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| |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 2 of: | |

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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 will introduce you to a new book on Europe during the Belle Epoque, as well as articles on climate diplomacy and COVID-19 modelling!  *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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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing man, dress, wearing, woman  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**“The Man in the Red Coat” and Brexit**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/624409/the-man-in-the-red-coat-by-julian-barnes/)   Julian Barnes’ latest book, (Random House, November 2019, [**reviewed in *The Guardian***](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/nov/06/man-in-the-red-coat-julian-barnes)) is an account of the life of Doctor Samuel Pozzi, whose portrait was painted by John Singer Sargent, and of Paris in the “Belle Epoque” period.  It is also a story of the close relations between England, France and the United States, including cosmopolitan public figures such as Oscar Wilde, James McNeil Whistler and Sarah Bernhardt.  Writing as Britain was preparing for Brexit, Barnes wryly quotes Pozzi’s maxim, “Chauvinism is one of the forms of ignorance,” accusing his contemporaries of insularity and incuriosity.  French author Barbey d’Aurevilly’s words are uncannily prescient, “England, the victim of its own history, having taken a step towards the future, has now gone back to squatting in its past.”  For a different take on Brexit, read “The Man in the Red Coat.”   Image credit: [**Penguin-Random House**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/624409/the-man-in-the-red-coat-by-julian-barnes/) | | |

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| |  | | --- | | *This book 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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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A palm tree on a dirt road  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Authoritarianism in the Indo-Pacific**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/enabling-authoritarianism-in-the-indo-pacific/)  Democratic governance has been declining globally for the past twenty years. Even as Australia attempts to promote democratisation in the Indo-Pacific, Dr Rebecca Strating highlights that foreign policy movements such as the Regional Processing Centres on Nauru can almost encourage the emergence of autocratic regimes. Strating explains that Australia’s reliance on off-shore asylum seeker management has led to a calculated blindness to Nauru’s rising authoritarianism. She emphasises that Australia is more directly complicit through the way aid and development funding is utilised to control the public and the media in Nauru. Image credit: [**Matt Robertson/DFAT**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dfataustralianaid/12046384666/in/photolist-jmuStm-4QLYSS-ygMSuX-YgLZtC-7rNMUh-9F5jX9-sSTXm-YgLYXC-jmqtVc-jmqwiP-3kkmr-aQL9Fg-fiB44F-jmszjJ-a8vie6-qFzBYR-qFBe5t-qVJMZh-qY2HwH-qCSKqH-qFt3ih-qFzhGK-qFzbfX-qFrXWG-q22GJE-qY2pw4-q25NQF-qFATbk-qY2JwP-qFrRfL-qY2Gm6-qFsXLG-qFrFLz-qFhTmY-qXWZAo-s8uGP5-iroanS-iropwf-irnTKv-irobNh-irnVq4-iroQh4-ironhL-iroQ1n-irnVGX-2iAxiuf-2iAvY3L-2iAtk65-7pcqEC-WJGPb9) | | |

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