



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

May 10, 2023

What's Going On?

Naval and Intellectual Forces Boil Around the South China Sea



A woman takes a photo on a warship inside Taiwan's navy camp during a recruiting event at Xinbin Port on March 11, 2023. (Source: Annabelle Chih, Getty Images)

- Taiwan has begun talks with the U.S. Department of Defense to receive US\$500 million in free weapons, according to Taiwanese Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng.
- The United States and the Philippines have jointly issued new guidelines which address "bilateral defense guidelines" around possible South China Sea attacks.
- At a daily press briefing, in response to a question on the renewed U.S.-Philippine security alliance, Chinese ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the South China Sea "should not be a hunting ground for external forces."
- U.S. defense contractors and a senior leader from the U.S. Marine Corp pledged together to have deeper cooperation with Taiwan and "be part of the self-defense capabilities of Taiwan." The joint pledge comes as Taiwanese defense contractor Aerospace Industrial Development Corp. seeks a partnership with the U.S. to produce a fighter jet.
- The United States has committed to assisting the Philippines in resupplying a grounded naval ship in the South China Sea, in attempts to circumvent the Chinese prevention of resupplying the ship.
- Chinese officials have pushed against U.S. goals of creating a bilateral "hotline" to increase communication in crisis situations, as they provide the U.S. with "cover" for

The Power Competition of Artificial Intelligence and App Dominance



Huawei icon in 3D against a red background. (Source: Rubaitul Azad, Unsplash)

- Artificial intelligence (AI) researchers have become concerned that the competition between the U.S. and China to rapidly develop AI softwares could lead the rest of the world behind and unable to compete.
- U.S. sanctions on Chinese technology companies have encouraged accelerated AI research, based on techniques to avoid using American microchips and semiconductors.
- Chinese technology company Pinduoduo has moved its headquarters from Shanghai, China to Dublin, Ireland, in a move which analysts suggested arises from U.S. scrutiny on Chinese-based tech firms.
- U.S. senators are considering new legislation that would give the Biden administration more power in limiting the video sharing app TikTok, alongside a bipartisan bill to enhance U.S. economic competition with China and respond to Chinese aggression towards Taiwan.
- Chinese technology company Huawei has developed a system to replace U.S. sanction-blocked ERP (enterprise resource planning) programs which had significantly limited international expansion. Despite the development of this new system, Huawei still faced flat revenue growth for the first quarter of 2023, with a marginal growth rate of 0.8% from last year.
- G-7 nation science ministers are anticipated to create an

possible operations within the South China Sea and around Taiwan.
 - Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning stated that China firmly opposes deployment of nuclear submarines to South Korea, explaining that doing so is putting "regional security at risk."

Associated News Sources:

- ["US and Taiwan in talks for US\\$500 million in free weapons after arms deliveries stalled,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 8 [Paywall]
- ["US issues guidelines on defending Philippines from South China Sea attack,"](#) *Channel News Asia*, May 4
- ["China says South China Sea should not be 'hunting ground' for foreign forces,"](#) *Reuters*, May 4
- ["US defense contractors want deeper cooperation with Taiwan,"](#) *AP News*, May 3
- ["Taiwan seeking US cooperation to make next-generation fighters,"](#) *Reuters*, May 3
- ["U.S. 'ready' to aid Philippine resupplies in South China Sea: admiral,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, May 1 [Paywall]
- ["China Balks at U.S. Push for Better Communications During Crises,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 30 [Paywall]
- ["China denounces US plans to send nuclear ballistic submarine to South Korea,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 27 [Paywall]

agreement on funding sources, which would define inappropriate influence on scientific research and address circulation of research while protecting national security.
 - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo stated that Chinese technology companies like Huawei and Alibaba may pose a security threat towards the United States, and promised to review requests to add them to export control lists.

Associated News Sources:

- ["AI Researchers Worry the U.S. and China Will Leave Everyone Else Behind,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 8 [Paywall]
- ["U.S. Sanctions Drive Chinese Firms to Advance AI Without Latest Chips,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 7 [Paywall]
- ["Pinduoduo owner moves headquarters to Ireland amid US-China tensions,"](#) *Financial Times*, May 4 [Paywall]
- ["Senators will look at legislation addressing TikTok in China proposal, Schumer says,"](#) *Reuters*, May 3
- ["Senate Democrats Plan Bipartisan Bill to Compete With China,"](#) *Bloomberg*, May 3 [Paywall]
- ["‘We have survived!’: China’s Huawei goes local in response to US sanctions,"](#) *Financial Times*, May 2 [Paywall]
- ["Tech war: Huawei Q1 revenue stagnates as tech giant struggles to counter US sanctions,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 28
- ["G-7 science ministers to push for research funding transparency,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, April 28 [Paywall]
- ["US official says Chinese cloud companies like Huawei could pose threat,"](#) *Reuters*, April 26

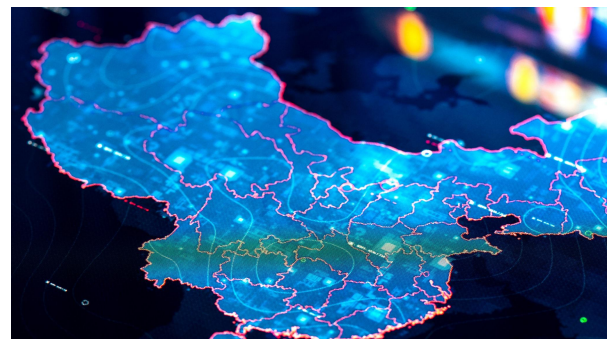
Accusations and Combative Arguments Still Remain in the Public Eye



Secretary Blinken and National Security Advisor Sullivan deliver statements to the press in Anchorage, Alaska on March 19, 2021 following an in-person meeting with their Chinese counterparts.
 (Source: U.S. Department of State via Flickr)

- Chinese international students in the U.S. have begun to fear that content created while studying abroad may go against the updated Chinese counterespionage law, which goes into effect in July.

Business Woes Heighten and Actions are Taken as Suspicions Increase



A map of China on a digital display. (Source: GettyImages, Royalty Free)

- Foreign enterprises in China are concerned about the Communist Party's increasing emphasis on information scrutiny, which implies questioning these firms.
 - LinkedIn announced it will cut 700+ jobs and discontinue its China app, following other technology companies in workforce reductions due to the weakening

- The governor of Florida, Ron Desantis, passed sweeping legislation that limits Chinese citizens from purchasing land in the state, prohibits the use of TikTok on government or school servers, and bans colleges and universities from accepting donations or gifts from “foreign countries of concern” which includes China.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told the U.S. to “reflect deeply” upon bilateral ties before they can return back to a healthy path, arguing that Washington was responsible for the rise in tensions.
- Tsai Ming-yen, the director-general of Taiwan’s National Security Bureau, stated that Chinese President Xi “doesn’t allow any kind of different voice in the Chinese political system,” explaining that this approach increases the “risk of making a wrong decision” on Taiwan.
- John Podesta, Senior Advisor to President Joe Biden for clean energy innovation and implementation, told the Biden Administration that the U.S. is vulnerable to a “lock” on critical mineral processing from China.
- U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns expressed the desire to “see from China much more tough-minded” stances on the Russian-Ukrainian war, clarifying that the U.S. desires China to “push Russia to remove its troops.”
- The Biden administration has decided to remain silent on Indian democratic backsliding and severe challenges to human rights, as competition with China increases the strategic need for U.S.-India cooperation.
- Leaked U.S. intelligence documents have shown that “key nations” such as India, Brazil, Pakistan and Egypt are determined to avoid the ongoing U.S.-China strategic competition.
- U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan argued that U.S. subsidies for domestic clean-energy technology will help rather than hurt U.S. international partnerships as the strategy will “build a fairer, more durable international economic order.”
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry has warned the U.S. that “China will resolutely take countermeasures” if the U.S. continues to pursue criminal cases against Chinese officers accused of targeting political dissidents within the U.S.

Associated News Sources:

[“China tells US to ‘reflect deeply’ over downturn in ties,”](#) AP News, May 9

[“Florida’s Ron DeSantis signs bills limiting Chinese land ownership, TikTok at schools,”](#) South China Morning Post, May 9 [Paywall]

[“Chinese students in U.S. wary of going home under new spy law,”](#) Nikkei Asia, May 6 [Paywall]

[“Taiwan’s Spy Chief Says ‘Five Eyes’ Helping to Grasp Xi’s Motives,”](#) Bloomberg, May 4 [Paywall]

[“US Is Vulnerable to China’s Lock on Key Minerals, Biden Aide Says,”](#) Bloomberg, May 3 [Paywall]

[“Beijing Warned Against Sending Russia Lethal Aid for Ukraine War, Says U.S. Ambassador to China,”](#) USNI

global economic outlook.

- The Chinese authority's recent challenge to American consulting firm Bain & Co. have led foreign firms to worry about complying with U.S. sanction requirements and the risk of conducting local business.
- FedEx is relocating its Asia headquarters and executives from Hong Kong to Singapore while retaining its office and most staff amid U.S.-China tensions and trade slowdown.
- Despite the escalating U.S.-China tensions, the president of the Chinese-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) asserts that the bank maintains strong cooperation with American institutions, businesses, and the U.S. Treasury Department. AIIB also called on regional countries to fight for protectionism amidst the ongoing U.S.-China tensions.
- Bipartisan U.S. lawmakers have urged the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to pause the Chinese fast-fashion company Shein's initial public offering (IPO), or stock launch, until the absence of Uyghur forced labor is verified through an independent audit.
- Hong Kong criticized the U.S. for its 'Made in China' export rule after a World Trade Organization (WTO) forum Geneva meeting, accusing it of undermining WTO's rules-based trading system, while the U.S. stalls judge appointments to the panel.
- Europe is adopting a tougher stance on China, seemingly aligning more with U.S. policies, as concerns over China's alliance with Russia and domestic repression prompt increased export and investment controls.
- Airline disputes complicate U.S.-China relations as American carriers lobby against Chinese rivals who are seeking more flights between countries.
- In a recent speech, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan clarified that the U.S. aims to "de-risk" rather than decouple from China, emphasizing the importance of resilient supply chains and domestic spending for competition.
- Chinese authorities questioned U.S. consulting company Bain & Co.'s Shanghai staff, reflecting Beijing's increasing pressure on foreign firms operating in the country.

Associated News Sources:

[“Even as China Reopens, Security Visits Spook Foreign Businesses,”](#) The New York Times, May 8 [Paywall]

[“LinkedIn cuts over 700 jobs, phases out China app as demand wavers,”](#) Reuters, May 8

[“U.S. Companies in China Worry Due Diligence Will End in Spy Dramas,”](#) The Wall Street Journal, May 5 [Paywall]

[“FedEx Plans to Move Asia Headquarters, Executives to Singapore From Hong Kong,”](#) Bloomberg, May 4 [Paywall]

[“Tracking the impact of U.S.-China tensions on global financial institutions,”](#) NPR, May 1

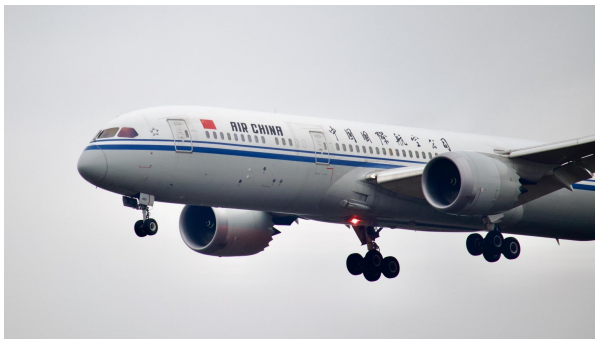
[“US lawmakers push SEC to order audit of Shein IPO over Uyghur forced labor fears,”](#) Reuters, May 1

News, May 2

[“US Looks Past India’s Rights Record as China Worries Deepen,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 2 [Paywall]
[“Key nations sit out U.S. standoff with Russia, China, leaks show,”](#) *The Washington Post*, April 29 [Paywall]
[“Top Biden Aide Says U.S. Subsidies Will Help, Not Hurt Relationships With Allies,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 27 [Paywall]
[“China vows to retaliate if US continues case against police officers accused of targeting dissidents in America.”](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 27 [Paywall]

[“Asian Development Bank calls on countries to fight protectionism as US-China ties sour,”](#) *Financial Times*, April 30 [Paywall]
[“Hong Kong hits out at US over ‘Made in China’ rule for exports after meeting in Geneva,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 29 [Paywall]
[“Europe takes tougher stance toward China in boost to U.S. policy,”](#) *Japan Times*, April 29 [Paywall]
[“Airlines dispute adds headwinds to US-China relationship,”](#) *Financial Times*, April 29 [Paywall]
[“US Wants to ‘De-Risk,’ Not Decouple, From China, Biden Aide Says,”](#) *Bloomberg*, April 27 [Paywall]
[“Chinese Authorities Question Staff at Bain’s Shanghai Office,”](#) *Bloomberg*, April 27 [Paywall]

Desires for Increased Travel to Decrease Tensions



An Air China Boeing 787 landing at Frankfurt Airport.
 (Source: Andrew Dawes/Unsplash)

- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken plans to make a trip to China in 2023 with a goal of recreating “regular lines of communication at all levels and across our government.”
- The U.S. Department of Defense is looking to schedule a meeting between Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his Chinese counterpart, which is to be held in Singapore as early as June.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation has decided to allow Chinese commercial airlines to increase weekly flights allowances to 12 round trip flights each week, matching the number China allows for U.S. carriers.
- John Kerry, the U.S. climate envoy, was invited by the Chinese government to visit in “the near term” to discuss strategies to fight climate change.
- U.S. Ambassador to China, Nicholas Burns, stated that the U.S. is “ready to talk” with hopes that “the Chinese will meet us halfway.”
- Chinese President Xi and Ukrainian President Zelensky had a joint call to discuss possible cooperation to establish a just and sustainable peace for Ukraine, amid rising international pressure from the U.S. and allies for China to take a concrete stance on the war in Ukraine.

- In Other News -



Two figures discussing the U.S. and China sitting at opposing sides of a table.
 (Source: Gettyimages, Royalty Free)

[“U.S. Think Tank Reports Prompted Beijing to Put a Lid on Chinese Data,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 7 [Paywall]
[“Award-winning Chinese mathematician Sun Xin returns from US to work at Peking University,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 3 [Paywall]
[“China-U.S. Fight for Influence Runs Through Police in Pacific,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 3 [Paywall]
[“China will be kept out of Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, US senator predicts,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 3 [Paywall]
[“U.S.-China war would be ‘disastrous for us all,’ Singapore’s defense minister warns,”](#) *The Japan Times*, May 3 [Paywall]
[“EU, US warn Malaysia of security risk in Huawei's bid for 5G role, Financial Times reports,”](#) *Reuters*, May 2
[“The most popular app in the U.S. deleted mentions of its Chinese owner,”](#) *The Washington Post*, May 2 [Paywall]
[“Mercedes-Benz chief says cutting China ties would be ‘unthinkable’,”](#) *Financial Times*, April 30 [Paywall]
[“‘Bring Ya Ya home’: How a panda in the US turbocharged Chinese nationalist sentiment,”](#) *CNN*, April 27

Associated News Sources:

["Blinken hints at China trip this year to restart regular dialogue,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, May 4 [Paywall]
["US Seeks Meeting With China Defense Minister After Being Spurned,"](#) *Bloomberg*, May 4 [Paywall]
["US OKs expansion of China flights in rare thaw between sides"](#) *Al Jazeera*, May 4
["US climate envoy Kerry says China has invited him for talks,"](#) *Reuters*, May 3
["The U.S. warms to a role for China in resolving the Ukraine war,"](#) *The Washington Post*, May 3 [Paywall]
["U.S. ambassador to China says the U.S. is ready for high-level talks with Chinese,"](#) *NBC News*, May 2
["China's Xi calls Ukraine's Zelenskyy, after weeks of intensifying pressure to do so,"](#) *NPR*, April 26

What Are We Reading? ↓

- Brookings: ["Distinguishing US economic policy from China's is important to win hearts and minds"](#) by Joshua P. Meltzer (May 8, 2023)
- Pew Research Center: ["Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"](#) by Neil G. Ruiz, Luis Noe-bustamante and Sono Shah (May 8, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["World can live with US-China competition that stays clear of violence"](#) by Shirley Ze Yu (May 8, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: ["Washington isn't listening to business on China any more"](#) by Adam Tooze (May 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The China Project*: ["The U.S. cannot do without Chinese battery companies, and these are the ones that matter"](#) by Arran Hope (May 5, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: ["Even China Isn't Convinced It Can Replace the U.S."](#) by Jessica Chen Weiss (May 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce: ["Letter to U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce in Response to Questions for the Record"](#) (May 4, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["Could US climate envoy John Kerry be 'channel for communications' with China?"](#) by Dewey Sim (May 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Nikkei Asia*: ["Demonizing China gets the U.S. nowhere"](#) by Daniel L. Davis (May 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: ["China's New Strategy for Waging the Microchip Tech War"](#) by Gregory C. Allen (May 3, 2023)
- Peterson Institute for International Economics: ["New rules curbing US investment in China will be tricky to implement"](#) by Martin Chorzempa (May 3, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["China and the Philippines must ensure the US and South China Sea issues don't come between them"](#) by Wu Shicun (May 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: ["US-China rivalry could trample Panama underfoot"](#) by Michael Stott (May 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: ["As Philippines moves closer to US, will region change tack on China?"](#) by Dewey Sim (May 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- Wilson Center: ["It Isn't Just TikTok: Americans Like Other Chinese-Owned Apps Too"](#) by Ambassador Mark A. Green (May 2, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: ["Marcos, Back in Arms of U.S., Is Making His Own Name in Foreign Policy"](#) by Sui-Lee Wee (May 2, 2023) [Paywall]

- *Financial Times*: [“China, America and why not all growth is equal”](#) by Rana Foroohar (May 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Japan Times*: [“China may not need Western technology very much longer”](#) by Justin Fox (May 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“Don’t Make It Too Hard for Americans to Invest in China”](#) by Tyler Cowen (April 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire*: [“Nigel Inkster on Tech, Taiwan and Intelligence”](#) by Shannon Van Sant (April 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“What the Bush-Obama China Memos Reveal”](#) by Micheal J. Green and Paul Haenle (April 29, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China relations: be thankful war between the superpowers is limited to board games – for now”](#) by James Borton (April 29, 2023)
- *China Briefing*: [“US-China Relations in the Biden Era: A Timeline”](#) by China Briefing Team (Updated May 5, 2023)
- Center for a New American Security: [“Bad Blood: The TTX for the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party \(CCP\)”](#) by Stacie Pettyjohn, Becca Wasser and Andrew Metrick (April 27, 2023)
- *Politico*: [“U.S.-China Ties Are Spiraling. The Cabinet’s Stuck in a Turf War.”](#) by Bob Davis (April 27, 2023)
- *Sustainable Business*: [“The U.S. Wants a Rare-Earths Supply Chain. Here’s Why It Won’t Come Easily.”](#) by Yusuf Khan (April 25, 2023)

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [Is Washington’s China Policy Shifting?](#)
May 4 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [Allies and Geopolitical Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region](#)
May 4 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Rule by Law: China’s Increasingly Global Legal Reach](#)
May 4 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [Nicholas Burns, US Ambassador to China](#)
May 2 hosted by Stimson Center
- [US-Taiwan relations: Will China’s challenge lead to a crisis?](#)
May 1 hosted by Brookings
- [Asia and the Russia’s War on Ukraine](#)
April 27 hosted by Harvard University Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies
- [Cyber + Data Governance Series: Complying with China’s Finalized Cross-Border Data Transfer Regime](#)
April 26 hosted by U.S.-China Business Council

- Upcoming Events -

- [Will China’s financial sector remain forever state-dominated?](#)
May 10 hosted by Peterson Institute for International Economics
- [Who Makes the Rules? China and the Law of the Sea](#)
May 11 hosted by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- [U.S.-China Competition and Indo-Pacific Security](#)
May 12 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Inside the U.S.-China Tech War](#)
May 12 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [Chinese Assessments of Countersanctions Strategies](#)
May 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2023](#)
May 22 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Preserving a Legacy of Liberty and Peace in the Indo-Pacific](#)
May 23 hosted by National Committee on U.S. China Relations

What ICAS Is Up To

---Upcoming Trade 'n Technology Program Event---

**Digital Trade and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):
New Rules, New Opportunities, New Challenges**
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
10:00am - 11:20am EDT

ICAS
Institute for China-America Studies

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
10:00 - 11:20am EDT
Virtual (Zoom)

Digital Trade and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): New Rules, New Opportunities, New Challenges
~Panel Discussion~

Panelists

Susan AARONSON
Research Professor & Director, Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University

Zennon KAPRON
Founder and Director, Kapronasia

Patrick LEBLOND
CN–Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa

Moderated by

Sourabh GUPTA
Senior Fellow & Head of Trade 'n Technology Program, Institute for China-America Studies

Welcome Remarks by

Nong HONG
Executive Director, Institute for China-America Studies

TnT ICAS TRADE 'N TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

IPEF negotiators are known to be eyeing a partial accord by late-May when their trade ministers meet on the sidelines of the APEC Ministerial meeting in Detroit. Digital trade rules are an important component of the IPEF negotiations. President Biden's U.S. Trade Representative says she is committed to building trust and promoting confidence in the digital economy, while recognizing the need to address legitimate public policy objectives in the digital trade area. The deference to policy space is a bow to the dynamic and fast-changing pace of regulation in the digital sphere—be in terms of anti-monopoly protections, privacy and data protections, fintech-related financial stability risk management, review of liability protection for intermediary service providers, development of rules for artificial intelligence (AI) applications or requiring the transparency of the structure, use, and impacts of algorithmic systems. On the other side of the Pacific meantime, an accession working group has been formed to consider China's application to join the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA).

What is the state of play on IPEF's digital trade text as well as China's DEPA accession talks? What are the commercial and regulatory challenges encountered by private businesses as they navigate their way within the Asia-Pacific region's dynamic digital marketplace? What are the key challenges facing the governance of cross-border data flows at the global level? And how do digital economy chapters and agreements differ in their focus and impact from traditional trade agreements? To listen to these and other answers to pressing digital trade and IPEF-related questions, tune in to the event on May 10th.

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---Maritime Affairs Program Announcement---

The ICAS MAP Handbill Spotlight Archive is Live!

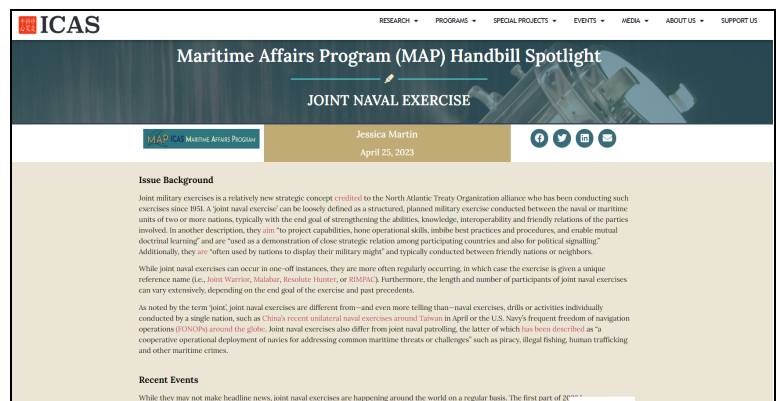
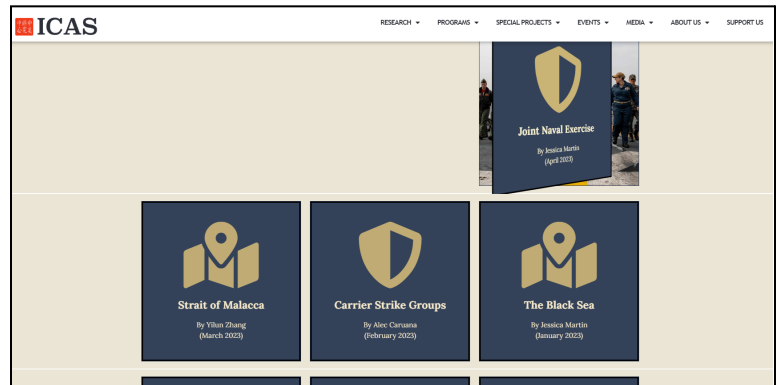
After a successful full year of production, the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program has now developed and released an archive for its Maritime Affairs Program Spotlight analyses in order to provide easier access and encourage sharing.

Maritime Affairs Program Spotlights are a short-form written background and analysis of a specific issue related to maritime affairs, which changes with each issue. The goal of the Spotlight is to help our readers quickly and accurately understand the basic background of a vital topic in maritime affairs and how that topic relates to ongoing developments today.

There is a new Spotlight released with each issue of the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program (MAP) Handbill – a regular newsletter released the last Tuesday of every month that highlights the major news stories, research products, analyses, and events occurring in or with regard to the global maritime domain during the past month.

2023 Spotlights So Far

- [April 2023](#): Joint Naval Exercises (by Jessica Martin)
- [March 2023](#): Strait of Malacca (by Yilun Zhang)
- [February 2023](#): Carrier Strike Group (by Alec Caruana)
- [January 2023](#): The Black Sea (by Jessica Martin)



[Explore the MAP Spotlight Archive](#)

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---ICAS Blog Post---

Will the US Permit the ROK its Own Nuclear Deterrent?

*By Capt. Sukjoon Yoon, ret.
April 25, 2023*

The possibility of the ROK acquiring its own nuclear assets to counter the nuclear threat from North Korea is now being openly discussed in South Korea. Despite the US commitment to provide Extended Deterrence and to shelter the ROK under its nuclear umbrella, in recent polls more than 70% of South Koreans supported the development of an indigenous nuclear deterrence by the ROK.

There are, however, several serious obstacles to be overcome if the ROK is to acquire its own nuclear capability: it will likely be a very costly project; developing and testing nuclear weapons within the narrow geographical scope of the Korea Operational Theater will be very challenging, and perhaps would require US assistance; the development timeline is currently unclear; and there are legal and procedural issues regarding compliance with international agreements.

The ROK recognizes a potential nuclear threat from China in the longer term, but the immediate problem is the growing menace of North Korean nuclear and missile threats. There is a clear disparity between the conventional capabilities of the ROK-US alliance and North Korean nuclear capacities...

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS Blog Post---

Notes & Thoughts on John Kerry's Discussion with Foreign Policy on Climate Challenge
 By Zhangchen Wang
 May 5, 2023

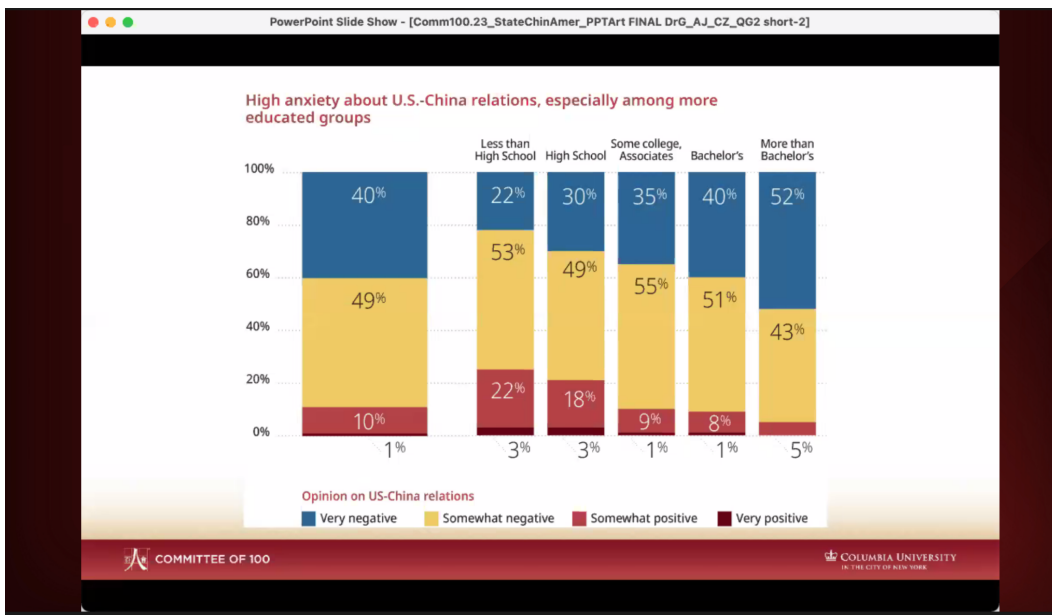
On April 20, 2023, the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, had a discussion with Foreign Policy regarding the climate policies of the United States and his thoughts on some recent trends. Their discussion covered a range of topics, including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), U.S.-China cooperation on climate change, and the upcoming 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28).

What was Discussed in the Interview? What Did We Learn from the Interview?

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS Past Partner Event---

The Fight for Representation: The State of Chinese Americans Survey
 Thursday, April 27, 2023



Institute for China-America Studies was very proud to be a supporting partner in this insightful, trail-blazing survey on the state of Chinese-Americans which culminated in a free, live webinar revealing the survey's key findings and results on April 27, 2023! We thank the teams at Committee of 100 and Columbia University School of Social Work for their inspiring dedication to this project, which is only just beginning, and look forward to supporting future similar endeavors.

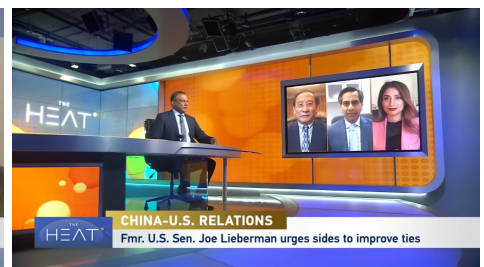
Image: One of several survey data results revealed during the virtual event on April 27, 2023. (Image Source: ICAS)

[Share & Explore the Full Executive Summary and Key Findings of the Survey](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Learn More](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Friday, May 5, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the macro-outlook for U.S.-China relations on *CGTN America's The Heat*.

- "I think [Senator Lieberman] was absolutely correct...we need to see the big picture and get back to basics. In the course of all these little trade wars and technology wars, and all the bitter rhetoric which has been going on, it is framing a new narrative which is taking us away from the reality in which we exist today. The reality is that these are the two biggest economies, and among the most powerful players in the world, and problems in the world will not be solved without the two countries having some sort of a meeting of minds."

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* on China's peace brokering role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

- "As such, its capacity to underwrite its peace proposals will necessarily be a limited one,"
- "Until such time one or both sides are keen on ceasing hostilities, China's proposals will have no lift-off potential."

On Friday, April 28, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) demographics with India's growing population on *CGTN's The Point* with Liu Xin.

- "Population is both an asset and a liability, but if you do succeed in educating your population and using it to its maximum productivity, a large population is obviously very helpful because it creates a huge domestic market from an economic standpoint."
- "Population is not all it is cracked up to be, population is important as part of the GDP growth yes, but also the other important transitions like transitioning from farm to city which itself yields huge amounts of productivity and transition from state to market have created the potential for great growth, it just depends on what you do with it."

On Friday, April 28, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by a *South China Morning Post* article on China's wolf warrior diplomats and diplomacy with France.

- "Lu Shaye's attempt to present himself as some sort of legal eagle in parsing the meaning of sovereignty ended up with him putting his foot in his mouth, calling it 'an expression of personal points of view' by the ambassador will not do much to limit the damage."
- "The foreign ministry should express an unreserved apology; the comments were way out of line. I don't expect the ministry to do so though. Rather, they will hope that with the passage of time, the comments too will be seen as simply water under the bridge. Besides, with China getting active on the Ukraine peace facilitation front, the hope is that policy actions rather than misspoken words will dominate the headlines."

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) Secretary Yellen's new remarks and US-China economic engagement on *CGTN's Dialogue*.

- "(Secretary Yellen) has the more liberal view in the Biden administration in the treasury department, while national security advisor Jake Sullivan has more of the hawkish view, and I would have said in the first two years it was Jake Sullivan who was winning those battles and in fact it was Jake Sullivan who trundled Janet Yellen out last year and talked about friendshoring, which is about resilience in supply chains but it is also about to a certain extent decoupling from China."
- "There is more or less a degree of unity of unity within the administration on where it's going and I would say furthermore that Mr. Sullivan is going to be making an important speech very soon on these matters, so we will see if there are unity on these points. The fundamental point is that she (Secretary Yellen) says that we don't want to decouple and that is understandable, and the U.S. is not trying to fully decouple, but it is selectively decoupling and what is considered "selective" is getting broader and broader."

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) US-South Korea relations and President Yoon's state visit on *CGTN's World Insight* with Tian Wei.

- "As we've see with this South Korean president, he's not looking necessarily for balance he talks the language of universal values, he wants a tight trilateral relationship with the United States and Japan, so South Korea must seek balance itself in the first place if it wants to have a balanced relationship, and I'm not sure that this South Korean president prioritizes that and that he hopes that through this universal values rhetoric and with the Americans leading that he will be able to deter the North Koreans, but I don't see how he can actually resolve much on the peninsula unless North Korea collapses."
- "Either the North Korean regime has to be completely bought out or it needs to be eliminated, and unfortunately we are not seeing good signs in this regard. Even Mr. Yoon's audacious initiative has gone nowhere and expectedly it has gone nowhere so I don't see balance because I don't think this South Korean president is looking for balance."