|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 20 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing sitting, front, table, person  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From the Councillors** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors share a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week we pick apart Joe Biden's running-mate choice, protests in Belarus, and US activities in Diego Garcia.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing a suit and tie talking on a cell phone  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Kamala Harris Joins the Democratic Ticket**](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/kamala-harris-biden-vice-president/)  Joe Biden has finally ended months of ‘Veep-stakes’ speculation, announcing that California Senator Kamala Harris will be his vice-presidential nominee. In many ways the choice was predictable, but it is also historic. Harris is the first Asian American and the first Black woman to be a major political party's candidate for president or vice president, and at 55 years old, 22 years younger than Biden, her nomination marks her out a leader of an emerging generation of Democrats.  As far as the present day is concerned choosing Harris could change the way Americans view Biden, and give the Trump campaign one more figure to target. If you are looking for starting points in the flood of media since Biden’s announcement Politico provides a run-down of [**key moments**](https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/08/11/kamala-harris-vp-background-bio-biden-running-mate-2020-393885?fbclid=IwAR2zCS5MWrtrqdPtGrx1n1WMbvGDPPi43wb6_gey72jiC8Rp1kYlDRhKR1g) in Harris’ political career, while FiveThirtyEight’s Perry Bacon Jr [**unpacks**](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/kamala-harris-biden-vice-president/) what the choice reveals about Biden and the Democratic Party. Image credit: [**Gage Skidmore**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gageskidmore/47740325001/in/photolist-2fJDDnK-RY8UWB-2582Auz-RY8UhR-RY8UxF-2582A9e-2ekDcS6-2gJ6wdG-2gufNJh-AAkfGc-2gbS5Tv-2h5YkkH-2gsPNRJ-W6P56R-2h4ZUpZ-2gufVq8-2h4ZSj1-2gsPzK7-2h52E62-2gsPBAM-2gughGx-2h5VMb7-2gsQ4ns-2gsQ3rz-2h15S9i-2gsQ6Jr-2gsQ6zP-2h16wzY-2gufB79-2h4r34b-27LucfN-2h37ASa-2fdkKqo-2h16vAZ-2h4ZPfv-2h4ZRbu-2g91g4m-2h5XCUM-2gufXKp-2h5YopU-2h5YmJV-2g91NsE-2h15SFR-2h52CH7-2h16De4-cz1cN-2gufBLF-2h15MqF-2h4qd4C-2h5VQJV) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 |  |  | | --- | | [**Lukashenko's Final Elections?**](http://waidelotte.org/lukashenkos-penultimate-elections/)  Protests have erupted across Belarus after Alexander Lukashenko, known as ‘Europe’s last dictator’, claimed to win a sixth term as President in an election marked by widespread fraud and a national telecommunications blackout. Once hailed as a post-Soviet success story, Belarus is now embroiled in a major economic and political crisis - tensions with Russia have starved it of its most crucial market, while Lukashenko’s failure to protect human rights and enact democratic reforms have stifled attempts to improve relations with the West. University College London PhD candidate Tadeusz Giczan provides a useful [**primer**](http://waidelotte.org/lukashenkos-penultimate-elections/) to the crisis, including how Lukashenko’s pursuit of a Russia-friendly policy of “oil and gas in return for kisses” has left the country vulnerable to pressure from Moscow to form a long-envisaged union. Lukashenko now faces one of the most significant threats to his 26-year rule and without a clear way out of the crisis, protests look set to intensify. Image credit: [**Zachary Harden**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/zscout370/2193500118/in/photolist-4kQgay-8CjfA3-23NXr5W-8Cg8v2-71rdCd-2hfLpmJ-8Cg7Vp-i2KAEZ-8Cjfcd-8Cjfsq-23Gc3ZX-aqgNHg-22jLxzR-MKab7P-GiTHWH-diqKVK-8etjfr-8ewA4L-2h6rCzU-6CvArN-e7fmJt-71raSN-243V5Zf-apUj6n-67mgyA-23kzxf6-57j3fw-K9LYMB-35rm13-anMQJz-8gC31b-K9LYUF-2hfN6dP-8S1ScF-35rmP1-apT6PZ-8etYNA-8etWzN-2hfN6fN-8gyLMv-apX3dd-8gC2Wy-8S1S9D-248Lsjs-anQM2U-cLAk1S-JUSyD8-ny9XTo-71mT5e-23NXqW9) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A large ship in the water  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Diego Garcia, the US and International Law**](https://www.eurasiareview.com/09082020-selective-maritime-rules-the-united-states-diego-garcia-and-international-law-oped/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29)  This [**piece**](https://www.eurasiareview.com/09082020-selective-maritime-rules-the-united-states-diego-garcia-and-international-law-oped/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29) by RMIT lecturer Binoy Kampmark raises the issue of the status of Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, and determinations by the United Nations International Court of Justice. The author compares UK and US actions at this strategically located military base with those of China in the South China Sea. The decolonisation of Mauritius, separation of Diego Garcia and the forcible relocation of the inhabitants to Mauritius are also discussed. All are important issues in the context of an increasingly contested Indo-Pacific region. Image credit: [**US National Archives**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:USS_Saratoga_(CV-60)_moored_December_1985.jpg) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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, Nimaya Mallikahewa examines Chinese damming of the Mekong River, and last week's Sri Lankan election.   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 large building  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Chinese Dams and the Mekong Drought**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/chinese-dams-and-mekong-drought)  Following a devastating drought in 2019, another extended period of drought threatens the Lower Mekong Basin, affecting nations such as Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. With evidence emerging from an Eyes on Earth [**report**](https://www.mekongwater.org/reports) that China was holding back water during the 2019 drought, concerns are growing about the environmental impact about the 11 Chinese-built dams in the Mekong Delta. Milton Osborne [**analyses**](https://www.eurasiareview.com/09082020-selective-maritime-rules-the-united-states-diego-garcia-and-international-law-oped/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29) the findings of the Eyes on Earth report for The Interpreter, arguing that China has been the fundamental cause of droughts over a number of years. Osborne argues this was particularly apparent in 2019 where water from snow melt and above-average rainfall were all retained by dams upriver in China. Osborne emphasises that China’s actions reflect its broader foreign policy goals and the silence from the governments of Cambodia and Laos reveal alignment with Beijing. Image credit: [**Andy Roberts**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/aroberts/125084015/in/photolist-c467X-6aoYQA-EGJtMD-PvWVdn-pRRAPh-pXycsE-6xqXru-6ajR84-2kqoQ3-Eq4bL2-2hoFj1q-77RsnM-PepRdS-5JUSv-6LE7jo-6LzWtx-31ZC-6LEbNU-3fCzD8-6LE5t5-ba53xR-bVSss-4Qd3wQ-ctMBb-GeG3D7-7PdetB-anvYXP-7kCnVQ-bVRBc-4Q8MSM-3ZYaBx-ba529H-bVRCK-ba54da-6cuVeD-4Qd19S-bC915j-mhRLR-4Qd5ou-YUuwTE-ba52ig-5DCSof-ba51Hg-ba52W4-ba53bT-ba52Lk-7TfFfN-4u37zt-ba54Tr-7kCo2q) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person standing in front of a crowd  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Sri Lanka: The Rajapaksas Rise Again**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/sri-lanka-the-rajapaksas-rise-again-2/)  Last week’s general elections in Sri Lanka saw a landslide victory for the Rajapaksa family, with their party winning all but four electoral districts, most by a margin of more than 60 per cent. As Sudha Ramachandran [**highlights**](https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/sri-lanka-the-rajapaksas-rise-again-2/) in The Diplomat, incumbent Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa – elder brother of current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and himself a two-time president – will sit at the helm of a government with the power to make extensive changes to the constitution. Ramachandran analyses what this sweeping - and expected - victory for the Rajapaksa family will mean for Sri Lanka, from constitutional changes aimed at the centralisation of power, to foreign policy with China and India. As tensions between India and China continue to rise, Ramachandran says that Sri Lanka will have to display great dexterity in walking the fine line between the two powers. Image credit: [**Office of Mahindra Rajapaksa**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/presidentrajapaksa/16049254255/in/photolist-qsdC9g-o4UpAa-o56k83-qsa4R3-qsdCkt-nMHapw-nMHamW-qjficY-qGvSqK-pKXwvV-o6YRDe-q1e2Xf-qpWSmS-o6YRpM-pKKxm2-qGmPtX-pKKxDB-qGwqi2-pKwsRC-qEeSfE-qGwqTv-qpYcLy-qpYdbb-qpYd2J-p77dUE-q3J1Me-q1NdHh-qaNAU8-pLyndj-pLwBop-qA2ZzN-q1Ncz5-pFxKD6-pFxKDB-pKwtGq-qA6hAw-qiHqeV-qA6hos-pPypBi-qAJykU-qCfnxA-qjonyp-qiHqgD-qkLbUG-pFxKAk-qkLc2f-qkLbX7-ppsBPz-qjooae-qiHqnF) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Nimaya Mallikahewa. Nimaya is in the final year of her double Bachelor’s degrees in International Studies and Media (PR & Advertising) at UNSW, where she has focused her research on development aid, transitional justice, maritime security and foreign policy in the Indian Ocean region. She has interned at AIIA NSW since February 2020. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * Mark Beeson’s thoughts on the decline of the West, mentioned in the Week 19 [**edition**](https://mailchi.mp/internationalaffairs.org.au/aiia-nsw-presents-columns-from-glover-cottages-no-215975) of Columns, are further developed in a [**substantial paper**](https://www.asiaglobalinstitute.hku.hk/storage/app/media/Research/The-Decline-of-the-West-What-Is-It-and-Why-Might-It-Matter.pdf) in Global Issues and in a [**UTAS/AIIA webinar**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGwLjefZP_k). * In Rolling Stone magazine, anthropologist Wade Davis makes an [**impassioned commentary**](https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/political-commentary/covid-19-end-of-american-era-wade-davis-1038206/) on the decline of the US in comparison to other Western nations. * Jessica Mathews, [**writing**](https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2020/08/20/new-nuclear-threat/) in the New York Review of Books, discusses the advent of a second nuclear arms race. * Loubna El Amine [**explains**](https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2020/august/clearing-the-rubble?utm_source=LRB+icymi&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20200809+icymi&utm_content=aunz_subs_icymi) the background to Lebanon’s increasing instability, now aggravated by the Beirut port explosion and the resignation of the government, in the London Review of Books. * Tom Corben, current Lloyd & Lilian Vasey Fellow with Pacific Forum, [**explores**](https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/07/25/aegis-ashore-and-japans-constitutional-debate/) how Japan's decision to abandon Aegis missile platforms could stimulate discussion among politicians in Tokyo over constitutional revisionism. * An interactive in the New York Times [**looks at**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/23/magazine/climate-migration.html) what the 'Great Climate Migration' away from barely livable hot zones could look like across Central America. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Letters to the Editor** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |