



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

January 4, 2024

#### What's Going On? ↓

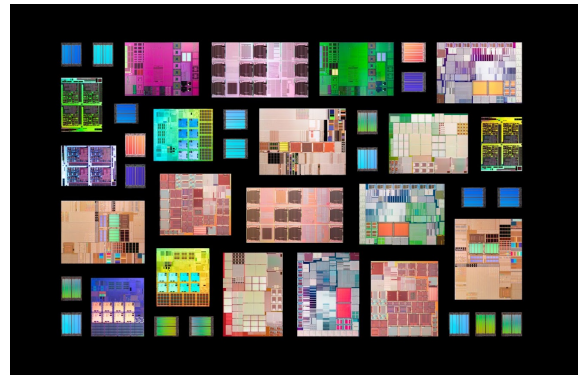
### Military Dialogue and Official Communication Resumed... Bumps Too



US President Joe Biden greets Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' week in Woodside, California on November 15, 2023. (Photo by Brendan SMIALOWSKI / AFP via Getty Images)

- On January 1, to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of official U.S.-China diplomatic ties, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden exchanged letters in which both parties emphasized a mutual commitment to encourage peaceful coexistence.
- As defense leaders in the U.S. and China continue to work towards planning the bilateral engagements agreed upon by their presidents in November 2023, China named former Navy chief Dong Jun as its new defense minister.
- On December 28, a week after U.S. and Chinese officials resumed high-level talks, China's defense ministry spokesperson criticized the U.S.' "Cold War mindset" and its "selfish" increase in deployments to the Asia-Pacific.
- The U.S. and China have celebrated progress in climate diplomacy through the joint works of U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua, but Xie will soon be leaving his position and Kerry may also.
- On December 21, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman General CQ Brown spoke with his Chinese counterpart General Liu Zhenli in a videoconference, marking the first bilateral senior military communication since August 2022.

### Sanctions and Suspicions Persist Through the End of 2023



A collection of multi-colored semiconductor chips. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- On December 26, Beijing's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced the banning of U.S. research company Kharon and two of its analysts from entering China over reports on minority rights abuses.
- U.S. officials are reportedly becoming increasingly concerned about the theft of artificial intelligence (AI) secrets from the U.S. as Beijing has publicly prioritized AI as a vital technology to reach breakthroughs by 2025.
- The New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, who were involved in coronavirus research in China, is being investigated as to whether they double-billed Washington.
- On December 21, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced a survey launch, set for January, of the U.S. semiconductor supply chain and national defense industrial base to "reduce national security risks posed by" China and identify the sourcing of "legacy chips."
- Moore Threads Intelligent Technology, a US-sanctioned Chinese graphics processing unit company, has released a new graphics card that is being called China's first GPU-based computing hub for AI training.

*Associated News Sources:*

["Xi Jinping and Joe Biden Advocate for Peaceful Coexistence in Diplomatic Letters,"](#) *BNN*, January 2, 2024  
["Chinese ex-Navy chief, with South China Sea background, named defence minister,"](#) *Reuters*, December 29, 2023  
["China's military lashes out at US after breakthrough talks,"](#) *Reuters*, December 28, 2023  
["US-China climate relations brace for US election, envoy change,"](#) *Reuters*, December 22, 2023  
["US-China military dialogue resumes for first time in over a year as top American officer talks with counterpart,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 21, 2023 [Paywall]

*Associated News Sources:*

["China sanctions a US research firm and 2 individuals over reports on rights abuses,"](#) *ABC News*, December 27, 2023  
["China Is Stealing AI Secrets to Turbocharge Spying, U.S. Says,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 25, 2023 [Paywall]  
["Investigators Probe Whether U.S. Was Billed Twice for Coronavirus Research in China,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 2023 [Paywall]  
["China import concerns spur US to launch semiconductor supply chain review,"](#) *Reuters*, December 21, 2023  
["US-sanctioned Chinese chip start-up Moore Threads unveils GPU-based computing centre, AI graphics card,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 20, 2023 [Paywall]

## Eyes Are on the Future of Electric Vehicles At the Turn of the New Year



Electric vehicles charging at a station. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- Chinese battery maker Gotion High Tech has successfully produced its first battery packs from its new facility in Fremont, California, marking the official start of its "Made in USA" initiative.
- For the first time, China's BYD outsold its U.S. rival Tesla in battery-only cars in the last quarter of 2023.
- Chinese smartphone company Xiaomi announced plans to enter the EV market by unveiling its 'Xiaomi SU7' model car set to hit China's market in a "few months."
- On December 22, Tesla successfully purchased a piece of land in Shanghai's Lingang free-trade zone to construct a 'Megafactory' where it plans to produce 10,000 of its Megapack large-scale batteries annually.
- Biden administration officials are reportedly debating whether to raise tariffs on Chinese EVs, amidst other goods. Chinese EVs are already subject to a 25% tariff.

*Associated News Sources:*

["Gotion rolls out first battery packs from its Fremont facility in US,"](#) *ETN*, January 2, 2024  
["China's BYD overtakes Tesla as top-selling electric car seller,"](#) *The Guardian*, January 2, 2024  
["China's Xiaomi unveils its first EV as it looks to compete](#)

## - In Other News -



A Boeing 787 taxiing on the runway in Guiyang, China. (Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

["After TikTok-owner ByteDance cuts the fat to focus on fundamentals, social commerce challenges and US election loom,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 27, 2023 [Paywall]  
["Steamy Romances and Vampires: The Chinese-Backed App Appealing to American Moms,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 26, 2023 [Paywall]  
["Apple supplier Luxshare to take control of key iPhone plant in eastern China via US\\$300 million deal with Taiwan's Pegatron,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, December 29, 2023 [Paywall]  
["This N.Y.U. Student Owns a \\$6 Million Crypto Mine. His Secret Is Out,"](#) *The New York Times*, December 25, 2023 [Paywall]  
["Chinese spaceplane being followed by six mysterious objects transmitting repeating signal,"](#) *UNILAD*, December 22, 2023  
["Boeing's first Dreamliner delivery to China since 2019 arrives,"](#) *Reuters*, December 22, 2023  
["Beijing shrugs at U.S. call for help protecting Red Sea shipping,"](#) *Politico*, December 21, 2023

[with Porsche, Tesla,” CNBC, December 28, 2023](#)  
[“Chinese Carmaker Overtakes Tesla as World’s Most Popular EV Maker,” Bloomberg, December 26, 2023](#)  
 [Paywall]  
[“Tesla secures a site in Shanghai to build its Megapack energy-storage battery plant,” South China Morning Post, December 22, 2023](#) [Paywall]  
[“Biden Administration Explores Raising Tariffs on Chinese EVs,” The Wall Street Journal, December 21, 2023](#)  
 [Paywall]

## What Are We Reading? ↓

- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“U.S.-China Relations in 2024: Managing Competition without Conflict”](#) by Scott Kennedy (January 3, 2024)
- *South China Morning Post*: [“Xi-Biden letters spell out global importance of improving relations”](#) by SCMP Editorial (January 3, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Diplomat*: [“Making China-US Ties More Resilient”](#) by Jin Kai (January 3, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Al Jazeera*: [“US watching Taiwan elections closely as China reiterates claim to island”](#) by Anna Kook (January 2, 2024)
- *Forbes*: [“American Investors Say ‘No’ To China”](#) by Milton Ezrati (January 1, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Beijing Is on a Wartime Footing”](#) by Seth Jones (January 1, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“China’s Adorable Diplomats”](#) by Aaron Mc Nicholas (December 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“Energy Storage Reaches New Heights in China”](#) by Katrina Northrop (December 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“Washington’s Xinjiang Fix”](#) by Eliot Chen and Katrina Northrop (December 31, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Fortune*: [“Chinese EV makers are planning factories in Mexico—and the U.S. is worried it’s a ‘back door’ to undercutting the Big 3 carmakers”](#) by Steve Mollman (December 30, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“US wants to contain China’s chip industry. This startup shows it won’t be easy”](#) by John Shiffman and Joshua Schneyer (December 29, 2023)
- *Al Jazeera*: [“In bid to counter China, US ramps up effort to boost military ties in Asia”](#) by Zaheena Rasheed (December 28, 2023)
- *AP*: [“US companies are picky about investing in China. The exceptions? Burgers and lattes”](#) by Aamer Madhani, Paul Wiseman and Elaine Kurtenbach (December 28, 2023)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Apple Is Being Overtaken by Chinese Smartphone Rivals—in Cars”](#) by Yang Jie (December 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Brookings*: [“Keeping Technology Away From China Won’t Come Cheap”](#) by The Editorial Board (December 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“The Marines Transformed to Take On China. Will They Be Ready for Everything Else?”](#) by Michael Gordon and Nancy Youssef (December 28, 2023) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Chinese Spy Agency Rising to Challenge the C.I.A.”](#) by Edward Wong, Julian Barnes, Muye Xiao and Chris Buckley (December 27, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Brookings*: [“Podcast Transcript: The role of the US, Europe, and Indo-Pacific partners in India’s China strategy”](#) by C. Raja Mohan, Garima Mohan, and Tanvi Madan (December 27, 2023)



- *Financial Times*: "[Victim? Villain? Huawei finds itself trapped in US-China dispute](#)" by Robin Harding (December 26, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Affairs*: "[How to Thwart China's Bid to Lead the Global South: America Should See India as a Bridge to the Rest of the World](#)" by Happymon Jacob (December 25, 2023) [Paywall]
- *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*: "[A 'Floor' for US-China Relations in 2024: Insights on the Biden-Xi Summit from Professor Dennis Wilder](#)" by Dennis Wilder (December 22, 2023)
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute: "[Australia's 'softly, softly' approach leaves China holding the big stick](#)" by Euan Graham (December 22, 2023)
- *The Economist*: "[Hong Kong's problems trace back to China. And also America](#)" (December 20, 2023) [Paywall]
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: "[Why China, Not the United States, Is Making the Rules for Deep-Sea Mining](#)" by Isaac Kardon, and Sarah Camacho (December 19, 2023)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: "[A Free-World Champion to Rival China: Nippon Chief's Ambitions for U.S. Steel Deal](#)" by River Davis (December 19, 2023) [Paywall]

## What's Happening Around Town? ↓

### - Past Events -

- [Countering Beijing's economic coercion in the Indo-Pacific](#)  
December 20, 2023 hosted by Atlantic Council
- [Virtual Roundtable: A Conversation on the Hong Kong Legal System and the Case of Jimmy Lai](#)  
December 19, 2023 hosted by Council on Foreign Relations
- [The Perils of Corporate Engagement with China](#)  
December 18, 2023 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [A conversation with US Ambassador to China R. Nicholas Burns on US-China relations](#)  
December 15, 2023 hosted by Brookings
- [Taiwan Elections in 2024: Who is Running and What to Expect](#)  
December 15 hosted by Asia Society
- [Virtual Event | No Winners in This Game: Assessing the U.S. Playbook for Sanctioning China](#)  
December 15 hosted by Center for a New American Security

### - Upcoming Events -

- [Press Briefing: Previewing Taiwan's 2024 Presidential Election](#)  
January 5 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations in Honor of 45th Anniversary of Normalization](#)  
January 9 hosted by The Carter Center
- [Indo-Pacific Forecast 2024](#)  
January 16 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [The Global Political Sociology of U.S.-China Rivalry](#)  
January 17 hosted by Georgetown University
- [Armchair Discussion with Pranay Vaddi](#)  
January 18 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [The Importance of US-China Science and Technology Cooperation](#)  
January 18 hosted by U.S.-China Business Council
- [China's Use of Armed Coercion: To Win Without Fighting](#)  
January 23 hosted by Stimson Center
- [A Look at Taiwan's Election Results](#)  
January 23 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Asia Spotlight: 2024](#)  
January 25 hosted by Asia Society



# What ICAS Is Up To ↓

## ---ICAS Book Release---

*US-China Global Maritime Relations* (Routledge, 2024)  
 By Nong Hong  
 Release Date: January 1, 2024

This book explores the U.S.-China global maritime relationship, examining the development and implementation of the maritime strategies of both the United States and China.

Delving into the U.S.-China maritime relationship within the global context, the book investigates six key maritime regions: the South China Sea, the Northeast Asia waters (the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea), the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Its observations form a comprehensive exploration of these regions and their significance in shaping the dynamics between the two nations, and this analysis reveals that an expanded view is necessary to discover and clearly display the role that these maritime regions currently—and could potentially—play in overarching U.S.-China relations.

Examining both the ongoing conflicts and opportunities for cooperation in the global maritime domain between the United States and China, this book will be a valuable resource to students and scholars of international relations, Chinese and U.S. politics, strategic studies, and maritime studies.



## US-CHINA GLOBAL MARITIME RELATIONS

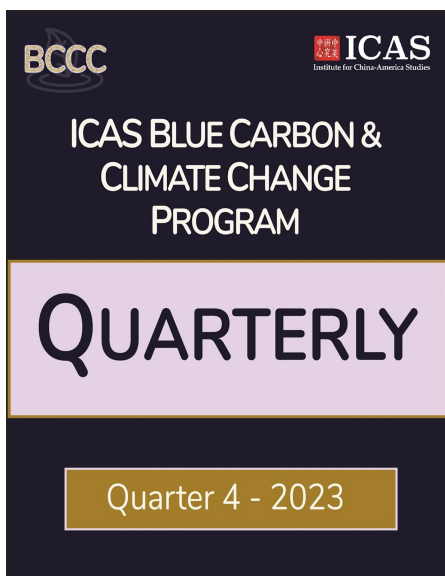
Nong Hong



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## ---Upcoming BCCC Quarterly Q4 Release---



### Stay Tuned for the Blue Carbon & Climate Change 2023 Q4 Release!

This week, the ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program will be releasing its BCCC Quarterly newsletter for 2023 Q4. Released each quarter, the BCCC Quarterly records the most important trends and developments regarding blue carbon policies and regulations in China, the U.S., and other regions, as well as international regimes, such as under the United Nations framework. It also includes two special sections—the ‘Theme of the Quarter’ and the ‘Blue Carbon Country Profile’—that aim to bring a fresh and applicable element to each issue.

This issue features a ‘Theme of the Quarter’ on “Multinational Climate Engagements” and a ‘Blue Carbon Country Profile’ on ‘The United Kingdom.’

[Learn More About the BCCC Quarterly & View Past Issues](#)

[Explore the ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program](#)

---BCCC Commentary---**“Transitioning away” from fossil fuels requires patience and fresh ideas**

By Zhangchen Wang  
January 1, 2024

One of the most commendable achievements of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly known simply as COP28—is the joint agreement by nearly 200 countries to commit to [transitioning away from fossil fuels](#) from this point forward. This is the first time in history that the international community has reached a consensus on the future of fossil fuels, marking a significant milestone in global joint actions to address climate change. This agreement was hard-won. The two-week long COP28 even had to go into one day of “overtime” to finally seal the agreement on December 13...



[Link to Full Commentary](#)

---ICAS Announcement---**ICAS 2023 Newsletter Collections Have Been Released**

At the end of every quarter, ICAS releases four newsletter collections—one for each of ICAS’ four regular newsletters—to assist our audience in tracking the trends across the quarter as well as sharing the content with others. With the end of the year now behind us, the 2023 volumes of ICAS newsletters are now complete!

Like with all of our content, ICAS newsletters are freely available to the public with the aim of helping all parties better understand trends in and related to U.S.-China relations.

**[ICAS Bulletin](#) (ISSN 2836-3418)**

Released every other week, the ICAS Bulletin updates a global audience on Western 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 ICAS activities.

**[Trade ‘n Technology Program Dispatch](#) (ISSN 2837-3863)**

Released every other week, the ICAS TnT Dispatch is an informational, curated product built to inform readers of the most notable recent changes in U.S.-China trade and technology relations.

**[Maritime Affairs Program Handbill](#) (ISSN 2837-3901)**

Released the last Tuesday of every month, MAP Handbills are a regular newsletter 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. Each issue also includes a Spotlight: a short-form written background and analysis of a specific issue related to maritime affairs, which changes with each issue.

**[Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program Quarterly](#) (ISSN 2837-3979)**

Released once each quarter, the BCCC Quarterly records the most important trends and developments regarding blue carbon policies and regulations in China, the U.S., and other regions, as well as international regimes, such as under the United Nations framework. The ICAS Team will also produce a Chinese language version of this product to disseminate to an Asian audience so that both sides have access to our research.

[Explore Past Archives & Learn How to Subscribe](#)



---A Note from the ICAS Team---

*Happy Holidays!*

We at ICAS are proud of our accomplishments during this turbulent year as we persist in championing genuine, mutually beneficial understanding and exchanges between the governments and the people of the United States and China. From revitalizing our Expert Voices Initiative (EVI) interviews to establishing a Legislative and Executive Actions Directory (L.E.A.D.) Project to holding our first in-person annual conference since 2019, the ICAS Team remains just as committed to our mission and objectives at the end of 2023 as it was at the beginning of the year. We look forward to widening our research horizons and expanding our interpersonal relationships in 2024, even as we celebrate our 10th anniversary of establishment and thank our supporters who have stood by us during this exciting and tumultuous decade.

From all of us at the Institute for China-America Studies, we wish you a happy holiday season and a bright and productive new year!

Nong Hong Executive Director	Sourabh Gupta Senior Fellow
Yilun Zhang Research Associate	Jessica Martin Research Associate

2023 Interns: Amanda Jin, Zhangchen Wang, Alec Caruana, Jacqueline Cheng, Skyler Standridge, Xiaohang Zhou

*Cheers to a Happy and Healthy 2024!*

**中研中心 中美研究 ICAS**  
Institute for China-America Studies

www.chinaus-icas.org - Washington, DC

---ICAS In the News---

On Monday, December 25, 2023, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *China Daily* on the outlook for U.S.-China ties, especially as they relate to technology.

- "There is space for negotiation in this area, but the space is a very narrow, small one."
- "China is making technological progress at a very fast pace...And we saw that with the Huawei phone...Part of the reason Raimondo has got very flustered by this is that she's seeing the pace at which technological breakthroughs are happening in China. And therefore, the US just needs to keep doing more and more and more in terms of denials. And that's why that conversation is going off the rails in that direction. So, the US feels a certain degree of vulnerability and needs to not shift from its game. It needs to double down in that game of tech denials."
- "The value of that [November 2023 Biden-Xi summit] is that it has created a certain momentum in the bilateral relationship going forward with the working groups. So that momentum right now is pushing the relationship forward."