



The ICAS Bulletin

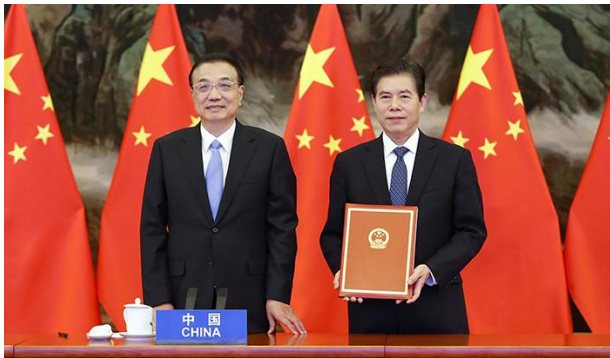
Institute for China America Studies

A Survey of Scholarship on U.S.-China Relations

January 5, 2022

What's Going On? ↓

China Advances New Norms as the U.S. Continues to Regulate Chinese Trade



China's Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan signing RCEP, which came into force last week, on November 15, 2020 (Source: Chinese Ministry of Commerce)

- On January 1, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a China-initiated Asia-Pacific free trade agreement, the largest of its kind, entered into force.
- On December 31, the Phase One Trade Agreement between the U.S. and China expired. Analysts estimate that China did not meet its purchase commitments of U.S. goods, while official U.S. assessment and consequent negotiations are still pending.
- On December 27, China issued its first white paper on export controls, pledging to develop "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory" global export controls against "abuses" by some "individual countries."
- On December 22, China Telecom's U.S. unit announced that it will continue to provide services, despite having its authorization to operate revoked by the FCC, until "a final factual determination and decision" is communicated.
- On December 16, the Biden administration imposed trade restrictions on 34 Chinese research institutes and entities over human rights concerns, including through the use of biotechnology and "purported brain-control weaponry."

U.S. Upgrades its Arsenal and Personnel on the Human Rights Front



Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya announcing the annual U.S. Human Rights Report in 2014 (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

- On December 24, Walmart faced criticism and backlash from Chinese netizens following reports that Walmart and its subsidiary Sam's Club had stopped sourcing products from Xinjiang.
- On December 23, President Biden signed into law the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act which bans imports from China's Xinjiang region over human rights concerns.
- On December 20, Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya was appointed to be special coordinator for Tibet "to preserve the religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage of Tibetans." China "firmly reject[ed]" the appointment and urged the U.S. to "stop using Tibetan-related issues to interfere in China's domestic affairs."
- On December 16, the U.S. Senate confirmed Nicholas Burns, a career diplomat with decades of experience in the Foreign Service, to be Ambassador to China. Burns took a hardline against Chinese human rights abuses in his confirmation hearing, calling for a combination of "competition and...intense diplomacy" with Beijing.

Associated News Sources:

[“U.S. on Sidelines as China and Other Asia-Pacific Nations Launch Trade Pact,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, January 1 [Paywall]
[“China hits back at ‘double standards’ amid US tech war, Washington’s nuclear weapon concerns,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 29 [Paywall]
[“China Telecom plans to continue some U.S. services after FCC revokes authorization,”](#) *Reuters*, December 22 [Paywall]
[“China to Fall Short on Promises to U.S. as Trade Deal Ends,”](#) *Bloomberg*, December 22 [Paywall]
[“U.S. blacklists 34 Chinese entities, citing human rights abuses and brain-control weaponry,”](#) *CNBC*, December 16

Associated News Sources:

[“Walmart Sparks Public Outcry in China Over Products From Xinjiang,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 27 [Paywall]
[“Biden signs bill banning goods from China's Xinjiang over forced labor,”](#) *Reuters*, December 23 [Paywall]
[“U.S. names Tibet coordinator, drawing warning from China,”](#) *Reuters*, December 21 [Paywall]
[“Senate passes Uyghur bill, confirms China ambassador,”](#) *The Hill*, December 16
[“U.S. Senate backs Biden nominee Burns to be ambassador to China,”](#) *Reuters*, December 16 [Paywall]

Cross-Strait Tensions Continue as U.S. and Allies Rally Around Taiwan



The USS Carl Vinson transiting the East China Sea with Japan's JS Samidare in 2017 (Source: US Navy)

- On December 30, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned the U.S. that there would be an “unbearable price” to pay if it continues to “encourage Taiwan independence forces” in an “[effort] to distort and hollow out the one-China principle.”
- On December 29, it was reported that the U.S. Pacific Command and Japan’s Self-Defense Force have agreed to a draft plan to come to Taiwan’s defense in an “emergency” situation.
- On December 27, President Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2022 which included a call to “as appropriate, invit[e] Taiwan to participate in the Rim of the Pacific exercise conducted in 2022.”
- On December 21, it was reported that Taiwan will soon require its tech companies to seek governmental approval before selling assets to counterparts across the strait.

Associated News Sources:

[“China Warns U.S. of ‘Unbearable Price’ for Supporting Taiwan,”](#) *Maritime Executive*, December 30
[“US and Japan float a plan to defend Taiwan,”](#) *Asia Times*, December 29
[“Invite Taiwan to massive RIMPAC naval exercises, US](#)

Rare Signs of U.S.-China Dialogue Seen in Nuclear and Maritime Affairs



(Source: Unsplash)

- On January 3, the world’s five largest nuclear powers issued a joint statement pledging to work towards “a world without nuclear weapons,” a rare point of military cooperation amid rising tensions between East and West.
- From December 15 to 17, U.S. and Chinese military commands held meetings to discuss operational measures to improve maritime safety in the South China Sea. Talks resumed after a no-show in 2020 brought on by heightened tensions.
- On December 16, Navy Secretary Carlos del Toro called out China’s state-subsidized fishing fleet for contributing to illegal and unreported fishing “on an industrial scale.”

Associated News Sources:

[“China, US, UK, France and Russia pledge to avoid nuclear war,”](#) *CNN*, January 4
[“Chinese, US militaries resume maritime safety talks after last year’s no-show,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 30 [Paywall]
[“SECNAV Del Toro Sounds Alarm Over Chinese Illegal Fishing,”](#) *USNI News*, December 16

[defense act says.” CNN, December 29](#)
[“Taiwan to restrict tech companies’ sales of China assets.”](#)
Financial Times, December 21 [Paywall]

Despite U.S. Boycott, Olympics Controversies Continue



Olympic rings on display in Dalian (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

- On December 24, the U.S. submitted visa applications for 18 individuals to serve as part of a security detail at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, despite Washington’s diplomatic boycott of the games.
- On December 27, China’s Foreign Ministry derided the U.S. diplomatic boycott of the Olympics as a “farce,” while a spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said those personnel do not constitute official or diplomatic representation at the Games.
- In late December, the International Olympic Commission pulled out of a meeting with the ‘Coalition to End Forced Labor in the Uyghur Region’ citing “differences in approach, including regarding scope, process and confidentiality...in relation to labor rights.”
- With the Winter Olympics coming soon, China has locked down 13 million people in the central city of Xi’an in light of the ongoing frequent coronavirus outbreak.

Associated News Sources:

[“Faced With Questions About Forced Labor in China, the I.O.C. Is Tight-Lipped.”](#) *The New York Times*, January 4 [Paywall]
[“U.S., China squabble over whether lower-level officials attending Olympics constitutes ‘diplomatic boycott.’”](#) *Washington Post*, December 28 [Paywall]
[“US applies to China for 18 officials to attend Winter Olympics after Joe Biden declares diplomatic boycott.”](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 24 [Paywall]
[“China locks down 13m to contain Covid outbreak ahead of Winter Olympics.”](#) *Financial Times*, December 23 [Paywall]

- In Other News -



(Source: Pexels)

[“China harvests masses of data on Western targets, documents show.”](#) *Washington Post*, December 31 [Paywall]
[“U.S. Calls on China to Stop Targeting Hong Kong Journalists.”](#) *Bloomberg*, December 29 [Paywall]
[“China Scholar Jonathan Spence Dies at Age 85.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 28 [Paywall]
[“Japan and China partner on clean alternative for natural gas.”](#) *Nikkei Asia*, December 26 [Paywall]
[“The U.S. Pursued Professors Working With China. Cases Are Faltering.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 20 [Paywall]
[“China’s new rare earth merger hands it ‘trump card’ in global fight for resources.”](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 24 [Paywall]
[“China’s new military base in Africa: What it means for Europe and America”](#) *ECFR*, December 14

What Are We Reading?

- *World Politics Review*: [“South Korea Has Quietly Taken Sides in the U.S.-China Rivalry”](#) by Ramon Pacheco Pardo (January 4, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China and Russia Military Cooperation Raises Prospect of New Challenge to American Power”](#) by Brett Forrest, Ann M. Simmons, and Chao Deng (January 2, 2022) [Paywall]
- *East Asia Forum*: [“Choppy conditions in the South China Sea.”](#) by Collin Koh (December 31, 2021)
- *National Interest*: [“Congressional Report Reveals China’s Strategy to Dominate East Asia”](#) by Mark Episkopos (December 27, 2021) [Paywall]
- *The Japan Times*: [“Biden’s Indo-Pacific framework may shape race with China in 2022”](#) by Miya Tanaka (December 26, 2021) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“A year into China’s tech crackdown, the sky is no longer the limit for China’s Big Tech”](#) by Tracy Qu and Jane Zhang (December 21, 2021) [Paywall]
- *Nikkei Asia*: [“Standard-bearer: China races U.S. and Europe to set tech rules.”](#) by Cissy Zhou (December 21, 2021) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China’s Growing Access to Global Shipping Data Worries U.S.”](#) by Daniel Michaels (December 20, 2021) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Buying Influence: How China Manipulates Facebook and Twitter”](#) by Muye Xiao, Paul Mozur and Gray Beltran (December 20, 2021) [Paywall]
- Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative: [“The Second Thomas Shoal Incident and The Resent in Philippine-U.S. Ties”](#) by Lucio Blanco Pitolo III (December 17, 2021)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Guam, America’s Forgotten Territory. Is New Front Line Against China”](#) by Alastair Gail (December 17, 2021) [Paywall]
- *Politico*: [“China watchers’ 2022 predictions: Tiger year trajectory”](#) by Phelim Kine (December 16, 2021)
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“Washington Is Preparing for the Wrong War With China”](#) by Hal Brands and Michael Beckley (December 16, 2021) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Biden Needs a Southeast Asia Policy to Counter China’s Pull”](#) by Derek Grossman (December 16, 2021) [Paywall]
- *World Politics Review*: [“The U.S. Should Compete With China and Russia—but Wisely”](#) by Ali Wyne (December 15, 2021) [Paywall]

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [The Future of CCP Stability: Implications for Taiwan](#)
December 1 hosted by National Bureau of Asian Research
- [Safeguarding America’s Critical Supply Chain Capabilities: A Discussion with Senators Bob Casey and John Cornyn](#)
December 15 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Debate: Should the U.S. Seek to Contain China?](#)
December 16 hosted by Quincy Institute
- [China’s Power: Up for Debate 2021 - Debate 4: China’s Sphere of Influence in the Indo-Pacific](#)
December 17 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

- Upcoming Events -

- [Containing Crisis: Strategic Concepts for Coercive Economic Statecraft on China](#)
January 7 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [Exploring Trilateral Cooperation Possibilities in the Indo-Pacific: US-South Korea-Philippines](#)
January 11 hosted by East-West Center
- [Maritime Security Dialogue: FIFTH Fleet Mission and Operations Update](#)
January 14 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Toward Xi’s third term: China’s 20th Party Congress and beyond](#)
January 20 hosted by Brookings Institution

What ICAS Is Up To

---ICAS Tracker Update---

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America

Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States of America

Ron Klain – White House Chief of Staff

Susan Rice – Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Publicly Announced Positions in the Biden Administration

Tracker Pages Are Updated At Individual Intervals
 Phase One Release: January 20, 2021 Phase Four Release: April 20, 2021
 Phase Two Release: February 16, 2021 Phase Five Release: June 24, 2021
 Phase Three Release: March 10, 2021 Phase Six Release: December 28, 2021 [Final]

---SCROLL AND CLICK ON THE CATEGORY TO EXPLORE THE FULL LIST OF PERSONNEL FOR EACH FOREIGN POLICY TOPIC---

Diplomacy & Foreign Policy
Antony Blinken
Secretary of State

Trade & Finance
Janet Yellen
Secretary of Treasury

Defense & Security
Gen. Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense

Climate, Health & Technology
Fmr. Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy

Biden Administration International Affairs Personnel Tracker: Phase 6

In late December 2021, the sixth and final phase of the ICAS Biden Administration International Affairs Personnel Tracker was released with the addition of recently confirmed personnel including Ambassador to China [Nicholas Burns](#), Ambassador to Japan [Rahm Emanuel](#), and U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues [Uzra Zeya](#).

For the last 12 months, the team at ICAS has assembled the major U.S. international affairs policy positions in the Biden Administration, organized into four categories, and conducted research on their views on U.S.-China relations. With the final phase completed, the tracker now features 91 personnel from across the federal government, with the most vocal personnel continuing to receive a more engaging profile upgrade. All pages are periodically updated to maintain relevancy as circumstances allow.

Explore the full tracker [here](#).

---ICAS Commentary---

Making Sense of the Buzz: What Does “U.S.-China Climate Cooperation” Actually Mean?

By *Matt Geraci*
December 22, 2021

On November 10, 2021, the U.S. and Chinese governments supposedly “surprised” the world by releasing the U.S.-China Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s. Even before this, however, since Biden’s inauguration, the phrase “U.S.-China cooperation on climate change” has been tossed around in both countries by academics, government officials, and pundits ad nauseum as the primary area where the U.S.-China relationship can improve. This buzzphrase is intended, at least in part, to evoke a sense of hope that China and the U.S., the world’s two largest national greenhouse gas emitters, are actively doing something to mitigate the impacts of climate change together. What is often left unanswered are the two most important parts: defining the “something” and the “together”. China and the U.S. owe it to their public to better define these two areas to be better held accountable by their citizens...

Link to Full Commentary: <https://chinaus-icas.org/research/making-sense-of-the-buzz/>

This article [originally appeared](#) on the China-US Focus website on December 22, 2021.

---ICAS In the News---



On Saturday, **January 1, 2022**, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta joined a discussion regarding the direction of the U.S.-China relationship in 2022 and President Xi Jinping's New Year Address on *CGTN America's The Heat*.

- View the Discussion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dozw4tKG9D0>

On Tuesday, **January 4, 2022**, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was quoted by *China Daily* on the passage and implications of the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

- Read the Quote: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202201/04/WS61d32119a310cdd39bc7ecd7.html>