ASP: In Case You Missed It...

# American Competitiveness

**[Myanmar's Coup Will Be 'Painful' For Already Struggling Economy, Analysts Warn](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/05/964405285/myanmars-coup-will-be-painful-for-already-struggling-economy-analysts-warn)**

*Ashley Westerman | NPR*

Myanmar's economy is already suffering due to COVID-19. Analysts say an imposition of broad economic sanctions in response to the coup could harm the country and result in greater Chinese influence.

**[How China Beat Covid-19 and Revived Its Economy](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/world/asia/china-covid-economy.html)**

*Steven Lee Myers | The New York Times*

The Chinese Communist Party reached deep into private business and the broader population to drive a recovery, an authoritarian approach that has emboldened its top leader, Xi Jinping.

# Asymmetric Operations

**[Biden Reverses Trump Terrorist Designation for Houthis in Yemen](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/us/politics/biden-houthi-yemen-terrorist-designation.html)**

*Lara Jakes | The New York Times*

Critics of the Trump administration action said the penalties would punish the millions of starving people in Yemen more than the Houthi rebels.

**[Indonesia tigers: Zookeeper killed after endangered animals escape](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-55963355)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

One of the rare Sumatran tigers is recaptured after being tranquilised, but the other is shot dead.

**[A ‘Masculinity Crisis’? China Says the Boys Are Not All Right](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/world/asia/china-masculinity-schoolboys.html)**

*Tiffany May | The New York Times*

The Education Ministry plans to beef up gym classes after a top official said female teachers and pop culture had made boys “weak, inferior and timid.”

**[Assadollah Assadi, Iranian Envoy, Found Guilty in France Bomb Plot](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/04/world/europe/iranian-diplomat-convicted-bomb-plot.html)**

*Steven Erlanger | The New York Times*

A court in Belgium sentenced Assadollah Assadi, an envoy based in Vienna, to 20 years in prison for his role in a thwarted attack on a group that seeks to overthrow the Iranian leadership.

# Climate Security

**[How will we heat homes in zero carbon Britain?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55948531)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

Will hydrogen or heat pumps be able to replace gas central heating?

**[UK weather: 'Beast from the East Two' to bring snow, ice and floods](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55952108)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

The cold snap will not be as extreme as in 2018, forecasters say, but will cause disruption this weekend.

# Energy Security

**[Denmark moves forward on North Sea ‘energy island’](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/6/denmark-moves-forward-on-north-sea-energy-island)**

*Anonymous | Al Jazeera*

The largest construction project in the history of Denmark will be majority-owned by the Danish government.

**[The devastation of the Mauritius oil spill is still unaddressed](https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/2/6/we-must-make-sure-the-mauritius-oil-spill-does-not-repeat)**

*Shaama Sandooyea Hisayo Takada Melita Steele Anesh Mungur | Al Jazeera*

The Mauritian government, shipping corporations and international institutions must all take urgent action.

**[Project 17: 'I was told to clean my own school toilets'](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-55942358)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

Yolanda, 17, is campaigning for better education and more resources for schools in South Africa.

**[Denmark wants to build a renewable energy island in the North Sea, the largest construction project in its history](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/05/denmark-wants-to-build-a-renewable-energy-island-in-the-north-sea.html)**

*Anmar Frangoul | CNBC*

The country is a pioneer when it comes to offshore wind projects.

# National Security and Strategy

**[HNA Was Once China’s Biggest Dealmaker. Now It Faces Bankruptcy.](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/06/business/hna-was-once-chinas-biggest-dealmaker-now-it-faces-bankruptcy.html)**

*Alexandra Stevenson | The New York Times*

China is tightening the reins on its economy and looking out for companies that could pose risks to China’s financial system.

**[U.K. Regulator Revokes License for China-Backed Broadcaster](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/04/world/europe/uk-china-cgtn-license.html)**

*Isabella Kwai | The New York Times*

The regulator, Ofcom, said it would no longer allow China Global Television Network to operate in Britain, in part because of its affiliation with the Chinese Communist Party.

**[U.S. and China top diplomats talk tough on Myanmar and Taiwan in tense first call since Biden took office](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/06/us-calls-on-china-to-condemn-myanmar-coup-in-first-high-level-conversation.html)**

*Spencer Kimball Maggie Fitzgerald | CNBC*

Diplomats from the U.S. and China spoke in the first major conversation between top administration officials since President Joe Biden took office last month.

**[Myanmar Military Shuts Down Internet As Public Fury Over Coup Intensifies](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/06/964764278/myanmar-military-shuts-down-internet-as-public-fury-over-coup-intensifies)**

*Scott Simon | NPR*

Since the ouster of Myanmar's civilian government, there's been growing civil disobedience. Reporter Michael Sullivan tells NPR's Scott Simon about the protests, and how the military is responding.

**[Inside The Biden Administration's Policy On China And Taiwan](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/05/964581463/inside-the-biden-administrations-policy-on-china-and-taiwan)**

*John Ruwitch | NPR*

The Biden administration is already projecting a tougher policy on China and Taiwan than many expected. Analysts say that sends important early signals to allies in Asia — and Beijing.

**[In Geopolitical Struggle Over Myanmar, China Has an Edge](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/world/asia/myanmar-coup-china-united-states.html)**

*Steven Lee Myers | The New York Times*

As the United States and other nations denounce the coup, China has a chance to build up its influence. But Myanmar’s generals are difficult partners.

**[Myanmar coup: Internet shutdown as crowds protest against military](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-55960284)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

The national blackout comes amid the biggest protest so far against this week's military takeover.

**[Myanmar coup: What now for Aung San Suu Kyi?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-55950420)**

*Anonymous | BBC*

The pro-democracy leader remains hugely popular at home but has lost favour on the world stage.

**[Iran’s Zarif urges Biden to make a speedy return to nuclear deal](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/6/irans-zarif-urges-biden-to-return-to-nuclear-deal)**

*Anonymous | Al Jazeera*

Iran&#039;s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says time &#039;running out&#039; for the US to ease sanctions.

**[Myanmar Blocks Facebook, Twitter As Anti-Coup Protests Grow](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/06/964830201/myanmar-blocks-facebook-twitter-access-as-anti-government-protests-grow)**

*Avie Schneider | NPR*

Days after a coup and the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and other elected leaders, the country's military is moving to strangle free speech by shutting down access to social media sites.

**[Myanmar Erupts in Protests After Military Coup](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/06/world/asia/myanmar-military-coup-yangon.html)**

*Hannah Beech | The New York Times*

Dozens of arrests, beatings by mysterious thugs and telecommunication cutoffs are the new reality across the country. But civil disobedience defiantly persists.

**[Why China’s plan for the world’s first digital currency matters](https://www.aljazeera.com/program/counting-the-cost/2021/2/6/why-chinas-plan-for-the-worlds-first-digital-currency-matters)**

*Anonymous | Al Jazeera*

Beijing rolls out testing of eCurrency as the total value of the entire cryptocurrency market rises above $1 trillion.

**[Tesla to recall 36,126 Model S and X vehicles in China over touch-screen failures](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/05/tesla-model-s-x-touchscreen-failure-recall-extended-to-china.html)**

*Lora Kolodny | CNBC*

The latest recall represents Tesla's third in China since the fourth quarter of 2020.

**[Op-Ed: The U.S. must focus on three enduring issues to address China's rise as an assertive global power](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/06/op-ed-the-us-must-focus-on-three-enduring-issues-in-china-relationship.html)**

*Frederick Kempe | CNBC*

A new paper on U.S. China strategy has sparked a global debate and revealed three key issues that Washington must focus on moving forward.

**[Biden beefs up administration with Asia experts as the U.S. prepares to take on China](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/05/biden-fills-team-with-asia-experts-as-us-prepares-to-take-on-china.html)**

*Yen Nee Lee | CNBC*

President Joe Biden's team has identified China as one of its biggest foreign policy challenges, and stressed the importance of allies in responding to Beijing.

# US-Russia Relations

**[Opinion: Alexei Navalny Fights For Freedom Of Expression In Putin's Russia](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/06/964657359/opinion-alexei-navalny-fights-for-freedom-of-expression-in-putins-russia)**

*Scott Simon | NPR*

NPR's Scott Simon remarks on the sentencing this week of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. The Putin critic was poisoned last year, recovered in Germany, then arrested for violating parole.

**[How Recent Protests In Russia Differ From Those In The Past](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/05/964581477/how-recent-protests-in-russia-differ-from-those-in-the-past)**

*Anonymous | NPR*

NPR's Mary Louise Kelly speaks with Maria Lipman, Moscow-based senior associate at the think tank PONARS Eurasia, about how recent protests in Russia differ from those in the past.

**[What Awaits Navalny in Russia’s Brutal Penal Colony System](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/world/europe/navalny-russia-penal-colony.html)**

*Andrew E. Kramer | The New York Times*

Its prison camps, descended from the Soviet gulag, are notoriously harsh. But in a shift from the Stalin era, inmates have treated political prisoners with respect.