoia-capital-splits-up-china-india) by prominent venture firm Sequoia Capital that it will split up from its branches in China and India has made a splash in financial newspapers this week, largely because of its significance to worsening US-China relations. Although little-known outside of the technology sector, Sequoia Capital has played a large role in the rise of tech giants such as Apple, Google, Instagram, and PayPal by providing both capital and business expertise to these companies at an early stage. Indeed, venture capital firms are considered a vital part of the technology ecosystem of the United States and are arguably responsible for much of its success. However, the expansion of Sequoia Capital into the Chinese and Indian technology markets since the mid-2000s has proved controversial, owing to the transfer of valuable managerial and financial expertise, in addition to large amounts of American capital, into foreign hands.   Since the purpose of venture capital is to fund the development of ground-breaking technology in the hopes of making large returns on investment, its operations inevitably extend into sensitive fields such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Although Sequoia Capital claims that the break-up of its three offices into independent firms was driven by management difficulties, the decision comes as the US along with other G-7 economies seek to “de-risk” their economic relationship with China. While the American technology sector has historically found its relationship with China extremely profitable, rising geopolitical tensions may force these firms to pick a side.  Image credit: [**Alpha Photo**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/196993421@N03/52810718602/in/photolist-2osGJK5-2ou9gHE-2mFBG29-hgRUUp-QagSQo-2kzky7F-omjY8T-2ouXi1j-2oaiM6J-fPZ4Xk-qTR3F-JvJTXQ-7BFM3J-6Rk5Gp-8XrA9G-kTPLr7-3pEZez-2ocsc1F-vJBuiD-2kEVhs-er49BC-XZULTx-PXRAS-2ocbm3J-2ocuCHa-kTPRyb-7jbyt-XZUPmt-2octv9F-kTQfR3-2ocpxWR-2ocuCHk-2ocuqSU-kTQiAG-2occf7K-2kAzZx-CiqTzA-Cbhq8-quHeZ-uofnoX-2kAxDB-feQJpV-quHfc-2nntCvv-5tLC7S-YPWjmS-2nnyg2H-CCfS2n-2hq13QF-yT9mYX) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ryan Lung. Ryan is a third-year student at the University of Sydney studying a Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies, majoring in History and English. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * In light of the Ben Roberts-Smith case, Daniel Flitton [**compares**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/lessons-history-comparing-australia-s-response-war-crimes-united-states) Australia's response to war crimes with the United States' in the Interpreter. * As political tensions surge in Fiji, Richard Herr [**discusses**](https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/coups-and-rumours-of-coups-in-fiji/) the possibility of a coup on the Pacific Island in Australian Strategic Policy Institute. * Crystal Orderson [**explores**](https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/6/2/a-russian-love-affair-why-south-africa-stays-neutral-on-war) South Africa's neutrality towards Russia's invasion of Ukraine for Al Jazeera, attributing this position to policymakers' desire for a more multipolar world. * In the Atlantic, Russell Berman [**unpacks**](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2023/05/debt-ceiling-deal-mccarthy-fiscal-responsibility-act-cut-spending/674252/) the implications of the spending cuts entailed in the debt ceiling deal reached by President Biden and House Republicans in the United States. * William Briggs in Pearls and Irritations [**suggests**](https://johnmenadue.com/the-us-drive-to-war-with-china-and-the-battle-of-ideas/) that anti-socialist ideology, as much as concerns about strategic and economic primacy, may lie at the heart of US determination to combat China’s rise. * Peter Walker in The Guardian [**reports**](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jun/07/rishi-sunak-talks-up-free-trade-on-his-way-to-washington-dc-to-meet-joe-biden) that Rishi Sunak will raise concerns about protectionism with Washington officials in light of the Biden Administration's decision to bolster America's green energy sector through the Inflation Reduction Act. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Letters to the Editor** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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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