



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

April 27, 2022

What's Going On? ↓

U.S.-China Tensions Rise over Indo-Pacific Security and Hong Kong

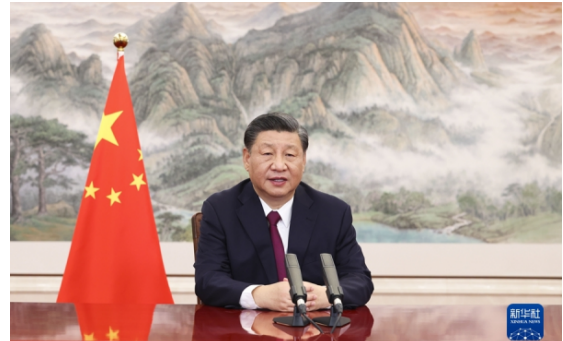


NSC Indo-Pacific Coordinator Kurt Campbell arrives in the Solomon Islands on April 22 (Source: Handout from Solomon Islands Opposition Press Secretariat)

- On April 22, during a meeting with the Solomon Islands' Prime Minister, a senior-level U.S. delegation expressed significant concerns about the establishment of a permanent Chinese military presence following China's April 19 statement announcing the successful conclusion of a security pact with the Solomon Islands.
- On April 20, Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe and his US counterpart Lloyd Austin spoke for the first time in over a year to exchange views on Ukraine and Taiwan, highlighting key differences between the two sides.
- On April 15, China's People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater launched extensive naval and air exercises around Taiwan, in response to an unannounced trip to the Island by a six-member group of high-profile US lawmakers to show both bipartisan and the White House's support.
- On April 12, the U.S. State Department highlighted China's arrest of a veteran journalist and restrictive vetting of election candidates in Hong Kong in its annual human rights report, prompting a denunciation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Associated News Sources:
["U.S. warns of response to any permanent China military presence in Solomons"](#), Reuters, April 22 [Paywall]

China Maintains pro-Multilateralism Line in International Engagements



Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech to the Boao Forum for Asia on April 21 (Source: Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs via Xinhua News)

- On April 21, Chinese foreign ministry senior official Tan Qingsheng denounced foreign powers for meddling in efforts to achieve sustainable development in the South China Sea at a panel discussion on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan.
- On April 21, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a "global security initiative" to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries during a video speech to the annual Boao Asia Forum.
- On April 21, Xi claimed the Chinese government supports talks to resolve international disputes and opposes "wanton use" of sanctions. His remarks reveal China's continuous rejection to call the Russia-Ukraine conflict as an invasion.
- On April 11, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong criticized U.S.'s current economic approach in Asia excluding China to be "unrealistic" and called for Washington to maintain "an overlapping and constructive engagement in the region."

Associated News Sources:
["South China Sea: 'external forces' meddling in disputes, Chinese official says"](#), South China Morning Post, April 22 [Paywall]

["US Pentagon Chief Speaks for 1st Time to Chinese Counterpart"](#), *The Diplomat*, April 20 [Paywall]
["US officials heading to Solomons over China pact worries"](#), *AP News*, April 19
["US playing with fire over Taiwan, Beijing warns, as US Congress team pledges support for island in event of PLA attack"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 15 [Paywall]
["US spotlights Hong Kong elections in its criticism of China's human rights record"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 13 [Paywall]

["China's Xi proposes 'global security initiative', without giving details"](#), *Reuters*, April 21 [Paywall]
["China's Xi urges talks to settle disputes, opposes sanctions"](#), *AP News*, April 21
["Singapore's Lee cautions US against 'everyone but China' approach in Asia engagement, says 'more pleased' if Hong Kong expats stayed put"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 11 [Paywall]

China in the Crosshairs for Sanctions over Ukraine Position, Human Rights



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said there can be no "sitting on the fence" in the Russia-Ukraine war at an April 13th event (Source: Federal Reserve)

- On April 20, the National People's Congress of China signed onto the Forced Labor Convention and Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, amid criticism over its treatment of the Uyghur ethnic minority.
- China's top offshore oil and gas producer, CNOOC Ltd., is prepared to exit its operations in Britain, Canada, and the U.S due to growing tension and sanctions.
- On April 13, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned that China must "make something positive" and "help to end" Russia's war in Ukraine or face challenges to its global "economic integration" at an Atlantic Council event.
- On April 12, Joseph Yam Chi-kwong, the former chief executive of Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), said that the U.S. has "weaponised" financial markets through sanctions on Russia, which he called a "stupid and crazy" strategy that will undermine the US dollar's status as the world's reserve currency.

Associated News Sources:

["China Signs Forced Labor Treaties as Xinjiang Scrutiny Grows"](#), *Bloomberg*, April 19 [Paywall]
["Exclusive: China's oil champion prepares Western retreat over sanctions fear"](#), *Reuters*, April 13 [Paywall]
["Yellen to China: Help stop Russia's war in Ukraine or lose standing in the world"](#), *Reuters*, April 13 [Paywall]

Foreign Investors Balk at China's Slowing Growth



Yields on U.S. treasury bonds surpassed those of yuan-denominated bonds for the first time in decades earlier this month (Source: Unsplash)

- Over the past two months, overseas investors have offloaded more than \$7 billion worth of Chinese-listed stocks via exchange links with Hong Kong.
- On April 13, Chinese government bond yields fell below their American counterparts for the first time in decades after yuan-denominated debt investors cut their holdings by more than \$15 billion last month amid new geopolitical tensions and stalling Chinese growth. The U.S. is factoring in inflation's role in this yield inversion.
- Due to pressure from COVID lockdowns and the war in Ukraine, Chinese imports fell by 0.1 percent in March, a sudden collapse compared to a 15.5 percent increase in imports from January and February combined.
- On April 22, the vice-chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, announced that he expects a deal soon with U.S. authorities that will enable Chinese companies to comply with U.S. audits and avoid delisting.

Associated News Sources:

["Higher inflation factors into review of tariffs on Chinese goods-White House"](#), *Reuters*, April 26 [Paywall]
["China securities watchdog expects audit deal soon with U.S. regulators"](#), *Reuters*, April 22 [Paywall]
["IMF Says China's Outflows Show Deepening Divergence With U.S."](#), *Bloomberg*, April 19 [Paywall]

["US sanctions are 'stupid and crazy', former Hong Kong finance chief says"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 12 [Paywall]

["U.S. and Chinese Bond Yields Converge, Reversing a Decadelong Pattern"](#), *The Wall Street Journal*, April 13 [Paywall]
["China imports 'collapsed' due to 'sudden factors', but export growth strong"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 13 [Paywall]

U.S. Links China and Russia to the Militarization of Space



The U.S. hopes to stop its allies and rivals alike from developing anti-satellite weapons through its unilateral ban on April 19 (Source: Unsplash)

- On April 19, the White House stated that it is banning its own anti-satellite weapons testing and hopes to establish a new norm in space security to avert an arms race. In the announcement, Vice President Harris highlighted an anti-satellite test conducted by Russia last November that launched over 1,500 pieces of space debris towards the International Space Station, calling it "reckless" and "irresponsible." China conducted a similar test in 2007.

- On April 16, three Chinese astronauts returned to earth after a 180-day mission aboard the country's independent Tiangong orbital station. China's space agency is planning three more launches next month including another crew headed towards the partly-built station.

- On April 13, a report by the Pentagon's Intelligence Agency stated that both China and Russia are developing weapons that could attack U.S. satellites.

Associated News Sources:

["White House commits to barring anti-satellite missile tests"](#), *AP News*, April 19
["Chinese Astronauts Land After Six Months in Space"](#), *Time Magazine*, April 16 [Paywall]
["China and Russia seek weapons to hit US satellites, Pentagon says"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 13 [Paywall]

- In Other News -

["Beijing kicks off mass testing after spike in Covid cases"](#), *BBC News*, April 25
["China's Zero COVID Policy to Renew US West Coast Port Congestion"](#), *The Diplomat*, April 25 [Paywall]
["Skadden loses top lawyer to ByteDance amid China IPO chill"](#), *Financial Times*, April 25 [Paywall]
["Taiwan's share of contract chipmaking to hit 66% this year: report"](#), *Nikkei Asia*, April 25 [Paywall]
["Tibet's leader seeks U.S. action to end China's 'cultural eradication'"](#), *BBC News*, April 25
["China's Universities Are Hot On U.S. Heels As Investment Pays Off"](#), *Forbes*, April 25 [Paywall]
["U.S. Says Backs Lithuania in Row With China"](#), *U.S. News*, April 22
["Chinese court sentences US citizen Shadeed Abdulmateen to death for murder"](#), *CNN*, April 22
["US lawmakers affirm Japan alliance eyeing China, North Korea"](#), *The Independent*, April 16 [Paywall]
["Tim Cook of Apple and financier Ray Dalio should register as agents for China, US panel hears"](#), *South China Morning Post*, April 15 [Paywall]
["South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol unveils foreign policy goals"](#), *The Washington Post*, April 14 [Paywall]

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Foreign Policy*: [“Taiwan Doesn’t Need a Formal U.S. Security Guarantee”](#) by Ivan Kanapathy (April 26) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“America’s lopsided China strategy: military aid but not enough trade”](#) by Demetri Sevastopulo (April 26) [Paywall]
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: [“U.S.-China Technological “Decoupling”: A Strategy and Policy Framework”](#) by Jon Bateman (April 25)
- *Time Magazine*: [“Who Got China Wrong?”](#) by Bob Davis (April 24) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“The Chinese Way of Innovation”](#) by Matt Sheehan (April 21) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“China is muscling its way into Pacific island nations. The U.S. must push back.”](#) by Henry Olson (April 20) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Why a Chinese Security Deal in the Pacific Could Ripple Through the World”](#) by Damien Cave (April 20) [Paywall]
- South China Morning Post: [“On the South China Sea, Philippine presidential hopefuls tend to be naively nationalist or neocolonialist”](#) by Mark J. Valencia (April 20) [Paywall]
- Center for a New American Security: [“Global Island: Sustaining Taiwan’s International Participation Amid Mounting Pressure from China”](#) by Jacob Stokes, Alexander Sullivan, and Zachary Durkee (April 19)
- *National Interest*: [“Chinese Ambassador: The Ukraine Crisis and Its Aftermath”](#) by Qin Gang (April 18) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“How Beijing Sees Biden”](#) by Melinda Liu (April 14) [Paywall]
- Center for a New American Security: [“Challenging China’s Trade Practices”](#) by Emily Kilcrease (April 14)
- South China Morning Post: [“China’s support for Russia galvanises US, Europe as Washington examines once-unthinkable sanctions against Beijing”](#) by Jacob Fromer and Finbarr Bermingham (April 12) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Biden Needs to Make Up With Saudi Arabia, or China Will Gain”](#) by Karen Elliott House (March 31) [Paywall]

What’s Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [Exploring US Exports to China: 2022 Annual Report](#)
April 14 hosted by the US-China Business Council
- [Challenging China’s Trade Practices: Promoting Interests of U.S. Workers, Farmers, Producers, and Innovators](#)
April 14 hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [How the Chinese Public Views the War in Ukraine](#)
April 19 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Finding Firmer Ground: The Role of Higher Education in U.S.-China Relations](#)
April 21 hosted by Wilson Center
- [How, And Why, China-U.S. Relations Have Worsened Since 2012?](#)
April 22 hosted by Asia Program
- [Great Wall of Steel: China’s Global Campaign to Suppress the Uyghurs](#)
April 25 hosted by Wilson Center

- Upcoming Events -

- [Recent Developments in China’s Nuclear Capabilities](#)
April 27 hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- [Northeast Asia in Focus - Impact of Russo-Ukrainian Conflict on Northeast Asia](#)
April 27 hosted by US-Asia Institute
- [AI and AVs: Implications in U.S.-China Competition](#)
April 27 hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [The Future of China Due Diligence: Where do you get your information and data?](#)
April 27 hosted by SupChina
- [China’s conundrum in the Russo-Ukrainian War](#)
May 5 hosted by SupChina
- [American Northwest Exports to China: 2022 Export Report Highlights](#)
May 9 hosted by the US-China Business Council

What ICAS Is Up To

---Past ICAS Event---



ICAS, University of Alberta China Institute, and Grandview Institution thanks all five of our speakers for sharing their expertise and unique perspectives on five different middle power countries as they relate to U.S.-China relations. A full recording, summary and commentary on the event are available below to all those interested:

[Read the Full Summary](#) [View the Recording](#) [Read Event Commentary](#)

---ICAS Academic Engagement---

Sourabh Gupta speaks at Webinar on the Cognition War in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

On April 18, 2022, ICAS Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta participated in a webinar, The Cognitive Warfare in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, co-hosted by the Global Governance Institution and Centre For New Inclusive Asia.

You can learn more about the event, the other participating speakers, view the recordings, and read a summary of the event published in the *South China Morning Post* from the links below:



[View Event Page](#) [View Sourabh's Keynote](#) [View Recordings](#) [Read Summary by SCMP](#)

---ICAS Commentary---**The South Pacific Ocean: Another battleground for China-US competition?***By Nong Hong**April 21, 2022*

While the South Pacific is looking to be an emerging arena of greater competition with China on one side and the US and its allies on the other, US-based academic Nong Hong also sees that areas of common interest could still drive cooperation between them, depending on which direction the pendulum swings.

In February, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Fiji, a major power in the South Pacific, marking the first such visit in four decades. Analysts see Blinken's visit as being motivated by a desire for the US to strengthen its presence in the region to match the growing influence of China.

Interestingly, during the period of Blinken's visit, a fleet of Chinese naval vessels was sailing into Tonga to deliver tsunami relief supplies. With China's growing interest and presence in the South Pacific Ocean, and signs that the US is unveiling new strategies to better engage with the South Pacific nations, will the South Pacific Ocean become a major strategic battleground along the lines of the South China Sea, or will enough common interests facilitate cooperation?

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was quoted by *China Daily* on President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the Boao Forum for Asia.

- Read the Article: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202204/23/WS62633949a310fd2b29e58c6f.html>

On Friday, April 22, 2022, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta discussed Xi Jinping's keynote address at the Boao Forum on CGTN's The Heat.

- Watch the Discussion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELZMTT4K9BA>