



The ICAS Bulletin

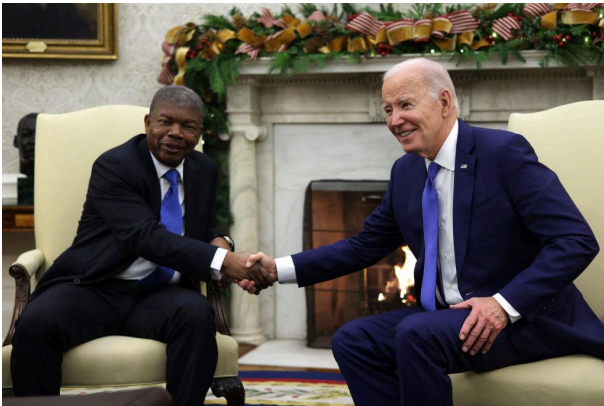
Institute for China America Studies

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

December 4, 2024

What's Going On?

Navigating U.S.-China Dynamics Amid Global Leaders' Movements



U.S. President Joe Biden shakes hands with President Joao Lourenco of Angola during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House on November 30, 2023 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

- President Joe Biden visited Angola—marking the first time a U.S. president has visited the country—to promote the U.S.-backed Lobito Corridor, a railway project announced in September 2023 aimed at countering China's dominance in Africa and fostering economic diversification. Despite skepticism from locals more familiar with China's visible investments, the initiative would lead to a shift toward private funding and reduced debt for Angola.
- President Biden's \$5 billion Lobito Corridor project in Angola is regarded as a core force in countering China's influence by securing critical minerals and boosting economic growth. Some now worry over the future of U.S. commitments to such infrastructure efforts given Donald Trump's reelection.
- Apple CEO Tim Cook and global business leaders met with China's Premier Li Qiang to discuss trade and supply chain stability amid Trump's tariff threats. Cook highlighted China's importance to Apple, while Li

Rising U.S.-China Strains Over Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific



Hawaii Governor Josh Green (center) welcomes Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te (left) to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency during his visit in Honolulu, Hawaii, on November 30, 2024. (Photo by Ronen Zilberman/AFP via Getty Images)

- China criticized the U.S. for approving both a \$385 million arms sale to Taiwan and Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's visits to Hawaii and Guam, which Lai conducted as a stopover visit for three nights on the way to islands in the South Pacific. China urged the U.S. to exercise "utmost caution" regarding Taiwan after President Lai Ching-te's visit. Beijing condemned the visit as provocative, warning of potential military drills, while reaffirming its opposition to any support for Taiwan independence.
- President-elect Donald Trump's appointment of 'China hawks' and Taiwan supporters like Sen. Marco Rubio to key roles indicates to some observers continued strong ties with Taiwan in his second administration, keeping tensions in the Indo-Pacific high.
- A U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane flying over the Taiwan Strait on November 26 was tracked by Chinese naval and air forces, escalating tensions over Taiwan. While China condemned the flight as a threat to

reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to economic growth and opposing decoupling.

- The Pentagon said that Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun refused to meet U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at an ASEAN summit in Laos, citing U.S. actions on Taiwan, and Trump's re-election raises uncertainties in future U.S.-China military relations.
- As President Biden concludes his tenure, world leaders appear to be cautiously navigating diplomacy with China at the G20 Summit, aiming for global stability amid U.S.-China tensions.

Associated News Sources:

- ["U.S. Faces Stiff Test Against Chinese Dominance In Africa,"](#) *The New York Times*, December 2
- ["Biden To Spotlight Angola's Lobito Corridor, His Legacy To Counter China In Africa,"](#) *Voice of America*, December 1
- ["Apple's Cook Joins CEO Summit With Chinese Premier On Trade,"](#) *Bloomberg*, November 25
- ["Pentagon Chief Says China Declined Meeting During Asia Visit,"](#) *Bloomberg*, November 21
- ["World Leaders Seek Stability With China As Biden Exits The Stage,"](#) *The New York Times*, November 20

regional stability, the U.S. reaffirmed its commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, asserting its operations comply with international law.

- House lawmakers were briefed on potential war scenarios involving China over Taiwan, highlighting Beijing's military advancements and the United States' need for immediate preparedness. A think tank study involving 25 rounds of war games suggests that a U.S.-Taiwan-Japan alliance could repel an invasion, but at a high cost, underscoring the urgency of ramping up munitions and deepening regional alliances.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China Promises 'Countermeasures' To US Arms Sale To Taiwan,"](#) *Fox News*, December 1
- ["China Urges Utmost Caution By US Ahead Of Taiwan President's Hawaii Trip,"](#) *Reuters*, November 29
- ["U.S. Navy Aircraft Shadowed By Chinese Warplanes As It Flies Over Taiwan Strait,"](#) *CBS News*, November 26
- ["Would The US Win A War With China Over Taiwan? US Lawmakers Briefed On The Potential Outcome,"](#) *Fox News*, November 21

Existing and Potential Tariff Turmoil and Trade Shifts Shape U.S.-China Relations



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- China announced that tariff exemptions on specific U.S. imports, including rare earth metal ore, medical disinfectant, and nickel-cadmium batteries, will be extended until February 28, 2025. The exemptions are part of China's countermeasures to the U.S. Section 301 actions, according to the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council.
- China denounced President-elect Trump's plan to impose tariffs up to 200% on Chinese goods over fentanyl trafficking, calling the move unproductive and against WTO rules. Analysts warn of a renewed trade

Export Controls Tighten on Advanced Technologies and Minerals



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- On December 3, China announced bans on exports of gallium, germanium, and other key materials to the U.S., citing national security concerns and in response to U.S. semiconductor export restrictions. The move targets materials vital for chips, solar panels, and military technology.
- The U.S. imposed broad export restrictions to block China's access to advanced AI and military technologies, blacklisting 140 entities and closing loopholes in foreign production rules. The measures aim to prevent China's use of U.S.-linked technology for military modernization and human rights abuses.
- The U.S. announced tighter controls on

war as Beijing signals possible future retaliation.

- Alcohol-maker Remy Cointreau expects steep sales declines and weaker profitability due to excess inventory and trade tensions, including U.S. tariffs and Chinese duties on EU brandy imports. Signs of U.S. market stabilization are emerging, but recovery is slow, reports say.
- President-elect Donald Trump vowed to impose a 25% tariff on all imports from Mexico and Canada and a 10% additional tariff on Chinese goods to address drug trafficking and border security. Economists warn the tariffs could spark trade wars and lead to higher consumer prices, while analysts see the moves as an opening for renegotiation of trade agreements.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China To Extend Tariff Exemptions For Some US Products To 2025," Reuters, November 28](#)
- ["China Criticises Trump Tariff Threat, Says It Won't Solve America's Problems," Reuters, November 28](#)
- ["Remy Cointreau Expects Sales Slump Amid Challenges In China, U.S.," The Wall Street Journal, November 28](#)
- ["Trump Vows 25% Tariffs On Mexico And Canada And Deeper Tariffs On China," The Guardian, November 26](#)

high-bandwidth memory chips and chipmaking equipment, targeting Chinese companies linked to AI and military applications. Exemptions for allies like Japan and the Netherlands aim to balance security concerns with global cooperation.

- In its third 'crackdown' on China's chip industry, the U.S. blacklisted major firms and tightened controls on advanced technologies. The move reportedly seeks to disrupt China's chipmaking ambitions while ensuring allied nations adopt similar restrictions.
- The Biden administration is considering additional restrictions on semiconductor equipment and AI memory chips for China, targeting Huawei suppliers and Chinese toolmakers. The measures aim to curb China's technology ambitions while balancing concerns from allies and American chipmakers about market disruptions.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China Bans Exports Of Key High-Tech Materials, Hitting Back At US Chip Sanctions," ABC News, December 3](#)
- ["Commerce Department Hits China With Sweeping Export Controls," Axios Pro, December 2](#)
- ["US Tightens Curbs On China's Access To AI Memory And Chips Tools," Bloomberg, December 2](#)
- ["Latest US Strike On China's Chips Hits Semiconductor Toolmakers," Reuters, December 2](#)
- ["US Preps China Chip Curbs That Stop Short Of Early Proposals," Bloomberg, November 28](#)

U.S.-China Relations Amid Human Rights and Political Tensions



Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, founder and owner of Apple Daily newspaper, leaves the high court after being bailed on December 23, 2020 in Hong Kong, China. (Photo by Anthony Kwan/Getty Images)

- The Biden administration successfully negotiated a prisoner swap with China, securing the release of Americans Mark Swidan, Kai Li, and John Leung in

- In Other News -



(Source: Getty Images, Royalty-Free)

- ["Inside A Secret Plan To Bring Uyghurs Trapped In China To The United States," The New York Times, December 3](#)
- ["Chinese Lidar Sensors Pose Hacking Risk To US Defense Equipment, Report Says," Reuters, December 2](#)

exchange for three Chinese nationals held in U.S. custody. The deal, a diplomatic win for Biden, follows months of negotiations and marks the release of over 70 Americans detained abroad during his presidency.

- The Biden administration added 29 Chinese companies to its Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act ban list, blocking imports tied to forced labor in Xinjiang. The expansion brings the total to over 100 companies targeted since the law's 2022 enforcement, affecting goods like cotton, tomatoes, and metals.
- Donald Trump's Commerce Secretary pick, Howard Lutnick, is facing scrutiny for financial ties to China through BGC Group and Cantor Fitzgerald. Critics question whether these connections could compromise his ability to enforce tough trade policies.
- Pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai testified in his national security trial, denying allegations of colluding with foreign forces, including seeking U.S. sanctions on China. Lai, a former media tycoon, faces charges under Hong Kong's national security law, which critics view as a crackdown on dissent.

Associated News Sources:

["US And China Swap Three Prisoners Each In Exchange."](#)
BBC, November 28

["U.S. Adds Nearly 30 Chinese Companies To Forced-Labor Blacklist."](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, November 22

["Lutnick's China Ties Draw Fire After Trump Taps Him To Lead US In Trade War."](#) *Reuters*, November 21

["Pro-Democracy Tycoon Jimmy Lai Denies Asking U.S. To Act Against Hong Kong, China In Landmark Trial."](#) *NBC News*, November 20

["Chinese Exporters Front-Load Shipments In Bid To Dodge Trump Tariffs,"](#) *Financial Times*, December 2

["The Whiz Kid Who Made Billions for Yale Is Rethinking His China Strategy,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, November 29

["Texas Governor Orders State Agencies To Sell China Assets,"](#) *Reuters*, November 22

["China's Pony AI Seeks Up To \\$4.55 Bln Valuation In Upsized US IPO,"](#) *Reuters*, November 20

What Are We Reading? ↓

- *Reuters*: ["Explainer: After China's Mineral Export Ban, How Else Could It Respond To U.S. Chip Curbs?"](#) by Eduardo Baptista (December 3)
- Center for Strategic & International Studies: ["Ending The Strategic Vacuum: A U.S. Strategy For China In Latin America"](#) by Ryan C. Berg (December 2)
- Council on Foreign Relations: ["Protecting U.S. Allies And Partners From Chinese Economic Coercion"](#) by Elliott Abrams, Ezra Hess, and Joshua Kurlantzick (December 2)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: ["China Tensions Prompt U.S. Navy Race To Reload Missiles At Sea"](#) by Daniel Michaels, Mike Cherney, and Tonia Cowan (December 2)
- Atlantic Council: ["Experts React: What Biden's Trip To Angola Says About US Africa Policy, China, And More"](#) (December 1)
- *AP News*: ["Why Temu And Shein Could Give Western Retailers A Run For Their Money This Holiday Season"](#) by Haleluya Hadero (December 1)
- Center for European Policy Analysis: ["China, The US, And Averting Nuclear Götterdämmerung"](#) by Michael Sheridan (November 25)

- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“How Trump’s Tariffs On China Changed U.S. Trade, In Charts”](#) by Inti Pacheco (November 25)
- *Bloomberg*: [“US Cannot Repeat Trump’s Attacks On Chinese Scientists”](#) by Catherine Thorbecke (November 24)
- *Stimson Center*: [“How To Avoid A War Over Taiwan”](#) by James Siebens (November 22)
- *Politico*: [“The Global Climate Race Is All But Over – And China Is Winning”](#) by Zack Colman and Sara Schonhardt (November 22)
- *Voice of America*: [“Calls To Revoke China’s Trade Status Widen In Washington”](#) by Rob Garver (November 22)
- *Financial Times*: [“Joe Biden Loses To Xi Jinping In Battle For Latin America”](#) by Michael Stott (November 20)
- *The Hill*: [“How The US Is Bankrolling Beijing’s Ambitions”](#) by Brian J. Cavanaugh and Craig Singleton (November 20)

What’s Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [Assessing Taiwan’s Economic Resilience](#)
December 3 hosted by Brookings
- [The Contest for the Indian Ocean And the Making of a New World Order](#)
December 2 hosted by Wilson Center
- [Difficult Decisions: Allies’ Perspectives on the U.S.-China Rivalry](#)
November 25 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [China & The Rise Of Xi Jinping](#)
November 25 hosted by Asia Society

- Upcoming Events -

- [Taiwan’s Security Needs For The Next US Administration](#)
December 5 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Where Are US-China Relations Headed?](#)
December 6 hosted by Brookings
- [The Turning Point? U.S.-China Relations, Economic Growth, And The Race For Technology Leadership](#)
December 10 hosted by Center for Strategic & International Studies
- [Sanctioned Voices: Spotlighting China’s Global Repression](#)
December 11 hosted by Hudson Institute
- [Charting The Future: US-Taiwan Relations After The 2024 Election](#)
December 11 hosted by Foreign Policy Research Institute

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---ICAS 2024 Annual Conference Announcement---

ICAS 2024 Annual Conference Trump 2.0: Will U.S.-China Relations Prosper, Suffer or Muddle Through?

ICAS
Institute for China-America Studies

Thursday, December 12, 2024
9:00am-4:20pm (EST) (GMT -5)
Georgetown Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC

2024 Annual Conference & ICAS 10th Anniversary

Trump 2.0: Will U.S.-China Relations Prosper, Suffer or Muddle Through?

Keynote
Moderated by

QIU Wenxing
Minister
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States

Gordon HOULDEN
Director Emeritus
The China Institute,
University of Alberta

Luncheon Speech
Moderated by

Stephen ORLINS
President
National Committee on
U.S.-China Relations

Amy CELICO
Partner
Albright Stonebridge Group

Panel I: Geopolitics & Security
Michael SWAINE
Robert DALY
YU Tiejun
ZHAO Hai
Moderated by: LIU Yawei

Panel II: Science & Technology
Paul TRIOLO
LU Xiaomeng
CAO Cong
Denis SIMON
Moderated by: Sourabh GUPTA

Panel III: Third Parties' Views on U.S.-China Relations
Vikram NEHRU
Jan Willem BLANKERT
Enrique DUSSEL PETERS
Rachel Minyoung LEE
Moderated by: YANG LI

Panel IV: People-to-People Exchanges
Madelyn ROSS
HAN Hua
Jan BERRIS
WANG Sheng

Opening Remarks
WU Shicun
Chairman of the Advisory Board
Institute for China-America Studies

Introduction
HONG Nong
Executive Director
Institute for China-America Studies

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ICES

RSVP: <https://chinaus-icas.org/events-2annual-conferences/2024-annual-conference/>

For media and other inquiries, email Jessica Martin at jessicamartin@chinaus-icas.org

ICAS is excited to hold its 2024 Annual Conference in-person at the **Georgetown Marriott Hotel** in Washington, D.C. next **Thursday, December 12, 2024!**

Online registration is now available for those unable to attend in-person!

Featuring a keynote by **Minister Qiu Wenxing (Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States)**, a luncheon speech by **Stephen Orkins (National Committee on U.S.-China Relations)**, and four expert panels, this year's conference will assess the upcoming challenges and opportunities in U.S.-China relations amidst Donald Trump's return to the Oval Office. A buffet lunch will be provided to registered guests.

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---TnT Commentary---**China's Role in the G20 and Beyond**

By Sourabh Gupta
November 20, 2024

The following interview was originally conducted and [released](#) by Global Times on November 20, 2024.

Global Times (GT) Editor's Note:

The leaders of the G20 met in Rio de Janeiro on Monday and Tuesday to address major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Why is the G20 embracing a "Global South moment"? In light of the current challenges facing globalization, what role is China playing within the G20? Global Times (GT) reporter Qian Jiayin interviewed Sourabh Gupta (Gupta), a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, to discuss these issues.



[Link to Full Post](#)

---MAP Commentary---**How the West can navigate Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic**

By Nong Hong
November 26, 2024

The China-Russia partnership has reached unprecedented levels, propelled by mutual strategic interests in Arctic governance and a shared objective of countering Western influence. This partnership is reflected in recent joint military activities, enhanced maritime cooperation and increasingly integrated Arctic policies.

Two high-profile military exercises – “Northern/Interaction-2024” and “Ocean-2024” – highlight the depth of China-Russian military cooperation. The Northern/Interaction-2024 exercise emphasised anti-submarine warfare and aerial defence. The drills tested advanced interoperability between the two nations’ naval forces, underscoring their preparedness for joint operations in sensitive regions...



[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---



On Thursday, November 19, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by CGTN America's *The Heat* on the Rio G20 Summit priorities.

- "Places like the UN Security Council where high politics takes place that process is going to be very very difficult but the G20 is very well placed to push issues like international financial architecture reform and international governance reform in the economic arena."
- "...organizations and frameworks like the BRICS to deepen and thicken the sort of pragmatic cooperation that they can do whether it's the contingent reserve arrangement whether it's the new development bank whether it's trying to chart out new payment infrastructure among these countries and just thicken these web of activities and this will create and enlarge the global heft..."

On Thursday, November 19, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *South China Morning Post* on the recently concluded G20 Leaders Summit in Rio.

- "Donald Trump doesn't give a whit about global anti-poverty, inequality, digital public infrastructures or green transition goals."

On Friday, November 20, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *South China Morning Post* on the recently concluded G20 Leaders Summit in Rio.

- "To what extent there is follow-through on these priorities is debatable,...It's the same old blah blah blah in the conference halls."

On Friday, November 20, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *Global Times* on China's role with the G20.

- "China should continue to seize this co-leadership opportunity for global collaboration with willing stakeholders, no matter how adverse the climate for global cooperation might turn out in the future. By sheer size and capabilities, China is in a position to reframe the terms of the global debate and facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation."

On Friday, November 27, 2024, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *South China Morning Post* on the release of 'wrongfully detained' Americans from China.

- "This is about easing tensions in advance of Trump's arrival and clearing some of the underbrush."
- "The release is also tied in a broader context to Xi Jinping's promise to improve people-to-people exchanges,...Xi is showing that he is following through on the consensus and that China, for its part at least, remains committed to productive, stable and forward-looking ties."