



# The ICAS Bulletin

## Institute for China America Studies

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

August 14, 2024

## What's Going On? ↓

### Democratic VP-Nominee Tim Walz's China Ties Spark Discussions



Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz speaks during a campaign rally with Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris on August 6, 2024. (Credit: Andrew Harnik via Getty Images)

- Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris picked Tim Walz as her running mate, a governor from Minnesota who lived and taught in China in 1989 and led multiple educational exchanges in the 1990s. In 2016, Walz said that he does not think that “China necessarily needs to be an adversarial relationship.”
- Republican Senator Marco Rubio criticized Walz’s nomination on X, saying that “Walz is an example of how Beijing patiently grooms future American leaders.”
- Harris’ campaign responded to Republican criticism in a statement, saying that Walz “has stood up to the CCP...[and] will always stand up for our values and interests in the face of China’s threats.”
- Walz’s nomination trended on Chinese social media, receiving more than 12 million views on the Chinese social media site Weibo. Some Weibo users said that Walz’s “unique background gives him a real perspective on China.”
- Though the Chinese embassy in Washington declined to comment on Walz’s nomination, a foreign policy

### U.S.-China Competition Hovers Over the Paris Olympics



Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle celebrates after a race at the Paris 2024 Olympics (Source: China News Service via Wikimedia Commons)

- China tied with the United States for the first time with 40 gold medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, a notable group of users on Chinese X-like site Weibo claim that China actually overtook the United States with 44 gold medals since “Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong” should be included as a part of China.
- In reaction to China’s gold medal tie with the U.S., Chinese state media *Global Times* said that “the changes in the Olympic achievements of China and the US should not be viewed in isolation – this shift itself is a reflection of an unstoppable historical trend.”
- On August 8, the China Anti-doping Agency called on the International Testing Agency to “intensify testing on U.S. track and field athletes” in response to Erriyon Knighton’s participation in the Olympics despite testing positive for banned substances.
- The agency further accused the U.S. on August 6 of double standards, saying that the U.S. had been “trying its best to clear American athletes on one hand...[while] accusing CHINA and the World Anti-Doping Agency of 'covering up the truth'.”

analyst in Shanghai, China said that “Beijing is probably more fearful and uncomfortable with such a foreigner who understands China.”

*Associated News Sources:*

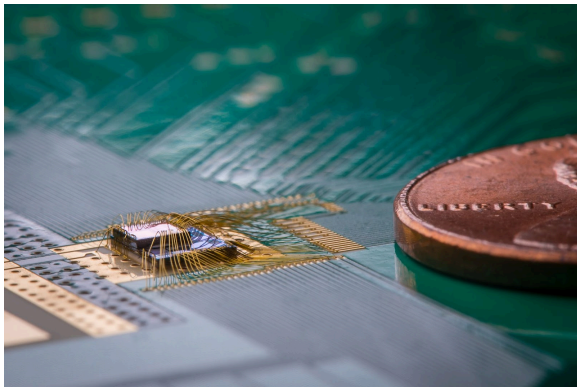
- [“Kamala Harris’ VP pick has a long history with China. But Beijing may not be happy about it.” CNN, August 9](#)
- [“Walz’s China resume gets a lot of attention.” Politico, August 9](#)
- [“Harris’s no 2 taught in China’: Chinese internet reacts to Walz.” BBC, August 7](#)
- [“Walz’s long history with China draws attacks and praise.” Reuters, August 7](#)

- Following China’s victory in the men’s 4x100 swimming relay, the Chinese embassy in Washington released a statement that urged the U.S. to “stop using the doping issue to smear and suppress China.”

*Associated News Sources:*

- [“U.S. and China Tied for Gold at the Olympics. Some in China Disagree.” The Wall Street Journal, August 12](#)
- [“China Touts Olympic Gold Medal Tie With US as New Sign of Power.” Bloomberg, August 12](#)
- [“China urges ITA to intensify testing of US athletes.” Reuters, August 7](#)
- [“CHINADA accuses USADA of double standards.” Reuters, August 6](#)
- [“China’s internet explodes with pride at ending US swim relay reign – and a sense of vindication.” CNN, August 5](#)

## Washington Tightens Trade Restrictions, Firms React



*A semiconductor chip placed next to a nickel coin. (Source: UCSD Jacobson School via Flickr, CC4.0)*

- According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, Huawei is allegedly ready to introduce a new AI chip that is comparable to NVIDIA’s advanced H100 chip. Washington had barred exports of H100 chips to China last year due to national security concerns.
- On August 8, a Senate bipartisan group introduced a bill that would restrict textile and apparels from being imported through the ‘de minimis’ provision. Lawmakers behind this bill explicitly called out Shein and Temu for abusing this provision.
- Unnamed sources say that Chinese tech giants like Baidu and Huawei are stockpiling high bandwidth memory chips from Samsung in preparation for the upcoming U.S. semiconductor export restrictions.
- U.S. Commerce Department is planning to issue a new rule that would ban Chinese advanced autonomous vehicle software in U.S. vehicles out of concern “about the national security risks associated with connected technologies in connected vehicles.”

## Progress in U.S.-China Diplomacy Experiences Both Ups and Downs



*A panda bear hiding behind the trees at the San Diego Zoo in 2009. (Credit: fortherock via Flickr, CC4.0)*

- Senior officials in the Biden Administration will be in Shanghai on August 15-16 to discuss ways for the United States and China to maintain financial and economic stability and “concrete steps...to improve communication in the event of financial stress.”
- At the opening ceremony of San Diego Zoo’s giant panda area on August 8, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared the day as California Panda Day and said that the celebration of the giant pandas’ arrival is “about celebrating our common humanity.”
- U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns remarked in a statement to *The New York Times* that the United States “remained dissatisfied about the lack of transparency” in China’s disclosure of the stabbing of two American teachers in Jilin, China two months prior.
- The Chinese Foreign Ministry responded to Burns’ statement and defended how it handled the attack, also stating that the United States “has no right to interfere in China’s legal proceedings, nor should it make

- After U.S. lawmakers expressed concerns over UAE-based AI company G42's ties with China, the firm's spokesperson said that the firm is working to "comply with the highest global standard" for AI and that "it is entirely understandable and appropriate for the U.S. government to be interested..." in the security of advanced AI technology.

- The Biden Administration is planning to introduce a new rule that would restrict China's access to Samsung's AI memory chips. In response to Bloomberg's inquiry, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that "US measures won't stop China's technological progress."

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["Huawei readies new AI chip to challenge Nvidia in China, WSJ reports." Reuters, August 13](#)
- ["U.S. Lawmakers Move to Restrict Trade Provision Favored by China's E-Commerce Giants." The Wall Street Journal, August 9](#)
- ["Chinese firms stockpile high-end Samsung chips as they await new US curbs, say sources." Reuters, August 6](#)
- ["US expected to propose barring Chinese software in autonomous vehicles." Reuters, August 5](#)
- ["UAE-based G42 working with US to meet AI standards amid China concerns." Reuters, August 1](#)
- ["US Weighs Restrictions on China's Access to AI Memory Chips." Bloomberg, July 31](#)

irresponsible statements."

- After repetitive requests from the U.S., China has announced that it will impose a new license requirement for the production and sale of three chemicals used for fentanyl production.

*Associated News Sources:*

- ["U.S. Officials to Visit China for Economic Talks as Trade Tensions Rise." The New York Times, August 12](#)
- ["California celebrates arrival of first pandas from China in decades." The Guardian, August 8](#)
- ["U.S. 'Dissatisfied' With China's Disclosures About Stabbings." The New York Times, August 8](#)
- ["China Restricts Fentanyl Chemicals After Years of U.S. Pressure." The Wall Street Journal, August 7](#)

## New Movements Appear in Washington's Security Strategy



A U.S. Navy Sailor observes the Royal Canadian Navy during a quadrilateral Maritime Cooperation Activity exercise with Australia, Canada, the Philippines and the U.S. on Aug. 7, 2024. (Source: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Public Affairs via Public Domain)

- On August 7, the Philippines, the U.S., Canada, and Australia conducted a joint naval and air exercise in the South China Sea to underscore their "dedication to upholding international law." The exercise occurred concurrently with China's naval and air patrol in the

## - In Other News -



A Maersk vessel stopped at a port. (Source: Moscow Maersk via Wikimedia Commons)

- ["China's Hesai to be removed from US defence department blacklist." Financial Times, August 13](#)
- ["US bans imports from five more Chinese companies over Uyghur forced labor." Reuters, August 8](#)
- ["US tops China as Germany's biggest trading partner." Reuters, August 8](#)
- ["Maersk says companies are bringing orders forward on](#)

South China Sea.  
 - The U.S. Navy listed Australia's Cocos Islands as a possible site for U.S. military construction under the Pacific Deterrence Initiative that is reportedly aimed at countering China.  
 - On August 1, President Joe Biden signed the U.S. National Counterintelligence Strategy which identifies Beijing and Moscow as "the most significant intelligence threats." The strategy calls for increases in defensive use of AI and offensive campaigns against espionage.  
 - On July 31, amidst growing tensions with China, the U.S. and Philippine navies conducted a joint maritime exercise in the South China Sea aimed to ensure that the two nations "can effectively collaborate to safeguard our maritime interests."

*Associated News Sources:*

["US, China stage concurrent exercises in the South China Sea," DW, August 7](#)  
["US military eyes Australia's Indian Ocean toe hold to deter China," Reuters, August](#)  
["Russia, China leading wave of 'unprecedented' intelligence threats to US," Voice of America, August 1](#)  
["Philippines, US navies hold joint exercise in South China Sea," Reuters, July 31](#)

["US-China trade war threat," Financial Times, August 7](#)  
["Qatar invests in US-backed fund to loosen China dominance of critical minerals," Financial Times, August 7](#)  
["Chinese American scholar convicted of spying on dissidents for Beijing," The Washington Post, August 6](#)  
["Sharpie-maker Newell moves more operations from China as tariffs loom," Reuters, August 6](#)  
["Chinese businesses hoping to expand in the US and bring jobs face uncertainty and suspicion," AP, August 5](#)  
["China stands by Maduro in Venezuela to safeguard its investments," Voice of America, August 3](#)  
["Anheuser-Busch InBev Beer Sales Dragged by Weaker China Demand," The Wall Street Journal, August 1](#)  
["China accuses Japan of 'smear attacks' in recent talks with the US, India and Australia," ABC, July 31](#)  
["China sanctions US Rep. McGovern for 'interference' in its domestic affairs," AP, July 31](#)

## What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Foreign Policy*: ["Tim Walz Has Always Been Consistent on China"](#) by Paul Musgrave (August 12)
- *Bloomberg*: ["Tim Walz Knows China. That's Good for the US"](#) by Karishma Vaswani (August 11)
- *The New York Times*: ["Tim Walz's Long Relationship With China Defies Easy Stereotypes"](#) by Amy Qin and Keith Bradsher
- *The Wire China*: ["Walz's China Chops"](#) by Eliot Chen (August 8)
- *BBC*: ["Walz has history with China - it's more hawkish than critics claim"](#) by John Sudworth (August 7)
- *Voice of America*: ["Explainer: Tim Walz's long track record in China"](#) by William Yang (August 7)
- Council on Foreign Relations: ["The Climate Reform Agenda: How China Enables and Undermines U.S. Leadership at the World Bank"](#) by Karen Virginia Mathiasen (August 6)
- *Bloomberg*: ["US-China Rivalry Is Destabilizing the Middle East"](#) by Minxin Pei (August 6)
- The Strategist: ["Trump is likely to escalate the US-China trade war"](#) by Nancy Qian (August 5)
- *The New York Times*: ["With Smugglers and Front Companies, China Is Skirting American A.I. Bans"](#) by Ana Swanson and Claire Fu (August 4)
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: ["How Dominant is China at the Olympic Games?"](#) by CSIS China Power Team (August 1)
- *Foreign Affairs*: ["Does China Prefer Harris or Trump?"](#) by Wang Jisi, Hu Ran, and Zhao Jianwei (August 1)
- *South China Morning Post*: ["The US-China trade war has become a forever war, but at what cost?"](#) by Nancy Qian (August 1)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Kamala Harris's Record Offers Only Hints of a China Worldview"](#) by James T. Areddy (July 31)

## What's Happening Around Town? ↓

<u>- Past Events -</u>	<u>- Upcoming Events -</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Exploring US-China Dynamics in Academia</a> August 9 hosted by US-Asia Institute</li> <li>• <a href="#">Over the Brink: Escalation Management in a Protracted U.S.-PRC Conflict</a> August 8 hosted by Center for New American Security</li> <li>• <a href="#">China's Power Play: Understanding UN Resolution 2758</a> August 7 hosted by Foreign Policy Research Institute</li> <li>• <a href="#">Taiwan's Energy Transition</a> August 1 hosted by Hudson Institute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Heading Toward War? Reevaluating Taiwan's Status Quo</a> August 20 hosted by Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft</li> <li>• <a href="#">Shaping Worldviews on Sino-US Relations: Business, Finance, and Politics</a> August 23 hosted by Asia Society</li> <li>• <a href="#">The China Challenge</a> September 4 hosted by <i>Foreign Policy</i></li> <li>• <a href="#">Critical Issues Confronting China Series featuring Eyck Freyermann and Hugo Bromley – Avalanche Decoupling: Economic Contingency Planning for Taiwan Crisis</a> September 25 hosted by Harvard Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies</li> </ul>

## What ICAS Is Up To ↓

### ---BCCC 2024 Q2 Chinese Quarterly Release---



#### **Blue Carbon & Climate Change 2024 Q2 (Chinese Version) Soon to Be Released!**

The ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program will release its Chinese BCCC Quarterly newsletter for 2024 Q2 on WeChat shortly. This issue features a 'Theme of the Quarter' on "AI's Role in Solving Climate Change" and a 'Blue Carbon Country Profile' on Brazil.

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.

[Read More About the BCCC Q2 Quarterly \(English\)](#)

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

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

On Wednesday, August 7, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *South China Morning Post* on China's foray into Ukraine and Middle Eastern diplomacy.

- "[China] desires to be part of the solution to global hotspot challenges; not be a disrupter that is part of the problem."
- "The larger purpose of China's 'major power' diplomacy is to grease its own rise without inviting countervailing geopolitical pushback, at a time when the incumbent powers have accused China of aiming to reshape the international order at the expense of others."