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Institute for China America Studies

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

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What's Going On?

U.S.- China Trade Truce Extends as Both Sides Seek to Reach Final Deal



U.S. President Donald Trump signs an executive order in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on July 31, 2025 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

- On August 11, President Trump extended the tariff pause on Chinese goods for another 90 days on the deadline of the previous pause, which is an expected result from the China-U.S. trade talk in Stockholm.
- Hours before signing the executive order, Trump demands China to quadruple its soybean purchase from the U.S. to close the trade gap between the two countries as the trade truce deadline approaches.
- On the other hand, on August 11, it was reported that China seeks the U.S. to relax its export restrictions on high-bandwidth memory chips as part of a potential trade deal.
- Trump remains optimistic about reaching a final trade deal with China, and is willing to visit China before the end of this year only if the deal is struck.
- Despite trade tensions, China's export in July has increased more than 7% compared to July last year, exceeding market expectations, and imports increased by 4%, contradicting a fall in forecasts.
- Chinese exports to Southeast Asia and the EU grew by 16.6% and 9.2% respectively, with slight decreases in

White House Goes from Pillar to Post Over the High-Tech Industry



Jensen Huang, co-founder and CEO of Nvidia Corp., speaks during a news conference in Taipei on May 21, 2025. (Photo by I-HWA CHENG/AFP via Getty Images)

- On August 11, Nvidia and AMD agreed to U.S. president Trump's demand to pay 15% of their revenue from chip sales to China. Trump had initially demanded 20% from Nvidia but was dropped to 15% after Jensen Huang's meeting with Trump on August 6.
- When comparing the H20 to the latest AI chip Blackwell, Trump calls the H20 chip old and obsolete, and he "wouldn't make a deal" with China on Blackwell without any downgrade.
- As Nvidia gets U.S. license for export, on August 10, Chinese authorities state that the H20 chip poses security and environmental concerns, and advise firms to reduce the use of less advanced semiconductors.
- Nvidia rejects the statement over security concerns on the H20 chip in a similar fashion to the previous accusations over "backdoors".
- Intel's CEO Lip-Bu Tan met with Trump on August 11 after Trump demanded the CEO to resign on August 7 due to his ties with China in the past.
- Trump's attitude quickly reversed after the emergency meeting, saying Tan's "success and rise is an amazing

imports from the two regions.

- On the contrary to the overall growth in China's international trade, both China's exports to and imports from the U.S. fell, with exports decreasing for the fourth consecutive month on a year-on-year basis.
- Similarly in the U.S., CPI rose 0.2% in July and 2.7% year-on-year with modest tariff impacts, which is below market expectations.

Associated News Sources:

- ["Consumer Prices Rise 2.7% Annually in July, Less than Expected Amid Tariff Worries,"](#) CNBC, August 12
- ["Trump Extends China Tariff Deadline by 90 Days,"](#) CNBC, August 11
- ["Trump Signs Order Extending China Tariff Truce by 90 Days, White House Says,"](#) Reuters, August 11
- ["Trump Urges China to Quadruple US Soy Buying, Lifting Prices,"](#) Bloomberg, August 11
- ["China Wants US to Relax AI Chip-Export Controls for Trade Deal, Ft Reports,"](#) Reuters, August 10
- ["China's Exports Top Forecasts as Shippers Rush to Meet Tariff Deadline,"](#) Reuters, August 7
- ["China's July Exports Top Expectations, Rising over 7%; Imports Record Biggest Jump in A Year,"](#) CNBC, August 6
- ["Trump Says He Will Meet China's Xi if a Trade Deal is Struck,"](#) Reuters, August 5

story".

- Earlier on August 6, Senate Intelligence Committee chair Tom Cotton wrote an open letter to Intel's board chair over concerns about potential national security risks, given Intel's role in the Secure Enclave defense program.
- Tan immediately rejected Trump's accusations by saying that he has always operated within the highest legal and ethical standards, and that Intel is engaging with the administration to provide facts while sharing the president's commitment to U.S. national and economic security.

Associated News Sources:

- ["China Urges Firms to Avoid Nvidia H20 Chips After Trump Ends Ban,"](#) Bloomberg, August 12
- ["President Trump Calls Intel C.E.O. a 'Success' After Meeting,"](#) The New York Times, August 11
- ["Trump Says He Asked for 20% Cut from Nvidia, Calls H20 An 'Obsolete' Chip,"](#) CNBC, August 11
- ["Nvidia and AMD to Pay 15% of China Chip Sales to US,"](#) BBC, August 11
- ["Chinese State Media Says Nvidia H20 Chips Not Safe for China,"](#) Reuters, August 11
- ["Nvidia Claps Back against Chinese Accusations Its H20 Chips Pose A Security Risk,"](#) CNBC, August 10
- ["Intel CEO Singled Out by Trump to Visit White House on Monday,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, August 10
- ["US Licenses Nvidia to Export Chips to China, Official Says,"](#) Reuters, August 8
- ["Intel CEO Responds after Trump Calls for His Resignation,"](#) Associated Press, August 8
- ["Trump Calls on Intel CEO to Resign Over China Ties,"](#) The Wall Street Journal, August 7
- ["Trump Eyes 100% Chips Tariff, Exempting Firms That Invest in US,"](#) Bloomberg, August 6
- ["Trump Meets With Nvidia's Huang as Semiconductor Tariffs Near,"](#) Bloomberg, August 6
- ["Exclusive: US Lawmaker Questions Intel CEO's Ties to China in Letter to Company Board Chair,"](#) Reuters, August 6
- ["Nvidia Says Its AI Chips Don't Have A 'Kill Switch' after Chinese Accusation,"](#) CNBC, August 5

Trump and Putin Set to Meet for Peace Talk, without Ukraine Participation



This combination of pictures created on February 21, 2020 shows US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin delivering speeches. (Photo by JIM WATSON, EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP via Getty Images)

- U.S. President Donald Trump is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15, aiming to quickly judge whether a deal can be reached, but without committing to a cease-fire, security guarantees, or continued U.S. military support for Ukraine. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy is not invited.
- Reported on August 11, Trump confirmed "land swapping" will be part of the talks with Putin, also expressing frustration at Zelensky's requirement for constitutional approval of any such deal.
- Chinese president Xi Jinping reiterates his stance that the Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved through peace talks and diplomacy, expressing support for the U.S.-Russia peace talk if it advances a political settlement in a phone call with Putin on August 8.
- Kremlin officials and Russian commentators praised the site selection in Alaska as positive and symbolic, and frame it as an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations and potentially start a "shared chapter" in the U.S.-Russia history.
- Days before a Trump-Putin meeting, Russian forces have breached Ukraine's defensive line in Donetsk, threatening key cities and supply routes, as Kyiv rushes reinforcements to the region.
- Earlier on August 5, Zelensky accused Moscow of recruiting foreign mercenaries from China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and African countries, and vowed that Ukraine would respond. Zelensky has made similar accusations before, which China denied.

Associated News Sources:

- ["Russians Hail Historic Alaska Ties ahead of Trump-Putin Summit on Ukraine,"](#) NBC, August 12
- ["Trump Says He's Going to Alaska to See What Putin 'Has in Mind',"](#) The New York Times, August 11

Trump Targets Russian Oil Supply to China and India



An oil tankers train passes near the Guwahati Refinery operated by Indian Oil Corporation, in Guwahati. (Photo by BIJU BORO/AFP via Getty Images)

- On August 6, President Trump threatened more punitive tariffs on Russian oil buyers that are similar to the one on India, implying the same could be on China.
- Indian parliament still hopes to continue trade talks with the U.S. as of August 11, even after President Trump announced the 25% tariff on buying Russian oil, now totaling 50%.
- On the contrary, there has been an anti-American sentiment among the Indian public, where business executives and Indian Prime Minister Modi's supporters call for boycotting American brands and buying local.
- At a gathering in Bengaluru on August 10, Modi urged greater self-reliance, saying that while Indian technology companies make products for the world, it is now time to prioritize India's needs, without naming any company.
- As tariffs strain the U.S.-India relationship, India is deepening diplomatic and economic engagement with China and Russia.
- Prime Minister Modi will visit China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit that begins on August 31. Meanwhile as of August 6, Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is on a scheduled visit to Russia to discuss oil purchases.
- China defends its energy and trade ties with Moscow as just and legitimate on August 7, pledging to continue them based on national interests while deepening broader economic and security cooperation with Russia.
- China's crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia will decline in September to about 1.43 million barrels per day, down from a more than two-year high in August, as major Chinese refiners cut purchases following Saudi Aramco's second consecutive price hike for Asian buyers.

["Trump Says He and Putin Will Discuss 'Land Swapping' at Ukraine War Summit,"](#) *The Guardian*, August 11
["Xi Tells Putin China Welcomes Fresh US-Russia Contacts as Trump Seeks End to Ukraine War,"](#) *Reuters*, August 8
["China-Russia Trade Hits 2025 High as Trump Hints at 25% Tariff over Russian Oil Import,"](#) *Southern China Morning Post*, August 7
["Zelensky Says Russia Using Mercenaries from China, Pakistan and Other Countries,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, August 5

Associated News Sources:
["Saudi Crude Oil Supply to China Set to Fall in September, Sources Say,"](#) *Reuters*, August 11
["In India, Trump's Tariffs Spark Calls to Boycott American Goods,"](#) *Reuters*, August 11
["India's Modi, Brazil's Lula Speak amid Trump Tariff Blitz,"](#) *Reuters*, August 7
["Trump Vows More Secondary Sanctions for Russia Oil Buyers are Coming, Including Potentially on China,"](#) *CNN*, August 7
["India's Modi to Visit China for First Time in 7 Years as Tensions with US Rise,"](#) *Reuters*, August 6
["China Pushes back at US Demands to Stop Buying Russian and Iranian Oil,"](#) *Associated Press*, August 3

Japan Softens on Sino-Japan Relationship



A large themed flower bed in the shape of a torch is set up along the Chang'an Avenue for the upcoming grand gathering to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War concluded on August 12, 2025 in Beijing, China. (Photo by VCG/VCG via Getty Images)

- China completed its first round of rehearsal on the weekend of August 9 for the September 3 military parade celebrating the 80th anniversary of victory over Japan in World War II.
- China has invited descendants of the American Flying Tigers to attend the September 2–3 ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, using the historic U.S.-China wartime cooperation as a goodwill gesture amid strained bilateral relations.
- Japan also held its ceremonies commemorating the 80th anniversary of U.S. atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 9.
- Head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan Lee Yi-yang became the first Taiwan official to attend such an event, where he also shook hands with US ambassador to Tokyo George Glass as the two sides reiterated peace in Asia-Pacific.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has decided not to issue a personal statement on August 15,

- In Other News -



An inflatable robot installation is on display outside Robot Mall on August 8, 2025 in Beijing, China. (Photo by Zhang Xiangyi/China News Service/VCG via Getty Images)

["Brazil's Lula, China's Xi Discuss BRICS, Bilateral Opportunities,"](#) *Reuters*, August 12
["Cancer Scientist Feng Gensheng Leaves US for China as Trump Cuts Funding,"](#) *South China Morning Post*, August 12
["China Unveils First-Ever Home-Made Bionic Tibetan Antelope Robot in Hoh Xil Nature Reserve,"](#) *Global Times*, August 11
["China Creates World's No. 1 Shipbuilder, Driven by Rivalry With U.S.,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, August 11
["Coast Guard Warns of 'increased Chinese Research Vessel Activity' in The US Arctic,"](#) *Fox News*, August 11
["Solomon Islands Blocks US, China, Taiwan from Pacific's Top Political Meet,"](#) *Reuters*, August 8
["US Ethane Curbs Will Make Contracting To China Harder, Energy Transfer Says,"](#) *Reuters*, August 7
["GM Will Import EV Batteries from China's CATL Despite Tariffs,"](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, August 7
["Amtrak NextGen Acela Debuts on August 28,"](#) *Amtrak*, August 7
["Life-Like Robots for Sale to the Public as China Opens New Store,"](#) *BBC*, August 7

marking the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II and consider releasing a paper on the topic on September 2 if political conditions allow.

- Diplomatic sources said on August 10 that Chinese vessels fired at least two warning shots at a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer last year when it inadvertently entered Chinese territorial waters near Zhejiang province despite repeated warnings from the Chinese side.

- China insisted that it handles unauthorized entry of foreign military vessels according to its laws, while Japan denied the media report. The Captain of the Japanese destroyer was dismissed for negligence soon after the incident.

Associated News Sources:

["China Holds Rehearsal for Military Parade Marking 80th End of War Anniversary."](#) *NHK*, August 10

["China-Japan Ties are Improving. Could A Taiwanese Official Test That Trend?"](#) *South China Morning Post*, August 10

["Japan denies China fired warning shots at destroyer that breached territorial waters."](#) *Star and Stripes*, August 12

["Ishiba Unlikely to Make Personal Statement on WWII Anniversary."](#) *The Japan Times*, August 3

What Are We Reading? ↓

- RAND: [“The People's Liberation Army's Approach To Manned-Unmanned Teaming”](#) by Shanshan Mei (August 12)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“If the U.S. Doesn't Set Global Tech Standards, China Will”](#) by Shane Tews and Luke Hogg (August 12)
- *Bloomberg*: [“China Is Playing The Long Game On Trade. It's Working.”](#) by Karishma Vaswani (August 12)
- *Bloomberg*: [“How The US Could Lose The AI Arms Race To China”](#) by Hal Brands (August 12)
- *Foreign Affairs*: [“After The Trade War: Remaking Rules From The Ruins Of The Rules-Based System”](#) by Michael B. G. Froman (August 11)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“America's Military Runs On Chinese Rare Earths, But The Pentagon Is Hoping It Can Change That.”](#) by Christina Lu (August 11)
- *The New York Times*: [“China's Automakers Are Taking A Shortcut To European Markets”](#) by Keith Bradsher (August 11)
- Brookings Institution: [“Interwoven Frontiers: Energy, AI, And US-China Competition”](#) by David Edelman (August 11)
- *The Hill*: [“China And Russia Have The Leverage To Disrupt Trump's Dealmaking”](#) by Harlan Ullman (August 11)
- The Atlantic Council: [“Strategic Energy Realignment: Rethinking MDB Policy For Growth And Global Stability”](#) by Samuel Buchan and Landon Derentz (August 11)
- *The New York Times*: [“Trump Is Letting TikTok \(And China\) Win”](#) by the Editorial Board, *The New York Times* (August 9)
- American Enterprise Institute: [“Will Trump Make China More Competitive?”](#) by Derek Scissors (August 7)
- RAND: [“Leashing Chinese AI Needs Smart Chip Controls”](#) by Kyle Chan and Ray Wang (August 7)
- The Atlantic Council: [“Reading Between The Lines Of The Dueling US And Chinese AI Action Plans”](#) by Atlantic Council Experts (August 7)
- *The Wall Street Journal*: [“How to Counter China in America's Backyard”](#) by Sen. Bill Cassidy (R., LA.) (August 7)
- CNAS: [“How Big Will China's Nuclear Arsenal Get?”](#) by Jacob Stokes (August 6)
- CSIS: [“Assessing The Impact Of China-Russia Coordination In The Media And Information Space”](#) by Ryan C. Berg and Henry Ziemer (August 5)
- CNAS: [“Game Over? How The United States Could Have Won The Trade Wars”](#) by Emily Kilcrease and Geoffrey Gertz (August 4)
- RAND: [“Incentives For U.S.-China Conflict, Competition, And Cooperation Across Artificial General Intelligence's Five Hard National Security Problems”](#) by Michael S. Chase and William Marcellino (August 4)
- *Taipei Times*: [“Ryan Hass On Taiwan: Does The Trump Administration Have A China Strategy?”](#) by Ryan Hass (August 4)
- *Foreign Policy*: [“Leashing Chinese AI Needs Smart Chip Controls”](#) by Kyle Chan and Ray Wang (August 4)
- Brookings Institution: [“Taiwan's Recall Vote: Implications For Taiwan, China, And The United States”](#) by Richard C. Bush and Ryan Hass (August 1)

What's Happening Around Town? ↓

- Past Events -

- [How Congress Can Rebuild US Shipbuilding and Boost Maritime Security](#) July 31 by Hudson Institute
- [Lights Out? Wargaming a Chinese Blockade of Taiwan](#) July 31 by CSIS
- [Low Expectations Getting Lower: EU-China Relations After the EU-China Summit](#) August 5 by Asia Society Policy Institute
- [Virtual Event | Countering China's Digital Silk Road: Kenya](#) August 6 by CNAS
- [Executive Roundtable on U.S.-China Trade and the Ports of the Pacific](#) Aug 11 by Asia Society

- Upcoming Events -

- [Risk Analysis For An Uncertain Age: A Number-Free Introduction To The Method](#) August 13 by Hoover Institution
- [Winning The Biotechnology Competition](#) August 18 by Hoover Institution
- [Bridging Generations of U.S.-China Education Exchange: Chinese Scholars to America](#) August 19 by US-China Education Trust
- [Apple In China](#) September 4 by Georgetown University

What ICAS Is Up To ↓

---ICAS Expert Voices Initiative---



Captain Anurag Bisen on The Arctic: India
 Wednesday, August 6, 2025

India, while a non-Arctic state, has expanded its engagement as a stakeholder in the region since releasing its first Arctic Policy in 2022. This EVI explores India's strategic, scientific, and economic interests in the Arctic, including its work on climate research, emerging shipping routes, and energy cooperation. The discussion examines India's deepening collaboration with Russia on Arctic projects, its engagement with the United States and other Arctic states, and its positioning relative to other Asian Observer states such as China.

[Watch Full Recording](#)

---MAP Commentary---

Shadow Fleets in the Arctic: Uncharted Waters for Governance and Sanctions

*By Nong Hong
August 7, 2025*



The Arctic is no longer a remote frontier shielded from the geopolitics of oil and sanctions. As Arctic Today recently reported, more than 30 oil tankers linked to Russia’s so-called “shadow fleet” have transited Norwegian waters in 2024 alone, carrying sanctioned crude from Murmansk and other Arctic ports. This activity—designed to circumvent Western sanctions—reveals the fragility of sanctions regimes and the limitations of international ocean governance in addressing coordinated evasion tactics.

[Link to Full Post](#)

---BCCC Commentary---

OBBB Leaves Iowa Alone, Yet U.S. Climate Policy Still Needs a Better Path

*By Zhangchen Wang
August 6, 2025*

The passage of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBA) marks a sweeping Republican effort to dismantle much of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), America’s most ambitious climate and industrial policy to date. In doing so, the GOP has once again set climate change policies into a partisan battlefield, framing it as another front in a culture war between progressives and conservatives. However, a complete rolling back of the IRA will discourage emission reduction progress and fail to address climate risks to the United States. More importantly, this backward approach ignores the tangible benefits many IRA policies have already delivered—infrastructure, jobs, investment, and lower energy costs—and risks inflicting lasting harm on the very rural communities that Republicans are devoted to championing. Iowa offers the clearest example: a solidly red state for over a decade whose clean energy economy has thrived under the IRA but now faces mounting uncertainty. While the IRA was never flawless, treating it as a partisan target rather than a tool for shared prosperity threatens not just climate progress but the broader well-being of millions of Americans.



[Link to Full Post](#)

---BCCC Commentary---**From Ethics to Law: The ICJ's Advisory Opinion on Climate Obligations of States**

By Nong Hong

August 5, 2025



On July 23, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a landmark advisory opinion, adopted unanimously, on the international legal obligations of states concerning climate change. This long-anticipated decision, requested by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2023, and led by a coalition of Pacific island nations spearheaded by Vanuatu, marks a pivotal moment in the legal framing of climate responsibility. For the first time, the ICJ has clarified how existing international law, spanning environmental treaties, customary norms, and human rights obligations, applies to the climate crisis. The opinion brings legal precision to what has long been seen as a domain of political negotiation and moral appeal.

[Link to Full Post](#)

---ICAS In the News---

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, Research Associate Yilun Zhang was [quoted](#) by *South China Morning Post* on a rare visit by Taiwan officials to Japan for the Hiroshima peace memorial event.

- Taipei was “testing the waters to gain greater international visibility without formally breaching red lines”.
- Taipei might also “urgently need to reinforce ties with America’s closest ally in Asia to maintain the appearance of strong US backing”.

On Monday, August 4, 2025, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *CGTN's The Heat* on Trumps firing of BLS Commissioner Erika McEntarfer and Tariffs.

- “My view is they will bend but they will not buckle. The US institutions will carry through. The US puts out reams of quality data across many bureaucracies. If those start getting called into question, it opens up an enormous can of worms in terms of trusting the US just as an investment destination.”

On Friday, August 1, 2025, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by *CGTN's The Heat* on the increased U.S.-China and Taiwan Strait tensions in the aftermath of Speaker Pelosi’s visit.

- “I think the way India is going to move forward handling this is trying to keep convincing Mr. Trump that the offer that is on the table is a good one, and it will try to add to that offer a little bit here and there. But whether this will

satisfy Mr. Trump is another question.”

- “The problem for India is it is already a high tariff country. So it’s much harder for India to get down to 0 tariffs.”

On Tuesday, July 31, 2025, Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta was [interviewed](#) by CGTN’s *World Insights* on how the third round of negotiations in Stockholm are shaping up.

- “I think it is very important for them to meet and meet early. I was hoping that one of the most important deliverables coming out of this meeting in Stockholm is the two sides getting an understanding when their presidents will actually meet. I think very good timing to meet would be just prior to the APEC summit in late October.”