



# Why a crisis in the Pacific islands matters for Washington and Beijing

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"While the decision of some of the world's smallest countries to leave a multilateral body few Americans have ever heard of generated — predictably — minimal attention in Washington, the withdrawal of the Micronesian states from the PIF will have a significant, and potentially lasting, impact on U.S. interests. It is also likely to strengthen China's influence in a region where Beijing is steadily increasing its economic and political sway".

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