

Regional Insights: November 20th, 2020

| Africa, South & Central Asia | Americas & Australasia | East & Southeast Asia |
|--|---|--|
| <p>How Ethiopia's Tigray conflict imperils region – Reuters</p> <p>Ethiopia is Africa's second largest nation and so the fighting between the military and the TPLF in the northern Tigray region could threaten the Horn of Africa's fragile stability. The conflict risks stalling Ethiopia's planned political and economic reforms, causing ethnic fractures in the country and splitting the Army. Eritrea, a long-time foe of TPLF, on Tigray's northern border has been hit by missiles, whilst Ethiopia is still in a long-running border quarrel with Sudan and with Egypt over Ethiopia's dam on the Nile.</p> <p>Fears grow of new Western Sahara war between Morocco and Polisario Front – Reuters</p> <p>Royal and Egyptian Navies showcase amphibious forces off Alexandria – Royal Navy</p> <p>Putin, extending Russian footprint, approves new naval facility in Sudan – Reuters</p> <p>More Than 10 Dead After India-Pakistan Kashmir Clash – The Defence Post</p> | <p>China warns Australia and Japan over 'confrontational' new defence pact – The Guardian</p> <p>Australia and Japan will "pay a corresponding price" if their new defence pact threatens China's security, Chinese state media has warned, as Scott Morrison insisted the deal should not cause any concerns to Beijing. The state-run Global Times newspaper declared the new agreement "accelerates the confrontational atmosphere in the Asia-Pacific region" and was aimed against China. Australian ministers issued fresh calls on Wednesday for dialogue with their Chinese counterparts to resolve a simmering diplomatic dispute, which has resulted in Beijing taking a series of trade actions against Australian export sectors throughout the course of the year.</p> <p>US Navy intercepts intercontinental missile over the Pacific Ocean in defence test – Sky News</p> <p>Embraer shows images of new hybrid-electric short take-off transport – FlightGlobal</p> <p>Canada and Romania and NATO partner Australia joined Maritime Unmanned Systems Initiative – Navy Recognition</p> | <p>RCEP: A new trade agreement that will shape global economics and politics – Brookings</p> <p>15 countries — members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and five regional partners — signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), arguably the largest free trade agreement in history. RCEP will connect about 30% of the world's people and output and, in political context, will generate significant gains. According to computer simulations recently published, RCEP could add \$209 billion annually to world incomes, and \$500 billion to world trade by 2030.</p> <p>China says Australia-Japan defence pact should not threaten other countries' interests – SCMP</p> <p>South Korea sees Biden win as good news for military cost-sharing dispute – Reuters</p> <p>Biden says US-Japan defence treaty applies to disputed Senkaku Islands – Financial Times</p> <p>China-Russia cooperation on missile attack early warning systems – East Asia Forum</p> <p>Duterte extends Philippines' military deal with US – Nikkei</p> |
| Eastern Europe | Middle East | Western Europe & The Nordics |
| <p>NATO must tackle Eastern Europe's Defence Infrastructure Gap – Balkan Insight</p> <p>As Russia flexes its muscles in the region, building up the far from robust defence infrastructure on NATO's 'Eastern Flank' is vital – and will complete the region's integration into the alliance. Doing so could cost up to 8% of the EU15's GDP to try and tackle the problem by 2030. Furthermore, a critical undermining factor is the even larger gap in energy critical infrastructure, such as the Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS) built at the height of the Cold War. The solution to providing improved defence infrastructure lies ahead within an array of different avenues.</p> <p>The silent rise of Greece as a Mediterranean power – RUSI</p> <p>Russia and Turkey keep powder dry in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict – Reuters</p> <p>Why a Biden presidency might be a disaster for Central and Eastern Europe? – Emerging Europe</p> <p>Narew SHORAD: Poland Makes a Step Forward – Defence24</p> <p>Pakistan and Bosnia to enhance defence, science and trade ties – Gulf News</p> | <p>World's Biggest Oil Firm Saudi Aramco Raises \$8 Billion Bond – Bloomberg</p> <p>Saudi Aramco returned to the debt markets for the first time since April of last year, selling \$8 billion of bonds to help fund the world's biggest dividend. Low oil prices caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have caused profit to fall by 45% to \$11.8bn in the third-quarter. Saudi Aramco has promised a \$75bn pay out to shareholders this year. Its largest shareholder, the Saudi Arabia government needs the money to support a widening budget deficit and to prop up the slumping economy.</p> <p>Turkey in talks with South Korea to salvage Altay tank program – Defense News</p> <p>U.S. imposes sweeping sanctions on Iran, targets Khamenei-linked foundation – Reuters</p> <p>Turkey: Lira rallies after dramatic interest rate hike – Al Jazeera</p> <p>Bahrain, UAE vote against Israel sponsored UN entrepreneurship resolution – Middle East Monitor</p> <p>Iraq PM in talks with UK's Boris Johnson on security, political reforms – Arab News</p> | <p>In first review, EU comes clean on military failings – Reuters</p> <p>The European Union acknowledged on Friday that it lacks the capabilities to meet its goal - pushed most strongly by its biggest members - to become a standalone military power able to help NATO or deploy troops rapidly to regional crises. The EU's first annual defence review found that only 60% of the national troops and weapons nominally available to NATO are in a fit state to be deployed. EU governments are also reluctant to deploy those troops, the report found.</p> <p>Europe launches future medium-lift helicopter project – Janes</p> <p>Airbus and Germany submit Eurofighter offer to Switzerland – EDR Magazine</p> <p>New Main Battle Tanks for Norway – Euro-SD</p> <p>Rheinmetall: autonomous armed reconnaissance duties for Mission Master A-UGV – EDR Magazine</p> <p>Damen and Thales to deliver combat system for German Navy frigates – Naval Technology</p> |

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