|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Blue text on a black background  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to issue 79 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close-up of a bookcase  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Councillors** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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, they consider the regulation of generative artificial intelligence, American foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific and the annual Malabar military exercises.  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 large mushroom cloud with a large explosion  Description automatically generated | | [**AI: Time for the Nuclear Option?**](https://www.smh.com.au/technology/the-ai-horse-has-bolted-it-s-time-for-the-nuclear-option-20230807-p5duel.html)  Former Australian chief scientist, Alan Finkel, [**suggests**](https://www.smh.com.au/technology/the-ai-horse-has-bolted-it-s-time-for-the-nuclear-option-20230807-p5duel.html) that ‘solving’ the concerns around Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not as simple as regulating well-intentioned developers. As Finkel highlights, regulations rely on good faith and cooperation.  Regulations would not prevent bad actors, such as criminal organisations and terrorist groups, from leaping ahead in their AI capacity. When the technology can produce a list of four viruses capable of unleashing a pandemic in under an hour, this is too great a risk. Instead, he proposes an analogous treaty to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty that entered into effect in 1970 to regulate the level of capability of transistors on a microchip. He draws a comparison to the existing punitive restrictions imposed by the US government on the export to China of advanced microchips to suggest that countries are already well aware of the essentiality of this technology to AI development. The challenge, much like with nuclear non-proliferation, will be ensuring that every technologically advanced country or jurisdiction would agree to an AI non-proliferation treaty. Finkel recognises the collective responsibility of these negotiations and argues that Australia should contribute as a global leader in this new frontier.    Image credit: **[scorpicaki](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scorpicaki/5403463036/in/photolist-9euaiN-6f78fa-dFAiX2-WKox2g-xNhaBS-25Esv-cRLyg-xwwp8o-HGGH16-2gtBdix-fjc3F7-az16C2-2gGtfxk-2oKRLy1-5cFTcz-78tzEM-k99LDi-UMZJCE-UMZHhy-UQJM8R-VubxqU-6pyiXM-c3U8H-muh7eP-4Gf9o-2iG8RaG-WKovKZ-WKovs4-QF9gx9-HGGH9T-WKowkg-2nAgJav-2mZNwqQ-aFjxAF-2jM661A-4C2bfs-MhKYKz-WG7DBm-2nAfEWs-2gGtfCv-2nAefmw-2h4yYcZ-ap2z5K-yrVerc-WKoxoZ-5ST3on-2nv8buj-2nMcpCf-bbZdgM-em4qB9" \t "_blank)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Isabel Freudenstein. Isabel graduated from a Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Advanced Studies at the University of Sydney with a First Class Honours in International Relations.  Isabel is currently studying a Juris Doctor at the University of Sydney and has served on the council since 2022. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**Target China**](https://www.globalresearch.ca/target-china/5827897)  During a brief return to Canberra for the unveiling of his portrait, former PM and current Ambassador to the US [**Kevin Rudd said**](https://kevinrudd.com/media/official-portrait-remarks), “We are in a region where the risk of crisis, conflict and war is real – not a theory, it’s a real threat.”  For those who wish to investigate the reasoning behind this statement, I can do no better than recommend an outline of US foreign policy from the Canadian independent think tank Global Research.  An [**August 4 article**](https://www.globalresearch.ca/target-china/5827897) by Mike Whitney, concluded with the following summary:   * The Indo-Pacific is now America’s top foreign policy priority because that is the area that will experience the most growth. * The US will lead with its military and with the allies who share US interests. * “We will…modernize and strengthen our military” to prevail in our “strategic competition with major powers.” * America’s Number 1 enemy is China…. * “The post-Cold War era is over” but the United States is prepared to preserve the “rules-based order” whatever the cost in blood and treasure.   Image credit: [**Christian Lue**](https://unsplash.com/photos/2Juj2cXWB7U) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**Don't Conflate the Quad and Malabar**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/don-t-conflate-quad-malabar)  Anyone commuting via ferry across Sydney Harbour in recent days may have noticed a few more than usual big navy ships floating about. Last Friday, visiting warships from the United States, Japan and India were led into the harbour by HMAS Brisbane, marking the beginning of the annual Exercise Malabar military drills – a 10 day, large-scale warfare training between the four countries. Writing in the The Interpreter, Patrick Triglavcanin [**discusses**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/don-t-conflate-quad-malabar) the exercise, noting there is a distinct difference between Malabar and the quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), despite both comprising of the same four nations. Triglavcanin argues the Quad isn’t a grouping “focused on the projection or refinement of its members’ hard power assets”, even showing a reluctance towards focusing on military issues in the Indo-Pacific. Malabar, on the other hand, is “explicitly about hard power and increasing interoperability between Quad nations.” Though future rises in regional tensions might see the two become more conflated, Triglavcanin ultimately warns against fuelling perceptions that Quad should have a ‘hard edge’ like Malabar.  Image credit: [**US Pacific Fleet**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/compacflt/53055254856/) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ralph Housego. Ralph graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies at the University of Sydney, and currently works in public policy consultancy. He is a former intern of AIIA NSW and has served on the council since 2023. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 Imogen Biggins discusses international engagement with the Taliban two years after they regained control of Afghanistan and Rachel A reflects on the Mauritian government's fight to reclaim the Chagos Archipelago through her review of the book, The Last Colony.    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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**The World Has No Choice But to Work With the Taliban**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/afghanistan/world-has-no-choice-work-taliban?check_logged_in=1&utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=lo_flows&utm_campaign=registered_user_welcome&utm_term=email_1&utm_content=20230813)  Two years ago, the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan as a chaotic Western withdrawal marked the end of America’s drawn-out struggle to impose liberal democracy on the fledgling state. In the July/August edition of Foreign Affairs, Graeme Smith and Ibraheem Bahiss [**ask the question**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/afghanistan/world-has-no-choice-work-taliban?check_logged_in=1&utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=lo_flows&utm_campaign=registered_user_welcome&utm_term=email_1&utm_content=20230813)that many Western leaders are not yet prepared to confront: how do you engage with a regime you spent two decades trying to destroy? Afghanistan is a long way off joining the club of nations. The Taliban’s political and moral authoritarianism has made diplomatic recognition by the West a distant pipe dream, while issues of regional security—aggravated by the growing strength of Uyghur militants and local jihadist groups—have chilled relations with China and Pakistan. Afghanistan’s scramble to secure precious water resources has undermined the country’s relationship with some of its closest neighbours, limiting cooperation in the region. However, as Smith and Bahiss point out, the world cannot afford to ignore Afghanistan indefinitely. The very real needs of ordinary Afghans—particularly women and girls—hang in the balance while Western leaders spurn discussions of a democratic rescue mission gone wrong. The path forward must be paved with a pragmatic acceptance that the Taliban seem unlikely to fold. The international community must look at and learn from early attempts to work with Afghanistan and implement practical measures of their own in the interests of peace and stability.  Image credit: [**Leslie Angulo**](https://nara.getarchive.net/media/an-afghan-man-covers-his-face-on-the-sight-of-a-camera-at-the-shura-meeting-a89f74) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Imogen Biggins. Imogen recently graduated from the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Arts/Advanced Studies (International and Global Studies), for which she received the University Medal. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | [**The Last Colony: A Tale of Exile, Justice and Britain’s Colonial Legacy by Philippe Sands**](https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/the-story-of-justice-by-philippe-sands-9781474618137)  As countries across the African continent began to assert their right to self-determination one after another in the 1960s, the British government worked in secret to carve out a new colony, the British Indian Ocean Territory, in the Chagos Archipelago (which had been transferred from French to British colonial control in 1814 and administered from Mauritius). The Last Colony tells the heart wrenching story of the Chagossian people – descendants of indentured African slaves – who, in 1967, were forced off their homeland and into permanent exile by the United Kingdom to make way for a United States military base to be built on the island of Diego Garcia. Among them was Liseby Elysé, twenty years old, newly married and four months pregnant when she was ordered to leave her home on the Peros Banhos atoll with one suitcase, no pets. “[When] we boarded, conditions in the [ship’s] hull… were bad. We were like animals and slaves… People were dying of sadness” she cried before a fourteen-judge panel at the International Court of Justice in 2019, which issued an advisory opinion that the United Kingdom did not have sovereignty over the Chagos Islands and that the administration of the archipelago should be handed over "as rapidly as possible" to Mauritius. Author and international lawyer Philippe Sands, who has advised the Mauritian government on the recovery of the Chagos Archipelago since 2010, weaves together a compelling account of the four-decade-long struggle against the unrelenting grip of colonial rule alongside the slow but formidable development of international law and passage of decolonisation following the Second World War. As the book progressively unfolds the legal and geopolitical complexities that bedevilled prosecuting the case against the United Kingdom, we learn the answer to the question Liseby Elysé [**poses**](https://www.chagossupport.org.uk/post/2018/09/11/chagossian-speaks-in-international-court-of-justice-chagos-case) outside the Great Hall of Justice after delivering her powerful testimony: Why did it take so long for us to come to The Hague?  Image credit: [**Fiona Hanson**](https://i.guim.co.uk/img/media/8a0a7d7c443305d59f273cd34982b6774b918e7a/0_55_1838_1102/master/1838.jpg?width=620&dpr=2&s=none) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This book was selected by Rachel A. Rachel is a third year Juris Doctor student at the University of New South Wales, having previously graduated with a degree in Accounting and Business Law at Murdoch University for which she was awarded the University Medal. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * In an article for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Hilary Matfess and Susanna Campebell [**advocate**](https://www.csis.org/analysis/sudan-conflict-rethinking-pathways-humanitarian-aid-provision) a reimagining of the provision of international humanitarian aid in Sudan. * Nesrine Malik [**argues**](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/aug/14/niger-crisis-africans-continent-moscow-washington) in the Guardian that the coup belt that spans the African continent is proof of the loss of influence on the part of ex-colonial powers. * A background analysis prepared for the Council on Foreign Relations by Jonathan Master, Noah Berman and Andrew Chatzky [**assesses**](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/world-bank-groups-role-global-development) the suitability of the World Bank in supporting international development. * In his analysis for Foreign Policy, Aaron Miller [**opines**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/08/14/iran-us-prisoner-swap-deal-nuclear-negotiations-talks-sanctions-biden/) that an informal, unwritten understanding with Iran to constrain Tehran's nuclear program is the least of all evils. * Sam Roggeveen, director of the Lowy Institute’s international security program, [**writes**](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jul/17/supporting-us-military-against-china-could-draw-australia-into-nuclear-war-expert-warns) in the Guardian that Australia’s growing integration into US strategic policy and defence arrangements puts Australia at risk of nuclear attack from China. * Commentary by Amin Saikal for The Australian Strategic Policy Institute [**discusses**](https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/americas-diminishing-influence-in-charting-a-new-world-order/) America’s diminishing influence over the new world order following its retreat from Afghanistan two years ago. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |