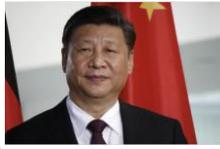# Events Driving Global Instability and Risk

US-China: **Huawei group ban amid escalating trade war** in May 2019
- The US placed a blanket ban on any firm with US interests selling their products to the Huawei group
- Additionally, they are pushing western allies to drop Huawei from their 5G networks citing security concerns
- The ban is a result of an escalating trade war between the US and China

US-Iran: **Growing tensions following Iran shooting down US drone** in June 2019
- Iranian air force shot down a US spy aircraft which it claimed violated the country's airspace
- In retaliation, the US imposed fresh sanction preventing top Iranian officials from accessing financial instruments
- The US is seeking to force Iran to renegotiate the nuclear accord

Sri Lanka: **253 people killed in terror attack targeting churches and hotels** in Apr 2019
- Series of synchronised Easter Sunday bomb blasts killed 253 people across churches and hotels
- Homegrown Islamist extremist group, National Thowheed Jamath with links to ISIS have been blamed for the attacks

UK: **Brexit Political Turmoil Persists** in Apr – June 2019
- After months of struggling to get a Brexit deal through parliament, Theresa May resigned as Conservative leader
- The resignation has resulted in a Conservative leadership contest and has increased the likelihood of a no-deal Brexit

Turkey: **Istanbul mayoral elections results cancelled on grounds of voter fraud** in May 2019
- Following the main opposition's victory in the Istanbul mayoral election, the supreme council annulled the results and ordered a new vote
- The council, dominated by President Erdogen's AKP party, cited voter frauds as the main reason for the decision
- The opposition decried the move as "downright dictatorship"

Europe: **'Populist' parties gain ground in European Elections** in May 2019
- The right wing populists won 25% of the seats in the elections, up from 20% five years ago
- Right wing populist parties performed well in a few countries, notably UK, Italy and France

US-Russia: **Cold-War era nuclear treaty on brink of collapse** in June 2019
- The US and European allies alleged Russia breached the INF treaty for years by developing its missile system, capable of firing nuclear warheads across Europe
- NATO has given Russia a final warning to destroy its missile system, failing which the treaty will fall apart when it expires in early August

Hong Kong: **Outpour of protests due to proposed extradition law** in June 2019
- The proposed bill would allow extradition not only to China but to any jurisdiction in the world, including ones with no existing agreement
- 2m protesters took to the streets for the largest demonstration seen in the territory in decades
- Government agreed to pause the bill

Source: Various Press Articles

GREATER PACIFIC CAPITAL

Events Driving Global Development and Progress

Politics, Economics and Society

Environment: Canada to ban single-use plastics by 2021 in June 2019
- Canada to ban single use plastics (such as plastic bags, straws) in a bid to reduce ocean waste

Environment: UK commits to most aggressive climate target in the world in June 2019
- New target is "net-zero" by 2050 which means any carbon dioxide emitted has to be offset or removed

Environment: Roadmap to reduce carbon emissions in June 2019
- Finnish' report lays out how different regions in the world can transition to 100% renewable energy before 2050

Health: First US state fully bans Styrofoam in May 2019
- Maine became the first state to ban food containers made of Styrofoam
- Ban enforced since the foam containers cannot be recycled in the state

Environment: US renewable energy capacity is now greater than coal in Apr 2019
- Renewable energy has more installed capacity than coal, for the first time in history

Politics: US lifts steel and aluminium tariffs on Mexico and Canada in May 2019
- The US lifted the steel and aluminium tariffs, enforced in March 2018
- Tariffs have been the biggest obstacle to the passing of the revised trade agreement
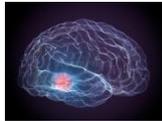
Science & Technology

Technology: SpaceX Falcon heavy rocket lands all three boosters in Apr 2019
- Delivered pricey communications satellite into orbit
- It was the first time SpaceX landed all three rocket boosters after launch without failure

Technology: Scientist builds device for making oxygen from CO2 in May 2018
- Potential uses for technology include manned space exploration, space stations and future Mars colonies

Healthcare: Treatment for chronic Parkinson's disease in Apr 2019
- Treatment restores movement of patients with chronic Parkinson's disease
- It allows people with Parkinson's the freedom to enjoy everyday activities

Healthcare: World's first 3D printed heart using human tissue in May 2019
- First 3D heart structure printed using human cells and patient-specific biological materials.
- 3D heart will save thousands awaiting transplants

Healthcare: Google's AI improves accuracy of lung cancer diagnosis in May 2019
- 50% cases diagnosed after cancer spreads
- AI outperformed six radiologists in predicting the lung cancer

Cleantech: World's largest offshore wind farm powers up in June 2019
- Once fully operational by 2020, it will power over 1m UK homes

Cleantech: Adidas is making a recyclable shoe in Apr 2019
- Took the company nearly 10 years to build a recyclable shoe
- The shoe is made out of a single material, called thermoplastic polyurethane, which can be reused

Healthcare: New HIV vaccine can expose and kill latent virus in Apr 2019
- New research capable of dragging the virus out of its hiding place and neutralizing it
- Scientists successfully used immune cells to kick the dormant form of HIV

Society: Taiwan passes historic same-sex marriage law in May 2019
- Parliament legalizes same-sex marriage
- It is the first country in Asia to pass the law

Politics: Indian voters exercise democratic vote for continuity of progress in May 2019
- Victory provides Modi government with the opportunity to to transform India

Politics: Mexican workers win right to organize without fear in May 2019
- President López Obrador enacted the labour reform bill, which allows workers to form independent labour unions
- Workers can negotiate with employers through unions, without fear of retaliation

Society. Elephant poaching falls dramatically in Africa in May 2019
- Elephant poaching has declined by 50% from its peak in 2012
- Progress largely attributed to declining ivory demand in China and strong government action in certain countries

Politics: New Zealand Parliament bans assault weapons in Apr 2019
- Parliament voted 119-1 to ban most semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles in the country
- The swift action came after the mass shootings at mosques in Christchurch