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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 12 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Councillors** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 look at politics in the US and China, the impact of the dollar's hegemony in global finance, and military satellites.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Geopolitics Today: Making Sense of China and the US**](https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/events-sponsorships/sydney-ideas/2020/covid-19-geopolitics-us-china-australia.html)  One of the questions most frequently asked of geopolitical analysts during the COVID-19 crisis has been “who’s winning out of the US and China?” The world’s two greatest powers have been battered by the pandemic, protests and a nose-diving global economy. Now they face the task or rebuilding their economies, societies and global reputations. In a wide ranging [**panel discussion**](https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/events-sponsorships/sydney-ideas/2020/covid-19-geopolitics-us-china-australia.html) for Sydney Ideas moderated by the ABC’s China correspondent Bill Birtles, the US Studies Centre’s Dr David Smith, Asia-Pacific expert Associate Professor Jingdong Yuan, and Chinese politics scholar Dr Minglu Chen canvas recent developments in the US and China from the pandemic to the resurgence of Black Lives Matter and the new national security laws for Hong Kong. Image credit: [**Paul Kagame**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/paulkagame/42872133284/in/photolist-28jsTzN-mBXGxr-2ifribk-eHuows-25RsUDW-29EjUFo-2db4rrs-Puk3Hv-Puk3LM-2db4ruU-2db4rms-bxFqar-JVKSue-akJeNm-8beuSs-bjLxBb-8bbdpv-bjLxGA-bxFqqF-bxFqnR-8bbdrn-bjLxqo-bxFqdK-bjLxDU-bxFqgD-qNTs6m-ohki7t-crFsBE-ofogu7-27cW5pk-mBYNJU-rPzWKT-JVKRPr-mBXGC6-crFsZy-mBYNU3-mBXGA2-rR8GvN-rupwLJ-27eCaue-hGQX49-hGQX7q-2aQP9mw-rG2zLg-hGQxJc-282NRnz-Mh4HNL-26DYDXf-KJuTi6-KJb1B2) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**The Role of Indian Satellites in Maritime Domain Awareness**](https://www.eurasiareview.com/12062020-the-role-of-satellites-in-maritime-domain-awareness-in-india-analysis/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29)  Oceans are vulnerable to threats ranging from environmental degradation to maritime terrorism. But at the same time, because they are fluid and constantly changing, oceans are particularly  difficult to monitor. Here space technology can be particularly useful. Satellites have enhanced our capabilities to collect and utilise the data from the oceans with accuracy and efficiency. One of the great exponents of this has been India. The [**implications**](https://www.eurasiareview.com/12062020-the-role-of-satellites-in-maritime-domain-awareness-in-india-analysis/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29) of satellite and anti-satellite technology for maritime strategy, as with numerous other fundamental aspects of modern life, are highly significant.  Image credit: [**NASA**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasahqphoto/23799701784/in/photolist-Cg6GaW-MVTSPo-MXyorX-Tdrr5Q-LNxUHA-dAfpcE-2jb8iEV-2dyipdD-2iLhDhg-dAfp6A-dAfp8L-KkAXP7-dAfpaL-21tkYgA-226a433-XFxhfj-wfmah5-25MCj25-2gjCTNJ-GbMrTG-nKScPU-2gzZJwy-Uggpre-2hgaG8X-29P54k4-27tSZip-EepaaK-YjQfjJ-2jbMNs9-LEbsy8-rq4eQU-YTeNMN-Hq2kSc-QWjLDo-BQV8wP-2hNQz1g-2j7SWBj-Hq2jRp-Hq2kuD-FvhhbN-binsBK-98h4hb-8UrSmC-8UrSnL-2iq7RQt-khseQj-GDie6S-2hRQtUP-khpNVV-Ka1uBG) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Bucking the Buck: The Class Politics of the Dollar System**](https://phenomenalworld.org/analysis/the-class-politics-of-the-dollar-system)  The current global volatility seems to have entrenched the central role of the US dollar as the world's safe haven, as investors and institutions seek security and liquidity. This dollar dominance is often seen as a unique privilege conferred on the United States. But where did this privilege come from, who does it really benefit, and what responsibilities does it entail? Crucially, how does the dominance of the greenback shape America's interactions with the rest of the world? Two researchers from the Berggruen Institute explore these questions in Phenomenal World and [**argue**](https://phenomenalworld.org/analysis/the-class-politics-of-the-dollar-system) that everyone - including the US - might be better off if we could just figure out how to 'buck the dollar'. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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, Wendy Hu looks at the changing state of trade policy at home and in the US.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**The Future of US Trade Policy**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-06-09/how-make-trade-work-workers)  The objective of US trade policy should be seen neither through the lens of foreign policy or economic efficiency. Instead, [**argues**](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-06-09/how-make-trade-work-workers) Robert E. Lighthizer, the current US Trade Representative, Americans want ‘a trade policy that supports the kind of society they want to live in.’ He argues that the Trump administration has protected American jobs without ‘sparking unsustainable trade wars’ and by expanding access to foreign markets. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) signed in 2018 is proffered as the best illustration of this new approach. It features more robust rules of origin, eliminates ‘protection contracts’ and discourages a race to the bottom in wages. Whether the US will be in a stronger position to negotiate with the likes of China and the EU because of USMCA, only time will tell.  Image credit: [**White House**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/whitehouse/49464865293/in/photostream/) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Diversifying Trade Partners**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/whither-australia-china-trade/)  There is currently significant strain between Australia and its single largest trading partner, China. Amidst the COVID-19 induced supply chain disruptions, protection against Chinese imports are being called for to make Australian industries more self-sufficient. Such protectionist measures would stymie Australia’s economic gains. And Australia can't rely on a boost from Chinese infrastructure spending that lifted Australia out of the GFC slump. Tourism and education export earnings are of no assistance while travel restrictions remain in place. Professor Tony Makin [**argues**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/whither-australia-china-trade/) that to minimise the risk of over-exposure in trade with any one country, the classic finance principle of diversification should be applied – in addition to China, Australia should also look to other nations, India and Indonesia being examples, for trade opportunities. Image credit: [**ML Luo**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/markyard/41610276/in/photolist-4Fghy-2XQ8n1-Cve4Q-Cvdfn-CvdtS-6LuHTs-6LuHMm-tRwmy7-6LuHYL-LKFcE-HPEYUE-6136mt-6Dsj4m-5Cdkz7-7n5Z1p-5XTyMK-oF2Ff-pwFkV2-bvvJa-CXeU7C-jWZ73-71LCUf-23zJp2-3E1mF-qFgop5-69Qo17-7cNnwc-mTUst6-2AEGA-nGuYDC-6Dsjhm-4bbqd1-5VxDMM-4uz2FU-257zSuF-fKABCN-cLSwYm-5WB6nY-4jncc7-2hPkRuF-9hTRYe-zgX17J-86Tx1w-2hPAjAD-2hPuM21-CvdMP-5STwEM-34dRGK-2Hn6Ww-7j1vow) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Wendy Hu. Wendy Hu is a penultimate year student at the University of Sydney studying a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws. She has previously interned at the United States House of Representatives and is particularly interested in the international financial system, and US politics and foreign policy. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * AIIA NSW intern Marcus McCulloch [**explores**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/resource/love-in-the-time-of-covid-chinas-relationship-with-the-arab-states/) how China has attempted to strengthen relations with Arab states during the COVID-19 crisis. * European news agency Euractiv [**looks at**](https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/digital-diplomacy-states-go-online/) how diplomacy is evolving in the digital era. * Eminent South East Asia analyst Kishore Mahbubani writing in The National Interest [**advances**](https://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-trump-administration-has-helped-china-161641) the argument that Trump’s polices have unwittingly furthered China’s aims. * In the Hindustan Times Rahul Singh gives a [**useful timeline**](https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/a-timeline-india-china-s-deadliest-border-clash-since-1975-explained/story-9Ct6lHQKkRuXM5w2K5xmwO.html) of the worsening border clashes between India and China. * ABC's Four Corners [**examines**](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/four-corners/series/2020/video/NC2003H019S00) the role of artificial intelligence and the risks that come with it, including potential threats posed by tech giants and authoritarian regimes. | | |