|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 21 of: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 discuss the end of the Cold War, how to rebuild the global economy after the COVID-19 pandemic, and Mike Pompeo's views on China.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**The End of the Cold War**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/663052/the-human-factor-by-archie-brown/9780593340943/)  The end of the Cold War in 1991 is one of the pivotal events of our time. The consensus, at least in the UK and the US, is that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was forced to admit defeat because of US President Ronald Reagan's arms build-up, especially his Strategic Defense Initiative. In his recent book [**The Human Factor**](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/663052/the-human-factor-by-archie-brown/9780593340943/), Archie Brown, a leading Oxford scholar of Soviet politics, challenges this consensus. His references to Reagan and to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are fascinating. But his focus is on Gorbachev, the only member of the Politburo willing to make the concessions that led to the end of the Cold War. The work is meticulously researched and, by stressing the role of the individual as distinct from structural determinants, is an invaluable contribution to understanding how foreign policy is made. Image credit: **[Yuryi Abramochkin](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_635525_Mikhail_Gorbachev_and_Ronald_Reagan.jpg" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This book was selected by Bob Howard. Bob researches aspects of the history of international relations in the twentieth century, with special reference to developments in international security. He is an honorary associate and former lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney, and has written extensively on international relations, international security and Australian politics. | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Starting Again: Rethinking Macroeconomics Post-COVID**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/07/25/the-covid-19-pandemic-is-forcing-a-rethink-in-macroeconomics)  While longer than average, this[**article**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/07/25/the-covid-19-pandemic-is-forcing-a-rethink-in-macroeconomics) is published by The Economist and is quite detailed in its presentation. It summarises and examines the various economic models which are often seen as panaceas for economic crises, and suggests that some of these oft-promoted models such as those inspired by the macroeconomist John Maynard Keynes and neoliberal economist Milton Friedman do not apply in the current economic crisis. Instead, the recession induced by the COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to rethink the nature of economics, including a reassessment of the role of public debt, labour markets and government spending. For non-economists like myself, the piece is easy to read and entertaining while also highlighting the potential changes to the post-pandemic international economic system. Image credit: [**Roberto Júnior**](https://unsplash.com/photos/4fsCBcZt9H8) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Glen Robinson. Glen has spent the last 30 years providing advice and assistance to organisations wishing to establish or enhance a commercial presence in ASEAN. He has developed a wide range of colleagues in both government and the private sector in the region. | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Mike Pompeo's Surreal Speech on China**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/07/pompeos-surreal-speech-on-china/614596/)  US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave a significant [**speech**](https://www.state.gov/communist-china-and-the-free-worlds-future/)  at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in California last month. Titled "Communist China and the Free World's Future", he declared that the last 50 years of engagement with Beijing had been a failure and called for free societies to stand up to China. However, Thomas Wright from the Brookings Institution [**argues**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/07/pompeos-surreal-speech-on-china/614596/) that Pompeo's words were at odds with his own administration's actions. Rather than organising US foreign policy around competition with China, Wright argues that Washington should organise its policy around democratic allies with the ultimate goal of strengthening and catalysing the free world. Image credit: [**US State Department**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos/49833787806/in/photolist-2iVDbW3-26pcVdj-2jjkBwJ-2j3TLZL-2iVEMU8-2jjmPBV-2iYeZKZ-2iYeZG7-2jp8exD-2iHA9va-2jp9Abz-2jp9AnX-2j1oMMW-2hZizTA-2iVArEz-2iVEKvW-2iHDSfw-2jjkBsF-2jeSZFD-2jp6ZMZ-2j1yXjU-2jeVQqr-2jfbhG3-2j3Wqcf-2jmzes8-2jmAnKj-2jmzejN-2iVDe8c-2iYcg6S-2iTdAWa-2iTc1jf-2iKGicV-2jmwja7-2jmwj8d-2iKGirC-2iKEFbN-2iTdAGY-2iKEF5a-2j1yXiM-2hXWxKr-2j1yXim-2ixuoP8-2j1BAUx-2hL8M2v-2j1DNGN-2hXZ3jp-2iMUWnu-2iT9axo-2iKBVC6-2hZeY7Y) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 Marcus McCulloch explores the unfolding crisis in Belarus and the erosion of political independence in the US intelligence community.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Unwanted Truths: Inside Trump's Battles with US Intelligence Agencies**](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/magazine/us-russia-intelligence.html)  Last year's US National Intelligence Estimate revealed fresh Russian efforts to influence the upcoming 2020 presidential election. The Estimate also demonstrated the success of President Trump's campaign to influence the US intelligence commmunity. In the New York Times, Robert Draper [**writes**](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/magazine/us-russia-intelligence.html) that since 2016 Trump has taken all allegations of electoral interference as an assault on the legitimacy of his own presidency. Intelligence officials have been forced to walk a fine line between alienating the President and jeopardising their own integrity, and those who fail to walk this line lose their jobs. This reflects an erosion of the independence of a key branch of the US government, and has concerning implications for future US foreign policy. Image credit: [**John Brighenti**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/alchemist_x/50055906078/in/photolist-2jggAXq-2hR3F4V-2js4R9h-5rArd7-2j1tXbx-2j1yc6c-5qURMS-7pConJ-vT7zY-2b95Cx9-naBFo2-qVpVD5-4z9QQG-qfYWFE-41UtT-4RzYUt-2CHGCs-bhxmmk-a66CwQ-JHzbH-Lk5vm-4dqQp3-5Dpxb8-3bT2k4-dzTQEU-dHH8Hi-5VFQY5-dHNxXA-4RUwBo-28u7oRw-aPtJSM-ebwowp-2hPnA9g-kPs6D4-4TZ8fJ-acMev-9aESq-8iU22t-2akHtC-uphFBU-bmPz28-6SBfR5-bmPyR8-impQB2-c7Fna7-bmQvK2-bmQwvv-bmQaBn-g7FSyW-bmPgzv) | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**European Leaders Urge Russia Not to Intervene in Belarus**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/17/lukashenko-putin-belarus-protests-europe-lithuania/)  On August 9, [**write**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/17/lukashenko-putin-belarus-protests-europe-lithuania/) Robbie Gramer and Amy Mackinnon, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka stole another election from the Belarusian people. This past Sunday, over 100,000 people gathered in the capital Minsk for the largest protest in the country's history. As Lukashenka's support in state media and factories crumbles, he is responding with a mix of violent repression and some democratic concessions. Neighbouring Lithuania is harbouring opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and is leading the European Union's response to Lukashenka's crackdown, which will likely involve sanctions. To the east, speculation abounds over Russian intervention, but the authors contend that a Ukraine-style intervention is unlikely. Image credit:[**Максим Шикунец**](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Protest_actions_in_Minsk_(Belarus)_near_Stella,_August_16.jpg) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | These articles were selected by Marcus McCulloch. Marcus is undertaking Honours in Political Economy at the University of Sydney, writing a thesis on industrialisation in the Soviet Union. He is a keen debater, and recently reached the finals of the World Universities Debating Championship in Bangkok. Marcus has been interning with AIIA NSW since February 2020. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What else we're reading** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * Reuters [**looks at**](https://graphics.reuters.com/LEBANON-SECURITY/BLAST/yzdpxnmqbpx/) how powerful the recent port explosion in Beirut was, comparing the blast with those caused by conventional weapons and other industrial accidents. * Foreign Policy [**examines**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/11/biden-harris-ticket-what-it-means-america-november/) the likely foreign policies of a Biden administration in the US. * ABC News [**reports on**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-18/new-zealand-records-13-new-coronavirus-cases/12569236) the growing COVID-19 case numbers in New Zealand, as Jacinta Ardern rebuff's Donald Trump's criticism. * An article in The Guardian Australia [**considers**](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/aug/16/australias-special-forces-problem-why-the-sas-is-facing-a-crisis) the crisis facing the Australian SAS, with several of its members facing allegations of war crimes. * Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd [**discusses**](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/kevin-rudd-on-us-china-relations/12566306) the worsening state of US-China relations with Phillip Adams on ABC Radio's Late Night Live. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |