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**INSTITUTO CULTURAL
D. ANTÓNIO FERREIRA GOMES
José Pedro Teixeira Fernandes
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SESSÃO Nº 8**



PARTE I – TEMA PRINCIPAL

O conflito Austrália-China (1) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]



HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Prime Minister: [Scott Morrison](#)

CAPITAL
[Canberra](#)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
none¹

OFFICIAL RELIGION
none

MONETARY UNIT
Australian dollar (\$A)

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE
1 USD equals 1.395 Australian dollar

POPULATION
(2019 est.) 25,879,000

POPULATION RANK
(2019) 52

POPULATION PROJECTION 2030
27,564,000

TOTAL AREA (SQ MI)
2,968,401

O conflito Austrália-China (2) [FONTE: Australia maps]



O conflito Austrália-China (3) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

Scott Morrison, in full **Scott John Morrison**, byname **ScoMo**, (born May 13, 1968, Bronte, New South Wales, Australia), Australian conservative politician who became leader of the [Liberal Party](#) and [prime minister](#) of [Australia](#) in [August 2018](#) following a challenge by the right wing of the party to the leadership of [Malcolm Turnbull](#), who stepped down as party leader and prime minister. After [Peter Dutton](#), who instigated the leadership challenge, was unable to win enough support to succeed Turnbull, Morrison ascended to the premiership as a compromise candidate.

Early Life And Career

Morrison grew up in a devout Christian family in the beachside eastern suburbs of [Sydney](#). His father was a police commissioner and independent politician who served 16 years on the local council as well as a [tenure](#) as the mayor of Waverly. Morrison's political career began at age 9 distributing "how-to-vote" cards in support of his father. During his childhood Morrison also acted in television commercials. He attended the prestigious Sydney Boys High before [matriculating](#) at the University of New South Wales, where he studied [economics](#) and [geography](#).

Scott Morrison

QUICK FACTS



BORN

May 13, 1968 (age 52)
Bronte, [Australia](#)

TITLE / OFFICE

[Prime Minister, Australia](#)
(2018-)

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

[Liberal Party of Australia](#)

O conflito Austrália-China (4) [FONTE: BBC, 30/11/2020]



O conflito Austrália-China (5) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]



ARTICLE

Great expectations: The unraveling of the Australia-China relationship

Natasha Kassam · Monday, July 20, 2020

“It is the steady streams of mutual understanding and friendship between our two peoples that have created the vast ocean of goodwill between China and Australia. I am greatly heartened by the immense support for China-Australia relations in both countries,” China’s President Xi Jinping told the Australian Parliament in November 2014.[\[1\]](#)

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O conflito Austrália-China (6) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

In 2020, these words are almost impossible to believe: China's leader on a state visit to Australia, announcing the conclusion of a free trade agreement and elevation of the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.^[2] Canberra's streets were lined with twirling dancers and students waving Chinese flags. Yet, amid the pomp and ceremony, signs of deep-seated structural tensions were already on display: flag wavers obscured a Falun Gong protest from view,^[3] and it was later alleged that the student supporters had been bussed in by the Chinese Embassy.^[4]

Six year later, those tensions now define the relationship. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson is detailing the many risks of racist attacks to Chinese people if they were to travel to Australia.^[5] China has banned exports from a number of Australian beef facilities, and placed a dramatic 80% tariff on Australian barley after an 18-month long anti-dumping investigation.

These measures are apparently in response to Australia's call for an independent inquiry into the origins of COVID-19, a proposal that evolved into a compromise motion endorsed by a record 137 countries — including Australia and China — at the World Health Assembly in May.^[6] Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison suggested that the World Health Organization could have "weapons inspector-style powers" to investigate future public health outbreaks.^[7] These marked changes in behavior from both Beijing and Canberra have taken place in recent months without so much as a phone call between the leaders or even trade ministers of the two countries.^[8]

O conflito Austrália-China (7) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

“The Australian people stand up”^[9]

“There has been foreign interference in Australian politics,” said then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in December 2017.^[10] This marked the beginning of a downward spiral in bilateral relations. Prime Minister Turnbull commissioned one of his advisors to produce a classified report into foreign interference in Australia and, soon after, announced new legislation.^[11] The new laws were, in part, a response to a nationwide scandal that discovered an up-and-coming Australian senator had warned a Chinese political donor and businessman that he may have been under surveillance.^[12] Months later, Australia announced that it would exclude Huawei from the development of its 5G network — one of the first countries in the world to do so.^[13]

Australia was quickly put in the diplomatic freezer. High-level visits were paused, state media lashed out, and ministerial exchanges deferred.^[14] The deterioration in bilateral relations seemed hugely consequential for Australia’s national interests: not only is China Australia’s largest trading partner, but also a major player in almost every issue of Australian foreign policy. Moreover, Chinese language and culture are key components of Australia’s multicultural society, with 1.2 million Australians claiming Chinese ancestry.^[15] While Beijing’s ire affected ministerial and official contact, the political friction had little discernable effect on two-way trade: in the same period, Australian exports to China grew by 26%.^[16]

O conflito Austrália-China (8) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

Why Australia, and why now?

China has long sought to divide and isolate U.S. allies — and Australia's identity in Beijing's eyes has always been defined by its relationship with the United States. What has changed of late is twofold: China is increasingly assertive in achieving its goals; and contrary to Beijing's intent, Australia has become increasingly assertive in pushing back. The clash of China's expanding interests and Australia's unwillingness to be deterred illustrate the structural challenge for Australia that will characterize future relations with the People's Republic of China.

Even as Australia has distanced itself from White House conspiracy theories about the origin of the virus^[19], or refused to follow President Trump in leaving the Paris Agreement^[20] or defunding the World Health Organization,^[21] China continues to view Australia as loyal and deferential to the United States. Beijing's official statements will often refer to Australia "dancing to the tune of a certain country,"^[22] but state media will be clearer, describing Australia as "the only country that is obedient to the U.S."^[23] and "a close collaborator of the U.S. in its anti-China strategy at the expense of China-Australia relations."^[24]

O conflito Austrália-China (9) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

Many in Australia thought that the level of interdependence between the economies of Australia and China would insulate Australia from the kind of economic coercion that other countries have experienced.^[29] While China purchases over a third of Australia's exports, more than 70% are resource commodities. These are vital inputs for China's steel, construction, and other industrial sectors which are still central to its economy (and employment), especially so in recovering from COVID-19. Australia supplies over 60% of China's iron ore imports, almost half its liquified natural gas imports, and around 40% of coal imports.^[30] Half of Australia's goods exports to China are of iron ore, for which finding sizeable alternative sources of supply is especially difficult.^[31]

This interdependence was always seen as in Australia's favor, and would deter forcible decoupling from either side. Recent behavior raises the question as to whether China sees that interdependence as a vulnerability, as it does with the United States.^[32]

O conflito Austrália-China (10) [FONTE: News.com

Australia, 30/09/2020]

Huawei Australia says ban is a 'slap in the face' to China

Former PM Malcolm Turnbull has defended his decision to ban Huawei from Australia's 5G rollout. But the Chinese tech giant is still offended.



Chinese technology giant Huawei has blasted Malcolm Turnbull for banning it from Australia's 5G rollout.

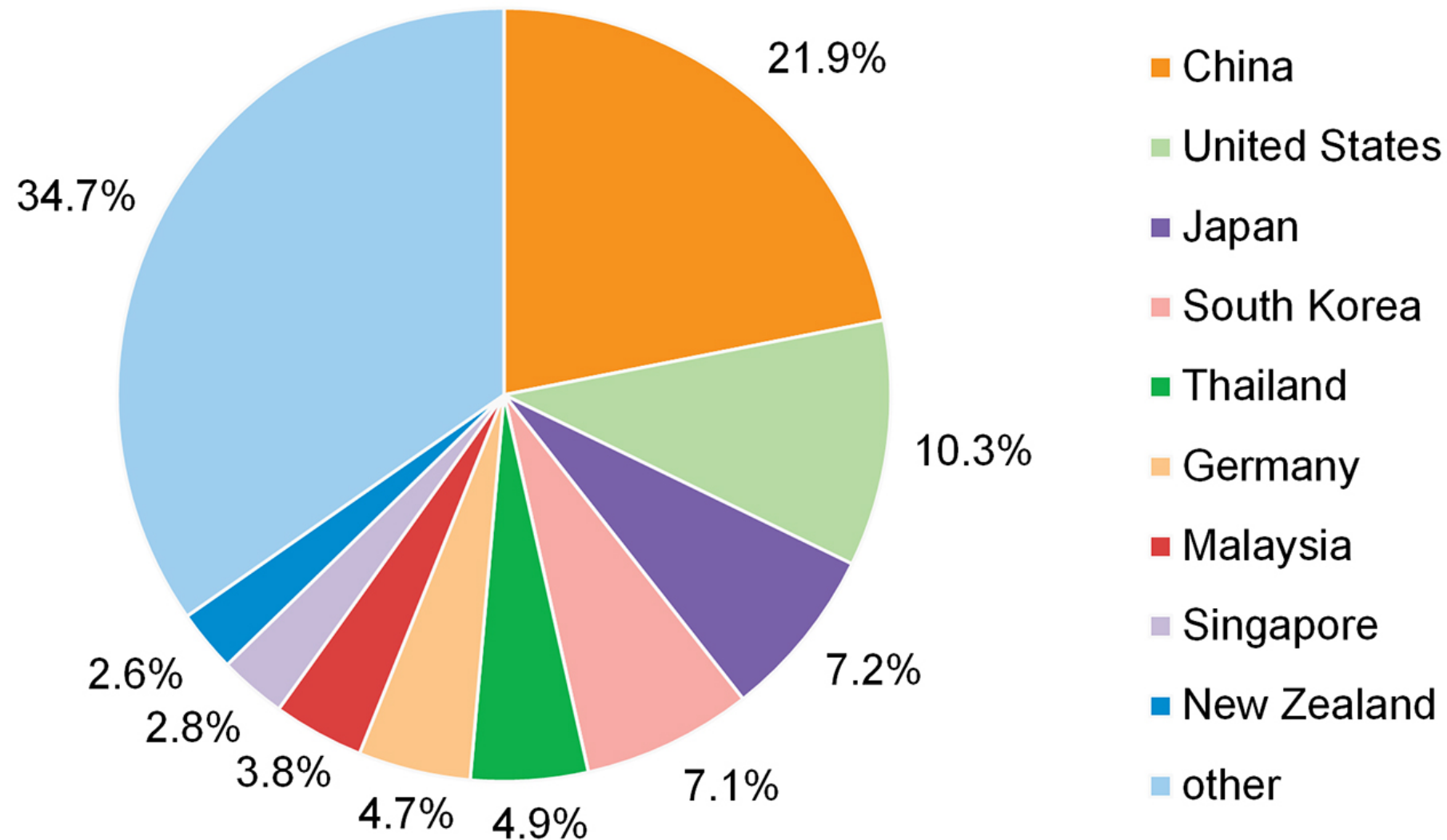
The former prime minister on Thursday defended the decision made in 2018 saying the government could not "mitigate the risk" of the technology.

"Turnbull did the bidding of the Americans – wrong," he told ABC Radio National.

"Australia made the decision to ban high risk vendors, which for practical purposes meant Huawei and ZTE from our 5G network."

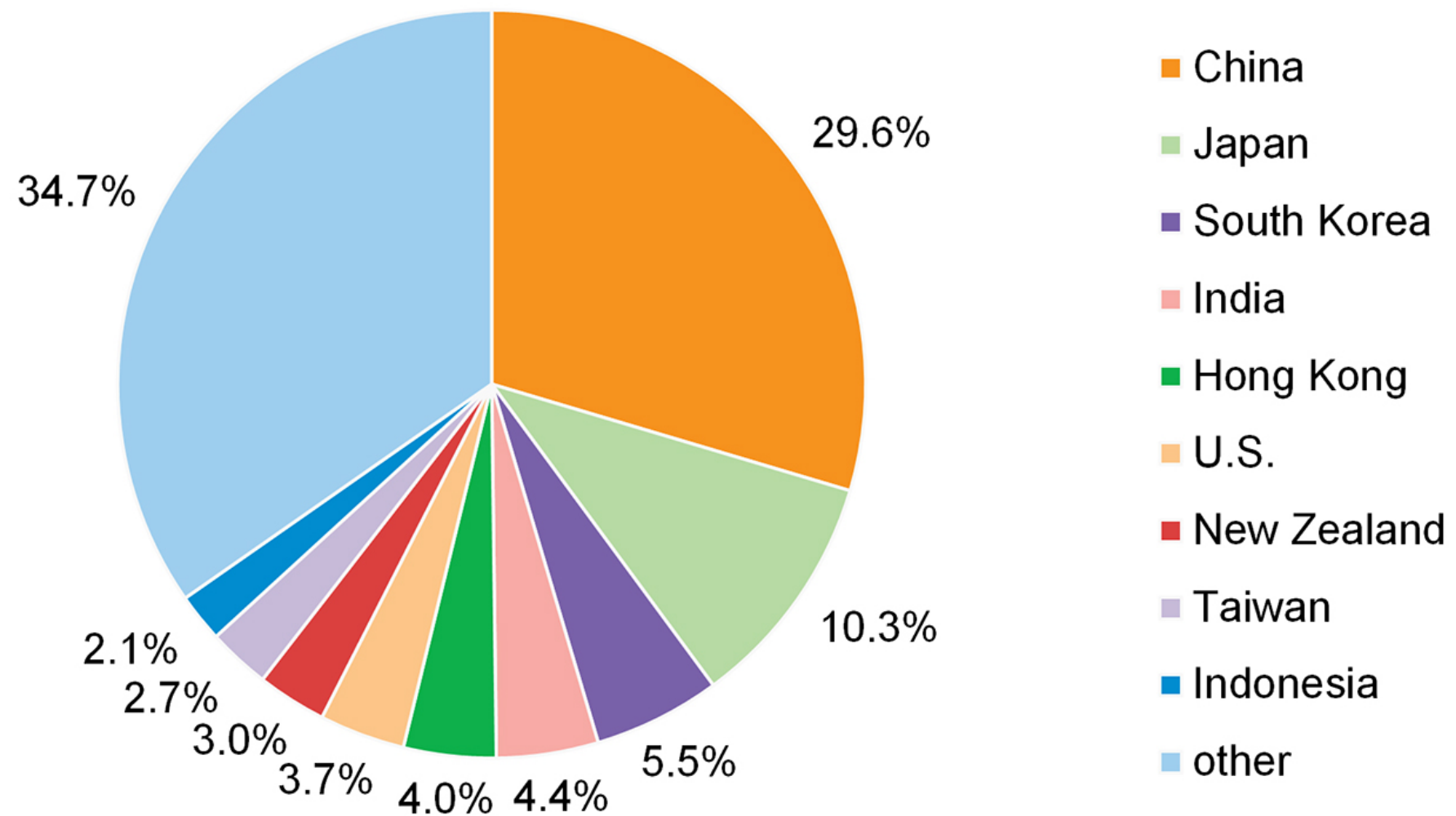
O conflito Austrália-China (11) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

Australia major import sources (2017)



O conflito Austrália-China (12) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

Australia major export destinations (2017)



O conflito Austrália-China (13) [FONTE: FT, 6/11/2020]

Australia tells exporters to find other markets after rise in China tensions

Canberra warns businesses that relations with Beijing are unlikely to improve soon

Canberra has advised Australian businesses to seek new export markets and reduce their reliance on China as a worsening [dispute](#) threatens up to A\$6bn in annual trade.

Government officials delivered the warning to exporters during a conference on Thursday to discuss informal threats relayed by Chinese importers to Australian exporters. The importers said Beijing planned to ban wine, lobsters, copper and other selected goods from Friday.

One industry participant on the call told the Financial Times that they had been advised by officials that bilateral relations with China were unlikely to recover in the short-term and they should start exploring other options.

“

The Australian government seems resigned to taking an economic hit . . . as they can hardly do an about-turn on foreign policy under such naked pressure

Richard McGregor, Lowy Institute

The warning follows Beijing's decision to impose [punitive tariffs](#) on Australian barley, restrict beef imports and begin an anti-dumping inquiry into wine exports following Canberra's call in April for an inquiry into the origins of the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

Since then, diplomatic and trade relations between the nations have sunk to their lowest level in a generation and some Australian exporters have experienced difficulties in getting their products through Chinese customs.

O conflito Austrália-China (14) [FONTE: FT, 6/11/2020]

This week up to A\$2m (\$1.45m) worth of Australian rock lobster was lost at Shanghai airport when local officials ordered a series of new health and safety tests. Some coal exporters have said they have also faced [delays](#).

Simon Birmingham, Australia's trade minister, said on Friday that the Chinese government had denied there was any co-ordinated effort to clamp down on Australian products. But the minister said there was a great deal of inconsistency in what Canberra had heard from Beijing and what exporters were experiencing.

"The ongoing reports that we're getting from industry and a range of different news sources are deeply troubling, and there's no denying or getting away from that fact," he told Australian radio.

Mr Birmingham said the trade-related problems over recent months had dramatically increased the risks for Australian exporters to China and suggested that some businesses would inevitably begin to look at alternative markets in Asia, such as Japan, Korea and Indonesia.

O conflito Austrália-China (15) [FONTE: ABC, 29/11/2020]

Australia prepares to escalate action against China to World Trade Organization over barley tariffs



Trade Minister Simon Birmingham says Australia is prepared to raise its concerns over the tariffs with the WTO.

As tension grows over Beijing's massive tariffs on Australian wine, the Federal Government is continuing with plans to take China to the World Trade Organization (WTO) over barley exports.

In May, [China began threatening to slap the tariffs on the barley industry](#), as a result of "an ongoing anti-dumping and countervailing duties investigation".

Trade Minister Simon Birmingham has detailed appeals the Government has made through China's domestic processes to overturn the decision and limit the impact on the \$1.5 billion barley trade with China.

O conflito Austrália-China (16) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

So why does it matter?

Although Australia looks like a strategic target for Beijing's ire, it is hardly an outlier. China is a rising power with expanding interests, that will increasingly clash with others. As internal pressures place the CCP leadership under growing strain, more disputes will arise with more countries.

Australia may be unique as a Five Eyes member with a particularly high level of economic interdependence with China.^[46] And it may be seen by Beijing as a necessary target given Canberra's willingness to play a critical role in supporting the U.S.-led alliance system and leading the global charge on scrutiny of Beijing's interference in the affairs of other countries.

But the struggles facing Canberra are structural, and cannot be simply fixed with better diplomacy.^[47] More countries in the region will find that Beijing's strategic and territorial goals are mutually exclusive with their own interests. Whether seizing disputed tracts of territory and stretches of water on China's maritime and land borders, snuffing out Taiwan's liberal democracy, or achieving military overmatch against the United States and its Allies and partners on the East Asian littoral, Beijing's goals are an existential challenge to the status quo.

O conflito Austrália-China (17) [FONTE: Natasha Kassam / Brookings, 20/07/2020]

Where once China had neither the means nor the inclination to achieve its goals, China has now emerged as a great economic and military power. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Beijing's policy planners are keen to use the full spectrum of state power to get onto the unfinished business of China's statecraft. Australia has felt the rough touch of this coercion of late. And perhaps Australia's resilience in the face of this pressure is an opportunity to demonstrate regional leadership.

But it is neither an aberration nor a discomfort that only close U.S. alliance partners and bold critics of China's foreign interference will feel. In the coming years, any state that makes policy choices adverse to what Beijing judges are its interest risks taking blows from China's coercive statecraft. This pain can be avoided, but only at the cost of deference to Beijing's goals.

Hard questions will be asked in national capitals across the region, not just in Canberra. Beijing is testing Australia, with different sources of leverage. The long-arm of the CCP is reaching even further. More tests, for more countries, are coming in the future.

O conflito Austrália-China (18) [FONTE: Xinhua Net, 21/11/2020]

www.news.cn
新华网
NEWS
www.xinhuanet.com

XINHUANET

Afghan lives matter, people outraged by war crimes of Australian soldiers



Afghan army soldiers in operation in Alishing district of eastern Laghman province, Oct. 5, 2020. (Photo by Saifurahman Safi/Xinhua)

Afghan lives matter. News about deaths of foreign troops always catch eyeballs, while news on Afghan life losses vice versa. This time, war crimes of Australian soldiers triggered fury.

O conflito Austrália-China (19) [FONTE: BBC,30/11/2020]

Australia demands China apologise for posting 'repugnant' fake image

On Monday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lijian Zhao posted a fabricated image which portrayed an Australian soldier with a bloody knife next to a child. The child is seen holding a lamb.

The image appears to be a reference to previously reported allegations that elite Australian soldiers used knives to murder two 14-year-old Afghan boys. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported the ADF report did not substantiate those allegations.



-Don't be afraid, we are coming to bring you peace! -

O conflito Austrália-China (20) [FONTE: News.com]

Australia, 30/11/2020]

Lijian Zhao tweet: Where China's sick photo originated

A disturbing fake image circulated by China infuriated the Prime Minister and sparked outrage across the nation. This is where it came from.

The ABC reported on Monday that Zhao Lijian appears to have lifted the image from a Weibo post by nationalist artist "Crowd Kylin."

The social media user was also quick to respond to the furore in Australia posting: "I heard ScoMo had a big problem with my work."

The Prime Minister said Australia will be seeking an official apology.

"The post made today, the repugnant post made today of a falsified image of an Australian soldier threatening a young child with a knife, a post made on an official Chinese government to recount, posted by the deputy director-general of the Ministry of foreign affairs, is truly repugnant," he said.



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian shared the image on social media. Picture: Kyodo News via Getty Images Source: Getty Images

O conflito Austrália-China (21) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

ANZUS Pact

ANZUS Pact, formally **Pacific Security Treaty**, security [treaty](#) between [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), and the [United States](#) that was signed in San Francisco, Calif., on Sept. 1, 1951, for the purpose of providing mutual aid in the event of aggression and for settling disputes by peaceful means. It came into force in 1952. The three countries' initials provided the [acronyms](#) for the treaty and the organization that grew out of it. The United States offered the pact to Australia as compensation for the prospect of Japanese rearmament. Under the terms of the treaty, the three nations maintained a consultative relationship with each other and strove to ensure their [collective security](#) in the Pacific region.

In the mid-1980s New Zealand instituted an antinuclear policy, one of whose provisions was the banning of nuclear-armed vessels from its ports, including those of the U.S. Navy. In response, the United States formally suspended its treaty obligations to New Zealand in 1986 and reduced the two countries' military ties. The three nations remained formal parties to the treaty, but in practical terms ANZUS was inoperative from then on.

ANZUS Pact

DATE

September 1, 1951

PARTICIPANTS

[Australia](#)
[New Zealand](#)
[United States](#)

KEY PEOPLE

[Sir Robert Menzies](#)

RELATED TOPICS

[Australia](#)
[Defense](#)
[New Zealand](#)
[United States](#)

O conflito Austrália-China (22) [FONTE: ANZUS Treaty / National Museum Australia]



From left: Lieutenant-General Sydney Rowell, Australian Chief of General Staff, Major-General William Gentry, New Zealand Chief of General Staff and Admiral Arthur Radford, US Commander in Chief Pacific, gather in Honolulu for the first meeting of ANZUS military representatives

O conflito Austrália-China (23) [FONTE: ANZUS Treaty / Australia Government]

Australian Treaty Series 1952 No 2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America [ANZUS]

(San Francisco, 1 September 1951)

Entry into force generally: 29 April 1952

AUSTRALIAN TREATY SERIES

1952 No. 2

Australian Government Publishing Service

Canberra

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SECURITY TREATY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA , NEW ZEALAND , AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE PARTIES TO THIS TREATY,

REAFFIRMING their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all Governments, and desiring to strengthen the fabric of peace in the Pacific Area,

NOTING that the United States already has arrangements pursuant to which its armed forces are stationed in the Philippines, and has armed forces and administrative responsibilities in the Ryukyus, and upon the coming into force of the Japanese Peace Treaty may also station armed forces in and about Japan to assist in the preservation of peace and security in the Japan Area,



O conflito Austrália-China (24) [FONTE: ANZUS Treaty / Australia Government]

Article I

The Parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Article II

In order more effectively to achieve the objective of this Treaty the Parties separately and jointly by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

Article III

The Parties will consult together whenever in the opinion of any of them the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened in the Pacific.

Article IV

Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific Area on any of the Parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall be immediately reported to the Security Council of the United Nations. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Article V

For the purpose of Article IV, an armed attack on any of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of any of the Parties, or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific or on its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific.

O conflito Austrália-China (25) [FONTE: ANZUS Treaty / Australia Government]

Article VI

This Treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of the Parties under the Charter of the United Nations or the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article VII

The Parties hereby establish a Council, consisting of their Foreign Ministers or their Deputies, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty. The Council should be so organized as to be able to meet at any time.

Article VIII

Pending the development of a more comprehensive system of regional security in the Pacific Area and the development by the United Nations of more effective means to maintain international peace and security, the Council, established by Article VII, is authorized to maintain a consultative relationship with States, Regional Organizations, Associations of States or other authorities in the Pacific Area in a position to further the purposes of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of that Area.

Article IX

This Treaty shall be ratified by the Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Government of Australia, which will notify each of the other signatories of such deposit. The Treaty shall enter into force as soon as the ratifications of the signatories have been deposited.^[1]

Article X

This Treaty shall remain in force indefinitely. Any Party may cease to be a member of the Council established by Article VII one year after notice has been given to the Government of Australia, which will inform the Governments of the other Parties of the deposit of such notice.

Article XI

This Treaty in the English language shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of Australia. Duly certified copies thereof will be transmitted by that Government to the Governments of each of the other signatories.

O conflito Austrália-China (26) [FONTE: Patrick G. Buchan / CSIS, 12/03/2019]

The Land of the Long White Doubt: A Call to ANZUS

March 12, 2019

The Australia-New Zealand-United States (ANZUS) mutual defense arrangement has languished in a bizarre limbo for decades. Since New Zealand's decision to declare itself a "nuclear-free zone" in 1984 and the suspension of the U.S. alliance commitment to New Zealand in [1986](#), the alliance relationship has been maintained by an ad-hoc arrangement of two separate pacts: the Australia-U.S. alliance and the Australia-New Zealand alliance.

This tenuous connection functioned effectively during the "holiday from history" of the 1990s and early 2000s. With a dearth of great power competitors in the region, all sides were able to maintain essential aspects of their defense policies; the United States could ensure its foothold in the South Pacific, and New Zealand could uphold its anti-nuclear stance. Successive New Zealand governments maintained the 1987 New Zealand Nuclear-Free Act, and with 51 percent of New Zealand citizens supporting the nuclear-free zone, the succeeding center-right National Party government of the early 1990s was not politically inclined to alter the law. With the United States unwilling to budge from its position and given the benign strategic environment of the post-Cold War Pacific, the alliance was permitted to fall into a long state of limbo.

O conflito Austrália-China (27) [FONTE: Patrick G. Buchan / CSIS, 12/03/2019]

While the traditional ANZUS threat narrative concerned itself with the spread of communist hard power throughout the Indo-Pacific, the cutting-edge political and technological influence operations conducted by China could be the focus of ANZUS 2.0. Already, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States have cooperated as members of the “Five Eyes” intelligence alliance to push back against proposals by Chinese telecom firms to construct 5G internet networks. New Zealand’s cooperation with the United States, Australia, and Japan on revitalizing the obsolete Papuan electrical grid further demonstrates a shared sense of urgency among the ANZUS nations that technology—both foreign infrastructure projects and domestic high-tech projects—is a domain to be contested and protected. However, this urgency has not translated to domestic investment in New Zealand itself. Despite the present ban on Huawei 5G technology, New Zealand agreed in 2017 to permit the creation of a \$400 million Huawei cloud computing center in Christchurch.

Though yet to be officially concluded, the cloud computing center comes on the heels of [numerous other deals](#) between Huawei and New Zealand telecommunication firms. Other New Zealand firms have [done business with](#) Chinese companies implicated in circumventing UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea, while still others have partnered with Chinese aerospace firms. A public political push to revitalize or renew ANZUS should include a commitment among the three nations to coordinate and consult on best practices for foreign investment review, using the committee on foreign investment in the United States (CFIUS) [as a model](#).

O conflito Austrália-China (28) [FONTE: Patrick G. Buchan / CSIS, 12/03/2019]

The effort to build a new ANZUS will come alongside junctures faced by other U.S. alliances in the region. Even staunch pro-U.S. officials in allies like the [Philippines](#) are demanding a now-or-never clarification of U.S. commitment to the region. The United States should take advantage of this moment to renew or revise agreements with its existing partners to combat Chinese attempts to peel off democratic allies. At the same time, the United States, without framing the present circumstances as America-or-bust, must make it clear to New Zealand that the intensification of both the military competition and rising instances of interference merit a sense of urgency in further warming defense ties.

There can be no new ANZUS if one of the three does not share the same perception of the threat. But New Zealand's stepped-up participation in Australia-U.S. exercises and its nascent steps to combat Chinese technological influence point to a foundation that can be built upon for the sake of rebirthing an ANZUS to confront the realities of the Indo-Pacific competition that we face today.

O conflito Austrália-China (29) [FONTE: Alex Lo / SCMP, 29/11/2020]

The other ‘Thucydides Trap’ between China and Australia

- Conflict may be inevitable now that China has risen to a position of geopolitical and economic strength, and demands to call the shots in the region

People fret about a “Thucydides Trap” of inevitable conflict between China and the United States. But what is also alarming is that between China and Australia. Many people think the recent rising animosity between the two Asian countries is caused by accidents such as the dispute over the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic and trade conflicts. It may yet blow over.

However, the reality is that Australia is geographically of the East, but ideologically of the West. That was not a problem before China’s rise; now it is.

What is surprising is not the recent outbreak of recrimination, but that Beijing and Canberra have managed to do business for so long by taking part in a marriage of convenience that has benefited both sides enormously.

That arrangement is coming to an end, much like the economic coupling of the US and China is a thing of the past, even as those in the Australian business community are hoping for a diplomatic reset. For them, it’s about lobsters, barley and wine. But the gravy train may have already crashed.



PARTE II – NOTAS BREVES

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (1) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 29/11/2020]

Killing of nuke chief was done entirely by remote control — Iranian report

Semi-official Fars claims operation to kill Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was conducted in three minutes with no human operatives on the ground



The attack that killed the alleged architect of Iran's nuclear weapons program on Friday was carried out from afar using a remote-controlled machine gun attached to a car, a leading Iranian news site reported Sunday.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (2) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 29/11/2020 e BBC (foto)]

According to the semi-officials Fars news site, the entire operation was conducted with no human agents whatsoever, a significantly different description of the attack than has been presented until now. The account was not attributed to official sources and was not immediately confirmed by Iran.

According to the outlet, the assault took place over the course of three minutes as Mohsen Fakhrizadeh — a brigadier general in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and a key figure in the country's military research-and-development program long regarded by Israel and the US as the head of its rogue nuclear weapons program — traveled with his wife toward the resort town of Absard, east of Tehran.



Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, pictured in an undated photo, was head of the ministry of defence's research and innovation organisation

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (3) [FONTE: FT, 30/11/2020]

Machine guns and a hit squad: the killing of Iran's nuclear mastermind

Assassination set to escalate tensions as US president-elect Joe Biden keen to restart nuclear talks

Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination of Fakhrizadeh. The dramatic attack at the heart of the regime has escalated tensions in a fraught period as US president Donald Trump prepares to make way for president-elect Joe Biden, who is keen to restart talks over the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers.

This was about Israel sending a clear message to [Joe] Biden that he could not return to the nuclear accord with Iran

Iranian insider

successive Israeli governments have accused Tehran of trying to develop atomic weapons capability.

Israel vehemently opposes the resumption of talks between the Islamic republic and the US. Iran has promised revenge for what it called a state act of terror.

Mr Trump abandoned the historic accord in 2018 and imposed crippling sanctions on the Islamic republic. Tehran then ramped up its nuclear activity, increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium by 12 times more than the levels permitted under the accord. Iran has always denied that it has a military nuclear programme but

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (4) [FONTE: FT, 30/11/2020]

Iran has never taken direct action against Israel and [President Hassan Rouhani](#) said this revenge would happen “at the right time and appropriately” but that Iran was “intelligent and wise enough not to be trapped in the Zionists’ plot”. This is the second high-profile assassination this year after an American drone killed Iran’s most powerful military commander Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad. In the wake of that attack, Iran fired missiles at an Iraqi base hosting US troops but there were no deaths.

The head of Iran’s defence ministry’s Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, Fakhrizadeh was a shadowy figure.

Few pictures of him are available in domestic media and there are hardly any records of public speeches. Most Iranians first heard of him when the US put him on the sanctions list in 2008.

Israel, which has maintained an undeclared nuclear weapons stockpile since at least the 1970s, has regularly been involved in the murder and assassination of government officials and independent actors it considers hostile to the Jewish state’s interests.

Between 2010 and 2012, at least four Iranian nuclear scientists were killed in Tehran. In July, an assembly plant for centrifuges in Natanz, the country’s main nuclear site, exploded in an attack which was widely believed to have been carried out by Israel.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (5) [FONTE: Press TV, 29/11/2020]

Leader calls on Iran's science centers to continue Fakhrizadeh's efforts

Saturday, 28 November 2020 11:00 AM [Last Update: Saturday, 28 November 2020 11:17 AM]



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on Iranian experts to preserve the scientific and technical legacy of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, and ordered the punishment of his assassins.

"One of our country's eminent scientists in the nuclear and defense fields - Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh -has been martyred by brutal mercenaries. With his great, enduring scientific efforts, he sacrificed his life on the path of God and the lofty status of martyrdom is his divine reward," the Leader said in a message released on Saturday.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (6) [FONTE: Press TV, 29/11/2020]

Iran to give 'calculated', 'firm' response to scientist's assassination: Senior official

Sunday, 29 November 2020 2:33 PM [Last Update: Sunday, 29 November 2020 7:22 PM]

The head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations says the Islamic Republic will give a calculated response to the recent assassination of senior nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Issuing a message on Sunday, Kamal Kharrazi, who is also a former Iranian foreign minister, condemned the assassination, noting that the Iranian scientist lost no opportunity to achieve his scientific objectives with the final goal of ensuring the security of his country.

"There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran will give a calculated and categorical response to those criminals who took Fakhrizadeh from the Iranian nation," Kharrazi said, after expressing condolences to Fakhrizadeh's family, his colleagues and the entire Iranian nation.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (7) [FONTE: Jerusalem Post, 28/11/2020]

Timing is everything: Assassination of Iran nuke chief Fakhrizadeh

Clearly Fakhrizadeh was a key to Iran's program and his killing shows how vulnerable that program is.

The assassination of [Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh](#) comes at a sensitive and important time. It is between the US election and the swearing in of a new president. It also comes less than a week after a reported visit by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Saudi Arabia. That visit was called a message to the new administration of US President-elect Joe Biden, as well as a message to Iran.

Clearly Fakhrizadeh was a key to Iran's program, and his killing shows how vulnerable that program is. Back in June and early July, a series of mysterious explosions hit Iran's missile complex at Khojir and then the nuclear facility at Natanz. This harmed the centrifuges that are key to the nuclear program.

In recent weeks a number of important events have taken place. For instance, Israel has hosted key delegations from the Gulf. Iran has also been implicated in planting explosives along the Golan in mid-November. Israel says it carried out airstrikes in retaliation.

Then, earlier this week, reports from the Syrian regime and other media claimed more airstrikes harmed pro-Iranian personnel in Syria. Reports of those airstrikes were made on November 25.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (8) [FONTE: Washinton Examiner, 27/11/2020]

5 takeaways from Israel's assassination of Iran's top nuclear weapons scientist

1) Biden will not be able to return America to the JCPOA nuclear

accord without significant complication

The Biden administration has prioritized America's return to the 2015 JCPOA nuclear accord. What happened on Friday shows just how challenging this will be.

By assassinating the figurative and literal godfather of Iran's nuclear ambitions, Israel is [laying down a marker](#) to the incoming U.S. president. Fakhrizadeh was involved in nuclear weapons research, something the Israelis know that the Biden team knows. This attack serves as a message from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to President-elect Joe Biden that he intends to escalate his covert action on Tehran regardless of Washington's policy. The Biden administration will not be able to ignore this pressure and pursue U.S. policy separate from it. After all, Iran's hard-liner factions perceive and politicize Israeli intelligence activity as a symbiotic extension of U.S. foreign policy. They will hold the U.S. partly responsible for what has happened. Moreover, considering Iran's sustaining blood feud with the U.S. over its January assassination of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Gen. Qassem Soleimani, this attack makes it even likelier that Iran will retaliate against U.S. interests in some form in the first year of Biden's presidency. Iran fears how President Trump might retaliate to any attack but believes that the Biden administration would respond timidly. That latter understanding is not

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (9) [FONTE: Washinton Examiner, 27/11/2020]

2) There was likely some U.S. intelligence support for this operation

Trump's retweeting of reports and analysis on the attack indicates that the U.S. provided some support for it. At a very minimum, it indicates Trump has been briefed on Israel's responsibility. But how might have the U.S. supported the ambush?

The U.S. intelligence community has unique, satellite-enabled technology and other persistent monitoring tools that it could have used to give the Israelis awareness of Fakhrizadeh's convoy as it moved between its departure and intended arrival points. This would be especially useful to the Israelis at the location of the attack, which was about 90 minutes outside Tehran. The National Security Agency also has a unique means of scaled disruption of Iranian security force communications.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (10) [FONTE: Jerusalem Post, 28/11/2020]

Recent media reports also claimed the US was in the spotlight as the Trump administration ends. This means tensions could increase. However, the US also wants to withdraw forces from the region. The White House sent its new acting defense secretary to the region, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was just in the region for talks with Israel, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other allies. The US continues to announce sanctions on Iran, pressuring the regime.

IRAN IS concerned about a harsh response to the US because it doesn't want to anger the incoming Biden administration. However, others in Iran's regime want to see a tough response to the US and also more threats to Israel. They say the US has lost and that Iran can pivot to China. Iran has vowed retaliation for the death of Qassem Soleimani, the head of the [IRGC Quds force](#) killed by the US in January.

In this sense, Iran watched as Israel and the Gulf states have made peace, and is watching Washington closely. The death of its key scientist on the road to Absard, not far from the Khojir missile site, is a huge embarrassment for Iran. Some on social media compare it to the death of Soleimani. Iran retaliated for the death of Soleimani with ballistic missile strikes on US forces at al-Asad base in Iraq.

O (im)possível regresso dos EUA ao acordo nuclear com o Irão (11) [FONTE: Washinton Examiner, 27/11/2020]

3) Israel's covert intelligence presence on Iranian soil is growing

It really is extraordinary that Israel was able to target Fakhrizadeh successfully as he traveled in a convoy with a well-trained IRGC protection team. To succeed here, the Israeli Mossad likely infiltrated operators into Iran from its "Kidon" special action unit. Regardless, Mossad would have to had relied on a network of safe houses, operations officers, and highly trusted agents already inside Iran. We know from previous Mossad "shoot-and-scoot" attacks that Israel has an intelligence presence on Iranian soil. But this ambush is something altogether different. Just contemplate the obvious complexity involved in monitoring a convoy, using explosives to stop it, shooting Fakhrizadeh to death, and then evacuating without being captured. I would venture that the Israelis might also have recruited an agent from inside Fakhrizadeh's inner circle.

4) The attack will fuel Iran's paranoia and provoke retaliation

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and [the hard-liner elite](#) at the top echelons of the security establishment will view this attack with the same, if not greater, seriousness of the U.S. operation that killed Soleimani.

It's not just that this assassination has disrupted Iran's covert nuclear development. It's that Israel has done so in a very public way. That makes this a challenge to the regime's credibility. Already paranoid, Khamenei will view what's happened as proof positive that Iran isn't feared by its enemies. The IRGC, increasingly riven by factional infighting, will share that perception. Evincing as much, Khamenei's national security adviser

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