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This week we examine what a Biden presidency might mean for Australia, how the Australian media is covering world affairs, and international cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Australia in the World**](https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hdXN0cmFsaWFpbnRoZXdvcmxkLnBvZGJlYW4uY29tL2ZlZWQueG1s)  The whole series of Australia in the World podcasts from the AIIA National Office is thoroughly recommended. [**Episode 51**](https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hdXN0cmFsaWFpbnRoZXdvcmxkLnBvZGJlYW4uY29tL2ZlZWQueG1s/episode/YXVzdHJhbGlhaW50aGV3b3JsZC5wb2RiZWFuLmNvbS84NTdjZjIwNy1mZWExLTU0YTUtODhhNC02NTc3ZGM4NzMwY2M?hl=en-AU&ved=2ahUKEwj11sTk4dvqAhVaxDgGHSVIAMIQieUEegQIChAG&ep=6) features AIIA National President Allan Gyngell in conversation with Darren Lim from the ANU. They cover the 2020 Lowy Poll, which reveals that Australians feel less safe, and discuss what the implications of this may be for our security policy. They then move to the border dispute between China and India as well as our own bilateral relationship with China, and the Chinese-claimed revelation of Australian intelligence operations based in our diplomatic missions. [**Episode 52**](https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hdXN0cmFsaWFpbnRoZXdvcmxkLnBvZGJlYW4uY29tL2ZlZWQueG1s/episode/YXVzdHJhbGlhaW50aGV3b3JsZC5wb2RiZWFuLmNvbS81NDQxMmMyMC0xNzQwLTUzNjUtYWZkNi0yMmMyM2EyZTJkMWQ?hl=en-AU&ved=2ahUKEwi8wdS15NvqAhUzzjgGHdCBBgIQieUEegQICxAE&ep=6), published just a few days ago, features ABC journalist Stephen Dzeidzic discussing media coverage of international affairs. Readers who are interested in these issues should look at Hamish McDonald's series '[**Media in the Asian Century**](https://johnmenadue.com/hamish-mcdonald-media-in-the-asian-century-2/)' published in John Menadue's Pearls and Irritations blog. Image credit: [**Mark Ehr**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parliament_House_Canberra_-_flag_and_coat_of_arms_(2767640220).jpg) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing sitting, bottle, table, small  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Geopolitical Volatility**](https://www.e3g.org/publications/global-cooperation-during-covid-19/)  Many followers of international politics would like to think that when global crises come states can set aside their differences and work in the best interests of humanity. Rarely has that sentiment been stronger than during the COVID-19 pandemic. E3G, a think tank, has [**researched**](https://www.e3g.org/publications/global-cooperation-during-covid-19/) the state of global cooperation during the pandemic. Some of their findings are worrying - greater isolationism, increasing politicisation of international organisations like the WHO, vulnerable countries being ignored in the pandemic response. But there are also some more ambiguous findings. Diplomacy is increasingly moving to “minilateral” forums, like the Australian-led “First Movers” group, presenting both challenges and opportunities. Image credit: **[FbThienVanHoc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fbthienvanhoc/6001735944/in/photolist-a9msZW-HsyND7-PXy4S2-QjfUiS-LTnpKt-J8pYKe-2iX2BMX-y5Yrcz-Na7Ypm-P91M6k-GbJjiE-ThhNRu-fGExSB-tvQXW7-cFb9Am-NiG58e-35NshD-RtXfCj-RQdVmk-sBs44D-GneHex-MMZDtA-rBrMEF-v91QyV-2harAvq-Rc6gJj-2gEq9gr-2j87e8c-2bkJCXF-2bLH8Vw-2hTqEn1-oN3xdH-aqUi9F-RkTeeQ-2iNDk9s-R3sFjf-oMroEb-2hbrPSC-rcJuLr-8Bv3kb-dWWbct-38ynLb-GGuTB2-23mTm8p-2jodeHz-2jnCGqK-2j2puu6-2j1LE1r-dzfcpn-v7Lhm1" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. He is currently the Climate and Energy Security Fellow at Young Australians in International Affairs. Alex has served on the Council since 2019. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing a suit and tie  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Don’t Expect President Biden to Fix Australia’s International Problems**](https://insidestory.org.au/dont-expect-president-biden-to-fix-australias-international-problems/)  Adam Triggs, [**writing**](https://insidestory.org.au/dont-expect-president-biden-to-fix-australias-international-problems/) for Inside Story, cautions Australians not to rejoice at the prospect of a Biden presidency. Domestically, he argues that America’s key challenges will be difficult to solve even in the improbable event that Biden manages to unite the Democrats, win the White House and secure filibuster-proof majorities in both houses of Congress. And internationally, Triggs argues that Australian interests have been damaged most by US-China trade tensions and a weakened international trading system, neither of which would change much under a Biden Presidency. In this context, Triggs says we should work more closely with like-minded neighbours to help manage the US and China, and identify practical and constructive ways to engage Biden in Asia. Image credit: [**Gage Skidmore**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gageskidmore/48605397927/in/photolist-2h46nqc-2if4udv-2if4uzN-2if1533-2if3t3F-2itnDgh-5fyHCR-5pR7Gk-2if14oN-2ieZWHo-5tPShU-ab3zUN-2iafYx8-7f6MAn-2ivodQE-2gvUMxt-5iQ7ap-2gY4K1q-2ivoeXz-2gvULRU-2iCBWcc-5vfQh4-2igHz5y-2gv9bQE-2igL3MM-2if11qd-c5HRjf-2if3qdH-2gYxY5V-2gYyJWV-2gZdqwr-2gYyLnF-2j3aWcL-2gYyKLf-2h88ZgH-2gY4vDf-2h88YSb-2h88Z4D-ch6i4y-2gX99DF-2gX8oNP-ch6i1J-8Bi8fj-5zoR3z-2h1heYp-7PSMC3-8Bez7c-bDfuet-2gv9Ld7-2igHv2J) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Interns** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In addition to our Councillors, we invite 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, intern Evangeline Larsen explores the complex relationship between Nepal and India, and the role of Filipino nurses in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic 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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people walking in front of a building  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Feuding Friends**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/india-needs-to-fast-track-a-border-solution-lest-it-lose-nepal/)  Nepal and India have been described as the world’s closest neighbours, yet recent border disputes are straining their important relationship in defence, remittances, trade and development. Whilst India has undertaken border talks with China, both have ignored Nepal’s diplomatic approaches for a similar conversation involving them. Now the tension is bleeding into other areas such as media bans and public discontent. China and Nepal have long settled their territorial disagreements, but reporter Birat Anupam [**calls for**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/india-needs-to-fast-track-a-border-solution-lest-it-lose-nepal/) India to lead finding a similar solution for Nepal. Without it, these feuding friends could ruin their important bilateral ties.  Image credit: **[Sanu N](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nepal_India_Border_gate_Sonauli.jpg" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A truck on a city street  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Filipino nurses on New York City's front lines**](https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2020/07/filipino-nurses-york-frontliners-200716112741058.html)  Filipinos make up the largest foreign contingent of healthcare workers in the US, with an estimated 150,000 nurses. Earning as much in a day in New York as they would in a month in the Philippines, their remittances are essential for their families. However, this comes at a cost. Al Jazeera’s [**documentary**](https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2020/07/filipino-nurses-york-frontliners-200716112741058.html) shows Filipino nurses on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic, some losing their lives fighting to help Americans. Indeed, some conservative American politicians are pushing for eased immigrant policies so more healthcare workers can come to the US. Meanwhile, a dire shortage of nurses in the Philippines is proving calamitous in their own battle against COVID-19. Image credit: **[CpaKmoi](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cpakmoi/22786545578/" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Evangeline Larsen. Evangeline has recently graduated with a Dual Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney and Sciences Po majoring in French and International Relations. Having also studied in Lebanon, she is particularly interested in Middle Eastern politics and is currently undertaking an accredited mediator course to learn more about conflict resolution. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * ChinaPower, a [**podcast**](https://chinapower.csis.org/podcasts/strategic-shift-underway-in-uk-relations-with-china/) from CSIS, interviews former diplomat Charles Parton on the recent shift in the UK’s strategic thinking about China. * The Guardian [**tracks**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/jul/18/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-how-close-are-we-to-a-vaccine) some of the over 140 COVID-19 vaccines currently in development, with at least three now in large-scale trial phase. * AIIA NSW Councillor Alex McManis, writing for Young Australians in International Affairs’ Insights, [**looks at**](https://www.youngausint.org.au/post/greening-new-zealand-s-politics-ambition-or-acquiescence) the politics of climate change in New Zealand ahead of September’s election. * 2020 is an optimal year for Mars missions, given the close distance between Earth and Mars. Namrata Goswami, writing in the Diplomat, [**examines**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/why-is-china-going-to-mars/) China's Tianwen1 project, launching in the coming months. * Under the Rainbow, the [**latest book**](https://www.mup.com.au/books/under-the-rainbow-hardback) by former AIIA NSW President Richard Broinowski AO, is about to be published. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Letters to the Editor** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Dear Columns editors,**  I refer to your [**Week 15 edition**](https://mailchi.mp/internationalaffairs.org.au/aiia-nsw-presents-columns-from-glover-cottages-no-215928) and the articles 'Increased defence expenditure' and 'Building a Strategic Equilibrium in the Indo-Pacific', in light of the [**article**](https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/dfat-cuts-show-our-foreign-policy-s-khaki-tinge-20200719-p55dco) in the Australian Financial Review by Jonathan Pryke, director of the Pacific Islands Program at the Lowy Institute. Increasing defence expenditure is welcome and necessary as we take a more self-reliant posture in the Indo-Pacific, but even more importantly we need to influence and engage in regional developments in economic and geopolitical dimensions. From what I have read, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is lacking in influence on national policy when it should be providing leadership. AIIA should mount a proactive campaign to redress this need.  **Christopher Skinner** AIIA NSW Councillor | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Get involved!**  We're committed to keeping conversations about international affairs going, so get involved in our Letters to the Editor section!  Each week, we publish letters from our subscribers about what they think of the issues we’re discussing.  You can take part in the conversation by emailing us with your comments on each week’s articles. There are just a few simple guidelines: letters should be no more than 100 words in length, and should only be about the previous week’s articles. Please include your name and affiliation, and a mobile number (which won't be published). If you are a university student, please include your university and current degree.  Send all letters to the editors at [**aiianswletters@gmail.com**](mailto:aiianswletters@gmail.com) by Wednesday at 5pm Sydney time for the chance to be published in the following week's newsletter. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
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