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Alliance for
Peacebuilding

IEP

Conflict

20 Indian soldiers killed in hours-long brawl with Chinese military at disputed border. Chinese troops attacked Indian troops with iron bars during a mediation process. This is the [largest number of people killed](#) since 1962, when the two nuclear super powers clashed over the disputed territory.

Syria war: Assad under pressure as economic crisis spirals. Protesters are [back on the streets in southern Syria](#), where the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad started in 2011. They are not mass demonstrations, but the slogans are the same and this time, the edge comes from a lack of food.

Germany: Quarantined housing block residents attack police. Around 120 people are thought to be infected at a block of apartments in the city of Göttingen. Angry at being kept inside, [residents threw stones, tires and a computer](#), before being forced back with tear gas. The entire complex with 700 residents has now been ordered to remain in lockdown.

Development

One per cent of humanity now lives in forced exile. In the last 10 years the number of people forcibly displaced has [almost doubled to 80 million](#). Of that figure, 46 million are internally displaced refugees in their own countries.

China to consider debt relief under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The announcement was made during a high-level online conference, which [discussed economic cooperation](#) and COVID-19 responses.

Alarm at record-breaking heatwave in Siberia. The freak temperatures have been linked to wildfires, a huge oil spill and a plague of tree-eating moths. On a global scale, the Siberian heat is helping push the world towards its [hottest year on record in 2020](#), despite a temporary dip in carbon emissions owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Economics

The oil and gas sector now worth less than Apple. It was once worth \$3 trillion, it is now worth less than Apple's \$1.5 trillion market capitalization. Oil and gas companies are now in uncharted territory. COVID-19 has resulted in [unprecedented falls in demand](#) for oil and gas.

Global foreign direct investment projected to plunge 40% in 2020. This would bring [FDI below \\$1 trillion for the first time since 2005](#). In addition, FDI is projected to decrease by a further 5% to 10% in 2021.

Hezbollah head prefers China to IMF for Lebanon bailout. Hezbollah chief claims [China is poised to fill Lebanon's economic gap](#) through train, port and power plant outlays.

The German Federal Ministry of Finance reports almost 20% fall in revenue for the year to May. VAT was down [21% in May](#) and revenue from air traffic tax fell by almost 97%.

Social

Hitler's birthplace shows that confronting dark past can take decades. In Austria, debate over [confronting one link to Adolf Hitler](#) has taken decades, and it's not over yet. In many nations, statues and other links to the [colonial period and racism are being destroyed](#) or removed.

Pope Francis calls Catholics to divest from fossil fuels. The Pope urged Catholics to do due diligence on their personal investments and [exclude "companies that do not satisfy certain parameters"](#) in terms of human rights, child labour, and protection of the environment.

Zimbabwe anti-corruption body starts audit of the rich. Zimbabwean authorities say people who cannot explain where their wealth came from are in danger of having [their assets seized](#), even if courts clear them of a corruption allegation.

Politics

EU leaders lectured China's President and Premier in a testy summit. The newly elected heads of the EU's institutions chided President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang over Hong Kong's autonomy, [accusations of pandemic disinformation](#) and restrictions on foreign investment. The meeting notably ended without a joint statement.

China's sea moves drive US and Philippines back together. Despite Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's best efforts to [reduce strategic dependence on the United States](#), China's moves in the South China Sea have forced the populist leader to re-embrace his nation's long time treaty ally.

Kenya wins non-permanent seat on UN Security Council. The East African country joins Niger and Tunisia as [Africa's representatives](#) on the United Nation's most powerful organ.

PEACEBUILDING

Peacebuilders are faced with the challenges of both resolving pre-COVID-19 conflicts and addressing the new conflict dynamics caused by the pandemic. Peacebuilders in [Nigeria](#) are grappling with the instability caused by unemployment, poverty, corruption, gender-

based violence, and poor governance. [Physical distancing](#) measures make it increasingly difficult for peacebuilders to access and engage conflict-affected communities.

Calls for global ceasefires during COVID have failed to gain traction. [Some parties in conflict](#) have agreed to ceasefires in countries, including Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen and South Sudan. But acceptance is not sufficiently widespread, implementation has been piecemeal, and concerted international support has been lacking. [Advocates of a global ceasefire](#) point out that the pandemic is causing a dramatic increase in food insecurity and having negative impacts on lack of access to healthcare, security and education while a ceasefire could provide a “window of opportunity for inclusive, locally-led peace.”

Foreign policy experts call for [democracy and governance](#) to be a keystone of the U.S. Fragility Strategy, which is required by the 2019 Global Fragility Act, a law that was signed in 2019 to create the first-ever comprehensive U.S. government strategy to tackle and prevent spiraling global conflict.

Current and former US foreign policy officials protest against racism in the US. In [a letter to USAID leadership](#), some 1000 staff members advocated “dramatic action” against “systemic racism,” noting that the agency’s “credibility and effectiveness abroad are undermined” by “injustice at home.” A [top State Department official resigned](#) in protest over President Trump’s recent handling of racial tensions in the US. A group of [veteran US diplomats](#) said in a statement that the US must “live up to the values we so proudly defend abroad” and pointed out that of 189 US ambassadors serving abroad only three are Black and four are Latino. In a press release, the [Association of Black American Ambassadors](#) condemned “acts of police brutality” in the US and the “stubborn resistance to addressing institutional racism.”

Participation in protests and public opinion polls have shown increased attention to institutional racism in the US and beyond. Demonstrations against racism have spread [to every state in the US](#), including to small towns, and [across the globe](#) to Europe, Africa, Australia, and elsewhere. Protesters have toppled statues of Confederate generals in the US, slave trader Colston in Bristol, UK and King Leopold II in Belgium. [A Pew Research poll](#) in early June found that 65 percent of US adults say that “longstanding concerns about the treatment of black people” have contributed “a great deal” to the recent protests, while [a CNN poll](#) the same week found that 63 percent of white adults agree that the US justice system “favors whites.”