



ICAS

Institute for China-America Studies

BULLETIN

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

Q2 - 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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ISSN (Print): 2836-340X

ISSN (Online): 2836-3418



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The ICAS Bulletin

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

April 12, 2023

What's Going On? ↓

Wave of Consequences Following Taiwan Leader's Visit to the U.S.



U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy meets with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at the Reagan Library in California on April 5, 2023.
(Credit: Mario Tama via Getty Images)

- On April 5, U.S. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in California, marking the highest-level U.S. official meeting with a Taiwanese president on American soil in decades. Among other issues, the two discussed the rapidly increasing tensions between mainland China and Taiwan.
- In response to Tsai's visit, a spokesperson of China foreign ministry denounced the McCarthy-Tsai meeting, stating that the U.S. was on a "wrong and dangerous road" and China would take "resolute and forceful measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."
- Soonafter, the Chinese People Liberation Army sent in 71 warplanes off the coast of Taiwan to provide a "serious warning against the 'Taiwan independence.'"
- The Chinese government also imposed sanctions on Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's equivalent to an ambassador to the U.S., prohibiting her and her family from visiting mainland China.
- President Tsai Ing-wen defied China's threats before her meeting with House Speaker McCarthy to assert Taiwan's sovereignty, attracting pro- and anti-Taiwan demonstrators to gather outside of Tsai's hotel in Los

Technology Competition Continues as Private Companies Make Moves



An outdoor view of an Apple store in China in 2021.
(Source: Chris Nagahama via Unsplash)

- Tesla CEO Elon Musk stated that Tesla is looking to expand in China and build a new factory to produce 10,000 batteries yearly in Shanghai. The U.S. House congressional committee on China announced serious concern for the new factory, calling for an investigation into Tesla's federal tax breaks and access to the Chinese market.
- European plane maker Airbus will double production capacity in China, while other multinational companies such as Apple rethink their production lines in China.
- Chinese auto-parts manufacturers may be following in Apple's footsteps by seeking to establish offshore factories in Indonesia and Vietnam after years of lockdowns and rising trade tensions.
- Beijing petitioned the World Trade Organization to review chip export restrictions from the U.S., Japan and the Netherlands.
- China has begun conducting a review of U.S. chip maker Micron Technology in order to "safeguard the security of the information infrastructure supply chain," as explained by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.
- Huawei's recently released annual profit reports showed a nearly 70 percent drop in annual profits in 2022, as the effects of U.S. sanctions begin to show.

Angeles.

- China warned U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy not to meet Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen in consideration of regional peace and stability.
- The day before President Tsai visited with Speaker McCarthy, Tsai met with a group of U.S. senators in New York, showing support for the island's democracy and promoting sanctions against China in case of a military conflict.
- Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen arrived in New York on March 29 amid threats from Beijing that American politicians engaging with her could lead to retaliation.
- Taiwan is pushing for a tax deal with the U.S. to eliminate double taxation on firms, but such an agreement may escalate tensions with China.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China sends 71 warplanes near Taiwan as military drills kick off," The Japan Times, April 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China imposes sanctions on Taiwan's US envoy, institutions," Reuters, April 7 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["U.S. Speaker meets Taiwan leader and stresses need to speed up arms deliveries," Reuters, April 6 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China denounces U.S.-Taiwan meeting, vows 'forceful measures'," PBS News, April 6](#)
- ["U.S. Tensions With China on Display as McCarthy Hosts Taiwan's Leader," The New York Times, April 5 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Taiwan defies China pressure before US House speaker meeting," AP News, April 5](#)
- ["China warns US House Speaker not to meet Taiwan president," Reuters, April 4 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Taiwan's President Quietly Met With U.S. Senators Ahead of Kevin McCarthy Sit-Down," The Wall Street Journal, April 4 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China," The Wall Street Journal, March 29 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Taiwan Is Pushing Biden for a Tax Deal That Could Infuriate China," Bloomberg, March 29 \[Paywall\]](#)

- The Walt Disney Company. laid off more than 300 streaming-based employees in Beijing, as a part of a larger restructuring effort.
- Apple CEO Tim Cook met with Chinese Minister of Commerce, Wang Wentao to discuss the stabilization of the technology industry, despite Apple urging suppliers to look elsewhere for production sources.
- New studies by Chinese scientists challenge the U.S. team's "shocking" claim of superconductivity at usable temperatures.

Associated News Sources:

- ["Elon Musk: Tesla to build new battery factory in Shanghai," BBC News, April 10](#)
- ["US House committee chair 'concerned' by Tesla deals in China," Reuters, April 10 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China Auto-Parts Makers Join Apple in Offshore Factory Push," Bloomberg, April 10 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Airbus to Build New China Jet Factory as Apple Pulls Back," Bloomberg, April 6 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["China seeks WTO review of chip export restrictions led by US," South China Morning Post, April 5 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Micron Technology: China probes US chip maker for cybersecurity risks as tech tension escalates," CNN News, April 3](#)
- ["The other Chinese apps taking the US and UK by storm," BBC News, April 3](#)
- ["Micron Gets Caught in U.S.-China Crossfire," The Wall Street Journal, April 3 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Huawei reports biggest profit decline ever as U.S. sanctions, pandemic controls hit Chinese giant" CNBC News, March 31](#)
- ["Disney Lays Off More Than 300 Streaming-Focused Employees in China," The Wall Street Journal, March 29 \[Paywall\]](#)
- ["Apple CEO Tim Cook meets with China's commerce minister on supply chain," CNBC News, March 27](#)
- ["More China scientists challenge superconductor bombshell from US team," South China Morning Post, March 27](#)

Third-Party Diplomatic Activities Stay in Play



French President Emmanuel Macron speaking on stage in November 2017.
(Source: Flickr, CC2.0)

- French President Emmanuel Macron has received strong criticism after he stated that Europe cannot become a “vassal” and must not be pulled into the increasing U.S.-Chinese tensions.
- The U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai says that the U.S. is adopting trade strategies with U.S. allies to counter China’s rise and its increasing takeover of the global economy.
- Former Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou spoke out about how cross-strait relations are at a worrying level, citing Covid-19 as a fundamental reason.
- Chinese Premier Li Qiang publicly announced that China will continue to be an “anchor for world peace and development” as concerns build around a possible conflict with Taiwan.
- The Saudi Arabian government is noticeably strengthening its ties with China as its relations with the U.S. begin to deteriorate.
- U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley stated that war with China and Russia is “neither inevitable nor imminent.”
- Chinese Premier Li Qiang made statements saying that Asia must stray away from “chaos and conflicts” or the future of the region will be lost.
- Indian Army Chief Manoj Pande warned that increasing U.S.-China rivalries could lead to further Chinese-India border conflicts.
- China’s global campaign to win friends at local levels has come under fire by the U.S. Justice Department for its involvement with Utah officials in an effort for China to enhance its image.

Associated News Sources:

[“Macron sparks anger by saying Europe should not be ‘vassal’ in US-China clash,” The Guardian, April 10](#)
[“Biden Trade Chief Says US Working With Allies to Counter China,” Bloomberg, April 5 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Cross-strait hostility at worrying level, Taiwan’s Ma](#)

The Great Economies’ Competition is Risking the Global Community



The American and Chinese flags side-by-side along with various U.S. dollars
(Source: Karolina Grabowska via Pexel)

- U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Jay Shambaugh stated on Bloomberg TV that the U.S. is not seeking to decouple from China and that both countries should cooperate on global issues.
- Zambia's president warns that "all parties...[are] not to make Zambia pay a price for a bigger debate," with debt restructuring as the focus of the ongoing International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings.
- China's state-owned telecom companies are constructing a \$500 million undersea fiber-optic internet cable network to rival a similar U.S.-backed project, heightening tech tensions between the two countries.
- The International Monetary Fund warns that rising U.S.-China tensions could cause a 2% loss of global output, making emerging markets particularly vulnerable to changes in foreign investment due to geopolitics.
- Proposals to restrict Chinese purchases of American farmland are gaining traction in 27 U.S. states as lawmakers seek to demonstrate their toughness towards China.
- China's yuan gains ground in Brazil as Beijing seeks de-dollarization and avoids financial isolation amidst U.S. decoupling, but limited convertibility and Beijing's capital controls hinder its expansion.
- A former U.S. Commerce Department official sees wider sanctions against China to close loopholes, stating that there is “[n]o line to be drawn” in the tech war, especially regarding semiconductor technology.

Associated News Sources:

[“Top Treasury Official Says US Not Seeking China Decoupling,” Bloomberg, April 10 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Debt Standoff Between China and U.S. Hurts Poor Countries, Zambia’s President Warns,” The Wall Street Journal, April 10 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“China plans \\$500 million subsea internet cable to rival US-backed project,” Reuters, April 6 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“IMF says U.S-China tensions could cost the world about](#)

[Ying-jeou tells top mainland China official,](#) *South China Morning Post*, March 30 [Paywall]
["China Seeks to Reassure CEOs as Worries Swirl Over Potential War,"](#) *Bloomberg*, March 30 [Paywall]
["China's premier warns against 'chaos and conflicts' in Asia,"](#) *Al Jazeera*, March 30
["Saudi Arabia Strengthens Relations With China Amid Strained U.S. Ties,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, March 29 [Paywall]
["Milley Says War With China, Russia Not Inevitable,"](#) U.S. Department of Defense, March 29
["Great Power Rivalry May Fan China Border Spat: India Army Chief,"](#) *Bloomberg*, March 28 [Paywall]
["Amid strained US ties, China finds unlikely friend in Utah,"](#) *AP News*, March 27

[2% of its output,"](#) *CNBC News*, April 6
["Heartland lawmakers push bans on Chinese purchases of American farms,"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 4 [Paywall]
["China's yuan makes Brazilian inroads, as 'de-dollarisation reflects cracks' in US currency settlements,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 3 [Paywall]
["No line to be drawn' in tech war with China, says former Commerce Department BIS official,"](#) *Digitimes Asia*, March 24

U.S. Lawmakers Touch on China and Chinese Activities



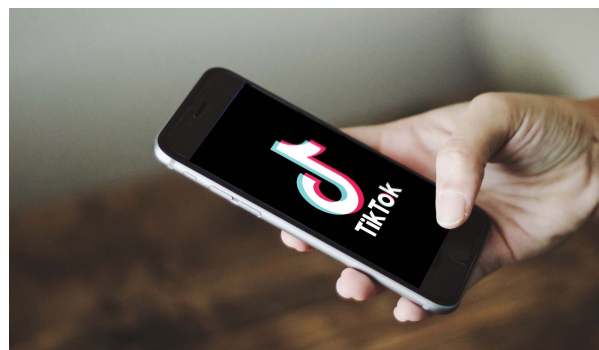
Image of various pills on a flat surface. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- Mexico's president asked his Chinese counterpart to assist in stopping Chinese chemicals used by Mexican drug dealers to illegally produce fentanyl. The Chinese government denied that the country had involvement in any illegal fentanyl drug trafficking with Mexico, with the foreign ministry spokesman saying the U.S. "should face up to its own problems."
- The U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously in a challenge to China's international status as a 'developing nation,' an appointment which allows for special trade and low-interest loans.
- Top U.S. lawmakers overseeing the Department of Homeland Security have called for hearings to investigate Chinese software that runs over 80% of U.S. port cranes.
- U.S. Undersecretary of State for economic growth and energy, Jose Fernandez, spoke in-favor of the U.S. policies towards the Chinese government, citing that they were necessary to create a "level playing field."

Associated News Sources:

["China: We're Still a Developing Nation. US Lawmakers: No Way,"](#) *Voice of America*, April 8
["China denies fentanyl trafficking with Mexico; blames](#)

- In Other News -



Cell-phone with the TikTok and a black background. (Source: Nordskov Media, Public Domain via Flickr)

["USF joins Florida colleges in blocking TikTok from being used on campus,"](#) *10 Tampa Bay*, April 5
["China watches Trump courtroom drama: A 'premium show without paywall',"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 5 [Paywall]
["Philippines, U.S. hold biggest-ever drills to counter China,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, April 11
["Le Maire Says EU Must Not Be Pushed Around in US-China Rivalry,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 11 [Paywall]
["ChatGPT pushes US, China to take similar precautions on AI accountability,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 11 [Paywall]
["Korean Air, Japanese Airlines Could Benefit From Limits on U.S.-China Flights,"](#) *Airline Weekly*, April 10
["Chinese Solar Maker Says US May Be Too Pricey for Expansion,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 9 [Paywall]
["Intel officials watching for signs Russia, China are trying to exploit Trump indictment to widen U.S. political divide,"](#) *NBC News*, April 4

[US,” ABC News, April 6](#)
[“Mexico asks China’s help in curbing production of fentanyl,” AP News, April 4](#)
[“Congress Seeks Details on Spying Risks From Chinese Cargo Cranes,” The Wall Street Journal, April 3 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“US Says Tough China Moves Needed to Counter ‘National Champions’,” Bloomberg, April 3 \[Paywall\]](#)

What Are We Reading? ↓

- National Committee on U.S.-China Relations: [“Open Letter to the Presidents of the United States & the People’s Republic of China: On the Need to Stabilize Bilateral Relations”](#)
- South China Morning Post: [“For China and the US, is ‘no catastrophe’ really the best scenario?”](#) by Shi Jiangtao (April 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“China Eyes Commercial Ships in a Move to Intimidate Taiwan”](#) by Elisabeth Braw (April 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- Foreign Affairs: [“Navigating the New Age of Great-Power Competition”](#) by Bilahari Kausikan (April 11, 2023)
- AlJazeera: [“Pakistan is making a mistake in ignoring the US for China”](#) by Riaz Khokar (April 10, 2023)
- Bloomberg: [“China May Not Need Western Technology Much Longer”](#) by Justin Fox (April 10, 2023)
- The Hill: [“Biden must reach out to Xi before the US-China impasse becomes irreconcilable”](#) by Nicholas Sargen (April 10, 2023)
- The Wall Street Journal: [“For Apple, India Is the Next China”](#) by Megha Mandavia (April 10, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“Macron Blunders on Taiwan—and Ukraine”](#) by the Editorial Board (April 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“China Warns Taiwan, With an Eye on Rest of the World”](#) by Jonathan Cheng (April 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: [“Breaking the Ice: The Role of Scholarly Exchange in Stabilizing U.S.-China Relations”](#) by Scott Kennedy and Wang Jisi (April 7, 2023)
- Bloomberg: [“China Restraint on Taiwan Shows Xi Has Bigger Concerns Now”](#) by Cindy Wang, Lucille Liu, Jing Li, Rebecca Choong Wilkins and Jacob Gu (April 6, 2023) [Paywall]
- Times: [“China Plays Long Game With Softer Response to Taiwan President Visiting U.S.”](#) by Charlie Campbell (April 6, 2023)
- Reuters: [“Explainer: Why is China so angry about Taiwan president meeting US Speaker McCarthy?”](#) (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Economist: [“The view from the front line between Taiwan and China”](#) (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- Foreign Policy: [“The U.S.-China Fault Line Is Felt in the Academy”](#) by Christina Lu and Rocio Fabbro (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“Our Bill Is the Best Way to Counter the TikTok Threat”](#) by John Thune and Mark Warner (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- South China Morning Post: [“How China-US tensions are affecting American aircraft exports to the world’s No 2 economy”](#) by Amanda Lee (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: [“Our Bill Is the Best Way to Counter the TikTok Threat”](#) by John Thune and Mark Warner (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- Bloomberg: [“Apple’s Complex, Secretive Gamble to Move Beyond China”](#) by Mark Gurman (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- Financial Times: [“Tsai Ing-wen’s US trip: the deepening political divide in Taiwan”](#) by Kathrin Hille (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]

- *The Information*: [“Sequoia and Other U.S.-Backed VCs Are Funding China's Answer to OpenAI.”](#) by Juro Osawa (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“It is getting even harder for Western scholars to do research in China”](#) (April 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Nikkei Asia*: [“U.S. allies are on board for China chip tech controls after all”](#) by Chris Miller (April 4, 2023)
- *AP News*: [“US chip controls threaten China's technology ambitions”](#) by Joe McDonald (April 4, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China tech war: without advanced chips, can China's smartphone industry survive?”](#) by Huifeng He and Jane Cai (April 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China's New Tech Weapon: Dragging Its Feet on Global Merger Approvals”](#) by Lingling Wei and Asa Fitch (April 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“China's longest US ambassador vacancy provides latest sign of bleak relations”](#) by Mark Magnier (April 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“China's intensifying nuclear-armed submarine patrols add complexity for U.S., allies”](#) by George Torode and Eduardo Baptista (April 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“‘On a Tightrope’: How Taiwan's President Navigated the U.S. and China”](#) by John Liu, Amy Chang Chien, Chris Horton and Paul Mozur (April 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“Why Beijing thinks the EU's China rhetoric is written in Washington”](#) (March 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“Bangladesh Tilts Toward the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific”](#) by Michael Kugelman (March 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“Why the China-US contest is entering a new and more dangerous phase”](#) (March 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“America's commercial sanctions on China could get much worse”](#) (March 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Do We Really Need to Have a Cold War With China?”](#) by Jacob Dreyer (March 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“A TikTok Ban May Be Just the Beginning”](#) by Christopher Mims (March 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Factbox: Why a broad US TikTok ban is unlikely to take effect soon”](#) (March 23, 2023) [Paywall]

What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [China's Climate Security Vulnerabilities](#)
April 11 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Grasping Shadows Report Launch: China's Campaign Against Shadow Banks and its Consequences](#)
April 10 hosted Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [2023 U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable Opening Ceremony](#)
April 4 hosted by United States Heartland China Association
- [Assessing the Economic and Financial Dynamics of a Cross-Strait Crisis](#)
March 29 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

- Upcoming Events -

- [The Ninth Annual Nancy Bernkopf Tucker Memorial Lecture on U.S.-East Asia Relations](#)
April 12 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Hearing on "China's Pursuit of Defense Technologies: Implications for U.S. and Multilateral Export Control and Investment Screening Regimes"](#)
April 13 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [Whose Grass is Greener? The American and Chinese Climate Challenge](#)
April 20 hosted by The China Project
- [Fireside Chat with Dr. Ko Wen-je, Chairman of the Taiwan People's Party and Former Mayor of Taipei](#)
April 20 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

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](#)

[RSVP & Join The Conversation](#)

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---ICAS Partner Event---



COMMITTEE OF 100



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK




The Fight for Representation: The State of Chinese Americans Survey

Thursday, April 27
7pm EDT

Chinese Americans are historically underrepresented in politics and policy, and underserved in healthcare, education, and social services. The first step is getting clear and concise data on Chinese Americans, one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S.

Chinese Americans have diverse backgrounds and diverse needs - from culture, family, healthcare, education, employment, finances and political engagement. Data disaggregation is the key to addressing the issues, concerns and challenges of Chinese Americans.

In the largest survey of its kind ever conducted, nearly 6,500 Chinese Americans from 46 states answered 77 key questions about the Chinese American experience in research conducted jointly by Columbia University and Committee of 100.

This disaggregated data specifically on Chinese Americans will inform policymakers and the public of the diverse set of opinions, perceptions, and needs of Chinese Americans across the country and will help develop timely and responsive policies, programs, and services to address those needs.

Join experts from Columbia University, Committee of 100 and the worlds of policy, politics and research for the unveiling of this data at a virtual town hall on April 27 at 7:00pm ET.

RSVP here to hold your spot for this important discussion.

The Fight for Representation: The State of Chinese Americans Survey

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FULL EVENT AGENDA

(ALL TIMES APPROXIMATE)

7:00pm ET	Welcome and Open <i>Gary Locke</i> Chair, Committee of 100; President of Bellevue College; former U.S. Ambassador to China; former Governor of the State of Washington
7:03pm ET	Welcome <i>Dr. Melissa D. Begg</i> Dean of the Columbia School of Social Work, Columbia University
7:06pm ET	Why We Partnered with Columbia University and Why this Research is Important to the Chinese American Community <i>Zhengyu Huang</i> President, Committee of 100
7:10pm ET	Key Findings from The State of Chinese Americans Survey <i>Dr. Qin Gao</i> Professor of Social Policy and Social Work; Associate Dean for Doctoral Education; Director, China Center for Social Policy, Columbia University
7:55pm ET	Panel Discussion — What the Data Means <i>Gordon H. Chang</i> Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities; Professor of History, History Department; Stanford University (moderator) <i>Wayne Ho</i> President & Chief Executive Officer, Chinese-American Planning Council <i>Dr. Neil G. Ruiz</i> Head of New Research Initiatives, Pew Research Center <i>Robert L. Santos</i> Director, U.S. Census Bureau
8:25pm ET	Conclusion <i>Zhengyu Huang</i>

---ICAS MAP Issue Brief---

**The Maritime Bedrock of the U.S.-Philippines Alliance:
Understanding Manila and Washington's Interests in the South China Sea**

*By Alec Caruana
April 10, 2023*

Key Takeaways:

- Manila's recent deepening of military cooperation with the United States is motivated by a perceived need to enhance the Philippines' maritime security and reinforce its position in disputes with other claimant states—primarily China—in the South China Sea.
- Washington takes no official position on sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, but its overall strategy to promote international maritime law and deter Chinese transgressions in the region substantively aligns its interests with the renewed resolve of Philippine President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr., inaugurated last June.
- The Philippines' disputed claims in the South China Sea operate on two levels: disputed jurisdiction over maritime space, and disputed sovereignty over mid-ocean territorial features. Both of these categories trace their legal origins back to the Philippines' time as a U.S. colony between 1898 and 1946.
- Manila's rights to resources and jurisdiction in maritime zones extending from its coastline are disputed with Beijing's overlapping claims to "historic rights" in the South China Sea and jurisdiction over "relevant waters" around its controlled islands. The Arbitral Tribunal established under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruled in 2016 that China was violating Philippine rights in its entitled maritime zones, but disputes over fishing and hydrocarbon exploration between the two states persist.
- The Philippines is also engaged in territorial sovereignty disputes with its neighboring states over several islands, reefs, and underwater features in the South China Sea, namely: the Scarborough Shoal, which it disputes with China, and parts of the Spratly archipelago, which it disputes with China, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Both disputes are mired by complicated histories, precarious legal arguments, and 'might makes right' attitudes.
- With the recent expansion of U.S.-Philippine security cooperation, Manila has an opportunity to shrewdly pursue constructive diplomacy with other claimant states alongside targeted maritime capacity-building measures with Washington's assistance. The Biden administration may facilitate both 'tracks' if it wishes to positively contribute to regional stability and mitigate the escalation of tensions.

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS Commentary---

Why China is hesitant about endorsing marine protected area proposals in the Antarctic

*By Nong Hong
April 7, 2023*

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR, hereafter referred to as the Commission) convenes meetings on a range of topics each year. This includes gatherings to discuss the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the Antarctic. In the [41st Meeting of the Commission](#), held October 24-November 4, 2022, three MPA proposals were brought to the meeting for discussion: Domain 1 MPA (Western Antarctic Peninsula and South Scotia Arc) submitted by Argentina and Chile; East Antarctic MPA submitted by Australia, the European Union and India, New Zealand, Norway, Korea, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay; and the Weddell Sea MPA (WSMPA) submitted by the EU, Norway, Uruguay, Australia, the UK, New Zealand, the U.S., Korea, India and Ukraine. The Commission did not reach consensus on any of the three MPA proposals at this meeting.

The three proposals were supported by most members of the Commission. Russia and China expressed concerns, such as the need for baseline data collection and research and monitoring plans (RMPs) prior to the establishment of a MPA. The United States explicitly stated that it neither currently agrees with all the conclusions nor endorses all the recommendations made by China and Russia regarding MPAs and associated RMPs. The U.S. also called for attention being given to a more constructive dialogue on MPAs and RMPs in the future, starting with a Special Meeting in 2023.

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS TnT Issue Brief---

China's Data Governance and Cybersecurity Regime: Balancing Control and Security with Privacy, Inclusion and Commerce

By Sourabh Gupta

April 5, 2023

Key Takeaways:

- China is unique in its farsighted treatment of data as a standalone 'factor of production'. The goal of the central leadership appears to be to chart out the long-term parameters of a deep and liquid marketplace where data elements can be traded seamlessly, data factors are remunerated fairly, and guardrails erected to prevent the misuse, abuse or weaponization of data against the Party and State.
- The focus of regulatory action has been four-fold: (a) to rein-in fintech-linked financial instability risks; (b) to rein-in the anti-competitive practices of Big Tech and compel greater data portability across platforms; (c) to rein-in the misuse and misappropriation of personal information; and (d) to streamline processes for classification of data and network security, including for data export purposes. More lately, regulators have sought to monitor network security risks as well as tighten controls over content at social media platforms through 'golden shares'.
- Chinese regulators have not been reticent to move fast and break things to instill order and structure to the marketplace – a far contrast to the all talk and no action mode of regulatory non-accomplishment across the Pacific. The capriciousness of regulation and the lack of due process has been disconcerting though, particularly at a time when China seeks to convey a more predictable business environment to local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.
- The resemblance of China's approach to Big Tech regulation – be it with regard to privacy and data handling, how content is treated on major digital platforms, or how gatekeeper platforms treat their smaller peers and vendors – bears significant resemblance to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Digital Services Act (DSA), and Digital Markets Act (DMA). Which in turn begs the obvious question: Can Europe and China interconnect their digital ecosystems?

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS Blog Post---

Thoughts on the oil price cap and its impact on China's energy security

By Xiaohang Zhou

April 7, 2023

The recent imposition of price caps on Russian oil and petroleum products by the United States, the European Union, other G7 countries, and Australia (a group loosely being referred to as the "Price Cap Coalition") following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has sent continuous shockwaves across the global energy market. As net importers of fossil fuels, Asian countries have frequently faced rising costs and supply chain disruptions due to unilaterally or collectively imposed sanctions, which have exacerbated issues like poverty, inequality and climate change...

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Sunday, April 9, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* on President Macron's trip to China and EU-China relations.

- "China would much prefer that its most important geoeconomic partner be the US. But Washington is not willing to play ball"
- "The essence of the dilemma for Beijing, therefore, is how to balance the [two] relationships ... given that Russia and the Europeans are at loggerheads and China is increasingly being placed in the doghouse with Russia in European eyes,"

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in an *Inside US Trade* article on the restructuring of China's science and technology ministry.

- "China is not framing this as a response to the U.S...They're framing it as 'What do we need to do to continue with our modernization program in the context of what the U.S. is doing?'"

On Friday, March 31, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by the *South China Morning Post* on the Summit for Democracy and its focus on democratic renewal.

- The democracy forum was "a very useful platform from which to champion" agreements on technology usage, "regardless of whether or not this summit kind of peters out at the end of the Biden administration."

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the Boao Forum 2023 on *CGTN America's The Heat*.

- "...particularly when the conflict in Europe still continues in Ukraine, one cannot discount that these sort of matters could also, at one point in time, come to Asia, that would be very unfortunate. You know, the security infrastructure of Europe has collapsed in the name of 40 million Ukrainians. We don't want the Asian security architecture to collapse in the name of 23 million Taiwanese...so obviously one cannot discount these fears..."

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the US' One-China Policy and President Tsai's Travel on *CGTN America The World Today*.

- "Congress has been in Taiwan from the very first day of normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China. Of course, the U.S. had to move out of Taiwan, but then we had the Taiwan Relations Act and ever since then whenever there have been big period of tension...the administration is forever looking over its shoulders to see as to what the political sentiment is. I think the political sentiment on Congress is so bitter with regard China, particularly vis-a-vis with Taiwan, that I actually commend the Biden administration in this instance to at least, sort of, talk through to Mr. McCarthy and ensure that he doesn't go to Taiwan like Speaker Pelosi did..."

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *Xinhua* on China's Global Security Initiative and its relations to global multilateralism.

- "It is about there is one world and we can't run away from that. We have to live together. We have to sort our problems together."
- "If we frame our collective action under the UN umbrella, we will be able to have the widest possible buy-in into the system, which will be good for the long-term sustainability and prosperity of all human beings. And I think that was the key point [President Xi Jinping] was making."



The ICAS Bulletin

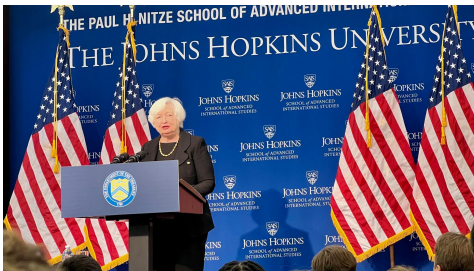
Institute for China America Studies

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

April 26, 2023

What's Going On?

Pushing "Constructive" Economic Relationships Amidst Concerns, Challenges and Debts



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen spoke on U.S.-China economics relationship on April 20, 2023 at The John Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. (Credit: Xiaohang Zhou, Institute for China-America Studies)

- On April 20, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen presented a speech that focused on preventing decoupling from China and building a "constructive and fair" bilateral economic relationship while standing firm to measures that address "concerns about our security and values" without intentions to "stifle" the counterpart's economy.
- On April 19, the House Ways and Means Committee, with Democratic support, moved a bill forward to reverse the Biden administration's two-year halt on duties reaching 254%. In Congress, momentum grows for reintroducing substantial solar tariffs on U.S. imports of panels from Southeast Asia, causing concern among renewable developers.
- The White House is close to implementing unprecedented rules limiting U.S. investments in China as the administration reaches a consensus on curbing China's technological and military growth.
- In China, consumers prefer local automakers, as they cater to the rising demand for electric cars and SUVs. This trend challenges multinational rivals in the world's biggest auto market.
- Due to rising U.S.-China tensions, the booming U.S. natural gas export industry seeks to avoid conflict, which

Various Strategies Applied in Response to Rising Tensions



*Taiwan strait map close up in an small world globe
(Source: Getty Images Royalty Free)*

- Members of the House Select Committee on China simulated a war game involving U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military options during a Chinese attack on Taiwan to review U.S. policies toward China amid growing tensions.
- House Republicans urged U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to allow Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen to attend the APEC summit, despite Beijing's objections, arguing that exclusion sends the wrong message.
- U.S. Army Major General in Japan Joel Vowell states that the U.S. military is assisting Japan in countering China's threat to its southwest islands, which Japan sees as its greatest security challenge.
- Representative Chris Smith says U.S. law prohibiting Xinjiang imports faces significant flaws, allowing products made with forced labor to bypass safeguards. Smith is requesting a visa to visit the Xinjiang region.
- Admiral John Aquilino, the top U.S. military commander in the Indo-Pacific, dismissed colleagues' speculations about potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan dates, stating that the Chinese threat has increased but refusing to endorse specific timelines.
- Leaked Pentagon evaluations expose Taiwan's susceptibility to Chinese aerial assaults, while increasing apprehension regarding U.S. intelligence's capability to identify invasion and Taiwan's ability to protect itself.

surprisingly received support from some GOP Beijing critics, arguing that increased overseas gas flow requires considering the Chinese yuan in transactions.

- The U.S.-China divide casts a shadow over global finance leaders' attempts to stabilize the economy and address poverty, potentially hampering global growth and efforts to relieve debt for struggling nations at the IMF and World Bank meetings.

- A former Goldman Sachs banker has transitioned to the Biden administration to aid in creating a program resembling an investment firm, to enhance U.S. semiconductor production.

- On April 12, the IMF cautioned that the U.S., China and other significant economies must address near-record high debt levels predicted for five years from now as they could restrict a nations' capacity to handle potential crises.

- On April 12, the U.S. Government Accountability Office published a report releasing federal spending information on U.S. funding to entities located in China. U.S. agencies allocated at least \$48 million to Chinese entities between 2017 and 2021, including \$22.8 million in assistance awards and \$25.2 million in contracts.

- The IMF is projecting increased borrowing by major economies, especially the U.S. and China, due to spending on aging populations and clean energy.

Associated News Sources:

["Janet Yellen warns US decoupling from China would be 'disastrous',"](#) *Financial Times*, April 20 [Paywall]

["Solar Tariffs Up to 254% Risk Return in Congress Anti-China Push,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 19 [Paywall]

["White House nears unprecedented action on U.S. investment in China,"](#) *Politico*, April 18

["China's Car Buyers Have Fallen Out of Love With Foreign Brands,"](#) *The New York Times*, April 14 [Paywall]

["Natural gas exporters skirt Washington's scrutiny of China,"](#) *Politico*, April 13

["U.S.-China split shadows hopes for lifting debt load from global economy,"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 13 [Paywall]

["Goldman Banker Quits to Join Biden's Made-in-USA Chips Push,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 13 [Paywall]

["US and China Are Sending Global Debt to Record, IMF Warns,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 12 [Paywall]

["GAO Report on U.S. Funding to Chinese Entities,"](#) *USNI News*, April 12

["U.S., China to Lead Growth in Government Debts,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 12 [Paywall]

- A Pew Research Center survey reveals that over 80% of Americans view China's global role negatively, with 38% considering China an "enemy." The increasing ties between Beijing and Moscow are particularly concerning.

- A U.S. defense industry delegation plans to visit Taiwan in May to meet with Taiwanese defense industry representatives, and possibly President Tsai Ing-wen, to discuss cooperation in drones and ammunition.

Associated News Sources:

["Lawmakers war-game conflict with China, hoping to deter one"](#) *AP News*, April 22

["US lawmakers push for Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen to attend Apec summit despite objections from Beijing,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 20 [Paywall]

["US military helping Japan counter its 'greatest security challenge' from China, says top commander,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 20 [Paywall]

["US law banning Xinjiang imports has glaring weaknesses, lawmakers are told,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 19 [Paywall]

["US commander pushes back against colleagues 'guessing' Taiwan invasion date,"](#) *Financial Times*, April 18 [Paywall]

["Taiwan highly vulnerable to Chinese air attack, leaked documents show,"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 15 [Paywall]

["Over 80% of Americans critical of China's global role: survey,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, April 13

["U.S. defense industry plans first Taiwan trip in four years,"](#) *Nikkei Asia*, April 11

Diplomatic Engagements and Evolving Policies



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida shake hands prior to their meeting at the prime minister's office on April 24, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. (Source: The Asahi Shimbun/Getty Images)

- Two potential 2024 U.S. presidential candidates, Gov. Glen Youngkin and Gov. Ron DeSantis, have begun trips to Asia to showcase U.S. efforts to combat Chinese influence.
- U.S. President Biden is expected to sign an executive order to limit investments in key parts of the Chinese economy by American businesses; a move expected to be reciprocated by G7 partners.
- The U.S. and G7 partners are examining ways to reduce existing economic ties with the Chinese economy, while still trying to save broader trade and investments.
- On April 17, top diplomatic officials from G7 countries unveiled new commitments at an in-person conference in Japan. The group vowed against Chinese threats to Taiwan and North Korean missile testing, among other items.
- Congressional appropriations committees made bipartisan appropriations to increase the U.S. defense budget with the justification of competition with China.
- The Chinese government has refused to reschedule U.S. Secretary of State Blinken's previously canceled trip to Beijing amid concerns that the Federal Bureau of Investigation will release a large-scale report on the Chinese spy balloon incident.
- The U.S. and Philippines have agreed on a roadmap for joint security plans amid rising bilateral concern over China's increasing influence.
- The U.S. Department of State concluded private talks with Taiwan and released a report aiming to include Taiwan at future World Health Assembly meetings.

Associated News Sources:

["Pair of Potential US Presidential Candidates Start Asia Trips,"](#) Bloomberg, April 24 [Paywall]
["Biden Aims to Unveil China Investment Curbs With G-7 Backing,"](#) Bloomberg, April 20 [Paywall]
["U.S., Allies Weigh How to Reduce Economic Ties With China,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, April 17 [Paywall]
["G-7 diplomats reject Chinese, N. Korean, Russian](#)

Technological Challenges, Decoupling and Angst Persist



A building with a logo of the Chinese technology company Huawei on the outside. (Source: Flickr, CC.20)

- Australian think-tank The Lowy Institute reported that the United States continues to lose influence in Southeast Asia since 2018. The institute reported that China rises above the U.S. at a 54-46 lead.
- In response to U.S. officials' increasing worries of a possible invasion of Taiwan and a move away from Taiwan-made microchips, Taiwanese economic officials have urged the U.S. to continue utilizing Taiwan-made chips.
- Chinese technology companies are struggling to catch up to the advancements made by large American technology firms in artificial intelligence.
- The Information Technology Industry Council, which includes giants Apple and Microsoft, is pushing for loosened legislation on a ban of TikTok in fears that the legislation might entangle their own companies.
- American data company Seagate faces \$300 million in fines for selling hard drives to Chinese technology company Huawei, despite U.S. sanctions.
- The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company is seeking up to \$15 billion in U.S. federal funding to build microchip plants in the U.S. However, the company is rejecting many of the required conditions set forward by the U.S.
- According to China's statistics bureau, Chinese microchip output in March 2023 was only down 3% from one year ago, indicating signs of recovery for manufacturers.
- The U.S. state of Montana passed an overarching ban on TikTok, prohibiting the app's sales and operation within the state.
- Chinese microchip imports dropped 23% since January 2023 as China deals with higher levels of sanctions from the U.S. and other nations.
- The U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote on restrictions for Chinese technology companies Huawei and ZTE amid accusations of the companies being "threats" to the U.S.

Associated News Sources:

[aggression.” AP News, April 17](#)
[“China Tensions High on Agenda as G-7 Diplomats Meet in Japan,” Bloomberg, April 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“China-US relations: Washington unites around mission to prevail over Beijing by boosting defence spending” South China Morning Post, April 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“China stalls Blinken's Beijing visit over spy balloon concerns: Financial Times,” The Straits Times, April 15](#)
[“With China in mind, U.S. and Philippines agree on roadmap for security assistance,” The Japan Times, April 12 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“US State Department reveals talks aimed at Taipei presence for World Health Assembly meeting,” South China Morning Post, April 12 \[Paywall\]](#)

[“China gains ground over US in Southeast Asia influence since 2018: report,” South China Morning Post, April 20 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Taiwan Quietly Urges US to Calm Rhetoric on China Chip Risk,” Bloomberg, April 20 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“China struggles to quench its thirst for AI talent amid ChatGPT frenzy, as nation lags US in top brains,” South China Morning Post, April 20 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“TikTok Could Get a Lifeline From Big Tech as a US Ban Looms,” Bloomberg, April 19 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Seagate to Pay \\$300 Million for Violating Export Restrictions on China’s Huawei,” The Wall Street Journal, April 19 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“TSMC Seeks Up to \\$15 Billion From U.S. for Chip Plants but Objects to Conditions,” The Wall Street Journal, April 19 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Tech war: China’s chip output shows recovery in March amid US export restrictions on advanced tools,” South China Morning Post, April 18 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Montana lawmakers pass first-in-the-nation TikTok ban,” The Washington Post, April 14 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Tech war: China’s chip imports slump 23 per cent in the first 3 months as US trade sanctions, supply glut weigh on activity,” South China Morning Post, April 13 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“U.S. House to vote on bill to address potential Huawei, ZTE threats,” Reuters, April 11](#)

Bilateral Accusations and Leaked Information in the Headlines



Image of a satellite taken outside of Taipei, Taiwan. (Source: Galen Crout/Unsplash)

- According to a leaked U.S. intelligence report, the Chinese government is looking to build cyber weapons to hijack adversaries’ satellites.
- The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation warned that China and Iran are utilizing more complex systems to harass critics within U.S. borders.
- White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stated that the U.S. will not allow any foreign government to harass or threaten U.S. persons, amid reports that China set up a secret ‘police station’ within New York City.
- Leaked U.S. secret documents have detailed up to four separate Chinese spy balloons that were operating around the world.

- In Other News -

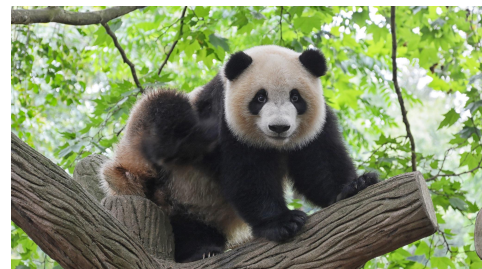


Image of a panda on a tree. (Source: Bruce Hong/Unsplash)

[“US Charges 44 Over Chinese Harassment of Dissidents Overseas,” Bloomberg, April 17 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“U.S. to strike economic deal with Pacific islands to counter China,” Nikkei Asia, April 21](#)
[“Chinese publishers ditch US books as geopolitical tensions mount,” Financial Times, April 20 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Trade envoy Tai says US not seeking to ‘decouple’ from China,” AP News, April 20](#)
[“Stalled Chinese investment deal set to return to EU agenda next month,” South China Morning Post, April 18 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Covid Emerged as Chinese Lab Faced Biosafety Issues, Senate Republican Study Finds,” The Wall Street Journal, April 17 \[Paywall\]](#)
[“Determined to Flee China. Thousands Take a Long,](#)

- Within leaked U.S. government documents, an intercepted Russian message stated that China had agreed to sell weapons to Russia in-order to assist in the Ukraine war. In response, the Chinese foreign minister vowed that China will not sell weapons to any group within the Ukraine war.

Associated News Sources:

["China building cyber weapons to hijack enemy satellites, says US leak,"](#) *Financial Times*, April 21 [Paywall]
["FBI says China, Iran using new tactics to harass critics on U.S. soil,"](#) *Reuters*, April 19
["US in 'extensive effort' with partners to counter China influence operations,"](#) *Reuters*, April 18
["Leaked secret documents detail up to four additional Chinese spy balloons,"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 14 [Paywall]
["China vows not to sell arms to any party in Ukraine war,"](#) *AP News*, April 14
["Russia says China agreed to secretly provide weapons, leaked documents show,"](#) *The Washington Post*, April 13 [Paywall]

["Dangerous Route to the Southern U.S. Border,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 16 [Paywall]
["New US-China soy centre to share American agricultural expertise with Chinese farmers,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 15 [Paywall]
["Brazil's Lula criticises US dollar and IMF during China visit,"](#) *France 24*, April 14
["French leader adds unneeded tension to the 'One China' policy,"](#) *The Japan Times*, April 14 [Paywall]
["As U.S. Tries to Isolate China, German Companies Move Closer,"](#) *The New York Times*, April 12 [Paywall]
["Chinese eagerly await return of panda from US zoo,"](#) *BBC News*, April 11
["US sharing of intelligence with India in border clash with China seen as pivotal in partnership,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, April 11 [Paywall]

What Are We Reading?

- *Rappler*: ["Marcos eyes US green bonds ahead of Biden meeting"](#) (April 24, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: [Hillary Clinton: Republicans Are Playing Into the Hands of Putin and Xi](#) (April 24, 2023) [Paywall]
- The China Project: ["After TikTok, scrutiny of these Chinese tech companies could be next"](#) (April 21, 2023)
- *The Economist*: ["Is China better at monetary policy than America?"](#) (April 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: ["As Xi Befriends World Leaders, He Hardens His Stance on the U.S."](#) by David Pierson (April 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: ["Chinese police stations in NYC are part of a vast influence operation"](#) by Josh Rogin (April 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: ["Why China's Shrinking Population Is a Problem for Everyone"](#) by Nicole Hang (April 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Forget Macron, Europe and the U.S. See Eye-to-Eye on China's Threat"](#) by Greg Ip (April 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: ["Why Europe and America will always think differently on China"](#) by Janan Ganesh (April 18, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Time*: ["To Stay Ahead of China in AI, the U.S. Needs to Work with China"](#) by Paul Scharre (April 18, 2023)
- *Quartz*: ["How China plans to get in on US subsidies for clean energy manufacturing"](#) by Mary Hui (April 18, 2023)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["China's Xi Jinping Seeks to Shake Trans-Atlantic Solidarity With Flurry of Diplomacy"](#) by Austin Ramzy (April 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: ["Why Taiwan's 2024 Elections Matter From Beijing to Washington"](#) by Cindy Wang and Samson Ellis (April 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Los Angeles Times*: ["Opinion: U.S.-China tensions are feeding a new wave of anti-Asian hate"](#) by Russell Jieung (April 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- U.S. Department of Justice: ["Two Arrested for Operating Illegal Overseas Police Station of the Chinese Government"](#) (April 17, 2023)

- *The Wire China*: [“Buying the Heartland: Does the U.S. need to protect its farmland from China?”](#) by Grady McGregor (April 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“Playing Both Sides? Can the U.S. fund and build domestic supply chains for batteries without China?”](#) by Katrina Northrop (April 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“America, China and a Crisis of Trust”](#) by Thomas L. Friedman (April 14, 2023) [Paywall]
- U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission: [“Shein, Temu, and Chinese e-Commerce: Data Risks, Sourcing Violations, and Trade Loopholes”](#) (April 14, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Chinese are ‘lying flat’. Americans are on gap years as pessimistic youth take a hard look at traditional jobs”](#) by Ralph Jennings and He Huifeng (April 13, 2023) [Paywall]
- Pew Research Center: [“Americans Are Critical of China’s Global Role – as Well as Its Relationship With Russia”](#) by Laura Silver, Christine Huang, Laura Clancy and Moira Fagan (April 12, 2023)
- United States Government Accountability Office: [“Information on U.S. Funding to Entities Located in China”](#) (April 12, 2023)
- *Bloomberg*: [“On the US and China, Macron Says the Quiet Part Out Loud”](#) by Lionel Laurent (April 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Just how close will Vietnam get to the US to keep China in check?”](#) by Laura Zhou (April 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: [“Has Xi’s Diplomacy been Effective in Southeast Asia?”](#) by Chong Ja Ian, Enrico V. Gloria, Nur Shahadah Binti Jamil, Pou Sothirak, Chanintira Na Thalang, Christine Susanna Tjhin and Bich Tran (April 6, 2023)

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [The Road Ahead for US-Japan Economic Security Partnership in the Indo-Pacific](#)
April 25 hosted by Wilson Center
- [The Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis Continued?: Assessing China’s April 2023 Military Exercises Against Taiwan](#)
April 20 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Fireside Chat with Dr. Ko Wen-je, Chairman of the Taiwan People’s Party and Former Mayor of Taipei](#)
April 20 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Whose Grass is Greener? The American and Chinese Climate Challenge](#)
April 20 hosted by The China Project
- [Virtual Event | Avoiding the Brink: Escalation Management in a War to Defend Taiwan](#)
April 20 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [Hearing on “China’s Pursuit of Defense Technologies: Implications for U.S. and Multilateral Export Control and Investment Screening Regimes”](#)
April 13 hosted by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [The Ninth Annual Nancy Bernkopf Tucker Memorial Lecture on U.S.-East Asia Relations](#)
April 12 hosted by Wilson Center

- Upcoming Events -

- [Cyber + Data Governance Series: Complying with China’s Finalized Cross-Border Data Transfer Regime](#)
April 26 hosted by the U.S.-China Business Council
- [The IMF’s View on China’s Economic Outlook](#)
April 26 hosted by the U.S.-China Business Council
- [China’s Rise, the War in Ukraine, and the Transformation of the East Asian Regional System](#)
April 27 hosted by Columbia University East Asian Languages and Cultures
- [Asia and the Russia’s War on Ukraine](#)
April 27 hosted by Harvard University Fairbank Centers for Chinese Studies
- [US-Taiwan relations: Will China’s challenge lead to a crisis?](#)
May 1 hosted by Brookings
- [A Conversation with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines](#)
May 4 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Allies and Geopolitical Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region](#)
May 4 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

What ICAS Is Up To

---ICAS Partner Event---


COMMITTEE OF 100


COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The Fight for Representation: The State of Chinese Americans Survey




Thursday, April 27
7pm EDT

Chinese Americans are historically underrepresented in politics and policy, and underserved in healthcare, education, and social services. How do you work to solve these problems? The first step is getting clear and concise data on Chinese Americans, one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S.

Chinese Americans have diverse backgrounds and diverse needs - from culture, family, healthcare, education, employment, finances and political engagement. Data disaggregation is the key to addressing the issues, concerns and challenges of Chinese Americans.

In the largest survey of its kind ever conducted, nearly 6,500 Chinese Americans from 46 states answered 77 key questions about the Chinese American experience in research conducted jointly by Columbia University and Committee of 100.

This disaggregated data specifically on Chinese Americans will inform policymakers and the public of the diverse set of opinions, perceptions, and needs of Chinese Americans across the country and will help develop timely and responsive policies, programs, and services to address those needs.

Join experts from Columbia University, Committee of 100 and the worlds of policy, politics and research for the unveiling of this data at a virtual town hall on April 27 at 7:00pm ET.

RSVP here to hold your spot for this important discussion.

FULL EVENT AGENDA

(ALL TIMES APPROXIMATE)

7:00pm ET **Welcome and Open**
Gary Locke
Chair, Committee of 100; President of Bellevue College; former U.S. Ambassador to China; former Governor of the State of Washington

7:03pm ET **Welcome**
Dr. Melissa D. Begg
Dean of the Columbia School of Social Work, Columbia University

7:06pm ET **Why We Partnered with Columbia University and Why this Research is Important to the Chinese American Community**
Zhengyu Huang
President, Committee of 100

7:10pm ET **Key Findings from The State of Chinese Americans Survey**
Dr. Qin Gao
Professor of Social Policy and Social Work; Associate Dean for Doctoral Education; Director, China Center for Social Policy, Columbia University

7:55pm ET **Panel Discussion — What the Data Means**
Gordon H. Chang
Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities; Professor of History, History Department; Stanford University (moderator)
Wayne Ho
President & Chief Executive Officer, Chinese-American Planning Council
Dr. Neil G. Ruiz
Head of New Research Initiatives, Pew Research Center
Robert L. Santos
Director, U.S. Census Bureau

8:25pm ET **Conclusion**
Zhengyu Huang

The Fight for Representation: The State of Chinese Americans Survey

Thursday, April 27, 2023
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[Learn More](#)

---Past MAP Event---

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

Thursday, April 13, 2023

9:30am - 11:00am EDT



On April 13, 2023, the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program (MAP) and the China Institute at the University of Alberta (CIUA) co-hosted an online roundtable discussion on the “Roles of Asian Observers in Arctic Governance: Adapting to a Changing Arctic Council.” This event brought together scholars from the five Asian observer states of the Arctic Council—China, Japan, South Korea, India and Singapore—to exchange their views on the modern state of Arctic governance. The session was moderated by Nong HONG, Executive Director, Institute for China-America Studies.

Jia WANG, Interim Director, China Institute, University of Alberta, opened the discussion by highlighting how climate change is increasing access to potential shipping lanes and resources in the Arctic. However, Arctic governance through the Arctic Council, a forum historically characterized by deep multilateral cooperation, has become mired by unprecedented tensions and concerns resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Throughout the last decade, the growth of international attention on Arctic environmental, economic and security issues has brought distant countries to the discussion table as observer states on the Arctic Council.

- **ZHAO Long:** Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Institute for Global Governance Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
- **Sakiko HATAYA:** Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- **KIM Wonhee:** Senior Researcher, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
- **Anurag BISEN:** Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
- **Christopher LEN:** an independent scholar based in Singapore, previously working as the Senior Research Fellow and Head of Publications at the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore

[Read the Full Summary](#)

[Watch the Full Event](#)

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---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

TnT

QR Code

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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---ICAS In the News---

On Monday, April 17, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in China Daily on President Macron's (controversial) view on Taiwan and on strategic autonomy.

- "The fact of the matter is the Europeans are not major security players in the 'Indo-Pacific' or the Asia-Pacific and in the Taiwan Strait...they are very marginal players in the Asia-Pacific security architecture."
- "was speaking primarily on Taiwan. He has spoken, and the Europeans have spoken with regard to strategic autonomy in a broader context also,"
- "Macron was just stating the obvious, that France and Europe need to have an independent position on Taiwan, particularly if there is a conflict, and that France and Europe should not be adding to the tensions or fanning the flames of tensions."
- "It's surprising how everybody thinks that Western Europe has become a camp follower of the US with regard to China, on a Taiwan Strait crisis particularly, which is not the case and has not been the case,"



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

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

creating a bilateral “hotline” to increase communication in crisis situations, as they provide the U.S. with “cover” for 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

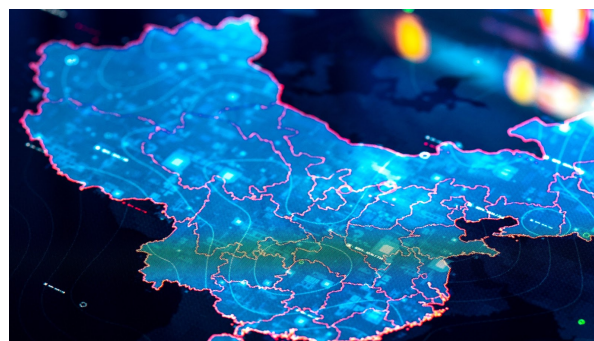
Accusations and Combative Arguments Still Remain in the Public Eye



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 Suspensions 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]

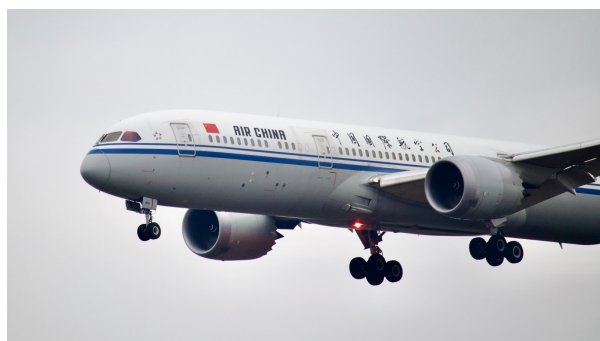
["Europe takes tougher stance toward China in boost to U.S. policy,"](#) Japan Times, April 29 [Paywall]

["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



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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

QR Code

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!

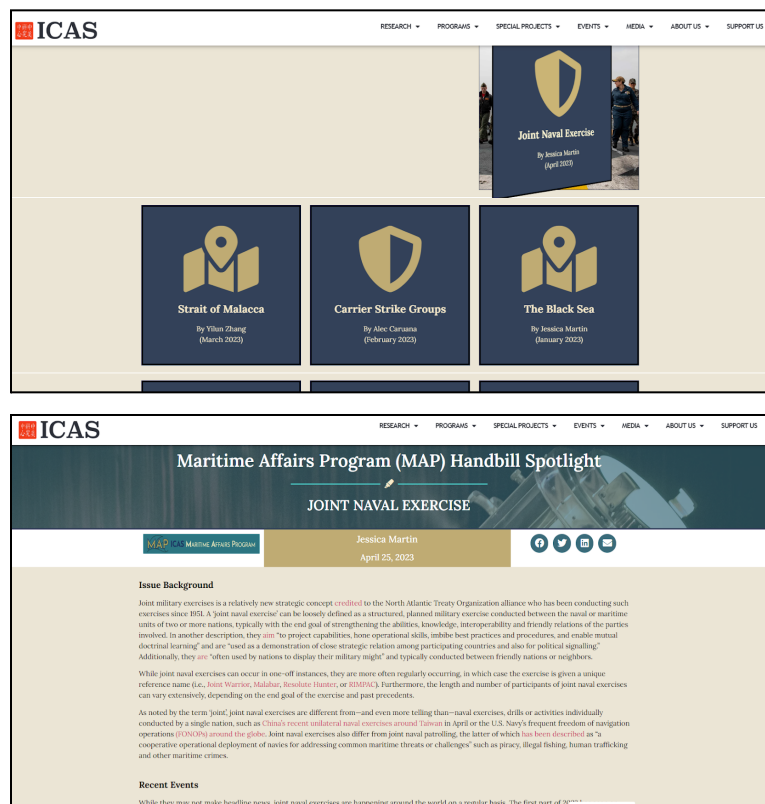
After a successful full year of production, the ICAS Maritime Affairs Program has now developed and released an archive for its Maritime Affairs Program Spotlight analyses in order to provide easier access and encourage sharing.

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)



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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).

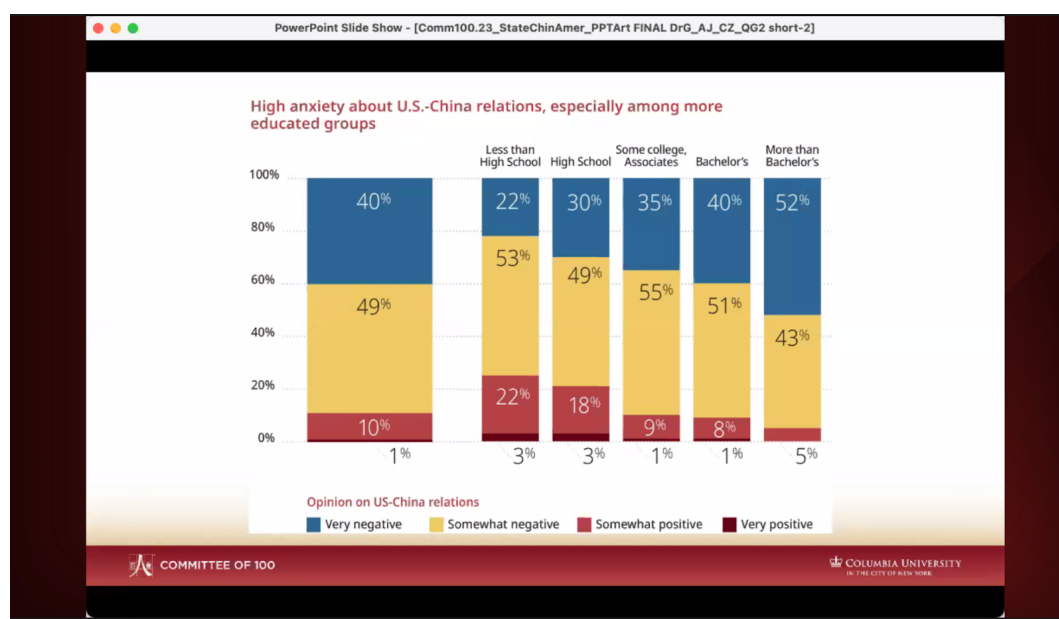
What was Discussed in the Interview? What Did We Learn from the Interview?

[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.

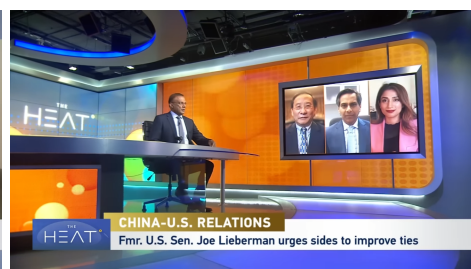
Image: One of several survey data results revealed during the virtual event on April 27, 2023. (Image Source: ICAS)

[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."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

May 24, 2023

What's Going On? ↓

Diplomatic Engagements and Realigning Alliances



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and U.S. President Joe Biden at the G7 Summit in Japan. (Credit: Simon Dawson/Number 10 Downing Street, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 via Flickr)

- China's new ambassador to the U.S. Xie Feng has left China to fill the previous ambassador Qin Gang's place in Washington, D.C.
- Russia and China retaliate against the G7's increasing concern over their global threats, accusing the group of hindering international peace.
- At a 3-day G7 summit in Japan, G7 leaders challenged China's "economic coercion," highlighting their dependence yet disputes with Beijing on issues like trade, human rights and Taiwan, a stance ignited by China's "weaponisation of economic vulnerabilities."
- Following the 3-day G7 summit in Japan, President Biden hinted at an impending shift in U.S.-China relations, suggesting de-risking and diversifying economic engagement while maintaining open communication.
- G7 leaders agreed on a joint approach to 'de-risk' and diversify economic engagement with China rather than decoupling, echoing U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's previous statement.
- While on a visit to the United Kingdom, U.S. Republican Mike Gallagher warns the UK that China aims to dominate and humiliate the West, predicting possible

Shaping the U.S.-China Economic Landscape Amid Disputes



An airplane flies over a group of national flags representing nations from around the world. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- The U.S. and Taiwan agreed on the initial part of their "21st Century Trade" initiative, emphasizing collaboration on "customs and border procedures, regulatory practices, and small business," with further negotiations on complex trade areas expected.
- U.S. Republican Sen. Todd Young outlined upcoming legislation to bolster U.S. competitiveness against China's economic coercion, anticipating a unified stand by G7 leaders on Beijing's influence.
- UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak indicated possible stricter export controls and investment restrictions on British firms in China, expressing alignment with U.S. policy toward Beijing ahead of the G7 summit in Japan.
- Top Biden administration aides have highlighted the risk of budget cuts to the U.S. competition with China, amidst intense negotiations in the U.S. Congress to raise the debt ceiling.
- U.S.-listed Chinese companies are switching to American and Singapore auditors to comply with U.S. accounting standards and reduce delisting risk under the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act (HFCAA).
- Ford Motor Co. plans to cut over 1,300 jobs in China as sales plummet due to the rising popularity of electric vehicles from Tesla and local companies.

conflict over Taiwan.

- As a G7 leaders summit was held in Japan, Xi Jinping hosted the inaugural China-Central Asia summit, seeking to strengthen partnerships and counter U.S. influence.

- The U.S. announced the new U.S.-Taiwan Trade Initiative which looks to stimulate trade between the U.S. and Taiwan by reducing trade restrictions. The initiative comes a few days before Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao is expected to meet with the U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

- On May 16, Chinese Premier Li Qiang urged the Netherlands to maintain “strategic autonomy” and promoted cooperation across various sectors amid rising U.S.-China tensions impacting global supply chains and technology trade.

- U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Chinese official Wang Yi hold a meeting in Vienna, highlighting a strain in relations while trying to responsibly manage competition.

- Despite internal disagreements about the severity of measures, G7 nations plan to counter ‘economic coercion’ by China, signaling their intent to better coordinate responses to China’s economic practices.

- China dismissed the possibility of a meeting between its new Defense Minister Li Shangfu and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a Singapore security forum due to ongoing sanctions.

Associated News Sources:

[“New Chinese Ambassador Departs for the U.S. Under a Cloud of Uncertainty,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 23 [Paywall]

[“Russia and China hit back at a G7 that saw them as a threat,”](#) *CNN News*, May 22

[“G7 takes stand against China’s “economic coercion,”](#) *BBC News*, May 21

[“Biden sees shift in ties with China ‘shortly’,”](#) *Reuters*, May 21

[“‘We are not decoupling’: G-7 leaders agree on approach to ‘de-risk’ from China,”](#) *CNBC News*, May 21

[“China wants to subordinate west, US politician claims on UK visit,”](#) *The Guardian*, May 19

[“As the U.S. Attends the G7, China Hosts a Summit of Its Own,”](#) *The New York Times*, May 18 [Paywall]

[“US, Taiwan Agree to Lift Trade, Clouding Planned China Talks,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 18 [Paywall]

[“China calls on Netherlands to ‘adhere to strategic autonomy’, as US restrictions weigh on trade,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 17 [Paywall]

[“U.S. sanctions on China defense chief loom over chance for talks,”](#) *Nikkei Asia*, May 12 [Paywall]

[“U.S., China Senior Officials Meet in Tentative Effort to Restart Ties,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 11 [Paywall]

[“China the Target of New G-7 Push Against ‘Economic Coercion’,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 11 [Paywall]

- U.S. solar product manufacturers criticize Biden’s tax credits for being lax on China, arguing that the rules do not sufficiently encourage manufacturing relocation from China.

- U.S. consulting firm Bain & Company is offering China-based staff six months of voluntary leave following police investigations into the company’s Shanghai offices.

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security raided the premises of Chinese solar panel maker Jinko Solar as part of an ongoing federal investigation.

- In a move to diversify grain sources, China received its first corn shipment from South Africa, following cancellations of U.S. corn orders, signifying Beijing's focus on securing critical grains.

Associated News Sources:

[“US, Taiwan reach deal on first part of ‘21st Century’ trade pact,”](#) *Reuters*, May 19

[“China not ‘solely a military threat,’ U.S. senator warns,”](#) *Nikkei Asia*, May 17 [Paywall]

[“Sunak Says UK Aligned With US on China, Mulls Investment Curbs,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 17 [Paywall]

[“US lawmakers, Biden aides invoke China competition in debt fight,”](#) *Reuters*, May 16

[“Chinese companies switch auditors to avoid U.S. delisting risk,”](#) *Nikkei Asia*, May 16 [Paywall]

[“Ford Seen Laying Off 1,300 Workers in China, Local Media Reports,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 15 [Paywall]

[“Some U.S. Solar Makers Criticize Biden’s Tax Credits as Too Lax on China,”](#) *The New York Times*, May 12 [Paywall]

[“US consulting giant Bain & Company offers China staff 6 months of voluntary leave, sources say,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 11 [Paywall]

[“US conducts raids at two properties of China’s Jinko Solar,”](#) *Reuters*, May 10

[“China gets first corn shipment from South Africa, bolstering push to diversify away from US,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 8 [Paywall]

["China pours cold water on bilateral meeting with US defence secretary,"](#) *Financial Times*, May 10 [Paywall]

Military Competition and Concerns Run High in the Pacific



South Korean navy ships are decorated to celebrate the 4th of July during a Rim of the Pacific exercise, Pearl Harbor, July 4, 2012.
(Source: U.S. Navy, Public Domain via Flickr)

- Papua New Guinea will allow U.S. troops to have access to the nation's ports and airports, as a part of a larger initiative from the Biden administration to boost Pacific ties in-lieu of U.S.-China competition in the region.
- The Chinese ambassador to Australia urged against an AUKUS decision to allow for nuclear-powered submarines, claiming the plan was "unnecessary consumption of the hardworking Australian taxpayers' money."
- The People's Liberation Army released a statement that China is prepared to "resolutely smash any form of Taiwan independence" amid a possible acceleration of the sale of U.S. defense weapons to Taiwan.
- The Philippine ambassador to the U.S. has said that the lack of U.S.-Chinese talks has caused him to believe "the world is in trouble."
- The Chinese People's Liberation Army filed a report stating that the United States "self-destructed" their own floating sonars to prevent the device from falling into Chinese hands, after a close encounter between the two militaries in 2021.
- Analysts are claiming that the warming ties between Japan and South Korea will raise serious concerns in the Chinese government, explaining that it will affect the countries' ability to have trilateral cooperation. The warming ties between South Korea and Japan are reportedly a result of increased U.S. presence in the region.

Associated News Sources:

["Chinese commerce minister to meet US counterpart in Washington next week,"](#) *CNN News*, May 18
["US-China rivalry: American troops to access Papua New Guinea ports, airports in new security pact,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 18 [Paywall]

Tensions at Digital Frontlines Escalate Between U.S. and China



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

- Amid security concerns, China urges discontinuation of Micron chips for sensitive computing applications, escalating a technology feud with the U.S.
- Montana becomes the first U.S. state to ban TikTok across the entire state, citing privacy concerns related to alleged Chinese intelligence gathering.
- U.S. technology advisory firm Forrester Research is closing its China office and laying off staff amid Beijing's crackdown on foreign consultancies, coinciding with a tightening of national security scrutiny.
- Chinese brokerages Futu Holdings and Up Fintech to withdraw trading apps that allow overseas investments, complying with Beijing's tightening controls.
- A lawsuit claims that the Chinese Communist Party had supreme access to U.S. data through TikTok parent company ByteDance.
- U.S. government probes Rockwell Automation over potential cybersecurity threats from its China operations that may expose U.S. infrastructure to cyberattacks.
- AI researchers debate future visions of AI at a conference in Rwanda amid concerns that U.S. and China dominance may leave other countries behind.

Associated News Sources:

["China tells tech manufacturers to stop using Micron chips, stepping up feud with United States,"](#) *AP News*, May 21
["Montana to become first US state to ban TikTok,"](#) *Reuters*, May 18
["US-based Forrester Research to close China office amid Beijing's crackdown of foreign advisories,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 18 [Paywall]
["Two Trading Apps That Allowed Chinese Citizens to Invest Overseas Get Pulled From China,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 16 [Paywall]

["China's ambassador to Australia says Aukus an 'unnecessary' use of taxpayer money and 'not a good idea'," The Guardian, May 18](#)
["China says ready to 'smash' Taiwan self-rule as US prepares major arms package, sends advisers," AP News, May 16](#)
["Lack of U.S.-China talks puts world 'in trouble': Philippine envoy," Nikkei Asia, May 15 \[Paywall\]](#)
["PLA reveals US-China military encounter off Hong Kong day before January 6 Capitol riot," South China Morning Post, May 15 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Warming South Korea-Japan ties sends chill through China over potential US pivot, analysts say," South China Morning Post, May 9 \[Paywall\]](#)

["Ex-ByteDance exec claims CCP 'maintained' access to U.S. data," Axios, May 13](#)
["Rockwell Automation faces U.S. government probe over China ops - WSJ," Reuters, May 10](#)
["AI Researchers Worry the U.S. and China Will Leave Everyone Else Behind," The Wall Street Journal, May 8 \[Paywall\]](#)

Espionage Claims Rattle U.S.-China Relations



Intelligence security concerns the bilateral relations
 (Source: Getty Images, Royalty Free)

- China, prioritizing security overgrowth, appoints "spymaster" Chen Yixin to oversee crackdown on foreign firms, triggering a concern in global businesses.
- U.S. government announces first cases from newly formed technology espionage team, with arrests linked to Russia, China, and Iran.
- A Hong Kong leader said that China's sentencing of a 78-year-old U.S. citizen for spying exposes national security threats and urges vigilance.
- U.S. charges a former Apple employee for allegedly stealing technology for China, highlighting the efforts of the recently established "strike force".
- China has sentenced a 78-year-old U.S. citizen to life in prison on spying charges.
- An American man from Boston is charged with working alongside Chinese officials to monitor local pro-democracy activists, suggesting Chinese influence in U.S. politics.

Associated News Sources:

["China Puts Spymaster in Charge of U.S. Corporate Crackdown," The Wall Street Journal, May 18 \[Paywall\]](#)

- In Other News -



One of the two 7th-century carvings that the U.S. returned to China.
 (Source: National Cultural Heritage Administration website)

["Microsoft Works to Fix Problem With Skype Calls to China," The Wall Street Journal, May 17 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Lab monkey prices soar in U.S. after China cuts off exports," Nikkei Asia, May 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Founder Behind Mega China Bicycle Bust Starts Over in NYC," Bloomberg, May 15 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Former NBA star Howard stirs Chinese anger by calling Taiwan a country," Reuters, May 12](#)
["Blinken announces Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman's retirement," CNN, May 12](#)
["US Returns Two Stolen Relics Worth \\$3.5 Million to China," Sixth Tone, May 11](#)

["U.S. Tech Espionage Team Unveils First Cases Involving China and Russia,"](#) *The New York Times*, May 16 [Paywall]
["Hong Kong leader says China's sentencing of US citizen exposes national security threats,"](#) *AP News*, May 16
["U.S. charges Apple ex-employee for trying to steal technology, fleeing to China,"](#) *Reuters*, May 16
["China sentences 78-year-old US citizen to life in prison on spying charges,"](#) *AP News*, May 15
["Boston man charged with providing Chinese officials information on pro-democracy activists,"](#) *AP News*, May 12

What Are We Reading? ↓

- Yusof Ishak Institute: ["2023/42 "Southeast Asian Views on the United States: Perceptions Versus Objective Reality" by Lee Sue-Ann \(May 21, 2023\)](#)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["Can US rail plan woo Middle East states away from China's belt and road?"](#) by Kawala Xie (May 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: ["China and the US are reaching for same region of the moon. Could they work together?"](#) by Ling Xin (May 21, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: ["Breakingviews: G7 says 'de-risking', China hears 'containment'"](#) by Pete Sweeney (May 21, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: ["How 'Decoupling' From China Became 'De-risking'"](#) by Damien Cave (May 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Politico*: ["It's just crazy': How the U.S.-China energy race imperils the climate fight"](#) by Sara Schonhardt and Phelim Kine (May 18, 2023)
- *Foreign Policy*: ["Xi Hosts Historic China-Central Asia Summit"](#) by Alexandra Sharp (May 18, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: ["Vietnam rebukes China, Philippines over South China Sea conduct"](#) (May 18, 2023)
- *The Economist*: ["Henry Kissinger explains how to avoid world war three"](#) (May 17, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: ["Smallpox Eradication: A Model for Global Cooperation"](#) by Nellie Bristol (May 16, 2023)
- *Bloomberg*: ["What the West Gets Wrong About China"](#) by Adam Minter (May 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: ["Move over, U.S. dollar. China wants to make the yuan the global currency."](#) by Meaghan Tobin, Lyric Li and David Feliba (May 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California: ["Former Apple Employee Charged With Theft Of Trade Secrets"](#) (May 16, 2023)
- *Foreign Affairs*: ["To Compete With China on Tech, America Needs to Fix Its Immigration System"](#) by Eric Schmidt (May 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: ["The fault lines in America's China policy"](#) (May 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: ["What do high US inflation and China's deflation risk mean for the global economy?"](#) by Mia Nulimaimaiti (May 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Messenger*: ["Chinese Data Restrictions Undermine US-China Stability"](#) by Paul Scharre (May 16, 2023)
- *The Verge*: ["Congress called Huawei a national security risk — it's still in US networks"](#) by Makena Kelly (May 15, 2023)
- Center for Security and Emerging Technology: ["Controlling Access to Advanced Compute via the Cloud: Options for U.S. Policymakers, Part I"](#) by Hanna Dohmen, Jacob Feldgoise, Emily S. Weinstein and Timothy Fist (May 15, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["Canada mustn't be sucked into the vortex of America's China policy"](#) by Timothy Wong, Nick Wang, Chiharu Wong, Tsz Ching and Rai Janesha (May 15, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: ["US angst over Chinese land ownership exposes a deepening rift"](#) by Patti Waldmeir (May 15, 2023) [Paywall]

- *The Washington Post*: [“In Vienna, the U.S.-China relationship shows signs of hope”](#) by David Ignatius (May 14, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“For US to counter China in Indo-Pacific, it must prioritise Indian Ocean island nations: analysts”](#) by Khushboo Razdan (May 14, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: [“US-China war unlikely, but Hong Kong should be prepared to be ‘sandwiched’ ‘kicked around like a football’ for next decade amid tensions”](#) by Cannix Yau (May 13, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“The U.S. and China Are Finally Talking Again, but Mistrust Clouds Next Steps”](#) by Brian Spegele (May 12, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“The Bid to Dethrone the Dollar”](#) by Christina Lu (May 12, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Why the US delayed China sanctions after shooting down a spy balloon”](#) by Michael Martina (May 11, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Are US-China ties warming as ambassador Nicholas Burns sits down with commerce minister Wang Wentao?”](#) by Amanda Lee (May 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Noema*: [“The Linked Ecological Futures Of America And China”](#) by Roman Shemakov (May 9, 2023)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“What Happened at the Latest U.S.-China Meeting”](#) by James Palmer (May 9, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“Is Chinese power about to peak?”](#) (May 11, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: [“China v America: how Xi Jinping plans to narrow the military gap”](#) (May 8, 2023) [Paywall]

What's Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [Hand-Off: The Evolution of U.S. Policy in Asia](#)
May 23 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Preserving a Legacy of Liberty and Peace in the Indo-Pacific](#)
May 23 hosted by National Committee on U.S. China Relations
- [Countering AAPI Discrimination and its Intersections with U.S. Foreign Policy](#)
May 22 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2023](#)
May 22 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2023](#)
May 22 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Chinese Assessments of Countersanctions Strategies](#)
May 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [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*
- [Who Makes the Rules? China and the Law of the Sea](#)
May 11 hosted by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- [Will China's financial sector remain forever state-dominated?](#)
May 10 hosted by Peterson Institute for International Economics

- Upcoming Events -

- [The Belt and Road's Impact on Partner States](#)
May 24 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Asia-Pacific Transitions featuring Eric Harwit](#)
May 24 hosted by Pew Research Center
- [How China Sees the World in 2023](#)
May 24 hosted by University of Alberta China Institute
- [The U.S. Role in Indo-Pacific Security: A Conversation with Ely Ratner and Siddharth Mohandas](#)
May 25 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [What does the future hold for Taiwan?](#)
May 25 hosted by Brookings
- [U.S.-Indo-Pacific Conference 2023](#)
June 14 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [A Fireside Discussion with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns](#)
June 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Inside the U.S.-China Tech War](#)
June 20 hosted by *Foreign Policy*

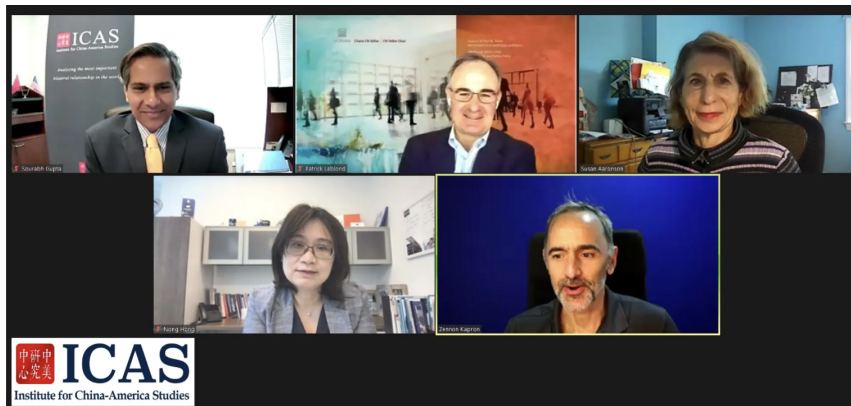
What ICAS Is Up To

---TnT Event Summary---

Digital Trade and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): New Rules, New Opportunities, New Challenges Wednesday, May 10, 2023

On May 10, 2023, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) hosted a virtual public event to discuss digital trade and cross-border data flows in the context of the ongoing Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) negotiations. The event was titled “Digital Trade and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): New Rules, New Opportunities, New Challenges.”

The panelists were introduced by **Dr. Hong Nong**, Executive Director of ICAS, and the event was moderated by **Mr. Sourabh Gupta**, Head of ICAS’ Trade n’ Technology Program. The featured panelists were: **Dr. Susan Aaronson**, Research Professor and Director, Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub at the George Washington University; **Mr. Zennon Kapron**, Founder and Director of the consultancy Kapronasia; and **Dr. Patrick Leblond**, CN-Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy at the University of Ottawa.



The panelists were in broad concurrence that given the dynamism and fluidity of innovation, processes and practices in the digital sphere, there were more questions than answers with regard to locking down cross-border data flow rules in digital economy agreements...

[Read the Full Summary](#)

[Watch the Full Event](#)

[Learn More](#)

---ICAS L.E.A.D. Issue Brief---

L.E.A.D. Project Brief: US-China Effort to Set “Guardrails” Fizzles with Balloon Incident

By Sourabh Gupta.

May 11, 2023

Summary:

The proposed “guardrail” that Joe Biden and Xi Jinping sought to erect last fall in Bali failed to emerge in the bitter aftermath of a wayward Chinese surveillance balloon that overflowed the United States and violated its sovereignty. Though Antony Blinken and Wang Yi met on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference afterward, aspersions cast by each side against the other, including a series of disparaging Chinese government reports, fed the chill in ties. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen’s meeting with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy during the return leg of her US transit added to bilateral and cross-strait tensions and were met with Chinese sanctions. Issues pertaining to Taiwan, be it arms sales or a speculated Chinese invasion date of the island, remained contentious. The administration’s attempt to restart constructive economic reengagement with China, including via an important speech by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, appears to have fallen on deaf ears in Beijing.

[Link to Full Post](#)

This Brief is part of the newly-established ICAS [U.S.-China L.E.A.D. Project](#) and includes a detailed ‘Chronology of U.S.-China Relations (January-April 2023)’ which will be updated once every four months as part of the L.E.A.D. Project.

Note: This article is [extracted](#) from Comparative Connections: A Triannual E-Journal of Bilateral Relations in the Indo-Pacific, Vol. 25, No. 1, May 2023.

---Special Project Announcement---

Announcing the U.S.-China Legislative and Executive Actions Directory (L.E.A.D.) Project!

U.S.-China Legislative and Executive Actions Directory (L.E.A.D.) Project
- Tracking Critical Developments in U.S.-China Relations, and On China, Within the Beltway -

Introduction
After more than two years under the Biden-Harris administration, the United States-China bilateral relationship continues to sail into unknown territory. On the one hand, the White House seeks to establish "guardrails" to better manage Washington's strategic competition with Beijing and restart constructive engagement in areas where the two countries enjoy a relative convergence of interests. On the other hand, an increasingly activist U.S. Congress seeks to impose its standing and role in shaping the terms of America's technological, economic and security rivalry with China. These rapidly evolving dynamics, and the accompanying measures taken by both the executive and legislative branches, continue to exert a profound and lasting impact on the current and future development of U.S.-China ties.

Background
In May 2023, the team at the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) launched the U.S.-China Legislative and Executive Actions Directory (L.E.A.D.) Project to track and summarize trending critical issues and developments on China, emanating from both the White House and Capitol Hill. ICAS will continue to update the L.E.A.D. Project with new summaries, analyses and collections of legislative and executive actions on China as time and circumstances allow. The goal of this project is to closely track the key issues and developments on China within the Beltway for scholars and policymakers, and thereby provide a framework for the better understanding of this critical and consequential bilateral relationship.

The U.S.-China L.E.A.D. Project consists of three major components: the Executive Actions Directory, the Legislative Actions Directory, and L.E.A.D. Notes.

Executive Actions Directory
The Executive Actions Directory will track major developments in U.S.-China relations and on China originating from within the executive branch, including but not limited to diplomatic meetings, formal speeches and press statements.
[Explore Executive Actions](#)

Legislative Actions Directory
The Legislative Actions Directory will summarize the major China-focused bills and their purposes, including but not limited to bills and joint resolutions, simple and concurrent resolutions and press statements.
[Explore Legislative Actions](#)

L.E.A.D. Notes
Meanwhile, L.E.A.D. Notes will, in a blog post format, summarize major speeches, events, and hearings—both on the executive and legislative branch sides—with the goal of tracking the pronouncements and views of officials who stand at the forefront of, and play a significant role in, shaping U.S.-China relations.

Congress Hearing Notes: House Financial Services Committee, Combating the Economic Threat from China, Feb. 7 2023
[BLOG POST](#)
Xiaohang Zhou
March 17, 2023
[View Research](#)

Congress Hearing Notes: Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Evaluating U.S.-China Policy in the Era of Strategic Competition, Feb. 9 2023
[BLOG POST](#)
Amanda Jin
February 21, 2023
[View Research](#)

Congress Hearing Notes: Senate Energy Committee, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Feb. 2 2023
[BLOG POST](#)
Amanda Jin
February 17, 2023
[View Research](#)

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The goal of this project is to closely track the key issues and developments on China within the Beltway for scholars and policymakers, and thereby provide a framework for the better understanding of this critical and consequential bilateral relationship.

[Explore and Learn More](#)

---ICAS Expert Voices Initiative Interview---

Mr. André Aquino
Lead Environmental Specialist and Sustainable Development Program Leader for Indonesia and Timor-Leste
The World Bank

Submit Questions

About ICAS EVI

This Expert Voices Initiative (EVI) interview, conducted virtually from the ICAS Office in Washington, D.C. on May 25, 2023 by Zhangchen Wang, will be released the first week of June 2023 on the ICAS YouTube page and website.

Expert Voices Initiative Interview - André Aquino May 25, 2023

Blue carbon, as a significant carbon sink and a natural defense line of coastal communities, plays an important role in mitigating climate change and preventing climate-related damages. However, many developing countries with rich blue carbon natural resources lack matching funds and technologies. Meanwhile, many countries with more advanced technologies and sufficient funds are inherently insufficient in the stock of blue carbon natural resources.

Thus, inspired by the "loss and damage" fund of COP27, the Institute for China-America Studies BCCC Program is holding an Expert Voice Initiative (EVI) interview to explore the possibilities for cooperation between developing and developed countries on blue carbon to protect, restore, develop, and utilize blue carbon resources.

This Expert Voices Initiative (EVI) interview, conducted virtually from the ICAS Office in Washington, D.C. on May 25, 2023 by Zhangchen Wang, will be released the first week of June 2023 on the ICAS YouTube page and website.

[Learn More about the ICAS Expert Voices Initiative](#)

---ICAS Blog Post---

Ramifications of ROK President Yoon's US Visit

By Capt. Sukjoon Yoon, ret.

May 16, 2023

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is facing widespread and vigorous criticism following his state visit to the US on April 26 and his shuttle diplomacy attempts to normalize relations between the ROK and Japan, meeting Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on March 16, and again in Seoul on May 7. This criticism has not come from North Korea or China, as might be expected, but from domestic commentators concerned that Yoon is pivoting too much towards the US and is overly hasty in his approach to Japan.

The first issue is about nuclear strategy, for which President Yoon has recommitted to the Tailored Deterrence Strategy (TDS) proposed in the US Nuclear Posture Review of October 27, 2022. Some South Korean political factions would prefer the ROK to develop its own independent nuclear deterrent, and there is substantial public support for this...

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *South China Morning Post* on the G7's approach on China.

- "Even on the US-inspired supply chain resilience and decoupling front, the gaps among the G7 powers are beginning to show up, especially as Beijing's relationship with Brussels thaws,"
- "So long as the military relationship between Seoul, Tokyo and Washington is expressly directed at North Korea and, more importantly, does not bleed into geopolitical matters beyond the Korean peninsula, Beijing has no reason to be particularly upset with Seoul,"

On Monday, May 19, 2022, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the China-Central Asia summit in Xian on *CGTN Europe's Global Business*.

- "I would say it [the China-Central Asia summit] has succeeded, but we must also understand that this is a process, China has been really heavily involved inside Central Asia trade and infrastructure building and right now what we're seeing is an upgrade of that process."
- "I think it is a very significant player in the region but China has also been wise as well, it is while being a very important commercial player, a business player, that it does not step on Russia's toes from a strategic perspective. This is Russia's backyard, and so it makes a point not to step into those areas that might concern Russia, but from an economic, commercial, and infrastructure perspective there is no comparison with regard to China's role in central Asia and that role will just continue growing larger."
- "For China, Central Asia is a permanent neighbor, it helps deepen contacts, deepen ties, creates interconnectivity, but for Central Asian countries this is an opportunity to diversify their economies. Yes they do sell a lot of oil and gas, but with China's industrial movement or China's industrial processes to Central Asia and these connectivity corridors it can help them diversify their economies, make their economies more resistant more robust, and perhaps a little less dependent on the Russian economy too,"

On Friday, May 19, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the China-Central Asia summit in Xian on *CGTN*

America's The Heat.

- "I think they just want to deepen ties of friendship and cooperation particularly economic cooperation and also cultural interaction and cooperation that are more people-to-people level so that there is a deeper integration between the two sides, but I think the most important points coming out of this Summit is not just that they are meeting and reaching these agreements, but the very fact of the timing of the summit. The fact that this summit is happening at the same time the G7 summit is happening."
- "This is a statement that China is making by hosting the Central Asian presidents in-terms of supporting the territorial integrity of each of these Central Asian states in an implicit way, considering that many or some of these central asian states have significant Russian populations and there is a certain analogy with the Ukraine situation so I think it's a big statement being made in that regard."
- "Strategically China has been very very careful in terms of strategic relationships; Russia is number one in the region and will stay that way, and that China is not trying to prod the bear in any respect in regards to that because they know how to share the region and share the region to the benefit of the smaller states in the region."

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* on the effect of Biden's cancellation Quad and Papua New Guinea visits.

- "[Biden's visit will] serve as an unwelcome reminder of the extent to which the US' depth of commitment to the Indo-Pacific region is at the mercy of increasingly fickle and idiosyncratic politics on the US home front"

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in *China Daily* on the major U.S.-China and global policy speeches by U.S. leaders.

- "The stark truth about the US trade and industrial policies is that while Washington would much prefer that these policies are liberal and lawful, it has no compunction following through with them even if they are protectionist and illegal in the eyes of multilateral trade law,"
- "And this is the reason that a gap has opened up between what the Biden administration says and what it does, particularly with regard to China."
- "I think most of the measures that have been taken ... since 2018 when Trump initiated his national security tariffs on steel for the past five years, most of the measures have been to decouple from China, although not across-the-board decoupling, but selectively decoupling from China,"
- "Yet, rather than engage in fair market exchange in this sector, the US would rather implement tilted policies, including preferential consumer purchase subsidies, that deliberately skew the market, provide an unfair competitive advantage to American producers over Chinese producers and decouple a noncritical supply chain from that of China's."
- "Sullivan's comments that the administration is still committed to the WTO (World Trade Organization) and the shared values upon which it is built is flat-out inaccurate. Numerous US measures, including against China, have been found by neutral third-party panels to violate WTO rules flagrantly. But rather than make the necessary corrections, the US has essentially dug its feet in..."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

June 7, 2023

What's Going On? ↓

Private Sector Developments Flourish in China as Reopening Continues



An external view of a Louis Vuitton store in Beijing, China. (Source: UnSplash)

- Shein, the rapidly rising e-commerce and fast fashion brand, is seeking to diversify its supply chain amidst Washington's concerns about its Chinese ties.
- Bernard Anault, CEO of LVMH, is planning to visit China during June to discuss details of increasing sales for the international fashion conglomerate in China.
- Executives at ExxonMobil are moving forward with a multi-billion-dollar petrochemical plant in Huizhou, China despite increasing bilateral tensions between the U.S. and China.
- Applications from U.S. companies to export sensitive technologies to China dropped by 26.2% between 2021 and 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- U.S. billionaires Elon Musk and Jamie Dimon completed independent, high-level business trips to China which included multiple visits with senior government officials.
- Despite speculations and the business community's demands, Deputy USTR Sarah Bianchi stated that the U.S. will use analytical methods in its approach to keep tariffs on Chinese goods, and will not base the tariffs on "breakthroughs" in U.S.-China relations.
- Following U.S. and Japanese curbs on Chinese technology companies, Chinese stocks soared in an apparent act of 'patriotic purchasing' from local investors in China.

Tensions Increase Following Canceled Meetings and Conflict in Southeast Asia



Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu speaks at the Asia Security Summit, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore on June 4, 2023. (Photo by Kyodo News via Getty Images)

- At the annual Shangri-La Dialogue defense summit in Singapore, Chinese Minister of Defense Li Shangfu warned against "resurging" "cold war mentality," criticizing "some country" for intensifying arms race and interfering in other countries' internal affairs. Minister Li also said that "a severe conflict or confrontation between China and the U.S." would be "an unbearable disaster for the world."
- In separate addresses at the Shangri-La Dialogue, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan promised that the U.S. will continue patrolling the South China Sea and reaffirmed that the U.S. is seeking nuclear talks with China.
- Secretary Austin and Minister Li shook hands during the Shangri-La Dialogue but did not have a "substantive exchange," according to the Pentagon.
- As the defense summit was held in Singapore, the U.S. military said that a Chinese warship conducted "an unsafe maritime interaction" as a U.S.-Canadian fleet transited the international waters of the Taiwan Strait.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken denounced

- Major U.S. biofirm Moderna Inc. has registered in Shanghai for a legal entity to operate business in China.
- The Chinese securities regulator will allow U.S. Morgan Stanley to create a Chinese futures company in Beijing.
- Jim Farley, CEO of Ford Motors, stated that Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) are the largest competitor for Ford's own EV products.
- U.S. controls on China investments face criticism within the European Union, as European officials raise questions on possible effects to EU security.

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["Billionaire Arnault Plans to Visit China After Musk and Dimon," Bloomberg, June 1 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Exxon Bets on China Chemicals Growth Even as US Relations Sour," Bloomberg, June 1 \[Paywall\]](#)
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["China Woos Dimon, Musk Amid Pressure on Xi to Boost Economy," Bloomberg, May 31 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Tesla CEO Elon Musk to meet Shanghai Communist Party boss Chen Jining amid talks of Gigafactory 3 expansion, sources say," South China Morning Post, May 31 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S. review of China tariffs won't depend on trade 'breakthrough,' deputy U.S. trade representative," CNBC News, May 28](#)
["Sanctioned China stocks win sudden boost from patriotic buyers," Reuters, May 26](#)
["Moderna looks for opportunities in China after registering legal entity," Reuters, May 26](#)
["China allows Morgan Stanley to set up China futures unit," Reuters, May 26](#)
["Ford CEO says China main EV rival, not GM, Toyota," Reuters, May 25](#)
["US Push for Controls on Investment in China Hits EU Resistance," Bloomberg, May 25 \[Paywall\]](#)

China's refusal to hold talks with senior U.S. defense officials following a close midair encounter in the South China Sea. The Chinese Foreign Ministry called upon the U.S. to cease their "dangerous provocations" within the South China Sea.

- Following a request from the U.S. for joint high-level defense talks with China in late May, the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that Chinese senior defense officials would not meet with their U.S. counterparts at the Shangri-La Dialogue and that the U.S. must "correct its mistaken actions" before a high-level meeting can occur.
- Microsoft and the Five Eyes alliance of western spy agencies released a report stating that Chinese hackers used malware to attack critical infrastructure on the U.S. island of Guam, and was one of the largest cyberattack campaigns ever launched against the U.S. The Five Eyes and Microsoft group also warned of Chinese hacker groups, such as Volt Typhoon, laying the groundwork for future attacks and disruptions.

Associated News Sources:

["Li Shangfu: China's defence minister at Shangri-La Dialogue warns of 'cold war mentality' in digs at US," The Guardian, June 4](#)
["China says clash with US would be 'unbearable disaster'," Reuters, June 4](#)
["Chinese warship cuts off US Navy ship, marking 2nd military provocation in week," ABC News, June 4](#)
["U.S. Vows to Continue Patrols Near China and Urges Nuclear Talks," The New York Times, June 3 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S., China defense chiefs shake hands at security summit, but no 'substantive exchange'," Reuters, June 2](#)
["U.S. scolds China for refusing to talk after midair military encounter," The Washington Post, May 31 \[Paywall\]](#)
["China responds to US complaint over plane intercept with demand for end to surveillance flights," AP News, May 31](#)
["Beijing says no meeting between US, Chinese defense chiefs at Singapore gathering," AP News, May 30](#)
["China says US must 'correct its mistaken actions' before top defence chiefs can meet," South China Morning Post, May 30 \[Paywall\]](#)
["China Rebuffs Pentagon Chief, Blunting Push for Rapprochement," The Wall Street Journal, May 30 \[Paywall\]](#)
["The ball is in their court': China silent on US request for defence chief talks, senior official says," South China Morning Post, May 26 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Microsoft: Chinese hackers hit key US bases on Guam," BBC News, May 25](#)
["Volt Typhoon and other Chinese groups accused of hacking the US and others," Reuters, May 25](#)
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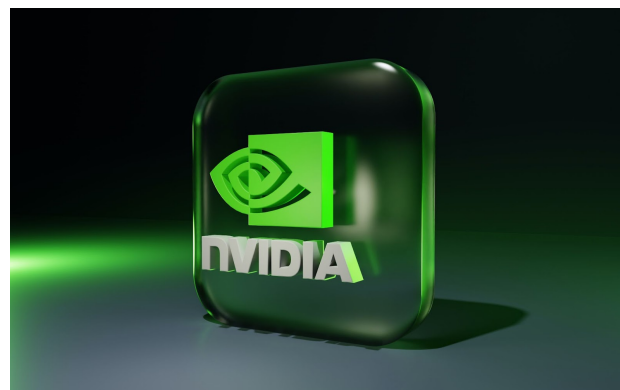
APEC Meeting and Senior Officials Create Signs of Successful Diplomacy



U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao together at the APEC 2023 in Detroit, Michigan on May 26, 2023. (Source: U.S. Embassy & Consulates in China, Public Domain)

- At an in-person meeting in Beijing on June 5, senior U.S. and Chinese officials had “candid, constructive and fruitful communication on promoting the improvement of China-U.S. relations and properly managing differences.”
- U.S. CIA Director William Burns made a secret trip to China in May in an effort to keep communication between the two countries stable, according to U.S. officials.
- China and U.S. ally Singapore agreed to establish bilateral defense hotlines to allow for high-level defense communications.
- Military attachés from the U.S. and Australia toured a Chinese garrison in Beijing, China; the first tour of its kind since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The U.S. and 13 other Pacific nations agreed to sign a new trade pact—a pact including policies to strengthen U.S. alliances with “friendly” countries—which is a part of the larger U.S. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- The Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met with the USTR Katherine Tai in Detroit, Michigan, which followed Minister Wentao’s meeting with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in Washington, D.C.
- During the APEC conference in Detroit, Michigan, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai urged trade ministers to “think creatively” on ways to overcome large global challenges around international trade.
- United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain spoke at the APEC conference, stating that “we’re anti-trade (when) it’s a one-sided affair” in calls for a more “balanced” trade relationship with China.
- In their in-person meeting in Washington, D.C., U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and her Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao shared concerns regarding their respective countries’ trade restrictions and promised to continue exchanges on trade issues.
- U.S. lawmakers have called into question whether or not the Biden administration’s proposed executive order,

Decoupling in the Tech Sector Persists as U.S. Firms Attempt Reconciliation



A stylized, 3-D logo of Nvidia, a U.S. technology and software company. (Source: UnSplash)

- American and European officials came together in Sweden to develop guidelines for AI and new technologies, but remained largely split on policies regarding technology trade with China.
- Chinese technology developers are looking to ‘de-China’ in-order to expand into the U.S. due to increasing restrictions on Chinese technology firms who want to operate within the U.S.
- Nvidia’s CEO Jensen Huang is looking to travel to China in-order to meet with executives in the world’s largest chip market, despite growing U.S. curbs on microchip trading.
- The Chinese State Administration for Market Regulation has approved Microsoft’s Activision’s bid to purchase gaming company Blizzard, despite facing large antitrust scrutiny in the U.S.
- Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao condemned semiconductor controls on China from the U.S. and allies while denouncing Japan’s G7 “smears.”
- Despite large controversies involving China-owned apps and controversies surrounding Bytedance’s TikTok, Chinese apps remain extremely popular in U.S. markets.
- South Korean technology companies will avoid capitalizing on the U.S.-China competition following Beijing’s banishment of U.S. chip manufacturer Micron.
- Renewable energy manufacturer Siemens Gamesa will cut reliance on Chinese suppliers of rare earth metals and permanent magnets, despite the company being nearly 100% dependent on Chinese metals and magnets.
- Ongoing trade restrictions between the U.S. and China on microchip and technology trading poses “enormous damage” to U.S. technology companies, according to Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang.

Associated News Sources:

[“US and EU officials developing guidelines for AI and other new tech but split over China threat,”](#) South China

which would screen billions of dollars from U.S. firms looking to invest in China, would be effective.

Associated News Sources:

["Senior US, Chinese diplomats hold 'candid' talks to avoid escalation of tensions," AP, June 6](#)
["CIA Chief Made Secret Trip to China," The Wall Street Journal, June 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
["China, US ally Singapore agree to establish defense hotline," The Hill, June 1](#)
["US-China tensions expected to dominate Asia security meeting," Reuters, June 1](#)
["US, Australian military staff tour China's Beijing garrison despite freeze on top brass talks," South China Morning Post, May 29 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S. Delivers Early Win in Asia Trade Pact, but Rifts Surface," The Wall Street Journal, May 27 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US-China relations continue to thaw at meeting between trade officials in Detroit," South China Morning Post, May 26 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US trade chief seeks new thinking on global challenges as APEC ministers meet," Reuters, May 25](#)
["At APEC trade meeting, union leaders call for new 'balance' with China," Reuters, May 25](#)
["US, Chinese trade officials express concern about each other's restrictions," AP News, May 25](#)
["House panel chair seeks info on proposed U.S. order for China investment," Reuters, May 25](#)

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["Chinese tech entrepreneurs keen to 'de-China' as tensions with US soar," Reuters, May 31](#)
["Nvidia's CEO Plans Trip to Meet China Executives Despite US Curbs," Bloomberg, May 31 \[Paywall\]](#)
["China approves Microsoft's Activision Blizzard acquisition as it still faces hurdles in the US and UK," South China Morning Post, May 30 \[Paywall\]](#)
["On Apec sidelines, China's commerce minister Wang Wentao condemns semiconductor controls and Japan's G7 'smears'," South China Morning Post, May 29 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Chinese apps remain hugely popular in the U.S. despite efforts to ban TikTok," CNBC News, May 29](#)
["South Korea to avoid US-China rivalry, will not capitalise on Beijing's chip maker ban," South China Morning Post, May 28 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Siemens Gamesa to cut reliance on China for rare earths, permanent magnets," Reuters, May 25](#)
["Chip wars with China risk 'enormous damage' to US tech, says Nvidia chief," Financial Times, May 23 \[Paywall\]](#)

New Economic Deals are Created with Taiwan, Disagreements Remain



A banner of U.S. and Taiwanese flags in Chinatown in Washington, D.C.
 (Credit: Photo Phiend via Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

- Laura Rosenberger, the chairwoman of the American Institute in Taiwan and de facto U.S. envoy to Taiwan, began a six-day trip to the island by urging Beijing to keep communication open between China and the U.S. in-order to avoid conflicts and "manage competition responsibly."
 - The U.S. and Chinese senior military officials offered different perspectives during the Shangri-La Dialogue, during which a U.S. and Chinese warship nearly collided

- In Other News -



Henry Kissinger speaking at a Citi Foundation Lecture in New York City on June 19, 2013. This event was part of the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy's yearlong celebration of President Ford's 2013 centennial. (Source: Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy University of Michigan via Flickr, CC2.0)

["Exclusive: China's state banks told to lower cap on dollar deposit rates -sources," Reuters, June 6](#)
["Chinese robotic assisted surgery system challenges U.S.'s da Vinci," Nikkei Asia, June 5 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Tiananmen museum to open in U.S. ahead of crackdown anniversary," Nikkei Asia, June 2 \[Paywall\]](#)
["How the U.S.-China clash is being felt on campus," CNBC](#)

in the Taiwan Strait.

- A senior Chinese general, Jing Jianfeng, lashed out at U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin following his comments on Taiwanese sovereignty given during the Dialogue.
- JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon will visit Taiwan following the completion of his trip to mainland China to visit staff and clients on the island.
- The Chinese Minister of Defense told his Singaporean counterpart that China will “absolutely not” renounce the use of force on Taiwan, in what analysts call a warning to Washington.
- The U.S. and Taiwan have signed a new trade deal under the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade framework, which will strengthen economic ties between the two powers.
- Software problems delayed the delivery of over 60 new F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan from the U.S., but Taiwan still predicts delivery by 2026, according to Taiwanese Minister of Defense Chiu-Kuo Cheng.
- U.S. military experts joined the Taiwanese Ministry of Defense in performing war games to simulate a possible invasion of Taiwan from the Chinese PLA.
- The recent disputes on the U.S. national debt ceiling led the new U.S. House China committee to delay their trip to Taiwan.

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- [“US’ Taiwan envoy urges Beijing to keep communication lines open to avert conflict,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, June 5 [Paywall]
- [“China and U.S. Lay Out Rival Visions for Asia as Ships Nearly Collide,”](#) *The New York Times*, June 4 [Paywall]
- [“JPMorgan's Dimon visits Taiwan to meet staff, clients,”](#) *Reuters*, June 2
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- [“China Crosses a Flying Milestone but Remains in the Boeing-Airbus Grip,”](#) *The New York Times*, June 1 [Paywall]
- [“Newly approved US flights by Chinese airlines avoid Russian airspace,”](#) *Reuters*, June 1
- [“China Investing in Open-Source Intelligence Collection on the U.S.,”](#) *The New York Times*, June 1 [Paywall]
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- [“Chinese agent or private eye? Ex-NY cop's 'Fox Hunt' trial kicks off,”](#) *Reuters*, May 31
- [“Very few U.S.-China flights are back despite the end of Covid,”](#) *CNBC News*, May 30
- [“Antony Blinken, in Europe, Sees Alignment on China,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 30 [Paywall]
- [“US Sanctions Chinese Firms Over Pill-Pressing Machines,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 30 [Paywall]
- [“China Jet to Rival Airbus, Boeing Makes First Commercial Flight,”](#) *Bloomberg*, May 28 [Paywall]
- [“China’s envoy to US Xie Feng congratulates Henry Kissinger on 100th birthday,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 27 [Paywall]
- [“US-sanctioned Russian bank CEO hails yuan use while decrying US dollar weaponisation,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, May 26 [Paywall]
- [“U.S. warns China could hack infrastructure, including pipelines, rail systems,”](#) *Reuters*, May 26

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Bloomberg*: "[Here's What to Make of US-China Tensions After Shangri-La Forum](#)" by Daniel Flatley (June 6, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[Big American Companies Wonder: When Will China Bounce Back?](#)" by Dan Strumpf (June 5, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: "[Nicholas Burns on Managing the Competition with China](#)" by Bob Davis and Nicholas Burns (June 4, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[What Engagement With China Has Meant for Me](#)" by Lingling Wei (June 3, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[China Wants U.S. to Feel Risk When Operating in Its Backyard](#)" by Austin Ramzy (June 2, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: "[Despite a Handshake, a 'Thaw' in U.S.-China Relations Seems Far From Reach](#)" by Nicole Hong (June 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: "[America Is Winning Against China in Oceania](#)" by Derek Grossman (June 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[China's Missile Threat Drives New U.S. Approach in Asia](#)" by Alastair Gale (June 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[China Won't Save the U.S. From Recession This Time](#)" by Joseph C. Sternberg (June 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: "[Shangri-La Dialogue: why the US and Chinese defence ministers should meet – and what stands in their way](#)" by Minnie Chan (June 1, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: "[Armchair Warriors Are Getting Taiwan All Wrong](#)" by Minxin Pei (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: "[Stop Worrying About Chinese Hegemony in Asia](#)" by Stephen M. Walt (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: "[The Indo-Pacific Has Already Chosen Door No. 3](#)" by Kelly A. Grieco (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: "[I Went to China for the First Time in 3 Years, and I Saw Just How Formidable It Is](#)" by Steven Rattner (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: "[How China Aims to Counter US 'Containment' Efforts in Tech](#)" (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: "[Worried about China, U.S. lays out 'space diplomacy' goals](#)" by Oliver Knox and Caroline Anders (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: "[Elon Musk is Beijing's ideal foreign investor](#)" by Pete Sweeney and Katrina Hamlin (May 31, 2023)
- *The New York Times*: "[Was an Ex-N.Y.P.D Sergeant a Chinese Agent or an Unwitting Pawn?](#)" by Karen Zraick (May 31, 2023) [Paywall]
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- *The Washington Post*: "[How the U.S. wants to pressure China to help avert climate catastrophe](#)" by Michael Birnbaum and Christian Shepherd (May 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- U.S. Indo-Pacific Command: "[USINDOPACOM Statement on Unprofessional Intercept of U.S. Aircraft over South China Sea](#)" (May 30, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: "[Intel inside? Chinese firm Powerleader's 'home-grown' chip suspected of being a rebadged microprocessor from US giant, test results show](#)" by Che Pan (May 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *NikkeiAsia*: "[No sign that it is safe yet to reinvest in Chinese tech companies](#)" by Henry Sender (May 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: "[De-risking trade with China is a risky business](#)" by Gideon Rachman (May 29, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: "[Commerce at the Center](#)" by Katrina Northrop (May 28, 2023)
- *The Wire China*: "[A New Architecture for U.S.-China Engagement](#)" by Stephen S. Roach (May 28, 2023)
- *South China Morning Post*: "['No need to exaggerate': risk of imminent Taiwan conflict is overhyped, says cross-strait affairs expert](#)" by Amber Wang (May 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *South China Morning Post*: "[At 100, Henry Kissinger still seen as influential 'old friend' in China despite 'complicated' legacy in US](#)" by Shi Jiangtao and Bochen Han (May 27, 2023) [Paywall]

- *South China Morning Post*: [“Dismissed US case shows divide within Tibetan diaspora – and the thin line Beijing makes it walk”](#) by Bochen Han (May 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Seattle Times*: [“Breaking up is hard to do: Decoupling the West from China”](#) by Jon Talton (May 26, 2023) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: [“What is Beijing’s Timeline for “Reunification” with Taiwan?”](#) by Jude Blanchette, Briana Boland and Lily McElwee (May 26, 2023)
- *NikkeiAsia*: “U.S. will come to regret holding back China at the IMF” by Zhou Xin (May 26, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“Biden Is Right to Reach Out to China”](#) by The Editors (May 26, 2023) [Paywall]
- *CNBC*: [“As China and the U.S. redefine geopolitics, Europe faces a win-win situation”](#) by Silvia Amaro (May 26, 2023)
- *The Economist*: [“America is lavishing attention on Pacific island states”](#) (May 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Is the Biden Administration Going Soft on China?”](#) by Danielle Pletka (May 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Like It or Not, America Needs Chinese Scientists”](#) by Dan Murphy (May 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Pressure Mounts for U.S. Response After China’s Micron Ban”](#) by Lingling Wei and Charles Hutzler (May 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- Council on Foreign Relations: [“How to Secure Critical Minerals for Clean Energy Without Alienating China”](#) by Zongyuan Zoe Liu (May 25, 2023)
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“The U.S.-Chinese Economic Relationship Is Changing—But Not Vanishing”](#) by Jami Miscik, Peter Orszag, and Theodore Bunzel (May 24, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Malware Discovered in Guam Raises a Question: Is China Prepping the Battlefield?”](#) by David E. Sanger (May 24, 2023) [Paywall]
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What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [IISS Shangri-La Dialogue](#)
June 2-4 hosted by The International Institute for Strategic Studies
- [The Belt and Road's Impact on Partner States](#)
May 24 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Asia-Pacific Transitions featuring Eric Harwit](#)
May 24 hosted by Pew Research Center
- [How China Sees the World in 2023](#)
May 24 hosted by University of Alberta China Institute
- [The U.S. Role in Indo-Pacific Security: A Conversation with Ely Ratner and Siddharth Mohandas](#)
May 25 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [What does the future hold for Taiwan?](#)
May 25 hosted by Brookings

- Upcoming Events -

- [Are America and Europe Aligned on China?](#)
June 7 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [CSDS-CSIS Transatlantic Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific](#)
June 7 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Why Taiwan Matters](#)
June 8 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [U.S.-Indo-Pacific Conference 2023](#)
June 14 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Europe, the United States, and Relations with China: Convergence or Divergence?](#)
June 15 hearing by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [A Fireside Discussion with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns](#)
June 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Tensions Beyond the Strait](#)
June 21 hosted by *Foreign Policy*

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---ICAS Expert Voices Initiative---



André Aquino On Cooperation Between Developed And Developing Countries On Blue Carbon Projects May 25, 2023

The Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) Expert Voices Initiative (EVI) conducted an interview with **Mr. André Rodrigues de Aquino**, a Lead Environmental Specialist from the World Bank, on the theme of “Cooperation Between Developed and Developing Countries on Blue Carbon Projects.” The interview was hosted out of Washington, D.C. by **Zhangchen Wang**, ICAS Blue Carbon and Climate Change (BCCC) Program Research Assistant, while Mr. Aquino spoke remotely from Jakarta, Indonesia.

During the nearly one-hour interview, the host asked Aquino for his views and insights on issues regarding blue carbon damage and degradation in developing countries, challenges facing blue carbon protection, the sustainability of blue carbon development, and the future of blue carbon projects. Aquino responded to all the questions of interest that ICAS and its global audiences submitted while sharing his insightful assessments and valuable experiences. Through this interview, the audience can have a deeper understanding of the current status of blue carbon protection in developing countries, especially in Indonesia, where Aquino resides. Additionally, Aquino talked about the protection and development of blue carbon ecosystems in general, especially mangroves, in developing countries, the problems they are specifically facing, and potential solutions to those problems.

Aquino first described the conflicts of interest encountered in blue carbon ecosystem protection.

- The economic development needs of coastal residents often have a negative impact on the blue carbon ecosystem. For example, the shrimp farming that many coastal communities rely on could incidentally have devastating effects on mangrove forests.

Aquino then talked about the serious consequences of blue carbon degradation and proposed some solutions to reverse the situation.

- A number of coastal communities in northern Java, Indonesia, had to relocate their entire community further inland specifically because of the loss of local mangroves.

- Luckily, through the Mangroves for Coastal Resilience Projects and other similar programs, Aquino's team at the World Bank and many other working groups are gradually reversing the worsening trend of blue carbon ecosystem degradation.

Next, Aquino was asked about the challenges facing blue carbon protection and restoration projects. He divided challenges into three major categories: technical challenges, funding problems, and social issues.

- Regarding technical challenges, he mentioned that restoring the natural conditions in which mangroves and other blue carbon ecosystems can thrive is very difficult. Many developing countries do not yet have adequate technical support, and Aquino believes that technical problems can only be solved by attracting more funds to invest in blue carbon projects.
- To raise more funds, he believes that there must be more incentive policies to attract developed countries and countries with surplus funds and technology such as China to participate in these projects.
- On the question of whether a global financial institution like the World Bank is the best solution to the problems of funding, Aquino suggested that there is no one best solution and that money from different levels—international, national and private—should all be encouraged to participate as circumstances differ with each region.
- In terms of social issues, Aquino said that one of the biggest problems is that the need for mangrove protection often conflicts with the normal life of local communities since many communities sit within planned conservation areas.

Following that, Aquino was asked about his opinion on the role of sustainable development.

- He suggested that blue carbon must generate its own commercial value in the future. Only in this way, Aquino explains, can the blue carbon protection works get rid of external dependence and start to develop in a sustainable way.

Last, Aquino explained that he is generally optimistic about the future of blue carbon protection.

- He said that as more and more countries and people—especially the new generation of young people—start to pay attention to these issues, blue carbon development will definitely have a brighter future.

[Read the Full Summary & Transcript](#)

[Watch the Discussion](#)

[More About André Aquino](#)

[About the ICAS Expert Voices Initiative](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was repeatedly [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* on competing U.S.-China summit diplomacy.

- "This sense of cohesion within the G7 and the West on Russia will be long-lasting,"
- "On the other hand, I am skeptical that the China challenge will have a similar galvanizing effect or reinvigorate the G7 grouping in the same way over the medium or longer term,"
- "There are, in fact, important conceptual gaps among the parties in how they seek to engage, manage as well as deter China. These countries are no longer the facilitator of prosperity and motor of global economic growth that they used to be. Their ability to lead through power of attraction as well as endow valuable global public good is slowly fading, which will make it harder by the day to bring the rest, contrasted with the West, on board its agenda against Beijing."
- "The Central Asia summit is a perfect platform for China to project to the Central Asian republics and to the world that China embodies a new type of international relations – one that is based on a shared interest in political stability and economic prosperity and not one based on sanctions, punishments and coercion,"
- "More than any other major player in today's international relations, Beijing has the most to lose by having the system degenerate into a bloc-based format,"

On Saturday, May 27, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) US-China trade relations and the APEC meeting on *CGTN America's World Today*.

- "This might not really signify too much, and we shouldn't look at this in-terms of something long lasting. It could be long lasting if the two parties can begin to trust each other but the problem at this point in time is not just what each other's sides asks are, but the entire question about what their intentions are behind making those asks. I think at this time that the level of trust is so low, even on the trade and economic discussions, that yes this is hopeful and yes this is useful, but we shouldn't be paying too much emphasis on placing too much faith in this conversation."
- "If the two sides can really transact business and solve problems then great, but even if they cannot do so to at least get the conversation going forward so that you can set the ground up for the two presidents to meet again, because just a presidential meeting itself is a stabilizing proposition and I think that's part of where they're leading towards but I still think there's a lot of ground to cover and they're not even scratched the surface in terms of the differences that they have and we'll have to see where this goes."

On Friday, May 26, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the expectations of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima on *CGTN's World Insight*.

- "Overall I think that the projection of unity is important for the G7 and they will project that particularly on the Ukraine issue and also with what it views as China's more assertive moves in the indo-pacific."
- "The G7 has some really hard issues to sort through on the economic front this year, we have financial crises, banking sector crises, and the potential recession that you talked about, and the G7 used to be very good about engendering and fostering prosperity 25 years back, but those days have passed. If there is going to be prosperity in the international system it will mostly have to now come from the new emerging markets which are pillars of growth."



The ICAS Bulletin

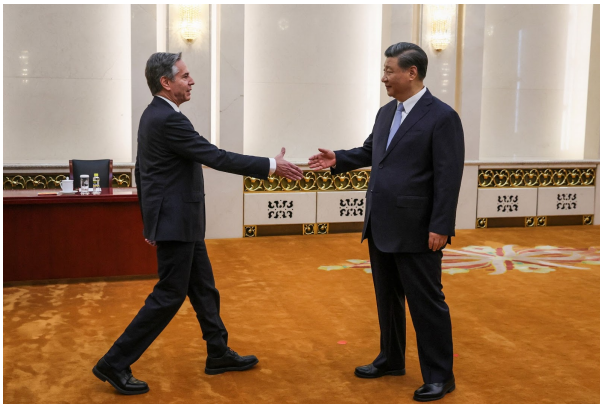
Institute for China America Studies

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

June 21, 2023

What's Going On? ↓

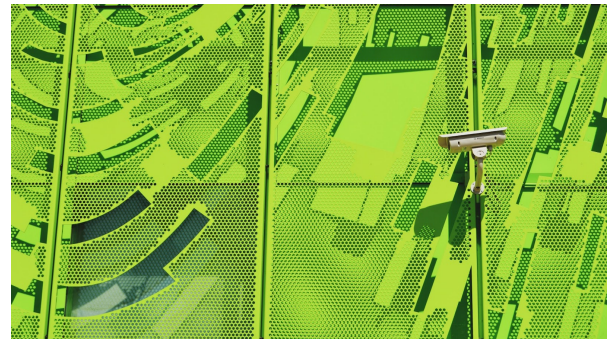
High Level Interactions Bring a Shift in Relational Course to Question



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 19, 2023. (Photo by Leah MILLIS / POOL / AFP) (Photo by LEAH MILLIS/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

- On June 19, in a first such in-person meeting since 2018, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese senior officials, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, agreed to attempt to stabilize the increasingly fraught bilateral relationship.
- Following Secretary Blinken's long-awaited trip, President Biden praised Secretary Blinken's work, saying that progress has "been made" and that "[w]e're on the right trail here" regarding U.S.-China relations.
- On June 16, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Microsoft CEO Bill Gates in Beijing, marking the first time President Xi has met with a foreign private entrepreneur in years. Among other remarks, President Xing, and stated that he welcomed U.S. companies to bring AI technologies to China.
- Prior to Secretary Blinken's revived visit to Beijing, China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang stated that the responsibility for improving open lines of communication, and easing tensions, lies with the United States.
- Senior Biden administration officials have confirmed

Increased U.S. Scrutiny on Chinese Surveillance and Tensions Persist



White security camera on a green wall. (Source: Lucas Gallone via Unsplash)

- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the former Trump administration did not do enough to counteract Chinese spy initiatives. Secretary Blinken also indicated that increased "diplomatic efforts" have "slowed down" the expansions of Chinese surveillance on the U.S.
- U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Jen Easterly stated that Beijing is making large investments to increase Chinese hackers' abilities to sabotage critical American infrastructure.
- After news was released of Cuba to host a Chinese spy base, White House officials stated that the Biden administration had known about the Chinese operations in Cuba since they took office in 2021 despite previous denials of allegations that China had operations in Cuba.
- Following a string of statements on Chinese spy operations in Cuba, the Biden administration is reportedly contacting Cuban officials to stall the establishment of a new Chinese joint military training facility in Cuba.
- Secretary Blinken responded to allegations of a Chinese spy operation in Cuba as being part of a wider effort by Beijing to expand their "overseas logistics basing collection infrastructure." According to a former U.S. intelligence officer, the Chinese base in Cuba could also be used to give the Chinese military a clearer picture of sites

interest in talks with China on the usage of military AI in-order to lay out new international norms for artificial intelligence weapons usage.

- In formal comments given on June 14, Kurt Campbell, the White House national security coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, called upon Beijing to assist in establishing formal lines of communication with Washington.
- On June 7, Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser visited Beijing, joining a long list of other American business magnates in apparent attempts to mend cross-border relations between the U.S. and China.

Associated News Sources:

["Blinken meets Xi during pivotal China trip to salvage frosty ties," Reuters, June 19](#)
["Biden: US-China relations on the 'right trail,'" Reuters, June 19](#)
["Blinken says he and Chinese leaders agreed on need to 'stabilize' US-China relationship," CNN News, June 19](#)
["Xi Jinping tells Bill Gates he welcomes U.S. AI tech in China," Reuters, June 16](#)
["China's Foreign Minister Tells Blinken It's Up to the U.S. to Ease Tensions," The Wall Street Journal, June 14 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US-China relations: Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit confirmed after phone call with China's Qin Gang," South China Morning Post, June 14 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S. seeks talks with China on military AI amid tensions," Nikkei Asia, June 14](#)
["China should set up US communication channels like it offered other countries, top Biden aide says," South China Morning Post, June 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Citigroup CEO Visits China as Wall Street Seeks Closer Ties," Bloomberg, June 7 \[Paywall\]](#)

to strike during a conflict.

- Despite a large series of high level talks between the U.S. and China, many experts have still come to the conclusion that the two rivals need to come up with a more comprehensive plan to avoid conflict.
- U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns stated that the increased scrutiny on American firms from the Chinese government should be seen as politically motivated and unfair.

Associated News Sources:

["Beijing Plans a New Training Facility in Cuba, Raising Prospect of Chinese Troops on America's Doorstep," The Wall Street Journal, June 20 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Trump Didn't Do Enough to Counter Chinese Spying, Blinken Says," Bloomberg, June 13 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S. diplomacy has slowed China's expansion of spying: Blinken," Nikkei Asia, June 13](#)
["Americans should prepare for cyber sabotage from Chinese hackers, US official warns," Reuters, June 13](#)
["Blinken hails US progress on China spying after Cuba revelations," Al Jazeera, June 12](#)
["China has been spying on the U.S. from Cuba for years, Biden administration official says," CNBC News, June 11](#)
["White House Denies Report That China Is Building a Spy Base on Cuba," Bloomberg, June 9 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Stalemate in US-China Ties Appears Likely to Continue Despite Talks," VOA News, June 9](#)
["Cuba Base Would Help China Identify Strike Targets in U.S.," The Wall Street Journal, June 9 \[Paywall\]](#)
["China's Targeting of US Firms Politically Motivated, US Ambassador Says," VOA News, June 7](#)

Bilateral Checks on Imports and Companies Persist, Sparking Reroutes



U.S. Treasury Building, Washington, D.C. (Source: Photo by Ken Lund, CC2.0 via Flickr)

- Chinese companies such as Shein, TikTok and JinkoSolar are progressively moving their headquarters and deregistering out of China following increased backlash

Ideas of Competition, Caution and Coexistence in the Technology Sector



OpenAI's ChatGPT icon on a smartphone. (Source: Photo by Focal Foto, CC2.0 via Flickr)

- U.S. lawmakers have planned to introduce a bill to eliminate tariff exemptions widely utilized by e-commerce to send goods from China to the U.S., which allows for

from American lawmakers for their connections with the Chinese government.

- International investors have moved away from Chinese public offerings and investment banks are backing out of new potential listings as international opinions of the Chinese market continue to sour.
- Chinese e-shopping brand Temu was found to be in breach of a U.S. ban which does not allow for manufactured goods from the Chinese region of Xinjiang, according to a global supply chain verification firm.
- China has begun to invest heavily in Mexico and increase their influence over Mexican supply chains in-order to undercut U.S. trade caps on China and enter goods into the U.S. market.
- Apple Inc. announced extensive new supply chain changes as their suppliers have begun to hire new employees and begun to relocate to Vietnam and Thailand.
- American firms in China continue to face uncertainty despite being nearly six-months after the end of China's 'zero-covid' policies, with many continuing to face raids from Chinese authorities and increasingly unpredictable behavior from the Chinese government.
- Despite increases in restrictive policies for companies looking to operate within the Chinese market, high ranking American CEOs are still visiting China in attempts to keep business channels open.
- The U.S. Senate has approved measures to strip China of its status as a "developing nation" after the Foreign Relations Committee approved the "Ending China's Developing Nation Status Act."
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has blocked the importation of goods from Chinese company Ninestar, a majority owner of U.S. Company Lexmark International, after citing that the company utilized forced labor.
- Recent customs data shows that China's exports to Southeast Asia fell by nearly 16% in May compared to 2022, which coincided with the decrease of 18% in exports to the U.S. market.
- The U.S. and five allied states have condemned the utilization of economic coercion in international trade, which many analysts believe was pointed towards China.

Associated News Sources:

- ["As Ties to China Turn Toxic, Even Chinese Companies Are Breaking Them,"](#) *The New York Times*, June 15 [Paywall]
- ["American Investment Banks Give Up Some China IPO Mandates,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 14 [Paywall]
- ["Temu Sells Products in US Linked to Forced Labor in China's Uyghur Region, Analysis Shows,"](#) *Bloomberg*, June 13 [Paywall]
- ["Shunned by US, China investors use Mexico to keep grip on North American market,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, June 12 [Paywall]

goods less than US\$800 to be exempt from current tariffs.

- Chinese car manufacturer BYD Co.'s Stella Li announced that the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act makes it too costly for BYD and other foreign vehicle firms to sell in the U.S. market.
- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen stated that the results would be "disastrous" if U.S. and American companies continue to try and "decouple" from China.
- American software companies Google and Microsoft have begun limiting Hong Kong citizens' access to their artificial intelligence chatbots as well as other individual content, citing that chatbots and content may violate the Chinese national security law.
- The Biden administration announced that the U.S. will not issue reprisals to South Korea and Taiwan in-response to the countries maintaining and expanding their existing microchip production in China.
- OpenAI CEO Sam Altman attended a conference in Beijing to emphasize the importance of cooperation between American and Chinese researchers in-order to mitigate possible risks posed by emerging AI products.
- Apple's AirDrop feature and similar file-sharing programs have come under intense scrutiny from the Chinese government following their usage within protests in mainland China and Hong Kong.
- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen told top American CEOs that the United States desires to work alongside China on global challenges.
- Two American Senators sent a letter to TikTok's CEO accusing TikTok of misrepresenting how the company stores and utilizes American data.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China e-commerce shipments would lose US tariff exemption under proposed law,"](#) *Reuters*, June 14
- ["World's Hottest EV Maker Sees Biden's Climate Law as a Barrier,"](#) *Bloomberg*, June 13 [Paywall]
- ["Yellen Says Bid to Decouple From China Would Be 'Disastrous',"](#) *The New York Times*, June 13 [Paywall]
- ["American Tech Giants Are Slowly Cutting Off Hong Kong Internet Users,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 12 [Paywall]
- ["U.S. to Allow South Korean, Taiwan Chip Makers to Keep Operations in China,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 12 [Paywall]
- ["OpenAI CEO Calls for Collaboration With China to Counter AI Risks,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 10 [Paywall]
- ["Apple's AirDrop in the Crosshairs of China's National-Security Crackdown,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 8 [Paywall]
- ["Janet Yellen tells top CEOs the US wants to work with China to tackle urgent global challenges,"](#) *CNN News*, June 8
- ["Senators Say TikTok May Have Misled Congress on](#)

["Apple's supply chain in China evolves as Foxconn hires, Compal invests in Vietnam and MacBook production relocates to Thailand,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, June 12

["Six months after 'zero Covid,' U.S. firms in China still face 'uncertainty on top of uncertainty',"](#) *CNBC News*, June 10

["Musk and Dimon are not alone in sticking with China, despite tensions,"](#) *The Washington Post*, June 10 [Paywall]

["US Senate panel approves measure to strip China of 'developing' status,"](#) *Reuters*, June 9

["U.S. Puts Chinese Company With Kentucky Ties on Forced Labor Ban List,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 9 [Paywall]

["China can't rely on Southeast Asian exports to offset a U.S. slowdown,"](#) *CNBC News*, June 9

["With eye on China, US and five allies condemn trade-related 'economic coercion',"](#) *Reuters*, June 9

["Handling of U.S. User Data,"](#) *The New York Times*, June 7 [Paywall]

Taiwan Questions Continue Unanswered



Laura Rosenberger meets with the Taiwanese Vice President. (Source: Official Photo by Simon Liu/Office of the President of Taiwan, CC2.0 via Flickr)

- Analysts at the Council on Foreign Relations warned in an extensive report that China's increasingly sluggish economy "increases the risk of a conflict" in the Taiwan Strait.
- Following their long-awaited meeting in Beijing, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Chinese President Xi that the U.S. does not support Taiwanese independence.
- Speaking in an interview with *Bloomberg*, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stated that if U.S.-China tensions continue in their current state regarding the Taiwan issue, "some military conflict is probable."
- Laura Rosenberger, the chair of the American Institute in Taiwan, questioned the Taiwanese opposition's presidential candidate on how he would navigate possible relations with Beijing if he were to win the election next year.
- The Chinese People's Liberation Army held live-fire

- In Other News -



View of the Eiffel Tower from the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. (Source: Official Photo by Mark Garten/United Nations, CC2.0 via Flickr)

- ["China willing to work with U.S. to increase passenger flights, ministry says,"](#) *Reuters*, June 20
- ["The U.S. worries about private Chinese companies aiding Russia, Blinken says,"](#) *The New York Times*, June 19 [Paywall]
- ["US lawmakers to urge automakers to cut reliance on China,"](#) *Reuters*, June 19
- ["China's R&F property tycoon Zhang Li agrees to US extradition in California bribery case,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, June 16 [Paywall]
- ["Jury Weighs Case of Men Accused of Stalking U.S. Residents for China,"](#) *The New York Times*, June 15 [Paywall]
- ["State Department walks back Apec invitation for Hong Kong leader John Lee, says US 'has not made any commitments',"](#) *South China Morning Post*, June 14 [Paywall]
- ["Air-Bag Parts Maker Refusing U.S. Recall Request Had Workplace-Safety Woes,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, June 11 [Paywall]

drills North of Taiwan, including exercises from naval warships, as a quadrilateral naval exercise involving the U.S. was held in the Philippine Sea.

- U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi noted that China cannot prevent the usage of the Taiwan Strait for transits.
- Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Xie Feng stated that Taiwan is “the biggest risk” to the U.S.-China relations and that China “has always been open to dialogue.”
- According to the European Council on Foreign Relations, nearly 43% of European citizens view China as a necessary partner to cooperate with and indicated that the majority of Europeans would prefer to remain neutral if there were to be conflict surrounding Taiwan.

Associated News Sources:

- [“China’s economic slowdown makes Taiwan crisis more likely: report,” NikkeiAsia, June 20](#)
- [“Blinken Tells Xi Jinping U.S. Does Not Support Taiwanese Independence, After Meeting To Quell Tensions,” Forbes, June 19](#)
- [“Kissinger Sees War Over Taiwan Likely Unless US, China Back Down,” Bloomberg, June 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
- [“US Presses Taiwan Opposition Candidate Over China Policies,” Bloomberg, June 15 \[Paywall\]](#)
- [“China holds live-fire drills in East China Sea north of Taiwan,” Reuters, June 13](#)
- [“China can’t prevent Taiwan Strait transits: U.S. lawmaker,” Nikkei Asia, June 11 \[Paywall\]](#)
- [“Taiwan question is ‘biggest risk’ to US-China relations, must be brought ‘under control’, Beijing’s top envoy to US says,” South China Morning Post, June 8 \[Paywall\]](#)
- [“Most Europeans would want to stay neutral in a US-China war over Taiwan, study finds,” South China Morning Post, June 7 \[Paywall\]](#)

[“China concerns prompt US move to rejoin Unesco,” The Guardian, June 12](#)

[“Flight Training for Chinese Military Pilots Targeted in Latest US Export Crackdown,” VOA News, June 12](#)

[“China-US rivalry worries people in Singapore, South Korea, Philippines,” South China Morning Post, June 12 \[Paywall\]](#)

[“South Korea summons China envoy over US ties remarks,” Al Jazeera, June 9](#)

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *The New York Times*: [“Business Lessons From Blinken’s Trip to China”](#) by Andrew Ross Sorkin, Ravi Mattu, Bernhard Warner, Sarah Kessler, Michael J. de la Merced, Lauren Hirsch and Ephrat Livni (June 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Blinken Visit Reveals Chasm in How U.S. and China Perceive Rivalry”](#) by David Pierson and Edward Wong (June 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“China Is Ready for a World of Disorder. America Is Not”](#) by Mark Leonard (June 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China Accepts the New Indo-Pacific Reality”](#) by Walter Russell Mead (June 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“China and US Hit Pause — For Now — on Tensions”](#) by Rosalind Mathieson (June 19, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“Factbox: Top US-China exchanges since Biden took office”](#) (June 18, 2023)
- *NBC News*: [“Better ties with the U.S. may be about one thing: China’s struggling economy”](#) by Larissa Gao and Jennifer Jett (June 17, 2023)
- *The Washington Post*: [“Biden wants a ‘thaw’ with China. What would that take?”](#) by Bates Gill, Nikki Haley, Zongyuan Zoe Liu, Michael Mazza, Andrew Browne, Christopher Wood and Emily de La Bruyère (June 16, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“What a three-part diplomatic push reveals about U.S. strategy on Asia”](#) by David Ignatus (June 15, 2023) [Paywall]
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- Foreign Policy: [“How to Read Xi Jinping”](#) by John Culver; John Pomfret and Matt Pottinger (June 6, 2023) [Paywall]

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [Tensions Beyond the Strait](#)
June 21 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [China’s blueprint for the new world order](#)
June 21 hosted by Atlantic Council
- [Book Talk | Cooperating for the Climate with Joanna Lewis](#)
June 20 hosted by Wilson Center
- [A Fireside Discussion with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns](#)
June 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [US-China lessons from Ukraine: Fueling more dangerous Taiwan tensions](#)
June 16 hosted by *Atlantic Council*
- [Europe, the United States, and Relations with China: Convergence or Divergence?](#)
June 15 hearing by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [U.S.-Indo-Pacific Conference 2023](#)
June 14 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [Building a Networked Security Architecture in the Indo-Pacific with Ely Ratner](#)
June 8 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [Why Taiwan Matters](#)
June 8 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

- Upcoming Events -

- [Sanctioning China in a Taiwan crisis: Scenarios and risks](#)
June 22 hosted by Atlantic Council
- [The state of LGBTQ in China](#)
June 23 hosted by The China Project
- [Book Launch | Tripolar Instability: Nuclear Competition Among The United States, Russia, And China](#)
June 27 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Tech race with China: Toward a comprehensive strategy](#)
June 27 hosted by Atlantic Council
- [Thirteenth Annual South China Sea Conference](#)
June 28 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

What ICAS Is Up To

---ICAS Report---

**Restricting China or Repairing Loopholes:
Washington's Incomplete Efforts to Protect Data**
By Yilun Zhang, Amanda (Yue) Jin, Alec Caruana
June 2, 2023

Executive Summary:

As the United States moves into the third decade of the 21st Century, policymakers and lawmakers have come to realize, and, accordingly, panic about the imminent need to reform the existing data governance regime. However, efforts to patch up, and thereafter, roll out a sophisticated data governance system is troubled by continuous imbalance and, to some extent, skewed prioritization of policy. Washington failed to seek a way out of the pickle that it set for itself: to compete with China and address its challenges while, at the same time, to enact a consistent, long-term systematic data governance structure. Similar to much of the policy-making in recent years, security concerns over threats posed by China have dominated the minds of policymakers and legislators. The efforts to protect data have therefore been distracted and misled dramatically by the, sometimes hysterical, sense of insecurity about China. The work is incomplete and the prospect for completion is becoming increasingly concerning.

The genuine concern over U.S. data governance reform can be traced back to the early days of the tech industry boom. The fact that the United States had adopted a laissez-faire model to inspire its tech industry to expand into 'no man's land' brought both tremendous opportunities for U.S. businesses to trailblaze globally, alongside enormous challenges to regulate this rapidly inflating market. Under such a laissez-faire model, government actions were only responding to imminent needs for top-down intervention instead of building a long-term consistent system. The loopholes therefore lurked and grew as the market continued to evolve and eclipse the old 'patchwork' of reactive policies...

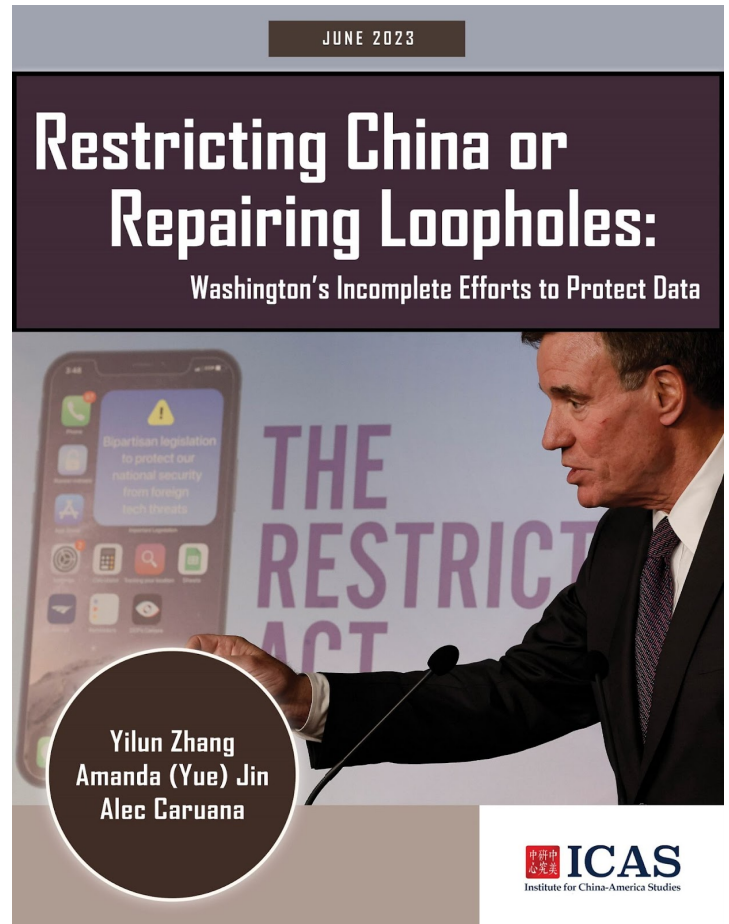
[Link to Full Post](#)

---Commentary---

Track 2 dialogue can help improve Sino-US ties
By Wu Shicun
June 18, 2023

There have been some positive developments, of late, in Sino-US relations including meetings at different levels and between some Chinese and US government departments, which have raised hopes that bilateral tensions could be defused.

To begin with, Wang Yi, China's top diplomat, held in-depth talks with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Vienna, Austria, in May. Later that month, while attending the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in the US, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. And early this month, Daniel Kritenbrink, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Sarah Beran, White House National Security Council's senior director for China, visited China and met with Foreign Ministry officials.



More important, the visit of Secretary of State Antony Blinken to China from Sunday to Monday could be a good omen for what till now appeared to be foundering China-US ties...

[Link to Full Post](#)

This piece was [originally released](#) on *China Daily* on June 18, 2023

---Commentary---

US-China ties need principled 'guardrails'

By Sourabh Gupta

June 5, 2023

The US-China relationship, the most consequential bilateral relationship in the world, stands at a delicate juncture. After two years of false starts under the Joe Biden administration, including due to a wayward balloon that blew ties off course, the two countries are finally in sight of an opportunity to begin stabilizing their rocky relationship.

Washington and Beijing must not pass up this opportunity. They must begin erecting the "guardrails" that President Joe Biden and President Xi Jinping had envisaged at their meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in November 2022. For these guardrails to be durable and long-lasting though, they must abide by certain broad common understandings...

[Link to Full Post](#)

This piece was [originally released](#) on *China Daily* on June 5, 2023 as one of three expert opinions regarding the need for the U.S. and China to strengthen cooperation and establish a peaceful coexistence.

---ICAS In the News---

On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [quoted](#) in the *South China Morning Post* previewing Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing.

- "There may be rough talking by both sides publicly, and more likely to emanate from Beijing's side for domestic political audiences, but ... what they privately communicate will hold value to both sides,"
- "Biden wants to begin locking down some of the promised 'guardrails' so as to devolve a modicum of predictability and balance to ties. Instability or uncontrollable tensions in ties would hand his harder-line Republican opponents a handy beating stick. If he can dilute the salience of China in the 2024 cycle, without appearing to go 'soft on China', it stands to Biden's benefit."

On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [quoted](#) by *South China Morning Post* on the role and (in)effectiveness of diplomatic backchannels.

- "hope was for the most part given up"
- "While these dialogues have contributed mightily in the past to narrow conceptual gaps between the two sides and build understanding, they have lost their vitality and utility as bilateral relations have nosedived over the past five years,"
- "To the extent that backchannel diplomacy is conducted by interlocutors who are known by the other side to be very close to senior decision-makers, such engagement will continue to have utility,"

On Friday, June 9, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [quoted](#) in *China Daily* on the role of the U.S. dollar in the international monetary system and currency diversification.

- "Many major countries and emerging markets are questioning the outsized role of the dollar in the international financial system."
- "So, the idea is not to eliminate or significantly reduce the role of the dollar, because that is a very long-term process. But the process of shrinking the salience, the footprint of the dollar, is an ongoing one, and it has been supercharged this year, or in the last two years, by US' weaponization of its currency."
- "They are worried because almost every country maintains a fairly significant amount of its hard currency reserves in dollars at the Federal Reserve Bank ... and if these dollars are suddenly not obtainable, their assets are frozen. It has significant implications in terms of financial, monetary and economic management. The countries are trying to diversify out of the dollar because the US has not been a responsible stakeholder in managing the dollar to the benefit of all as a public good."
- "So, perhaps an ideal balance would be about two or three competitive and stable currencies in the international system, and we may be getting to that point, maybe in one decade, or probably two decades, where we might have the US dollar still having a very significant role, but with the RMB also playing a much more important role, as the euro, hopefully, also keeps growing in terms of its role as an international currency."

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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ISSN (Print): 2836-340X

ISSN (Online): 2836-3418



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