

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT ICAS

The Institute for China-America Studies is an independent think tank funded by the Hainan Freeport Research Foundation in China. Based in the heart of Washington D.C., ICAS is uniquely situated to facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States. We achieve this through research and partnerships with institutions and scholars in both countries, in order to provide a window into their respective worldviews.

ICAS focuses on key issue areas in the U.S.-China relationship in need of greater mutual understanding. We identify promising areas for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of maritime security, Asia-Pacific economics, trade, strategic stability, international relations as well as global governance issues, and explore avenues for improving this critical bilateral relationship.

ICAS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

ICAS takes no institutional positions on policy issues. The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) alone.

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Washington, DC 20036
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 **ICAS**
Institute for China-America Studies

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the ICAS board of directors and advisors, I am excited to share with you this brief snapshot of our accomplishments in 2020.

2020 has gone down globally as one of the most difficult years in recent history. As news of COVID-19 began to spread in the early months of the year, nobody could have foreseen the devastation it would bring. The U.S.-China relationship was also not immune to this virus as the world began to shut itself down. Tensions between the two countries rose over the World Health Organization's engagement with China. Rather than finding ways to cooperate and take on the impacts of the virus together, the two countries further shut each other out of the conversation. The positive momentum created by the signing of the Phase One Trade Deal seemed to evaporate in an instant.

As we continue living with the pandemic in 2021, there is still much uncertainty before us. And yet, I am hopeful, with the new Biden administration's pledge to reengage with the rest of the world, doors that had been previously shut have a chance to be reopened. From addressing climate change to helping end the pandemic globally through vaccination initiatives like COVAX, the United States and China have an opportunity and shared interest to help put the world back on the path of prosperity. Biden's returning to multilateralism and China's continuing to uphold multilateralism is a key platform to address the challenges of global governance and for advancing views on how the world can act together to propel collaboration. It also creates an opportunity for China and the United States to shift the bilateral relations from rivalry to cooperation in many of the global agendas.

When the pandemic struck and forced us to work remotely, ICAS, like many institutions, was forced to reassess its prioritizations. Yet, we would not be deterred. ICAS continually strived to provide a window into the worldviews of both the United States and China, and thereby serve as a vehicle to promote greater understanding between these two countries and societies. In addition to publishing dozens of analyses, ICAS also proudly released its Arctic Maritime Tracker project and updated its South China Sea Maritime Tracker to help viewers better understand the ongoing tensions in the region. ICAS released a special project related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it unfolded in order to better understand its varied and extensive impacts to the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. Additionally, the whole ICAS team was proud to have participated in researching and writing the China chapter for the Ocean Law Encyclopedia to be released next year.

The pandemic did not stop ICAS from engaging with the world and ensuring that pertinent analysis was conducted on the U.S.-China relationship. Even as we continue to work remotely for the foreseeable future, I am eager to see what we can continue to achieve with your support.

Dr. Nong Hong



Dr. Nong Hong
Executive Director
& Senior Fellow
Institute for China-
America Studies



Dr. Wu Shicun
Chair of the
Advisory Board
Institute for China-
America Studies

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Friends,

As the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) begins the second half of its first decade of existence as a fresh voice in the Washington, DC think tank community, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to ICAS.

All too often, the American narrative in China-U.S. relations focuses on U.S. policy alone, rather than looking at both sides of the relationship. ICAS seeks to rectify this imbalance, and has become an invaluable resource for news, information, and analysis regarding the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Books and journal articles by senior staff, as well as ICAS Reports, Issue Briefs and Bulletins are increasingly read on both sides of the Pacific in ever-greater numbers.

2020 was a terrible year for humanity owing to the deadly COVID-19 virus. Its dreadful knock-on effects extended to the sphere of China-U.S. relations too, which were buffeted with unfortunate rancor and ill-will. ICAS, nevertheless, was there every step of the way, leaving no stone unturned in its coverage of the bilateral relationship through its conferences, workshops, reports, opinion pieces and contributions to the global media narrative.

With a number of effective vaccines now available and with a newly elected and more broad-minded Administration having entered office in Washington, hopefully a new dawn will prevail in domestic and global public health as well as in China-U.S. relations. I look forward to ICAS continuing to provide global audiences with its unique perspective on issues ranging from maritime affairs to trade, technology and development matters, and thereby build bridges that facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States.

Dr. Wu Shicun

ICAS 2020 IN NUMBERS

Annual Conference participants from **38** countries and regions

Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Botswana, China, Cook Islands, Kong SAR, India, South Korea, Macau and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

Angola, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States



42
media appearances

12
academic engagements
and conferences

4
reports

13
issue briefs

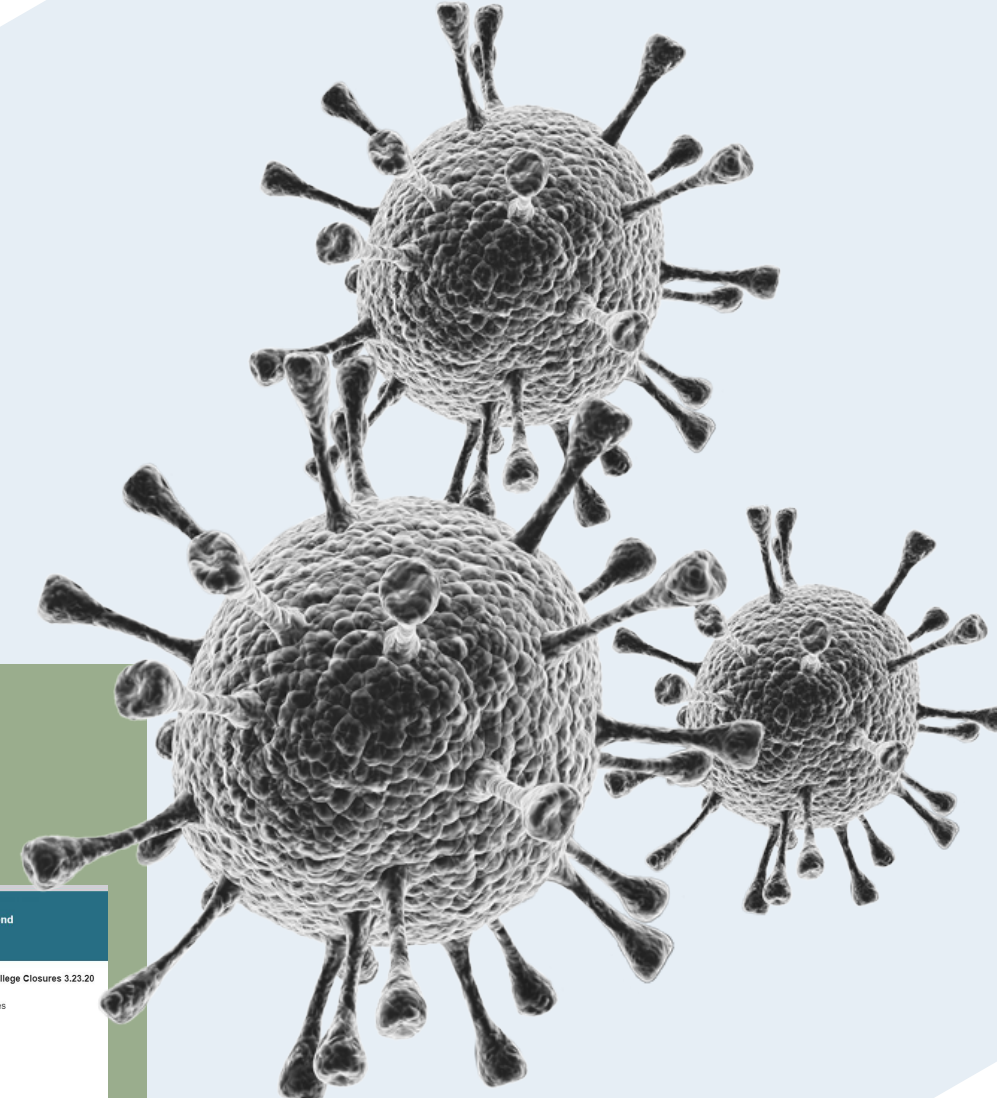
23
commentaries

- ICAS Events Partners in 2020**
- National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
 - National Institute for South China Sea Studies
 - The Carter Center
 - China Institute of the University of Alberta
 - China-Southeast Asia Research Center on the South China Sea

COVID-19 FOCUS

Given the expansive impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) around the world, ICAS dedicated much of its research efforts in 2020 to better understanding and debating the many questions about the pandemic and how it has affected--and will continue to affect--U.S.-China relations.

Our COVID-19-related products came in various forms, including a U.S. university closure interactive tracker, commentaries, issue briefs, conversations with the media, and a combined report.



Select Commentaries & Analyses

Matt Geraci,
Jessica L. Martin,
& Asiana Cooper
ISSUE BRIEF

February 21

ICAS Scholars Develop an Ongoing Database to Characterize both the Coverage and Response to COVID-19 by the West

Sourabh Gupta
ISSUE BRIEF

March 13

COVID-19: Historical Responses and Lessons Learned

Asiana Cooper &
Jessica L. Martin
ISSUE BRIEF

March 23

COVID-19: U.S. Government Emergency Response Measures

Nong Hong
COMMENTARY

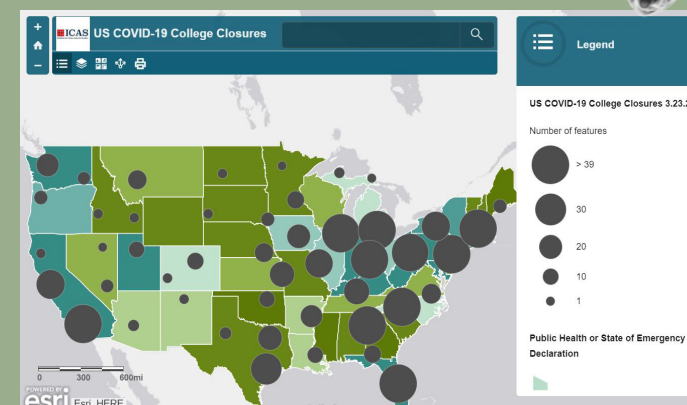
April 23

Why is the Media Experiencing an Accountability Deficit?

Yilun Zhang
ISSUE BRIEF

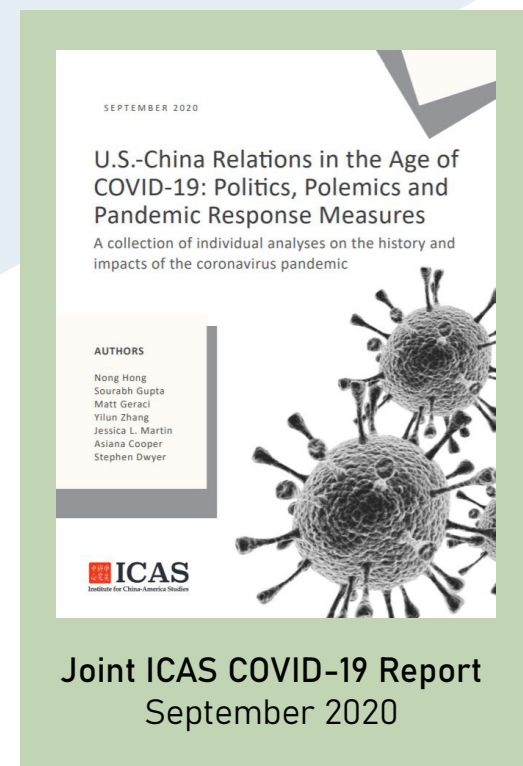
May 19

COVID 19's Fallout: An Accelerator of Renewed U.S.-China Great Power Strategic Competition



Matt Geraci
ISSUE BRIEF

Impacts on Higher Education in
the U.S. by COVID-19
March 12



2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Graham Allison
Harvard University



Amb. Cui Tiankai
Chinese Ambassador to the U.S.



Mr. Stephen Orlins
President, NCUSCR

Welcome Remarks by Dr. Wu Shicun



On December 3rd, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) organized its 2020 Annual Conference. Given the raging COVID-19 virus, the conference was conducted virtually, with almost 350 participants tuning in from both sides of the Pacific. The conference was inaugurated with brief introductory remarks by the chairman of ICAS' advisory board, Dr. Wu Shicun. In his remarks, Dr. Wu was candid that U.S.-China ties were currently scraping the bottom; however, he expressed hope that President-elect Joe Biden would once again return the bilateral relationship to a more normalized track of dialogue and engagement. Mr. Biden's multilateral over unilateral approach was positively evaluated and appreciated.

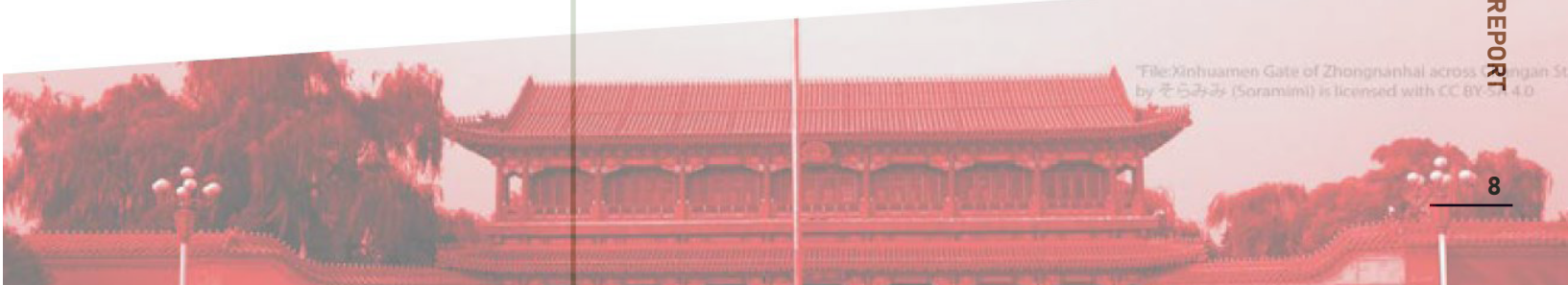
Dr. Wu's remarks were followed by the highlight of the conference – a keynote dialogue featuring China's long-standing and well-respected Ambassador to the U.S., Amb. Cui Tiankai, and Dr. Graham Allison, the Dillon Professor of Government at Harvard University. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Stephen Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

The Keynote Dialogue was followed by two panels focused on the outlooks for U.S.-China strategic rivalry and U.S.-China engagement on trade, technology, and the environment at the turn of a new U.S. presidency.

Panel I: Outlook of U.S.-China Strategic Rivalry



Panel II: Outlook for U.S.-China Engagement on Trade, Technology and Environment



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Roundtable Discussion at ICAS on U.S.-China-ROK Relations

February 22 | Washington, D.C.

In February, ICAS hosted a delegation from the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU) visited ICAS to discuss issues related to the Korean Peninsula in light of the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Inaugural Symposium on Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance

November 5-6 | Virtual & Hainan, China

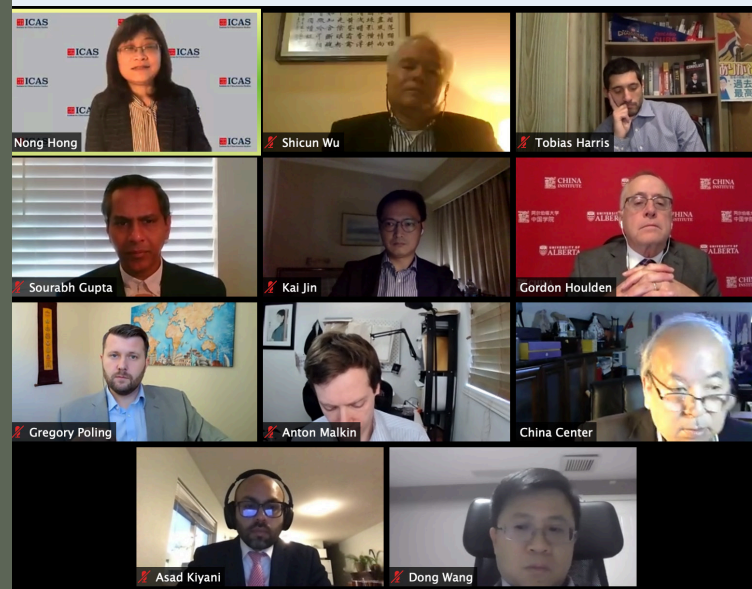
ICAS co-sponsored an inaugural public event hosted by the National Institute for South China Sea Studies. The two-day event was comprised of seven sessions covering a variety of topics and brought together eminent scholars from influential academic institutes and officials from international organizations and government agencies in and beyond the region.



2nd China-U.S.-Canada Trilateral Dialogue

November 17-18 | Virtual

ICAS hosted a public event co-sponsored by the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, the Carter Center and the China Institute of the University of Alberta. The two-day event featured two panels, both of which included participants from China, the U.S., and Canada. Panel I was on geopolitics and security while Panel II was on trade, science and technology.



8th Track II Dialogue on Maritime Affairs & International Law

June 29-30 | Virtual

ICAS co-hosted two private events with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies. Established in October 2012, the purpose of this dialogue is to convene American and Chinese legal experts to explore the issues surrounding China's recent maritime disputes and escalated tensions in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea in order to better understand their impact on China's relationships with its neighbors and U.S.-China relations, while at the same time provide suggestions for improving the management and settlement of current maritime disputes.

This year, regional experts explored the role of United States and China in rules making and security mechanism building in the maritime domain and how circumstances might change under a Biden administration.

9th Track II Dialogue on Maritime Affairs & International Law

December 15-16 | Virtual

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

Aside from participating as an event host or sponsor, ICAS scholars have also contributed their expertise on U.S.-China relations and maritime studies to forums both inside and outside the United States.

5th Young Scholars Forum on U.S.-China Relations

June 30-July 3 (Virtual)

The Carter Center, Peking University, the Global Times & the China Association for Public Diplomacy

CSIS Tenth Annual South China Sea Conference: Keynote and Session One

July 14 (Virtual)

Hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Southeast Asia Program and Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative

5th International Conference on the Law of the Sea

December 3-4 (Seoul, Republic of Korea & Virtual)

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea; International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; the Korean Society of International Law



PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

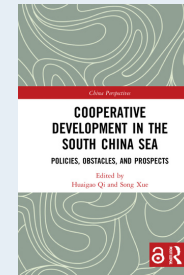
BOOK, BOOK CHAPTERS & JOURNAL ARTICLES



China's Role in the Arctic: Observing and Being Observed
By Nong Hong (Routledge, 2020)

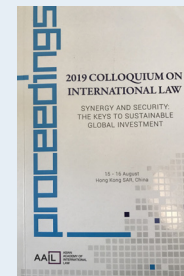
Chapter by Nong Hong "Freedom of Navigation: Where to Go When the Political Agenda Overshadows Legal Substance"

In Myron H. Nordquist, John Norton Moore, & Ronan Long (eds.), *Cooperation and Engagement in the Asia-Pacific Region* (Leiden and Boston: Brill Nijhoff, 2020)



Chapter by Nong Hong "China and the South China Sea Continuities and Adaption"

In Do Thanh Hai, (ed.) *The South China Sea: From a Regional Maritime Dispute to Geo-Strategic Competition* (Routledge, 2020)



Article by Sourabh Gupta "Road Rules, Road Rage and Trade and Investment Law: Are Trump's Tariff Wars Justified?"

In *Asian Academy of International Law* (Spring 2020)



Article by Nong Hong "The Impact of the South China Sea Arbitration Award: A Chinese Perspective"

In *Asian Focus* (Issue 2, 2020)

Article by Nong Hong "Ocean Governance in the Asia-Pacific and the Arctic: Regional Practice and Lessons Learned"

In *Korean Journal of International and Comparative Law* 8(1) (June 2020)

COMMENTARIES

The ICAS Team

March 12

Impacts on Higher Education in the U.S. by COVID-19

Matt Geraci

October 28

Decoding Biden's China Strategy: Selective Decoupling and a New Engagement Under the Realities of Strategic Competition

Yilun Zhang

November 24

Bide Our Time Together: Anchoring U.S.-China Relations under the Biden Administration

Jessica L Martin

November 25

Djibouti, Africa: A potential point of U.S.-China engagement

ISSUE BRIEFS

China's Claims in the South China Sea

By Sourabh Gupta & Matt Geraci

September 18

Hong Kong National Security Law: China's Objectives and the U.S. Response in context of the 'one country, two systems' principle

By Sourabh Gupta
June 17

Pursuing U.S.-China Cooperation in the Space Domain

By Jessica L. Martin
February 27

COVID 19's Fallout: An Accelerator of Renewed U.S.-China Great Power Strategic Competition

By Yilun Zhang
May 25

Breaking the Ice: Introducing the ICAS Arctic Maritime Trackers

By Matt Geraci & Yilun Zhang
March 5

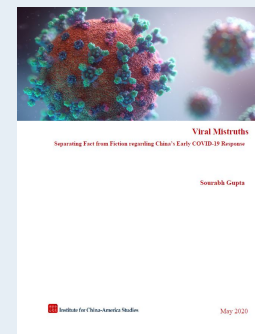
Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word: Japan, World War II and the Ebbing of Historical Memory on War Responsibility

By Sourabh Gupta
August 24

An Update on American Perspectives on the Belt and Road Initiative

By Matt Geraci
January 23

REPORTS

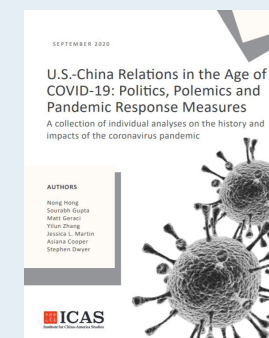


Viral Mistruths: Separating Fact from Fiction Regarding China's Early COVID-19 Response

By Sourabh Gupta, May 2020

Blue Dots and Red Roads: Frictions and the Potential for Limited Cooperation Between Chinese and U.S. International Development Models

By Matt Geraci, Asiana Cooper and Mengze Li July 2020



U.S.-China Relations in the Age of COVID-19: Politics, Polemics and Pandemic Response Measures

By ICAS Staff, September 2020

Not Friend, Not Foe: Reassessing U.S.-China Great Power Competition with the Hydrangea Framework

By Yilun Zhang and Jessica L Martin, October 2020

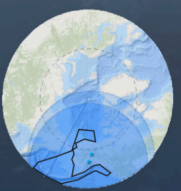


MARITIME TRACKERS

ICAS has identified the Arctic as an important area of study in assessing both the competitive and the cooperative relationship between the U.S. and China. In early 2020, ICAS expanded its Maritime Trackers project by adding the Arctic as a region of interest and is building this issue tracker as a part of our commitment to ensuring that the public, researchers, and policymakers have easy access to the latest updates regarding the Arctic Ocean.

Introducing the Arctic Tracker

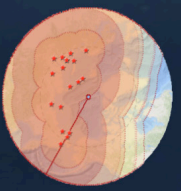
UNITED STATES



Based on information released by the U.S. Department of Defense, ICAS has provided the locations and ranges of U.S. air units with fighter jet capabilities in the Arctic region, Alaska.

U.S. AIR POWER PROJECTION IN THE ARCTIC


RUSSIA



Based on publicly available information, ICAS approximated the locations of Russia's airbases in the Arctic Region. The ranges are calculated to provide a visualized expression of Russia's overall aviation power in the Arctic.

RUSSIA AIR POWER PROJECTION IN THE ARCTIC


CANADA



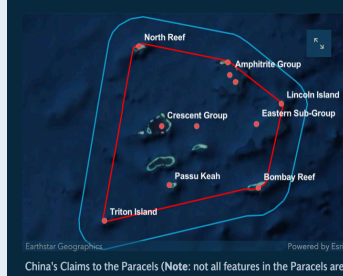
Based on information released by the Canadian Department of National Defence, ICAS has provided the locations and ranges of Canadian air units possessing fighter jet capabilities.

CANADA AIR POWER PROJECTION IN THE ARCTIC

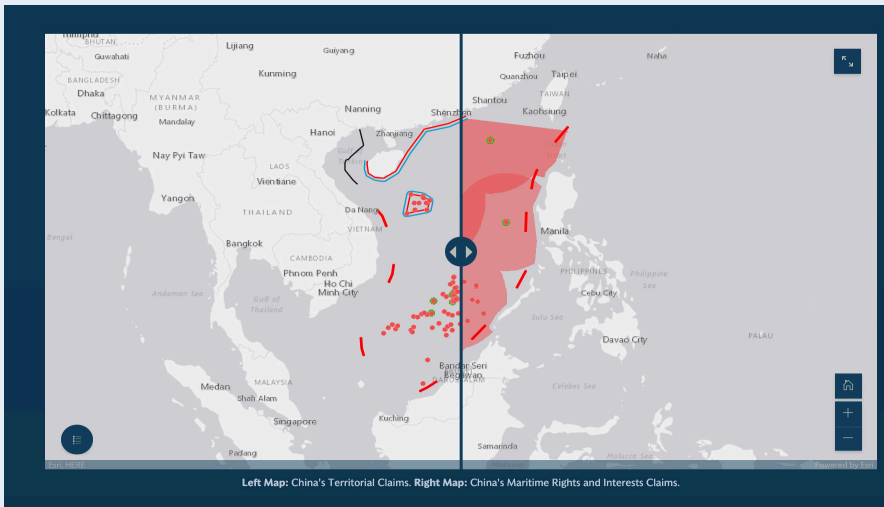
South China Sea Tracker Phase II



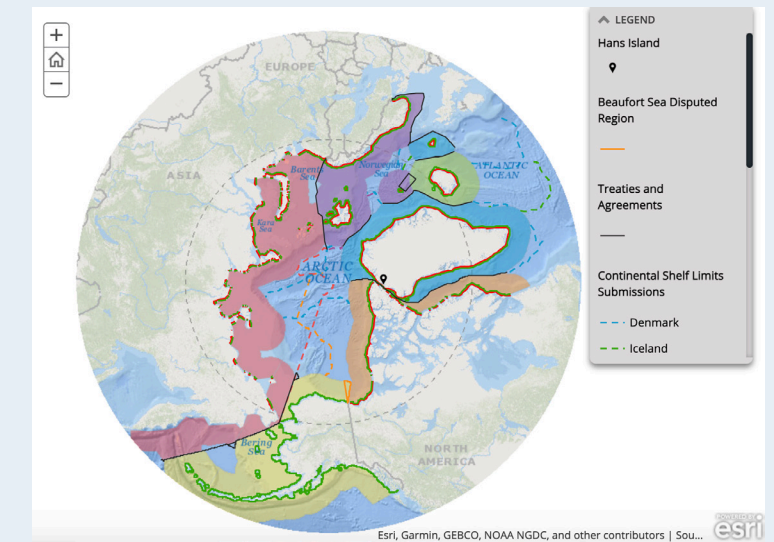
The Nine-Dashed Line




China's Claims to the Paracels (Note: not all features in the Paracels are displayed, but are also effectively controlled by China)



Left Map: China's Territorial Claims. Right Map: China's Maritime Rights and Interests Claims.




The Maritime Issue Trackers are an online, collaborative platform for intellectual exchange on maritime developments and issues between scholars from multiple research institutions around the world. ICAS is committed to contributing research on developments in regions like the Pacific and the Arctic to ensure that the exploitation of resources and navigation of these waterways are conducted in a peaceful and secure manner. These trackers are intended to be updated on a rolling basis as time and circumstances allow in order to stay relevant and informative.




China (Mainland)
Visualizes China's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP




Vietnam
Visualizes Vietnam's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP




Taiwan
Visualizes Taiwan's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP



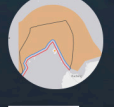
The Philippines
Visualizes the Philippines' sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP



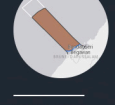
Malaysia
Visualizes Malaysia's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP



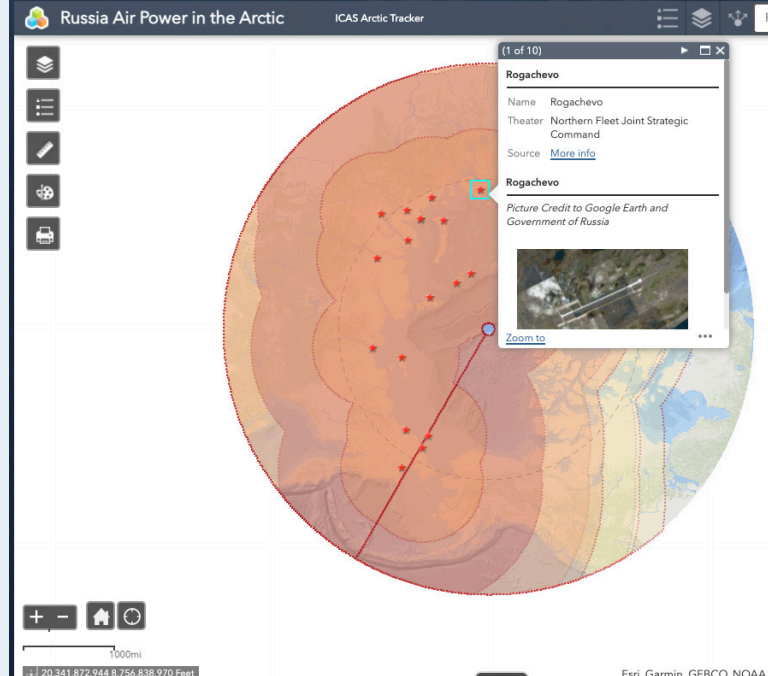
Indonesia
Visualizes Indonesia's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP



Brunei
Visualizes Brunei's sovereignty and sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in the South China Sea

VIEW WEB APP



Russia Air Power in the Arctic ICAS Arctic Tracker

Rogachevo

Name: Rogachevo

Theater: Northern Fleet Joint Strategic Command

Source: [More info](#)

Rogachevo

Picture Credit to Google Earth and Government of Russia

Arctic Tracker Phase I

The scope of the first phase of the Arctic tracker focuses on two major aspects:

1. Internationally submitted maritime claims as well as national legislation on maritime rights.
2. Air power projection of the major Arctic military powers (the United States, Russia and Canada).

The individual and combined interactive Air Power Projection tracker maps explore the extent of military air power projection possessed by the U.S., Russia and Canada in the Arctic Region as well as their known regional strategies.

ONLINE CONNECTION

AUGMENTING OUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



ICAS continues to be fully committed to keeping up with technological shifts in a rapidly changing world, sharing academic research to make it more accessible, and engaging with professionals, the media, and the general public. An exciting change at ICAS in 2020 came in the form of an entirely new website redesign and launch. In the crafting and creation process

for over a year, ICAS launched its new website at the end of August in the hopes of providing our viewers with a clearer, fresher, and more engaging experience online with the Institute. The team also simultaneously reestablished guidelines and goals for the ICAS social media presence as we aim to continually and dynamically engage with the public on these vital issues.

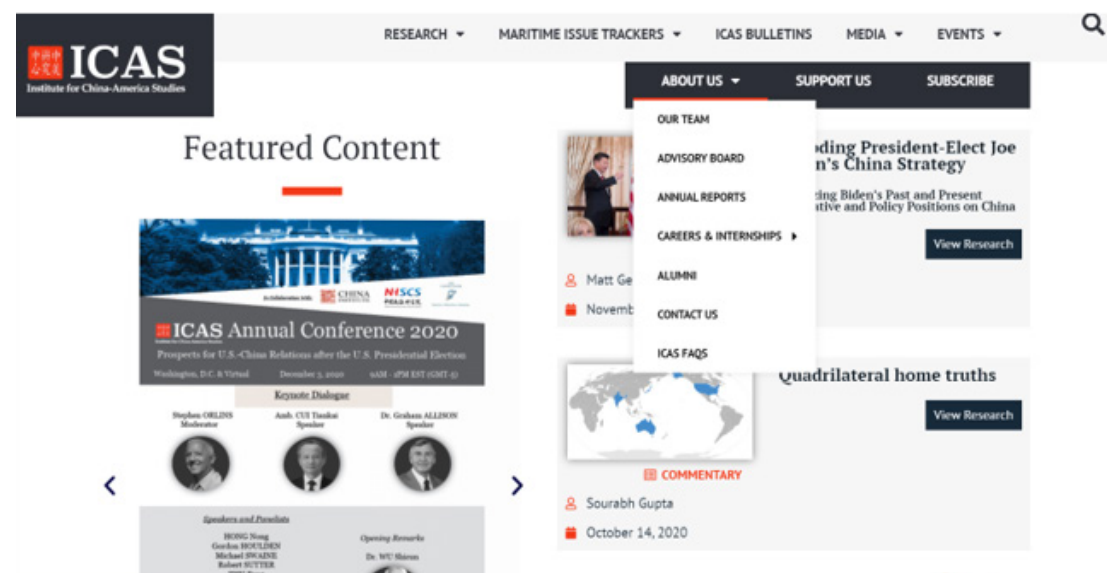
Follow us on:

Twitter: @ICASdc

YouTube: youtube.com/c/InstituteforChinaAmericaStudies

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/institute-for-china-america-studies

WEBSITE RELAUNCH



ICAS IN THE MEDIA

ICAS IN THE NEWS

ICAS Scholars provided insights to several news outlets around the globe, such as:

Xinhua Net	SCMP	East Asia Forum
RT	Arab News	China-US Focus
CGTN America	The Hindu	The Jakarta Post
Sputnik	POLITICO	CNN



RT AMERICA HQ WASHINGTON DC
U.S., AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, & INDIA MEET AND DISCUSS FACING CHINA

OP-ED ARTICLE

Why is the Media Experiencing an Accountability Deficit?
- *China-US Focus*

By Nong Hong
April 23

COVID-19 should not, by any means, serve to turn the U.S.-China “decoupling” theory into a de facto action. Instead, the U.S. and China should be working together and taking the global lead to fight against this pandemic disease.

OP-ED ARTICLE

ASEAN in the driver’s seat in the South China Sea
- *East Asia Forum*

By Sourabh Gupta
December 18

Matters could yet go south in the South China Sea in 2021.... The Biden team also remains an unknown quantity. On balance though, there is more to hope for than fear.

AMERICAN VOICES INITIATIVE

INTERVIEWS ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

The American Voices Initiative is a series of on-camera, sit-down interviews with leading American scholars on important issues in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.



A VARIETY OF OPINIONS The series seeks to elicit an array of opinions from American experts across a range of topics, extending from economics, trade, politics, maritime security, foreign policy to strategic stability.



IN-DEPTH AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW Our goal is to provide a global audience an in-depth specialist view from an American perspective on a topical issue of significant interest in U.S.-China relations.

Ambassador Craig Allen on the U.S.-China Business and Trade Relationship October 26, 2020

In this installment of The American Voices Initiative, we sat down virtually with Ambassador Craig Allen, President of the US-China Business Council. On the agenda was the current state and trajectory of the business and trade relationship between the United States and China in the wake of the Phase One Trade Deal, evolving domestic politics in both the US and China, and the global COVID-19 pandemic.



ENGAGING & ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

INTERNSHIPS AT ICAS

Our interns in 2020



Jessica L. Martin



Asiana Cooper



Amanda Jin



Shoitsu Nakayama



Qi Chen



Mengze Li



Pichsinee (Prim) Veerakajorn

The Institute for China-America Studies prides itself on preparing young and emerging professionals for their future careers in international relations, security studies, economics and trade, energy and the environment, and more. The ICAS Internship Program provides its interns with numerous professional development experiences, such as authoring commentaries, blog posts, and issue primers, as well as the opportunity to participate in and meet scholars and experts at Track II dialogues hosted by ICAS. It is the hope of ICAS that its interns will gain an appreciation for the importance of promoting U.S.-China relations as they grow into their future careers.

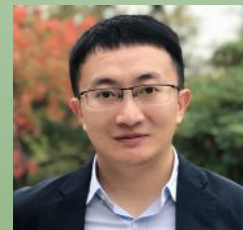
ICAS STAFF

ABOUT US

The ICAS team is comprised of four full-time staff members in our Washington, DC office, in addition to a number of non-resident fellows and interns who support our work. Our scholars come from a diverse set of backgrounds, with professional experience in China, the United States, Canada, Asia and Europe. Our research covers maritime security, economics and trade relations, strategic competition, global governance and other issues central to the China-U.S. bilateral relationship.



YAN YAN
Fellow
(Non-Resident)



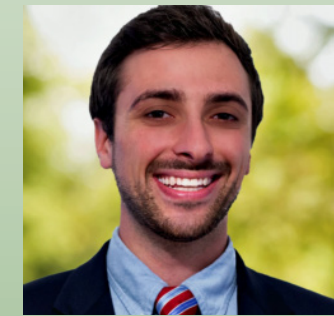
DING DUO
Fellow
(Non-Resident)



PENG NIAN
Fellow
(Non-Resident)



NONG HONG
Executive Director &
Senior Fellow



MATT GERACI
Research Associate &
Program Officer



KEYUAN ZOU
Senior Research Fellow
(Non-Resident)



SOURABH GUPTA
Resident Senior Fellow



YILUN ZHANG
Research Associate &
Administrative Assistant



CHRISTOPHER JOHN JENNER
Senior Research Fellow
(Non-Resident)

ADVISORY BOARD

ABOUT THE ADVISORY BOARD

The ICAS advisory board provides invaluable guidance for our day-to-day operations. All esteemed scholars in their field, the work of our board members closely coincides with ICAS' research portfolio and complements the work of our scholars. Their advice enables ICAS to stay on top of the latest developments in the fields of maritime security, economics and trade, and strategic stability. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication toward improving the most important bilateral relationship in the world.



SHICUN WU
President
National Institute for
South China Sea Studies



Yawei LIU
Director
China Program
The Carter Center



JUSUF WANANDI
Senior Fellow &
Cofounder
Centre for Strategic
and International
Studies



YONGNIAN ZHENG
Dean
Global and
Contemporary China
Advanced Institute
Chinese University of
Hong Kong (Shenzhen)



FENG ZHU
Director
China Center for
Collaborative Studies of
SCS
Nanjing University



GORDON HOULDEN
Director Emeritus
China Institute
University of Alberta



MYRON H NORDQUIST
Distinguished Fellow
Stockton Center for
International Law
Naval War College



中研中
心究美

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