

## Media Roundup Issue 52 (23/12/17 – 05/01/18)

### 1. The new era

**December 2017 – January 2018 edition**

**Linda Jaivin**

**The Monthly**

"I have a question." A girl sitting at the back of the classroom raised her hand. When I lecture at mainland Chinese universities in film and television subtitling, discussions tend to be lively, with students asking about everything from problems of cultural specificity to the challenges of rhyming text. But this was a new one: "Another teacher told us that we shouldn't translate the word *zhuanzheng* into English as 'dictatorship' because, while we don't see dictatorship as a negative thing, foreigners do, and it will give them a bad impression of China. The teacher told us to choose a neutral word like 'government' instead. What do you think?" The room went very quiet.

Earlier in 2015, China's minister for education, Yuan Guiren, had forbidden the promotion of "Western values" in university classrooms across China. As the official media helpfully explained, these include a "universalist" view of human rights and "narrow" Western definitions of constitutional democracy. Also not allowed were any remarks that could be construed as "slandering the leadership of the Communist Party" or "smearing socialism". The "New Era" of Xi Jinping, president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), elevated to Mao-like status by the 19th Party Congress this past October, is one of increasing authoritarian control.

*Read more:*

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2017/december/1512046800/linda-jaivin/new-era>

### 2. China-Australia ties navigate choppy waters

**27/12/2017**

**Xu Qiyu**

**Global Times**

When Vice Admiral Tim Barret, chief of the Royal Australian Navy, visited the National Defense University of China this month, he said he had expected tough

questions and was asked difficult ones. As a professional and seasoned commander at sea, Admiral Barret is only too familiar with choppy waters. But this time he had to face something of another nature: the confusion and some annoyance on the Chinese side because of the recent changes in Sino-Australian relations.

Sino-Australian ties had all reasons to be good. Strategically, the two countries harbor no hostility toward each other or do not have any other real security concerns. Territorial disputes that sometimes trouble relations between China and neighboring countries do not exist between the two countries.

Economically, things are even better. With the industrialization and expansion of China's economy, the two nations became natural partners in terms of trade and investment. The free trade agreement in 2015 has taken Sino-Australian trade to a higher level: iron ore, wine and other Australian goods pour into China's market and a third of Australian export reaches the country. At the same time, China's investment in Australia also grows fast. In 2017, Chinese investment flow to Australia rose by 74.3 percent between January and July.

Read more: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1082291.shtml>

### 3. Chinese firms operating in Australia just normal market behavior: experts

**27/12/2017**

**Liu Xin & Zhao Juecheng**  
**Global Times**

Chinese firms' engagement in Australia, including the reported renting of Australian airports and running of pilot training schools, is normal market practice and there is no need for the Australian media to over-hype and bring national interests into the issue, Chinese experts said.

China Southern Airlines, a major Chinese airline, partially owns Merredin Aerodrome, an airport 260 kilometers east of Perth, and has control of the runways, hangars and the control tower. It could soon own the entire airport in less than 25 years, after it paid the West Australian government \$1 for a 100-year lease, The Australian reported on Tuesday.

China Southern Airlines and the Australian airport did not respond to a request for comment as of press time.

An expert on civil aviation training, who wished to remain anonymous, told the Global Times on Wednesday that if the China Southern West Australian Flight College is responsible for managing the airport, airlines need to obtain their authorization to use the runways.

Read more: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1082322.shtml>

#### 4. Australia's balancing act between US and China will prove one of its greatest challenges

**27/12/2017**

**John Powell**

**South China Morning Post**

It would be a massive understatement to say Australia relies heavily on China for its enviable standard of living, the result of 26 years of uninterrupted economic growth. Beijing isn't just the country's biggest trading partner – it's its biggest by far. In 2016, Australia's two-way trade in goods and services with China amounted to a whopping A\$155.6 billion (HK\$938.5 billion), more than double its commerce with the United States. China's ferocious appetite for commodities such as iron ore and coal is a large part of the reason Australia rode out the 2008 financial crisis practically unscathed.

Lately, though, political realities expose uncomfortable truths at the heart of this relationship. Earlier this month, an influential senator for Australia's main opposition party announced his resignation after becoming embroiled in a series of controversies that raised questions about whether his loyalties lay closer to Beijing than his electorate of New South Wales. Sam Dastyari, once a rising star within the centre-left Labor Party, was revealed to have warned a Chinese Communist Party-linked party donor that he was likely under surveillance by Western intelligence agencies, after earlier accepting a A\$1,600 donation from the same individual to cover a travel debt. Soon it emerged that Dastyari had given a speech supporting Beijing's stance on the South China Sea, directly contradicting the policy of both the government and his party.

Read more: <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2125701/australias-balancing-act-between-us-and-china-will-prove-one>

## 5. Australia, US and China complexities

**30/12/2017**

**S P Seth**

**Daily Times**

Australia's recent white paper on foreign policy has highlighted the shifting balance of power in the Indo Pacific/Asia Pacific region away from the United States. The US ruled the waves and still does in some ways with its large and powerful navy. But now China increasingly insists that much of South China Sea and the islands spawning it are its sovereign territory. It has set up military facilities and structures to forewarn that it will defend any attempt to challenge this new regional order.

And this is happening at a time when the US power is waning, further compounded by confusion and uncertainty under President Trump whose rhetoric on China, during presidential election, foresaw tense times ahead. As President, though, Trump has toned down his rhetoric on China. One important reason for this is seeking China's help to discipline North Korea's dictator, Kim Jung-un, into abandoning his nuclear weapons.

*Read more: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/169934/australia-us-china-complexities/>*

## 6. Dawn of the post-American order in Asia

**30/12/2017**

**Hugh White** (member of the China Matters Advisory Council)

**The Straits Times**

Historians may well look back at 2017 as the year that Asia's leadership changed hands. It will be seen as the year China stepped forward and America stepped back.

The United States-led regional order that we have known for so long is being replaced by a new Chinese-led order that remains deeply uncertain and, to many of us, deeply unsettling. But now, at the end of this year, it is no longer credible to deny what is happening, or to expect that it can be reversed. Welcome to the new, post-American Asia.

Two closely sequenced set-piece events demonstrated the transition from the old order to the new. The first was Beijing's 19th Party Congress in October,

where President Xi Jinping set out forcefully and in detail his vision of China as a regional and global leader.

Read more: <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/dawn-of-the-post-american-order-in-asia>

## 7. 2018 is shaping as a danger year in the Asia-Pacific

**30/12/2017**

**The Australian**

While deeply worrying for Australia, it would be a mistake, as former Defence Department deputy secretaries Paul Dibb and Richard Brabin-Smith observed in last month's Australian Strategic Policy Institute paper, to regard China, by definition, as hostile to our interests. It is important to do everything possible to engage with the government of our biggest trading partner. We need to do so with our eyes wide open and fully aware of Chinese expansionism and Australia's deteriorating strategic outlook. For the first time since World War II, they acknowledge, we face an increased prospect of a threat from a major power. Australia's defence planning demands realistic assessments — based on a worst-case scenario in which any eventuality could arise — rather than dangerous delusions about everlasting goodwill articulated by the well-financed pro-China lobby.

Australian policymakers must also manage and prevent problems over difficult issues such as pilot training. It is not the fault of China, but of bad planning in Australia, that soaring costs and red tape have left aviation schools struggling, creating a chronic shortage of pilots and leaving flying schools to be snapped up by Chinese interests. In the coming year, Australia's best interests will again lie in fostering our closest economic relationship, with China, as well as our closest strategic relationship, with the US. Donald Trump's recent national security strategy made it clear the US is in the Asia-Pacific region to stay. We hope that assurance will help maintain peace and the balance of power in 2018.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/2018-is-shaping-as-a-danger-year-in-the-asiapacific/news-story/10c7ffeeaa5ae0f4f58c59a6321be53a>

## 8. Chinese paper warns Australia on 'interference' in South China Sea

**01/01/2018**

**Lindsay Murdoch  
Sydney Morning Herald**

A Chinese Communist Party-owned newspaper has published an article warning that Australia's "interference" in the flashpoint waters of the South China Sea may prompt China to "adopt strong countermeasures which will seriously impact Australian economic development".

Zhang Ye, a researcher at the Chinese Naval Research Institute in Beijing, wrote in the hawkish *Global Times* that Australia's "kissing up to the United States" will "poison its relations with China and shake up [the] foundation for its strategic balance between China and the US".

"Australia has changed its policy considerably. Its bigoted actions have jeopardised not only China's national interests but also Australian long-term interests, bringing Canberra's structural contradictions and strategic dilemma to a worse level," Zhang wrote.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/chinese-paper-warns-australia-on-interference-in-south-china-sea-20180101-h0c4ge.html>

## 9. China's point man on North Korea promoted in diplomat reshuffle

**02/01/2018**

**Shi Jiangtao  
South China Morning Post**

Beijing's top diplomat in charge of North Korean and Asian affairs has been promoted to deputy foreign minister, underlining China's efforts to stabilise its often troubled relations in the region.

The appointment of assistant foreign minister Kong Xuanyou was unveiled along with a slew of personnel changes at the ministerial level by state media on Tuesday.

Analysts said the move showed a generational shift in the diplomatic establishment was under way that would likely see a reshuffle of Foreign Minister Wang Yi and several of his deputies, as well as the heads of key diplomatic missions around the world.

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Relations between China and Australia are facing uncertainty. Canberra is keen to work more closely with the Indo-Pacific grouping, and there are growing concerns in Australia over Chinese influence. At the same time, China is Australia's largest trading partner. China is also concerned about Australia's containment, especially over the disputed South China Sea.

Read more: <http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2126518/chinas-point-man-north-korea-promoted-diplomat>

## 10. Empower Chinese-Australians to improve bilateral relations

**02/01/2018**

**Jieh-Yung Lo**

**China Matters Young Professionals Stance**

The 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper reflects the increasing complexity of Australia's relationship with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the need to balance trade, investment, and security. Whilst two-way trade remains strong and healthy, the PRC's assertiveness to expand its geopolitical presence and influence in Australian politics has caused much concern and frustration for Australia.

To help Australia unlock this complexity, it needs to use every tool at its disposal. One of the tools that have yet to be used to its full potential is Chinese-Australian communities.

Australia-China relations have faced challenges in recent times as a result of the Sam Dastyari and Huang Xiangmo political donations scandals, the ongoing media coverage of Chinese influence in Australia, and the Turnbull Government's new foreign interference laws. Furthermore, the actions of Huang Xiangmo and Chau Chak Wing have tarnished the reputation of Chinese-Australian communities. To break down these tensions and misunderstandings, it requires Chinese-Australians to be more active in foreign policy to help Australia and China navigate through the cultural nuances and political complexities surrounding these issues.

Read more: <http://chinamatters.org.au/stance/empower-chinese-australians-improve-bilateral-relations/>



## 11. How can democracies counter China's growing clout

**02/01/2018**

**J. Michael Cole**

**The Globe and Mail**

*J. Michael Cole, China-watcher and former analyst with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service discusses the potential consequences of Canada's increasing involvement with the PRC, stating that "Canadians need to learn from the experiences of others to determine how to balance between engaging China and protecting ourselves against attempts by a regime whose values often are anathema to ours." He mentions Australia as an example for "the creeping censorship that threatens academic and journalistic freedom".*

China is on a mission to provide an alternative to the liberal-democratic order that has underpinned international relations since the end of the Second World War, an order in which Canada is a proud participant.

Amid uncertainty over the future of the North American free-trade agreement and U.S. global leadership, it is only natural that Ottawa would seek to deepen its relationship with China, the world's second-largest economy and an increasingly important player in international affairs. But as recent cases in Australia and New Zealand have made clear, it is time Canada started paying closer attention to the potential costs to our democracy of engaging authoritarian China, a country that is led by the most successful communist party in history.

Read more: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/how-can-democracies-counter-chinas-growing-clout/article37459919/>

## 12. How can scholars tackle the rise of Chinese censorship in the West?

**04/01/2018**

**Times Higher Education**

*A series of four opinion articles which examine PRC government influence on international academic publishing. Each author suggests how to address potential PRC censorship of Western publications. One of the authors included is Professor Clive Hamilton, who reflects on his unpublished book 'Silent Invasion: How China is Turning Australia into a Puppet State'.*





It's a truism that we take our freedoms for granted until they are taken away, but recent events have really driven that home to me. In November, my imminent book exposing the subversive activities of the CPC in Australia was dropped by its publisher because it feared retaliation from Beijing.

I never imagined that such a thing could happen. Allen & Unwin has been my publisher for many years and its enthusiastic backing for my new book gave me the sense that we were taking on the powerful Chinese state together. Then, suddenly, it abandoned the battlefield, leaving me out there on my own, looking over my shoulder.

*Read more: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/how-can-scholars-tackle-rise-chinese-censorship-west>*