



ICAS

Institute for China-America Studies

BULLETIN

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

Q2 - 2024



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

April 10, 2024

What's Going On? ↓

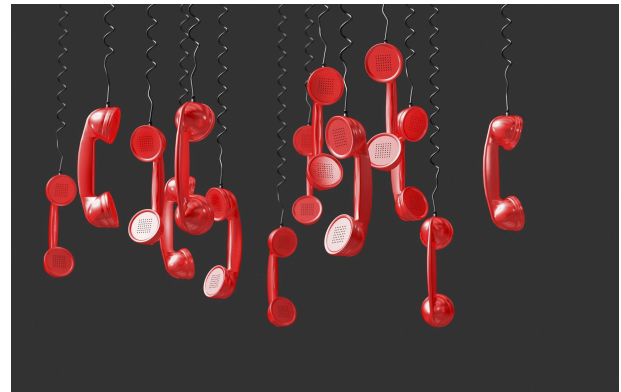
The Long and the Short of Secretary Janet Yellen's Diplomatic Trip to China



*U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen shakes hands with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng prior to a meeting on April 6, 2024 in Guangzhou, China.
(Source: Photo by Ken Ishii - Pool/Getty Images)*

- From April 5-9, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen traveled to China to visit American companies in the commercial and manufacturing hub of Guangzhou and then continue discussions with senior Chinese officials in Beijing for two more days.
- Although Secretary Yellen's meetings addressed several topics during her trip – including trade imbalance, drug money laundry, green products – she regularly stressed before, during and after the trip the issue of overcapacity and the U.S. intent to defend its domestic markets from China's excessive import. At one point Yellen advised China to “rethink” its economic growth strategy. Ahead of a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and other officials, Yellen said the U.S. “seeks a healthy economic relationship with China that benefits both sides” and “a healthy relationship must provide a level playing field.”
- While meeting with Vice Minister He Lifeng, Yellen also warned Beijing of “significant consequences” if China's companies, banks or exporters support Russia's war, to which Beijing responded that “[w]e have never and will never seek gains from the crisis.”
- Aside from issues discussed, Americans and Chinese

Other Recent Signs of Increased High Level U.S.-China Communications



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- According to two senior U.S. officials, U.S. President Joe Biden is set to warn China about its aggressive actions in the South China Sea during a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C. with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
- After a nearly two-year break, U.S. and Chinese defense officials resumed talks to address unsafe and aggressive military incidents in the Pacific. The discussion, which took place April 3-4 in Hawaii, aimed to ease escalating tensions and improve communication.
- On April 4, China's Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen and Under Secretary Marisa Lago of the Department of Commerce led a working group meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss regulatory transparency, tariffs, and market access, among other issues.
- On April 2, days ahead of two top U.S. diplomatic visits to China, U.S. and Chinese presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping held their first phone call since July 2022 during which they discussed a range of issues. In their call, presidents Biden and Xi addressed matters including Taiwan, fentanyl, advancements in AI, and “continued concerns about the PRC's unfair trade policies.” This call

observers were again united in their curiosity about what Secretary Yellen would be eating in China, which Premier Li Qiang made note of in his opening remarks.

- At the end of her visit to China, Yellen concluded that U.S.-China relations is on "more stable footing" but can still be improved upon.

- Chinese leadership, who had shown a warm welcome to Secretary Yellen throughout her trip, said at a press briefing at the end of her trip that the "so-called 'overcapacity' is the manifestation of the market mechanism that plays its role" and that "imbalance is often the norm."

Associated News Sources:

["Beijing Pushes Back on Overproduction Concerns After Yellen Visit," The Wall Street Journal, April 9 \[Paywall\]](#)

["China Says It Has Not, Will Not Seek to Gain From War in Ukraine," Bloomberg, April 8 \[Paywall\]](#)

["US will not accept Chinese imports decimating new industries, Yellen says," Reuters, April 8](#)

["Yellen Sees 'More Work to Do' as China Talks End With No Breakthrough," The New York Times, April 8 \[Paywall\]](#)

["Culinary diplomacy: The internet is obsessed with what Janet Yellen eats in China," AP News, April 8](#)

["Yellen calls for level playing field for US workers and firms during China visit," ABC News, April 4](#)

["Yellen says China's rapid buildout of its green energy industry 'distorts global prices'," AP News, March 27](#)

aims to reestablish regular top-level exchanges between the United States and China.

- On March 27, President Xi Jinping met with top American businesspeople and academics in Beijing to reassure them about China's market amidst ongoing tensions with the U.S., highlighting the health of China's economy and its reliance on international cooperation.

Associated News Sources:

["Biden to Warn China on South China Sea, Report Claims," The Diplomat, April 8](#)

["US-Chinese military talks resume on safety in the air and at sea after a nearly 2-year break," ABC News, April 5](#)

["US raises commercial and market access issues with China in meeting," Reuters, April 4](#)

["Biden and Xi discuss Taiwan, AI and fentanyl in a push to return to regular leader talks," AP News, April 2](#)

["China's Xi meets American CEOs in bid to boost confidence in ailing economy," NBC News, March 27](#)

China-Related Cybersecurity Suspicions Persist in the U.S.



House Hearing Examines China's Cyber Threat to the United States. From left to right: Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, Jen Easterly, Director of the Homeland Security Department's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, FBI Director Christopher Wray and Harry Coker Jr., Director of the Office of the National Cyber Director.
(Source: Photo by Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images)

- Newly released cyberthreat reports from Microsoft Corp. and the U.S. intelligence community highlight China's rising capability of conducting cyber misinformation campaigns which include a potential disinformation

The U.S. Pulling in Third Parties to Diversify Markets and Unify Goals



U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and European Commission Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager participate in a press conference during the EU-US Trade and Technology Council on April 5, 2024.
(Source: U.S. Department of State, public domain via Flickr)

- The U.S. Commerce Department has officially awarded a USD\$6.6 billion subsidy to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co's (TSMC) for establishing an advanced semiconductor production plant in Phoenix, Arizona. The

operation conducted during the Taiwan presidential election in January 2024.

- In early April, the U.S. Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB), authorized by President Joe Biden, criticized Microsoft Corp. for its “inadequate security culture” that allowed the Chinese hackers to breach emails in American companies and government officials.

- In late February, U.S. intelligence officials from the FBI, State Department and the Office of National Intelligence reported to about a dozen senators in a classified meeting how Chinese pharmaceutical firm WuXi AppTec had transferred U.S. company's intellectual property to the Chinese government.

- Simultaneously, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs is working on a bill that could prohibit foreign access to American biotech information on the grounds of national security.

- On March 25, the U.S. Department of Justice indicted Chinese hackers's cyberattack on European Union members, though European Parliament officials insisted that “our lawmakers were not targeted.”

Associated News Sources:

[“China Is Targeting U.S. Voters and Taiwan With AI-Powered Disinformation,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 5 [Paywall]

[“US government review faults Microsoft for ‘cascade’ of errors that allowed Chinese hackers to breach senior US officials’ emails,”](#) *CNN*, April 2

[“Exclusive: China's WuXi AppTec shared US client's data with Beijing, US intelligence officials told senators,”](#)

Reuters, March 28

[“China targeted European lawmakers with cyberattacks, Washington says,”](#) *Politico*, March 27

award also includes up to USD\$5 billion in low-interest government loans.

- Defense ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia said that they are considering adding Japan as a new member to AUKUS—the trilateral security partnership between the three countries for the Indo-Pacific region.

- Around the same time, warships and aircraft from Australia, Japan, the Philippines and the United States conducted another joint patrol in the South China Sea.

- Meanwhile, U.S. and EU officials expressed concerns about the future of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) given the upcoming U.S. election.

- The Biden administration is reportedly pressing the Netherlands to prohibit ASML from selling certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China.

- Leading U.S. companies in artificial intelligence are reportedly asking Taiwanese manufacturers to set up AI-related production plants in Mexico to “replace products imported from Asia.”

Associated News Sources:

[“TSMC wins \\$6.6 bln US subsidy for Arizona chip production,”](#) *Reuters*, April 8

[“AUKUS partners eye adding ‘like-minded’ Japan to counter China,”](#) *Financial Review*, April 8

[“U.S., Japanese and Australian Warships Join Philippine Forces in South China Sea Patrol,”](#) *USNI News*, April 7

[“EU and US vow to team up against China, but can’t hide the cracks,”](#) *Politico*, April 5

[“Exclusive: Targeting Chinese chips, US to push Dutch on ASML service contracts,”](#) *Reuters*, April 4

[“U.S. Tech Giants Turn to Mexico to Make AI Gear, Spurning China,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, March 30 [Paywall]

Electric Vehicle Market Still Garnering Fresh Chatter



A Tesla Model S Bluefire at the Tesla Service Center in Bern, Switzerland.
(Source: UnSplash)

- In Other News -



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) conducts a live-fire exercise in the Philippine Sea on April 5, 2024.
(Credit: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alexandria Esteban, public domain)

- Li Auto, known as Tesla's closest rival in mainland China, announced plans to very soon launch a new, more economical electric vehicle (EV) model aimed at families.

- As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen wraps up her visit to China with repeated mentions of "overcapacity" by China, China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao began a trip to Europe with a roundtable meeting in Paris with many, including top BYD and CATL, to express Beijing's support. Wang reiterated that "China's electric vehicle companies rely on continuous technological innovation, perfect production and supply chain system and full market competition for rapid development, not relying on subsidies to gain competitive advantage."

- China's biggest EV maker BYD reported its sales fell by 43% in the first quarter compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, bringing its numbers again below that of Tesla's.

- U.S.-based EV maker Tesla, facing a global slowdown in EV demand and increasing number of rivals, saw its biggest-ever quarterly sales miss, especially in China where much of its market has historically been located.

- Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi is kicking off sales of its first electric vehicles with aggressively low pricing set at just under \$30k in a market where Apple has failed.

Associated News Sources:

["China EV price war: Tesla rival Li Auto says cheapest model yet to 'bring you happiness', will launch next week,"](#) *Yahoo!Finance*, April 9

["China commerce minister kickstarts Europe trip with Chinese EV firms meeting,"](#) *CNBC*, April 7

["BYD hands back top EV seller title to Tesla after Q1 sales decline,"](#) *Reuters*, April 2

["Tesla's Shrinking China Market Share Compounds Global Woes,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 2 [Paywall]

["China's latest EV is a 'connected' car from smartphone maker Xiaomi,"](#) *NBC News*, March 28

["China Plays Tense Game of 'Russian Roulette' With U.S. Ally,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 9 [Paywall]

["Netflix's take on '3 Body Problem' gets mixed reviews in China,"](#) *Radio Free Asia*, April 6

["China's Ambassador Outlines Ambitious Plan to Jumpstart Economy,"](#) *Newsweek*, April 5

["U.S. to Crack Down on Trade 'Loophole' Used for China Apparel Shipments,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 5 [Paywall]

["U.S. loses its spot to China as Southeast Asia's most favored ally, survey shows,"](#) *CNBC*, April 3

["Lawmakers propose sanctions on US index funds investing in China,"](#) *Financial Times*, April 3 [Paywall]

["Senior US diplomat links AUKUS submarine pact to Taiwan,"](#) *Reuters*, April 3

["Russia, China catching up to U.S. in space weaponry, new report finds,"](#) *Space News*, April 2

["US senator urges Biden to review alleged Nippon Steel ties to China,"](#) *Reuters*, April 2

["Radio Free Asia closes Hong Kong bureau, citing security law concerns,"](#) *NBC News*, March 30

["US may soon unveil list of Chinese chip factories barred from receiving tech,"](#) *Reuters*, March 28

What Are We Reading?

- *Bloomberg*: ["China Has Too Much at Stake in Industry Push to Listen to Yellen"](#) by Christopher Condon (April 8, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Economist*: ["Is China or America the big boss of the global south?"](#) (April 8, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: ["Janet Yellen Has a Three-Body Problem With China"](#) by Keith Johnson (April 8, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Axios*: ["The China pushback uniting major world powers"](#) by Courtenay Brown (April 7, 2024)
- *The Wire China*: ["China's Red Carpet"](#) by Aaron McNicholas (April 7, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Diplomat*: ["Are We Bugs? The Geopolitics of Netflix's '3 Body Problem'"](#) by Brandon Valeriano (April 5, 2024) [Paywall]
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs: ["State lawmakers are concerned about Chinese ownership of US land, but other countries own much more American acreage"](#) by Hope O'Dell and AJ Caughey (April 4, 2024)
- *The Diplomat*: ["The Broadening Strategy of U.S. Technological Restrictions on China"](#) by Yingfan Chen, Hamilton Chen and Dingding Chen (April 4, 2024) [Paywall]
- United States Institute of Peace: ["U.S., Japan, Philippines Strengthen Strategic Bonds to Counter China"](#) by Brian Harding, Haroro Ingram and Andrew Mines (April 4, 2024)

- *The New York Times*: [“What Janet Yellen Needs to Tell China’s Leaders”](#) by Peter Coy (April 3, 2024) [Paywall]
- Atlantic Council: [“How China could respond to US sanctions in a Taiwan crisis”](#) by Logan Wright, et al. (April 1, 2024)
- *Bloomberg*: [“The US Can’t Let China Dominate the Small-Drone Market”](#) by Thomas Black (April 1, 2024) [Paywall]
- Council on Foreign Relations: [“On Fentanyl, Biden Should Look to Work With China”](#) by Zongyuan Zo Liu (April 1, 2024)
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“America is Losing the Shoe Race With China”](#) by James Andrew Lewis (April 1, 2024)
- *East Asia Forum*: [“Avoiding the awful consequences of breakdown in the US-China relationship”](#) (April 1, 2024)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“‘Everything, Everywhere, All At Once’: U.S. Officials Warn of Increased Cyberthreats”](#) by Rishi Iyengar (April 1, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“China’s hypocrisy on trade”](#) by Rana Foroohar (April 1, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The New Yorker*: [“How Chinese Students Experience America”](#) by Peter Hessler (April 1, 2024)
- *The Economist*: [“How Xi Jinping plans to overtake America”](#) (March 31, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Power Is the Answer in U.S. Competition With China”](#) by Michael Mazza (March 31, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“One Satellite Signal Rules Modern Life. What if Someone Knocks It Out?”](#) by Selam Gebrekidan, John Liu and Chris Buckley (March 30, 2024) [Paywall]
- Asia Society Policy Institute: [“How Will the Next U.S. President Tackle the China Economic Challenge?”](#) by Wendy Cutler (March 29, 2024)
- *The Washington Post*: [“Preparing for a China war, the Marines are retooling how they’ll fight”](#) by Ellen Nakashima (March 29, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Bidenomics Is Making China Angry. That’s OK.”](#) by Paul Krugman (March 28, 2024) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“U.S.-China Scholarly Recoupling: Advancing Mutual Understanding in an Era of Intense Rivalry”](#) by Scott Kennedy (March 27, 2024)
- *The New York Times*: [“A.I. Leaders Press Advantage With Congress as China Tensions Rise”](#) by Cecilia Kang (March 27, 2024) [Paywall]

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -


- [2024 China Town Hall](#)
April 9 hosted by International Relations Council & Partners
- [The Lay of the Land for Sustaining Climate-Smart Agriculture in the US and China: A China Town Hall Conversation](#)
April 8 hosted by Wilson Center
- [New Horizons: Navigating the Future of US-China Educational Exchanges](#)
April 4 hosted by China Institute
- [The Return of Great Powers](#)
April 2 hosted by *Foreign Policy*
- [U.S.-China Scholarly Recoupling: The Path Forward | CSIS Events](#)
March 28 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies

- Upcoming Events -

- [Chips and the China Threat](#)
April 11 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act – Part I](#)
April 12 hosted by Foreign Policy Research Institute
- [Green Alliances: Cultivating US and Chinese Climate Leadership on Food and Agriculture](#)
April 16 hosted by Wilson Center & U.S. Heartland China Association
- [New Cold Wars: China’s Rise, Russia’s Invasion, and America’s Struggle to Defend the West](#)
April 17 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Should the United States change its policies around Taiwan?](#)
April 25 hosted by University of Minnesota China Center & Brookings Institute

What ICAS Is Up To

---Upcoming TnT Program Event---



ICASS
Institute for China-America Studies


The United States, China and AI: What Does Cooperation Look Like

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
9:30am - 10:30am EST
Virtual (Zoom)


Artificial Intelligence has emerged as an unlikely area of U.S.-China cooperation amid their race for supremacy in cutting-edge technologies. In November 2023, President Biden and President Xi agreed to establish a govt-to-govt mechanism to discuss AI at their summit in Woodside, California, and a US-China working group on AI is expected to hold talks later this spring. Alongside, American AI companies have engaged in discussions with Chinese AI experts, and leading scientists of both nations have jointly put out calls for tighter controls on the technology.

As the U.S.-China working group on AI convenes later this spring, what are the set of priority areas to be discussed? Have the parameters of their discussion been established? What are the areas of common interest that are drawing the two sides together? Do the U.S. and China share a common vision of the core 'red lines' that powerful AI systems should not cross? Do they trust their counterpart enough to limit their own capability voluntarily? Can the U.S.-China talks, along with their discussions with the EU, serve as a building block for a multilateral treaty, say, on the lines of the 1960s-era Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? Furthermore, what is the particular Chinese interest in these talks? And where does AI sit within the larger scheme of China's technological advancement aspirations? To listen to these and other answers and insights on pressing U.S.-China AI policy questions, tune in to the event on April 10th.

Panelists



PAUL TRIOLO
Associate Partner for China and
Technology Policy Lead
Albright Stonebridge Group



Denis SIMON
Distinguished Fellow
Institute for China-America Studies

Moderator: **Sourabh GUPTA** - Senior Fellow & Head of Trade 'n Technology Program
(Institute for China-America Studies)

Welcoming Remarks: **Nong HONG** - Executive Director (Institute for China-America Studies)

RSVP: https://us06web.zoom.us/join/wn_Z8ZQuG1QSFStyuvv8ooCkg

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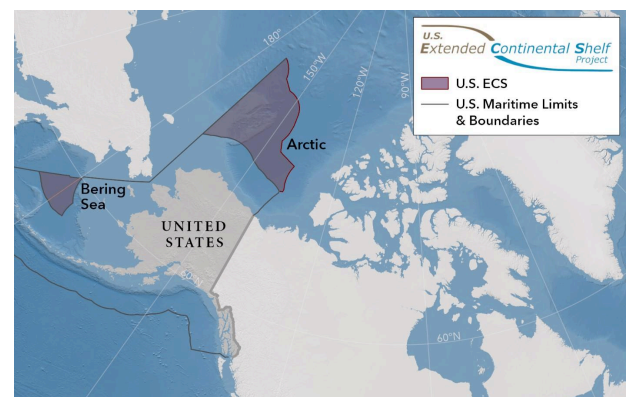
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---MAP Commentary---

Some Observations on the U.S. Announced Extended Continental Shelf Outer Limits

By Nong Hong
April 8, 2024

On December 19, 2023, the United States Department of State announced the outer limits of its continental shelf in areas beyond 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baselines, or extended continental shelf (ECS), in various coastal regions including the Arctic, Atlantic (east coast), Bering Sea, Pacific (west coast), Mariana Islands, and two areas in the Gulf of Mexico. The ECS Task Force, chaired by the Department of State, oversees the delineation of these



outer limits. The US Geological Survey (USGS) is responsible for collecting, processing, and interpreting seismic and geologic data, while the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) handles bathymetric data collection, processing, and analysis. This has sparked debates regarding whether the United States can bypass the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) to proceed with the delineation of its continental shelf limits...

[Link to Full Post](#)

---Upcoming MAP Event---

The United States and China's Global Maritime Relations: Inevitable Competition or Feasible Collaboration?

Thursday, April 18, 2024
10:00am - 11:30am EST

In-Person (Washington, DC) & Online (Zoom)

As science and technology continue to advance, the ocean, covering 71% of the Earth's surface, is undeniably assuming an increasingly vital role for humanity. Consequently, nations are diligently pursuing their respective maritime interests, revealing both commonalities and distinctions. The United States and China, widely recognized as major powers in contemporary international politics and prominent maritime nations, are increasingly focusing their attention on global maritime domains.

How do the maritime policies of China and the United States differ in terms of strategic objectives and priorities? What are the primary areas of competition between China and the United States in global maritime affairs? How do the maritime disputes, such as those in the South China Sea, impact the overall relations between China and the United States? Are there any ongoing cooperative efforts between China and the United States in global maritime security or environmental protection? What role do international law and institutions play in shaping the interactions between China and the United States in global maritime relations? How do the military doctrines and strategies of China and the United States intersect or diverge in the maritime domain?

In her new book *US-China Global Maritime Relations*, Dr. Nong Hong explores the U.S.-China maritime relationship within the global context and investigates six key maritime regions: the South China Sea, the Northeast Asia waters, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Through detailed observations, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of these regions and their significance in shaping the dynamics between the two nations.

This event will feature the author of *US-China Global Maritime Relations*, who will discuss the evolution and execution of maritime strategies pursued by both the United States and China. Moreover, three panelists will provide their insights on this subject, representing perspectives from the United States, China, and a third-party viewpoint.

[RSVP \(Online\)](#)

[RSVP \(In-Person\)](#)

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THE CHINA INSTITUTE
阿尔伯塔大学中国学院

The United States and China's Global Maritime Relations: Inevitable Competition or Feasible Collaboration?

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In-Person (Washington, DC) & Online (Zoom)

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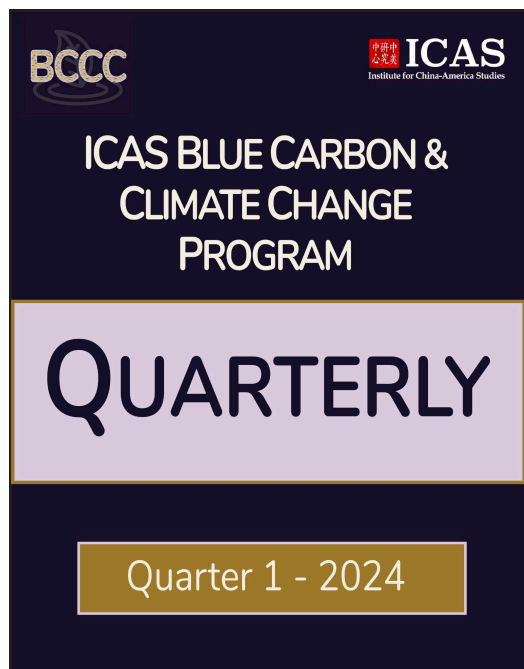
How do the maritime policies of China and the United States differ in terms of strategic objectives and priorities? What are the primary areas of competition between China and the United States in global maritime affairs? How do the maritime disputes, such as those in the South China Sea, impact the overall relations between China and the United States? Are there any ongoing cooperative efforts between China and the United States in global maritime security or environmental protection? What role do international law and institutions play in shaping the interactions between China and the United States in global maritime relations? How do the military doctrines and strategies of China and the United States intersect or diverge in the maritime domain?

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<p>Introduction</p> <p>Philippe RHEAULT Director The China Institute, University of Alberta</p>	<p>Book Talk</p> <p>Nong HONG Executive Director & Senior Fellow Institute for China-America Studies</p>
<p>Panelists</p>	
<p>Gregory POLING Director, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative Center for Strategic and International Studies</p>	<p>Dingli SHEN Professor Emeritus and Former Executive Dean, Institute of International Studies Fudan University</p>
<p>Gilang KEMBARA Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Nanyang Technological University</p>	

Learn More & RSVP: chinaus-icas.org/event/the-united-states-and-chinas-global-maritime-relations-inevitable-competition-or-feasible-collaboration/

---BCCC Quarterly Q1 Release---



Blue Carbon & Climate Change 2024 Q1 Has Been Released!

The first week of April, the ICAS Blue Carbon & Climate Change Program released its BCCC Quarterly newsletter for 2024 Q1. This issue features a 'Theme of the Quarter' on "Renewable Energy Storage" and a 'Blue Carbon Country Profile' on 'India.'

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.

[Explore & Share the BCCC Quarterly 2024 Q1 Issue](#)

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

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BCCC Quarterly (Q1 2024) - 1

Theme of the Quarter: Renewable Energy Storage

News Stories on Renewable Energy Storage

The Lithium Battery Industry is Facing a Bright but Volatile Future

Development in renewable energy requires the support of advanced energy storage technology, and in this rapidly developing field, batteries—especially lithium batteries—have come to represent the world's most sustainable, cutting-edge energy storage technology. Recent technological achievements, private investments, and policy support all indicate that the battery industry, in its role as an energy storage technology, still has a bright future and will continue to play a critical role in the global transition to renewable energy.

Chinese scientists have recently made major breakthroughs in battery technology. By developing a more powerful winter-proof lithium battery that can charge and operate at temperatures as low as minus 80 degrees Celsius, they have paved the way for high-capacity batteries capable of operating in extreme conditions. Such technological advances offer the opportunity to significantly increase the potential and reliability of batteries for electric vehicles and aviation, and also represent a leap in the ability to store and utilize energy more efficiently under extreme environmental conditions. Investors in other countries have also increased their investment in lithium battery materials in new ways, such as Massachusetts-based Ascend Elements that decided to invest an additional US\$162 million to build a new battery factory in the United States. The factory aims to fundamentally change the production of battery materials, aiming to make lithium batteries more environmentally sustainable through the use of new engineering materials. It hopes to significantly reduce the recycling costs and carbon emissions of lithium batteries. In addition,

some scholars predict that U.S. battery storage capacity will nearly double by the end of 2024. This expansion is mainly to cope with the excess power generated by the growing installed capacity of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy. The simultaneous growth of battery storage capacity provides a guarantee for the expansion of renewable energy, further boosting the development of renewable energy while ensuring a stable and reliable relationship between energy suppliers and energy consumers.¹



Affected by geopolitical tensions and strategic competitions, the landscape of the battery market and the development policies of different countries and companies are also constantly evolving. Nevertheless, the overall objective of accelerating the development of battery storage technology and capacity remains unchanged for all players. Despite the rising geopolitical tensions and increasingly complex and

¹ Employees working on a lithium batteries production line at a workshop in Nantong, China on February 29, 2024. (Source: Photo by STR/AFP via Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

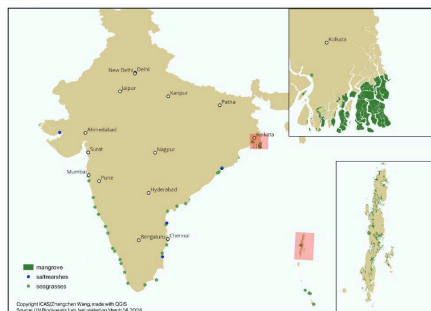
BCCC Quarterly (Q1 2024) - 20

Blue Carbon Country Profile: India

A. Potential of India in Blue Carbon Affairs

India's vast and diverse marine and coastal ecosystems provide the necessary conditions for the growth of blue carbon ecosystems along the country's coast. Blue carbon is also making significant contributions to India's goals of mitigating climate change and improving coastal resilience through carbon sequestration and ecological protection. At present, India's blue carbon is all found in traditional blue carbon ecosystems, mainly including mangroves, seagrasses, tidal marshes, and salt marshes, and are spread across its lengthy coastline of over 7,500 kilometers. The importance of blue carbon ecosystems also extends beyond their carbon capture capabilities. Blue carbon protects fishery and tourism resources and prevents coastlines from being damaged by natural disasters, playing an important role in supporting the livelihoods of coastal residents along the coastline of India. Moreover, blue carbon has effectively pushed forward India's progress towards achieving its commitment to net-zero emissions in 2070. The total carbon sequestration potential of India's coastal ecosystems is estimated to be around 700 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, accounting for approximately 22% of India's annual carbon emissions, with blue carbon accounting for a major portion of it.

- Amount of seagrass: 517 km² (2023)
- Amount of mangroves: 4991 km² (2023)
- Amount of salt and tidal marshes: 290-1398 km² (due to contradictions in estimates)
- Key Institutions of study on blue carbon: Advanced Centre for Biotechnology and Mangrove Forests of the Institute of Forest Biodiversity
- Key regions of interest: Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, Pichavaram Mangrove Forest, Andaman and Nicobar Islands⁴



⁴ Point and polygon data of blue carbon ecosystems in India. Copyright ICAS/Zhangchen Wang, 2024, made with QGIS. (Source: UN Biodiversity Lab)

---BCCC Commentary---

The dynamic transition to clean hydrogen requires temporary compromises

By Zhangchen Wang

March 29, 2024

As the lightest and most abundant element in the universe, hydrogen plays a crucial role across a wide range of applications. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), hydrogen serves various industrial purposes, including in the production of fertilizers, serving as a fuel in metal smelting and electricity generation, and functioning as a reactant or catalyst in the manufacture of various chemicals. For sustainable development purposes, the biggest significance and advantages of hydrogen include its roles as a clean energy source and an efficient energy storage carrier. Nevertheless, according to 2021 data, the global production of hydrogen is still limited with only about 75 million tons per year. This level of production is sufficient just for existing industrial demands and falls short of making a significant impact in carbon reduction efforts...

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Friday, April 5, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the current global economic outlook on CGTN America's *The Heat*.

- "Frankly, Mr. Modi's record on anti-poverty is not terribly good. I mean, a lot of people—because of COVID, because of other emergencies—have fallen back in poverty and actually have had to go back to the farm. But Mr. Modi runs a very sophisticated political machine...there's so much accomplished related to his nationalist economic agenda, and for that I think he will get rewarded..."

On Monday, April 1, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *China Daily* on Chinese EVs and Treasury Secretary Yellen's speech on excess capacity in China's EV sector.

- "Even more impressive than the provision of these large-volume, low-price green products is the Chinese government's resolve to stand behind and support the creation of markets at scale for these products, such that many renewables and green products are cost-competitive today..."
- "China is moving away from that overinvestment model, but the level of domestic savings remains excessively high. As such, there are understandable fears that these savings (and domestic underconsumption) will macroeconomically manifest themselves in the form of domestic overproduction dumped overseas in export markets."

On Thursday, March 28, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) China's ties with the Global South on the occasion of the Boao Forum on CGTN's *The Point with Liu Xin*.

- "This is a continuation of China's outreach to the Global South and the Global South's outreach to China...there is not just one pathway to modernization and China has blazed a trail in terms of its own pathway to modernization..."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

April 24, 2024

What's Going On? ↓

Voices from the Biden Administration Continue to Exacerbate Nerves



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event at Martin Luther King Recreation Center on April 18, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. U.S.

President Joe Biden is on a multi-city tour of the battleground state of Pennsylvania where he renewed calls to increase taxes on wealthy Americans and large corporations. (Source: Photo by Drew Hallowell/Getty Images)

- Head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command John Aquilino, speaking to reporters in Tokyo, says "there's a conscious decision to fund military capability" in spite of China's "drastically" reduced economy, which is "concerning."
- Rahul Gupta, director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, called for "rigorous, independent investigations" into how 23 Chinese swimmers were cleared in spite of testing positive for a banned drug.
- U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said the chip powering Huawei's Mate 60 Pro phone is not as advanced as U.S.-made chips, arguing that it shows the U.S. limitations on Huawei since 2019 have been effective.
- President Joe Biden called China "xenophobic" and its trade practices "cheating" as he highlighted China's economic difficulties when addressing at a campaign rally in Pittsburgh on April 17. The President also called for tripling tariffs on some of China's steel and aluminum imports in his remarks.
- Speaking at a conference at Vanderbilt University,

Top Level, Direct U.S.-China Communication Continues



From left to right: U.S. Ambassador to China R. Nicholas Burns, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink, and National Security Council Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs Sarah Beran. (Source: Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, public domain)

- From April 24-26, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to China to discuss issues related to the Russian-Ukraine war, the Middle East conflict, emerging technologies, cross-strait issues, and the South China Sea.
- Meanwhile, a Chinese foreign ministry official said that U.S.-China relations are stabilizing despite U.S. actions harming Chinese interests and the "bottom line."
- During his trip, Secretary Blinken is also expected to address the actions China must take for the State Department to downgrade its Level 3 travel warning, which has inhibited people-to-people ties in general.
- According to Capitol Hill staffers, Chinese Embassy diplomats have been holding meetings with congressional staff to lobby against the legislation that would force a sale of TikTok, which is owned by a Beijing-based company.
- U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun held the first bilateral communication between U.S. and Chinese heads of defense in 18 months, which addressed freedom of

Director of the U.S. National Security Agency Timothy Haugh said the case of infrastructure intrusions by Volt Typhoon, a Chinese network of cyber hackers, is “an example of how China has approached establishing access to put things under threat” and sends “a pretty clear signal of how they would use cyberspace in a crisis.”

- On April 16, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said that the administration is “taking a serious look at our existing tools” in addressing the U.S. dependencies and vulnerabilities in multiple sectors *vis-à-vis* China, during her annual hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee on the president’s 2024 trade policy agenda.

Associated News Sources:

[“China’s Economy Is ‘Failing,’ U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Says,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 23 [Paywall]

[“Top Biden Official Calls for Inquiry Into Chinese Doping Case,”](#) *The New York Times*, April 22 [Paywall]

[“US commerce secretary downplays chip in advanced Huawei phone,”](#) *Reuters*, April 22

[“Biden Calls China ‘Xenophobic’ as He Ramps Up Campaign Rhetoric,”](#) *Time*, April 18

[“Biden calls for tripling tariffs on Chinese metals,”](#) *BBC*, April 17

[“China Could Threaten Critical Infrastructure in a Conflict, N.S.A. Chief Says,”](#) *The New York Times*, April 17 [Paywall]

[“Tensions flare between Tai, GOP at Ways & Means trade hearing,”](#) *Inside U.S. Trade*, April 16 [Paywall]

navigation, Russia-Ukraine War, North Korea, and the U.S. commitment to the “long-standing one China policy.”

- Under the new agreement on countering money laundering, the U.S. Treasury Department and People’s Bank of China held the first meeting on April 16 discussing two countries’ approach to crypto currency, financial technology regulation and enforcement. The two sides expect to hold virtual meetings every quarter.

- From April 14-16, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink and National Security Council Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs Sarah Beran met officials in Beijing, including Foreign Vice-Minister Ma Zhaoxu. Both sides underlined the importance of “open communication to responsibly manage competition,” “manage areas of difference,” and “reduce the risk of mismanagement.”

Associated News Sources:

[“Blinken returns to China amid ongoing tensions, with no breakthrough expected,”](#) *Voice of America*, April 23

[“China-US relations stable despite US ‘interference’,”](#) *Chinese official says,”* *Reuters*, April 23

[“Blinken to raise risks for American travelers on trip to Beijing,”](#) *The Hill*, April 22

[“Chinese diplomats are quietly meeting with Hill staffers about TikTok,”](#) *Politico*, April 17

[“After chilly silence, US SecDef, China defense minister hold first talks,”](#) *Breaking Defense*, April 16

[“U.S., China to Cooperate in the Fight Against Dirty Money,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 16 [Paywall]

[“Senior US diplomats hold ‘frank and constructive’ talks with Chinese officials,”](#) *MSN*, April 15

Beijing Gives a Rare String of Direct Policy Responses



China's Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yadong attends a regular press conference on February 22, 2024 in Beijing, China.

(Credit: Photo by Zhao Jun/China News Service/VCG via Getty Images)

- On April 19, Apple said it pulled WhatsApp, Threads, Signal and Telegram from the App Store in China after the

Washington Evaluating Beijing’s Activities in Spheres of Conflict



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- The U.S. is considering imposing sanctions on Chinese banks to prevent China from aiding Russia’s military

Cyberspace Administration of China ordered the apps to be removed "based on national security concerns."

- On April 19, one day after China openly objected to the U.S. increasing tariffs and vowed to take necessary protective measures, China's Ministry of Commerce announced that imports of propionic acid from the U.S. would be subject to a levy of 43.5%.
- On April 18, Beijing officials denounced a U.S. probe into China's shipbuilding industry, calling the investigation a politically driven move full of "false accusations" that "goes against economic common sense."
- China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has directed its largest telecom carriers to phase out foreign processors by 2027 in a move that is expected to heavily impact American chip giants.
- On April 11, China announced sanctions against two U.S. defense companies over "arms sales to China's Taiwan region [that] seriously violate the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-U.S. joint communiqués."

Associated News Sources:

["Apple pulls WhatsApp and Threads from App Store on Beijing's orders,"](#) *Voice of America*, April 21
["China slaps anti-dumping levy on import of a US chemical amid rising trade tensions,"](#) *Reuters*, April 19
["China Calls Accusations 'Untenable' in Response to US Shipbuilding Inquiry,"](#) *The Maritime Executive*, April 18
["China Tells Telecom Carriers to Phase Out Foreign Chips in Blow to Intel, AMD,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 12 [Paywall]
["China sanctions 2 US defense companies and says they support arms sales to Taiwan,"](#) *AP*, April 11

activities, which would also disrupt the strengthening trade relations between China and Russia.

- At the G7 foreign ministers meeting in Capri, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed that China cannot seek good relations with Europe while simultaneously enhancing Moscow's ability to counter European interests.
- U.S. officials continue to accuse China of aiding Russia's military activity in the Ukraine conflict by offering drones, satellite imagery, and other military supplies. China denies the accusations and opposes third-party interference in China-Russia trade relations.
- U.S. and European diplomats are actively urging China to influence Iran to avoid a direct military response against Israel as the regional tension continues to escalate.
- A deep space tracking station in Argentina, located on a tract of land that has been leased to China for 50 years starting in 2014, has been brought to the attention of U.S. officials who hold suspicions over the base's military applications as the Chinese agency managing the station reports to the People's Liberation Army.

Associated News Sources:

["U.S. Takes Aim at Chinese Banks Aiding Russia War Effort,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 23 [Paywall]
["Rough Seas for Blinken and Co. as Israel, Iran and Ukraine Cloud G7 Meeting,"](#) *The New York Times*, April 19 [Paywall]
["US says China is boosting Russia's war machine in Ukraine,"](#) *The Business Standard*, April 13
["The West urges China to intervene with Iran amid fears of a direct attack on Israel,"](#) *CNBC*, April 12
["Argentina caught between US and China in battle over Beijing space base,"](#) *The Times*, April 10 [Paywall]

Attention on Shifting Global Finance and Sinuous Trade Flows



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- A *Reuters* review found that, even after the November 17 expanded embargo on advanced artificial intelligence

- In Other News -



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- ["US business group says policy 'inconsistency' hurting China investment,"](#) *Financial Times*, April 23 [Paywall]

Nvidia chips, Chinese universities and researchers are still able to obtain the chips through resellers.

- According to research firm Counterpoint, in the first quarter of 2024, Apple's iPhone sales fell 19% on year as Huawei sales simultaneously rose 70% on year.

- A new International Monetary Fund report warns that the surge in U.S. and China debts could have a "profound" impact on the global economy and the interest rates paid by other countries.

- An increasing number of Japanese companies across many sectors are showing interest in, and following through on, expanding manufacturing in the U.S. due to concerns over China's demand and Beijing's influence.

- For the first time since 2003, the U.S. has overtaken Mainland China as the top export market of Taiwanese products, with exports to the U.S. increasing 65.7% year-on-year in March compared to a 6% increase to Mainland China.

- New numbers from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that China's consumer prices are barely increasing while U.S. numbers are improving, which could lead to a notable and lengthy gap and place pressure on the Chinese yuan.

Associated News Sources:

["Exclusive-China acquired recently banned Nvidia chips in Super Micro, Dell servers, tenders show,"](#) Reuters, April 23

["Apple iPhone Sales Slump in China Amid Huawei's Comeback,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, April 23 [Paywall]

["IMF says US, China debt pose risks for global public finances,"](#) The Business Times, April 18

["Japan Inc makes a renewed U.S. push as China fears mount,"](#) Reuters, April 17

["US Overtakes China As Taiwan's Biggest Export Market For The First Time In Over 20 Years,"](#) Bezinga, April 11

["China Inflation Stalls as US Speeds, Adding to Pressure on Yuan,"](#) Bloomberg, April 11 [Paywall]

["Taiwan to discuss new funding with US as Chinese warplanes get close to island,"](#) Reuters, April 21

["As Washington Keeps China at Arm's Length, California Offers a Giant Panda Hug,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, April 21 [Paywall]

["House approves sell-or-be-banned TikTok measure, attaching it to foreign aid bill,"](#) NPR, April 20

["Chinese Auto Tech Should Be Banned at US Bases, Lawmakers Say,"](#) Bloomberg, April 18 [Paywall]

["Wall Street Steered Billions to Blacklisted Chinese Companies, House Probe Finds,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, April 18 [Paywall]

["U.S. Navy flies aircraft through the Taiwan Strait a day after U.S.-China defense chiefs hold rare talks,"](#) NBC News, April 17

["China's government is helping fuel the U.S. fentanyl crisis, House panel reveals,"](#) Axios, April 16

["Tesla's global job cuts include leading markets US, China,"](#) Market Screener, April 16

["US airlines ask Biden administration to block additional flights to China,"](#) CNN, April 12

["Biden urged to ban China-made electric vehicles,"](#) BBC, April 12

["Blizzard games are returning to China this summer,"](#) Yahoo! News, April 10

["Biden and Kishida forge new partnership, eyeing China and Russia,"](#) Reuters, April 10

What Are We Reading?

- *Rest of World:* ["TSMC's debacle in the American desert"](#) by Viola Zhou (April 23, 2024)
- *Foreign Affairs:* ["China's Alternative Order: And What America Should Learn From It"](#) by Elizabeth Economy (April 23, 2024) [Paywall]
- *AP:* ["As Blinken heads to China, these are the major divides he will try to bridge"](#) by Matthew Lee (April 23, 2024)
- *South China Morning Post:* ["Cross-border synergy with China can help US more quickly adopt EVs"](#) by Winston Mok (April 23, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg:* ["America's Clean Tech Withers Even as Imports Are Blocked"](#) by David Fickling (April 21, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China:* ["The Fentanyl Fix"](#) by Katrina Northrop (April 21, 2024) [Paywall]

- *Foreign Policy*: [“How Much Leverage Does China Really Have Over Iran?”](#) by Christina Lu (April 19, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Chinese Exports Are Threatening Biden’s Industrial Agenda”](#) by Jim Tankersley and Alan Rappeport (April 18, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“The White House Has a New Trade Weapon Against China”](#) by Liam Denning (April 18, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“Biden’s polite Trumpism on China”](#) by Edward Luce (April 17, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“Why US and China Compete for Influence With Pacific Island Nations”](#) by Ben Westcott (April 16, 2024) [Paywall]
- Brookings: [“The limits of renewed US-China counternarcotics cooperation”](#) by Vanda Felbab-Brown (April 16, 2024)
- Brookings: [“Should the United States change its policies toward Taiwan?”](#) by Michael O’Hanlon, et al. (April 16, 2024)
- *The Economist*: [“America hits Chinese biotech—and its own drugmakers”](#) (April 15, 2024) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Research for Sale: How Chinese Money Flows to American Universities”](#) by James Areddy (April 15, 2024) [Paywall]
- AP: [“Far fewer young Americans now want to study in China. Both countries are trying to fix that”](#) by Didi Tang and Dake Kang (April 13, 2024)
- *The New York Times*: [“China Feels Boxed In by the U.S. but Has Few Ways to Push Back”](#) by David Pierson and Olivia Wang (April 12, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“America’s Flailing Industrial Policy Can Take Lessons From China”](#) by Bob Davis (April 11, 2024) [Paywall]
- *Reuters*: [“What overcapacity? China says its industries are simply more competitive”](#) by Marius Zaharia, et al. (April 11, 2024)
- *The Washington Post*: [“A drone factory in Utah is at the epicenter of anti-China fervor”](#) by Eva Dou (April 11, 2024) [Paywall]
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute: [“How to prevent a war over Taiwan”](#) by Joseph Nye (April 10, 2024)

What’s Happening Around Town?

- Past Events -

- [Hearing on “China and the Middle East”](#)
April 17 hearing by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [New Cold Wars: China’s Rise, Russia’s Invasion, and America’s Struggle to Defend the West](#)
April 17 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Green Alliances: Cultivating US and Chinese Climate Leadership on Food and Agriculture](#)
April 16 hosted by Wilson Center & U.S. Heartland China Association
- [Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act – Part I](#)
April 12 hosted by Foreign Policy Research Institute
- [Chips and the China Threat](#)
April 11 hosted by Hudson Institute

- Upcoming Events -

- [Should the United States change its policies around Taiwan?](#)
April 25 hosted by University of Minnesota China Center & Brookings Institute
- [Reuters NEXT Newsmaker Interview: Janet Yellen](#)
April 25 hosted by Reuters
- [Beyond China’s Black Box: Trends Shaping China’s Foreign and Security Policy Decision-Making under Xi Jinping](#)
April 30 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [World Stage China: Dmitri Alperovitch](#)
April 30 hosted by *The Washington Post*

What ICAS Is Up To

---Past TnT Program Event---



The United States, China and AI: What Does Cooperation Look Like Wednesday, April 10, 2024 Virtual (Zoom)

On April 10, 2024, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) hosted a virtual public event to discuss U.S.-China cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (AI) amid their race for supremacy in cutting-edge technologies. The event featured two panelists: Mr. Paul Triolo, Associate Partner for China and Technology Policy Lead at the Albright Stonebridge Group and Dr. Denis Simon, a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies and a recognized expert on U.S-China science and technology issues. The

panelists were introduced by Dr. Hong Nong, Executive Director of ICAS, and Mr. Sourabh Gupta, Head of ICAS' Trade & Technology Program, moderated the discussion.

The panelists were of the same view that artificial intelligence (AI), as embodied particularly in its next-generation form of Generative AI, is a technology of immense transformative potential; it is also a technology that could embody significant harms—be it in the sphere of disinformation, cybersecurity, or in terms of military applications...

[Watch the Event](#)

[Learn More & Read the Summary](#)

---Past MAP Event---

The United States and China's Global Maritime Relations: Inevitable Competition or Feasible Collaboration?

Thursday, April 18, 2024

In-Person (Washington, DC) & Online (Zoom)

On April 18, 2024, the Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) and The China Institute at the University of Alberta co-hosted a hybrid book talk and panel discussion on Dr. Nong Hong's new book *US-China Global Maritime Relations* (Routledge 2024) which explores the U.S.-China maritime relationship within the global context and investigates six key maritime regions: the South China Sea, the Northeast Asia waters, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic regions.



The event was moderated by Mr. Philippe Rheault, Director of The China Institute. The book talk also featured three panelists who shared their respective perspectives on these critical issues: Mr. Gregory Poling, Director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Dr. Dingli Shen, Professor Emeritus and Former Executive Dean at the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University, and Mr. Gilang Kembara, Research Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

[Watch the Event](#)

[Learn More](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Research Associate Yilun Zhang [discussed](#) Secretary Antony Blinken's upcoming trip to China on *TRT World*.

- "There's a shared understanding that both sides want to avoid war."
- "Both sides have resumed military to military dialogues and there is actually a lot of progress."

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in *South China Morning Post* on the rare call between the U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs.

- "Unsafe encounters are down, and I fully expect an in-person meeting between the two heads on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue later this summer."
- "In a year of election polemics, I suspect the Chinese side would like to keep communications channels open and the conversation going...And with a new Taiwanese president soon to be sworn in, the US would prefer less than more drama in the strait. The South China Sea is already lit up enough."

On Sunday, April 14, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) in *South China Morning Post* on U.S. and China public relations related to the conflict in Gaza.

- "In the absence of an iota of fairness in Washington's approach, [Beijing] will simply sit back and milk the public relations gain on the Arab Street."
- "On the other hand, given its modest political influence in the Middle East, China can hardly play the role of peacemaker that it has lately sought to project itself as – or even be part of the solution to many of the pressing challenges in the region."

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, Research Associate Yilun Zhang was [quoted](#) in *South China Morning Post* on Japan's potential role in AUKUS.

- "As the US continues to push for closer security cooperation with Japan, Tokyo and Beijing need to figure out new opportunities to deepen their economic ties to balance out the negative impact of Japan-US cooperation."

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) Japanese Prime Minister Kishida's state visit to the U.S. on *CGTN America's The Heat*.

- "I think the two countries want to project that they are one when it comes to maintaining deterrence in the Asia-Pacific or in the Indo-Pacific region, and that they are ready to maintain deterrence, particularly in what they term is 'The China Challenge.'"
- "What stood out to me was the underwhelming nature of the outcomes..."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

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What's Going On?

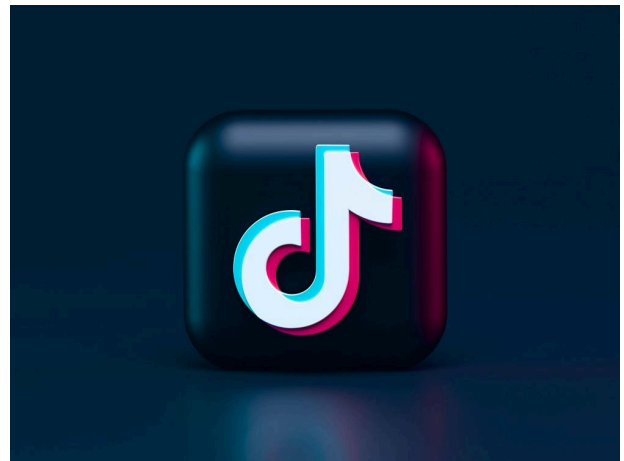
Eyes on Secretary Blinken in a Late-April Visit to Shanghai and Beijing



Secretary of State Antony Blinken holds a meet and greet with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns (center) at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, China on April 25, 2024. (Official State Department photo by Chuck Kennedy, Public Domain)

- At the end of April, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Shanghai and Beijing for three days, meeting with several Chinese officials as well as American citizens in his second visit to the country in less than a year.
- On April 26, Blinken met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing to discuss a lengthy list of timely and contentious topics—including Russia's military support from China—emphasizing to President Xi that the U.S. is "committed to maintaining and strengthening lines of communication" to prevent "any miscommunications, any misperceptions and any miscalculations."
- President Xi, among other remarks, told Blinken that the U.S. inability to accept China's development "in a positive light" is a "fundamental issue" that needs to be addressed. President Xi also noted the positive progress made since last November and how the U.S. and China "should be partners, not rivals."
- Blinken also met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi for five and a half hours, during which Wang Yi noted

Chatter Abounds After Congress Clears U.S. Domestic 'Ban-or-Sell' TikTok Bill



(Source: UnSplash)

- Despite legislative movement in the U.S. and its own protective measures against Chinese technology, officials in Europe are not looking to apply a blanket TikTok ban, which one called "quite American," as they have their Digital Services Act and other methods to address their situation.
- As the pile of lawsuits accusing social media platforms—such as TikTok—of addicting American youth continues to grow, along with accusations of differing levels of protections based on country, TikTok's Beijing-based owner ByteDance is reportedly not sharing information with U.S. lawyers on the basis that such information is irrelevant to their cases.
- 58% of the responders to a two-day *Reuters/Ipsos* poll agreed with a statement that the Chinese government uses TikTok to "influence American public opinion" while 13% disagreed and the remainder were either unsure or did not respond.
- On April 24, U.S. President Joe Biden signed a foreign aid package into law that included a long-debated bill

U.S.-China relations is “beginning to stabilize” but negativity and “disruptions” are still growing and interfering. Both sides expressed a desire to be clear and direct about their countries’ stances on relevant issues.

- Secretary Blinken also met with members of the U.S. business and university communities in Shanghai, spent time at a basketball game, and explored the city with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns.

Associated News Sources:

[“In Beijing, Blinken and Xi stress need for continued U.S.-China dialogue to avoid ‘any miscommunications.’”](#)

CBS News, April 26

[“China’s Xi says the U.S. needs to accept Beijing’s rise for bilateral relations to improve.”](#) CNBC, April 26

[“China warns US not to step on its ‘red lines.’”](#) BBC, April 26

[“Xi tells Blinken that China and the US should be ‘partners, not rivals.’”](#) France 24, April 26

[“Blinken meets with Xi as U.S. objects to China’s support of Russia.”](#) Axios, April 26

[“Xi Warns Blinken Against ‘Vicious Competition’ Between US, China.”](#) Bloomberg, April 25 [Paywall]

giving TikTok’s owner ByteDance one year to sell TikTok or have the app be banned from operating within the U.S. on the grounds of protecting U.S. user data and national security.

- ByteDance denied foreign media reports that the company was looking to sell TikTok, clarifying that there are no such plans.

Associated News Sources:

[“Europe is nowhere close to banning TikTok,”](#) Politico, May 3

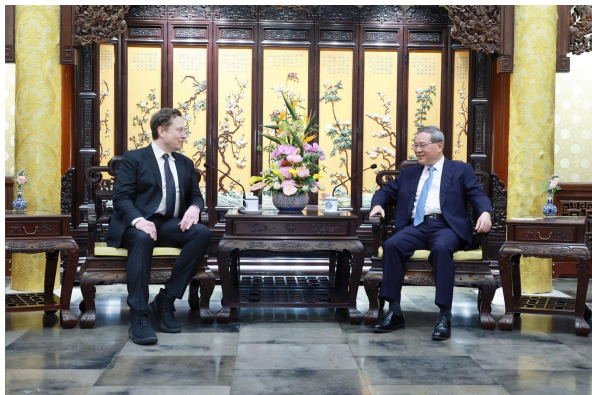
[“TikTok Fights to Keep China Platform Out of US Addiction Suits,”](#) Bloomberg, May 2 [Paywall]

[“Most Americans see TikTok as a Chinese influence tool, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds,”](#) Reuters, May 1

[“Here’s more details about the access ByteDance had to U.S. TikTok user data,”](#) Fortune, April 30 [Paywall]

[“ByteDance says it won’t sell TikTok business in US,”](#) The Hill, April 26

The U.S.-China Electric Vehicles Market: Collaborating or Competing?



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Elon Musk, CEO of the U.S. electric carmaker Tesla, in Beijing, capital of China, April 28, 2024.
(Photo by Wang Ye/Xinhua via Getty Images)

- Chinese EV makers Nio and BYD have made a deal to source batteries for a new, lower-priced EV brand, to be called “Onvo” in English and “Ledao” in Chinese, which is designed to directly compete with Tesla’s Model Y.
- Tesla CEO Elon Musk made an unannounced visit to Beijing, during which he met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and gained approval from local authorities for Tesla cars regarding Chinese data security rules.
- During Musk’s visit Tesla’s ‘Full Self-Driving’ technology also received backing and Tesla and Chinese search engine Baidu agreed to partner on

The U.S. 2024 Presidential Election Bleeding into U.S.-China Relations



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on March 20, 2024 at the Intel Ocotillo Campus in Chandler, Arizona, announcing CHIPS and Science Act grants to Intel to expand U.S. semiconductor production.
(Official White House Photo by Adam Schultz, Public Domain)

- Speaking at a campaign fundraising event in Washington, D.C., President Joe Biden called China, Japan and Russia “xenophobic” countries, reflecting similar remarks he made last month in reference to China’s unwillingness to accept immigration.
- Speaking in an exclusive interview with Fox, former president and presumptive presidential candidate Donald Trump talked several times about how “China is taking all our business” and that “it’s got to be stopped.”
- A group of seven Senate Democrats sent a letter to

developing mapping and navigation systems for Tesla's autonomous driving system, though other Chinese automakers are keeping competition hot.

- Leaders at U.S.-based General Motors (GM) continue to say GM is "committed to China" over the long term in spite of major shifts in consumer sentiment and local competition.

- Two Chinese automobile firms—self-driving firm Momenta and Geely-owned Zeekr—have filed to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

- A group of graphite miners are asking Washington to impose a 25% tariff on three China-sourced graphite products used in automobile batteries.

Associated News Sources:

["Exclusive: China's Nio turns to rival BYD to power new EV brand."](#) Reuters, May 7

["Tesla Faces Strong Self-Driving Rivals in China."](#) The Wall Street Journal, May 7 [Paywall]

["U.S. automakers like GM are rapidly losing ground in China, once an engine for growth."](#) CNBC, May 6

["GM-Backed Self-Driving Firm Momenta Said to File for IPO in US."](#) Bloomberg, May 6 [Paywall]

["A Tesla rival in China is eyeing a \\$5 billion IPO in the U.S."](#) Quartz, May 6

["Graphite miners lobby US govt to impose levy on China-sourced EV material."](#) Reuters, April 30

["Musk makes surprise visit to Beijing as Tesla's China-made cars pass data security rules."](#) CNBC, April 29

President Biden urging him to raise tariffs on China, arguing that "any reduction...allows China to gain a competitive advantage over hardworking Americans."

- The newly-restructured House select committee on U.S.-China competition is closely examining China's use of "discourse warfare," or propaganda, especially as it relates to foreign elections.

- In an interview following his three-day trip to China, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. has seen "evidence of attempts [by China] to influence and arguably interfere" with the U.S. election, which breaks a commitment made by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Associated News Sources:

["Biden Says Japan 'Xenophobic' Along With China, Russia,"](#) Bloomberg, May 3 [Paywall]

["Exclusive: Donald Trump's claims on abortions, Biden policies, China,"](#) Fox 2 Detroit, May 2

["Schumer, at-risk Dems ask Biden to hike tariffs on China,"](#) Politico, May 1

["China committee eyes supply chain, biotech as Moolenaar takes helm,"](#) Roll Call, April 30

["Blinken tells CNN the US has seen evidence of China attempting to influence upcoming US elections,"](#) CNN, April 26

Other U.S. Private Sector Shifts Within the China Market



A large Starbucks logo posted on the side of a building in Yangpu District, Shanghai, China, taken in April 2024. (Credit: Declan Sun via Unsplash)

- After losing ground with its core customer base in the U.S., Starbucks sets its eyes on expanding in China, reportedly planning to open stores at an average of one every nine hours through 2025.

- Apple announces a problematic 4% drop in sales in the

- In Other News -



A panda lounging in a tree at the San Diego Zoo in December 2014. (Credit: MattCC716 via Flickr, CC2.0)

["China's climate envoy to visit Washington this week, the State Department says."](#) Reuters, May 7

["China's cheating threatens to wreck Paris Olympics, US anti-drugs chief says."](#) Politico, May 6

["New US strategy looks to blunt Russian and Chinese](#)

first quarter of 2024, with that percentage doubling in China during the same time period amidst a resurgence in popularity from its Chinese competitor Huawei.

- On May 2, U.S. law firm Mayer Brown announced plans to separate from its current Hong Kong operations and then form a new partnership "to continue its presence in Hong Kong with a practice that aligns with our strategic priorities."

- U.S. fast food chain McDonald's announced plans to nearly double its number of locations in China to more than 10,000 by the end of 2028 as it continues to release regional-specific menu items and create unique store features to draw Chinese customers away from its China-based competitors such as Tastien.

Associated News Sources:

["Starbucks Is Running Out of Americans to Drink Its Expensive Coffee,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, May 3 [Paywall]

["Apple Reports Decline in Sales and Profit Amid iPhone Struggles in China,"](#) *The New York Times*, May 2 [Paywall]

["US law firm Mayer Brown to split from Hong Kong partnership,"](#) *Reuters*, May 2

["McDonald's Supersizes China Bet as Corporate America Pulls Back,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, April 29 [Paywall]

[influence in cyberspace,"](#) *CNN*, May 6

["Blinken: US delivering for Pacific islands despite China's reach,"](#) *Voice of America*, May 4

["New US-Backed Defense 'Squad' to Counter China in Indo-Pacific,"](#) *Bloomberg*, May 3 [Paywall]

["U.S. officials wary of Chinese plans for floating nuclear plants,"](#) *The Washington Post*, May 2 [Paywall]

["US, Philippines Eye Agreement to Cut China Nickel Dominance,"](#) *Bloomberg*, May 1 [Paywall]

["Binance crypto boss Changpeng Zhao sentenced to 4 months in prison,"](#) *BBC*, May 1

["US imposes sanctions on more than a dozen companies in China for support of Russia's war in Ukraine,"](#) *CNN*, May 1

["US labor official calls on companies to exit China's Xinjiang,"](#) *Reuters*, April 30

["San Diego Zoo will receive two new giant pandas from China after nearly all pandas in U.S. were returned,"](#) *CBS News*, April 29

["Chinese professors warn of 'culture of fear' in Florida after DeSantis' hiring restrictions,"](#) *Politico*, April 29

["US Creates Team to Counter China's Trade 'Coercion' Tactics,"](#) *Bloomberg*, April 28 [Paywall]

["Key Solar Panel Ingredient Is Made in the U.S.A. Again,"](#) *The New York Times*, April 25 [Paywall]

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Foreign Affairs*: ["America's China Strategy Has a Credibility Problem"](#) by Emily Kilcrease (May 7) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: ["Washington Keeps Choosing the Wrong Moment to Challenge China"](#) by Andrei Lungu (May 6) [Paywall]
- *NPR*: ["China makes cheap electric vehicles. Why can't American shoppers buy them?"](#) by Camila Domonoske (May 6)
- *The Wire China*: ["U.S. Big Tech in China: Too Big to Bail"](#) by Ngor Luong, Sam Bresnick and Kathleen Curlee (May 5) [Paywall]
- *Business Insider*: ["China has a lot more missiles – with US warships and bases in its sights"](#) by Chris Panella (May 4)
- *Financial Times*: ["Can Elon Musk's Tesla keep straddling the US and China?"](#) by Edward White, Stephen Morris and Peter Campbell (May 3) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["How China Sees U.S. Campus Protests"](#) by Liyan Qi (May 3) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: ["The dangerous new call for regime change in Beijing"](#) by Fareed Zakaria (May 3) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: ["China Has 350 Warships. The US Has 290. That's a Problem."](#) by James Stavridis (May 1) [Paywall]
- *Pew Research Center*: ["Americans Remain Critical of China"](#) by Christine Huang, Laura Silver and Laura Clancy (May 1)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Beijing Braces for a Rematch of Trump vs. China"](#) by Lingling Wei (May 1) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: ["How China's ruling party fuels the U.S. fentanyl crisis"](#) by Mike Gallagher and Raja Krishnamoorthi (May 1) [Paywall]

- *The Washington Post*: [“Is Bougainville the next battleground between China and the U.S.?”](#) by Michael Miller (May 1) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“Legacy Chip Overcapacity in China: Myth and Reality”](#) by Paul Triolo (April 30)
- Center for a New American Security: [“Beyond China's Black Box”](#) by Jacob Stokes (April 30)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“How Washington Should Manage Rising Middle Powers”](#) by Christopher Chivvis and Beatrix Geaghan-Breiner (April 30) [Paywall]
- *Semafor*: [“AI in Africa opens up new battlefield for China, US”](#) by Martin K.N Siele (April 30)
- United States Institute of Peace: [“Blinken's China Trip Shows Both Sides Want to Stabilize Ties”](#) by Rosie Levine, Carla Freeman and Andrew Scobell (April 30)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“China Has Crossed Biden's Red Line on Ukraine”](#) by Matt Pottinger (April 30) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“TikTok, Tesla Show US-China Battle Over Data Is Just Beginning”](#) by Sarah Zheng and Josh Xiao (April 29) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“Xi Is on a Mission to Drive a Wedge Between US and Europe”](#) (April 29) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“China's problem is excess savings, not too much capacity”](#) by Michael Pettis (April 29) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“How to Bridge the Transatlantic Gap on China”](#) by Andrew Caine (April 28) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“A Chinese Firm Is America's Favorite Drone Maker. Except in Washington.”](#) by Kate Kelly (April 26) [Paywall]

What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [Policy Matters: Congress's Role in Countering China](#)
May 7 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Made in China: When US-China Interests Converged to Transform Global Trade](#)
May 6 hosted by Wilson Center
- [World Stage China: Dmitri Alperovitch](#)
April 30 hosted by *The Washington Post*
- [Beyond China's Black Box: Trends Shaping China's Foreign and Security Policy Decision-Making under Xi Jinping](#)
April 30 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [Exposing the PRC's Distortion of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 to Press its Claim Over Taiwan](#)
April 29 hosted by The German Marshall Fund of the United States
- [Reuters NEXT Newsmaker Interview: Janet Yellen](#)
April 25 hosted by Reuters

- Upcoming Events -

- [Two years into the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy: A conversation with Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink](#)
May 14 hosted by Brookings
- [The Pernicious Impact of China's Anti-Secession Law](#)
May 15 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Redefining Multilateralism: Shaping the Future of Global Governance](#)
May 17 hosted by *Foreign Policy* and United Nations University
- [Can China offer a real alternative to liberal democracy?](#)
May 22 hosted by Brookings
- [The Senate Perspective on the US-China Rivalry with Bill Hagerty](#)
May 23 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2024](#)
June 3 hosted by Wilson Center

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---MAP Commentary---



Rivalries aside, it's vital for US and Chinese navies to keep talking

By Nong Hong
April 30, 2024

April 23 marked the 75th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in China, celebrated with various activities showcasing its achievements, capabilities and contributions to national defence and maritime security...

...The 19th Western Pacific Naval Symposium provided a good example of a forum for dialogue and cooperation among naval officials from diverse nations, including the US and China.

[Continue Reading](#)

This commentary was [originally](#) released by South China Morning Post on April 30, 2024.

---TnT Commentary---

Rebooting China's High-Quality Growth and Development

By Sourabh Gupta
April 30, 2024

With China's post-COVID economy slow-to-attain takeoff velocity, Western detractors have been quick to pour scorn on China's near and longer-term growth prospects. Much like the overstated growth prospects of 1950s Soviet Union and 1980s Japan, China's prospects have been greatly exaggerated...

[Continue Reading](#)

This commentary was [originally](#) released by China-US Focus on April 30, 2024.

---Commentary---

US must Cooperate with China, Lone Ranger Mentality Outdated

By Denis Simon
April 28, 2024

Recently, several senior American officials visited China, bringing positive signals to the China-US relationship. However, at the same time, the US side is still pushing forward its strategy of containing China, with negative factors in the relationship still prominent.

Denis Simon (Simon), a distinguished researcher at the Washington-based Institute for China America Studies, said in an interview with Global Times (GT) reporters Qian Jiayin and Xing Xiaojing that the US needs to realize that China and the US must become partners and deal with conflicts and changes in the international system together. In today's world of innovation and technological development, there is no such thing as a lone ranger, and the era of going it alone is outdated...

[Continue Reading](#)

This article was [originally](#) released by Global Times on April 28, 2024.

---TnT Commentary---

Biden's New Trade Row with China is more than just Election Gimmicks

By Yilun Zhang

April 26, 2024

It sounds as if the Trump-era U.S.-China trade war—which technically has never reached an epilogue—is back again. On the same day, the Biden administration called for a tripled tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum and initiated a Section 301 investigation on Chinese maritime logistics and shipbuilding practices.

The Biden administration's decisions did not come out of nowhere. The term “overcapacity” may be a relatively fresh soundbite that the White House recently pulled out of the dictionary to address its concerns over China's industrial policies and growth strategy, but Washington's grievance towards China's industrial subsidies that fuel “excessive capacities” and its subsequent “anti-dumping” measures against Chinese products, such as solar panels, has been a long-standing theme in the bilateral trade relationship that can be traced back to the 2010s—and earlier...

[Continue Reading](#)

---Academic Engagement---

Xinhua Institute Delegation Discusses U.S.-China Relations with ICAS Scholars

April 25, 2024

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, a delegation from the Xinhua Institute (XHInst) met with ICAS scholars to discuss a variety of topics related to U.S.-China relations.

The XHInst delegation was led by Mr. Cui Feng (Vice President, XHInst), accompanied by other Research Fellows.

The discussion included the exchange of perspectives and opinions on the current trend in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship, the economic and trade relations between the world's two largest economies, the Belt and Road Initiative and U.S. responses to that initiative, U.S. legislative actions that could have a long-term impact on China, and the importance of encouraging fact-based, in-person, cultural and civilization exchanges between the two countries to promote deeper and more accurate bilateral understanding that can improve the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.

[Learn More](#)



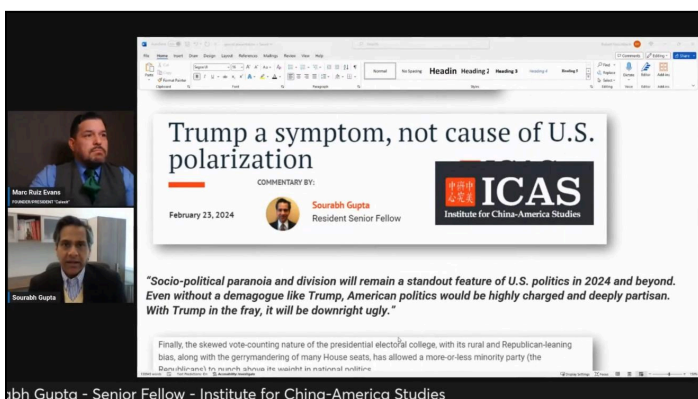
---Academic Engagement---

Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta Discusses Political Polarization in America with Vlogger Marcus Ruiz Evans

April 24, 2024

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, ICAS Senior Fellow & Head of the ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program sat down remotely with independent vlogger Marcus Ruiz Evans to discuss Political Polarization in America.

[Watch the Interview Discussion](#)



sbh Gupta - Senior Fellow - Institute for China-America Studies

---ICAS In the News---



On Tuesday, May 1, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the potential expansion of the BRICS grouping on *CGTN America's The Heat*.

- "I think [the BRICS expansion over time] has been a significant evolution. Perhaps there was an expectation of...tighter inter-group cooperation, some of which has not fructified, but that being said this is a grouping with significant players and with significant appeal."

On Monday, April 29, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the outcomes of Secretary Antony Blinken's visit to China on *CGTN America's The World Today*.

- "Blinken's visit allowed them to maintain their lines of communication. And the relationship has moved forward and stabilized and, therefore, the two sides don't need to talk only about the overall tenor of the relationship, but they can go about trying to problem solve aspects within the relationship."
- "And we did see that certain movement forward on counternarcotics cooperation...are going to see movement forward on artificial intelligence...anti-money laundering...and a more broader exchange on macroeconomic policy between the two sides..."

On Wednesday, April 25, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *China Daily* on Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to China.

- "So Blinken's goal right now, I think, is to continue to move that relationship on the track with the momentum, not to do great new things, but try to maintain that momentum and try to maintain those lines and channels of communication and possibly deepen it..."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

May 22, 2024

What's Going On?

Washington Adds Trade Tariffs Against China, Asking Others to Join In



U.S. President Joe Biden announcing new tariffs against Chinese imports on the White House lawn on May 14, 2024.

(Source: @POTUS via Twitter, Public Domain)

- On May 14, at the end of a regular four-year review of tariffs, President Joe Biden announced a significant increase in tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), chips, and other products, including a 100% tariff on EVs. President Biden said this move, which impacts \$18 billion worth of Chinese imports over the next two years, is designed to protest and boost domestic U.S. manufacturing while counteracting "cheating" trade practices such as overcapacity and subsidization.
- Several U.S. industry leaders condemned the higher, broad-based tariffs, calling them unstrategic during a time of high inflation and ultimately harmful to U.S. economic growth.
- One day before the tariffs were announced, speaking in a televised interview, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen expressed her hope that China would not significantly retaliate against any potential U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods and explained that the U.S. must protect its emerging industries from unfair competition.
- One week after the tariffs were announced, Secretary

China Responds Strongly to the Biden Administration's Tariff Hike



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarking on Washington's new tariffs during a joint conference in Pakistan on May 15, 2024.

(Source: Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Public Domain)

- In potential retaliation against Washington's tariff hikes, China's Ministry of Commerce announced the launch of a year-long anti-dumping probe into polyoxymethylene, a thermoplastic used in various industries and imported from the U.S., the European Union, Taiwan and Japan.
- China's Ministry of Commerce also imposed import and export bans on some U.S. firms, including Boeing Defense, Space & Security, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, and General Dynamics Land Systems. The new ban disallows the companies from making new investments in China and prohibits the senior executives from entering China, whose work permits will be revoked and not allowed to be renewed.
- Immediately after President Biden formally announced major tariffs on billions of Chinese goods, Beijing pushed back with the Ministry of Commerce directly stating this move "will seriously affect the atmosphere of bilateral cooperation."
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi gave reporters

Yellen made a public call to Europe to join the U.S. in pushing back against China's excessive industrial policy. Yellen also said these changes are a counter against a threat to the global economy, not anti-China.

- A United Kingdom city official, commenting on the Biden administration's tariffs, explained that distancing the UK economy from China's is not a feasible option as engaging with strategic competitors like China is "crucial" to the UK's economic future.

Associated News Sources:

["U.S. Seeks to Join Forces With Europe to Combat Excess Chinese Goods," The New York Times, May 21 \[Paywall\]](#)
["UK cannot afford to give 'cold shoulder' to China, says City minister," The Guardian, May 20](#)
["Biden sharply hikes US tariffs on billions in Chinese chips, cars," Voice of America, May 14](#)
["Import Groups Decry Higher U.S. Tariffs on China-Made Goods," The Wall Street Journal, May 14 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Yellen Hopes China Doesn't Mount 'Significant' Trade Retaliation," Bloomberg, May 13 \[Paywall\]](#)

unusually direct comments regarding the tariffs: "This is the most typical form of bullying in the world today!...some people in the U.S. have lost their sanity in order to safeguard their unilateral hegemony." Wang Yi also called the increased tariffs a sign of weakness and lack of self-confidence, not of strength.

- Chinese executives in the auto industry are also openly expressing frustration over the quadrupled tariffs on Chinese EVs, with one directly calling 'overcapacity' a "fake concept" and accusing Washington of not knowing all of the facts.

Associated News Sources:

["China launches its own anti-dumping probe following Biden's monster tariffs," CNN, May 20](#)
["China commerce ministry bans some US firms from import, export activities," Reuters, May 19](#)
["Beijing vows retaliation against Biden's hikes of tariffs on Chinese imports," Voice of America, May 15](#)
["China says 'bullying' tariff hike shows some in US are 'losing their minds,'" CNN, May 14](#)
["Overcapacity is a 'fake concept', says the international head of a major Chinese carmaker: 'They don't know what is happening in my house'," Yahoo!Finance, May 14](#)

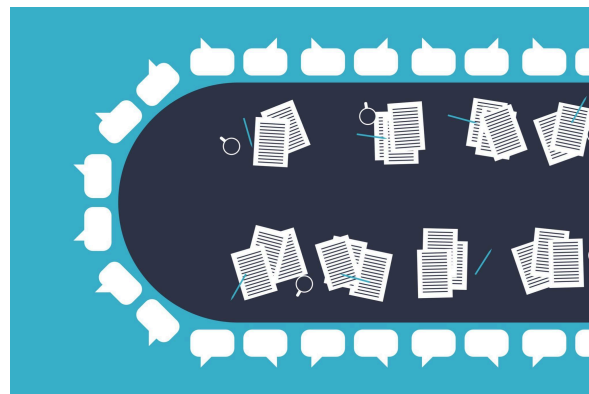
Chatter About Taiwan Bubbles Up As the Taiwan Inauguration Passes By



President Lai Ching-te, the First Lady and Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao attending the inaugural celebrations in the plaza in front of the Presidential Office Building in Taipei, Taiwan on May 20, 2024.
 (Source: Office of the President, Republic of China (Taiwan))

- According to two anonymous U.S. government officials, two semiconductor chipmakers—the Netherlands-based ASML and Taiwan-based TSMC—have the capacity to remotely disable certain chipmaking machines should China invade Taiwan. Spokespeople from these two companies and from the U.S. and Dutch governments either declined or did not respond to press requests for comment on this topic.
- China has frozen the Chinese assets of and imposed a

The United States and China Prioritize AI Communication and Security



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- A new OECD report on the global digital economy highlights the United States' competitive private investment in AI, China's leading in AI research and Europe's lagging in AI development.
- Following the U.S.-China dialogue in Geneva, experts from the U.S. and China held a 'Track 2' dialogue in Thailand on AI development. Debates largely focused on effective regulation for AI application in the military and each sides' understanding of AI context, such as the general definition for AI, concept of AI test, and integration of generative AI in chemical or biological warfare.

ban on Mike Gallagher, a former U.S. lawmaker and Taiwan supporter, for his words and actions that “interfered in China’s internal affairs.” Gallagher visited Taiwanese leaders in Taipei in February to display strong bipartisan support for Taiwan, its then-President Tsai Ing-wen, and its then-incumbent President Lai Ching-te.

- Beijing criticized Secretary of State Antony Blinken after he delivered congratulations to Lai Ching-te on his inauguration that took place on May 18.

- According to new data from Taiwan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan’s investments in Mainland China have fallen to its lowest level in more than two decades and is now selling more to the U.S.

- The U.S. and Taiwan navies quietly conducted joint drills in the Western Pacific in April. The exercise focused on basic operations and tactical maneuvers to ensure readiness in times of Chinese military threats.

- China criticized the passage of the U.S. destroyer through the Taiwan Strait. China describes it as a politically motivated act since it happened less than two weeks before Taiwan’s new president takes office.

Associated News Sources:

[“ASML and TSMC Can Disable Chip Machines If China Invades Taiwan,” Bloomberg](#), May 21 [Paywall]

[“China sanctions ex-US lawmaker and supporter of Taiwan,” Reuters](#), May 21

[“Taiwan is selling more to the US than China in major shift away from Beijing,” AP](#), May 17

[“Exclusive: U.S. and Taiwan navies quietly held Pacific drills in April,” Reuters](#), May 14

[“China criticizes US for ship’s passage through Taiwan Strait weeks before new leader takes office,” ABC News](#), May 8

- Microsoft is asking its employees in China who are responsible for machine learning and cloud computing related developments to relocate to other countries.

- A U.S. Senate working group on AI, led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, proposed more federal investment in facilitating U.S. nondefense AI innovation such as reinforcing design and manufacture cutting-edged AI chips and address, local election campaigns, and “AI Grand Challenges” initiatives.

- During the inaugural U.S.-China high-level dialogue on AI, held in Geneva on May 15, U.S. officials addressed their concern over China’s “misuse of AI.” Meanwhile, the Chinese representatives criticized the United States’ “restrictions and pressure” on its domestic AI industry.

- To safeguard its position in AI development, the U.S. government is considering new export controls on advanced AI models to Russia and China. The regulation includes developing a computing power threshold that was based on the amount of computing power the exporting AI model held.

- U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced that rules for restricting U.S. investments in three Chinese sectors—semiconductors and microelectronics, quantum information technologies and certain artificial intelligence systems—will be finalized by the end of 2024 to prevent U.S. funds and expertise from aiding China’s military advancements.

Associated News Sources:

[“In AI funding and research, China and US outperform Europe,” Science Business](#), May 21 [Paywall]

[“Experts link up in Thailand for US-China Track 2 dialogue on AI,” Defense Scoop](#), May 20

[“Microsoft asks some China staff to relocate amid Sino-US tensions,” Reuters](#), May 16

[“Senate Group Recommends Spending Tens of Billions of Dollars on AI,” The Wall Street Journal](#), May 15 [Paywall]

[“In first AI dialogue, US cites ‘misuse’ of AI by China, Beijing protests Washington’s restrictions,” AP](#), May 15

[“Exclusive: US eyes curbs on China’s access to AI software behind apps like ChatGPT,” Reuters](#), May 8 [Paywall]

[“China outbound investment rule to be completed by end of year – US official,” Reuters](#), May 8

Eyes Are On the Surge in Chinese Migration to the U.S.



Immigrants from Ecuador, China and other nations wait to be transported by U.S. Border Patrol agents to process their asylum claims after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on March 7, 2024 in Campo, California. (Credit: Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

- Argentine news outlet *Infobae* published a report depicting how Chinese migrants are utilizing Ecuador as a starting point to allow them to eventually reach the U.S. to claim asylum. Ecuador is one of two South American countries that currently do not impose entry visa requirements for Chinese passport holders.
- CNN released an in-depth story on Chinese migrants and a legal service center in New York City, including statements on the increased rate of Chinese migration from migrants, current asylum seekers, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and an anonymous Chinese government official.
- Speaking during a campaign rally, former President Donald Trump suggested the surge in Chinese border crossings into the U.S. of "mostly men" of "military age" could be an attempt to "build a little army" in the U.S., comments that are leading observers to fear a resurgence of harassment towards the Asian community in the U.S.
- After 20 months, the U.S. and China have quietly resumed cooperation on the repatriation of Chinese migrants illegally stranded in the U.S. Almost ten times as many Chinese nationals were arrested in 2023 at the U.S. southern border compared to a year earlier.

Associated News Sources:

["Report: Chinese Citizens Using Ecuador – and Tiktok – to Reach U.S. Border." Breitbart, May 20](#)
["Caught between China and the US, asylum seekers live in limbo in New York City." CNN, May 17](#)
["Trump suggests Chinese migrants are in the US to build an 'army.' The migrants tell another story." AP, May 14](#)
["China resumes cooperating with US on illegal migration." Voice of America, May 10](#)

- In Other News -



An underwater cable near Yaqeta Island, Fiji.
 (Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

["A Chinese Phone Maker Did Something Apple Couldn't: Make an EV." The Wall Street Journal, May 21 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Investigation finds BMW, Jaguar Land Rover, Volkswagen bought parts linked to forced labor in China." The Hill, May 20](#)
["U.S. Fears Undersea Cables Are Vulnerable to Espionage From Chinese Repair Ships." The Wall Street Journal, May 19 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US bars imports from 26 Chinese textile firms over suspected Uyghur forced labor," Reuters, May 16](#)
["China Sells Record Sum of US Debt Amid Signs of Diversification," Bloomberg, May 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Shein switches focus to London after New York IPO stalls," Financial Times, May 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US defense chief plans to meet with Chinese counterpart in Singapore, US official says," Reuters, May 16](#)
["Putin and Xi Vow to Step Up Fight to Counter US 'Containment,'" Bloomberg, May 16 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US House committee advances bill to restrict BGI, WuXi AppTec," Reuters, May 15](#)
["China 'dwarfs' US investments in EU neighbourhood countries," Financial Times, May 15 \[Paywall\]](#)
["U.S. orders Chinese-backed crypto miner to sell land near nuclear missile base," CNBC, May 14](#)
["Temu Cools on the U.S. After Shelling Out Billions," The Wall Street Journal, May 13 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Reports on China's Bad Lending Data Disappear on Social Media," Bloomberg, May 13 \[Paywall\]](#)
["Former US Marine pilot arrested in Australia worked with Chinese hacker unknowingly, lawyer says," CNN, May 12](#)
["As Silicon Valley Pivots to Patriotic Capital, China Ties Linger," The Wall Street Journal, May 12 \[Paywall\]](#)
["US discussed 'overcapacity' in Chinese solar manufacturing, coal in climate talks," Reuters, May 10](#)
["US overtakes China as Germany's top trading partner," Reuters, May 9](#)

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *The New York Times*: [“Biden’s Get-Tough-on-China Tariffs May Backfire”](#) by Steven Rattner (May 21) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“The U.S. Finally Has a Strategy to Compete With China. Will It Work?”](#) by Greg Ip (May 20) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“As China ramps up disinformation, the U.S. is far too vulnerable”](#) by Max Boot (May 20) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“The battlegrounds that could decide a US-China war over Taiwan”](#) by Kathrin Hille, et. al (May 19) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“Biden’s China Tariffs Are the End of an Era for Cheap Chinese Goods”](#) by Jim Tankersley (May 18) [Paywall]
- *The National Interest*: [“Three Opportunities for Better U.S.-China Cooperation”](#) by Bruce Yandle (May 17)
- *Visual Capitalist*: [“Comparing New and Current U.S. Tariffs on Chinese Imports”](#) by Kayla Zhu, Niccolo Conte and Sabrina Lam (May 16)
- Brunswick Group: [“US Tariffs on China: What to Expect Next”](#) by Brunswick China Hub (May 16)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“The U.S. Should Stop Playing the Victim Over China Trade”](#) by Tom Moerenhout (May 16) [Paywall]
- Asia Society: [“Taking Stock of U.S.-China Biotechnology Competition”](#) by Patrick Beyrer (May 15)
- *Financial Times*: [“Joe Biden and Donald Trump battle to prove who can be toughest on China”](#) by James Politi (May 15) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“With America Off-Limits, China EV Makers Aim to Conquer Rest of World”](#) by Yoko Kubota and Sha Hua (May 15) [Paywall]
- *BBC*: [“China’s spy threat is growing, but the West has struggled to keep up”](#) by Gordon Corera (May 14)
- *Bloomberg*: [“The White House’s Green Trade War Is Just Getting Started”](#) by Liam Denning (May 14) [Paywall]
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: [“Experts React: Energy and Trade Implications of Tariffs on Chinese Imports”](#) by Joseph Majkut, et al. (May 14)
- *Defense Opinion*: [“CHIPS and Ships: Time to Stop Gambling with U.S. Seapower”](#) by Rebecca Grant (May 14)
- *Financial Times*: [“Putin’s trip to China may show US threats are wishful thinking”](#) by Alexandra Prokopenko (May 14) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“The End of TikTok Is a Propaganda Win for Beijing”](#) by Nick Frisch and Dan Wang (May 14) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Why the World Has Gone Cuckoo for Copper”](#) by Julie Steinberg (May 14) [Paywall]
- Project Syndicate: [“Why the US Can’t Win the Trade War With China – and Shouldn’t Try”](#) by Qiyuan Xu (May 13)
- *Reuters*: [“How hard will new US tariffs hit China EVs and other exports?”](#) by Ellen Zhang and Sarah Wu (May 13)
- *Bloomberg*: [“Global Chips Battle Intensifies With \\$81 Billion Subsidy Surge”](#) by Mackenzie Hawkins, et al. (May 12) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“China and the U.S. Are Numb to the Real Risk of War”](#) by Sulmaan Wasif Khan (May 12) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Looming TikTok Ban Gives Young Voters Another Beef With Biden”](#) by Molly Ball and Natalie Andrews (May 12) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“Gary Locke on Family and Trade Ties with China”](#) by Bob Davis (May 12) [Paywall]
- Project Syndicate: [“US-China Cooperation Remains Possible”](#) by Joseph Nye (May 6)

What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [Can China offer a real alternative to liberal democracy?](#)
May 22 hosted by Brookings
- [Rapid Reactions to the Taiwan Presidential Inauguration](#)
May 21 hosted by Asia Society Policy Institute
- [Redefining Multilateralism: Shaping the Future of Global Governance](#)
May 17 hosted by *Foreign Policy* and United Nations University
- [No Invasion Necessary: A Discussion of How China Can Employ a Coercion-Based Strategy to Take Taiwan Without a War](#)
May 16 hosted by American Enterprise Institute
- [The Pernicious Impact of China's Anti-Secession Law](#)
May 15 hosted by Hudson Institute

- Upcoming Events -

- [The Senate Perspective on the US-China Rivalry with Bill Hagerty](#)
May 23 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Key Economic Strategies for Leveling the U.S.-China Playing Field: Trade, Investment, and Technology](#)
May 23 hearing by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [China's Rise, Russia's Invasion, and America's Struggle to Defend the West: A Conversation with David Sanger](#)
May 28 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2024](#)
June 3 hosted by Wilson Center

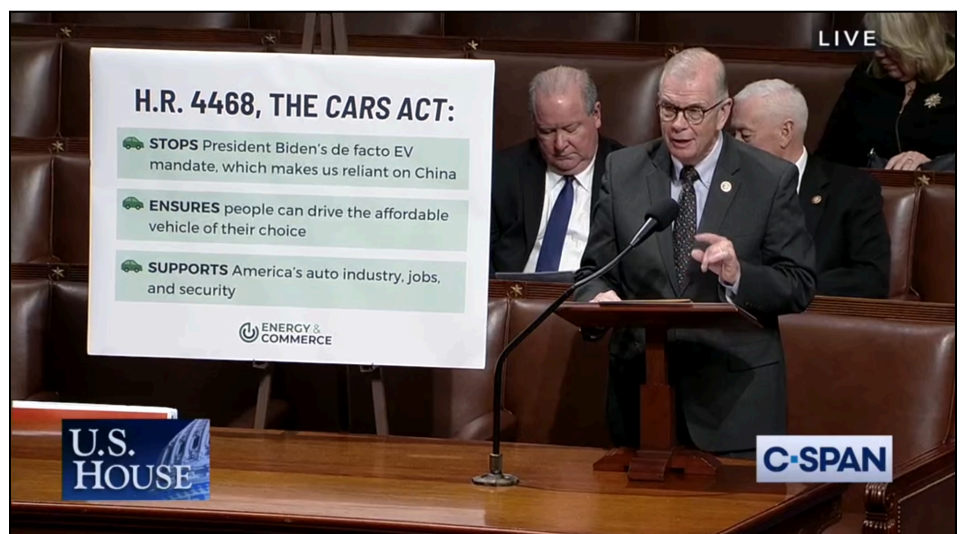
What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---L.E.A.D. Project Legislative Brief---

L.E.A.D. Legislative Brief: Passive Decoupling Targets Shipping, Emerging Tech and Green Industries
By Yilun Zhang & Amanda Jin
May 13, 2024

Introduction:

The 118th Congress embraced its one-year countdown by continuing to push for laws that restructure policies in key areas of concerns. From January to April 2024, lawmakers introduced 63 bills and made significant advances on 25 bills on China and China-related issues. Among all, the bills' primary focuses include addressing green products overcapacity and green energy self-reliance, continued tech and economic decoupling with China, shipping and port security, the competition on frontier technologies, and Taiwan.



Buzzword of the first quarter of 2024 will undoubtedly be “overcapacity.” Echoing the Biden administration’s call to address China’s alleged overcapacity in green product manufacturing, Congress introduced a significant number of bills that carried strong protectionist elements. Citing concerns on China’s dominance in green energy supply, lawmakers also advocated for strengthening U.S. green energy self-reliance. The efforts to strengthen self-reliance also coincided with the continuous push for tech and economic decoupling this quarter. An epitome of that combination is the Congress-led investigation on China-made cranes and the subsequent push for reforming and securing U.S. shipping industries and ports. Meanwhile, Congress aimed at further blocking Chinese access to sensitive U.S. data, emerging technologies, and capital, while channeling more funding to frontier technology research to better compete with Beijing in emerging industries and standard setting. On the foreign policy front, Taiwan continued to be the most frequently discussed geopolitical issue on the Capitol Hill. Congress pushed for more legislation during this quarter to demonstrate and strengthen U.S. commitment to Taiwan as the two sides of the Pacific brace for a new Taiwan administration this May.

[Read the Full Brief](#)

In May 2023, the team at 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.

This is the fourth release of the [Legislative Actions Directory](#) and the first legislative release in 2024, covering U.S. legislative moves on China from January to April 2024.

---Commentary---

Claims of Chinese Overcapacity Undermine America's Own Strengths

*By Yilun Zhang
May 20, 2024*

The Biden administration’s major hike of tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EV) will undoubtedly trigger a new wave of tit-for-tat trade disputes with China, as Beijing vowed to take “all necessary measures” in response. Tensions with China over trade may be a useful election gimmick for the Biden administration to boost its popularity among blue-collar workers, critical in its race against former President Donald Trump. To protect the American auto industry from a potential collapse, addressing Chinese auto imports will be a compelling argument for the American autoworkers who endorsed the president earlier this year...

[Continue Reading](#)

This article was [originally](#) published by Xinhua on May 18, 2024

---Commentary---

Observer: China is a leading player in the global clean energy revolution

*By Denis Simon
May 11, 2024*

China has established significant competitive strengths in the fields of clean energy technologies, including electric vehicles (EVs), lithium batteries and photovoltaic (PV) products. These strengths have positioned China as a leading player in the global clean energy revolution, contributing in no small way to sustainable development worldwide. Given the extent of China’s carbon-based footprint, the ramifications of a significant transition to new, cleaner energy technologies can make a substantial difference in the fight against global climate change. China’s competitive advantages derive from a number of key factors...

[Continue Reading](#)

This article was [originally](#) published on People’s Daily on May 11, 2024

---TnT Commentary---

To Win the EV Race, Washington Must Abandon the Overcapacity Talks...and Do More

By Yilun Zhang

May 8, 2024

Recent talks on China's green product overcapacity brought a new wave of tensions between Washington and Beijing...

The White House made it clear: China's industrial overcapacity, including in the EV industry, is a result of Beijing's overinvestment in factory capacity building which largely exceeds its domestic demand and becomes "too large for the rest of the world to absorb."...



[Continue Reading](#)

---ICAS In the News---

On Monday, May 13, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *Politico* on U.S.-China academic collaboration and sensitive technologies.

- "[National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan] said, these next 10 years are our critical years, and we plan to keep as big a lead as possible, not just be one generation ahead...And what he didn't say was also try to suppress the Chinese in trying to catch up."
- "Basically, any advancing computing capabilities will be deemed to have some element of military application. And it doesn't matter if it is an academic or research institute and if that research has immediate commercial applicability or not. Better to be safe than sorry."

On Thursday, May 9, 2024, Research Associate Yilun Zhang was [interviewed](#) on *GD Today* about how opportunities and challenges coexist in China's pursuit of new 'quality productive forces.'

- "Traditionally, China's economic model has been export-driven, driven by cheap but scalable labor...but now that has changed because China's demographics have changed and because of the economic transformation where it is moving up the value chain."
- "Now China's primary competitor is the developed countries. They have high technology, and China is going to be one of them...China needs to generate more investment into this innovation to boost its production force."



On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *South China Morning Post* on President Xi Jinping's visit to the Belgrade Embassy bombing site while on a state visit in Serbia.

- "China might or might not forgive but it will never forget what happened on that fateful day in 1999."
- "The relative restraint stemmed, in my view, from the fact that the Chinese leadership sadly and reluctantly understood that in high likelihood the bombing had been a tragic error – even though it may have been during an illegal war."

On Monday, May 6, 2024, the ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program's recent event on AI governance and cooperation was [highlighted](#) and summarized by *China Daily*.



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

June 5, 2024

What's Going On?

U.S. and China Top-Level Military Officials Meet at Shangri-La Dialogue

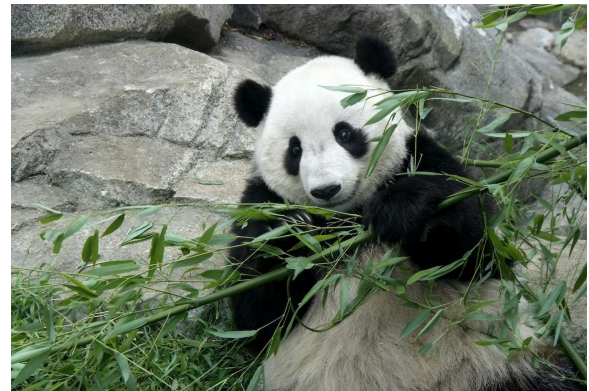


Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III delivers plenary remarks at the International Institute for Strategic Studies 21th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on June 1, 2024.

(Source: Department of Defense, Public Domain)

- On May 31, on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun held the first high-level, in-person, bilateral meeting since U.S.-China military dialogues broke down in 2022. Both sides agreed to continue regular military-to-military communications.
- A day after the U.S. and Chinese military officials met, Secretary Austin delivered plenary remarks to the Dialogue in which he stressed the importance of a renewed U.S.-China dialogue, claiming that war with China is "neither imminent nor unavoidable."
- Secretary Austin further stated in his remarks that the U.S. commitment to the Philippines is "ironclad." In response, the Chinese delegation accused the U.S. of seeking to build an Asia-Pacific version of the NATO security alliance.
- One day following Secretary Austin's speech, Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun, in his own remarks at the Shangri-La Dialogue, accused the U.S. of destabilizing

U.S.-China Tensions Aided by Some Reassuring Connections



A panda at the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

(Credit: Photo by Meghan Murphy via Smithsonian's National Zoo, Public Domain)

- On May 30, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell met China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhouxu in Washington D.C. to discuss issues surrounding Taiwan, the war in Ukraine, and the nuclearization of North Korea. A State Department spokesperson explained that the meeting with Minister Ma was a part of the United States' continued diplomatic effort to increase U.S.-China senior-level engagement.
- The Smithsonian's National Zoo announced on May 29 that two giant pandas, who China considers as 'envoys of friendship,' will arrive in Washington D.C. by the end of 2024. The announcement came as a warmly received surprise after the lease agreements on three giant pandas at the Smithsonian Zoo expired in late 2023 without renewal.
- On May 28, following bilateral consultations on maritime affairs, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced that the U.S. and China have agreed to maintain continued dialogue over maritime affairs to manage risks and avoid misunderstandings.

the Asia-Pacific region through its support for the Philippines and Taiwan.

- At a sideline interview in Singapore, U.S. National Security Agency Director Timothy Haugh stated that China has developed hacking technologies that are "prepositioned" to attack critical infrastructure.

Associated News Sources:

["China Is 'Prepositioning' for Future Cyberattacks—and the New NSA Chief Is Worried," The Wall Street Journal, June 3 \[Paywall\]](#)

["Chinese defense minister accuses U.S. of causing friction with its support for Taiwan and Philippines," NBC, June 2](#)

["Competing US-China Defense Tactics Dominate Singapore Forum," Bloomberg, June 2 \[Paywall\]](#)

["US defense secretary says war with China neither imminent nor unavoidable, stressing need for talks," AP, June 1](#)

["U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs hold first official meeting in Singapore," NPR, May 31](#)

- The number of American students visiting China has notably begun to increase, reaching approximately 800 as American universities initiate new initiatives for exchanges in China.

Associated News Sources:

["US officials meet China's vice foreign minister after sanctions warning," Reuters, May 31](#)

["Welcome Back, Pandas! Two Furry Diplomats Are Headed to the D.C. Zoo," The New York Times, May 29](#)

["China, US agree to manage maritime risks through continued dialogue," Reuters, May 28](#)

["The number of American students in China is going up again," The Economist, May 23 \[Paywall\]](#)

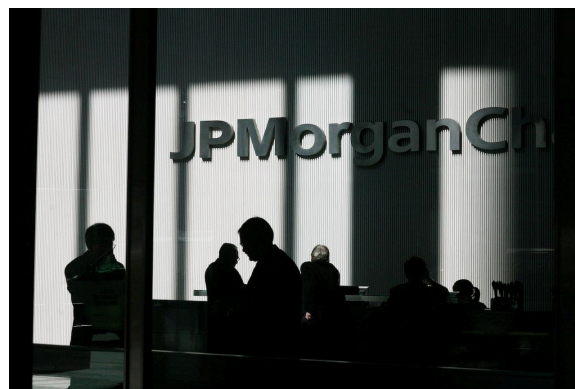
Washington Increases Pressure on Beijing Over Trade With Russia



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- On May 31, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo publicly threatened to impose export controls and sanctions on Chinese firms in response to China's trade relationship with Russia.
- During a visit to Brussels on May 29, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell called upon European nations to harden their positions on Beijing for its aid to Russia and to protect European security interests.
- After the British Defense Secretary Grant Shapps accused China of supporting Russia with combat equipment in the Ukrainian war, Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan challenged this claim, saying that "we have not seen that to date."
- Beijing imposed retaliatory sanctions on 12 U.S. defense-related companies and 10 company executives in response to the United States' "illegal unilateral

The Private Sector Strives to Navigate Sour U.S.-China Relations



(Source: Getty Images)

- U.S. economist and former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia Stephen Roach, speaking during a public event in Beijing, said U.S. trade policies against China are risking an endless 'trade war' between the two nations.
- The U.S. Commerce Department has slowed the process of issuing licenses to Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices for advanced AI chip exports to Middle Eastern countries given concerns over potential Chinese acquisition.
- Chinese firms, such as Wanxiang America Corp. which supply car components, face an increasingly difficult business environment in the United States as anti-China sentiment and concerns of national security continue to block business deals.
- In response to ongoing blocks and restrictions, many

sanctions” on Chinese companies that are suspected to have ties with Russia.

Associated News Sources:

[“US says it could act against China firms, banks over Russian war support.”](#) Reuters, June 1

[“US treasury No. 2 warns China over support for Russia.”](#) Reuters, May 31

[“US warns Europe to get serious about China’s aid to Russia.”](#) Politico, May 29

[“US challenges British claim China is sending ‘lethal aid’ to Russia.”](#) The Guardian, May 23

[“China sanctions US defense-related companies and executives over Russia, Taiwan”](#) AP, May 22

U.S.-blacklisted Chinese companies, including Huawei, Hesai Group, rebrand themselves by setting up American affiliates or subsidiaries to dodge U.S. regulations.

- JPMorgan Asia Pacific CEO Sjoerd Leenart warned that China cannot be sidelined in the global economy given its rise as a second world power. He stated that businesses and investors “have to do business there.”

Associated News Sources:

[“US Risks a ‘Forever’ Trade War With China, Economist Stephen Roach Says,”](#) Bloomberg, May 31 [Paywall]

[“US Is Slowing AI Chip Exports to Middle East by Nvidia, AMD,”](#) Bloomberg, May 30 [Paywall]

[“Blacklisted Chinese Companies Rebrand as American to Dodge Crackdown,”](#) The Wall Street Journal, May 29 [Paywall]

[“Chinese Firms Turn From ‘Panda’ to ‘Skunk’ as US Tensions Flare,”](#) Bloomberg, May 28 [Paywall]

[“JPMorgan says China can’t be ignored: ‘You have to do business there.’”](#) CNBC, May 23

The U.S. Again Places Diplomatic Attention on Taiwan



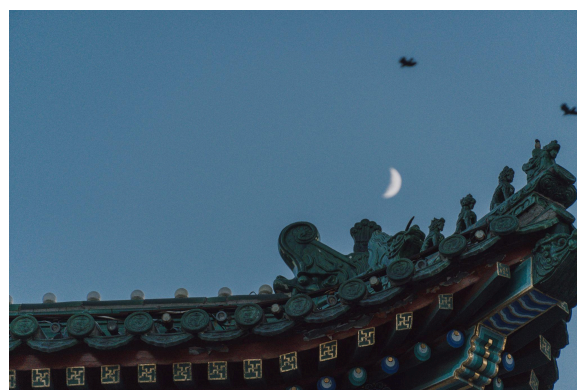
President Lai Ching-te presents U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul with a gift during a visit to Taipei on May 27. (Source: Office of the President, ROC, Public Domain)

- Shortly after China’s two-day military exercise surrounding Taiwan, Washington appointed Raymond Greene, a veteran diplomat, as the new U.S. representative in Taiwan. He is set to start his position at the American Institute of Taiwan in the summer of 2024.

- Despite Beijing’s vocal opposition, U.S. House Representative Michael McCaul led a bipartisan congressional delegation to visit Taiwan’s newly inaugurated president, Lai Tsing-Te, days after his inauguration during which he expressed U.S. support for Taiwan.

- During the delegation visit, Representative McCaul

- In Other News -



(Credit: Photo by Albert Canite via Unsplash)

[“US Defense Secretary discusses military exchanges in visit to China ally Cambodia,”](#) Reuters, June 4

[“US and Its Partners Stand Together as China Exports Problems, Rahm Emanuel Says,”](#) Bloomberg, June 4 [Paywall]

[“Biden’s science adviser explains the new hard line on China,”](#) The Washington Post, June 3 [Paywall]

[“Chinese Businesses target Vietnam and Mexico as trade tensions with US rise,”](#) Financial Times, June 3 [Paywall]

[“Chinese Firms Jostle With US Peers for Sliver of Gulf Oil Riches,”](#) Bloomberg, June 3 [Paywall]

[“China lands probe on moon’s far side to gather rocks and soil in growing space rivalry with U.S.,”](#) PBS, June 2

[“The CEO Trying to Smooth U.S.-China Tensions in Farm Country,”](#) The Wall Street Journal, June 2 [Paywall]

[“In a first, OpenAI removes influence operations tied to](#)

reiterated the United States' commitment to strengthen Taiwan's defense capability against Chinese military aggression, also promising to accelerate U.S. weapon delivery to Taiwan.

- Two days after Representative McCaul's visit, a second U.S. delegation, led by Senator Tammy Duckworth, met with President Lai in Taipei. Senator Duckworth told President Lai that "you can count on us to always show up for Taiwan."

- The U.S. State Department expressed concerns over China's two-day military exercise surrounding Taiwan in reaction to Lai's inauguration speech and urged Beijing to act with restraint.

Associated News Sources:

["Taiwan to work with US to face 'authoritarian expansionism': President Lai,"](#) MSN, May 29
["US appoints a new representative to Taiwan as the island faces China's intimidation,"](#) ABC, May 29
["U.S. lawmakers ignore China's warning, meet with Taiwan's new leader,"](#) The Washington Post, May 27 [Paywall]
["US lawmakers vow to help Taiwan strengthen defense against growing Chinese aggression,"](#) Voice of America, May 27
["US 'deeply concerned' over China military drills in Taiwan Strait, State Dept says"](#) Reuters, May 25

[Russia, China and Israel,"](#) NPR, May 31
["TikTok Pauses E-Commerce Push into Europe to Focus on US,"](#) Bloomberg, May 31 [Paywall]
["US Cyber Chief Sees 'Very Aggressive' Chinese Hacking Strategy,"](#) Bloomberg, May 31 [Paywall]
["Exodus of US law firms from Shanghai accelerates,"](#) Financial Times, May 30 [Paywall]
["Expulsions of Chinese Students Spread Confusion From Yale to UVA,"](#) Bloomberg, May 29 [Paywall]
["University of Florida employee, students implicated in illegal plot to ship drugs, toxins to China,"](#) AP, May 28
["US sanctions Chinese individuals over COVID-related fraud, bomb threats,"](#) Reuters, May 28
["Xi Hosts Arab Leaders as China's 'Soft Power' Expands in Mideast,"](#) Bloomberg, May 28 [Paywall]
["China premier agrees on cooperation with Seoul, Tokyo but issues veiled rebuke against their US ties,"](#) AP, May 27
["Taiwan president calls on US lawmakers for help to strengthen defences,"](#) Financial Times, May 27 [Paywall]
["Pentagon chief seeks to woo Cambodia from China with Phnom Penh visit,"](#) Financial Times, May 24 [Paywall]
["TikTok says it removed an influence campaign originating in China,"](#) The Washington Post, May 23 [Paywall]
["Fraud Trial Begins for Chinese Billionaire Who Allied Himself With America's Right,"](#) The New York Times, May 22 [Paywall]
["House Panel Seeks F.B.I. Investigation Into Doping by Chinese Swimmers,"](#) The New York Times, May 22 [Paywall]
["Inter Milan Seized by Oaktree After Chinese Owner Defaults on Debt,"](#) Bloomberg, May 22 [Paywall]

What Are We Reading?

- The Week: ["What does the return of panda diplomacy mean for the US and China?"](#) by Justin Klawans (June 4)
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute: ["US versus China in Asian security at Shangri-La dialogue"](#) by Graeme Dobell (June 3)
- DW: ["US, China seek guardrails as Taiwan tensions persist"](#) by Yuchen Li (June 3)
- Washington Post: ["OMG your hair looks so cute! Young Chinese love American 'praise culture.'" by Lyric Li \(June 3\) \[Paywall\]](#)
- The New York Times: ["A Pacific Island With Ties to Taiwan Was Hacked. Was It Political?"](#) by Jacob Judah (June 2) [Paywall]
- The Wire China: ["Battle for the Skies"](#) by Aaron Mc Nicholas (June 2)
- Brookings Institution: ["How China would tackle a second Trump term"](#) by Yun Sun (May 31)
- Forbes: ["China's Massive Barrage In The Chip Battle"](#) by Ariel Cohen (May 31)
- Bloomberg: ["To Beat China, US Should Stop Acting Like China"](#) by Minxin Pei (May 30) [Paywall]
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: ["Biden's Latest Tariffs on China: Why Now?"](#) by Sophia Besch and Jon Bateman (May 30)
- Foreign Policy: ["Biden's New Tariffs Should Raise Alarm Bells in Beijing"](#) by Agathe Demarais (May 30) [Paywall]
- The Wall Street Journal: ["How America Inadvertently Created an 'Axis of Evasion' Led by China"](#) by Ian Talley and Rosie Ettenheim (May 30) [Paywall]

- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“The Solar Breakthrough That Could Help the U.S. Compete With China”](#) by Amrith Ramkumar (May 30) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“To win the chip war, the U.S. must prioritize revolutionary research”](#) by Chris Miller (May 30) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“China Is Testing the U.S.-Philippines Alliance”](#) by Derek Grossman (May 29) [Paywall]
- *South Morning China Post*: [“US trade policy towards China is dangerously incoherent”](#) by Stephen Roach (May 29)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Keeping Ahead of China Requires Investment in Military R&D”](#) by David C. Gompert (May 29) [Paywall]
- *Bloomberg*: [“America Needs More Predator Submarines to Stop China”](#) by James Stavridis (May 28) [Paywall]
- Center for New American Security: [“The Quest for Qubits”](#) by Sam Howell (May 28)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Is Biden Deferring the Green Transition to Contain China?”](#) by Robert A. Manning (May 28) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“Shein Promised to Have a Big U.S. IPO. Its China Roots Got in the Way.”](#) by Shen Lu (May 28) [Paywall]
- *Financial Times*: [“How Chinese EV makers will respond to steep US tariffs”](#) by June Yoon (May 27) [Paywall]
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Can a U.S.-China Military Hotline Stop the Downward Spiral?”](#) by James Crabtree (May 27)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“America Is Getting Ready for Space Warfare”](#) by Doug Cameron and Micah Maidenbergl (May 27) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“This nascent trilateral relationship is the best possible answer to China”](#) by Max Boot and Sue Mi Terry (May 27) [Paywall]
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“America’s New Island Fighters Are Preparing for Conflict – a Stone’s Throw From Taiwan”](#) by Niharika Mandhana (May 26) [Paywall]
- *The Wire China*: [“The Sino-American Trade War Benefits China’s Competitors”](#) by Arvind Subramanian (May 26)
- *The New York Times*: [“Are These Drones Too Chinese to Pass U.S. Muster in an Anti-China Moment?”](#) by Kate Kelly (May 24) [Paywall]
- Wilson Center: [“China’s Balancing Act Between the U.S. and Russia”](#) by Maxim Trudolyubov (May 24)
- Brookings Institution: [“Restoring an open internet requires softer China policy”](#) by Mark MacCarthy (May 23)
- China Power Project: [“How Is China Responding to the Inauguration of Taiwan’s President William Lai?”](#) by Bonny Lin and Brian Hart (May 23)
- Foreign Policy Research Institute: [“Is It Time For a New Look at the US Obsession Over Chinese Economic Influence in Africa?”](#) by Charles A. Ray (May 23)
- *Financial Times*: [“America must face reality and prioritise China over Europe”](#) by Elbridge Colby (May 23) [Paywall]
- *The New York Times*: [“America is Losing the Green Tech Race to China”](#) by David Wallace-Wells (May 22) [Paywall]
- *The Washington Post*: [“American Students have soured on China. That’s bad for the U.S.”](#) by Keith B. Richburg (May 22) [Paywall]

What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [Wilson China Fellowship Conference 2024](#)
June 3 hosted by Wilson Center
- [China's Rise, Russia's Invasion, and America's Struggle to Defend the West: A Conversation with David Sanger](#)
May 28 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [Key Economic Strategies for Leveling the U.S.-China Playing Field: Trade, Investment, and Technology](#)
May 23 hearing by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
- [The Senate Perspective on the US-China Rivalry with Bill Hagerty](#)
May 23 hosted by Hudson Institute

- Upcoming Events -

- [U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns on U.S.-China Relations](#)
June 6 hosted by Asia Society
- [Lost Decade: The U.S. Pivot to Asia and the Rise of Chinese Power](#)
June 12 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [The U.S.-China Geopolitical Relationship: What is the Way Ahead?](#)
June 18 hosted by *Financial Times*
- [Sailing to the Edge of the Carbon World: Decarbonizing Shipping from American, Chinese, and European Perspectives](#)
June 26 hosted by the Wilson Center

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---Upcoming TnT Event---

ICAS
Institute for China-America Studies

Thursday, June 13, 2024
9:00am - 10:00am EDT
Virtual (Zoom)

TnT ICAS TRADE 'N TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

**U.S.-China and Trade Frictions:
How Much Worse Will It Get?**
~Panel Discussion~

Aggravated trade tensions are once again rising to the fore in U.S.-China relations. How will China respond to the U.S.' tariff measures? Will it continue to maintain a low-key approach? Later this June, Trump and Biden will square off in their first presidential debate, vowing to be tougher than the other in responding to the 'Second China Shock'. What is the outlook for U.S. trade policy in the months and years ahead? Is protectionism here to stay? How are U.S.-China trade and industrial policy tensions expected to play out during this election year?

To listen to these pressing bilateral and multilateral trade and tariff-related questions, tune in to the ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program event on June 13.

Panelists

Mary LOVELY
Anthony M. Solomon
Senior Fellow
Peterson Institute for International Economics

TU Xinquan
Professor & Dean, China
Institute for WTO Studies
University of International Business and Economics

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

Nong HONG
Executive Director
Institute for China-America Studies

Moderated by

Welcome Remarks by

RSVP on Zoom

U.S.-China and Trade Frictions: How Much Worse Will It Get?

Thursday, June 13, 2024
9:00am - 10:00am EDT

Aggravated trade tensions are once again rising to the fore in U.S.-China relations. In mid-May, President Biden confirmed the Trump administration's Section 301 tariffs on China and proceeded to heap additional tariff raises on semiconductors, EVs, batteries, and solar cells. In late-May, Treasury Secretary Yellen sounded the alarm on Chinese 'overcapacity', calling it a "threat to the development of clean energy industries around the world". The recent G7

Finance Ministers statement vows to "ensure a level playing field, in line with WTO principles" to counter China's "comprehensive use of non-market policies and practices". China strenuously denies these charges, pointing to its competitive edge in many clean energy industries. How will it respond to the U.S.' tariff measures? Will it continue to maintain a low-key approach?

Later this June, Trump and Biden will square off in their first presidential debate, vowing to be tougher than the other in responding to the 'Second China Shock'. What is the outlook for U.S. trade policy in the months and years ahead? Is protectionism here to stay? How are U.S.-China trade and industrial policy tensions expected to play out during this election year? Across the Atlantic, the European Commission is priming its trade defense instruments against Chinese EV imports. Will it also use its Foreign Subsidies Regulation rulebook to push back against the likely torrent of Chinese greenfield EV investment that has begun to wash up on the EU's shores? Is there a difference in approach between the U.S. and the EU in dealing with the 'Second China Shock'? China has initiated WTO dispute settlement proceedings against the Inflation Reduction Act's trade-distorting EV subsidies. What is the outlook for third-party dispute settlement and for the multilateral trade system, more broadly, particularly as the U.S. reverts to its pre-WTO era usage of its Section 301 instrument? To listen to these pressing bilateral and multilateral trade and tariff-related questions, tune in to the ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program event on June 13.

[RSVP](#)

[Learn More](#)

[View The Event Program](#)

---MAP Issue Brief---

Big Wave and Undercurrent:

Washington's Duo-Track Efforts to Compete with China in the Global Maritime Influence

By Yilun Zhang, Amanda Jin

May 23, 2024

Key Takeaways:

- Washington's efforts to strengthen U.S. shipbuilding and the U.S. shipping industry derived not only from economic and trade concerns, but also from essential needs under the strategic competition. The industrial capacity of shipbuilding and influence in the global maritime logistics industry represent two cornerstones of leadership in the international maritime domain as the United States seeks to secure its control of the sea against a rapidly rising China.
- Although the U.S. commercial shipbuilding industry has been in general decline since the Second World War, the impact of the shipbuilding capability decline on U.S. naval power was not felt until recently, when the U.S. Navy struggled to keep up with China's pace in terms of producing more capable warships. Under the strategic competition, it is imminent for the U.S. to strengthen its shipbuilding capacity even if it is against economic common sense.
- After realizing that the gravity of global shipping and supply chains moved to Asia and mainland China, U.S. policymakers made a multitude of efforts to strengthen the U.S. shipping industry to secure U.S. export interests and ensure U.S. influence over global shipping, maritime connectivity and trade. Nevertheless, the U.S. shipping industry still lagged behind significantly in key industrial upgrades and could need exceptional policy support.
- Among the Biden administration's effort to enhance U.S. shipping competitiveness, U.S. agencies made several efforts to enhance its grasp over global shipping regulation, especially by eliminating barriers between law enforcement teams and civil regulators. This criminal-civil fusion has enabled criminal law enforcement to benefit from the monitoring power, industrial expertise and investigative capability of civil regulators



[Read the Full Brief](#)

---Commentary---

A Landmark Advisory Opinion: ITLOS Strengthens Legal Framework for Climate Action

*By Nong Hong
May 28, 2024*

On May 21, 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) issued a groundbreaking Advisory Opinion on climate change, which marks a historic first – an international legal body directly addressing state obligations for mitigating climate change, a critical step forward in holding nations accountable for their actions.

The request made to ITLOS in December 2022 by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law seeks clarification on states' obligations under UNCLOS regarding the prevention, reduction, and control of marine pollution, as well as the protection and preservation of the marine environment in relation to climate change impacts. This is the first time an advisory opinion has been sought on issues specifically related to sea-level rise and climate change more broadly.

[Continue Reading](#)

---ICAS In the News---

On Monday, May 27, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta [discussed](#) the trilateral summit between China, South Korea, and Japan on *CGTN*.

- "The important point to note is that the trilateral summit is fundamentally, first and foremost, an economic and trade gathering [between China, South Korea, and Japan]."
- "[The three countries] trade a lot with each other, and yet, this is the one part of the world where they do not have a real free trade agreement with each other."



On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [quoted](#) by *China Daily* on the first U.S-China talks on AI in Geneva.

- There was a genuine sense of "constructiveness" at the AI meeting, "given that it opened a channel for communication on an issue that will require a degree of cooperation and coordination from both sides for a long time and given its importance".
- "There's value in all the big players in the system coming and proposing common rules by which AI is regulated at the international level. And so that's also a useful area of dialogue within the framework of this conversation."



The ICAS Bulletin

Institute for China America Studies

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

June 19, 2024

What's Going On? ↓

EU Follows Washington's Tariff Hikes, Industry Response Is Divided



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- On June 14, a senior U.S. official said Washington “expect[s] to see unprecedented unity” among the G7 partners to counter China’s unfair, non-market practices that have resulted in global spillovers of Chinese overcapacity and supply chain dependencies.
- On June 12, the European Union announced that it would impose an additional tariff of up to 38 percent on electric vehicles imported from China, shortly after President Biden announced tariff increases on Chinese electric vehicles.
- In reaction to the tariff spike, an U.S. industry group consisting of 173 trade associations asked the Biden Administration to delay the effective date of the Chinese tariffs while also requesting a public hearing and potential reconsiderations.
- Meanwhile, a different U.S. policy group led by United Steelworkers Union and other U.S. manufacturing firms called for stronger trade barriers on China in addition to the current tariff increases.
- On June 7, the chairman and founder of BYD, the largest Chinese auto company, said at an industry summit in China that foreign countries fear Chinese electric vehicles. He urged the industry to embrace

U.S. Asia-Pacific Partnerships Strengthen as Security Concerns Brew



Korean Coast Guard vessels stationed at night.
(Credit: Photo by Insung Yoon via Unsplash)

- On June 18, following a serious confrontation between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea, Washington renewed a warning that it is obligated to defend the Philippines in major conflicts.
- On June 17, the United States, Canada, Japan and the Philippines conducted a two-day joint maritime military exercise in the South China Sea. The U.S. Navy stated that this cooperation aimed to uphold freedom of navigation and bolster regional stability.
- The Vice Foreign Minister of China said on June 9 that the United States’ military involvement in the South China Sea greatly disrupts regional security and fuels ongoing maritime disputes and provoking an arms race.
- On June 6, the U.S., Japanese, and South Korean coast guards conducted their first joint maritime drill in Japan’s coast to strengthen security cooperation against China’s increasing maritime assertiveness.
- Two days after Washington approved sales of F-16 jet parts to Taiwan, the Chinese Defense Ministry expressed its strong opposition to Washington’s arms sales, urging Washington to withdraw immediately.

more competition in its transition to green technology.
 - To protect the struggling solar industry in the United States, the Biden administration revived U.S. tariffs on solar products on June 6, targeting Chinese solar panel manufacturers located in Southeast Asia.

Associated News Sources:

["U.S. trade groups request extension to comment on tariffs on Chinese imports,"](#) CBT News, June 17
["G7 leaders discuss more steps to level China playing field, US official says,"](#) Reuters, June 14
["US industry groups seek hearing, more on Biden's China tariff hike,"](#) Reuters, June 14
["European Union Hits E.V.s From China With Extra Tariffs Up to 38%,"](#) The New York Times, June 12
["Europe, US Fearful of Chinese Electric Cars, Says BYD Founder,"](#) Bloomberg, June 7
["U.S. Adds Tariffs to Shield Struggling Solar Industry,"](#) The New York Times, June 6

- In an interview with *TIME* at the White House, President Joe Biden said that he does not rule out the possibility of deploying U.S. military force to defend Taiwan in the case of a Chinese invasion.
 - Intelligence officials in the United States and allied countries released a bulletin warning that the Chinese military has been "aggressively recruiting" former Western military pilots to train its air force.

Associated News Sources:

["U.S. reiterates its obligation to defend the Philippines after new clash with China at sea,"](#) NBC, June 18
["US, Canada, Japan, and Philippines conduct joint exercises in South China Sea,"](#) Deccan Herald, June 17
["China says US provoking arms race in moves into South China Sea,"](#) Reuters, June 9
["China strongly opposes U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, urges withdrawal,"](#) Reuters, June 7
["Japan, US, South Korean coast guards hold 1st joint drill off Japan's coast as China concerns rise,"](#) ABC, June 6
["Read the Full Transcript of President Joe Biden's Interview With TIME,"](#) Time, June 5
["Allies Warn Former Fighter Pilots Not to Train Chinese Military Members,"](#) The New York Times, June 5

Beijing Shows Desires for a More Stable U.S.-China Relationship



*The Chinese Minister for Public Security Speaking at the Second United Nations Chief of Police Summit.
 (Source: UN News, Public Domain)*

- On June 12, Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said that Washington believes that Beijing is determined to stabilize its bilateral relations as its priority shifts to its economy.
 - Four American teachers from Cornell College were stabbed and wounded in Jilin, China on June 10. The Chinese Foreign Ministry claimed that this was an isolated incident and would not affect the people-to-people exchange between the U.S. and China that President Xi Jinping has been encouraging.

Washington Increasingly Scrutinizes Organizations' Ties to China



*Microsoft President Brad Smith testifying at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on February 23, 2021 in Washington, D.C.
 (Source: Getty Images)*

- House representatives heavily criticized Microsoft President Brad Smith in a congressional hearing on June 13 for Microsoft's inability to protect federal systems from Chinese hackers and questioned its increasing investments in Chinese research initiatives.
 - Awaiting the renewal of the U.S.-China Science Technology Agreement on bilateral scientific cooperation, Republican lawmakers have raised concerns over U.S. intellectual property and national security, specifically asking whether U.S. funds have

- On June 6, the Chinese Minister for Public Security met with the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary via a video call. They agreed to maintain communication and hoped to deepen cooperation on law enforcement and counter-narcotics efforts.
- In his letter reply to the president of Kean University in New Jersey, President Xi Jinping called for increases in educational exchanges between universities in the United States and China to strengthen bilateral ties and cultivate "young ambassadors."
- In response to NASA's congratulatory message to the success of the Chang'e 6's mission to the moon, the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that China remains open to space cooperation with other countries, including the U.S., but that the U.S. would have to remove existing obstacles.

Associated News Sources:

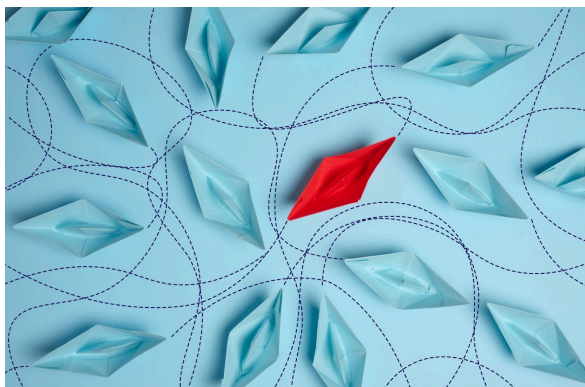
["Senior US diplomat believes China determined to stabilize relations," Reuters, June 12](#)
["US lawmakers seek China patent data amid science pact talks," Reuters, June 12](#)
["China Says Stabbing of Four Teachers Won't Derail US Ties," Bloomberg, June 10](#)
["China police chief, US homeland security head discuss law enforcement cooperation," Reuters, June 6](#)
["China says open to space cooperation with US but 'hurdles' remain," Reuters, June 6](#)
["Xi Calls for More University Exchanges With US to Boost Ties," Bloomberg, June 6](#)

- resulted in Chinese patents.
- On June 11, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security imposed import bans on three Chinese companies allegedly linked to forced labor programs in Xinjiang.
- On June 10, the chair of the Senate Finance Committee said that the Committee will expand its investigations into BMW for the company's alleged use of car parts from a banned Chinese supplier.
- A group of Republican lawmakers have urged for import bans on two Chinese battery companies CATL and Gotion High Tech under allegations of using forced labor in their supply chain.
- After *Bloomberg* reported previously undisclosed funding from Huawei to the Optica Foundation for cutting-edge research in U.S. universities, the Optica Foundation announced that it will no longer accept any money from Huawei and will return previously received donations.

Associated News Sources:

["US lawmakers grill Microsoft president over China ties, hacks," Reuters, June 13](#)
["US lawmakers seek China patent data amid science pact talks," Reuters, June 12](#)
["U.S. Bans Imports From 3 Chinese Companies Over Ties to Forced Labor," The New York Times, June 11](#)
["US Senate panel expands probe into BMW use of parts from banned Chinese supplier," Reuters, June 10](#)
["Chinese Battery Suppliers Tied to Ford, VW Should Be Banned, GOP Lawmakers Say," The Wall Street Journal, June 6](#)
["Optica Cuts Ties With Huawei After Secret Funding Exposed," Bloomberg, June 6](#)

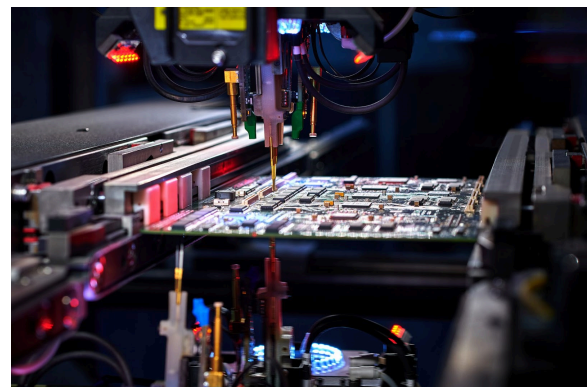
Countries Seek to Find Their Position Within the U.S.-China Competition



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- On June 18, the EU Commissioner for Competition stated that though the EU can "never outspend China or

- In Other News -



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- ["As China's Pressure on Taiwan Rises, Departing U.S. Envoy Urges Steady Hand," The New York Times, June 17](#)

the U.S.," it can find novel ways to strategically compete and contend with the two countries.

- In response to his upcoming visit to Beijing and increasing Chinese investments in Peru, Peru's Prime Minister Gustavo Adrianzen said that, rather than prompting U.S. resentment, this is "an invitation for Western capital to arrive."

- On June 11, the U.S. envoy to Budapest heavily criticized the Hungarian government for its close economic and political ties with China, explicitly denouncing its acceptance of Chinese investments and growing security cooperation with Beijing.

- In response to Washington's recent restrictions on semiconductor exports to the Middle East to prevent Chinese acquisition, the UAE minister for artificial intelligence said that Washington's concern is justified.

- On June 7, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said that Washington's presence in the Indo-Pacific region is not about stopping countries from trading with China, but is rather about "the United States showing up in the region."

Associated News Sources:

["EU to challenge U.S. and China strategically on trade, competition chief says," CNBC, June 18](#)

["Peru PM says boost in China's investments will not prompt US 'resentment'," Reuters, June 17](#)

["US envoy warns Hungary that close ties with China 'come with strings attached'," Reuters, June 11](#)

["UAE Minister Says US Concerns Over Chip Supplies to China Valid," Bloomberg, June 11](#)

["U.S. economic engagement in Indo-Pacific 'isn't about China,' Commerce Secretary Raimondo says," CNBC, June 7](#)

["US as many as 15 years behind China on nuclear power, report says," Reuters, June 17](#)

["Xi Jinping claimed US wants China to attack Taiwan," Financial Times, June 15](#)

["Chinese automakers overtake U.S. rivals in sales for the first time, report shows," CNBC, June 14](#)

["Pentagon ran secret anti-vax campaign to undermine China during pandemic," Reuters, June 14](#)

["US expands Russia sanctions, targets chips sent via China," Reuters, June 13](#)

["US Senator Calls on UK to Vet Shein's Labour Practices Ahead of IPO," Chaileedo, June 13](#)

["Yellen: US growth needs public, private investments, China subsidies excessive," Reuters, June 13](#)

["US's China Export Limits Hurt Both Nations, China Advisor Says," Bloomberg, June 12](#)

["China Scoops Up American Soy After Brazil's Surprise Tax Change," Bloomberg, June 11](#)

["US Weighs More Limits on China's Access to Chips Needed for AI," Bloomberg, June 11](#)

["Some US lawmakers call for more scrutiny of news app NewsBreak over Chinese origins," Reuters, June 8](#)

["US tech sector pressures Chinese venture capital to divest," Financial Times, June 7](#)

["China's Alibaba is courting European and U.S. small businesses as it goes global," CNBC, June 6](#)

["No-tariff shipments popular with Shein, Temu hit US customs speedbump," Reuters, June 6](#)

["Russia, China wrangle with US over UN resolution on Gaza ceasefire plan," Reuters, June 6](#)

["Trump suggests tariffs against nations including China over illegal immigration," Reuters, June 6](#)

["US proposes to boost internet security, citing Chinese carrier action," Reuters, June 6](#)

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *E-International Relations*: ["US-China Relations and the Perils of Historical Analogy"](#) by David Shipton (June 18)
- *Politico*: ["As the Hill sets its focus on China, DC trade groups are the latest in the line of fire"](#) by Caitlin Oprysko (June 18)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["Biden's Tough-on-China Stance Threatens Green America Push"](#) by Phred Dvorak (June 18)
- *Wilson Center*: ["The Power of China"](#) by Amb. Mark Green (June 18)
- *CNN*: ["US sounds alarm over Chinese and North Korean support for Russia's war in Ukraine"](#) by Stephen Collinson (June 17)
- *Foreign Policy*: ["The President Needs to Lead the Cold War on China"](#) by Randy Schriver, Dan Blumenthal, and Josh Young (June 17)
- *The Diplomat*: ["Hong Kong Is Chiming in on China-US Tech Competition"](#) by Sunny Cheung (June 17)
- *Bloomberg*: ["China and Russia Are Beating the US in Africa"](#) by James Starvridis (June 13)
- *The Economist*: ["How worrying is the rapid rise of Chinese science?"](#) (June 13)

- *The New York Times*: [“In China’s Backyard, America Has Become a Humbler Superpower”](#) by Damien Cave (June 13)
- *China File*: [“The Committee that Ended the Age of Engagement?”](#) (June 10)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Don’t Bet Against the Dollar”](#) by Jared Cohen (June 10)
- *The Washington Post*: [“The U.S. military plans a ‘Hellscape’ to deter China from attacking Taiwan”](#) by Josh Rogin (June 10)
- *The Wire China*: [“Q&A: Rahm Emanuel on Seeing China as a Strategic Adversary”](#) by Bob Davis (June 9)
- Brookings Institution: [“The US, Canada, and Mexico need a more coordinated approach to their trade relationships with China”](#) by Joshua Meltzer (June 7)

What’s Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns on U.S.-China Relations](#)
June 6 hosted by Asia Society
- [Lost Decade: The U.S. Pivot to Asia and the Rise of Chinese Power](#)
June 12 hosted by Center for a New American Security
- [The U.S.-China Geopolitical Relationship: What is the Way Ahead?](#)
June 18 hosted by *Financial Times*

- Upcoming Events -

- [Sailing to the Edge of the Carbon World: Decarbonizing Shipping from American, Chinese, and European Perspectives](#)
June 26 hosted by the Wilson Center
- [China Conference 2024](#)
July 4 hosted by *South China Morning Post*
- [Fourteenth Annual South China Sea Conference](#)
July 11 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies
- [A New Cold War: Conversation with Sir Robin Niblett](#)
July 16 hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---TnT Program Event---

U.S.-China and Trade Frictions: How Much Worse Will It Get?

June 13, 2024

Virtual (Zoom)

On June 13, 2024, ICAS hosted a virtual public event to discuss the aggravated trade tensions that have once again risen to the fore in the U.S.-China relations. The event featured two panelists: Dr. Mary Lovely, Anthony M. Solomon Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) and Dr. Tu Xinquan, Professor and Dean at the University of International Business and Economics’ China Institute for WTO Studies. The panelists were



introduced by Dr. Hong Nong, Executive Director of ICAS, and moderated by Mr. Sourabh Gupta, Head of ICAS' Trade n' Technology (TnT) Program.

The panelists touched on the many drivers and concerns that have coalesced and led to the trade frictions between the United States and China, as well as the many parallels between the U.S.' earlier altercation with Japan from the 1970s to the early-1990s. Besides, as noted by both panelists, given the size and persistence of China's footprint in the trade policy arena, any U.S. approach or vision of a reformed trading order must necessarily include China. There is no other way around this necessity. The essence of the dilemma for both parties, going forward, is to accept that deviation from WTO rules is going to willy-nilly happen, that both sides should exercise a degree of pragmatism when dealing with the other, and that they should preferably frame the terms of their competition on fair and healthy lines.

[Watch the Event](#)

[Learn More and Read the Full Summary](#)

---Academic Engagement---

Chinese Scholars Discuss Taiwan and Cross-Strait Relations with ICAS Scholars

June 6, 2024

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, two expert scholars from China visited ICAS and had a discussion with ICAS researchers on current events on U.S.-China relations, especially as they relate to Taiwan.

Both Dr. Xin Qiang (Professor and Deputy Director, Center for American Studies, Fudan University) and Dr. Ji Ye (Professor of Law and Deputy Dean, Graduate Institute for Taiwan Studies, Xiamen University), specializes in cross-strait relations and U.S.-China relations.



[Learn More](#)

---TnT Commentary---

White House's Headless Trade Policy Will Induce Congress-Hooked Protectionism

By Amanda Jin

June 18, 2024

When the Biden administration first announced its Trade Policy Agenda in 2021, trade was supposedly an "essential component" of their flagship Build Back Better agenda to revitalize the American industrial and innovation base. More than three years later, the administration's trade policy has created dissatisfaction at home—including within President Biden's own party, limited progress in its global agenda and has led to no movement in its bilateral engagements. With de-facto discontinuation of trade negotiations in the Asia-Pacific and a transatlantic trade and tech partnership that may not survive after November, the administration cannot seem to present any durable trade deliverable—in action or in negotiation—that helps ensure market access or eliminate trade barriers for U.S. exports, i.e. "leveling the playing field" and "build up strength at home" for American workers.

[Continue Reading](#)

---TnT Commentary---

U.S. and China should have a open-minded AI discussion, not a security-focused one

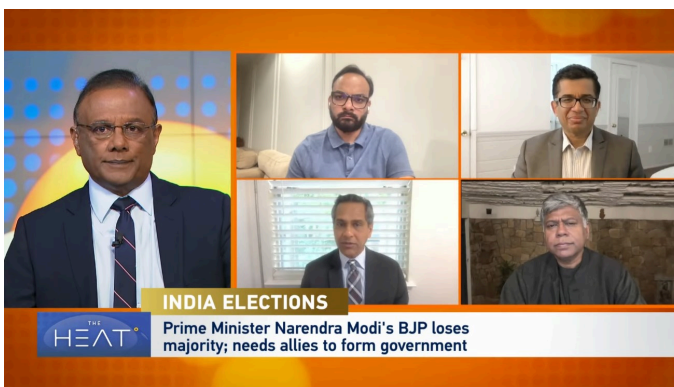
By Ao Guo
June 14, 2024

The recent U.S.-China AI dialogue in Geneva in early May 2024 illustrates the difficulty of constructing an AI governance structure. In short, the United States wants to ensure an AI governance system that is “secure, safe, trustworthy” while China expects it to adhere to the principle of “AI for good” and to expand the United Nations’ role in global AI governance. These differing priorities suggest a struggling scenario where global AI governance involving cooperation between the two major powers is, for the most part, insurmountable.

Therefore, to facilitate this critical bilateral cooperation on global AI governance, the two countries should put more effort into facilitating AI’s role in providing public goods for developing countries, which grants the two countries the opportunity to have “candid and constructive” AI governance-related conversations.

[Continue Reading](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Thursday, June 6, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *Sputnik International* on the results of the Indian parliamentary elections.

- “The key issue was about livelihood issues. It was about jobs, employment, about having a happier lifestyle...India is a poor country and I think that’s where the elections fundamentally revolved around.”
- “This is a setback for Modi, this is not a defeat for him in any way...[in a way] this is a form of retreat, but just not the retreat he would’ve preferred.”

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh was [interviewed](#) by *CGTN* on the results of the Indian general election.

- “Mr. Modi is very, very focused on development, and his goal has actually been to marry that religious, cultural assertion with development so that the BJP is looked at as the party...[that gives] India that identity of wealth and prosperity and religious security.”

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, non-resident Fellow Denis Simon was [quoted](#) by *Nature* on China’s ambitions and developments within its science and technology ecosystem.

- “A focus on big science is the next phase in China’s rapid ascendancy in the global research hierarchy”
- “The prestige that comes from building and operating massive facilities, which are designed to produce large amounts of data and insights that can feed into multiple fields and industries, could further cement the country’s status as a science superpower.”

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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