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HOUSE PASSES BILLS TO BOOST SCIENCE COMPETITIVENESS WITH CHINA

Cristina Marcos | The Hill | June 28, 2021

The House passed legislation on Monday that would boost scientific research in an effort to make the U.S. more competitive with China. Lawmakers handily passed two bills on a bipartisan basis to increase funding for the National Science Foundation and establish a new directorate for science and engineering to expand research opportunities as well as authorize research funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science. "We must significantly boost funding for science. For years, we have allowed millions of dollars of excellent research go unfunded," said House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas). "We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history and we need to be more focused on the role of science in our society." The first bill, called the National Science Foundation for the Future Act, passed 345-67, while the second measure, titled the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, passed 351-68. They would increase funding for the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy's Office of Science by about 7 percent annually. Aside from the funding hike, the measures would direct the agencies to boost science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) education and professional development to help with recruitment in those fields.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA-US RELATIONS IN THE EYES OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY: AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

*By Cai Xi (Editors: Larry Diamond and Glenn Tiffert; Associate Editor: Jacquelyn Johnstone)
The Hoover Institution | June 29, 2021*

Since the opening of diplomatic relations with China in 1972, the American strategy of engagement, however well intentioned, has been deeply naïve. While accepting America's efforts to facilitate their country's modernization, China's leaders have worked to restrict any liberal effects on their political system. Now that China is strong, the Chinese Communist Party no longer believes that it must accommodate American concerns about its human rights record, military modernization, and foreign policy.

Read the full report [here](#).



THE NEW “COLD WAR” – AND WHY THE US CANNOT WIN

Dmitry Shlapentokh | *Asia Global Online* | June 29, 2021

Watching the shift of American mainstream views on China has been amusing for its irony. For decades, libraries of books have been written to describe the problems of the Chinese authoritarian – some call it totalitarian – state. For most Western observers, that kind of governance could never provide sustainable growth and would naturally be riven by wastefulness and corruption. Orwellian control, so their narrative goes, can never prevent people from craving liberty and seeking the “self-evident truth” of democracy. It has not been surprising that, in the vast majority of these analytical tomes, China is reduced to having only two futures: either it would become more “democratic” and engage in the “free market” – or collapse. By that logic, whatever Beijing’s defense of the Chinese system, why should the West, especially the US, worry about the competition? From the Western perspective, if Red China became more and more monstrous, it would simply collapse and die, much like the Soviet Union did in 1991.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNIVERSITIES NEED HELP FROM SECURITY AGENCIES TO TACKLE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE ON CAMPUS

Lisa Visentin | *The Sydney Morning Herald* | June 30, 2021

University leaders have conceded more needs to be done to protect international students from Chinese government surveillance on campus, but say the federal government needs to take the lead on serious foreign interference matters. Responding to a major report by Human Rights Watch that exposed the growing influence of Chinese nationalism at Australian universities, the sector largely defended its existing policies for reporting and addressing on-campus harassment and intimidation, but said these needed to be communicated better to students. University of Technology Sydney deputy vice-chancellor Iain Watt, who spent eight years in China as the federal government’s senior education representative, said the surveillance of Chinese students by Beijing authorities was probably more widespread than captured by the report. The report, released on Wednesday and based on interviews with 24 pro-democracy Chinese students and 22 academics at universities across the country, concluded universities were failing to protect students from harassment and surveillance by their pro-Beijing classmates and reprisals from authorities.

Read the full article [here](#).

GOV. DESANTIS SIGNS SPEAKER-PRIORITY FOREIGN INFLUENCE BILLS

Jason Delgado | *Florida Politics* | June 7, 2021

'We've got to start fighting back.' With the phrase “Stop CCP Influence” displayed in bold letters across his podium, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed two bills Monday to thwart foreign meddling in Florida’s government and education system. The bills (HB 1523) and (HB 7017) mark the Republican Governor’s latest jab against China, which he described Monday as an “adversary,” and other communist countries. “There is no single entity that exercises a more pervasive, nefarious influence across a wide range of American industries and institution than the Communist Party of China,” DeSantis said. Sponsored by Republican Rep. Mike Beltran, one measure (HB 1523) creates the crime of “trafficking in trade secrets” and enhances criminal penalties if the secrets are stolen and provided to a foreign government. The other (HB 7017), sponsored by Republican Rep. Erin Grall, aims to curb foreign influence in the state’s academic research institutions. Among other provisions, the legislation prohibits agreements between a handful of mostly communist countries and requires “thorough screening” of foreign applicants for research positions.

Read the full article [here](#).



RETHINKING RESEARCH SECURITY

Ainikki Riikonen and Emily Weinstein | Lawfare | June 24, 2021

The January 2021 arrest of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor Dr. Gang Chen reignited a heated debate about research security: How can or should the United States protect the gains of innovation without damaging the very research base it wants to protect? The U.S. government has rightfully identified the People's Republic of China (PRC) as an adversary intent on stealing technology for its national interests, and the Department of Justice established the China Initiative as a countermeasure. But the China Initiative misses the mark on an effective approach to research security. It is out of alignment with evolving research security initiatives in the rest of the federal government. It alienates the research community at best and, at worst, puts those within it of Chinese and other Asian ethnicities in an atmosphere of undue suspicion inflamed by presumptive narratives about "loyalty to China."

Read the full article [here](#).

STRATEGIC INSIGHTS TO DETER THE PRC

Lieutenant Colonel (P) Kyle Marcum and Dr. Brendan S. Mulvaney | Australian Strategic Policy Institute June 23, 2021

During the Cold War, America and the Soviet Union developed their own organisations and networks, which were by and large segregated from the other. With a handful of exceptions, such as the United Nations, the two sides had little interaction, little trade, little commerce and relatively little overlap in their geographical spheres of influence. There was tension and conflict on the margins with clear escalatory potential, but the two sides managed to avoid direct or large-scale confrontations, albeit narrowly at times. That was in large part because the two sides developed a shared basic understanding of the world. Ideologically, there were vast differences, but those ideologies were at their heart competing Western ideologies, born from a shared historical basis and built on a generally shared way of framing and approaching issues. That's no longer the case. The CCP isn't the same as the erstwhile Communist Party of the Soviet Union; it doesn't share the same history with the West that the Russian-dominated Soviets did.

Read the full article [here](#).

US HOUSE NOD FOR LEGISLATION TO BOOST SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Asian Lite International | June 29, 2021

The US House of Representatives on Monday passed legislation that would boost scientific research in an effort to make the US more competitive than China. The US lawmakers passed two bills on a bipartisan basis to increase funding for the National Science Foundation and establish a new directorate for science and engineering to expand research opportunities, as well as authorise research funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, reported The Hill. "We must significantly boost funding for science. For years, we have allowed millions of dollars of excellent research go unfunded," said House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. "We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history and we need to be more focused on the role of science in our society," he added. The first bill, called the National Science Foundation for the Future Act was passed in a 345-67 vote while the second measure, titled the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act was passed 351-68. They would increase funding for the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy's Office of Science by about seven per cent annually.

Read the full article [here](#).



UNIVERSITIES WILL NEED A LICENCE TO EXPORT KNOWLEDGE

Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | June 25, 2021

The Norwegian government has proposed a regulation that will force universities to apply for an export licence if they want to export knowledge produced in Norway to other countries. The proposal was made in a government white paper (in Norwegian) published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs titled "Export of defence material from Norway in 2020, export control and international non-proliferation cooperation." The proposal was made on 12 June and approved 'by the King in Cabinet' the same day, which means the bill has government approval and can now be voted on by parliament. In one passage in the white paper, the ministry says: "After serious consideration, the ministry has concluded that control of sensitive knowledge [exported from Norway to other countries] can be best effectuated by making it clear what [knowledge] is in need of a licence, when this licence demand is enforced, and how one can apply for a licence from the ministry."

Read the full article [here](#).

TRIAL REVEALS FEDERAL AGENTS FALSELY ACCUSED A UT PROFESSOR BORN IN CHINA OF SPYING

Jamie Satterfield | Knox News | June 13, 2021

Armed with a Chinese press release translated on the fly via Google, federal agents falsely accused an internationally-renown welding technology expert at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville of being a spy and brought him to professional ruin. FBI Agent Kujtim Sadiku admitted last week in an ongoing trial in Knoxville that federal agents: Falsely accused former UTK associate professor Dr. Anming Hu of being a Chinese spy; Falsely implicated him as an operative for the Chinese military in meetings with Hu's bosses Used false information to put Hu on the federal no-fly list; Spurred U.S. customs agents to seize Hu's computer and phone and spread word throughout the international research community that Hu was poison; Used false information to justify putting a team of agents to spy on Hu and his son, a freshman at UTK, for nearly two years; Used false information to press Hu to become a spy for the U.S. government.

Read the full article [here](#).

TIKTOK INSIDERS SAY SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANY IS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY CHINESE PARENT BYTEDANCE

Salvador Rodriguez | CNBC | June 25, 2021

A former TikTok recruiter remembers that her hours were supposed to be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., but more often than not, she found herself working double shifts. That's because the company's Beijing-based ByteDance executives were heavily involved in TikTok's decision-making, she said, and expected the company's California employees to be available at all hours of the day. TikTok employees, she said, were expected to restart their day and work during Chinese business hours to answer their ByteDance counterparts' questions. This recruiter, along with four other former employees, told CNBC they're concerned about the popular social media app's Chinese parent company, which they say has access to American user data and is actively involved in the Los Angeles company's decision-making and product development. These people asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution from the company. TikTok launched internationally in September 2017. Its parent company, ByteDance, purchased Musical.ly, a social app that was growing in popularity in the U.S., for \$1 billion in November 2017, and the two were merged in August 2018.

Read the full article [here](#).



IS THE WORLD SPLITTING INTO OPPOSING SCIENCE ‘BLOCS’?

Yojana Sharma | University World News | June 23, 2021

A race for supremacy in global science and technology has kicked off as China has announced a raft of ambitious policies to promote self-sufficiency in scientific research and technological advancement, and the United States has mapped out a major push in science and technology backed by huge rises in spending. Some fear the rivalry could lead to an emerging division in global science into two opposing science ‘blocs’, an echo of the military and economic divisions of the Cold War era. But even those who discount such a rift in global science note a changing landscape in research and technology under US President Joe Biden, in part a continuation of the US-China trade war under predecessor Donald Trump, which sought to ‘decouple’ years of China-US research collaboration. The latest UNESCO Science Report released on 11 June noted the economies of both the US and China have been “perturbed” since 2018 by the trade dispute “that has spilled over into the arena of high technology, technology transfer and intellectual property protection.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE CHINA QUESTION: MANAGING RISKS AND MAXIMISING BENEFITS FROM PARTNERSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Jo Johnson, Jonathan Adams, Janet Ilieva, Jonathan Grant, Jess Northend, Niall Sreenan, Vivienne Moxham-Hall, Kristin Greene, Seema Mishra | Harvard Kennedy School and King’s College London March 2021

Research collaboration between China and the UK has increased significantly in recent decades, underscoring the need for robust measures to manage the relationship between the two countries, according to this study, led by former universities minister Jo Johnson. In 2019, China and the UK collaborated on 16,267 research papers – up from around 750 in 2000. This amounts to around 11 per cent of the UK’s research output now including Chinese authors – up from just 1 per cent 20 years ago, as indexed in the Web of Science global citation index. And more than a fifth of research in many high-impact subjects, including those related to science and technology, involves collaboration with China. On its current trajectory, China is set to overtake the US as both the world’s biggest spender on R&D and the UK’s most significant research partner.

Read the full article [here](#).

CONGRESS TARGETS FOREIGN FUNDING WITHIN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Ishan K. Bhabha and Rachel K. Alpert | Lexology | June 22, 2021

On June 8, 2021, the Senate passed the US Innovation and Competition Act, a sweeping bipartisan bill that aims to promote America's economic competitiveness and national security by investing nearly \$250 billion into scientific research and technological innovation. Lawmakers are particularly intent on combating China's growing economic influence by bolstering domestic production of emerging technologies and preventing unauthorized foreign access to US intellectual property. The bill also contains several provisions that could significantly impact American colleges and universities, particularly institutions engaged in major research projects with foreign funding sources. Foreign funding is critical to American higher education institutions. Between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2020, US colleges and universities reported receiving more than \$16 billion in foreign gifts and contracts, over \$1 billion of which came from Chinese sources.

Read the full article [here](#).



THE WORLD'S SCIENTIFIC POWER CENTERS HAVE SHIFTED

Alison Snyder | Yahoo News | June 24, 2021

The world's scientific power centers have shifted — and now researchers and nations collaborating on science with the U.S. and China face getting caught up in their broader competition. Why it matters: Both the U.S. and China are linked to other global research players that are poised to shape science and innovation in the coming decades — and that would feel the ripple effects of partnerships frayed by geopolitics. The big picture: In 1999, the U.S. dominated publication output — a metric of intense focus in science — but by 2019, the global picture had changed dramatically, according to a recent report by researchers at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology. Today there is no one country that dominates overall. China, the U.S. and the EU are each leaders in a handful of fields. Breaking down those fields further reveals countries other than the U.S. and China — dominated by the EU as a bloc but also India, Japan and South Korea — produce more than one-third of the world's publications.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW THE COVID PANDEMIC IS CHANGING GLOBAL SCIENCE COLLABORATIONS

Brendan Maher and Richard Van Noorden | Nature | June 16, 2021

In February 2020, as early COVID outbreaks were expanding in many countries, Nevan Krogan was grappling with a different kind of surge — in the size of his research collaboration. Krogan, a systems biologist, had been focused on tackling pressing issues in biology and health by forming interdisciplinary collaborations through the Quantitative Bioscience Institute (QBI) at the University of California, San Francisco. His colleagues were eager to work on the new coronavirus — and they soon had lots of company. What started as 10 scientists around a table jumped to 12 groups within a week, then to 42. When lockdowns started in March, the team's first Zoom call was exhilarating but chaotic. Hundreds of people joined, says Jacqueline Fabius, the QBI's chief operating officer. Even though the institute specializes in bringing people together, the way everyone clicked into gear to work on COVID-19 was a surprise.

Read the full article [here](#).

AS U.S. AND CHINA FIGHT, THEIR SCIENTISTS COLLABORATE

Alison Snyder | Axios | April 30, 2020

All the tough talk and finger-pointing between officials in the U.S. and China about this pandemic belies cooperation among scientists in the two countries who are racing to understand the deadly virus. Why it matters: Pandemics are a global problem that scientists say require a global solution. But scientific advances are increasingly seen as a national competitive advantage, creating tension that some experts warn could undercut global efforts to defeat COVID-19. What's happening: Scientists in the U.S. and China are working together on testing COVID-19 treatments and drug candidates, developing vaccines, and understanding the origin and spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Read the full article [here](#).

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