



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**June 16, 2021**

## **OPEN RESEARCH, FOREIGN FINANCE, AND A UNIVERSITY'S MISSION**

*Reid Whitten | The National Law Review | June 15, 2021*

This past month, the U.S. Senate debated a provision in the Innovation and Competition Act that would require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review any proposed gifts and contracts of \$1 million or more to U.S. research institutions from a foreign source. That would mean that the U.S. government would have oversight of such gifts, be required to investigate the ultimate source of the funds, and be able to impose mitigation measures on or prohibit such gifts. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States is an inter-agency committee of nine U.S. agencies that has jurisdiction to review any transaction that may result in foreign control of a U.S. company, and many non-controlling investments by foreign persons in U.S. businesses. Typically, CFIUS reviews transactions that may affect U.S. national security. To date, CFIUS has not been tasked with or appeared interested in investigating gifts to universities.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL SCIENCE AGENCY DROPS CHINA COLLABORATION AFTER SECURITY CONCERNS**

*Victoria Kelly-Clark | The Epoch Times | June 15, 2021*

Australia's national science body, the CSIRO, has announced it will no longer work with China on marine research following a warning from Australia's intelligence bureau that the collaboration could help the Chinese navy track Australian submarines. The CSIRO Centre for Southern Hemisphere Oceans Research (CSHOR)—based in Hobart, Tasmania—was told on June 11 that its oceans research collaboration with China's top marine science institute, the Qingdao National Marine Laboratory, will not be extended once it finishes in June 2022, The Australian reported. According to the CSIRO website, CSHOR conducts research into the complex nature of the climate to better manage the impacts of climate variability and climate change, including El Nino and La Nina weather systems in the southern hemisphere. Meanwhile, Qingdao National Marine Laboratory has strong ties to the Chinese military and leads China's "Transparent Ocean" initiative, which aims to use satellite-mounted technology to pinpoint submarines at depths up to 500m.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **GLOBAL: A NEW LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH**

*Melissa Flaff, Autumn Toney, and Paul Harris | Center for Security and Emerging Technology  
June 7, 2021*

When it comes to global research, much of the focus — in both collaboration and competition — is on the relationship between the United States and China. But that bilateral lens misses out on critical linkages around the world, according to a new paper from Georgetown University’s Center for Security and Emerging Technology. The policy brief looks at the global distribution of research, as measured by outputs such as bibliometric data. Although there has been much concern about the U.S. losing ground to China, the European Union has also become a more prominent player over the past 20 years, with greater research publications in areas like condensed-matter physics and psychiatry. In addition, CSET finds a shifting picture of global research collaboration. While the U.S., the E.U., and smaller countries with advanced research and development like Australia have all grown significantly more collaborative over the last two decades, China’s level of international collaboration over the same period is relatively flat.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **MASSIVE SCIENCE-FUNDING BILL PASSES US SENATE — BUT CHINA FOCUS WORRIES RESEARCHERS**

*Ariana Remmel | Nature | June 11, 2021*

The US Senate has voted overwhelmingly in favour of legislation that invests heavily in the US National Science Foundation (NSF). But the bill, once aimed primarily at helping the United States to maintain its status as a global leader through direct funding for research and development, now includes amendments aimed at preventing China from stealing or benefitting from US intellectual property — a development that scientists fear could threaten international collaborations. In another major revision, Senate advocates for other US agencies that conduct research, such as the Department of Energy (DOE), have chipped away at the funding allotment originally intended for the NSF, arguing that they also deserve some of the money. But if the legislation passes the US House of Representatives, the NSF could still see a doubling of its budget over five years. Given the agency’s large role in funding basic research, science-policy researchers are praising this outcome.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **BIDEN TRIES TO RALLY G7 NATIONS TO COUNTER CHINA’S INFLUENCE**

*David E. Sanger and Mark Landler | The New York Times | June 12, 2021*

President Biden urged European nations and Japan on Saturday to counter China’s growing economic and security influence by offering developing nations hundreds of billions in financing as an alternative to relying on Beijing for new roads, railways, ports and communications networks. It was the first time the world’s richest nations had discussed organizing a direct alternative to China’s Belt-and-Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping’s overseas lending and investment push, which has now spread across Africa, Latin America and into Europe itself. But the White House cited no financial commitments, and there is sharp disagreement among the United States and its allies about how to respond to China’s rising power. Mr. Biden has made challenging a rising China and a disruptive Russia the centerpiece of a foreign policy designed to build up democracies around the world as a bulwark against spreading authoritarianism.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PROTECTING AMERICANS' SENSITIVE DATA FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES**

*The White House | June 9, 2021*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, find that it is appropriate to elaborate upon measures to address the national emergency with respect to the information and communications technology and services supply chain that was declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019 (Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain).

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **BEIJING SLAMS U.S. BILL TO CURTAIL CHINA'S ECONOMY AND MILITARY, PREPS ANTI-SANCTIONS STEPS**

*Eva Dou | The Washington Post | June 9, 2021*

Beijing decried a U.S. bill to curtail China's economic and military ambitions, as Chinese lawmakers meet this week to discuss measures to counter U.S. sanctions. The Foreign Affairs Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC) issued a strongly worded statement Wednesday against the sprawling \$250 billion bill passed by the Senate a day earlier, which supports U.S. high-tech investment and provides funding to counter the political influence of the Chinese Communist Party. "The bill is full of Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice," it said. "It slanders China's development path and its domestic and foreign policies." The National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp legislature, is also discussing a bill this week in response to U.S. sanctions. Beijing had initially hoped the change in U.S. administration would bring warmer relations, but President Biden has largely retained Trump-era policies on China, and in some cases intensified them. Earlier this month, Biden expanded his predecessor's ban on U.S. investment in Chinese companies.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA'S QUEST FOR GLOBAL PRIMACY: AN ANALYSIS OF CHINESE INTERNATIONAL AND DEFENSE STRATEGIES TO OUTCOMPETE THE UNITED STATES**

*Timothy R. Heath, Derek Grossman, and Asha Clark | RAND Corporation | 2021*

Focusing on the international and defense dimensions of U.S.-China competition, the authors of this report make three contributions. First, they intend this report to serve as a planning tool by positing international and defense strategies that could allow China to outcompete the United States. Second, they mean to educate readers on Chinese strategy and policy processes. Third, the authors seek to encourage greater public debate about the nature and stakes of the competition. As presented by the authors, China's international strategy aims to establish the country's primacy in the Asia-Pacific region and leadership of the international order. The international strategy presented seeks to achieve this end state through peaceful methods, although it does not rule out the possibilities of militarized crises or even conflicts of a limited scope, such as proxy wars. The core of the proposed international strategy is a reliance on China's economic prowess and diplomatic maneuver to put Beijing into a position of advantage from which it cannot be dislodged by the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).



## THE DIGITAL SILK ROAD AND CHINA'S TECHNOLOGY INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

*Dai Mochinaga | Council on Foreign Relations | June 10, 2021*

China has expanded its influence over Southeast Asia's technological development through its Digital Silk Road (DSR) initiative, a newer part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This paper shows that China utilizes the DSR in Southeast Asia for several reasons. First, the DSR helps implement Beijing's cyberspace principles and norms in other countries. Second, it promotes Chinese investment in certain industries in Southeast Asia, and helps convince other countries to use technology standards common to Chinese firms. Finally, Beijing exerts its influence over Southeast Asia, via the DSR, to help promote its models for data privacy and security on the internet. Despite efforts via the DSR and other avenues to exert influence over Southeast Asian cyberspace, China has not been fully successful in its aims in the region, in part due to local resistance, and in part because Japan, the United States and other actors have responded to Beijing's efforts with their own proposals for cyberspace, conceived as part of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## WILL ENROLMENT OF CHINESE STUDENTS RECOVER IN THE US?

*Xiaofeng Wan | University World News | June 12, 2021*

At a recent virtual college admission event organised by Yungu School, a new school in China founded by Alibaba's Jack Ma, not one single question I received from the nearly 500 attendees, which consisted of mostly Chinese parents, was about the United States government's hostility towards Chinese students or if US colleges and universities still welcome students from China. Instead, nearly all of the inquiries were centred on the college admissions process, in clear contrast to the sentiment at this time just a year ago. Over the past few years, Chinese students and their families have been engulfed by the Trump administration's inflammatory rhetoric towards them amid worsening relations between the two superpowers. When the pandemic hit the Americas, after repeatedly denying the severity of the disease, Trump scapegoated China for his own failure when it came to handling the pandemic, resulting in a surge of anti-Asian racism across the country.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA PASSES LAW TO COUNTER FOREIGN SANCTIONS

*Yew Lun Tian | Reuters | June 10, 2021*

China passed a law on Thursday to counter foreign sanctions, as it strives to resist U.S. and EU pressure over trade, technology, Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Individuals or entities involved in making or implementing discriminatory measures against Chinese citizens or entities could be put on an anti-sanctions list by a "relevant department" in the Chinese government. Those on the list may be denied entry into China or be expelled from China. Their assets within China may be seized or frozen. They could be restricted from doing business with entities or people within China. The new law is China's latest and most wide-ranging legal tool to retaliate against foreign sanctions and is intended to give Chinese retaliatory measures more legitimacy and predictability, according to local experts. Foreign companies, however, worry about the dampening impact it might have on foreign investment. China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) standing committee passed the law on Thursday, according to state television CCTV.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **FLORIDA MOVES AGAINST FOREIGN THEFT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

*Bobby Caina Calvan | The Bellingham Herald | June 8, 2021*

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law Monday a pair of bills focused on “nefarious foreign influence and corporate espionage” — particularly singling out China, which he accused of stealing intellectual property and infiltrating broad sectors of American society, especially academia. “There is no single entity that exercises a more pervasive nefarious influence across a wide range of American industries and institutions than the Communist Party of China,” DeSantis said during a news conference in Miami. The Republican governor, who has sought to seize the national stage as he considers a run for president in 2024, further waded into the international arena during the bill signings by repeating assertions by Republicans nationwide that the global coronavirus pandemic originated from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, and that the communist government in Beijing was behind a cover-up.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **TECH CONTRACTOR FOR NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT IS INVESTIGATING SYSTEMS HACK**

*Jackson Barnett and John Hewitt Jones | FedScoop | June 14, 2021*

A research and development consultancy that works with the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration is investigating a cyber breach. In a statement to this publication, Sol Oriens said it had appointed a technology forensics firm to investigate the incident, and that law enforcement agencies had been informed. The company became aware of the breach last month. Sol Oriens is a New Mexico-headquartered consulting company that provides services to federal government agencies including program management, technology management, weapons R&D and product engineering. “Upon detecting suspicious activity within our network environment, our IT professionals immediately secured the system and we quickly recovered priority company systems. “The investigation is ongoing, but we recently determined that an unauthorized individual acquired certain documents from our systems. Those documents are currently under review, and we are working with a third-party technological forensic firm to determine the scope of potential data that may have been involved,” a spokesperson for the contractor said.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **SURVEY FINDS OPTIMISM ON RETURN OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

*Brendan O'Malley | University World News | June 12, 2021*

American higher education institutions are increasingly confident that international enrolment and study abroad are poised to begin to recover in phases from the pandemic, according to the latest and fourth COVID-19 Snapshot Survey released on Thursday by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The survey examines the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on international educational exchange to and from the United States and finds that US institutions are focusing on bringing students back to campus, with 86% planning some type of in-person study in fall 2021 and none of the reporting institutions intending to offer virtual instruction only. Mirroring this finding, 90% of institutions plan to offer in-person study to international students. The survey also finds that international student applications are up, with 43% of institutions reporting an increase in their international student applications for the 2021-22 academic year, almost double the increases reported by institutions a year ago. But international student applications vary significantly by institutional type. Many doctoral universities noted application increases (59%), while a majority of community colleges reported declines (58%).

Read the full article [here](#).



## CHINA'S FIREWALL IS SPREADING GLOBALLY

Jane Li | Quartz | June 7, 2021

For decades, China's "great firewall" that blocks most foreign internet services remained a vague concept for people outside the country. But the influence of Chinese domestic censorship is now impacting people overseas far more than before. A series of events around June 4, the day when Beijing's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy student protesters in Tiananmen Square took place, has painted a vivid picture of how increasing pressure from Chinese authorities to censor or at least scrutinize online content the Chinese Communist Party finds sensitive can affect the internet experience for users globally. The decisions the companies make in response to such pressure will have major implications on the internet beyond China: Will users still be able to view and access content legal in their countries but offensive to Beijing? The question might have seemed absurd only a couple of years ago, but has gained fresh relevance in recent years.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## DECLINE OF US UNIVERSITIES AND RISE OF CHINA'S CONTINUE

Brendan O'Malley | University World News | June 10, 2021

The United States took top spot but suffered significant decline overall in the QS World University Rankings 2022 published on Tuesday 8 June, as did Japan and South Korea. But it was another strong performance from mainland China, which continues to rise, and from Australia and Canada. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US celebrates an unprecedented, unbroken decade as the world's best university in the QS rankings. But the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom moves up a record three places to take second spot, with the University of Cambridge (UK) taking joint third with Stanford University (US), and Harvard University (US) at fifth. The latter dropped out of the top three for the first time. L Rafael Reif, president of MIT, said: "We deeply appreciate the recognition of our institution and the faculty, staff, alumni and students that make MIT what it is – and we also tremendously admire the achievements of academic institutions around the globe. "The world benefits from a strong higher education network that delivers countless benefits for humanity, from fundamental discoveries to novel solutions to pressing challenges in climate and health, to the education of the next generation of talent.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE UNITED STATES INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT (USICA): A PRIMER

Tom Lee, Juan Londono | American Action Forum | June 9, 2021

On June 8th, 2021, the Senate passed the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA). It will now go to the House where it is expected to pass and be signed into law. This legislation was first introduced last year by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Todd Young (R-IN) as the Endless Frontier Act (EFA). EFA was dramatically expanded in the past weeks to include several additional provisions. EFA is now a division within the expanded package renamed as the USICA. Proponents of the bill have asserted that its primary goal is to counter China's political and economic influence both domestically and abroad. To this end, it pours billions of taxpayer funds into U.S. technology to counter China's growing economic and political influence. The bill has support from both sides of the aisle and is likely one of the few bipartisan legislative packages that will come out of Congress this year. Despite this, the legislative process for this bill was anything but smooth.

Read the full article [here](#).



# CHINA'S COLLECTION OF GENOMIC AND OTHER HEALTHCARE DATA FROM AMERICA: RISKS TO PRIVACY AND U.S. ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY

*The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | February 2021*

Would you want your DNA or other healthcare data going to an authoritarian regime with a record of exploiting DNA for repression and surveillance? For years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has collected large healthcare data sets from the U.S. and nations around the globe, through both legal and illegal means, for purposes only it can control. While no one begrudges a nation conducting research to improve medical treatments, the PRC's mass collection of DNA at home has helped it carry out human rights abuses against domestic minority groups and support state surveillance. The PRC's collection of healthcare data from America poses equally serious risks, not only to the privacy of Americans, but also to the economic and national security of the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## HUAWEI: CHINA'S CONTROVERSIAL TECH GIANT

*Lindsay Maizland and Andrew Chatzky | Council on Foreign Relations | August 6, 2020*

Huawei is the world's leading provider of fifth-generation (5G) mobile technology. The Chinese telecommunications giant's global influence has stoked fears in many countries, particularly the United States, that the Chinese government could force it to spy, sabotage, or take other actions on its behalf. Washington has imposed sweeping restrictions on Huawei and is pressuring its allies to do the same as part of a larger crackdown on Chinese technology companies. Some experts warn that tensions between Washington and Beijing over technology could lead to a "digital iron curtain," which would compel foreign governments to decide between doing business with the United States or China.

Read the full article [here](#).

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