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| |  | | --- | | 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 into how a conman is threatening Bougainville's campaign for independence, and international relations in the age of technopolitics.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | [**The Conman 'King' and Bougainville's Independence**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-15/bougainville-conman-king-still-on-the-run-independence-png/12879932)  In a village in Papua New Guinea’s Bougainville province lives Noah Musingku or, as he is known to some, King David Peii II of the Royal Twin Kingdoms of Papaala and Me'ekamui. Notorious for his role in the infamous U-Vistract pyramid scheme that conned thousands of people in the late 1990s, the self-styled king has continued to swindle people across Bougainville and the Pacific. Musingku prints his own fake money, opened his own bank in Port Moresby and even came close to scamming the government of the Solomon Islands in 2003. However, as Liam Fox [**explains**](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-15/bougainville-conman-king-still-on-the-run-independence-png/12879932) for the ABC, Musingku is a significant destabilising influence and poses a major challenge to Bougainville's preparations for independence. Musingku controls a large portion of the province, commanding a small but heavily armed militia against which the largely unarmed provincial police are powerless. Nonetheless, many people – including some provincial leaders – continue to invest money into his scheme, or are waiting in vain for their promised fortunes to arrive.  Image credit: [**Jeremy Weate**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/73542590@N00/7010335743/in/photolist-bFtNzD-77nY9j-vFz3fZ-aB6e4p-vfUnDS-vxtVgn-voZw9C-vvbfCN-v8QFGq-voZrUf-vgG7jX-vh1VpZ-vxudDZ-vpXrgr-v8nZQd-v8nr39-vrvSmw-vsRVPC-voZBjE-vpTyv1-vo7K5Y-uAtjYy-vpUJF2-uoBiXb-vwWzNd-vg314R-voZwoA-vvbfPu-vfUV7Q-vsRWtb-vxug6n-vh1WVz-vfUH6C-uAtDrW-vqfT6z-vxumg2-vvbt7f-vvbDCq-vxukRz-v43crw-voZvwW-vg2ZLr-vmVMgS-vg2Thz-vxRm7t-vh1Wdc-vgG6LT-usWQ9b-usWx6J-vxRqYx) | | A large green field in front of a house  Description automatically generated | |

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| |  | | --- | | [**Grand Bargains in the Age of Technopolitics**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/11/19/democracies-must-team-up-to-take-on-china-in-the-technosphere)  Around the world, watchers of international politics are very familiar with the word ‘geopolitics’. Geopolitics, at its most basic, theorises that world politics is heavily influenced by world geography. While geopolitics dominated our thinking about strategic risk and international relations in the 20th century, some argue ‘technopolitics’ and state technological capability will define this century’s politics. This raises the question of how states can best position themselves in the contest for tech supremacy. This week’s briefing from The Economist [**argues**](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/11/19/democracies-must-team-up-to-take-on-china-in-the-technosphere) that the Western states should strike a ‘grand bargain’ with each other, whereby European countries are given a free reign to regulate some areas of technology policy, while US firms keep their uncontested ascendency in other areas.  Image credit: **[pxhere](https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1575603" \t "_blank)** | | A picture containing kite, outdoor, flying, air  Description automatically generated | |

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| |  | | --- | | 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 takes a look at the political and diplomatic resurgence of Turkey and the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia's Tigray province.  Disclaimer: The views expressed below by interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | | [**The Comeback of Turkey**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/turkey-a-phoenix-rising/)  In Australian Outlook, Dr Bruce Mabley [**writes**](https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/turkey-a-phoenix-rising/) that Turkey, once deemed the 'sick man of Europe', is now enjoying a resurgence in regional and international political power. This has coincided with two other developments: the growing Islamisation of the Turkish state and the largely favourable economic conditions fostered by the Justice and Equality Party (AKP), the party that longtime President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan leads. Whether this resurgence continues will be contingent on how Turkey manages its diplomatic relations with Russia and the United States. More significantly, Turkey has a complex melting pot of ethnicities and religions, which presents a trompe-d’œil of homogeneity from the outside. It may be these internal differences that present the greatest challenge to the continued success of Turkish foreign policy.  Image credit: **[Publisagmo](https://www.flickr.com/photos/socialextremely/27883059652/in/photolist-JtVYcN-Eg6RDR-c8jaoE-YeAmE6-B9Aj4e-B7hQCj-SabcPk-JxNKe2-haMW9K-GtFYbU-2hwkAyG-B9ZBHc-AxVBCi-Cm8WkN-AbYjxS-AxkQm2-B9ZtPM-p3vWhj-GKs9Ln-bBCUwi-27p2cyy-EKbwhP-2hKovce-SabcQH-haPe9z-2hKkwqV-2hwnmKW-2hKkfqJ-2ka57og-2hKodpw-2ka9p8E-2hKkDN5-2hKkTrh-2apGJhw-2hKFc6F-2hKFbXe-2hKF9Nz-2hKpD2w-2hKo9dv-2hKpmfa-2hKodx2-2hKpmBs-2iCukLp-2hKGiVb-2hKCyQW-2hKp24j-2hMpLAP-2iERnY6-2hKkDFb-2hKkH3m" \t "_blank)** | | A person standing in front of a building  Description automatically generated | |

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| |  | | --- | | [**Governing Ethiopia – Making Peace with TPLF Leadership?**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/24/ethiopia-tigray-war-endf-tplf-abiy-ahmed-federal-government-not-morally-equivalent/)  As Ethiopia edges dangerously close to civil war, Western nations have been advocating for the Ethiopian government to make peace with the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and for both parties to seek a united national dialogue. In Foreign Policy, former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn [**argues**](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/24/ethiopia-tigray-war-endf-tplf-abiy-ahmed-federal-government-not-morally-equivalent/) that these well-intentioned views are misconceived. The key problem is, according to Desalegn, "the assumption of moral equivalence, which leads foreign governments to adopt an attitude of false balance and bothsidesism." Supporting the TPLF leadership has significant implications including creating a precedent that violence pays off, a strategy that other ethnically-based groups separatist movements may be encouraged to adopt. Desalegn argues that the Ethiopian government should use the rule of law to ensure the people of Tigray region are participating in a discourse, rather than through the TPLF ‘criminal enterprise’.  Image credit: [**Jasmine Halki**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/120420083@N05/16404588038/in/photolist-qZBNuN-rzH3qn) | | A group of people walking down the street  Description automatically generated | |

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| |  | | --- | | **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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