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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, they delve into the global history of political assassinations, Australia's maritime security challenges, and the complexity of media portrayals of China. 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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| |  | | --- | | A group of people walking on a street  Description automatically generated | | [**Political Assassinations: Not Just an American Problem**](https://theconversation.com/political-assassinations-are-not-just-an-american-problem-they-have-been-all-too-frequent-throughout-history-234683)  The attempted assassination of presidential candidate Donald Trump in July sent the 24-hour news cycle into a frenzied analytical tailspin. Journalists and pundits scrambled to explain how and why such an act could have unfolded, while the rapid spread of mis- and disinformation made it increasingly difficult to get a handle on the facts. In an excellent article for The Conversation, International History professor Matt Fitzpatrick [**situates**](https://theconversation.com/political-assassinations-are-not-just-an-american-problem-they-have-been-all-too-frequent-throughout-history-234683) the assassination attempt in the longue durée of political violence. In his analysis, Trump’s attempted assassination was not an outlier event in modern democracies. Rather, it was another episode in a long history of extreme protest that shows no signs of abating. From Julius Caesar to Tsar Alexander II, Mahatma Gandhi to Benazir Bhutto, assassinations—as distinct from political killings—have seen private individuals take up the cause of nationalism, revolution or bitter resentment to challenge the state monopoly on violence. Yet for all the bravado and zeal of a would-be assassin, Fitzpatrick concludes with an important reminder: “It is impossible to assassinate a system, a structure, a movement or an idea. Real political change requires more complex forms of engagement than the shortcut of the assassin’s bullet”.  Image credit: [**Nicolas Michaud**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/eznix/37441521842/in/photolist-Z3zA13-261AiKH-cLo84f-CPxWdQ-2TmyBW-c9tKEW-Npca8w-2jnBLCW-cE76Ss-2icpdxb-2jnBG14-2paUPq1-2ieyWY8-2jnA2Pf-2jnwE82-2jnAzjA-2jnxLTQ-2jnB5na-2pbdMDW-2jnxtjB-2pDv35c-7xkegB-2jnAjhw-2pyXtdv-7xkepT-7xp4Fj-cE8fWh-cE8cTd-2oXhiAH-cE8eS7-2oW4sJv-2oXbM4j-TEF2Y8-2oXy1G4-2oWhwFD-cE8e6C-2jnwRuW-2jnAspd-c9tKDE-XiEg1t-2mEAoXD-2oXiHmB-c9tKBd-2oW3q3Y-cE8d9w-2oXeQhX-z1Fb-2mg3jBW-2p1hTor-2oXB5bm) | |

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| |  | | --- | | A group of ships in the ocean  Description automatically generated | | [**What Do the Maritime Security Challenges Close to Australia Mean for the Country's Future?**](https://resources.lowyinstitute.org/docs/lowy-institute-event-girt-by-sea-finding-security-in-australias-maritime-domains)  On Wednesday 31 July 2024 the [**Lowy Institute**](https://resources.lowyinstitute.org/docs/lowy-institute-event-girt-by-sea-finding-security-in-australias-maritime-domains) had a discussion with Rebecca Strating and Joanne Wallis on their new book Girt by Sea: Reimagining Australia's Security, which looks at six maritime domains central to the country's national interests and offers an alternative vision for how Australia should understand its security environment. The authors discuss Australia's strategic challenges, focusing on finding security in the north seas (the Timor, Arafura and Coral Seas and the Torres Strait), the Western Pacific, the South China Sea, the South Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the Southern Ocean.  Rebecca Strating and Joanne Wallis spoke in conversation with Hervé Lemahieu, Director of Research at the Lowy Institute. Professor Rebecca Strating is the Director of La Trobe Asia and a Professor of International Relations at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her research focuses primarily on Asian regional security, maritime disputes, and Australian foreign and defence policy. Professor Joanne Wallis is Professor of International Security in the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Director of the Security in the Pacific Islands research program, at the University of Adelaide. She is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution.  Image credit: US Navy | |

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| |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors' recommendations, we invite our interns to share with you what they have found insightful or interesting in the world of international affairs over this week. This week Ethan Pooley analyses the political economy factors driving China's production "overcapacity", while Paloma Hawkins assesses the strategic implications of China’s diplomacy in Latin America in light of the latest Venezuelan election.  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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| |  | | --- | | [**China's Real Economic Crisis**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-real-economic-crisis#:~:text=Simply%20put%2C%20in%20many%20crucial,and%2C%20ultimately%2C%20job%20losses.)  The Chinese economy is moving on. It’s out with the old – investment and growth in construction – and in with the new – investment and growth in higher-value sectors that are key to the clean energy transition. But the rich economies that have traditionally dominated this end of the production value-chain, in particular the EU and the US, assert that China is engaged in a systematic strategy of “overproduction" aiming to undermine the competitiveness of Western companies. In this politically charged environment, where national pride and economic interests are provoking deep seated insecurity, sober and nuanced analysis and policy solutions are essential.  Enter Zoe (Zhongyuan) Liu’s [**article**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-real-economic-crisis#:~:text=Simply%20put%2C%20in%20many%20crucial,and%2C%20ultimately%2C%20job%20losses.). He unpacks the political economy factors that are driving China’s new production priorities. He explains that the various levels of government and the private sector align themselves around target sectors. By creating a glut of supply in the global market for many goods, Chinese firms are pushing prices below the break-even point for producers in other countries. Liu’s historical approach highlights that this is by no means a new phenomenon. He offers constructive pathways for a new US administration to adopt, with the warning that further isolating China will not only encourage Beijing to double down on its overcapacity policy and have less to lose in a confrontation – military or economic – but also cause the US to experience economic headwinds that are unnecessary and avoidable.  Image credit: **[Rawpixel](https://www.rawpixel.com/image/5926131" \t "_blank)** | |

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| |  | | --- | | **In-person events!**  We're committed to keeping debate about international affairs going, so get involved by attending our in-person events at Glover Cottages on Tuesday nights. Our next event will be held on August 13th: [**"South American Football: Passion, Revolution and Glory".**](http://https/aiiansw.glueup.com/event/south-american-football-passion-revolution-and-glory-115917/)  Dr. Jorge Knijnik will discuss whether international sport fosters peace and understanding or amplifies conflict based on national identities. The current Olympic Games in Paris highlight this dilemma. Drawing from his new book, Tales of South American Football: Passion, Revolution and Glory, Dr. Knijnik explores the complex interplay between football and South America's volatile politics, oppression, and inequality. He examines how the sport has influenced the region's struggles for democracy and transitional justice, and how it both divides and unites societies in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia.  For further information please email [**nswexec@internationalaffairs.org.au.**](http://nswexec@internationalaffairs.org.au/) | |

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