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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 we introduce you to a podcast with Professor David Runicman and Thomas Pikketty, and an article on Guinea's recent constitutional referendum. 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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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Pikketty on COVID-Economics and the EU**](https://www.politico.eu/event/politico-virtual-brussels-playbook-interview-with-thomas-piketty/?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=09bf6462cf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_29_04_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-09bf6462cf-190478481)  The European Union is often viewed as a fragile construction. It is held together by an overlapping web of political and financial institutions that are variously praised as helping to develop common identities and purposes, and derided for being inefficient and at tension with classic notions of state sovereignty. For those reasons it is perhaps unsurprising that the EU’s response to COVID-19, particularly the economic dimension of the crisis, has been heatedly debated. This week Politico interviewed French economist and bestselling author Thomas Pikketty and discussed the economics and politics of the crisis unfolding in Europe. Take a look at the link to see what his take-aways were. Image credit: [**Thijs ter Haar**](https://flickr.com/photos/124913477@N08/14086693619/in/photolist-nsMZeV-RYp2E-26ZoSgJ-jzoQf-PYb3ph-S1ncg-TgevCE-3da2kX-7QPauH-7QPcDz-6mH4eZ-jzoQe-7QSnmq-6mH4Rn-2bZ4bo4-QmZQtt-2azBUjk-GAn1QT-2azBUo8-JtYRv9-a94DGJ-2a2YvoE-2bUFFSd-2a2YuV5-2b8pqja-dPGiAB-2b8pqKk-YEEpyW-a9sFNb-2a2Yus1-5xNHet-L91vWk-29K6Wr4-YiH7G5-231TyQN-2eFL583-c7tFm3-Ds4GEh-29K6WhB-YX25mX-28vZUUK-261Tmur-bVRXUM-CcXNRq-eNdQFk-fecPc2-23C8pxU-MLkXMh-eNeKgM-jATNhy) | | |

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| |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Alex McManis. Alex holds a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Government and International Relations from the University of Sydney, where he wrote his thesis on the 2015 UN climate negotiations in Paris. He has served on the Council since 2019. | |

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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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| |  | | --- | | 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, Thomas Shortridge looks at the mental health implications of COVID-19 lockdowns and the future of 'food sovereignty'.  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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| |  | | --- | | * One of AIIA NSW's former interns, Jasmine Brinsmead, is [**interviewed**](https://www.uow.edu.au/media/2020/how-a-fascination-with-international-affairs-inspired-jasmine.php) by the University of Wollongong about her academic and professional experiences in international relations. * EarthSky provides a [**rundown**](https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/asteroid-52768-1998-or2-april-2020-how-to-see) of Earth's upcoming close encounter with Asteroid (52768) 1998 OR2, along with tips on how to watch it at home or online! (Don't worry - it'll be flying by at a safe distance of 6 million kilometres from Earth.) * For those that enjoyed Bill Gates' TED talk we shared previously, The Economist recently [**invited him to discuss**](https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2020/04/23/bill-gates-on-how-to-fight-future-pandemics) pandemic preparedness and what we will learn from the COVID-19. * The US Consulate-General in Sydney, along with Young Australians in International Affairs, will be hosting a '[**Chat with a Diplomat**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N5NV5qzRS2uAfYKWwulB_A)' webinar on 30 April to discuss the relationship between Australia and the United States, US foreign policy and American culture. * An [**interactive**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/14/science/coronavirus-transmission-cough-6-feet-ar-ul.html) from the New York Times shows how far droplets from sneezes and coughs can travel, and why social distancing is so important to prevent the spread of COVID-19. | |