



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**December 2, 2020**

## **U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS**

*December 1, 2020*

On behalf of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, we are pleased to transmit the Commission's 2020 Annual Report to Congress. This Report responds to our mandate "to monitor, investigate, and report to Congress on the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China." The Commission reached a broad and bipartisan consensus on the contents of this Report, with all 12 members voting unanimously to approve and submit it to Congress.

Read the full report [here](#).

## **CHINA'S EXPORT CONTROL LAW TO BECOME 'KEY DYNAMIC' IN US RELATIONS**

*CK Tan | Nikkei Asia | December 1, 2020*

China's new export control law, which took effect Tuesday, aims to consolidate existing mechanisms for safeguarding the national interest in response to foreign trade pressure. The law will strengthen Beijing's control over the flow of goods, technology and services. Subject to broad interpretation under national security, it raises concerns over additional trade barriers even as Beijing seeks trade deals with other countries. Passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Oct. 17, the law comes a year after the U.S. adopted export controls targeted at Chinese tech companies such as Huawei Technologies and ByteDance. Military products, nuclear materials and items with dual uses in the civil and defense sectors are among the categories controlled under the law, which involves an extensive bureaucracy that cuts across departments under the State Council, or China's cabinet, and the Central Military Commission. The upshot of the law is expansive as it involves exporters, intermediary service providers such as freight forwarders, as well as buyers of such goods abroad.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## MAPPING CHINA'S SPRAWLING EFFORTS TO RECRUIT SCIENTISTS

Emily Weinstein | Defense One | November 30, 2020

The Thousand Talents Plan is likely the best-known of Beijing's efforts to lure leading researchers, scientists, and scholars to contribute to China's strategic goals, primarily as they relate to science and technology. Last year, the Senate's homeland security committee said the TTP's drain on U.S.-based talent and intellectual property continues to "endanger our national security." But Thousand Talents is merely a tiny piece of a larger strategy; an estimated 250-plus such programs comprise a sprawling network that, until now, has not been mapped and made available to the public. If the United States wants to combat China's talent recruitment efforts, policymakers, academics, journalists, and others must take heed. The Chinese Talent Program Tracker, a new project by Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology, aims to build a stronger understanding of the depth and breadth of Beijing's talent recruitment efforts. Users can filter through national-level talent programs by status of program, desired audience, intended sectors, and other characteristics.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## HARVARD GRAD STUDENT ACCUSED OF TRYING TO SMUGGLE STOLEN RESEARCH TO CHINA PLEADS GUILTY

Justin Rohrllich | The Daily Beast | December 1, 2020

A Harvard graduate student accused of trying to smuggle stolen research material from the U.S. to China pleaded guilty today to lying to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents who caught him at Boston's Logan Airport last year with 21 vials of cancer cells hidden in his luggage. Zaosong Zheng, 30, was stopped by CBP on Dec. 9, 2019, on his way to Beijing. Zheng, who had been conducting cancer research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center since 2018, initially told authorities he was not traveling with any biological specimens. He later changed his story, admitting to having taken some of the research material from a Beth Israel lab, while other vials contained material that had been replicated from other people's research.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHINA CHALLENGE

*Dr. Peter Berkowitz, Director of the Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State; and  
Dr. Jonathan Schanzer, Senior Vice President for Research, Foundation for Defense of Democracies  
Foundation for Defense of Democracies | November 25, 2020*

The State Department's Policy Planning staff recently published a timely and wide-ranging report, "The Elements of the China Challenge," on the global ambitions and threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party. The report offers a framework for America to address the evolving great power competition, including ideas for ways to defend our interests. Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff Dr. Peter Berkowitz joins FDD Senior Vice President for Research Dr. Jonathan Schanzer for a virtual event, as part of FDD's China Program. They discuss the history of the State Department's Policy Planning staff in addressing the challenges posed by China in various theaters, including the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea, international organizations, and the global economy. Dr. Berkowitz offers specific insight on a range of pressing issues, including China's intellectual property theft, China's "Military-Civil Fusion" strategy, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and the mechanisms our allies should deploy to screen Chinese investments.

Read the full article [here](#).



## UNIVERSITIES FACE FEDERAL CRACKDOWN ON ACADEMICS WITH CHINA TIES

Ronak D. Desai | Bloomberg Law | November 27, 2020

U.S. authorities are prosecuting a growing number of American professors with academic ties to China. The surge in enforcement activity is aimed at combating intellectual property theft, economic espionage, and rising Chinese influence among U.S. institutions of higher education that officials allege pose a serious national security threat to the U.S. In May, the Department of Justice charged Dr. Simon Ang, a longtime electrical engineering professor and researcher at the University of Arkansas with wire fraud. Ang allegedly enjoyed “close ties with the Chinese government and Chinese companies, and failed to disclose those ties when required to do so in order to receive grant money from NASA,” according to a criminal complaint filed against him. The DOJ characterized this as a “hallmark of China’s targeting of research and academic collaborations within the United States in order to obtain U.S. technology illegally.”

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA SNAPS UP JAPANESE SCIENTISTS, SPARKING FEARS OF TECHNOLOGY OUTFLOW

Yuki Misumi | Nikkei Asia | November 28, 2020

For Japanese scientists, China's attraction as an ideal place to pursue scientific research seems to only get stronger.

The trend is gathering steam as the Chinese government proactively invites top-caliber scholars from around the world. Japanese academics, meanwhile, often experience difficulty in finding posts at domestic universities and other institutions, underscoring an urgent need to improve how scholars, especially young ones, are treated in order to apply the brakes to an exodus of critical talent. “I wanted to work in Japan but found no post,” said Toru Takahata, who researches primate brains at China's Zhejiang University. Takahata, 43, earned his doctorate from Japan's Graduate University for Advanced Studies in 2005 and began his research career as a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University in the U.S. in 2008. He sought a position in Japan starting around 2013 but to no avail.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## UNIVERSITIES URGE BIDEN TO END CURBS ON FOREIGN STUDENTS

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | November 28, 2020

Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education (ACE), has written to United States President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris on behalf of 43 US university associations calling on them to move to ensure that American colleges and universities are “once again, the destination of choice for the world’s best international students and scholars”. To accomplish this aim, Mitchell says the Biden administration should move to: Withdraw the proposed regulations that would limit an international student’s ‘duration of status’ and create a fixed duration of admission. Mitchell says there is no evidence to suggest that such a restriction is required or that the issues raised cannot be addressed through the existing Student and Exchange Visitor Program. “The amount of time the Trump administration proposes to give students is less than the average amount of time it takes an international student to complete his or her education. Such a policy is not fair to international students or institutions,” Mitchell says.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **WOULD A NEW PRESIDENT CHANGE THE US VIEW OF THE SECURITY OF HUAWEI AND ZTE IN 5G NETWORKS?**

*Strand Consult | November 23, 2020*

Many have speculated on what a Biden presidency would mean for companies like Huawei and ZTE. Many articles are based on messages from the likes of Huawei's Vice President Victor Zhang who wants policymakers to believe that decisions to restrict Huawei were not made with an objective assessment of the security of its networks. Huawei has cultivated a narrative that it's the innocent victim of a trade war brought on by an unpredictable President. Indeed, Huawei suggests that Biden would adopt a more friendly China policy. To evaluate implications for mobile operators, this research note examines Huawei's narrative and historical US policy toward Huawei. Huawei emerged in the US in 2005 in an intellectual property lawsuit with Cisco, and Huawei was mentioned in a report of Congress' bipartisan US-China Commission (USCC) in the same year. In 2009, the USCC described Huawei as an extension of the Chinese military. Security officials in the first term of Obama/Biden Administration were concerned about Huawei. A comprehensive bipartisan report on Huawei was issued in 2012 by the US House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CAN BIDEN HELP RESET CHINA-US HE AND RESEARCH RELATIONS?**

*Yojana Sharma | University World News | November 25, 2020*

The geopolitical, trade and technology tensions between the United States and China will continue to have an impact on higher education collaboration between academics and universities in the two countries under US President-Elect Joe Biden, higher education experts say, although they see a likely change of tone under Biden which could ease some current friction which is affecting student flows from China. "The fact is that the good old days are over. The global economy is shifting, the unipolar world is gone and the geopolitical world order is evolving," said Gerard Postiglione, emeritus professor at the University of Hong Kong (HKU), speaking during a HKU faculty of education online seminar on 'the new age of Sino-US higher education relations' this week. "After 40 years of [US-China higher education] cooperation, the main challenge is going to be how universities operate in this new context," said Postiglione. "The disequilibrium will unfortunately continue; there will be no breakthroughs in the near future; there will be no reconciliation of interests," Postiglione said.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **HOUSE CHINA TASK FORCE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THREATS, STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS**

*Dave Kovaleski | Homeland Preparedness News | October 2, 2020*

Members of the House China Task released its final legislative report, which includes an assessment of the growing threats posed by China, policies that strengthen America's supply chains and economy, and opportunities to expand agriculture. The task force, which launched in May, met with 125 stakeholders, including policy experts, business leaders, other Members of Congress, and current and former administration officials from both sides of the aisle. The report includes more than 400 recommendations, including 180 legislative fixes, of which one-third have already passed either the House or the Senate. "China represents an ever-evolving challenge for the United States, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and as technology and our economies modernize into the digital age.

Read the full article [here](#).



## US LAWMAKERS TOLD OF SECURITY RISKS FROM CHINA-OWNED TIKTOK

ETCIO | March 5, 2020

US officials on Wednesday stepped up warnings about the potential security risks from the fast-growing, Chinese-owned TikTok as a lawmaker unveiled legislation to ban the social media app from government devices. At a Senate hearing, officials from the FBI, the Justice Department and Homeland Security said the video-sharing app could become another tool exploited by Chinese intelligence services. Senator Josh Hawley, who convened the hearing, said he was introducing a bill to ban TikTok from all US government devices, calling it "a major security risk for the American people." TikTok, which is especially popular with teens, is believed to have been the most downloaded app worldwide last year, but US officials have expressed concern over its connections with the government in Beijing.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## LAWMAKERS INQUIRE ABOUT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Douglas Clark | Homeland Preparedness News | September 25, 2020

Three lawmakers recently forwarded correspondence to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) requesting insight regarding efforts to address foreign biomedical research influence. Energy and Commerce Committee Republican Leader Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), Health Subcommittee Republican Leader Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Republican Leader Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) sent the letters to NIH Director Francis Collins and FBI Director Christopher Wray. "As the largest funder of biomedical research in the world, the NIH research community faces significant exposure to risks related to undue foreign influence on research, with more than 80 percent of NIH funding awarded to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 research institutions globally," the lawmakers wrote.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## FBI ISSUES WARNING TO COVID-19 RESEARCHERS ABOUT CHINESE GOVERNMENT HACKERS

Big Country News | May 14, 2020

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a public service announcement Thursday morning warning organizations researching COVID-19 of likely targeting and network compromise by the People's Republic of China. The announcement is intended to warn health care, pharmaceutical, and research sectors working on COVID-19 response that they are the prime target and need to take the necessary steps to protect their systems. According to the FBI, hackers have been observed attempting to identify and illicitly obtain valuable intellectual property and public health data related to vaccines, treatments, and testing from networks and personnel affiliated with COVID-19-related research.

Read the full article [here](#).

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