|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales welcomes you to Week 25 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, our Councillors look at a lecture by Stan Grant on the state of the world, the prospects of a space race and the international image of the US under Trump.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Coronavirus at the End of History**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXYrOYN4YR4&feature=youtu.be)  In the History Council of New South Wales Annual Lecture for 2020, journalist and academic Stan Grant [**presents**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXYrOYN4YR4&feature=youtu.be) a chilling reflection on the state of the world today. Building on the ideas developed in Francis Fukuyama’s famous article The End of History published just before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Grant paints a picture of a world in which liberal democratic ideas, so loved by Fukuyama and taken for granted by large swathes of the world, are being challenged. He argues two viruses - COVID-19 and the 'virus of tyranny' - have been let loose on our society, and questions what impact the rise of China’s authoritarian system will have on the world in the years ahead. While Grant is far from the first to sound the alarms about a worldwide authoritarian turn, the lecture certainly presents an eloquent yet frightening view of the world to come. Image credit: [**History Council of NSW**](https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/whats-on/events/annual-history-lecture-2020/) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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 picture containing outdoor, smoke, flying, coming  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**The New Space Race**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1nkkzz8KvE)   An ABC [**Four Corners program**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1nkkzz8KvE) on 31 August enthused about commercial opportunities, including mineral exploitation, on the Moon and elsewhere in outer space but also discussed the prospect of international rivalry, geopolitical tension, militarisation and territorial claims. Participants included Professor Steven Freeland of Western Sydney University, who [**addressed**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/news-item/star-wars-using-law-to-prevent-the-unimaginabl/) the Institute in March 2018 on the problem of weakening international control in space, which operates on the slender basis of the 1967 International Space Treaty. On Four Corners, he emphasised the vulnerability of satellites to deliberate attack by states or terrorists and to accidental damage from increasing space debris.  Image credit: [**Stuart Rankin**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/24354425@N03/48185887911/in/photolist-2gq2gGT-9RKS1-5Wckfp-KRYg6E-2uSLda-2gq2zQs-2dF1K1r-JkRTUa-7bcDcW-Ri3ZfF-2gq2z5E-NPjGKi-27VvAoJ-2gq2zho-X7exbN-Ko3aVE-qSgKi-2ghnPiH-25k9M9m-2g6mCRh-2gmzKUj-KRXFgA-7RCPF5-6FAuB3-2g52N6a-24rXYoM-2gjgBqo-6Fwozt-SVftH7-SVfsx1-SVftgW-24rXY9i-5d2uX-TAGSX7-24rXYCz-fcEva6-6FwowB-2gq2eYs-2fqc97a-2iAiErj-SVfsUd-2dXuLLG-2fkwzSm-2f4p5KH-2gUZwG-2fkwA5A-bkH6ex-7bcAQs-2gzf6Sh-7b8NuM) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This article was selected by Ian Lincoln, President of AIIA NSW since 2017. Ian was in the Department of Foreign Affairs for 33 years including postings in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific. He was later an appellate member of the Refugee Review Tribunal and has worked in a number of community organisations. | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing a suit and tie  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**US Image Plummets Internationally**](https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2020/09/15/us-image-plummets-internationally-as-most-say-country-has-handled-coronavirus-badly/)  In late 2018, US President Donald Trump tweeted emphatically that “America is respected again”. However, [**comprehensive polling**](https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2020/09/15/us-image-plummets-internationally-as-most-say-country-has-handled-coronavirus-badly/) by the Pew Research Center finds that this is not the case. Since Trump took office in 2016, favourable views of the US have sharply diminished across the world, including among staunch US allies such as Canada, Australia, the UK and Japan. Among the 13 countries surveyed, President Trump is widely considered one of the least trusted leaders in the world, with a rating lower than Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping. This result is driven in part by global concerns over racial injustice and Washington’s poor handling of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, with a median of just 15 per cent of respondents saying that the US has effectively responded to the pandemic. The numbers do not bode well for Washington’s alliance network and broader international engagement at a time when global cooperation is sorely needed. Image credit: [**Michael Vadon**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/80038275@N00/16571770687/in/photolist-rfoE5g-ryBcrg-rh8uuU-qBVFpX-rh8vMy-ryB6sT-2hPZ8RQ-RPthY1-NWszFj-NWsA79-N2yt9V-Pnwv3t-Nx6Yh5-2hPZbFT-2htbkLT-Shi6DF-Shiiee-Q8fnfW-Re7ii6-CKN5Qn-2gjhot5-QQnJBQ-CZTNJP-Re5gan-RpMvur-SEAwC3-Re7CTi-Re7ah6-QQphrQ-29Xa8iA-Qpr99s-Qs9Tg4-R7sX5u-UNeM8s-Rv7QQ8-R7r3vd-QpoNTN-Rv7RaB-Qpr853-2j5qDgR-2fTu92q-2j5p48w-2j5mqMM-CRBwYo-EBiSg7-EBiTJC-EBiSCu-FoxvG1-FqPUQa-FzduUe) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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. | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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, Wendy Hu outlines the ongoing student-led protests in Thailand and the connection between Joe Biden and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.  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 standing in front of a crowd  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Facing the Fate of Sisyphus - Anti-Government Protests in Thailand**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/in-vain-hope-thailands-anti-government-protests/)  Since July, Thai students have gathered at the Democracy Monument and Thammasat University in Bangkok to protest against the Thai government, constitution and monarchy. In Australian Outlook, Dr Gavin Butler [**writes**](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/in-vain-hope-thailands-anti-government-protests/) that the rallies have grown dramatically in the past two months. Protesters have demanded a raft of changes including a repeal of lèse majesté laws and reversing an order that transferred two army units to the King's personal command. The protesters, however, face a challenging uphill battle. General Narongphan Jitkaewthae, a favourite of the King, is likely to succeed as the chief of the army, weakening the power of the legislature. Establishment political parties are unwilling to acknowledge the movement and older, middle class Thais are unlikely to lend their support. Nonetheless, organisers remain hopeful that they will have a different outcome from uprisings in 2010 and 2014. Image credit: **[pixelplastic](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/14/the-biden-fdr-connection-runs-deeper-than-you-think/" \t "_blank)** | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing a suit and tie  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**The Biden-FDR Connection**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/14/the-biden-fdr-connection-runs-deeper-than-you-think/)  At first glance, 78 year old self-described middle class Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and former President Franklin D. Roosevelt appear unalike. In Foreign Policy, Jonathan Alter [**argues**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/14/the-biden-fdr-connection-runs-deeper-than-you-think/)that they actually have much in common. Most obvious is the resemblance between Biden's Build Back Better agenda and FDR's New Deal, both created during periods of economic depression. Beyond policy similarities, however, Biden and Roosevelt also "share a nobility born of personal suffering." Biden lost his first wife and daughter Naomi in a car accident while Roosevelt was stricken with polio for most of his life. In a time when the United States is suffering from racial and class divisions, poor management of COVID-19 and economic uncertainty, Biden's character - like Roosevelt's character - may be the antidote Americans are looking for. Image credit:[**Marc Nozell**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/marcn/8013703318/in/photolist-dd9jNA-dd9jTv-2h45R7f-dd9kch-5Axiq4-5TfW1A-5U7Gsg-25ktDxV-94dP6i-2iVpp4c-2i1iGA6-5zvXYy-c3Vye9-JanqG-2g9xUJF-2g9xSfh-2g9xTk3-2g9xtVy-c3Vxu1-2g9xPvK-2g9xsKa-c3VxJu-2g9xqtD-2g9xq7p-2g9xu6o-5hevyF-2g9xoDz-d1PxzJ-2iVkYqY-7jxS9v-2jdsMHP-2hDGh6p-2hphbmR-fU72hh-2iBUCxb-5wgAPA-nGsrrT-5wgDhG-d1PxBb-6artTx-c5Rcoq-5sBmrW-5gJFvy-c3VyzA-5nevyr-dCrTGx-4ht1Q9-8H7DNz-5nERpe-MkDT8z) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 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** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * For Australian Outlook, AIIA NSW Vice President Thom Dixon [**predicts**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/welcome-to-the-age-of-bio-surveillance/) that new levels of bio-surveillance will continue beyond the COVID crisis with the illicit capture of human DNA posing a challenge to human rights. * Professor Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at the Australian National University, [**disputes**](https://www.afr.com/world/asia/five-dangerous-myths-in-australia-s-relations-with-china-20200911-p55umy) the view that Australia's problems with China are in accordance with US wishes, arguing that China is deepening confrontation with many nations. * The book [**Under the Rainbow**](https://www.mup.com.au/books/under-the-rainbow-hardback), authored by former AIIA NSW President RIchard Browinowski AO, explores the story of the influential merchant, children's author and thinker E.W. Cole. * Edited by AIIA NSW intern Nimaya Mallikahewa, the 2020 edition of **[Politik - UNSW International Affairs Review](https://0b37f787-f634-4992-b19a-700450c9a26b.filesusr.com/ugd/08c433_6d66bb3e9507438aa81b9c52941f893a.pdf" \t "_blank)** reflects on the complexity of international affairs in the present day. * Nina Markovic Khaze and Perparim Xhaferi, writing for the Lowy Institute's The Interpreter, [**examine**](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/trump-s-gambit-balkans) the role of the US in the Balkans following recent agreements signed between Serbia and Kosovo in Washington. * Elliott Brennan, Research Associate at the United States Studies Centre, [**looks at**](https://www.ussc.edu.au/analysis/australias-conspiracy-theorists-are-increasingly-energised-but-police-crackdowns-may-be-counterproductive) the increasing popularity of the QAnon conspiracy theory and how police crackdowns could embolden its followers. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |