



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**May 26, 2022**

## **CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL TIES TO CHINA**

*David Acevedo | National Association of Scholars | May 20, 2022*

Tensions between the U.S. and China, as well as between China and other countries, have steadily increased year on year. Many are warning of an imminent “new Cold War” in the wake of the present U.S.-China trade war. Meanwhile, Chinese imperialism is being met on many fronts around the world: military posturing, widespread human rights abuses, steering the World Health Organization onto a duplicitous path, economic sabotage of other nations, attempts to turn still other nations into dependencies, and the subversion of Hong Kong's autonomy, to name a few. American higher education has been a particular target for sabotage. The Communist Party seeks to gain access to other nations' intellectual property, to turn college administrators and faculty members into reliable dependents, and to monitor Chinese students abroad. The National Association of Scholars has fought this threat for years. In 2017, we published *Outsourced to China*, a comprehensive report detailing how the Chinese government infiltrates American colleges and universities to enhance its own image through Confucius Institutes (CIs). Unfortunately, CIs are but a piece of China's soft power puzzle.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **ONE KEY CHALLENGE FOR DIPLOMACY ON AI: CHINA'S MILITARY DOES NOT WANT TO TALK**

*Gregory C. Allen | Center for Strategic and International Studies | May 20, 2022*

Over the past 10 years, artificial intelligence (AI) technology has become increasingly critical to scientific breakthroughs and technology innovation across an ever-widening set of fields, and warfare is no exception. In pursuit of new sources of competitive advantage, militaries around the world are working to accelerate the integration of AI technology into their capabilities and operations. However, the rise of military AI has brought with it fears of a new AI arms race and a potential new source of unintended conflict escalation. In the May/June 2022 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, Michael C. Horowitz, Lauren Kahn, and Laura Resnick Samotin write: The United States, then, faces dueling risks from AI. If it moves too slowly, Washington could be overtaken by its competitors, jeopardizing national security. But if it moves too fast, it may compromise on safety and build AI systems that breed deadly accidents. Although the former is a larger risk than the latter, it is critical that the United States take safety concerns seriously. Such fears are not entirely unfounded. Machine learning, the technology paradigm at the heart of the modern AI revolution, brings with it not only opportunities for radically improved performance, but also new failure modes.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## WHEN YOUR SMART ID CARD READER COMES WITH MALWARE

Brian Krebs | Krebs on Security | May 17, 2022

Millions of U.S. government employees and contractors have been issued a secure smart ID card that enables physical access to buildings and controlled spaces, and provides access to government computer networks and systems at the cardholder's appropriate security level. But many government employees aren't issued an approved card reader device that lets them use these cards at home or remotely, and so turn to low-cost readers they find online. What could go wrong? Here's one example. KrebsOnSecurity recently heard from a reader — we'll call him "Mark" because he wasn't authorized to speak to the press — who works in IT for a major government defense contractor and was issued a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) government smart card designed for civilian employees. Not having a smart card reader at home and lacking any obvious guidance from his co-workers on how to get one, Mark opted to purchase a \$15 reader from Amazon that said it was made to handle U.S. government smart cards.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## FORMER CIA LEADER SAID LINKEDIN IS LIKE A CANDY STORE TO CHINA

Christopher Burgess | ClearanceJobs | May 18, 2022

Speak to any human intelligence officer about the human asset recruitment cycle and they will address how they spot, assess, and develop their targets of interest. They will also include the importance of knowing as much about your target as possible, thus giving credence to the adage, "knowledge is power." It is in this light, that we dig into the court transcript of the case of convicted Chinese Ministry of State Security (MSS) officer, Yanjun Xu, and how LinkedIn was leveraged by the Xu and the MSS. Yanjun Xu is a convicted MSS intelligence officer, who is awaiting sentencing. At his trial, former chief of CIA's counterintelligence, James Olson, provided expert commentary on the mechanics of the MSS in their effort to recruit individuals to provide confidential information to the Chinese government. Olson was asked, "Is LinkedIn used in the spotting process for the MSS?" His one word response speaks volumes. He said, "Massively." Olson was asked to expand his response. His response should be required reading for every FSO and CI officer who is providing cleared personnel with briefings on the need to be circumspect, obtuse, and downright pithy in social network engagements.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## WITH EYE ON CHINA, AND U.S. TIES, JAPAN'S UNIVERSITIES TO SCREEN FOREIGNERS

Ju-min Park | Reuters | May 23, 2022

Japan is asking universities for greater scrutiny of foreign students and scholars to prevent technology leaks to places like China, partly for its own national security but also to safeguard exchanges with U.S. and European universities. While many Western countries have measures to prevent espionage on their campuses with strict screening and penalties for breaches, experts say Japan has been a weak link given its often-unchecked embrace of foreign students. A string of U.S. arrests of Chinese academics in recent years over suspicion of spying was a wake-up call for Japan, officials say. "Around the world, export controls are getting more stringent on foreign nations like China," said a Japanese trade ministry official who helps colleges develop ways to monitor high-risk technology transfers and students. "We want Japanese universities to be trusted for their security and trade controls so that joint research with the United States or Europe can continue," said the official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to speak to media.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **CHINA TASK FORCE HAS CONCERNS WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE JURISDICTION OF CFIUS**

*Antonia I. Tzinova, Robert A. Friedman, Marina Veljanovska O'Brien, Mackenzie A. Zales, and Sarah K. Hubner | Holland & Knight | May 23, 2022*

In a letter sent to President Joe Biden on April 19, 2022, the Republican-led, special congressional task force known as the China Task Force (CTF) expressed concerns over the takeover of Newport Wafer Fab (NWF), a Welsh semiconductor manufacturer, by Nexperia, a Dutch semiconductor manufacturer. Located in South Wales, NWF is the U.K.'s largest chip plant. In particular, the letter raised questions regarding Nexperia's ownership by Wingtech Technology (Wingtech) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), claiming that Nexperia is "in effect a PRC state-owned enterprise." Research cited in CTF's letter suggests that the Chinese government owns at least 30 percent of Wingtech Technology's shares. The U.S. and allied governments consider the semiconductor industry a sector critical to innovation, national security and competition with China and is an ongoing focus of U.S. executive and congressional action. Nexperia's acquisition of NWF was initially announced on July 5, 2021.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **KEEP THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY OUT OF COLLEGE**

*Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas) | The Hill | May 20, 2022*

This spring, as university graduates across the United States prepare to walk the stage, more than degrees will be handed out. Among the students and faculty of American universities sit spies—agents of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) —who have spent their years in college funneling research and stolen intellectual property (IP) back to the CCP. For years, the CCP has executed propaganda and espionage campaigns across the globe. In the United States, one of their methods of impacting the decisions of academic institutions and spying on activities inside the U.S. is through Confucius Institutes. These institutes are Chinese state-sponsored entities first established in America in 2005 under the guise of promoting Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally, and facilitating cultural exchanges. In reality, Confucius Institutes are used by the CCP to exploit the open, collaborative nature of American academia and conduct widespread industrial and military espionage inside the United States.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS – AN AFFIRMATIVE AGENDA, A RESPONSIBLE COURSE**

*Frank Sampson Jannuzi, Carla A. Hills, and Dennis C. Blair | Council on Foreign Relations Press April 2007*

No relationship will be as important to the twenty-first century as the one between the United States, the world's great power, and China, the world's rising power. China's development is directly transforming the lives of one-fifth of the world's population, and is otherwise influencing billions more. China's rapid economic growth, expanding regional and global influence, continued military modernization, and uneven human rights record are also shifting the geopolitical terrain and contributing to uncertainty about China's future course. After thirty-five years of "engagement," the United States and China have a relationship that was truly unimaginable two generations ago. At the same time, there are some Americans who believe that China's strategic interests are incompatible with those of the United States. The Council on Foreign Relations established an Independent Task Force to take stock of the changes under way in China today and to evaluate what these changes mean for China and for the U.S.-China relationship.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **DEWEY MURDICK'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

*Dewey Murdick | Center for Security and Emerging Technology | May 11, 2022*

China is keenly aware of its gaps and is using every means available to close them. In 2018, a Chinese state-run newspaper identified nearly three dozen crucial technologies that relied on specific imports that make China vulnerable to other countries' potential sanctions and export controls. In a series of articles, the full list of which is provided below in Appendix A, the authors covered topics including: The difficulty with producing rocket engines and aviation landing gear due to limitations in making high-strength steel; The challenges of building reliable high-resolution LiDAR (or light detecting and ranging sensors) that are the "eyes" of many unmanned vehicles; and Detailed gaps in China's ability to produce key semiconductor manufacturing equipment components. These articles expressed the feeling that the United States and other powers could use these and other limitations to "strangle" China at any time. The Chinese are keenly aware of their strengths and deficits, and are making strides toward achieving technological self-sufficiency. They regularly leverage a wide range of government powers in an attempt to dominate key technology areas — not just the cutting edge.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **THE CHINA AI AND AUTONOMY REPORT**

*Ryan Loomis, Kevin Pollpeter, and Amanda Kerrigan | Center for Naval Analyses | May 19, 2022*

We begin this issue by covering a number of research and development stories. PRC researchers have published an article on their use of a satellite to conduct real-time tracking of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman. Researchers from Zhejiang University have reportedly developed a novel technique to enable a swarm of small UAVs to fly autonomously in complex environments. Separately, the PLA Daily reports on what appears to be the development of UAV "decoys" that will perform electronic warfare missions autonomously. The city of Chengdu has made public its five-year plan for "new type" information infrastructure, including the construction of an AI computing center. In industry news, the Biden administration is reportedly again considering sanctioning the surveillance tech company and PRC national AI champion, Hikvision. Finally, the PRC is building a dam using AI-enabled robots and additive manufacturing techniques without humans. A PRC journal article describes real-time tracking of US aircraft carrier by satellite.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **TRANSLATION: MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET**

*Center for Security and Emerging Technology | March 24, 2022*

The following document is the 2022 budget for the PRC Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). In addition to detailing MOST's expenditures by category, the budget also describes several domestic and international S&T projects that MOST is funding in 2022. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) implements the Party Central Committee's policies and decisions regarding scientific and technological (S&T) innovation. It upholds and strengthens the party's centralized leadership of S&T innovation in the course of performing its duties. Its primary responsibilities are as follows: Formulate national strategic guidelines for innovation-driven development, draw up plans and policies for S&T development and the recruitment of brainpower from abroad, and organize their implementation; Plan and promote the construction of a national innovation system, and the reform of the S&T systems and work with relevant departments to improve incentive mechanisms for technological innovation.

Read the full article [here](#).



## HUGE BOOST FOR US SCIENCE FUNDING INCHES CLOSER TO REALITY

Freda Kreier | Nature | February 4, 2022

The US House of Representatives has approved a bill that could inject tens of billions of dollars into federal research agencies, in a politically charged effort to maintain US leadership in science and technology. The America COMPETES Act is the latest in a series of bills that would, among other things, increase funding to US science in an attempt to keep up with China's growing influence on the world stage. Researchers say, in particular, that a slated budget increase for the US National Science Foundation (NSF), which funds a significant chunk of basic academic research in the country, is long overdue. They are divided, however, over measures added to the bill to keep China at bay, including limits on some foreign funding and talent-recruitment programmes.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## STOP TURNING AWAY THE NEXT EINSTEINS

Divyansh Kaushik | The Dispatch | May 25, 2022

Last year, I received a phone call from a friend who was a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. After graduating with a research master's degree—fully funded by grants from the federal government—and publishing papers in top artificial intelligence (AI) journals, he started working on machine learning technologies for a major defense contractor, delivering on several critical technologies. He isn't alone; foreign born scientists and engineers comprise more than 50 percent of the defense industrial base. During our conversation, he mentioned that he was not selected as part of the H-1B visa lottery for the third time, and unless he found another way to continue his employment at this firm, he would have to move to another country. This story is all too common. More than half of AI Ph.D.s who leave the country after graduating say they do so because of immigration issues. The House of Representatives recently passed the America COMPETES Act, which includes a provision exempting holders of advanced STEM degrees from annual green card caps.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## RUBIO: 'WE MUST ADDRESS THE DANGEROUS, GROWING IMBALANCE BETWEEN AMERICA AND CHINA'

John Kelly | State Newswire | May 22, 2022

A Center for Strategic and International Studies brief was released May 16 which describes the work and investments China has made to attract and improve its human capital. While China has been working to improve its education systems and create talent pipelines, its workforce still faces major challenges, many of which lead back to the divide between urban and rural residents. The conclusion is that the more China is able to stimulate the quality of its workforce, the more globally competitive the country will be. "We have to remember we are not in a strategic competition with foreign Chinese companies; we are in a strategic competition with the world's largest and second wealthiest nation-state. We must address the dangerous, growing imbalance between America and China comprehensively, decisively, and swiftly," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said May 11.

Read the full article [here](#).

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