



# ICAS

Institute for China-America Studies

# BULLETIN

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

Q1 - 2023



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

Released every other week, the ICAS Bulletin updates a global audience on American perspectives regarding the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Recent news trends in U.S.-China relations are succinctly summarized here alongside information about expert opinion publications, events at U.S.-based institutions, and recent updates on activities by ICAS. Established in 2015, the ICAS Bulletin is the longest-running project at ICAS.

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# ICAS

Institute for China-America Studies





# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

January 4, 2023

#### What's Going On?

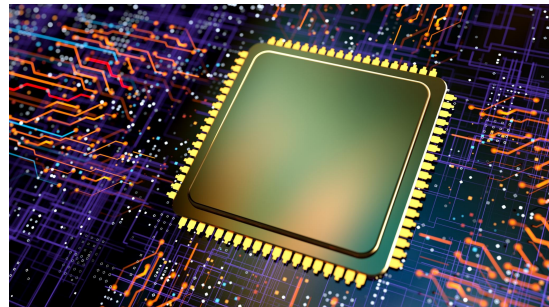
##### U.S.-China Tensions Build Over the Taiwan Question



*Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen speaks during a press conference, December 27, 2022. (Photo by SAM YEH/AFP via Getty Images)*

- The U.S. State Department has approved the sale of a mine-laying system to Taiwan citing China's increasingly aggressive rhetoric and recent military exercises around the island.
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines have expanded their submarine arsenals as geopolitical rivalries rise between the U.S. and China.
- Following President Biden's expansion of American material support for Taiwan via the new National Defense Authorization Act, China sent at least 71 Chinese aircraft near Taiwanese airspace, setting a record for Chinese military aircraft in the airspace.
- According to the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, the U.S. sent 589 large warplanes from January to November to gather intelligence around the South China Sea.
- The Taiwan Foreign Ministry hailed the new U.S. National Defense Authorization Act as "showing the great importance it attaches to Taiwan-U.S. relations." In contrast, the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that it "severely affects peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."
- In retaliation for Washington's actions over alleged Chinese human rights abuses in Tibet, China authorized

##### Bilateral Competition in the Technology Sector



*Zoomed-in microchip (Source: Getty Images/ Royalty Free)*

- After an increase in U.S. cooperation with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, China plans to revamp the Chinese semiconductor strategy, focusing on "enhancing strengths instead of fixing weaknesses."
- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has voiced concern about Chinese theft of American technologies and now looks to move Meta's tech supply chain out of China.
- TSMC has responded to concerns that the US\$60.4 billion investment in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing weakens Taiwan's strategic interests in manufacturing by showing that U.S. investments are one-third of TSMC's Taiwanese investments.
- Despite severe setbacks due to Covid-19 outbreaks at Foxconn's manufacturing plant in Zhengzhou, Apple is set to catch up to demands for their iPhone product as most Covid-control measures in China have been lifted.
- Huawei has published its third quarter of consistent growth, despite strong U.S. curbs and restrictions in 2022, emphasizing a return to normal to investors.
- Biden administration officials are pushing for buyouts of Chinese-owned tech and social media companies, such as TikTok, by U.S. firms to eliminate risks of espionage and political influence.
- TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, has fired four employees following an investigation that showed they had accessed private data on U.S. journalists and other

sanctions on two U.S. citizens, Todd Stein and Miles Yu Maochun, freezing their Chinese assets and barring them from entering the country.

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that the U.S. must not suppress Chinese development and should not continue the "old routine of unilateral bullying."

- The Japanese government has drastically increased defense spending, including US\$1.6 billion to purchase U.S.-made Tomahawk missiles, which will be a part of Japan's most extensive military build-up since World War II.

*Associated News Sources:*

["US to Sell Taiwan Anti-Tank System Amid Rising China Threat."](#) *Voice of America*, December 29

["Southeast Asia nations boosting submarine orders amid US-China rivalry."](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 28 [Paywall]

["With Record Military Incursions, China Warns Taiwan and the U.S."](#) *The New York Times*, December 26 [Paywall]

["US spy planes edge closer to China's shores in 2022: think tank."](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 25 [Paywall]

["China blasts US defense bill while Taiwan welcomes it."](#) *Associated Press*, December 24

["China sanctions 2 US citizens over action on Tibet."](#) *Associated Press*, December 23

["U.S. must stop 'bullying', suppressing China's development, foreign minister says."](#) *Reuters*, December 23 [Paywall]

["Japan to hike annual defence budget by a quarter to buy Tomahawks and other weapons."](#) *Reuters*, December 23 [Paywall]

users, further concerning the Biden administration on TikTok's privacy.

- Chinese tech firm Tencent plans to join RISC-V International, the most prominent open-source processor architecture group, despite growing U.S. export curbs on semiconductors.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China to revamp chip strategy under US pressure, but US\\$143 billion support package is not on the cards."](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 30 [Paywall]

["Made-in-China labels become a problem for Meta's anti-China stance."](#) *The Washington Post*, December 31 [Paywall]

["TSMC reaffirms 'commitment to Taiwan' despite U.S. chip push."](#) *Nikkei Asia*, December 29

["Apple iPhone Output in China Begins to Catch Up Despite Covid-19 Issues."](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 29 [Paywall]

["Huawei Declares 'Business as Usual' After Weathering US Curbs."](#) *Bloomberg*, December 29 [Paywall]

["TikTok Security Dilemma Revives Push for U.S. Control."](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 26 [Paywall]

["TikTok admits using its app to spy on reporters in effort to track leaks."](#) *The Guardian*, December 23

["ByteDance Inquiry Finds Employees Obtained User Data of 2 Journalists."](#) *The New York Times*, December 22 [Paywall]

["Tencent joins open-source chip design community RISC-V as China seeks to mitigate impact from US sanctions."](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 22 [Paywall]

## Changes in Diplomatic Efforts and New Players in U.S.-China Relations



Chinese Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang addresses an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of former U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China, February 24, 2022. (Photo by Xinhua via Getty Images)

- The Chinese government has appointed Qin Gang, the current Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., as the new Chinese foreign minister, replacing previous foreign minister Wang Yi. New Foreign Minister Gang looks to, "make due efforts for the well-being of the two peoples and for world peace."
- Taiwan has extended mandatory military service for male citizens to a full year in response to increasing worries about a Chinese military threat in Taiwan.
- The former Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi signaled Chinese impartiality on the Russian-Ukrainian war and signaled that China is looking to deepen political ties with Russia.
- The former Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi looks to "recalibrate" the Chinese relationship with U.S. and European nations, looking to improve bilateral relations.
- Following the passage of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, which covered funding for the U.S. government in 2023, allowing up to US\$2 billion in loans to Taiwan, despite a previous effort towards grants to Taiwan in U.S. legislation.
- China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations called for the U.S. to lift sanctions on Iran and revive negotiations on the 2015 nuclear deal.

### Associated News Sources:

["New Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang vows to prioritise US ties, tweets praise for Americans,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, January 3 [Paywall]

["China names its envoy to US Qin Gang as new foreign minister,"](#) *Aljazeera*, December 30

["Taiwan to Extend Mandatory Military Service in Face of Chinese Pressure,"](#) *Wall Street Journal*, December 27 [Paywall]

["China's foreign minister signals deeper ties with Russia,"](#) *Associated Press*, December 25 [Paywall]

["China Aims to Rebuild US Ties in Diplomatic Push for](#)

## Economic Developments, Pushback on Labels, and Waning U.S.-China Trade



Hong Kong Cityscape and Skyline (Source: Getty Images/ Royalty Free)

- Analysts from Goldman Sachs have concluded that the rapid Chinese reopening will lead to short-term difficulties but will likely lead to improved economic growth in 2023.
- Concurrent with the U.S. effort to decouple global supply chains' dependence on Chinese manufacturing, China seeks to increase trade with its Asian neighbors. Southeast Asia's total trade with China has increased 71% since 2018.
- Amid rising Covid-19 cases in Shanghai, Tesla has suspended production at its Shanghai plant, heavily disrupting Tesla manufacturing.
- The World Trade Organization has ruled in favor of Hong Kong in a dispute regarding U.S. demands that goods manufactured in Hong Kong be labeled "Made in China."
- The Chinese Xinjiang region saw a 64% decrease in exports to the U.S. following strict U.S. import curbs that went into effect under the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act.
- The Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Algernon Yau, has condemned the U.S. rejection of the World Trade Organization's ruling that Hong Kong goods should not be labeled "Made in China."

### Associated News Sources:

["China reopening earlier than expected could hit supply chains in the short term, but boost growth in 2023,"](#) *CNBC*, December 29

["China Increases Trade in Asia as U.S. Pushes Toward Decoupling,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 28 [Paywall]

["Tesla suspends production at Shanghai plant,"](#) *Reuters*, December 24 [Paywall]

["WTO rules against US in Hong Kong labelling dispute,"](#) *Aljazeera*, December 22

["US-bound exports from China's Xinjiang drop 64 per cent, monthly trade data shows,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 21 [Paywall]



[2023." Bloomberg, December 25 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US bill authorizes arms loans, not grants," Taipei Times, December 22](#)  
["China calls on US to lift Iran sanctions to revive nuclear talks," South China Morning Post, December 20 \[Paywall\]](#)

## A Push for Transparency Amid Rising Social Tensions



Luggage, passport, air ticket and mask. (Source: Getty Images/ Royalty Free)

- The Biden administration will require all travelers from China, Hong Kong, and Macau to obtain negative Covid-19 results before entering the U.S. The requirement comes amid concern expressed by the Center for Disease Control over China's "lack of transparency" in Covid-19 reporting. The policy garnered a "muted" response from Chinese newspapers.
- The U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called upon the Chinese government to increase transparency around Covid-19 cases, following the Chinese National Health Commissions' decision to no longer publish daily Covid-19 infection reports.
- Worsening U.S.-Chinese relations stymied bilateral collaboration to combat the production of Chinese-sourced fentanyl. While U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns is looking to re-engage on fentanyl, a spokesman for China's embassy in Washington has claimed that the U.S. is responsible for the failure of collaboration.
- South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem concluded that the state's investment portfolio had no direct investments in China but has stakes in emerging market funds that invest in China. The investigation comes as the U.S. looks to decouple funds from the Chinese Communist Party.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China Responds to U.S. Covid Testing Rule With a Collective Shrug," The New York Times, December 29 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["U.S. to Require Negative Covid Tests for Travelers Coming From China," The New York Times, December 28 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China has stopped publishing daily COVID data amid](#)

["Hong Kong officials, exporters urge US to respect WTO ruling on not needing 'Made in China' label for city goods," South China Morning Post, December 21 \[Paywall\]](#)

## - In Other News -



The high-speed train passes through the urban center (Source: Getty Images/ Royalty Free)

["U.S. Champions of High-Speed Trains Find Adoring Fans—7,000 Miles Away," The Wall Street Journal, December 28 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China to import 45 foreign video games, grants multiple licenses to Tencent," CNBC, December 28](#)  
["Australia approves extradition request for former U.S. Marines pilot over China military training," Reuters, December 28 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["American Bargain Hunters Flock to a New Online Platform Forged in China," The Wall Street Journal, December 24 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Tesla sends Shanghai boss and aides to jumpstart U.S. output," Reuters, December 23 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Memphis Zoo pandas Ya Ya, Le Le to return to China" Associated Press, December 22](#)  
["BioNTech ships COVID shots to China for use by Germans," Reuters, December 22 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China Accused of Fresh Territorial Grab in South China Sea," Bloomberg, December 20 \[Paywall\]](#)

[reports of a huge spike in cases,” NPR News, December 25](#)  
[“US urges China to be transparent about growing Covid outbreak,” Financial Times, December 23 \[Paywall\]](#)  
[“Sour U.S.-China Relations Feed the Fentanyl Crisis,” The Wall Street Journal, December 22 \[Paywall\]](#)  
[“Gov. Noem: Investment review finds limited funds in China,” Associated Press, December 21](#)

## What Are We Reading?

- *Foreign Affairs*: [“The Taiwan Long Game”](#) by Jude Blanchette and Ryan Hass (January, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Why China’s Economy Faces a Perilous Road to Recovery”](#) by Keith Bradsher (January 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“China’s covid explosion shows why we need a genomic early warning radar”](#) by the Washington Post Editorial Board (December 31, 2022) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Kevin McCarthy visit? How Beijing can nip the next Taiwan Strait crisis in the bud”](#) by Zhihua Zheng (December 29, 2022) [Paywall]
- *DW News*: [“China and the US: On collision course for war over Taiwan”](#) by Richard Walker (December 29, 2022)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“5 Ways the U.S.-China Cold War Will Be Different From the Last One”](#) by Jo Inge Bekkevold (December 29, 2022)
- Center for Disease Control: [“CDC Announces Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement from Air Passengers Entering the United States from the People’s Republic of China”](#) (December 28, 2022)
- *The Atlantic*: [“Just How Badly Does Apple Need China?”](#) by Chris Miller (December 28, 2022)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“How to steer the US and China away from conflict? Asean showed us”](#) by Richard Heydarian (December 28, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Apple’s Best Bet Against China Might Be India”](#) by Megha Mandavia (December 27, 2022) [Paywall]
- *Politico*: [“Why the U.S. isn’t ready for a fight in the Indo-Pacific”](#) by Phelim Kine and Lara Seligman (December 27, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Beijing Makes a List and Checks It Twice”](#) by Miles Yu (December 27, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Diplomat*: [“Countering China in Africa by Reaffirming US Tech Leadership”](#) by Sam Howell (December 27, 2022)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China business cooperation is prevailing, despite tensions elsewhere”](#) by Brian P. Klein (December 26, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The National Interest*: [“How China Sees the World”](#) by Qin Gang (December 26, 2022)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Amid tensions, let’s not drift towards sending our young to war”](#) by Terry Hewton and Hira Khalid (December 25, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“We must prepare for the impacts from the coming China coronavirus wave”](#) by Jonathan D. Dinman and Tarini Basireddy (December 23, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The Atlantic*: [“Breaking China’s Hold”](#) by Dan Blumenthal and Derek Scissors (December 23, 2022) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“What to Expect From China in 2023”](#) by Ravi Agrawal (December 22, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“China’s Future Isn’t What It Used to Be”](#) by Paul Krugman (December 22, 2022) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“America should be wary of singling out TikTok”](#) by Gillian Tett (December 22, 2022) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“China’s Richest Shoppers Hold the Key to Luxury’s Future”](#) by Andrea Felsted (December 21, 2022) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Quiet quitting China will start with the Chinese”](#) by Yawen Chen (December 21, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“How TikTok Became a Diplomatic Crisis”](#) by Alex. W. Palmer (December 20, 2022) [Paywall]
- *The National Interest*: [“Could the U.S. Gain Superiority in the Skies Over Taiwan?”](#) by Kris Osborn (August 6, 2022)

## What's Happening Around Town?

### - Past Events -

- [What to Expect From China in 2023](#)  
December 15 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [After the 20th CCP National Congress & U.S. Elections: Whither China?](#)  
December 14 hosted by China Research Center
- [The Outlook for Strategic Competition in the Semiconductor Industry](#)  
December 12 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Strategic Dossier Launch: China's Belt and Road Initiative](#)  
December 8 by The International Institute for Strategic Studies

### - Upcoming Events -

- [The Future of U.S. & China: Moving Towards the Edge](#)  
January 12 hosted by Asia Society
- [Opportunities for Enhanced Near-term U.S.-China Climate Action: Decarbonizing the Buildings Sector](#)  
January 16 hosted by University of California Berkeley
- [Report Launch—The First Battle of the Next War: Wargaming a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan](#)  
January 9 hosted by Center for Strategic And International Studies
- [The future of the US-China competition for human capital](#)  
January 10 hosted by Brookings

## What ICAS Is Up To

### ---ICAS Commentary---

#### **Closing the Climate Financing Gap: New Proposals and Emerging Risks**

*By Amanda Jin  
December 28, 2022*

As an increasing number of [research projects and reports](#) are underlining the need to contain global warming within 1.5 degree Celsius, it is ever more important for the international community to increase their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Thankfully, global leaders decided to [reaffirm their commitments](#) to the 1.5 degree goal at the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP27), held from November 6-18, 2022. Furthermore, major powers such as the [European Union](#), the [United States](#) and [China](#)—as well as multilateral organizations such as [G20](#), [ASEAN](#), [the Alliance of Small Island States](#), [African Union](#) and [the Vulnerable 20](#)—have all announced additional pledges, proposals and/or action plans to address climate change. As the international community turns to market mechanism ideas to address climate change, these proposals can lead to unintended and counterproductive impacts despite their potential. Accordingly, global leaders and stakeholders should carefully evaluate and implement new initiatives to ensure effectiveness and avoid emerging risks.

The recent global uptick in climate commitments belies a potentially expanding gap in climate-related investment and financing. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an annual average investment of [around US\\$2.4 trillion](#) is needed in the energy sector alone to reach the 1.5 degree goal. In contrast, many developing countries have not recovered economically to their pre-pandemic level, and low-income countries are now [cutting public investment](#) critical for long-term sustainable development. As the impacts of climate change intensify, the amount of funding needed for [climate adaptation](#) will also drastically increase. Despite promising developments such as the new [climate reparation fund](#) and a number of [North-South cooperation initiatives](#), it is unclear whether vulnerable communities and countries will have sufficient resources to respond to climate change impacts and risks.

[Link to Full Post](#)

### ---ICAS In the News---

On **Friday, December 30, 2022**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** was [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* about Taiwan's latest arms sale to the U.S..

- "This deal is exactly where the Americans want the Taiwanese to go,"
- "Don't go for big-ticket items like helicopters which are going to hunt submarines. Go for items which are cost-efficient, which have asymmetric capabilities, typically mobile."
- "It's not just about extending conscription, but she also made the point that these guys are not raking leaves and picking up tires and those sorts of things. They are going to be trained in these assets."



On **Tuesday, December 27, 2022**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** [discussed](#) China's foreign policy developments and priorities in 2023 on CGTN's World Insight with Tian Wei.

- "My view is that 2023 will usher in a far more constructive phase in U.S.-China relations, at least at the executive branch between the two countries."
- "Coming to the top level and implementation that is fundamentally an issue at the U.S. end, that's not an issue at the Chinese end, what is decided to be implemented and the willingness to move forward on that front is not a question for the Chinese."
- "Unlike in the Trump administration, in the Biden administration there is a consolidated core on its choices on China and therefore if from the top level leadership if they decide to go one way or another the rest of the bureaucracy will more or less follow."
- "I don't have much doubt that China wants to go forward aggressively with economic growth, and economic growth providing a catalyst for economic reform."
- "If we can have that round of reform and opening up where China is not just a great trading partner but is also a great trade and investment partner, (...) if China can adhere to these agreements and if these agreements can rectify, I think we are looking at a new age of peace and stability in Asia."

On **Saturday, December 25, 2022**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** was [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* about China's strategic relationship with Russia.

- "It is standing exactly where it stood before the invasion, which is that it wishes to enjoy a deep, comprehensive and multifaceted strategic relationship with Moscow, but that the pause button on the relationship must be pressed as long as the hot phase of the Russia-Ukraine war is under way,"
- "That finger on the pause button will be lifted in time."





# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

January 18, 2023

#### What's Going On? ↓

##### U.S. Renewed Focus on the Pacific Raises Tensions



Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin found the recent Biden-Kishida summit not to promote regional peace and stability but rather “full of groundless smears against China.”
- On January 12, a new U.S. carrier strike group began operating in the South China Sea, marking another substantial increase in U.S. presence in the South China Sea.
- The U.S. and Japanese governments convened new initiatives in their strategic cooperation: the U.S. will now protect Japanese satellites, equip Tokyo with long-range missiles, and upgrade U.S. marine forces in the country.
- Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri* said the U.S. wants to place Marine units throughout the Okinawa islands as early as 2026 as a strategic counter to China's influence in the region.
- The U.S. House of Representatives set up a new committee to study ways the U.S. can counter China economically and strategically, with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy calling China “the greatest geopolitical threat of our lifetime.”
- U.S. Department of Defense officials have insisted on the importance of building U.S. interlinked warfare systems to counter Chinese Multi-Domain Precision Warfare systems.

##### China's Reopening Brings Global Opportunities



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese vice-premier Liu He shake hands as they meet in Zurich, Switzerland on January 18, 2023.  
(Source: Sebastien Bozon/Getty Images)

- U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will meet Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He for the first time in person in Zurich, Switzerland this week to strengthen macroeconomic and financial policy coordination.
- American containerized imports from China have been eclipsed by the rest of Asia, indicating continuous decoupling and diversification to avoid supply-chain bottlenecks during the post-pandemic era.
- China's economic growth fell to its second-lowest level in four decades last year under “zero-COVID” controls and a real estate slump, though Goldman Sachs economist Andrew Tilton said the country's reopening should lead to bursting economic growth in 2023.
- From January 14-17, the second round of talks for the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade was held in Taiwan, furthering discussion on issues like trade “facilitation,” anti-corruption, small and medium-sized enterprises, and regulatory practices. The talks also hope to help ensure “early-harvest deals” on various traded goods.
- On January 10, Chinese Tesla owners protested at a delivery center in Shanghai after similar protests were held in cities including Henan, Wuxi, and Hangzhou over



- The U.S. has reduced its number of naval transits through the Taiwan Strait during 2022 to the lowest level in four years, despite an increase in Chinese military pressures on the island.
- Despite the decrease in naval transits, the U.S. navy sent a warship through the Taiwan Strait on January 5, striking anger in Chinese military officials as well as the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China's concerns deepen as US and Japan hail 'stronger than ever alliance'," South China Morning Post, January 14 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US carrier strike group begins operating in South China Sea as tensions with China simmer," CNN, January 13](#)  
["U.S., Japan Expand Security Cooperation With New Steps to Counter China," The Wall Street Journal, January 11 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["U.S. wants to deploy missile-armed Marines along Japan's Okinawa islands -Yomiuri," Reuters, January 10 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["GOP House's China Panel to Study 'Greatest Geopolitical Threat'," Bloomberg, January 10 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US military urged to act faster on interlinked warfare system as China catches up," South China Morning Post, January 9 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Cuts Taiwan Transits Even as China Steps Up Military Pressure," Bloomberg, January 6 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["U.S. warship sails through sensitive Taiwan Strait; China angered," Reuters, January 5 \[Paywall\]](#)

- Tesla's previous price cuts that they have missed.
- On January 10, Morgan Stanley raised its prediction on China in its economic growth to 5.7%, stock market by 16%, and yuan target to 6.65 to the dollar, as the country rescinded two years of tight COVID-19 controls.
- Public relations specialists from a multinational firm reported a trend of Chinese companies localizing image and operations to restore competitiveness in the U.S. as they try to cope with recent U.S. security policies.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China's Vice-Premier Liu to meet US Treasury Secretary Yellen this week," South China Morning Post, January 17 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US importers shipping more to America's east coast ports than west coast amid global supply chain shifts," South China Morning Post, January 17 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China's Economic Growth Falls to 3%, Gradually Reviving," Associated Press, January 17](#)  
["US, Taiwan 'exchange views' during 'satisfactory' talks toward landmark trade deal," South China Morning Post, January 17 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Protesting Tesla China buyers vow more pressure over price cuts they missed," Reuters, January 10 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Morgan Stanley bumps up China growth, stocks and yuan forecasts," Reuters, January 10 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Global Chinese firms try 'decoupling' from China as US business climate turns hostile," South China Morning Post, January 5 \[Paywall\]](#)

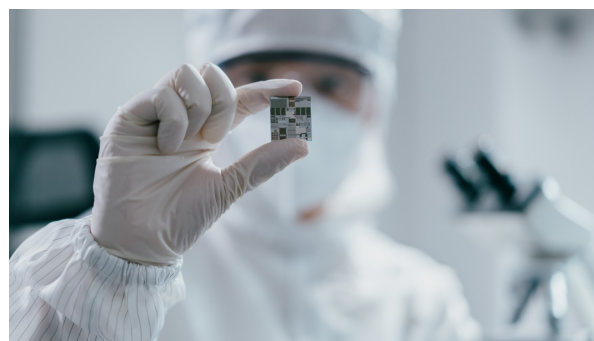
## 'Wolf-Warrior' Policies Reduced, New Diplomatic Efforts Put in Play



U.S. President Joe Biden greets Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio as he arrives at the White House on January 13, 2023.  
 (Source: Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images)

- The U.S. Department of Defense continues to face difficulties in resuming military-to-military talks with China, with the Chinese government turning down U.S. offers to hold military de-escalation talks despite recent coolings in diplomatic meetings, underscoring the long-term tensions between the two countries' militaries.

## Guardrails and Views Affecting Global Technology Companies



A female engineer inspects a wafer chip in a laboratory in China.  
 (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- Nikkei Asia released a study showing that China is now the champion in artificial intelligence research, finding that China has far surpassed the U.S. in both quantity and quality.
- In the midst of building two new factories in Vietnam, an investment totalling up to US\$400 million, Chinese firm

- Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet with Foreign Minister Qin Gang February 5-6 to discuss varying bilateral pressure points, such as Taiwan, trade policy, and Beijing's human rights record.
- On January 13, U.S. President Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio vowed to increase cooperation to build up the Japanese military in-efforts to counterbalance China during a visit by Kishida to the White House.
- China looks to nominate Xie Feng, current vice foreign minister, as the new Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. in a move that some regard as a decrease in "Wolf Warrior" diplomatic tactics.
- Chinese chief climate negotiator Xie Zhenghua virtually met with U.S. counterpart John Kerry looking to jointly address challenges of Climate Challenges.
- In a statement, the newly appointed Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Africa cannot be an arena for international competition.
- Ex-foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian was reassigned as the deputy head of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, another move in Chinese reversals of "Wolf Warrior" diplomacy strategies.
- The Biden administration plans to reopen the U.S. Embassy in the Solomon Islands to counteract a growing Chinese influence in the Pacific.

*Associated News Sources:*

["US-China Defense Talks Stalled Two Months After Biden-Xi Meeting," Bloomberg, January 17 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Blinken to test limits of China's diplomatic engagement on Feb. 5-6 Beijing trip," Politico, January 16 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Biden and Kishida Vow to Bolster U.S.-Japan Alliance as China's Power Grows," The New York Times, January 13 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China Likely to Name U.S. Specialist as Next Ambassador to Washington," The Wall Street Journal, January 11 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China's climate envoy Xie meets with U.S. counterpart Kerry," Reuters, January 12 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Africa should not be arena for international competition, says Chinese foreign minister," Reuters, January 11 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Zhao Lijian: China reassigns combative 'Wolf Warrior' diplomat," BBC News, January 10](#)  
["China Snubs US Military Outreach Ahead of Expected Blinken Visit," Voice of America, January 9](#)  
["US moves to reopen Solomon Islands embassy to counter China," Associated Press, January 4](#)

and Apple supplier BOE is reportedly looking to help Apple reduce its reliance on Samsung screens as early as 2024.

- Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings will begin to focus on a new short video platform embedded in the WeChat app looking to compete with rival platforms, such as ByteDance.
- More mainland Chinese manufacturing firms are anticipated to take away Taiwanese firms such as Foxconn and Pegatron.
- U.S. Senators speaking at a Consumer Electronic Show event made statements that technological competition between the U.S. and China is "all about national security" while calling for more investments in emerging industries.
- U.S. computer giant Dell Technologies has made plans to replace all Chinese-made microchips by 2024, citing dramatic increases in tensions between the U.S. and China.
- New U.S. 'guardrails' focused on self-reliance within the chip manufacturing sector has begun to be felt by U.S. allies such as South Korea and Taiwan.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China trounces U.S. in AI research output and quality," Nikkei Asia, January 16](#)  
["Apple supplier BOE plans new factories in Vietnam," Reuters, January 10 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Tencent ramps up bet on short video platform in ByteDance challenge," Nikkei Asia, January 10](#)  
["More mainland Chinese firms will take away market share from Taiwan iPhone suppliers: Investment firm," CNBC, January 8](#)  
["U.S. lawmakers outline next frontiers of China tech competition," Nikkei Asia, January 7](#)  
["Chinese firm BOE poised to help Apple reduce its reliance on rival Samsung's screens, starting with next iPhone," South China Morning Post, January 6 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US computer giant Dell to replace all China-made chips in its products by 2024 amid tensions between Beijing and Washington," South China Morning Post, January 5 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US waged war on China's chips; S Korea, Taiwan felt the fallout," Al Jazeera, January 5](#)

## Chinese International Travel Resumes Amid Curbs and Controversies



Crowd of people waiting for check-in at an airport in China.  
(Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- Avolon, the world's second largest jet lessor, has claimed that global air travel will bounce back to pre-pandemic levels by mid-2023, following the Chinese reopening to international travel.
- The Chinese air travel regulator is to allow airlines to fly more routes between the U.S. and China following the lifting of travel restrictions.
- Chinese embassies in South Korea and Japan have stopped issuing new visas to enter China, in retaliation for COVID-19 measures the countries have placed on Chinese travelers.
- New Chinese travel restrictions from the Biden administration on Chinese travelers have caused Asian American advocates to urge caution to travelers over heightened anti-Asian violence.
- The swift abandonment of Chinese COVID-19 restrictions on travel has been met with mixed reactions in the U.S. and China, with many travelers rethinking itineraries based on increases in global COVID-19 cases.

### Associated News Sources:

- ["Global air travel forecast to bounce back by mid-2023 as China reopens,"](#) *Financial Times*, January 16 [Paywall]
- ["China preparing to expand airline service to United States,"](#) *Associated Press*, January 11
- ["China halts visas for Japan, South Korea in COVID-19 spat,"](#) *Associated Press*, January 10
- ["With new China travel restriction in place, Asian Americans urge nuanced caution,"](#) *NBC News*, January 9
- ["As China Lifts Pandemic Border Controls, Mixed Feelings,"](#) *The New York Times*, January 9 [Paywall]

## - In Other News -



A pharmacist organizing a medicine drawer.  
(Source: Getty Images/Royalty Free)

- ["U.S. Asks to Drop Case Accusing N.Y.P.D. Officer of Spying for China,"](#) *The New York Times*, January 16 [Paywall]
- ["Asian American Democrats jostle for top slot on new GOP China committee,"](#) *NBC News*, January 12
- ["Space Launches Should Withstand Chinese Challenge, Pentagon Mandate Says,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, January 10 [Paywall]
- ["Former US fighter pilot arrested in Australia over China training allegations 'singled out,' lawyer says,"](#) *CNN*, January 10
- ["Chinese Rocket Launch Boosts Startup's Bid to Be Nation's SpaceX,"](#) *Bloomberg*, January 10 [Paywall]
- ["Pfizer says locally produced Covid pills may be available in China within the next few months,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, January 10 [Paywall]
- ["Pfizer's Paxlovid not included in China's national insurance,"](#) *Associated Press*, January 9
- ["China in talks with Pfizer for generic COVID drug,"](#) *Reuters*, January 6 [Paywall]



## What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Foreign Affairs*: [“America Should Once Again Become a Manufacturing Superpower”](#) by Ro Khanna (January/February 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“China Is Shrinking But It’s Still Too Big to Fail”](#) by Rosalind Mathieson (January 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- *BBC News*: [“Industrial espionage: How China sneaks out America’s technology secrets”](#) by Nicholas Yong (January 16, 2023)
- *Responsible Statecraft*: [“US snub of Chinese envoy could boomerang now that he’s a big wheel — or not”](#) by Jake Werner (January 16, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: [“The world needs China to come clean about its covid deaths”](#) by Editorial Board (January 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Asia Times*: [“Untimely death for US-China climate cooperation”](#) by Yuhang Zhang (January 16, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: [“China’s bid to leave covid behind could determine global economy’s fate”](#) by David J. Lynch (January 15, 2023) [Paywall]
- *National Review*: [“U.S. Victory in a Conflict with China over Taiwan Is No Sure Thing”](#) by Seth Cropsey (January 15, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“Lunar relations: The U.S., China and a new brand of space race”](#) by Christian Davenport (January 14, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Decoupling Wastes U.S. Leverage on China”](#) by Paul Scharre (January 13, 2023) [Paywall]
- *BBC News*: [“US-China chip war: America is winning”](#) by Suranjana Tewari (January 13, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“China’s next ambassador to the US will confront a new set of challenges”](#) by Mark Magnier and Shi Jiangtao (January 12, 2023) [Paywall]
- *NPR News*: [“A ‘wolf warrior’ is sidelined, as China softens its approach on the world stage”](#) by John Ruwitch (January 12, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“As reopening China chases foreign capital, this may be the year of the yuan”](#) by Neal Kimberley (January 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Pacific Forum*: [“The 118th Congress and China policy—Continuity over change in defending America”](#) by Robert Sutter (January 10, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US fusion breakthrough reinforces the case against live nuclear tests, and India should take note”](#) by Riaz Khokhar (January 10, 2023) [Paywall]
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: [“How China Became an Innovation Powerhouse”](#) by Matt Sheehan (January 10, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“5 reasons China’s reopening is good news for the global economy”](#) by Wang Huiyao (January 10, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“China’s reopening isn’t a one-way bullish street for crude”](#) by Clyde Russell (January 10, 2023) [Paywall]
- Brookings: [“Can democracies cooperate with China on AI research?”](#) by Cameron F. Kerry, Joshua P. Meltzer, and Matt Sheehan (January 9, 2023)
- Middle East Institute: [“China and the United States in the Middle East: Policy Continuity Amid Changing Competition”](#) by Adrea Ghiselli (January 9, 2023)
- *Bloomberg*: [“China Finds a Place in the US ‘Battery Belt’”](#) by Anjani Trivedi (January 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“US ‘Guardrails’ With China Are Shaky at Best”](#) by Hal Brands (January 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Taiwan proves to be unwelcoming for many Hong Kong activists”](#) by Alex Lo (January 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Japan Times*: [“No improvement in sight: China-U.S. rivalry to further intensify in 2023”](#) by Gabriel Dominguez (January 6, 2023)
- *The China Project*: [“Is the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act working?”](#) by Ruth Ingram (January 6, 2023)
- *The Economist*: [“How China’s reopening will disrupt the world economy”](#) by *The Economist* Leaders (January 6, 2023) [Paywall]

- *The Hill*: [“With China, America faces a preparedness crisis”](#) by Aaron Friedberg and Micheal Wessel (January 6, 2023)
- *Nikkei Asia*: [“China adopts mild tone to smooth way for Xi visit to U.S.”](#) by Ken Moriyasu (January 6, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: [“Biden needs allies to keep China and Russia in check. Here’s how to do it.”](#) by Sebastian Mallaby (January 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“America’s Covid Test Requirement for Chinese Travelers Is a Farce”](#) by Frankie Huang (January 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“The Consequences of the US-China Blame Game Have Arrived”](#) by Stephanie Flanders and Michael Sasso (January 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“War over Taiwan could be inevitable as US, China and Taipei boost military spending”](#) by Xu Xiaobing (January 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“Qin Gang: The planet’s future depends on a stable China-U.S. relationship”](#) by Qin Gang, (January 4, 2023) [Paywall]

## What’s Happening Around Town? ↓

### - Past Events -

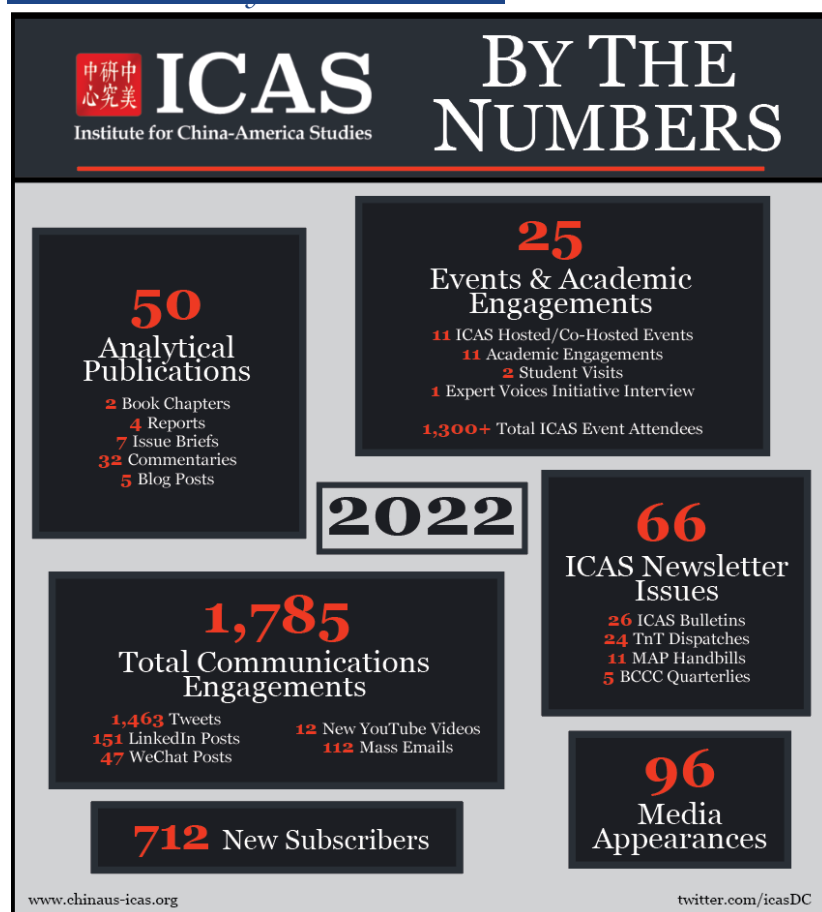
- [A roadmap for US-China relations in 2023](#)  
January 4 hosted by Brookings
- [Indo-Pacific Forecast 2023](#)  
January 12 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [The US-Japan Alliance and Taiwan](#)  
January 17 hosted by East-West Center

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Foreign Leaders Analysis: A Profile of Xi Jinping](#)  
January 18 hosted by The World Institute of Politics
- [ChinaPower Debate on US-China Economic Cooperation](#)  
January 24 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Book Event - Overreach: How China Derailed its Peaceful Rise](#)  
January 30 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [China Insight Series: How Chinese Companies are Reinventing Management Control \(Virtual\)](#)  
March 21 hosted by Northwestern University

## What ICAS Is Up To

### ---ICAS 2022 By the Numbers---



### ---Happy Lunar New Year!---



As the world celebrates Lunar New Year in 2023, the Team at ICAS would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for all the support we received in 2022, celebrate a productive year, and spread hope for an engaging and enlightening 2023!

### ---Note from the Editor---

To our readers,

At the turn of 2023, the ICAS Team decided to upgrade our website server to provide better, faster, and more reliable website service to our audience around the world! To fulfill this website upgrade, various technical adjustments were required—both expected and unexpected—which ultimately resulted in our website becoming inaccessible for several days. We apologize for any inconvenience that this outage may have caused or may be causing and are actively working with our provider who has assured us that they will resolve the issue as soon as possible.

We appreciate your continued patience and support with not only this issue but with all of our projects and programs. The ICAS Team could not do what we do without your support and are excited for our improved website performance that will help us better 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.

Kind regards,  
The ICAS Team

---ICAS In the News---



On Friday, January 6, 2022, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by CGTN America's *China 24* program to discuss China's diplomatic goals in 2023.

- "China has lost some time in its diplomacy because of COVID and the inability to have face-to-face contact. I think China's diplomatic goal is to renew those contacts at the leadership level, face-to-face, and get arrangements and agreements and take diplomacy forward and be very proactive in this regard."
- "China wants to deepen its economic engagement in the area, not just in trade, but also deepen it by way of infrastructure, connectivity, and investment to make it reciprocally beneficial for both parties. In the immediate term of cost, central Asia has a lot of gas, after the on-going Russia-Ukraine conflict it has really sent energy markets in all directions. We've had so much energy pressure. We have also had this climate change issue and natural gas is probably the least among the evils in-terms of hydrocarbon resources so there is a play for natural gas."

On Monday, January 2, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [appeared](#) on CGTN America's *The Heat* to discuss President Xi's 2023 New Year address to the Chinese people.

- "I'm actually an optimist in 2023 with regard to the U.S.-China relationship, I think that the meeting in Bali was very useful between President Xi and President Biden. I would say in the first two years of the Biden presidency that yes, U.S.-China relations were nowhere close to where the Chinese hoped it would return to in-terms of normality, but I would say there was a steady progression. There were two steps forward one step back at some points of time, where-in they were trying to sort some of the issues out. There was progress, incremental progress made, but there were also a lot of other pressures coming on including Speaker Pelosi's trip."
- "I thought that the meeting in Bali went off very well, I think it creates a window of opportunity in 2023. I think both sides are ready to seize that opportunity. I don't want to exaggerate what will come out of that, or what will happen in 2023 in-terms of the U.S.-China relations going into the presidential election in 2024."





# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

February 1, 2023

#### What's Going On?

##### Exchanging Accusations and Laying New 'Red-Lines'



Entrance of Camp Blaz, the new Marine Corps base on the U.S. island territory of Guam, a day ahead of its opening. (Source: Kyodo News/Getty Images)

- After the Biden administration confronted China's government on allowing companies to provide assistance for Russia's war in Ukraine, the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned this accusation as "paranoia and pointing fingers at China."
- The United States Marine Corps has opened a new base on the American Pacific Island of Guam in a move regarded as continuing the Pentagon's trend of redirecting its forces to counter China.
- U.S. Consul General Gregory May said Beijing's interpretation of the Hong Kong national security law undermines Hong Kong's independent judiciary, adding that any risks faced in mainland China should be expected to follow businesses to Hong Kong.
- The U.S. had a nearly 50% increase in arms transfers to allies and partners, according to the Pentagon; an increase that aligns timewise with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the rising influence of China in the Pacific.
- The U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China spoke to the deputy director of China's Office for International Military Cooperation, drawing so-called 'red-lines' regarding the Ukraine War, ahead of Secretary of State Blinken's visit to China.

##### Separations and Distinctions Expand in Technological Fields



This illustration photo shows Sony mirrorless cameras in Tokyo on January 31, 2023. (Source: PHILIP FONG/AFP/Getty Images)

- The European Union has joined the U.S. in a "full" commitment to choking China's semiconductor industry, a senior European Union trade official stated.
- TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew will testify before the U.S. House on March 23 about TikTok's security measures and alleged ties to China and ByteDance.
- Sony Group has transferred the production of western-sold cameras from China to Thailand as part of a continual effort towards western decoupling from Chinese production.
- U.S. chipmaker and equipment specialist Lam Research Corp. reported shrinking quarterly revenue from the Chinese mainland markets, citing declining demand and U.S. controls on the exports to China.
- The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a non-partisan Washington think tank, has found that China surpassed the U.S. in innovation. As the foundation's president explained, "China is evolving from an imitator to an innovator."
- The Netherlands and Japan have agreed to a deal with the U.S. further restricting Chinese access to materials and information on advanced computer chip manufacturing.



*Associated News Sources:*

["China Dismisses US Claims of Support for Russia as 'Paranoia'," Bloomberg, January 30 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Marines officially opens first new base in 70 years on island of Guam," CNN, January 27](#)  
["China accuses US consul of 'maliciously abusing Hong Kong's national security law' with comments on lawyer ruling," South China Morning Post, January 26 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Russia's war in Ukraine and growing concern over China help boost US arms transfers," South China Morning Post, January 26 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Confronts China Over Companies' Ties to Russia War Effort," Bloomberg, January 23 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Warns China of Red Line in Ukraine War Ahead of Blinken Visit," Voice of America, January 19](#)

*Associated News Sources:*

["Dutch, Japanese join US limits on chip tech to China," Associated Press, January 30](#)  
["TikTok CEO to testify before House panel about app's security and ties to China," CNBC, January 30](#)  
["Sony separates production of cameras for China and non-China markets," Nikkei Asia, January 29](#)  
["EU to stand with US in 'depriving China of the most advanced chips', trade official says," South China Morning Post, January 28 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China Weighs on U.S. Chipmaking Gear Specialist Lam Research," Caixin Global, January 27 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China surpassing US in key innovation metric and evolving from 'imitator', Washington report says," South China Morning Post, January 24 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Poised for Dutch, Japanese Help on China Chip Crackdown," Bloomberg, January 19 \[Paywall\]](#)

## Continued Warnings Over Potential Conflicts About Taiwan



House GOP leaders held a news conference to discuss Speaker of the House Pelosi's announcement of a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. (Source: Alex Wong/Getty Images)

- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning urged the U.S. to abide by the 'One-China' principle ahead of the U.S. Department of Defense confirmed rumors of a possible trip to Taiwan by the new Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.
- Four-star general Mike Minihan warned in a letter to U.S. military leadership that the U.S. and China "will fight in 2025" over a possible conflict surrounding Taiwan. The letter was not endorsed by the Department of Defense who called it "not representative of the department's view on China."
- The chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, Micheal McCaul, has joined many high-profile U.S. officials suggesting the high probability of a war with China before 2025.
- The former commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is planning to visit Taiwan in February, after previously depicting a "2027 timeline" for a crisis in the Taiwan Strait. The commander will be joining a list of high-profile U.S. political officials who look to visit

## Diplomatic Hopes for Improvement Skewed by Detentions and Tensions



Pills representing the dangers of drug interaction and self-medication. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- A Chinese engineer named Ji Chaoqun, was imprisoned for eight years for alleged spying in the U.S. that was linked to broader Chinese efforts to steal aviation trade secrets, as announced by the U.S. Justice Department.
- U.S. President Biden has extended a program that allows for Hong Kong citizens to remain within the U.S., citing the erosion of human rights and freedoms for Hong Kong residents.
- The director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Dr. Rahul Gupta, is increasing pressure on Beijing to crack down on raw materials used to create fentanyl while highlighting the potential for the drug crisis to spread to Europe and Asia.
- U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met with Chinese Vice Minister Liu He, briefly lowering bilateral tensions and signaling new efforts to manage differences.
- Families of Americans who the U.S. government deem wrongfully held in China, publicly urged U.S. Secretary of State Blinken to push for their release ahead of his trip to Beijing in February.

Taiwan amid rising tensions.

- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned China against changing the status quo on Taiwan, claiming that China "was no longer comfortable" suggesting a challenge to previous norms in bilateral relations.
- In his new year address, Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a veiled warning towards the U.S., stressing Chinese efforts to combat separatism and U.S. interference in Taiwan.

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["China Urges Kevin McCarthy Not to Repeat Pelosi Visit to Taiwan," Bloomberg, January 30 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. four-star general warns of war with China by 2025," The Japan Times, January 29 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["'Very high' odds of war with China. US Republican warns," Al Jazeera, January 29](#)
- ["Ex-U.S. admiral who warned of 2027 crisis to visit Taiwan next week," Nikkei Asia, January 26](#)
- ["Pentagon planning for Taiwan visit by US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, report says," South China Morning Post, January 24 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. Secretary of State Blinken cautions China against changing status quo on Taiwan," The Hindu, January 21](#)
- ["China Issues Veiled Warning to US Over Taiwan," Voice of America, January 20](#)

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["Ji Chaoqun: Chinese engineer jailed for eight years for spying in US," BBC News, January 26](#)
- ["Joe Biden to allow Hong Kong citizens facing Chinese repression to remain in US," Financial Times, January 26 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["US warns overdose crisis will spread overseas without action from China," Financial Times, January 22 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["US, Chinese officials discuss climate, economy, relationship," Associated Press, January 18](#)
- ["Say their names' - Families urge Blinken to use China trip to free U.S. detainees," Reuters, January 18 \[Paywall\]](#)

## The Intersection of Diplomacy and Economic Growth



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen receives an award diploma from Goree's mayor Augustin Senghor during a visit on Goree Island. (Source: SEYLOU/AFP/Getty Images)

- Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson argued that decoupling with Chinese production has put U.S. businesses at a strong disadvantage, emphasizing that the Biden Administration should pursue "self-interested coordination."
- U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva visited Zambia to urge creditors to restructure the country's debt, with over a third of its \$17 billion debt held by Chinese creditors.
- In a meeting with Secretary Janet Yellen and Vice

## - In Other News -



Group Of Cameras At An Outdoor Press Conference. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- ["China's Top Nuclear-Weapons Lab Used American Computer Chips Decades After Ban," The Wall Street Journal, January 29, 2023 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Britain calls for AUKUS expansion," SkyNews, January 28](#)
- ["China's Displeasure With a Bookseller Follows Him to Florida," The Wall Street Journal, January 28 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Lawmakers Seek Scrutiny of Farmland Purchases by Chinese, Other Foreign Buyers," The Wall Street Journal, January 25 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Chinese tech workers on visas in the US struggle under massive lay-offs in Silicon Valley," South China Morning Post, January 23 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. Weapons Industry Unprepared for a China Conflict,"](#)

Premier Liu He, U.S. and Chinese economic officials discussed technology policies towards China.  
- China's Vice-Premier Liu He declared China's return to the global economy in his address to the World Economic Forum's annual meeting with a clear emphasis on "strengthening international cooperation" and "maintaining world peace."

*Associated News Sources:*

["US efforts to decouple from China are hurting American businesses, warns ex-Treasury chief Henry Paulson,"](#)

*South China Morning Post*, January 31 [Paywall]

["Yellen Calls on China to Allow Headway in Zambian Debt Talks,"](#) *Bloomberg*, January 23 [Paywall]

["Treasury Secretary Yellen and China's Liu He talk U.S. tech policy at their first in-person meeting,"](#) *CNBC News*, January 18

["Davos 2023: China reopens its doors with investment pitch to global elite,"](#) *Reuters*, January 17 [Paywall]

[Report Says,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, January 23 [Paywall]  
["China accuses 'some Western media' of COVID-19 coverage bias,"](#) *Associated Press*, January 19  
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## What Are We Reading?

- *The Washington Post*: ["Why is a U.S. general predicting war with China by 2025?"](#) by Christian Shepherd and Pei-Lin Wu (January 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *NPR News*: ["With COVID lockdowns lifted, China says it's back in business. But it's not so easy."](#) by Emily Feng (January 30, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: ["2023 looks increasingly important to fraught U.S.-China relations"](#) by Olivier Knox (January 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Telling the Truth About Possible War Over Taiwan"](#) by The Editorial Board (January 29, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: ["Uncharted Waters"](#) by Yun Sun (January 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Forbes*: ["In A Win For Business, America And China Are Recoupling"](#) by Vasuki Shastry (January 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: ["America's China Policy Is Not Working"](#) by Henry M. Paulson, Jr. (January 26, 2023) [Paywall]
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- *The Hill*: ["To defeat China, America needs an industrial policy"](#) by Ralph Gomory (January 26, 2023) [Paywall]
- *East Asia Forum*: ["US-China relations have become a disaster in the making"](#) by Jia Qingguo (January 26, 2023)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Why NASA and China Don't Collaborate in Space"](#) (January 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: ["Mike Gallagher chairs a vital House committee. Its only focus: China."](#) by George F. Will (January 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: ["The US Hasn't Noticed That China-Made Cars Are Taking Over the World"](#) by Tom Hancock (January 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: ["In its rivalry with the US, China can leverage 3 advantages"](#) by Christopher Tang (January 24, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: ["Is Cold War Inevitable?"](#) by Micheal Hirsh (January 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Diplomat*: ["What the US Gets Wrong About Taiwan and Deterrence"](#) by Micheal D. Swaine (January 23, 2023) [Paywall]



- Time: [“Universities Are Banning TikTok on Their Campuses. Here’s Why”](#) by Mariah Espada (January 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- Bloomberg: [“Democracies Shouldn’t Gloat About China’s Stumbles”](#) by Pankaj Mishra (January 22, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wire China: [“Patriot Games”](#) by Katrina Northrop (January 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- Bloomberg: [“US Could Defend Taiwan From China — at Great Cost”](#) by Tobin Harshaw (January 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- The New York Times: [“One of the Most Influential Ambassadors in Washington Isn’t One”](#) by Micheal Crowley (January 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“Chinese ‘Revenge Spending’ Might Not Hit U.S. Levels”](#) by Nathaniel Taplin (January 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- Nikkei Asia: [“Are U.S. and China moving toward the edge? Experts discuss”](#) by Marrian Zhou (January 19, 2023)
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- Financial Times: [“US investors balance ‘Fomo’ and geopolitics in China”](#) by Jennifer Hughes (January 18, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for a New American Security: [“Decoupling Wastes U.S. Leverage on China”](#) by Paul Scharre (January 13, 2023)
- The Conversation: [“China now publishes more high-quality science than any other nation – should the US be worried?”](#) by Caroline Wagner (January 10, 2023)
- Brookings: [“A roadmap for US-China relations in 2023”](#) by Ryan Hass (January 4, 2023)

## What’s Happening Around Town? ↓

### - Past Events -

- [Book Event - Overreach: How China Derailed its Peaceful Rise](#)  
January 30 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Hearing on “China’s Military Diplomacy and Overseas Security Activities”](#)  
January 26 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [Western Business in China: Can We Sell Without Selling Out?](#)  
January 25 hosted by The Federalist Society
- [ChinaPower Debate on US-China Economic Cooperation](#)  
January 24 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

### - Upcoming Events -

- [“How Private Are Chinese Companies?”: A Big Data China Event](#)  
February 7 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Rethinking China’s rise, restraints, and resilience](#)  
February 8 hosted by Brookings
- [China Urbanizing: Book Talk and Panel Discussion](#)  
February 9 Hosted by the University of Pennsylvania
- [China Insight Series: How Chinese Companies are Reinventing Management Control](#)  
March 23 hosted by Northeastern Center for Emerging Markets

## What ICAS Is Up To

### ---ICAS 2022 Annual Report---

#### **The ICAS 2022 Annual Report has been Released!**

Each year, the Institute for China-America Studies produces an annual report highlighting the work of our scholars and the impact it has had on addressing the most critical challenges in U.S.-China relations. In addition to highlighting the accomplishments of our scholars, ICAS annual reports provide a comprehensive overview of our organizational growth and programmatic activities of the preceding year as well as pensive thoughts from the ICAS advisory board.

Currently in its eighth year of existence, ICAS has established itself as a fresh voice in the Washington, D.C. think tank community. In addition to publishing dozens of analyses and policy reports, in 2022 ICAS proudly launched its Blue Carbon and Climate Change (BCCC) Program that explores new policy pathways for sustainably developing the blue carbon economy and combating climate change.

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[Explore the ICAS Annual Report Archives](#)



### ---ICAS BCCC Program Announcement---



#### **ICAS Blue Carbon Climate Change Quarterly: 2022 Quarter 4 Chinese Version Release**

The Chinese-language version of the ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change (BCCC) Quarterly 2022 Q4 is out! 蓝碳与气候变化主题研究第四季度季刊中文精选版现已发布！

In an effort to share our research and news with an Asian audience on this essential, cooperative topic, the main points of this quarterly newsletter will be periodically translated into Chinese. 本季刊定期发布涉及蓝碳与气候变化主题的要点及内容的中文翻译，以帮助中文群体更好的了解这一重要议题的研究及发展动态。

This quarter's Theme of the Quarter was 'Global Uptick in Commitments to Climate' and the Blue Carbon Country Profile was on 'Australia'. 当季度蓝碳及气候变化关键词为“全球应对气候变化工作初见成效”，本季度的蓝碳国家专题介绍了澳大利亚的情况。

[About the ICAS BCCC Program](#)

[About the BCCC Quarterly](#)

[Explore the Full, English Version](#)

[Read the 2022 Q4 Chinese-Language Version](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Friday, January 20, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *China Daily* on the Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Africa.

- "There is no single playbook regarding how China engages Africa. Instead, what China does is try to adapt to local circumstances and be adaptive to local strategies, and that's what I see as the most important factor of China's engagement with Africa."
- "The fact of the matter is, the sentiment in the US in Washington is that, even if we have a chance to cooperate with China in Africa, we will not do it. We would rather seek to do whatever we do ourselves and with our allies and partners. And it ultimately ends up boiling down to a zero-sum game,"
- "And it does not help Africans, and it does not help any of the parties involved. And especially because there is no need to really compete for Africa in this day and age geostrategically. Unfortunately, though, that's how matters are playing themselves out at this point of time."

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, Senior Advisor, Trade 'n Technology Program, Denis Simon was [interviewed](#) by CGTN's *Global Business* on China's growing prestige of the higher education system in the past half century.

- "They started putting a bunch of plans in-place, the first important one was a plan called 2-1-1, which goes all the way back to the 1990s, and then they put in place a 9-8-5 program which goes back to 1998 in May. They launched these programs to reform, restructure, and revitalize their universities. Then those programs have been complemented by a number of other programs, one of the most famous is the thousand talent program in which China tried to recruit scientists and engineers and other kinds of faculty who had gone overseas and try to bring them back so they could fortify the ranks of the research system and strengthen universities."
- "So right now there are ten formal joint universities, but there are some three-four hundred other projects that involve joint degrees, joint collaborations, so faculty who want to teach in these programs have to understand that they are going to get a very diverse student body."



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

February 15, 2023

#### What's Going On? ↓

##### Surveillance Balloon Causes Bilateral Uproar



*US Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks following a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony. (Source: SAUL LOEB/AFP via Getty Images)*

- U.S. President Biden stated that the Chinese surveillance balloon, discovered two weeks ago over Montana, did not damage bilateral relations, emphasizing strategic competition not conflict.
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin stated that, "It is also common for US balloons to illegally enter the airspace of other countries," in-response to the Chinese surveillance balloon.
- Secretary of State Antony Blinken is eyeing a possible meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at an international security conference in Munich this coming weekend. The meeting comes after Blinken canceled his planned trip to China citing the balloon as a "irresponsible act and a clear violation of U.S. sovereignty."
- The U.S. Department of Defense cited that the Chinese surveillance balloon is part of a broad surveillance campaign from China, pointing out there have been four previous Chinese surveillance balloons that have entered U.S. airspace since the Trump administration.
- The Chinese Ministry of Defense declined a request from the U.S. Department of Defense to have high-level talks, after the Chinese surveillance balloon was shot down by U.S. fighter jets over the Atlantic Ocean.

##### Chinese Markets Suffer Amid Rising Temperatures



*Judges wooden hammer in front of the American flag. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)*

- China's stock market suffered losses amid fresh geopolitical risks, dampening optimism about its reopening, but analysts on Wall Street remain bullish on the economy's future prospects.
- U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen expressed hope to visit China but provided no details on timing, since "that's up to the State [department] and DOD [Department of Defense]."
- Taiwanese businesses face risks as tensions between the U.S. and China continue to escalate, with some companies experiencing disruptions in their supply chains.
- The U.S. government is preparing to counter China's technological advancement by imposing new rules on capital outflows and increasing investment in research and development, as part of a broader effort to maintain its competitive edge.
- U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo plans to discuss collaboration on semiconductor chips to counter China during a March trip to India, but emphasized the importance of India complying with labor standards.
- The U.S. is considering sanctions on Chinese companies for their role in helping Iran build a surveillance network that would monitor and suppress dissent, according to officials familiar with the matter.



- The U.S. Department of Defense identified at least one other Chinese surveillance balloon flying over Latin America.
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry urged the United States to act "calmly and prudently" in dealing with the surveillance balloon found.

*Associated News Sources:*

["US, China Diplomats Weigh First Meeting After Balloon Drama," Bloomberg, February 13 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China says US has sent over 10 high-altitude balloons illegally into Chinese airspace since last year," South China Morning Post, February 13 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Biden says US-China relations have not taken a hit in wake of spy balloon shoot down," CNN, February 9](#)  
["Balloon was part of wider Chinese snooping effort, Pentagon says," Politico, February 8](#)  
["China refused conversation with US defense secretary following downing of suspected spy balloon," CNN, February 7](#)  
["U.S. military downs Chinese balloon over Atlantic Ocean," The Washington Post, February 4 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Blinken tells China its spy balloon was 'irresponsible' after canceling Beijing trip," CNBC News, February 3](#)  
["Another Chinese 'surveillance balloon' is flying over Latin America, Pentagon says," NBC, February 3](#)  
["Chinese spy balloon claims: Beijing urges US to respond 'calmly and prudently'," South China Morning Post, February 3 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["Pentagon Says It Detected a Chinese Spy Balloon Hovering Over Montana," The New York Times, February 2 \[Paywall\]](#)

- The U.S. seized a shipment of aluminum from China on suspicion of forced labor, following the Biden administration's recent efforts to combat human rights abuses in global supply chains.
- The U.S. accused Chinese platforms, including Alibaba branches, of failing to curb the trade of counterfeit goods.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China reopening play 'overhyped' as stock market losses inflict pain, 'spy balloon' rekindles US tech sanctions," South China Morning Post, February 13 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["U.S. Treasury's Yellen still hopes to visit China but no time set," Reuters, February 9 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["More US firms in Taiwan say they're seeing 'significant disruption' due to rising tension with China," CNN, February 9](#)  
["U.S. Aims to Curtail Technology Investment in China," The New York Times, February 9 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["U.S. explores working with India to increase economic competition against China, says Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo," CNBC, February 8](#)  
["U.S. Weighs Sanctions for Chinese Companies Over Iran Surveillance Buildup," The Wall Street Journal, February 4 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US Detains Chinese Aluminum, a Suspected Product of Forced Labor," Bloomberg, February 1 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["US says China is still failing to crack down on copyright infringement and IP piracy," South China Morning Post, February 1 \[Paywall\]](#)



## Taiwan Becomes Spotlighted Amid Rising Bilateral Tensions



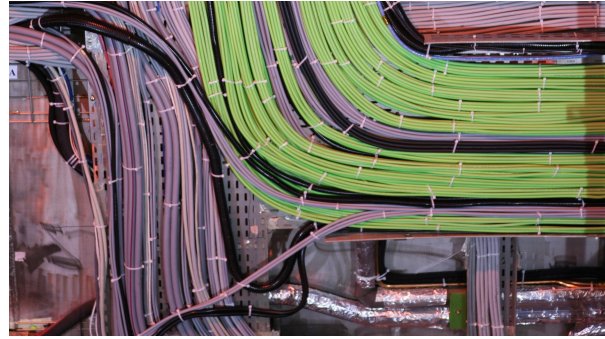
Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen gives a speech at a press conference after casting her ballots in local elections amid tensions with China.  
(Source: Annabelle Chih/Getty Images)

- The US Navy has begun holding joint military exercises in the South China Sea.
- The U.S. House special committee on China looks to send a high-power delegation to Taiwan, amid rising tensions and increased military pressure from China. Representative Rob Wittman, senior member of the committee, said that despite the potential of such a trip to infuriate the Chinese, he believes it is important to send a strong message in support of Taiwan.
- The U.S. Department of Defense undersecretary, Colin Kahl, stated that, "I don't see anything that indicates that this thing is imminent" when referring to a possible invasion of Taiwan, pushing back against General Mike Minihan's early February statement that the U.S. should expect a fight with China by 2025.
- The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns urged not to underestimate Chinese President Xi's ambitions towards Taiwan, despite the poor performance of Russia's military in Ukraine.
- Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen welcomed the former head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Phil Davidson to Taiwan. The trip follows warnings from Davidson and other sitting U.S. officials of a potential invasion of Taiwan in the next decade.

### Associated News Sources:

["US holds drills in South China Sea amid tensions with China,"](#) AP News, February 13  
["Members of U.S. special committee on China weighing visit to Taipei,"](#) Nikkei Asia, February 12  
["China seizure of Taiwan not 'imminent,' says key DoD official,"](#) DefenseNews, February 6  
["CIA chief warns against underestimating Xi's ambitions toward Taiwan,"](#) Reuters, February 2 [Paywall]  
["Taiwan's Tsai welcomes retired US admiral for China talks,"](#) AP News, February 2

## Chinese Technology Firms Under Scrutiny



Data cables running on an experimental machine.  
(Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- China has cut participation in Sea-Me-We 6, a global data cable project linking Asia to Europe via subsea cables. China cited rising tensions with the U.S. as a main factor in pulling out of the project.
- The Biden Administration added at least six Chinese companies with ties to the Chinese surveillance balloon on the Department of Commerce's entities list, restricting U.S. business with the firms.
- U.S. investment firms accounted for nearly one-fifth of investments into Chinese artificial intelligence companies between 2015 and 2021, according to the Center for Security and Emerging Technology.
- U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher met with TikTok to speak about TikTok's protection of American data. Representative Gallagher's spokesperson said the congressman "found their argument unpersuasive."
- Huawei is experiencing increased pressure amid reports that the U.S. Department of Commerce looks to stop approving export licenses for a wide array of technology to Huawei.
- U.S. congressional members have urged the Justice Department to consider economic-espionage claims against TuSimple Holdings, an American self-driving company with ties to China.

### Associated News Sources:

["China pulls back from global subsea cable project as US tensions mount,"](#) Financial Times, February 10 [Paywall]  
["U.S. Poised to Further Tighten Technology Exports to China After Balloon Incident,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, February 10 [Paywall]  
["U.S. Blacklists 6 Chinese Entities Involved in Spy Balloon Programs,"](#) The New York Times, February 10 [Paywall]  
["US investors poured billions into Chinese AI firms, taking part in US\\$40 billion in funding over 6 years,"](#) South China Morning Post, February 2 [Paywall]  
["Republican U.S. lawmaker meets with TikTok, but unpersuaded,"](#) Reuters, February 1 [Paywall]

["Huawei's fate in the spotlight amid reports that Joe Biden is considering cutting it off completely from US exports,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 1 [Paywall]  
["Leaders of Self-Driving-Truck Company Face Espionage Concerns Over China Ties,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 1 [Paywall]

## New Realms of Strategic Competition



Close-Up Of Sea Against Sky. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- The Chinese Institute of Middle East Studies urged China to weigh shifts in their Middle East policies to avoid turning the region into a battleground with the U.S.
- The United States reopened an embassy in the Solomon Islands in an effort to establish more footholds in the region and to counter Chinese influence in the Pacific.
- The Philippines has confirmed they will provide the U.S. with expanded access on four military bases, increasing U.S. military cooperation in the Pacific in-order to counter China's rising posturing.
- Kenya has asked the U.S. to fund an extension of a joint counterterrorism base, raising U.S. concerns that Kenya could turn to China for the construction of the project. The Department of Defense cited worries that a Chinese construction firm "poses a strategic dilemma" for the U.S. military.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China urged to remain focused on economic ties in Middle East, avoid 'great power game' with US,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 11 [Paywall]  
["US opens embassy in Solomon Islands to counter China,"](#) *AP News*, February 2  
["US military to gain expanded access to Philippines bases in efforts to counter China,"](#) *CNN*, February 2  
["Fears of Losing Out to China Put U.S. Under Pressure Over Kenya Base,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 2 [Paywall]

## - In Other News -



Flags fly outside the General Secretariat Building at the United Nations Headquarters. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

["U.N. should follow up on China 'crimes against humanity' report, HRW says,"](#) *Reuters*, February 13 [Paywall]  
["US renews warning it'll defend Philippines after China spat,"](#) *AP News*, February 14  
["China Says It's Ready to Enhance Ties With Taiwan Opposition,"](#) *Bloomberg*, February 9 [Paywall]  
["Tesla, after recent cuts, raises starting price of Model Y in China,"](#) *Reuters*, February 9 [Paywall]  
["Farmland Becomes Flashpoint in U.S.-China Relations,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 6 [Paywall]  
["Hong Kong: Landmark national security trial begins,"](#) *DW News*, February 6  
["US State Department honours Chinese activist Ding Jiaxi as a 'global human rights defender',"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 1 [Paywall]

## What Are We Reading? ↓

- Center for Security and Emerging Technology: [“U.S. Outbound Investment into Chinese AI Companies”](#) by Emily S. Weinstein and Ngor Luong (February, 2023)
- *Politico*: [“Taiwan’s Tech King to Nancy Pelosi: U.S. Is in Over Its Head”](#) by Alexander Burns (February 14, 2023)
- *Reuters*: [“Analysis: In China, Tesla could win electric vehicle price battle – but lose the war”](#) (February 13, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Analysis: After spy balloon, can China and the U.S. talk again?”](#) by David Brunnstrom and Michael Martina (February 12, 2023) [Paywall]
- Brookings: [“Geostrategic competition and US, Chinese, and Russian overseas basing”](#) by Andrew Yeo and Issac B. Kardon (February 10, 2023)
- *CNN*: [“The US says Xi didn’t know about the balloon. That raises even more questions”](#) by Simone McCarthy (February 10, 2023)
- *Financial Times*: [“Avoiding catastrophe will be the true test of fractious US-China relations”](#) by Jude Blanchette (February 10, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Vox*: [“If the US and China go to the brink, can they figure out how to de-escalate?”](#) by Micheal Bluhm (February 9, 2023)
- *USNI*: [“Report on U.S.-China Strategic Competition in South and East China Seas”](#) (February 9, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Why the high cost of conflict may be the best hope for peace in the Taiwan Strait”](#) by Minnie Chan (February 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Xi, Biden stake claims in China-US rivalry by touting opposing political systems”](#) by Laura Zhou and Jun Mei (February 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- *NikkeiAsia*: [“CEOs should prepare for U.S. congressional grilling on China”](#) by John Kachtik (February 8, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“How U.S.-China Tensions Could Affect Who Buys the House Next Door”](#) by J. David Goodman (February 7, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Politico*: [“What cold war? U.S. trade with China hits new high”](#) by Doug Palmer (February 7, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“China’s Balloon Dispute Aims Attention at Xi’s Leadership”](#) by David Pierson (February 6, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“When did China first know its balloon was in US airspace?”](#) by Kawala Xie (February 6, 2023) [Paywall]
- East-West Center: [“Abrogating the Visiting Forces Agreement: Its Effects on Philippines’ Security and Stability in Southeast Asia”](#) by Renato Acosta (February 6, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“Balloon Incident Reveals More Than Spying as Competition With China Intensifies”](#) by David E. Sanger (February 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Japan Times*: [“After U.S. downing of suspected Chinese spy balloon, can ties can be stabilized?”](#) by Jesse Johnson (February 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“China balloon over U.S. deflates hopes for diplomatic thaw”](#) by Michael Martina, Humeyra Pamuk and David Brunnstrom (February 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“The Chinese spy balloon moved from Alaska to South Carolina, prompting fear, jokes and political debate.”](#) by Melina Delkic (February 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“The inside story of how the U.S. shot down the Chinese balloon”](#) by David Ignatius (February 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China’s suspected spy balloon is the perfect symbol of its clumsiness”](#) by Sebastian Mallaby (February 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“What a Cold War spy-plane crisis teaches us about China’s balloon antics”](#) by Richard Aldous (February 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Challenging the U.S. Is a Historic Mistake”](#) by Robert Kagan (February 3, 2023) [Paywall]



- *The New York Times*: [“Why Chinese Companies Are Investing Billions in Mexico”](#) by Peter S. Goodman (February 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“What China wanted out of Blinken’s now postponed visit”](#) by Lily Kuo (February 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *AP News*: [“How the US is boosting military alliances to counter China”](#) by Lolita C. Baldor (February 2, 2023)
- *Los Angeles Times*: [“The U.S. military has big plans for an Australian port. So does the Chinese firm that controls it”](#) by Maria Petrakis (February 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Politico*: [“We Already Have 18 Intelligence Agencies. We Still Need 1 More.”](#) by Jonathan Panikoff (February 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“China and the U.S. Are Wooing Indonesia, and Beijing Has the Edge”](#) by Jane Perlez, Eric Schmitt, and Sui-Lee Wee (February 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“The Problem With Taking TikTok Away From Americans”](#) by Glenn S. Gerstell (February 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Responsible Statecraft*: [“China is sending interesting signals to the US. Is anyone listening?”](#) by Jorgen Oestrom Moeller (January 30, 2023)
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“America’s China Policy Is Not Working”](#) by Henry M. Paulson, Jr. (January 26, 2023) [Paywall]

## What’s Happening Around Town?

### - Past Events -

- [The Balloon and the U.S.-China Relationship](#)  
February 10 hosted by Foreign Policy
- [EWC Insights: China Seminar featuring Dr. Antonina Łuszczkiewicz](#)  
February 9 hosted by the East-West Center
- [Rendezvous with Destiny? What Xi Jinping’s Third Term Means for Taiwan and the United States](#)  
February 9 hosted by the East-West Center

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Opportunities for Enhanced Near-term U.S.-China Climate Action: The Food System](#)  
March 7 hosted by the Wilson Center
- [A country in flux: Recent and future policy shifts in China](#)  
March 10 by Brookings
- [China Insight Series: How Chinese Companies are Reinventing Management Control](#)  
March 23 hosted by Northeastern Center for Emerging Markets

# What ICAS Is Up To

## ---ICAS Commentary---

### Slamming the door on diplomacy over surveillance balloon is reckless, not resolute

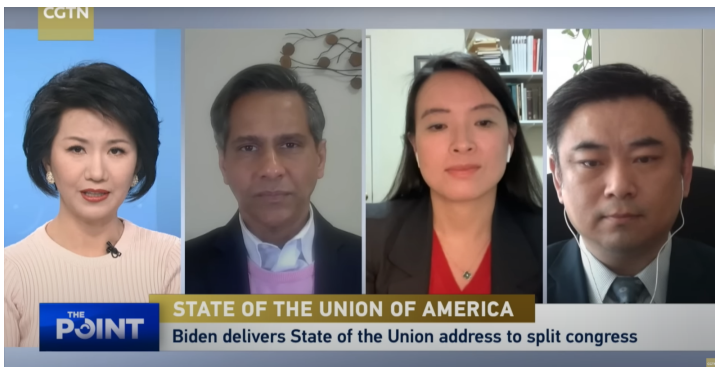
By Alec Caruana  
February 6, 2023

The frenzy over a Chinese surveillance balloon which traversed American airspace during the past few days is characteristically stirring up ill-conceived and dangerous ideas in Washington. While the threat of espionage ought to be addressed thoughtfully and comprehensively, hasty saber-rattling and clamor for further disengagement with China over this incident is a miscalculation that could greatly imperil our military encounters across the Pacific.

Though the precise purpose of the balloon remains unclear, [analysts](#) and [the Pentagon](#) gave assurances that this mechanism of Chinese “intelligence gathering” had been observed before under previous administrations, posed no urgent threat, and was of relatively limited intelligence value. Nevertheless, its ‘gimmicky’ and theatrical nature negatively framed the White House’s options in favor of short-term remedies over long-term security.

[Link to Full Post](#)

## ---ICAS In the News---



On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [analyzed](#) President Biden's State of the Union on CGTN's The Point with Liu Xin.

- “Mr. Biden is staying consistent to the line he has had from day one in his administration in regards to China, and this is an administration which is focused on extreme competition with China but extreme competition in his view doesn't necessarily have to devolve into conflict. He has talked about trying to create guardrails. Whether those guardrails could be created is still up in the air, simply because there has been an exchange of good intentions by both sides but as we've seen with this past weekend itself, it is hard to translate intentions into action.”
- “The contradiction here is that Mr. Biden is actually looking at short-term gains through protectionist measures, and creating jobs through a lot of fiscal spending. It will create jobs and it will create growth, but what it will not create is having America operate at its productivity frontier. For America to operate at its most productive, it needs to have an open economy and trade with its most consequential trading partners.”

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [previewed](#) President Biden's State of the Union on CGTN's The Hub with Wang Guan.

- “The atmosphere in the Beltway is charged, politically charged, it has been politically charged for quite a while and it will stay that way especially with the Republicans having won the house. They are out here to try to torpedo Mr. Biden politically and from a policy perspective so it is going to be a very combusive year or combusive two years in American politics. I would say frankly we are already in the early stages of the 2024 re-election process.”

- "I actually think this year in 2023 there is the opportunity of lending a certain degree of stability to the relationship and that is why we've seen the leaders trying to stabilize the relationship at least from the White House's perspective. I'm talking from the executive branch's perspective. Congress is going to be the spoiler here, I think congress is going to go out of its way to spoil the relationship."



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

March 1, 2023

#### What's Going On? ↓

##### Heated Verbal Exchanges and Announcements Abound



US President Joe Biden speaks about the administration's response to recent aerial objects at the White House in Washington, D.C. (Source: MANDEL NGAN/AFP via Getty Images)

- The U.S. Department of Energy has concluded in a confidential report to the White House and congressional officials that the novel COVID-19 pandemic "most likely" originated from a lab leak. A Beijing spokesperson responded to the report: "Politicizing the issue...will not smear China but will only damage the U.S.'s own credibility."
- U.S. Senator Rick Scott criticized U.S. President Biden's response to increasing U.S.-China tensions, stating that "All that Biden does is pacify China."
- China's state-owned *Xinhua News Agency* laid out new lists of issues with the methods of U.S. power usage.
- The Philippines President Marcos granted the U.S. military access to four new defense sites in the country.
- U.S. President Joe Biden stated that he makes no apologies for shooting down the Chinese balloon, adding that the U.S. is improving detection of any such objects in the future. He also clarified that three separate unmanned aerial objects, shot down by the U.S. military, were "most likely tied to private companies."
- The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged Japan and South Korea to separate themselves from the U.S. stance on the "spy balloon" and not to "make a fuss." The

##### U.S.-China Tensions Boil Over Taiwan



Taiwanese national flags against clear blue sky. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- Following a fly-through of the Taiwan Strait by a U.S. military plane, the Chinese People's Liberation Army claimed the U.S. "deliberately disrupted and undermined the regional situation."
- U.S. CIA Chief William Burns showcased U.S. intelligence regarding a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan, stating "President Xi and his military leadership have doubts today about whether they could accomplish that invasion."
- The Chinese Ministry of Defense spokesman Tan Kefei said that China is determined to block Taiwan independence.
- The U.S. Department of Defense is planning on increasing U.S. troops in Taiwan, as a part of a training initiative by the U.S. for the Taiwanese military.
- U.S. Representatives Gallagher, and Khanna voiced their concern of Chinese cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns after returning from a political trip to Taiwan.
- Taiwanese foreign and security officials met American counterparts in private discussions in Washington, occurring simultaneously as the U.S. deputy Secretary of State went to Taiwan.
- Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang made remarks urging countries to "immediately stop fueling the fire, stop shifting blame to China and stop touting 'Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow,'"



message came as Japan and South Korea reaffirmed their support towards the U.S. response to the balloon.

- President Biden's top China aide, Laura Rosenberger, is set to depart the administration amidst increasing bilateral tensions, though the departure was "long-planned" and did not involve the balloon incident.

*Associated News Sources:*

["China says it's been 'open and transparent' on COVID origins,"](#) AP News, February 28

["China must be 'more honest' on Covid origins, U.S. ambassador says,"](#) ABC News, February 28

["Lab Leak Most Likely Origin of Covid-19 Pandemic, Energy Department Now Says,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, February 26 [Paywall]

["Rick Scott criticizes current US relations with Beijing: 'All that Biden does is pacify China',"](#) The Hill, February 26

["China says U.S. refused to share information on downed Chinese balloon,"](#) Reuters, February 24 [Paywall]

["China Blasts US for Military, Cultural 'Hegemony' as Ties Sour,"](#) Bloomberg, February 20 [Paywall]

["With an Eye on China, Philippines Moves Closer to U.S. Interests,"](#) The New York Times, February 20 [Paywall]

["Joe Biden says he makes no apologies for downing China balloon,"](#) BBC News, February 16

["Biden says three recently downed aerial objects were not linked to Chinese spy program,"](#) CNBC News, February 16

["China calls on Japan, South Korea to shun 'spy balloon' rumours and 'stop following the US',"](#) South China Morning Post, February 15 [Paywall]

["Japan, South Korea back US response to China spy balloon episode,"](#) Manila Standard, February 15

["Top Biden China aide set for long-planned departure amid heightened tension with Beijing,"](#) CNN News, February 15

- Following the controversial trip of the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China, Micheal Chase, to Taiwan, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged the U.S. to "stop any form of official U.S.-Taiwan contacts,"
- Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman urged countries to warn China against a possible Taiwan conflict: "I urge all countries to tell the PRC this affects me. This affects my people, my country. This is not a good idea."

*Associated News Sources:*

["China protests US surveillance plane's Taiwan Strait flight,"](#) AP News, February 26

["CIA Chief Says China Has Doubts About Its Ability to Invade Taiwan,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, February 26 [Paywall]

["Beijing decries 'contradictory' US remarks about Taiwan, promises to 'speak with actions' against separatist activity,"](#) South China Morning Post, February 24 [Paywall]

["US plans to expand training of Taiwanese forces,"](#) CNN News, February 24

["US Lawmakers Warn of China's 'Cognitive War' After Taiwan Visit,"](#) Bloomberg, February 22 [Paywall]

["Taiwanese foreign, security delegation meets US officials for closed-door talks,"](#) South China Morning Post, February 22 [Paywall]

["China tells world to stop saying Taiwan is the next Ukraine,"](#) Taipei Times, February 22

["China blasts Pentagon official's Taiwan visit, military ties,"](#) AP News, February 22

["Top Pentagon official to visit Taiwan, report says, amid US-China tensions,"](#) The Guardian, February 17

["U.S. says all countries should warn China against Taiwan conflict,"](#) Reuters, February 15 [Paywall]

## Everyone is Focused on Protecting Technology Supply Chains



Hand holding smartphone with AR application for check order pick time in smart factory warehouse (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs said on Monday that the U.S.-led Chip-4 alliance (between the U.S.,

## Private Sector Yields are Promising Despite Global Strains



A McDonald's restaurant is pictured on May 1, 2022 in Shenyang, Liaoning Province of China (Source: Yan Bo/VCG via Getty Images)

- U.S. President Biden is seeking to reduce the planned restrictions on future American investments in China and



Taiwan, Japan and South Korea) is setting up an "early warning system" to protect its "highly complicated and very global" supply chains.

- Sequoia Capital is consulting independent U.S. national security-experts to vet China's arm's investments, as the U.S. looks to stop American funding of sensitive technologies from going to China.
- The U.S. looks to limit the level of advanced semiconductors made by South Korean companies in China according to a senior U.S. official.
- China has become the leader in global nuclear fusion patents, signaling increasing competition between the U.S. and China in nuclear fusion development.
- The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) factory in Arizona has been met with increasing controversy by TSMC employees who explained that the project takes away from valued research of semiconductors that outmaneuvers rivals.
- The Biden administration's new \$53 billion Chips Act is set to test whether the U.S. will be able to undo the semiconductor production exodus.
- During a study session of China's Politburo, President Xi Jinping emphasized China's need to "strengthen basic research and solve key technology problems from the source" if China wanted to "achieve a high level of self-reliance."
- China's most influential scientific body, the Chinese Academy of Science, published outlines of how China could circumvent U.S. chip sanctions.

*Associated News Sources:*

["US-led semiconductor alliance setting up 'early warning system' to protect supply chains, Taiwan says,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 27 [Paywall]

["Sequoia Turns to Outside National-Security Experts to Vet New China Tech Investments,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 24 [Paywall]

["U.S. likely to cap level of S.Korean chips made in China-U.S. official,"](#) *U.S. News*, February 23

["China Leads Nuclear Fusion Patents,"](#) *South Asia Times*, February 23

["Inside Taiwanese Chip Giant, a U.S. Expansion Stokes Tensions,"](#) *The New York Times*, February 22 [Paywall]

["Chips Act Will Test Whether U.S. Can Reverse Semiconductor Exodus,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 22 [Paywall]

["China's Xi Calls for Tech Self-Reliance Amid U.S. Tension,"](#) *U.S. News*, February 22

["China eyes thwarting US chip curbs,"](#) *Taipei Times*, February 21

Chinese firms, and is seeking U.S. firms to notify federal authorities when investing in industries involving quantum computing and artificial intelligence technologies.

- Despite geopolitical tensions and regulatory challenges, Chinese e-commerce company Temu experienced significant growth in the U.S. market, driven by its competitive pricing, variety of products, and effective marketing strategies this February.
- The House committee on the Chinese Communist party will hold hearings with CEOs and industry representatives on how private equity, venture capital, and Wall Street firms are navigating the complexities of doing business in China.
- U.S. companies, including McDonald's and Ralph Lauren, are planning expansions in China, viewing its large consumer market as a "promising long-term debt" despite economic and geopolitical concerns.
- U.S.-based company Mountain Pass will supply rare earth elements to Sumitomo in Japan, bypassing China, to diversify and ultimately "strengthen a supply chain of critical importance."
- Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have been instructed to phase out contracts with the big four accounting firms as part of the country's efforts to reduce risks and improve the quality of financial reporting.
- The U.S. Treasury Department expects difficult debt talks at the G20 finance meeting, happening in Indonesia in March 2023, centering debt relief for developing countries impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- China has imposed sanctions on Lockheed Martin and Raytheon in reaction to U.S.-imposed sanctions on Chinese entities, marking China's latest effort to retaliate against U.S. restrictions.

*Associated News Sources:*

["White House scales back plans to regulate U.S. investments in China,"](#) *Politico*, February 28

["Chinese E-Commerce Flourishes on U.S. Soil,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 27 [Paywall]

["Congress to examine operations of US companies in China,"](#) *Financial Times*, February 27 [Paywall]

["From McDonald's to Ralph Lauren, U.S. Companies Are Planning China Expansions,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 26 [Paywall]

["US-Made Rare Earths to Skip China In Supply Deal With Japan,"](#) *Bloomberg*, February 22 [Paywall]

["China instructs state firms to phase out big four auditors,"](#) *The Guardian*, February 22

["U.S. Treasury sees 'difficult' debt talks at G20 finance meeting,"](#) *Yahoo!Finance*, February 22

["China sanctions Lockheed, Raytheon after vowing to retaliate against US restrictions,"](#) *CNN News*, February 17

## Diplomacy Amidst the One-Year Anniversary of Ukraine



China's Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Wang Yi delivers a speech at the Munich Security Conference in southern Germany on February 18, 2023. (Photo by ODD ANDERSEN/AFP via Getty Images)

- After China called for a cease-fire, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky outlined plans to seek a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated previous claims that China is considering sending Russia military assistance towards the war in Ukraine, despite China refuting the claim.
- China has called for a cease-fire and peace talks in the Russian war on Ukraine, releasing an official position paper on the first anniversary of the invasion. The position paper fell flat with both the U.S. and European allies, as NATO Secretary General cited China's lack of credibility.
- China pushed back against U.S. accusations that it has been considering lethal aid to Russia, as the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated China "does not offer any arms sales to conflict zones or parties involved in wars."
- During his EU tour, China's State Councillor Wang Yi said the U.S. should not use the balloon incident to further agendas abroad and reaffirmed China-Russia ties.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told actors at a security conference in Beijing that China is concerned about the Russian-Ukrainian war, and that China is seeking an active role in peace talks.
- China told the United Nations that "brutal facts offer an ample proof that sending weapons will not bring peace."
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi that China will face consequences if they choose to send weapons to assist Russia in the Ukrainian war. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke out against such claims: "It's the U.S., and not China, that has incessantly [been] supplying weapons to the battlefield."

*Associated News Sources:*

["Ukraine war: Zelensky wants Xi Jinping meeting following China's peace plan,"](#) *BBC News*, February 25  
["US reiterates claim that China is considering sending](#)

## - In Other News -



Visitors look at a life-size model of 'Tianhe', the core module of China's first space station, during the Exhibition of Achievements in China's Manned Spaceflight Program of 30 Years at the National Museum of China on February 24, 2023 in Beijing, China. (Photo by Chen Xiaogen/VCG via Getty Images)

- ["U.S. Aims to Pull Ex-Soviet Republics From Russian, Chinese Orbits,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 28 [Paywall]
- ["Leaders of House China panel denounce attack on Rep Judy Chu,"](#) *AP News*, February 26
- ["China-Russia Space Alliance Stumbles in Bid to Surpass US,"](#) *Bloomberg*, February 26 [Paywall]
- ["Bipartisan Plans to Move Aggressively on China Face Political Hurdles in Congress,"](#) *The New York Times*, February 25 [Paywall]
- ["Chinese fighter jet confronts US Navy plane with CNN crew aboard as tensions simmer in the South China Sea,"](#) *CNN News*, February 24
- ["Chinese Jet Fighter Shadows U.S. Aircraft Over South China Sea,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, February 24 [Paywall]
- ["China aims to launch nearly 13,000 satellites to 'suppress' Elon Musk's Starlink, researchers say,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 24 [Paywall]
- ["European Commission bans TikTok from corporate devices,"](#) *Euractiv*, February 23
- ["Ant Group links up with NBA on 'strategic partnership' to promote sport in China as league continues its revival,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 21 [Paywall]

[Russia military help for Ukraine war.](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 24 [Paywall]  
["China calls for a cease-fire and peace talks between Russia and Ukraine."](#) *NPR News*, February 24  
["China Dismisses US Claim Over Possible Weapons Sales to Russia."](#) *Bloomberg*, February 24 [Paywall]  
["China Cease-Fire Proposal for Ukraine Falls Flat With US, Allies."](#) *Bloomberg*, February 23 [Paywall]  
["China's top diplomat Wang Yi scolds US, praises Russia ties at end of EU tour."](#) *South China Morning Post*, February 24 [Paywall]  
["China says sending weapons to Ukraine will not bring peace."](#) *Al Jazeera*, February 23  
["China says it's seeking role in Ukraine peace settlement."](#) *ABC News*, February 21  
["China Says U.S. Is 'Not Qualified' to Issue Orders on Arms."](#) *The New York Times*, February 20 [Paywall]  
["Blinken warns China's Wang Yi against aiding Russia in Ukraine."](#) *Reuters*, February 19 [Paywall]

## What Are We Reading? ↓

- *AP News*: ["Why TikTok is being banned for some government employees"](#) by Associated Press (February 28, 2023)
- U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission: ["Dispute Settlement with Chinese Characteristics: Assessing China's International Commercial Court"](#) (February 28, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: ["How the Lab Leak Theory Could Strain U.S.-China Relations"](#) by Andrew Ross Sorkin, Ravi Mattu, Bernhard Warner, Sarah Kessler, Michael J. de la Merced, Lauren Hirsch and Ephrat Livni (February 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Guardian*: ["Some politicians seem comfortable with the idea of a new cold war. They shouldn't"](#) by Christopher S Chivvis (February, 27, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: ["A War With China Would Be Unlike Anything Americans Have Faced Before"](#) by Ross Babbage (February 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: ["No, China Isn't Gobbling Up America's Farms"](#) by Bloomberg Editors (February 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China: ["China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis"](#) (February 24, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: ["How the U.S. improvised a plan to deal with a Chinese balloon"](#) by William Neff, Leslie Shapiro and Dylan Moriarty (February 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: ["Why the U.S. Should Not Ban TikTok"](#) by Bruce Schneier and Barath Raghavan (February 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- *TIME*: ["In the Tech War with China, the U.S. Is Finding Friends"](#) by Gregory C. Allen (February 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Wired*: ["The Push to Ban TikTok in the US Isn't About Privacy"](#) by Matt Laslo (February 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Hill*: ["Congress should investigate Chinese IP theft"](#) by Frank Cullen (February 23, 2023)
- *Foreign Affairs*: ["Xi the Survivor"](#) by Christopher Johnson (February 22, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: ["U.S. releases photo of Chinese balloon captured by U-2 spy plane"](#) by Dan Lamothe (February 22, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for a New American Security: ["Avoiding the Brink"](#) by Stacie Pettyjohn and Hannah Dennis (February 22, 2023)



- *Reuters*: [“How a U.S. budget dispute imperils funding for Taiwan weapons”](#) by Patricia Zengerle and Michael Martina (February 22, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Stand Up to China’s Bullying and Defend Taiwan”](#) by Mike Gallagher (February 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China: [“The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper”](#) (February 21, 2023)
- The China Project: [“China’s top diplomat goes on an uncharming charm offensive in Europe”](#) by Nadya Yeh (February 21, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“U.S. Warnings to China on Arms Aid for Russia’s War Portend Global Rift”](#) by Edward Wong (February 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“How long can US allies support the semiconductor chip ban on China before caving in?”](#) by Stanley Chao (February 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China talks must stay on course despite dispute over balloon”](#) by SCMP Editorial (February 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- International Institute for Strategic Studies: [“Towards Nuclear Stewardship with China”](#) by Hans Binnendijk and David Gompert (February 16, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“U.S.-China Relations Keep Getting Worse. Do They Have To?”](#) by Spencer Bokart-Lindell (February 15, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Washington’s China Hawks Take Flight”](#) by Robbie Gramer and Christina Lu (February 15, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Iran International*, [“Washington Hopes China Will Contain Iran. While It Violates US Sanctions”](#) by Iran International Newsroom (February 15, 2023)
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: [“Constricting the Means of Production: Ally-Centric Cooperative Economic Deterrence”](#) by Alexander Holderness and Cynthia Cook (February 14, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“China Tries to Depict Furor Over Spy Balloon as Sign of U.S. Decline”](#) by David Pierson (February 14, 2023) [Paywall]
- Brookings: [“The United States, China, and the “new non-aligned” countries”](#) by Madiha Afzal, Bruce Riedel, and Natan Sachs (February, 2023)

## What’s Happening Around Town?

### - Past Events -

- [China’s Challenges and Capabilities in Educating and Training the Next Generation Workforce](#)  
February 24 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [A conversation on the US approach to the People’s Republic of China with Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman](#)  
February 15 hosted by Brookings
- [The Balloon and the U.S.-China Relationship](#)  
February 10 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [EWC Insights: China Seminar featuring Dr. Antonina Łuszczkiewicz](#)  
February 9 hosted by East-West Center
- [Rendezvous with Destiny? What Xi Jinping’s Third Term Means for Taiwan and the United States](#)  
February 9 hosted by East-West Center

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Deterring a Cross-Strait Conflict: Beijing’s Assessment of Evolving U.S. Strategy](#)  
March 6 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Opportunities for Enhanced Near-term U.S.-China Climate Action: The Food System](#)  
March 7 hosted by Wilson Center
- [A country in flux: Recent and future policy shifts in China](#)  
March 10 by Brookings
- [Assignment China: A Conversation with Mike Chinoy](#)  
March 9 hosted by East-West Center
- [A country in flux: Recent and future policy shifts in China](#)  
March 10 hosted by Brookings



# What ICAS Is Up To

## ---ICAS MAP Commentary---

### As war in Ukraine freezes the Arctic Council, how will Asia break the ice?

By Nong Hong  
February 25, 2023

"The Ukraine crisis has changed the world in many ways, one of which is the functionality of the Arctic Council, a forum that Russia currently chairs. The decision by the other seven council members in March last year to [stop joining its meetings](#) is a grave impediment to international cooperation in the Arctic. Concerns have also been raised over the role of the [observer states](#), including China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and India.

Climate change has made the Arctic and its potential resources more accessible. This has changed the geopolitical landscape, and more countries are now focused on the Arctic, including in distant Asia. For China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and India, their observer status ensures that they are involved in determining the future of the Arctic, a region they believe will affect their economic interests and the environment...

[Link to Full Post](#)

This commentary was [originally released](#) on South China Morning Post on February 25, 2023

## ---ICAS In the News---



On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) US-China diplomacy amidst the Munich Security Conference on CGTN's World Insight with Tian Wei.

- "With regard to the meeting, what stood out to me is an agreement on both sides to disagree in-regards to the balloon...It took a while for two countries to create some sort of modus operandi to move forward."
- "What one will see from this balloon meeting is how soon they will be able to move on, and try to resurrect ties and have some sort of better communication and restart the working groups, but I think it's also important that the two sides laid out their positions clearly out here, and I think that both sides wanted to place this on the record so that there's clarity on intention on both sides that if such an event were to recur."

On Monday, February 20, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [spoke](#) about the Blinken-Wang meeting alongside the Munich Conference on CGTN's The Point with Liu Xin.

- "I think there is a larger point here, that there is an understanding that this is a balloon incident and a balloon incident is just a balloon incident, but they are trying to magnify the effect of this balloon incident. Because there is a consensus among the political establishments within the Beltway that we need to compete with China and China is an adversary, but that sentiment is not shared beyond the Beltway."



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

March 15, 2023

#### What's Going On? ↓

##### Tensions Escalate After U.S. Military Expansion in Asia-Pacific



Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758) salute the national ensign after arriving at Royal Australian Navy HMAS Stirling Naval Base on February 27, 2023.  
(Source: Courtesy photo by Australia Department of Defence)

- On March 13, the U.S., the UK and Australia announced they would join forces to develop nuclear-powered submarines to counter China's military expansion in Asia-Pacific. Australia will acquire nuclear submarine technology with the help of the U.K. and the U.S.
- China raised serious concerns and requested clarification from the U.S. following reports that Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen plans to meet with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy during a transit in the United States.
- It has been confirmed that the U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen will meet in California rather than in Taipei, reportedly due to concerns about China's military aggression as the U.S. increases contingency planning.
- U.S. intelligence chief Avril Haines said to lawmakers that China seeks to avoid escalating tensions with the U.S. and favors stable relations, despite its efforts to enhance its global economic and military power.
- U.S. officials questioned whether Chinese-made cranes at U.S. ports, including some used by the military, could potentially be used for surveillance or sabotage given that some cranes contain sophisticated sensors that could track information about shipment status.

##### Bilateral Tech and Financial Overhauls Amidst Changing Geopolitical Tensions



An image reflecting the concept of technology around the globe.  
(Source: GettyImages, Royalty Free)

- U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is considering a trip to China this spring to de-escalate tensions and engage with China to benefit the U.S. On March 8, China's Ministry of Commerce expressed openness to a visit from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, stating that trade ties are "very important" despite ongoing tensions.
- China announced a major overhaul to strengthen its technological self-reliance and tighten its grip on financial regulation to align with Chinese President Xi Jinping's priorities and aim to counter U.S. technology restrictions and rising geopolitical tensions.
- On March 7, China's leader Xi Jinping called on the country's private sector to "fight" alongside the Communist Party, criticizing the U.S. for containing and suppressing China in an all-round way.
- Chinese solar companies reported U.S. solar panel imports resuming after gridlock, benefiting from clearer rules regarding the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act implementation.
- The Biden administration plans to issue an executive order to limit American investment in advanced technologies with national security applications to prevent China from acquiring military capabilities.

- On March 2, senior Pentagon official on Indo-Pacific security Ely Ratner said that China would not invade Taiwan by the end of the decade due to the high cost while expressing confidence in the U.S.'s ability to deter Beijing from attacking the island.
- On March 1, The U.S. approved a \$619 million sale of munitions for Taiwan's F-16 fighter jets, including anti-radiation and air-to-air missiles, aimed at enhancing Taiwan's defense capability amid rising tensions over the island's status. Three days later, China reportedly flew 17 J-10 and 4 J-16 fighter jets in the southwestern part of Taiwan's air-defense identification zone.
- On March 2, Mark Gallagher, head of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, warned during the panel's first meeting that the U.S. is running out of time to confront China. He emphasized the need for urgency, describing the competition with China as an "existential struggle" with fundamental freedoms at stake.

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["Biden Unveils Landmark Submarine Deal With Australia and Britain," The New York Times, March 13 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Taiwan Confirms President's U.S. Stopover," The Wall Street Journal, March 9 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China 'seriously concerned' by Taiwan president 'transit' plans amid reported US trip," Reuters, March 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Speaker Kevin McCarthy to meet Taiwan's president in US to avoid China's ire," Financial Times, March 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China wants to avoid escalation with U.S. and favors stable relations, U.S. spy chief says," NBC News, March 8](#)
- ["Pentagon Sees Giant Cargo Cranes as Possible Chinese Spying Tools," The Wall Street Journal, March 5 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China Sends Fighter Jets Near Taiwan as US Approves Arms Sale," Bloomberg, March 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["High Cost of Taiwan Invasion Will Dissuade China, Pentagon Official Says," USNI News, March 2](#)
- ["US Selling Taiwan \\$619M Worth of F-16 Munitions," The Defense Post, March 2](#)
- ["New U.S. committee on China warns of 'existential struggle' in first hearing," The Japan Times, March 1 \[Paywall\]](#)

- Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning indirectly blamed the U.S. for causing financial difficulties in developing countries such as Pakistan amid a war of words between the two countries over developing country debt.
- On March 2, the U.S. Commerce Department added 28 Chinese entities and individuals to its Entity List, citing potential national security risks, including alleged dealings with an Iranian electronics firm.
- A survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found that fewer U.S. companies view China as a top investment destination due to disruptions caused by China's strict anti-COVID measures and geopolitical tensions. It revealed U.S. companies' rising pessimism about their financial prospects in China, with over half stating negative profits last year.
- The U.S. has begun consultations with allied nations to discuss possible new sanctions on China if Beijing decides to provide military support to Russia.

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["China 'open' to visit by US commerce chief Gina Raimondo, trade ties 'very important' despite tensions," South China Morning Post, March 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China shakes up government to counter financial risks and US tech restrictions," CNBC News, March 8](#)
- ["Xi Jinping hits out at US as he urges China's private firms to 'fight' alongside Communist Party," CNN News, March 7](#)
- ["U.S. solar panel imports from China grow, alleviating gridlock, officials say," Reuters, March 6 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Biden expected to tighten rules on US investment in China," AP News, March 4](#)
- ["US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo Is Considering a China Trip This Year," Bloomberg, March 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China Blames US's 'Radical Fiscal Policy' for EM Debt Troubles," Bloomberg, March 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. Export Limits Target 28 Chinese Entities. Citing Alleged Ties to Iranian MiChina Blames US's 'Radical Fiscal Policy' for Poor Countries Debt Troubles - Bloomberglytary," The Wall Street Journal, March 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Fewer American Companies See China as an Investment Priority," The Wall Street Journal, March 1 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Exclusive: US seeks allies' backing for possible China sanctions over Ukraine war," Reuters, March 1 \[Paywall\]](#)



## Beijing's Two Sessions Comments on the U.S. and U.S.-China Relations



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang answered questions from Chinese and foreign reporters on China's foreign policy and foreign relations on March 8, 2023. (Source: Chinese Foreign Ministry, Public Domain)

- U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden plans to hold a phone call with President Xi Jinping after the Two Sessions gathering has concluded, though a date has yet to be set. The two have not spoken since November 2022.
- China's Ministry of Finance explained that the Chinese government is seeking to largely increase diplomatic and governmental budgets and hardening public stances with the United States.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping directly accused "Western countries led by the U.S." of "bringing unprecedented severe challenges to our country's development" in a rare explicit reference to the U.S.
- Major Chinese companies that were targeted by U.S. sanctions, particularly semiconductor and technology companies, were celebrated during the opening of the Two Sessions in Beijing.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for private firms and large entities to maintain a united front against U.S. sanctions.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang directly addressed the U.S. to "hit the brakes" as bilateral tensions continue to rise. Minister Qin Gang also asked the U.S. to explain its plan of the "destruction of Taiwan," adding pressure to the Taiwan question.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang warned that the rising U.S.-China tensions risk blowing away any previous guardrails in the bilateral relationship, marking a new stage of heightened tensions.

### Associated News Sources:

["Biden Expected to Have Call With China's Xi Jinping But No Date Set," Bloomberg, March 14 \[Paywall\]](#)  
["China ups diplomatic offensive with drastic increase in budget – and hardened stance on US," CNN News, March 9](#)  
["China accuses U.S. of containment and warns of potential conflict," NPR News, March 7](#)

## Industrial Turmoil, Decoupling, Concerns and Competition Persist



The ByteDance logo is seen at the company's headquarters on January 6, 2022 in Shanghai, China. (Source: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

- U.S. Senator Marco Rubio introduced new legislation that seeks to cancel Ford Motor's deal to utilize technologies from Chinese battery company CATL.
- 12 U.S. Senators sponsored new bipartisan legislation, created by the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee, that would allow for the expansion of President Biden's ability to prohibit TikTok on a nationwide level; a legislation the President previously endorsed.
- U.S. Senator Josh Hawley has been in-contact with a former ByteDance employee who stated that TikTok overstates its separation from China-based Bytedance and utilizes software that is not fully secure.
- Chinese technology chip imports slowed by 27% by volume during January and February 2023.
- Nvidia Corp, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., and other large technology firms are investigating halting sales to Inspur Group Ltd. following Inspur's addition to a U.S. export blacklist.
- Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He told top-tech industry executives that China must maintain a united "whole nation" approach to semiconductor production, as U.S. export controls increase their effect on the industry.
- The Biden administration announced new export restrictions for dozens of Chinese tech firms, adding 28 more to the Commerce Department's Entity List.
- China's military industries are looking to begin building China's first constellation of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites this year, attempting to catch up to U.S. firm Starlink.
- According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, China now has a "stunning lead" in 37 out of 44 critical and emerging technologies, as the U.S. and allied nations slip on global research output goals.

### Associated News Sources:

["A former TikTok employee tells Congress the app is lying about Chinese spying," The Washington Post, March 10 \[Paywall\]](#)



["Conflict with China is inevitable unless the U.S. changes course. Beijing's new foreign minister warns,"](#) CNBC, March 7

["About 100 Chinese Congress delegates chosen from U.S.-targeted companies,"](#) Nikkei Asia, March 7 [Paywall]

["Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang tells US to 'hit the brakes' as relations continue to deteriorate,"](#) South China Morning Post, March 7 [Paywall]

["Foreign Minister Qin Gang demands US explain 'destruction of Taiwan' plans,"](#) South China Morning Post, March 7 [Paywall]

["Xi's Frustration at Biden Grows With Warning of Conflict,"](#) Bloomberg, March 7 [Paywall]

["China's Xi Jinping Takes Rare Direct Aim at U.S. in Speech,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, March 6 [Paywall]

["China Warns US Risks Catastrophe With Moves to 'Contain' Beijing,"](#) Bloomberg, March 6 [Paywall]

["Rubio takes aim at planned Ford US battery plant using Chinese technology,"](#) Reuters, March 9 [Paywall]

["US senators unveil bipartisan bill empowering Biden to ban TikTok and other services,"](#) CNN News, March 8

["Senator's TikTok whistleblower alleges data abuses,"](#) Axios, March 8

["China's chip imports slump 27 per cent in the first 2 months of 2023 as US sanctions bite,"](#) South China Morning Post, March 7 [Paywall]

["US tech firms grapple with latest curbs on China's Inspur,"](#) Al Jazeera, March 7

["Biden Administration Backs New TikTok Bill, Wants Swift Passage,"](#) Bloomberg, March 7 [Paywall]

["US Lawmakers Step Up Push to Ban TikTok With Bill This Week,"](#) Bloomberg, March 5 [Paywall]

["China doubles down on 'whole nation' approach to chip self-sufficiency as US tightens export controls,"](#) South China Morning Post, March 3 [Paywall]

["US Expands Crackdown On China With Export Ban on Inspur, BGI,"](#) Bloomberg, March 2 [Paywall]

["China gears up to compete with SpaceX's Starlink this year,"](#) Reuters, March 2 [Paywall]

["China leads US in global competition for key emerging technology, study says,"](#) Reuters, March 1 [Paywall]

## Bilateral Efforts for Conflict Aversion



President Joe Biden greets German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday, March 3, 2023, in the Oval Office of the White House.  
(Official White House Photo by Adam Schultz)

- Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations and reopen state embassies following talks in Beijing, indicating a large shift from U.S. influence in the region.
- U.S. intelligence chief Avril Haines told lawmakers that the Chinese government is seeking to avoid further escalation of bilateral tensions and emphasized China's desire for a more stable relationship.
- White House National Security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters that the U.S. does not see a future path of conflict with China, despite Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang's warning of possible conflict with Washington.
- U.S. President Biden met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to discuss united measures to keep Western

## - In Other News -



Chinese Passport Stamps (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

["China is fully reopening to tourists after three years of border restrictions,"](#) CNN News, March 14

["Asian Startups' Confidence in U.S. Banking Wanes After SVB Panic,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, March 13 [Paywall]

["China slams Manila again over closer US military ties, warns against 'drawing wolves into the house,'"](#) South China Morning Post, March 12 [Paywall]

["To Counter China, U.S. and Allies Seek to Make Militaries 'Interchangeable,'"](#) The Wall Street Journal, March 12 [Paywall]

["G-7 should form united front versus China: ex-U.S. trade official,"](#) Nikkei Asia, March 10

["Nanjing university suspends lecturer after comments about imported food, US guns,"](#) Radio Free Asia, March 10

["U.S. House unanimously backs COVID origins information declassification,"](#) Reuters, March 10 [Paywall]

support homogenous amid rising tensions with China and Russia.

- U.S. Department of State spokesperson, Ned Price, stated he expected "additional calls and engagements" between the U.S. and China in the coming weeks.

- U.S. Treasury Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Kaproth visited China to hold technical discussions to improve the ability of bilateral trade cooperation.

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- *The China Project*: ["New House committee on China: Concerns and caution, but not all doom and gloom"](#) by Robert Rust (March 9, 2023)
- *The Information*: ["TikTok's Plan to Stay in the U.S. Could Pose a Threat—to U.S. Tech Companies"](#) by Matt Perault (March 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: ["China is right about US containment"](#) by Edward Luce (March 8, 2023) [Paywall]

- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China relations have strayed far off course”](#) by Xu Xiaobing (March 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Domestic politics. China loom large on Biden’s steep path to re-election”](#) by James David Spellman (March 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Chinese Companies Are Doing Risky Business in the Caribbean”](#) by Peter Coy (March 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *NBC News*: [“China has become a tough target for U.S. spies”](#) by Dan De Luce (March 8, 2023)
- U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission: [“China’s Paper on Ukraine and Next Steps for Xi’s Global Security Initiative”](#) by the USCC (March 7, 2023)
- *The New York Times Magazine*: [“The Daring Ruse That Exposed China’s Campaign to Steal American Secrets”](#) by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee (March 7, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Blunt but diplomatic message from Qin puts ball in US court”](#) by SCMP Editorial (March 7, 2023) [Paywall]
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- *Politico*: [“What Nigeria’s election means for U.S.-China rivalry”](#) by Lawrence Ukenye, Matt Berg, Alexander Ward (March 6, 2023)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“The U.S. Is Not Yet Ready for the Era of ‘Great Power’ Conflict”](#) by Micheal R. Gordon (March 6, 2023) [Paywall]
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- *MSNBC*: [“Rep. Judy Chu: I am a target of the right’s new McCarthyism”](#) by Judy Chu (March 6, 2023)
- *Financial Times*: [“China has a fateful choice to make on Ukraine”](#) by Gideon Rachman (March 6, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“China’s chip sector needs more than state money to dull impact of US restrictions”](#) by Josh Horwitz (March 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Analysis: As China ages, investors bet they can beat retirement home stigma”](#) by Farah Master and Casey Hall (March 3, 2023) [Paywall]
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- *The Economist*: [“Why aren’t China and America more afraid of a war?”](#) (March 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“Washington has succumbed to dangerous groupthink on China”](#) (March 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Science*: [“Lawmakers offer contrasting views on how to compete with China in science”](#) by Jeffery Mervis (March 2, 2023)
- *Financial Times*: [“America and the China lab leak theory”](#) by Edward Luce (March 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“The House China committee is off to a promising start”](#) by The Editorial Board (March 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“Biden’s best tool for halting a slide in U.S.-China relations? His phone.”](#) by David Ignatius (March 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“Gina Raimondo Becomes China Player in a Job Where Her Predecessor Used to Nap”](#) by Jenny Leonard and Eric Martin (March 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“Behind Enemy Lines”](#) by Jane Perlez (February 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“China’s Hidden Tech Revolution”](#) by Dan Wang (February 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“How America plans to break China’s grip on African minerals”](#) by *The Economist* (February 28, 2023) [Paywall]



## What's Happening Around Town?

### - Past Events -

- [Deterring a Cross-Strait Conflict: Beijing's Assessment of Evolving U.S. Strategy](#)  
March 6 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Is America's China Policy Too Hawkish?](#)  
March 6 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [Opportunities for Enhanced Near-term U.S.-China Climate Action: The Food System](#)  
March 7 hosted by Wilson Center
- [A country in flux: Recent and future policy shifts in China](#)  
March 10 by Brookings
- [Assignment China: A Conversation with Mike Chinoy](#)  
March 9 hosted by East-West Center
- [A country in flux: Recent and future policy shifts in China](#)  
March 10 hosted by Brookings

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Japan's Real Estate Crisis and Implications for China](#)  
March 15 hosted by Harvard Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies
- [Taiwan and Its Partners Beyond the Silicon Shield](#)  
March 17 hosted by Wilson Center
- [China's New Government Takes Over: Takeaways from China's Annual Legislative Session](#)  
March 21 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Hearing on "China's Global Influence and Interference Activities"](#)  
March 23 hosted by The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [Assessing the Economic and Financial Dynamics of a Cross-Strait Crisis](#)  
March 29 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

## What ICAS Is Up To

### ---ICAS Issue Brief---

#### **The New Marcos Administration**

*By Jessica Martin*

*March 9, 2023*



#### **Key Takeaways:**

- Since President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s inauguration in June 2022, the Philippines’ new administration appears to have been open and direct in its heavy encouragement of bilateral partnerships and emphasis on self-defense. Marcos Jr. is already working towards a clear, new vision for the Philippines in the wake of the preceding administration’s about-face reputation.



- While Manila's diplomatic moves—many of which have already strengthened Philippine-U.S. relations—may not significantly alter Philippine-China relations, they are already impacting U.S.-China bilateral relations.
- Between years of built up suspicions and verbal battles, the health of the U.S.-China relationship may very well be at its 'sourest' point ever; a fact that may persist as the U.S. renews and enhances its security cooperation with one of China's neighbors.
- Although a foreign diplomatic plan already appears to be underway, the Marcos administration is still settling in. If 'Step 1' in Marcos' plan is to reestablish trust in Manila on the global stage, then what is 'Step 2' and beyond? Regardless, the world can expect to continue to see Manila's foreign ministry in action for months, if not years, to come.

[Link to Full Post](#)

### ---ICAS MAP Co-sponsored Event---

#### **Roles of Asian Observers in Arctic Governance: Adapting to a Changing Arctic Council**

April 13, 2023

9:30-11:00am EDT (GMT+4)

What does the suspension of the Arctic Council meetings mean for Arctic Council observers? Will Norway, who will take over the chairmanship in May 2023, make any progress to break through the current ties? Will the debate on the concept of an "Arctic Council 2.0" gain support among non-Arctic states who have a deep interest in Arctic governance? Will non-Arctic countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore — which have growing Arctic interests and have contributed much to Arctic research — welcome the opportunity for them to establish a more solid role in this region's affairs? How will the observers adapt to a changing Arctic Council?

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, join the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program and University of Alberta China Institute in a joint virtual discussion on these vital questions. The full list of scholars, providing perspectives from the five Asian observers of the Arctic Council—China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore—will be released soon.

[Subscribe to Stay Informed](#)

[Learn More About the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program](#)

### ---ICAS In the News---



On **Friday, March 3, 2023**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** [discussed](#) the Ukraine conflict and U.S.-German relations on CGTN America's The Heat.

- "China in 2023 is going to be the motor for economic growth in the global economy. Therefore, it will fall on China's shoulders to support global growth and in a fairly substantial way, and the best way to support that is for China to grow well. I know this government has set a growth target of 5% but I think it's been a bit modest, I think China can and should easily reach 6%."

- "A new turning point in China's development, and China still has at least 25 or 30 years of very significant growth and very significant transformation. Therefore, if I had to select a word for the future it would be tantalizing."

On **Thursday, March 2, 2023**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** was [quoted](#) in a China Daily article on U.S.-China relations alongside the Two Sessions meetings.

- "I'm expecting growth somewhere in the range at or above 6 percent minimum, and so that's a good enough number., but I think China should really strive to look at a 7 or 8 percent target if that's possible. The main area of growth of course will be in the area of consumption, because the consumers are going to come out and spend again. It's the government's role to support consumption in the economy, and support economic growth without exacerbating some existing legacy imbalances that are there in the economy."
- "There is no economic recession for China anytime in the near future."

On **Friday, March 3, 2023**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** [discussed](#) the Ukraine conflict and U.S.-German relations on CGTN America's The Heat.

- "I would say that initially perhaps to escalate the war, but I think it's ultimately about strategies to end the war. I think that the Western powers are looking for an end to the hostilities by the end of this summer frankly, and that's why there is an urgency in arming the Ukrainians, although not arming them with things like airplanes, F-16s, etc. So the goal here is to give the Ukrainians another chance in terms of their right to self-defense to move the front lines. We'll see whether the front lines move at all and thereafter come up with something which would lead to a secession of hostilities."

On **Thursday, March 2, 2023**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** was [quoted](#) in a China Daily article on U.S.-China relations alongside the Two Sessions meetings.

- "The first step toward making a constructive relationship is to stabilize that relationship,"
- "in the broader US-China relationship, they want to add stability to it, and I should think China welcomes it".
- "So, coming out of the two sessions, I foresee China placing, not overriding importance to the US relationship, but significant importance in stabilizing the US relationship. And I think that will be a good thing."



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

March 29, 2023

#### What's Going On? ↓

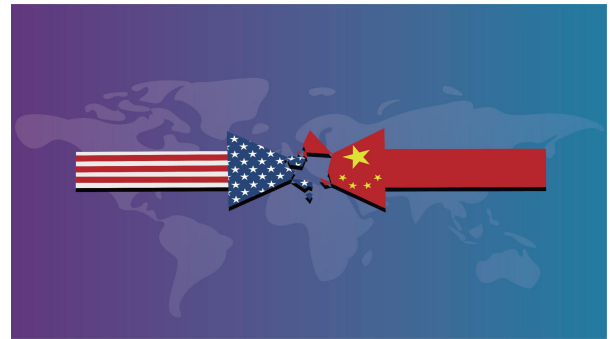
##### TikTok and Electronic Security Concerns Take Center Stage



*TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testifies before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill on March 23, 2023 in Washington, DC.  
(Source: Chip Somodevilla via Getty Images)*

- Following a five-hour hearing between the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce and TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, after the CEO faced continuous accusations and answered questions about TikTok's firewall and data protection policies, China's Foreign Ministry released a statement clarifying that China does not ask any company for access to foreign data.
- Popular social media app company TikTok is facing continual calls from the U.S. Congress about a possible ban of the app over national security concerns.
- The Biden Administration announced new tight restrictions on access to CHIPS Act semiconductor funds, barring Chinese firms from winning federal grants.
- Chinese app Pinduoduo has been banned from the Google Play store, as recently found versions of the app contained malware, raising suspicions on Chinese-developed e-commerce apps.
- Groups of Silicon Valley technology firm executives are looking to cooperate on moving away from Chinese technology firms, especially TikTok.
- TikTok and Oracle utilized lobbying and light protest techniques to showcase domestic support for the app, in-light of the Congressional hearings.

##### Suspicious and Desires for Connection Simultaneously Persist



*Two arrows crashing together, with one having an American flag and the other a Chinese flag over a world map.  
(Source: Wenjin Chen via Getty Images, Royalty Free)*

- The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) sued Binance and its CEO Changpeng Zhao for "willful evasion" of U.S. law, alleging that the world's biggest crypto exchange operated an "illegal" exchange and a "sham" compliance program.
- China's commerce minister, Wang Wentao saw Apple CEO Tim Cook to discuss China's reopening and supply chain issues while attending the China Development Forum. Meanwhile, Apple has been encouraging suppliers to diversify their production away from China.
- Starting April 1, foreign parties will indefinitely lose access to four databases in the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, China's top portal for academic papers.
- Chinese authorities detained five local staff members and raided the Beijing office of U.S. due diligence firm Mintz Group, alerting foreign companies in China amid an international economic forum.
- The U.S. House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party is looking to investigate possible human rights violations from China to the Uyghur population.
- Apple CEO Tim Cook and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla are among the few U.S. business leaders physically attending

- The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters that the U.S. should, “stop spreading disinformation about data security” and provide a fair and open economy for TikTok and other companies.
- Researchers with Google found that Chinese state-sponsored hackers are able to evade common security techniques to burrow into government and private networks to spy, and have been able to for years.
- After weeks of clashes, the Biden administration warned TikTok that the app will either need to sell to a U.S. based company, or face a ban from the U.S. market.

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- [“TikTok faces uncertain future after 5-hour congressional thrashing.”](#) *The Washington Post*, March 23 [Paywall]
- [“Key takeaways: TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew testifies to US Congress.”](#) *Al Jazeera*, March 23
- [“Biden Stunts Growth in China for Chipmakers Getting US Funds.”](#) *Bloomberg*, March 21 [Paywall]
- [“Google Halts Download of Chinese App Pinduoduo Over Security Concerns.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, March 21 [Paywall]
- [“Silicon Valley and Capitol Hill Build an Anti-China Alliance.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, March 17 [Paywall]
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- [“U.S. tells TikTok owners to sell app or face a ban.”](#) *Axios*, March 15

- the China Development Forum, which opened March 26.
- A Former U.S. Marine Corps pilot has been arrested in Australia on charges of breaking U.S. laws by training Chinese fighter pilots to land on aircraft carriers.
- U.S. President Biden signed a bill to declassify significant amounts of COVID-origination documents and turn “potential links” into the hands of the public.
- The U.S. plans to resume domestic visa renewals for certain categories, including H-1B for high-skilled IT workers from India and China. A pilot program will begin this year before potentially scaling up.
- Rounds of Chinese ammunition have been used in Ukrainian battlefields by Russian soldiers, according to U.S. government sources.
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry warned that AUKUS has gone down a “wrong and dangerous road” in agreeing to acquire nuclear submarines which it argues “completely ignored the concerns of the international community.”

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- [“Tim Cook and Ray Dalio Among Few US Chiefs Attending China Business Summit.”](#) *Bloomberg*, March 23 [Paywall]
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## U.S. and China Dance with Diplomacy and Military Movements Over Taiwan



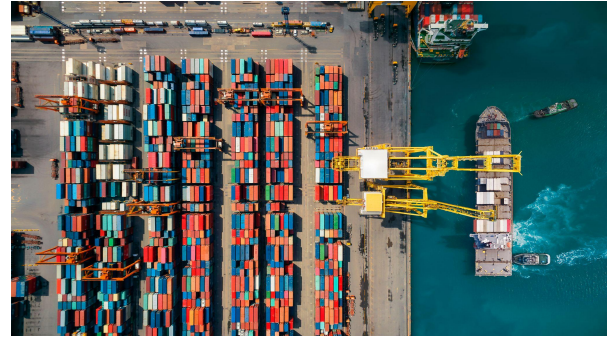
The USS Milius (DDG 69) transiting the Pacific Ocean on March 2, 2022.  
(Source: Official U.S. Navy Page, Flickr, Public Domain)

- The U.S.'s presence in Taiwan cautioned that China frequently fails to keep its promises in exchange for recognition, as Honduras officially severed its longstanding relations with Taiwan in favor of China.
- On March 23, the U.S. denied Beijing's accusation that the USS *Milius*, a guided missile destroyer, had ever "illegally intruded into China's Xisha territorial waters without the approval of the Chinese government."
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the importance of U.S. arms sales and supplemental military funding to Taiwan to run against China's growing capability of invasion by 2027.
- Pacific Air Forces Commander General Kenneth Wilsbach stressed the need for both better weapons to sink Chinese warships with surface-to-air missiles and location radars in east Taiwan to protect the island.
- The Biden administration urges China to avoid raising tensions during Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's U.S. visit in the coming week while adhering to the U.S. commitment to maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan.
- The U.S. and Taiwan have announced new meetings to work towards a bilateral trade agreement, which include five topics that both countries believe to be beneficial in the promotion of free trade.

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- ["U.S. warns China's promises often empty as Honduras wavers on Taiwan," Reuters, March 25 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. rejects China claim that warship illegally entered South China Sea waters," NBC News, March 24](#)
- ["Blinken says China will be capable of invading Taiwan by 2027," South China Morning Post, March 22 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. Needs Air Superiority, Ship-Killing Weapons to Defend Taiwan, Pacific Air Forces Commander Says," USNI News, March 21](#)
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## Supply Chain Dynamics Fuels Economic Competition



An aerial view of a sea transportation hub with import and export products.  
(Source: Anucha Sirivisanuwan via Getty Image, Royalty-Free)

- An executive order on outbound investment screening may be issued within weeks or months, which would require companies to inform Washington in advance of potentially problematic investments in a narrow range of sensitive industries, marking a further step in the decoupling of the U.S. and Chinese economies.
- A Chinese commerce ministry spokesperson stated that China has never aimed to achieve a trade surplus with the U.S., despite reducing reliance on American exports. A U.S. think tank subsequently suggested inflation as the main contributor.
- Apple is pushing for changes to India's labor laws to diversify production beyond top supplier Foxconn in China, with Indian local governments willing to consider flexible rules.
- Manufacturers are moving production back to China as tariffs impact their profit margins, after shifting to Southeast Asia due to previous U.S.-China trade tensions.
- The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) founder Morris Chang stated that free trade globalization for the chips sector is dead, following increased bilateral embargo lists from the U.S. and China.
- The People's Bank of China stated its intention to "appropriately respond" to U.S. containment and suppression, echoing President Xi Jinping's criticism of the U.S.'s attempts to suppress the country's economy.

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- ["China says it has never deliberately pursued trade surplus with U.S.," Reuters, March 23 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Apple Seeks India Labor Reform to Diversify Beyond China," Bloomberg, March 21 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Manufacturers Move Back to China as Renewal of U.S. Trade Deal Is Delayed," The Wall Street Journal, March 17 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Chip Globalization Is Over and Sanctions Work, Says](#)

[“U.S., Taiwan Move Closer to Trade, Investment Agreement.”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, March 16 [Paywall]

## New and Old Diplomatic Maneuvers Stay in Play



Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken meets with African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on March 16, 2023.  
Source: U.S. State Department photo by Chuck Kennedy, Public Domain)

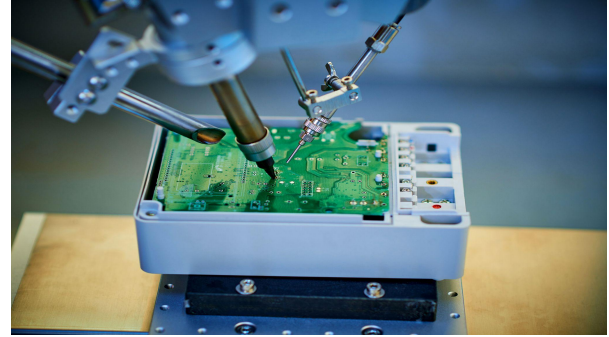
- Several high-ranking Chinese diplomats stated that China strongly opposes any new U.S. military presence within the Philippines.
- 40 U.S. senators have joined a bipartisan initiative to stand behind Hong Kong, and possibly utilize sanctions against China.
- Beijing defense scientists simulated North Korea launching an intercontinental ballistic missile attack against the U.S. mainland, which projected the possibility of such a missile hitting the central U.S. about 33 minutes after launch if the U.S. missile defense network fails to intercept it.
- U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to more than five countries collectively in Africa in a bid to counter the growing Chinese influence on the continent.
- During her visit to Zambia and Ghana, Vice President Harris planned to discuss the growing Chinese presence in Africa, and reaffirm bilateral partnerships.
- Chinese Premier Li Qiang voiced his desire for the U.S. and China to cooperate and work together to reduce bilateral tensions, including resuming important high-level talks.
- Chinese analysts have suggested a mitigation technique for a possible U.S. Speaker of the House visit to Taiwan—jointly sending the Vice President to Beijing—that was last used in 1997.

*Associated News Sources:*

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[TSMC Founder.”](#) *Bloomberg*, March 16 [Paywall]  
[“China Central Bank Heeds Xi Call to Fight US ‘Containment’.”](#) *Bloomberg*, March 15 [Paywall]

## - In Other News -



A robotic arm welding and installing components at a semiconductor circuit board on a workbench.

(Credit: Comezora via Getty Images, Royalty Free)

[“Sam Bankman-Fried Is Charged With Foreign Bribery.”](#) *The New York Times*, March 28 [Paywall]  
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## What Are We Reading?

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- *The Washington Post*: [“Yes, TikTok is a threat to America. But so are U.S. social media companies.”](#) by Max Boot (March 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“A TikTok ban might be a win for China. There’s a better way.”](#) by The Editorial Board (March 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- [“Testimony Before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce , Written Statement of Testimony”](#) by Shou Zi Chew via *The Washington Post* (March 23, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [“Lab Leak or Not? How Politics Shaped the Battle Over Covid’s Origin”](#) by Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Benjamin Mueller (March 23, 2023) [Paywall]
- Pew Research Center: [“Young Adults in Europe Are Critical of the U.S. and China – but for Different Reasons”](#) by Laura Clancy (March 22, 2023)
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“Don’t Panic About Taiwan”](#) by Jessica Chen Weiss (March 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“Deny, Deflect, Deter: Countering China’s Economic Coercion”](#) by Matthew Reynolds and Matthew P. Goodman (March 21, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Does US embrace mean end of Kenya’s pro-China ‘Look East’ policy?”](#) by Jevans Nyabiage (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“How to Fix the TikTok Problem”](#) by Julia Angwan (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“China as Peacemaker in the Ukraine War? The U.S. and Europe Are Skeptical.”](#) by Edward Wong and Steven Erlanger (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Tracking the Chinese Balloon From Space”](#) by Muiy Xiao, Ishaan Jhaveri, Eleanor Lutz, Christoph Koettl and Julian E. Barnes (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“China must ‘tolerate failure’ in science and tech to close gap with US, by reforming risk-averse research environment”](#) by Mia Nulimaimaiti (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“The Real Risk of the China Select Committee”](#) by Anatol Klass (March 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“Mike Pompeo on Sounding the Alarm about China”](#) by Bob Davis (March 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Americans Encounter Hurdles to Studying in China Even as Covid Restrictions Ease”](#) by Stella Yifan Xie (March 18, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“How much did Trump-era tariffs on China cost Americans? New US findings confirm ‘self-inflicted harm’”](#) by Seong Hyeon Choi (March 17, 2023) [Paywall]



- AP News: [“With Saudi deals, US, China battle for influence in Mideast”](#) by Aamer Madhani, Matthew Lee, and Ellen Knickmeyer (March 16, 2023)
- AP News: [“Why TikTok’s security risks keep raising fears”](#) by Haleluya Hadero (March 16, 2023)
- Peterson Institute for International Economics: [“Five years into the trade war, China continues its slow decoupling from US exports”](#) by Chad P. Bown and Yilin Wang (March 16, 2023)
- Reuters: [“Analysis: Chinese suppliers race to Vietnam as COVID let-up opens escape route from Sino-U.S. trade war”](#) by Francesco Guarascio (March 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- The China Project: [“China and the Town — Tattling-on-China season in full throttle in D.C.”](#) by Laurel Schwartz (March 15, 2023)
- The Washington Post: [“Banning TikTok is a bad solution to the wrong problem”](#) by Chris Stokel-Walker (March 15, 2023) [Paywall]

## What’s Happening Around Town?

### - Past Events -

- [Inside China’s ‘Two Sessions’](#)  
March 28 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [The Chinese Communist Party’s Ongoing Uyghur Genocide](#)  
March 23 hosted by House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party
- [Hearing on “China’s Global Influence and Interference Activities”](#)  
March 23 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [China’s New Government Takes Over: Takeaways from China’s Annual Legislative Session](#)  
March 21 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Taiwan and Its Partners Beyond the Silicon Shield](#)  
March 17 hosted by Wilson Center

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Assessing the Economic and Financial Dynamics of a Cross-Strait Crisis](#)  
March 29 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [2023 U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable Opening Ceremony](#)  
April 4 hosted by United States Heartland China Association
- [China’s Climate Security Vulnerabilities](#)  
April 11 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Whose Grass is Greener? The American and Chinese Climate Challenge](#)  
April 20 hosted by The China Project



# What ICAS Is Up To

---ICAS MAP Co-sponsored Event---

## Roles of Asian Observers in Arctic Governance: Adapting to a Changing Arctic Council

Thursday, April 13, 2023  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM EST

Climate change has increased accessibility to potential Arctic resources, changing the geopolitical landscape and broadening the international focus on the Arctic to include more geographically distant countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore. Seeking observer status in the Arctic Council is regarded by these Asian countries to be an important step towards ensuring that they are involved in determining the future of the Arctic; a region which they believe will influence their economic interests and global environmental concerns.

Triggered by the Ukraine conflict, the March 2022 joint statement by the Arctic Council states to pause participation in all meetings of the Arctic Council indicates grave impediments to international cooperation in the Arctic. So long as this statement is in play, the premier forum for Arctic governance, which tended to be immune from geopolitical tensions, can no longer function in its consensus-based format. This subsequently opened up an ongoing debate on the future of the Arctic Council.

What does the suspension of the Arctic Council meetings mean for Arctic Council observers? Will Norway, who will take over the chairmanship in May 2023, make any progress to break through the current ties? Will the debate on the concept of an “Arctic Council 2.0” gain support among non-Arctic states who have a deep interest in Arctic governance? Will non-Arctic countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore — which have growing Arctic interests and have contributed much to Arctic research — welcome the opportunity for them to establish a more solid role in this region’s affairs? How will the observers adapt to a changing Arctic Council?

This event, co-organized by the China Institute of the University of Alberta, will bring together scholars from the five Asian observers of the Arctic Council, China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Singapore to exchange their views on this critical issue.

[Learn More](#)

[About the Co-Organizer: China Institute, University of Alberta](#)



**VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE**  
April 13, 2023 | 9:30-11:00 am EST

## ROLES OF ASIAN OBSERVERS IN ARCTIC GOVERNANCE

### Adapting to a Changing Arctic Council

**OPENING REMARKS**  
Jia WANG  
Interim Director, China Institute, University of Alberta

**MODERATOR**  
Nong HONG  
Executive Director, Institute for China-America Studies

**SPEAKERS**  
ZHAO Long  
Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Institute for Global Governance Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, China  
Sakiko HATAYA  
Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sakakawa Peace Foundation, Japan  
KIM Wonhee  
Senior Researcher, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, South Korea  
Anurag BISEN  
Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, India  
Christopher LEN  
Independent Scholar, Singapore

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### ---ICAS MAP Commentary---

#### **What does the High Seas Treaty imply for China in the South China Sea and the Arctic Ocean?**

*By Nong Hong  
March 17, 2023*

March 4th marks a historic achievement of the law of the sea community with a legally binding agreement reached by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) after almost 20 years' negotiation. The BBNJ Agreement, now also called High Seas Treaty, is the culmination of discussions that began in 2004 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the oceans beyond the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) and continental shelves of states. The new instrument will offer protection to the nearly two-thirds of the ocean that is beyond national jurisdiction and address existing inequalities in sharing the benefits accrued from the organisms of these areas...

[Link to Full Post](#)

### ---ICAS BCCC Commentary---

#### **"Greenwashing" is slowing down the needed progress in renewable electricity studies**

*By Zhangchen Wang  
March 27, 2023*

The renewable energy industry is now entering a stage of high-speed growth as countries pay more attention to reducing carbon emissions. Considering the [enormous additions](#) of the fossil fuel industry to the global CO2 emissions output, a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy to generate electricity will be the only path to curb climate change. In fact, this transition has already begun. Currently, [more than a fourth](#) of global electricity production capacity comes from renewable energy, leading the proportion of fossil fuels-generated power to decrease in recent years. Many energy consumers, including both individual households and major corporations, are also trying to increase their share of renewable electricity to fulfill sustainable development goals and enhance the brand image. Unfortunately, despite the encouraging trends, the huge demand for renewable electricity clearly exceeds its actual productivity. As a result, some cases of misinformation and practices in disinformation related to climate productivity—commonly coming to be known as “greenwashing”—began to emerge in the renewable energy industry. Although the emergence of such “greenwashing” activities further prove the preference of the public and general market toward renewable energy and its unprecedented potential, it is still necessary to prevent this misleading information from both causing unfair competition and consequently damaging the environment...

[Link to Full Post](#)

### ---ICAS In the News---

On **Tuesday, March 21, 2023**, Senior Fellow **Sourabh Gupta** [discussed](#) Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow and China's Ukraine peace proposal on *CBS News*.

- “There are two purposes (for President Xi’s visit to Moscow), I think one is that he wants to reconfirm his relationship with Russia. For China, Russia is the most important geopolitical player, and he wants to have the Russians in his pocket or at least on his side. The second purpose is he wants to know exactly what president Putin’s war aims are, when Putin came last time in February and they had the no limits partnership Putin then went ahead and had his invasion.”
- “If China’s peace proposals are going to have any significance or any weight he must know what Putin wants and does not want so he can relay those, at least, to Mr Zelensky and try to at least play some role as a facilitator.”
- “At some point of time, there might be a Taiwan crisis, he (President Xi) does not want Mr. Putin then playing with the West and against him, he needs to have Mr. Putin in his corner. So he does not want to have bad relations with Russia, he wants to have good relations with Russia, but also at some point in time China loses face by being so closely tied with Mr. Putin particularly in the international environment.”



The Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) is an independent think tank in Washington D.C. ICAS focuses on the evolving dynamics in the U.S.-China relationship to promote greater collaboration and mutual understanding through sincere exchanges of fresh ideas, objective policy-oriented research, and fair assessments of this critical bilateral relationship.

We aim 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.

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