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| The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 3 of: |

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| **From the Councillors** |

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| Each week, some of our Councillors will share with you a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week, our Councillors have selected three articles about different aspects of the COVID-19 crisis, from preparing for pandemics, to international organisations' responses, to the economic fallout. Check them out!Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. |

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| [**COVID-19: Averting economic disaster in the Pacific**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/covid-19-averting-economic-disaster-pacific)Cases of COVID-19 are increasing by the day around the world, including around the Pacific Islands. The economic impacts of COVID-19 could be devastating for the region, argues Jonathan Pryke. The tourism-dependent economies of Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu face double-digit GDP contractions, and commodity-dependent nations like PNG face plummeting demand for products like timber. Even the most isolated nations dependent on food imports could face supply chain disruption. Pryke argues for an urgent response, composed of health assistance and lending coordination between Australia, China, Japan and multilateral institutions. The Pacific faces an economic disaster, and with the region already reeling from [**Cyclone Harold**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-11/satellite-images-reveal-cyclone-harolds-path-of-destruction/12142366) just last week, international efforts are desperately needed.Image credit: [**Louisa Cass/DFAT**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dfataustralianaid/10695420374/in/photolist-hi7PRy-29fHzie-4oYz2t-W2syen-fwBDE-t16uF-8sjcri-hkW54M-UZJKyq-5fmJac-nUGdVe-2gQ5YXZ-kK9JU4-4oYyT8-Z1Fx-2hc5eCM-9pyEbn-3KVS33-nUFDH2-oyaknp-odNgkg-bjno1v-qyKMBV-bjnojc-hiktAs-22DnxiQ-hiq1Ls-fcFRm-rvxbVM-4MRwnd-rmzQJE-r3mxmx-r5dAN8-M696m5-dVc7VA-cfvybf-r56qJU-hipPGa-wyqUDZ-rdYRHd-wgkDfU-hivpMg-L8GVm-hiw1YQ-hixfJF-wxgdJJ-LN9zJo-8rQVkP-r56BZE-hiq4K1) |

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| This article was selected by Euan Moyle. Euan is a final-year Master of International Relations student at the University of Sydney. He is currently a risk analyst and editor for Foreign Brief, and a Young Leader with the US-based international affairs think-tank Pacific Forum. He has formerly interned with the Lowy Institute. Euan has served on the Council since 2019. |

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| [**Bill Gates' Pandemic Warning**](https://www.ted.com/talks/bill_gates_the_next_outbreak_we_re_not_ready?language=en)In 2015 Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates asked ‘Are we ready for the next global epidemic’ giving examples of the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the far more serious Spanish Flu that killed 30 million people a century ago. He recalled preparations for nuclear war which had people sheltering in their basements with hoarded supplies, with the current lack of preparedness for the next epidemic. His prescription for what should be done includes: global health system equity; reserve corps of medical professionals; collaboration with military forces for information and logistics; advanced R&D and wargames on epidemic responses.Image credit: [**Gisela Giardino**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gi/5520610388/in/photolist-9pQz8J-7CAd6V-sd4xMc-7CE2Qj-7Y9RG2-7Y9Fta-2btot3m-7YcWay-7Y9Fs8-7Y9Fuz-7Yd7Lu-7Y9Fy4-7Y9Fvt-7YcW7C-63dCSS-9ntoyp-9nwinW-9nti3D-9nwp9w-9nwDsh-9ntvA8-7EXnTe-9nwndW-5Yssnt-9ntzgv-9ntxme-9ntqrz-9oKsGz-9nts5H-9nww25-84uGDA-7Dcsdz-9oNwVL-DacH2L-mHnBaB-9p72i2-7CA2Pp-ac55u-7Cq3Z6-mo2q4k-2iLK2P4-mo1ES2-mo3xAy-8a5irJ-mHnK1p-mo3xum-7Cq7NA-7CQYjN-mjbdZy-5YwmxG/) |

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| This article was selected by Chris Skinner. Chris served thirty years in the Royal Australian Navy in warships that participated in the South East Asian Treaty Organisation, the Vietnam War and surveillance of the North-West Indian Ocean. He joined the AIIA NSW Council in 2019. |

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| [**UN Policy Options for Virus Response**](https://cpr.unu.edu/fourstepsforthesg.html) James Cockayne, the Australian Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, has published a well-argued paper setting out the stark options for action post COVID-19.  In his words, there are only two ways to avoid the risk of virus resurgence:  “The first is to seal off your country from the global economy…. The second option is global solidarity and international cooperation.”  Issues that Canberra needs to ponder and that are relevant to us all.Image credit: [**U.S. Mission Geneva**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/us-mission/6946430257) |

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| 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. |

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| **Editor's note**Last week we linked to an article from environmental policy think tank E3G on climate diplomacy post COVID-19. We later became aware the link directed to the wrong website. We apologise for that. The article can instead be found [**here**](https://www.e3g.org/library/covid-19-a-new-era-for-climate-action). |

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| **From the Interns** |

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| In addition to our Councillors, we will be inviting one of our interns to share with you what they have found insightful or interesting in the world of international affairs over the past week. This week, Amelia Proudlove looks at Australia's relationship to coal and its approach to far-right terrorism.Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. |

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| [**Using National Security to Reframe Australia's Coal Debate**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/using-national-security-to-reframe-australias-coal-debate/)Australia’s longstanding and troublesome relationship to coal has been framed in many ways, however Tom Smethurst raises the national security debate to reframe this discourse. To do so, he raises four key persuasive considerations as to why this transition will lead to a far more effective forum to move away from this ‘harmful addiction.’ While recognising ongoing and very relevant environment considerations, Tom proposes that without framing this issue to be a security problem, it may allow for Australia’s current strategic vulnerability to transform into an economic calamity.Image credit: [**Stephen Codrington**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AKalgoorlie_open_cast_mine.jpg)  |

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| [**Is Australia Taking Right-Wing Terrorism Seriously?**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/is-australia-taking-the-threat-of-right-wing-terrorism-seriously/)The transnational phenomena of right wing extremist action is an increasing concern, writes Henry Storey in his article for The Diplomat. He refers to the recent events which transpired in Christchurch and comments on Australia’s current lack of action to condemn these organisations at home. The reasons he provides for this apparent failure of the current government, is deeper political psychology to be at play, noting that it is not seen to be a vote winner. Ultimately, Storey encourages that these threats are considered closely and protracted steps are taken to ensure all reasonable measures are taken to prevent any attack irrespective of political backlash. |

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| These articles were selected by Amelia Proudlove. Amelia is in her final year of a dual Bachelors of Arts/Law majoring in International Law and Global Governance at Macquarie University. During her studies she has been focusing on the role of international humanitarian law during conflicts, changing security and counter terrorism. Amelia has been interning with the AIIA since February 2020.  |

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| **What else we're reading** |

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| * Al Jazeera's Inside Story [**looks at**](https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2020/04/saudi-uae-led-coalition-ceasefire-hold-yemen-200409201226377.html) the two-week ceasefire announced by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in Yemen, and whether the ceasefire will last through and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
* The latest issue of [**Security Challenges**](https://regionalsecurity.org.au/research-and-thought-leadership/security-challenges/) from the Institute for Regional Security in Canberra investigates where the Pacific Islands fit in to the Indo-Pacific strategies of Australia, China and Japan.
* Colin Chapman FAIIA [**reflects on**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/a-new-leader-and-a-new-direction-for-britains-labour-party/) Sir Keir Starmer's election as leader of the UK Labour Party in an article for Australian Outlook.
* FiveThirtyEight Politics [**discusses**](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/our-2020-election-priors/id1077418457?i=1000471368366) the possible outcomes of the upcoming US election, with Joe Biden now the main Democratic candidate for the November election.
* Indian novelist Arundhati Roy takes an eloquent, savagely-partisan [**look at her country's response**](http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/55051.htm)so far to the COVID-19 crisis, reminding us of the chaos facing non-Western countries.
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