

Richard Tempest

The World After Covid: Prospects, Dangers,
Temptations

Lecture Two

China: Rival and Partner

News of the week! On September 17, the CDC declares that an across-the-board Covid vaccine booster program is not currently needed. However, this debate has only started...

Booster shots are recommended for: people 65 and older; those at high risk of severe infection; and health care workers and other individuals at high risk of getting infected at work

News of the week! Pentagon admits August 29 drone strike targeting a vehicle supposedly belonging to the Afghan branch of ISIS killed “as many as 10 civilians, including up to seven children.” The driver, Zemari Ahmadi, was an employee of Nutrition and Education International, an American NGO, who was travelling with members of his family. Among a series of mistakes, US intelligence misidentified the water bottles being carried in the truck as explosives



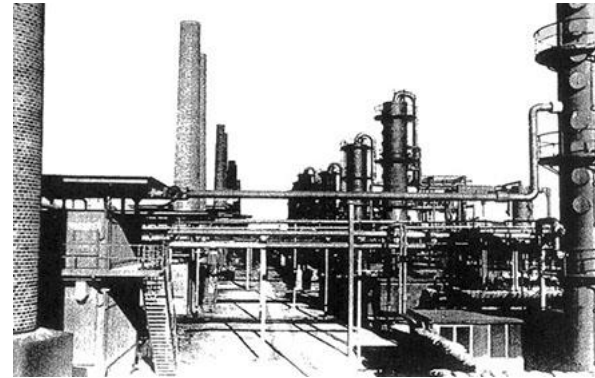
News of the week! On September 15, Aukus was born

- In response to a question asked in parliament by his predecessor, Theresa May, British prime minister Boris Johnson does not rule out going to war with China over Taiwan
- On Thursday, September 16 the European Parliament votes to recommend that the EU “urgently” negotiate a trade agreement with Taiwan
- Also on Thursday, China accused the newly formed Aukus alliance of having an “obsolete cold war zero sum mentality.” Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the decision to give Australia – a non-proliferation treaty signatory – nuclear technology was “extremely irresponsible”
- On Friday, Taiwan’s foreign minister Joseph Ou welcomed the formation of Aukus. Ou also stated, “We are responsible for Taiwan’s national security, we are not asking the UK or any other country to fight on our behalf”

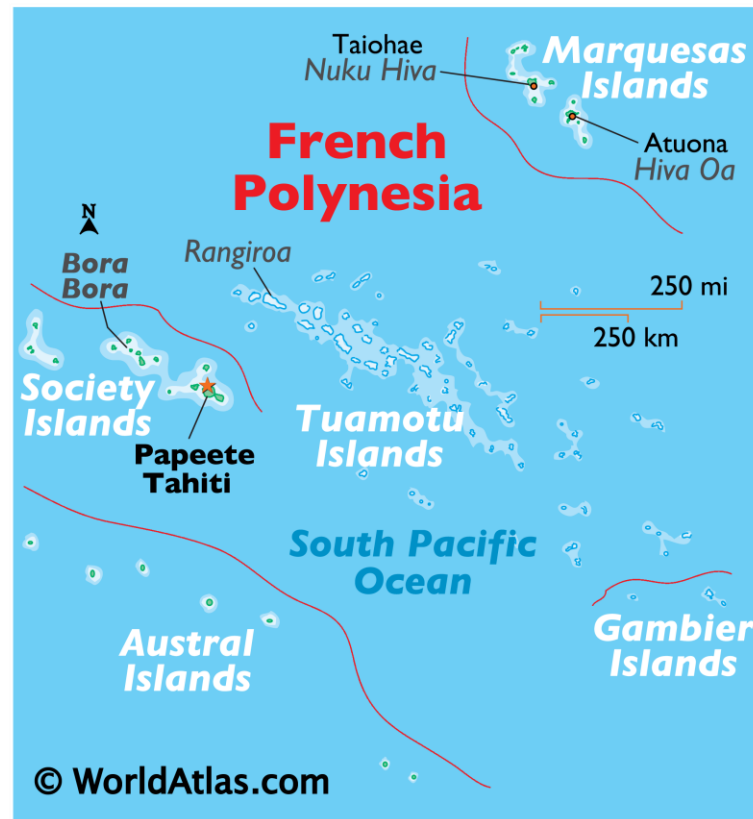
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co plant in Tainan, Taiwan, which supplies processors for the world's seven major chip companies. Last year TSMC announced it would build a 12B factory in the United States



On left: Nazi Germany's ball bearing factory at Schweinfurt, the target of a famous raid by the Eighth Air Force on August 17, 1943. The attack was a success, but at the cost of 60 bombers shot down and many others damaged beyond repair. On right: the chemical plant at Politz, which produced 15% of Germany's synthetic fuel. In 1944-45 the Allies bombed it into oblivion.



In other developments, on September 16 Australia canceled a \$55B sub deal with France in favor of one with the United States. “This unilateral, sudden and unforeseeable decision very much recalls what Mr. Trump would do,” commented French foreign minister Jean-Ives Le Drian. He was saying, plus ça change... In an unprecedented move, France recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Australia. Btw, French Polynesia has the only Western military presence in the region, 7000 troops



France is seeking EU support to delay a planned EU-Australia trade agreement in order to punish the latter for cancelling contract to buy 12 French submarines, a deal that would have been worth \$60B. The image shows President Macron w/ Ursula von der Leyden, the EU Commission president, at the MED7 summit of Mediterranean countries



On September 3, prime minister Yoshihide Suga (on left) stepped down. One of his mooted successors is the country's Covid tsar, Taro Kono, a former defense and foreign minister



Junichiro Koizumi (left), prime minister in 2001-06, and his son Shinjiro Koizumi (b. 1980), Japan's environment minister. Charisma can certainly be passed on from parent to progeny



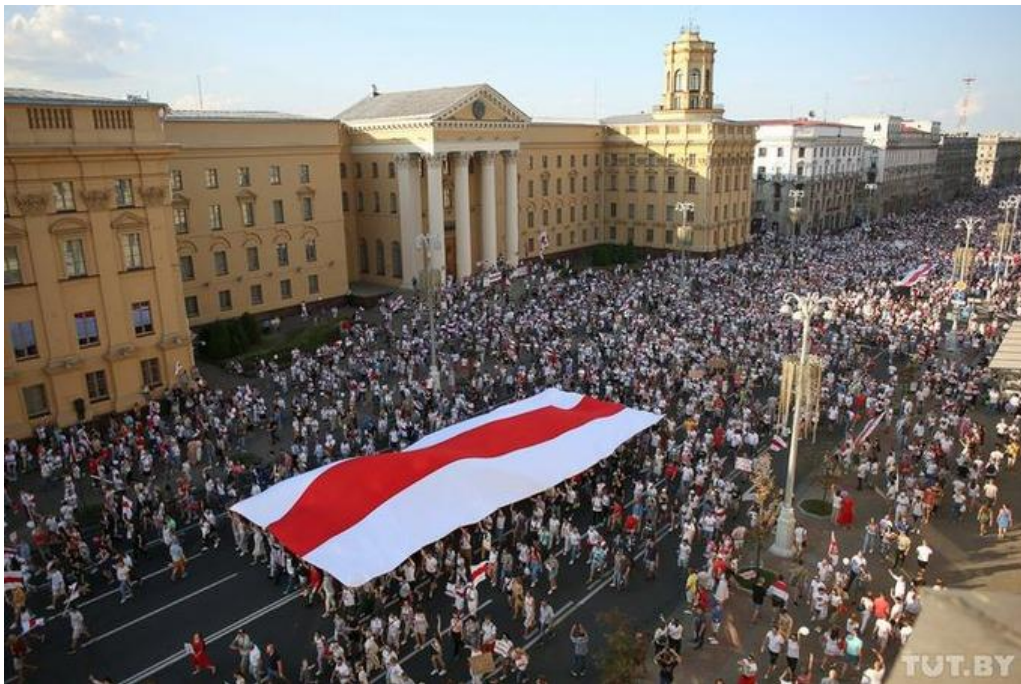
...as the example of another legacy charismatic, Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau, son of Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau, also demonstrates. On September 20, Trudeau jr. won a snap election, although the decisive victory he sought eluded him



Canada: 55M doses given, 26.3M fully vaccinated = 70.1%



Life, and tyranny, go on, even as Covid rages



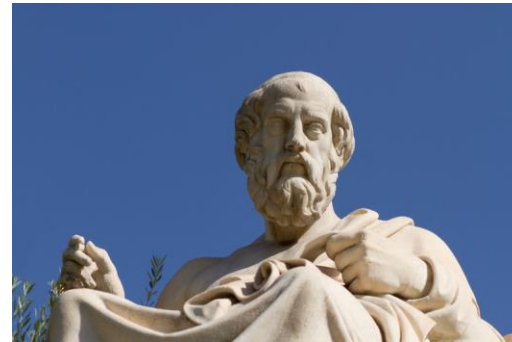
News of the week! Third alleged GRU officer, Sergey Fedotov, is charged in Britain's 2018 Skripal novichok poisoning case



And speaking of tyranny... Here is the newly (and fraudulently) elected President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran (on left) with the country's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei



Iran is the world's, and history's, only neo-Platonic state



Modri the populist: the Indian prime minister being garlanded by BJP leaders at one of the public events he insisted on holding as his country's Covid emergency loomed ever larger



National anti-pandemic strategies

Most countries, including the United States: mixture of lockdowns + sustained vaccination campaigns

New Zealand and Australia: national self-isolation

Sweden: carry on and plough through

China: identify clusters and individuals, local and regional lockdowns, and employ a full panoply of preventative, coercive, and punitive measures

Mexico and Brazil: malign neglect from the (populist) Left and (populist) Right

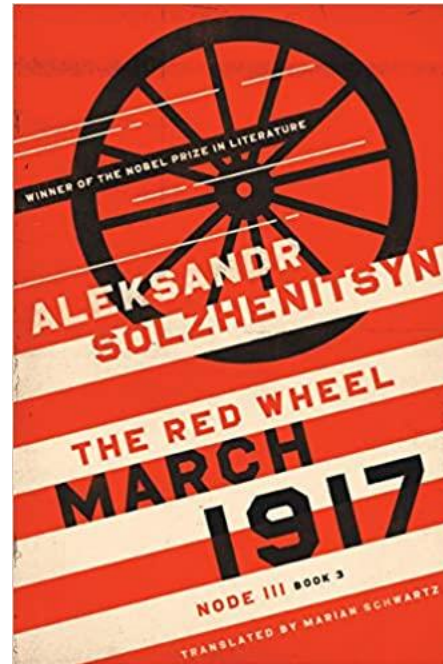
In the fight against Covid, the quality of governance tells



New Zealand: 4.38M doses given, 1.48M fully vaccinated = 30.2%



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's nodal theory of history



Then French foreign minister Hubert Védrine was not the first to apply the term “hyperpower” to the United States (1998), but he is often identified as the author of this usage



President Biden's multilateralist, environmentalist speech today at the United Nations was meant to demonstrate that his administration is not prepared to go it alone internationally. However, there is the recent example of the Afghanistan withdrawal...



The charismatic Bo Xilai who, like Xi Jinping, was a “Red Prince.” Both were widely expected to be part of the Fifth Generation of Leaders, slated to take over in 2012. Bo’s fall in 2012-13 as a result of a lurid murder case coincided with Xi’s rise to supreme power



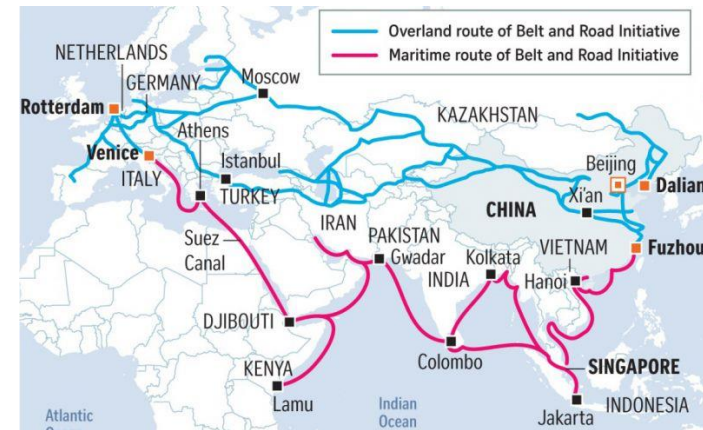
Kaiser Wilhelm II and President Xi Jinping: What's the connection (other than bad art)?



China's Hong Kong crackdown confirmed that it has reverted to a classic communist modus operandi



A century of infrastructural geopolitics, west to east, and east to west



Sri Lanka's Colombo International Financial City, which consists of the Port City and the Colombo International Financial Center, has been under construction since 2014. Cost: \$15B and rising



2018 saw large-scale anti-Chinese demonstrations in Vietnam, with many Vietnamese objecting to China's economic presence and perceived great power arrogance, particularly in relation to its claims in the South China Sea. The PRC is the largest foreign investor in Vietnam, though the United States is a close ally of Hanoi

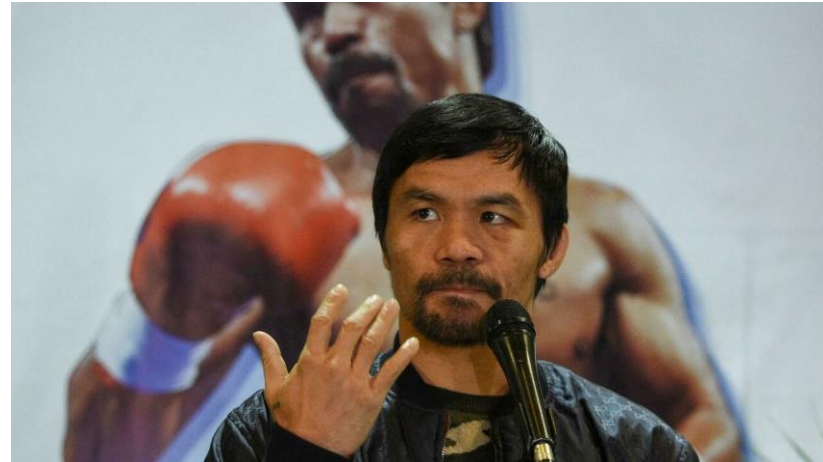


One of China's naval bases in the South China Sea

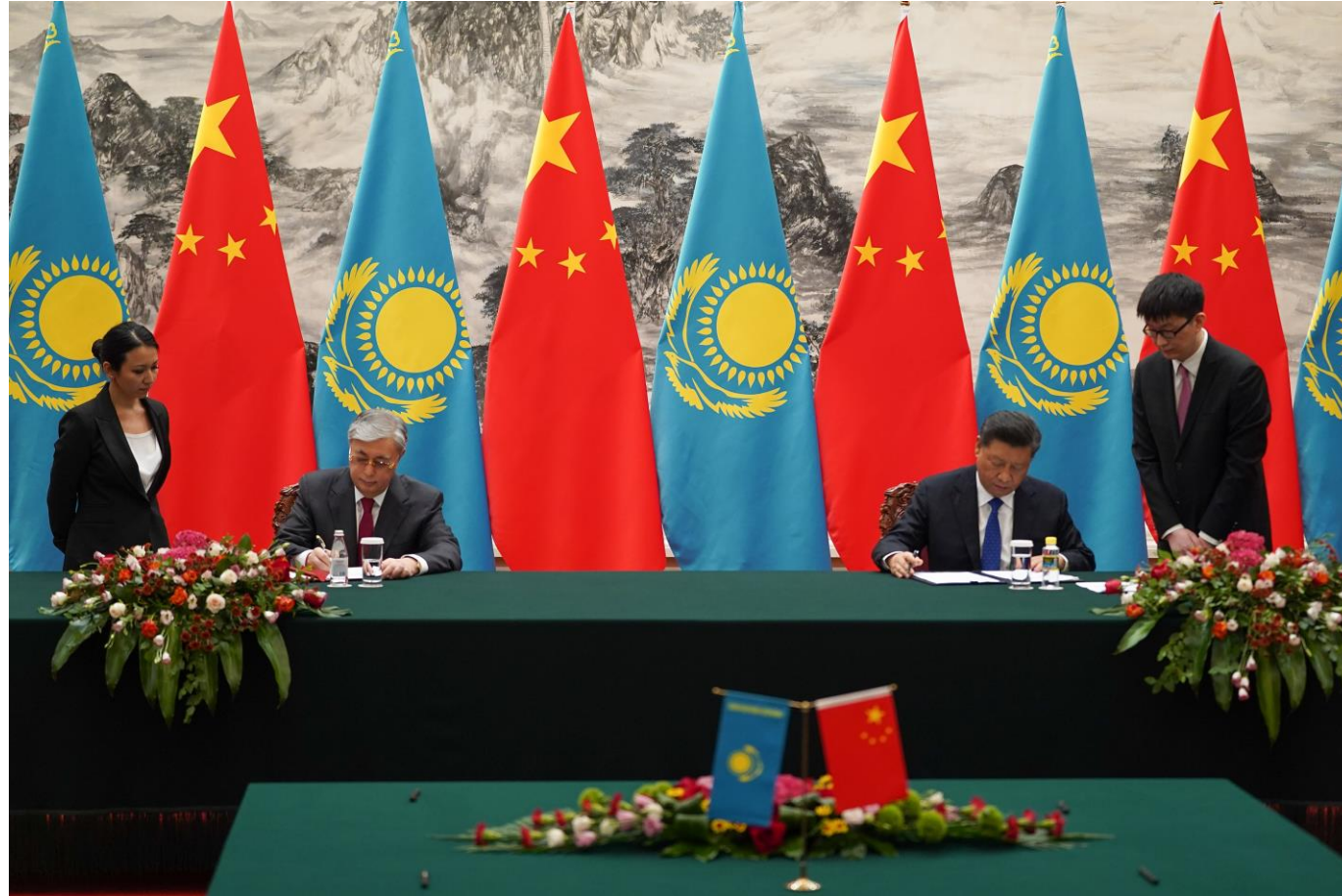


DIGITAL GLOBE PHOTOGRAPHY/AGENCY IMAGES

Speculation is growing that Sara Duterte-Carpio, 43, mayor of Davao City and daughter of current Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte, will run to succeed her father in 2022. However, it may not be all smooth sailing for her. On September 19, celebrated boxer Manny Pacquiao officially declared his presidential candidacy



Since 1991, China has invested \$20B in Kazakhstan



The China-Russia alliance is an example of early twenty-first century *Realpolitik*



Siberia and the Far East are suffering demographic decline, accompanied by a growing anti-government mood and large-scale Chinese economic penetration



China's historic territorial claims against Russia predate the collapse of the Soviet Union

