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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**November 4, 2020**

## **COVERT, COERCIVE, AND CORRUPTING: COUNTERING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S MALIGN INFLUENCE IN FREE SOCIETIES**

*David R. Stilwell, Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Hoover Institution, Stanford University Asia Society Virtual | U.S. Department of State | October 30, 2020*

Good afternoon. Thank you to the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the Asia Society for inviting me. Thank you to organizers Orville Schell and Larry Diamond. It is an honor to be here today with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Our topic today is how the Chinese Communist Party challenges the free and open nature of democratic societies. The prosperity, liberty, and security of the American people, and of our friends around the world, hinges on how we meet this challenge. To succeed, effort is required not just by policymakers and national-security professionals, but by all elements of society – and not just in America but around the world. A major, worldwide defensive enterprise of this kind is a difficult but noble undertaking. Its foundation is a common threat assessment that the Chinese Communist Party is highly capable, ambitious, and hostile to our basic political principles: democracy, openness, and individual dignity. It is important, first of all, that we recognize this challenge. It is also necessary that we give it the priority it deserves, despite the many other pressing matters that inevitably demand attention.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **COMBATING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS**

*Robert Stilson | Capital Research Center | October 28, 2020*

The great challenge that free societies face is how to deal with those who seek to exploit that freedom for malevolent purposes. America's civic institutions—its universities, think tanks, charities, and other associations—are the organizational bedrock upon which that freedom rests. Because of this, they're vulnerable to foreign state actors who try to take advantage of our tradition of openness. On October 13, the State Department issued a press release requesting that "think tanks and other foreign policy organizations" publicly disclose any funding that they receive from foreign governments and state-owned enterprises. While the department isn't explicitly requiring donor disclosure, it noted that it "will . . . be mindful of whether disclosure has been made and of specific funding sources" when deciding whether and how to work with a given organization.

Read the full article [here](#).



# MANAGING RISK IN INTERNATIONALISATION: SECURITY RELATED ISSUES

Universities UK | October 2020

Internationalisation has shaped the agenda and strategies of universities not just in the UK, but globally. It has brought significant economic and social benefits to the UK, and intellectual opportunities for scholarship, while transforming universities into global institutions. The UK benefits from international research collaborations. Collaborations with international partners continue to be vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector. The UK's universities are world-leading, but they do not have a monopoly on brilliant researchers, and the UK benefits from the skills and expertise of researchers based at research organisations overseas. The sector has historically done a good job of managing the risks associated with internationalisation. However, the risks are increasingly dynamic and growing in complexity. In this context, institutions will need to review and adapt their risk management processes. These guidelines are intended to support universities, enabling them to protect themselves, their staff and students, and to manage risks associated with internationalisation, amid intensified international strategic competition, political polarisation and backlash against globalisation.

Read the full publication [here](#).

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## UNIVERSITY LEADERS NEED TO STEP UP GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS

Yojana Sharma | University World News | October 31, 2020

Steering a university through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on international student flows has become a major challenge for university leaders, but global tensions and a changing geopolitical environment are also disrupting and changing student flows. University leaders need to step up analysis of geopolitical events and trends in order to improve forward planning, experts say. Geopolitical uncertainty is shifting patterns and requires "serious analysis" by universities to "ride the wave" said Margaret Gardner, vice-chancellor of Australia's Monash University, which is heavily reliant on international students and also has campuses in China and Malaysia and outposts in Canada and India. "We are in an age of geopolitical uncertainty. It is the hallmark of a world-class university; you are global; your staff are from everywhere; your students are from everywhere; your knowledges drawn from everywhere; your alumni are everywhere," Gardner told University World News in a recent interview, noting that "geopolitical uncertainties, over and above climate uncertainties and other uncertainties", are having an impact on institutions.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA'S EXPLOITATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE US

Paul Wolfowitz | American Enterprise Institute | October 30, 2020

According to Sun Tzu, "the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting." China's campaign to gain non-military advantage internationally has been relentless, and it benefits from the opportunities that open societies provide them to exert the very foreign influence that they so assiduously exclude from China. In the case of higher education, the People's Republic of China (PRC) exploits openness and academic freedom to influence debate in foreign universities, while crushing dissent and freedom of expression in its own institutions. According to a new report by the US Department of Education, leading American universities are further enabling China's asymmetric advantage by failing to report significant fiscal ties to foreign governments like the PRC. These financial incentives may have been used "to influence or control teaching and research" at several universities, with additional risks of property theft, espionage, and propaganda operations.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **A CHINESE DATABASE IS TRACKING AMERICAN NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY OFFICERS**

*Caroline Delbert | Popular Mechanics | October 28, 2020*

An Australian financial newspaper has uncovered a database of more than 2 million scientists and subject matters kept by the Chinese government. The Overseas Key Individuals Database (OKIDB) includes many thousands of nuclear and other strategic industry experts, their personal information, and even where their relatives live. The Australian Financial Review (AFR) says the invasive-sounding list was still “mainly gleaned from open sources,” raising questions about the nature of public information. The OKIDB acts as a kind of international phone book, from research scientists to the people at the cutting edge of international diplomacy. The Washington Post reports: Those digital crumbs, along with millions of other scraps of social media and online data, have been systematically collected since 2017 by a small Chinese company called Shenzhen Zhenhua Data Technology for the stated purpose of providing intelligence to Chinese military, government and commercial clients, according to a copy of the database that was left unsecured on the Internet and retrieved by an Australian cybersecurity consultancy.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **GLOBAL SCIENCE AND THE CHINA SPLIT**

*Roger C. Shonfield | Ithaca S+R | October 27, 2020*

The practice of science has always been a fundamentally international activity. Even during periods of substantial geopolitical splits—such as the Cold War—science has broadly continued its international communication and even collaboration. In the post-Cold War period, science has globalized to a substantial degree. However, the looming geopolitical split between China and many of the liberal and democratic nations including Australia, India, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as European Union members, raises questions about what the future may bring. Given the substantial interconnectedness of economies and technology today, there appears to be little prospect of a renewed Cold War or “iron curtain,” and science will continue many aspects of its global development. Still, these fast-growing tensions are already causing substantial uncertainty for academic science.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CROSS-BORDER RESEARCH COLLABORATION ROSE DURING PANDEMIC**

*Yojana Sharma | University World News | October 30, 2020*

Despite rising nationalism being expected to fuel single-country research and current geopolitical tensions between China and the United States, cross-border scientific research during the early months of the COVID-19 global pandemic rose, with collaborations between researchers in China and the United States particularly prominent, a new study has found. “One might reasonably predict a significant decline in international research collaborations, particularly between the two countries China and the United States. Rising nationalism throughout the world would also suggest more single country publications overall. However, we found the opposite,” Jenny Lee, professor at the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona told University World News. “Globally, we see more research collaboration around COVID-19. In the US and China, we can see an increasing collaboration between the two countries as well,” Lee said, adding that she had not expected this at a time of rising tensions between the two countries.

Read the full article [here](#).



# CHINA FORMALLY ENACTS ‘EXPORT CONTROL LAW’ TO REGULATE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SALES

*The EurAsian Times | October 30, 2020*

China has now formally enacted the “Export Control Law” during the 22nd Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People’s Congress. This law will regulate China’s international military sales in effect from December 1, 2020. This law builds upon China’s existing export control regulations, which are scattered across multiple laws, administrative regulations, and rules and measures issued by various departments, with the goal of creating a unified export control system to promote China’s national security and interests and ‘commitment to nonproliferation’, according to Lexology. The law will effectively control the exports based upon various factors like licensing requirements based on product features, end-users, destinations, or end-uses. It is to be noted that Chinese systems, especially UAVs and other munitions are in growing demand around the world and are now a common sight in the battlefields of the middle east. The legislation is also seen as a Chinese response to international criticism of its military export policy. Article 1 of the new legislation states that “These regulations are formulated for the purposes of strengthening [the] export control of missiles and missile-related items and technologies, and safeguarding the state security and social and public interests”.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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