THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

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NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY
The White House | October 2022

We are now in the early years of a decisive decade for America and the world. The terms of geopolitical competition between the major powers will be set. The window of opportunity to deal with shared threats, like climate change, will narrow drastically. The actions we take now will shape whether this period is known as an age of conflict and discord or the beginning of a more stable and prosperous future. We face two strategic challenges. The first is that the post-Cold War era is definitively over and a competition is underway between the major powers to shape what comes next. No nation is better positioned to succeed in this competition than the United States, as long as we work in common cause with those who share our vision of a world that is free, open, secure, and prosperous. This means that the foundational principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, and political independence must be respected, international institutions must be strengthened, countries must be free to determine their own foreign policy choices, information must be allowed to flow freely, universal human rights must be upheld, and the global economy must operate on a level playing field and provide opportunity for all.

Read the full article here.

CHOKING OFF CHINA'S ACCESS TO THE FUTURE OF AI
Gregory C. Allen | Center for Strategic and International Studies | October 11, 2022

On October 7, 2022, the Biden administration announced a new export controls policy on artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductor technologies to China. These new controls—a genuine landmark in U.S.-China relations—provide the complete picture after a partial disclosure in early September generated confusion. For weeks the Biden administration has been receiving criticism in many quarters for a new round of semiconductor export control restrictions, first disclosed on September 1. The restrictions block leading U.S. AI computer chip designers, such as Nvidia and AMD, from selling their high-end chips for AI and supercomputing to China. The criticism typically goes like this: China's domestic AI chip design companies could not win customers in China because their chip designs could not compete with Nvidia and AMD on performance. Chinese firms could not catch up to Nvidia and AMD on performance because they did not have enough customers to benefit from economies of scale and network effects. Because of the new export controls, revenues that formerly flowed to U.S. chip companies will now go to Chinese chip companies, offering a viable path to economies of scale and competitive performance. In the short term, this policy will significantly harm Chinese AI data center companies.

Read the full article here.

AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY BOOSTS CHINA'S HYPERSONIC MISSILE PROGRAM

Cate Cadell and Ellen Nakashima | The Washington Post | October 17, 2022

Military research groups at the leading edge of China's hypersonics and missile programs — many on a U.S. export blacklist — are purchasing a range of specialized American technology, including products developed by firms that have received millions of dollars in grants and contracts from the Pentagon, a Washington Post investigation has found. The advanced software products are acquired by these military organizations through private Chinese firms that sell them on despite U.S. export controls designed to prevent sales or resales to foreign entities deemed a threat to U.S. national security, the investigation shows. Scientists who work in the sprawling network of Chinese military research academies and the companies that aid them said in interviews that American technology — such as highly specialized aeronautical engineering software — fills critical gaps in domestic technology and is key to advances in Chinese weaponry.

Read the full article here.

BIDEN IS NOW ALL-IN ON TAKING OUT CHINA

Jon Bateman | Foreign Policy | October 12, 2022

The United States has waged low-grade economic warfare against China for at least four years now—firing volley after volley of tariffs, export controls, investment blocks, visa limits, and much more. But Washington's endgame for this conflict has always been hazy. Does it seek to compel specific changes in Beijing's behavior, or challenge the Chinese system itself? To protect core security interests, or retain hegemony by any means? To strengthen America, or hobble its chief rival? Donald Trump's scattershot regulation and erratic public statements offered little clarity to allies, adversaries, and companies around the world. Joe Biden's actions have been more systematic, but long-term U.S. goals have remained hidden beneath bureaucratic opacity and cautious platitudes. Last Friday, however, a dense regulatory filing from a little-known federal agency gave the strongest hint yet of U.S. intentions. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) announced new extraterritorial limits on the export to China of advanced semiconductors, chip-making equipment, and supercomputer components. The controls, more so than any earlier U.S. action, reveal a single-minded focus on thwarting Chinese capabilities at a broad and fundamental level.

Read the full article here.

CHINESE STATE-SPONSORED HACKERS HAVE BECOME MORE BRAZEN, PROMPTING AN NSA ADVISORY

Suzanne Smalley | CyberScoop | October 6, 2022

Increasingly bold Chinese state-sponsored hackers are actively using known vulnerabilities to gain access to sensitive networks, a dynamic National Security Agency cyber chief Rob Joyce called a "major threat" to critical infrastructure and election security on Thursday. Joyce emphasized there is no specific, significant threat against U.S. elections but said the NSA, along with the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, decided to release an advisory on the topic to ensure extra vigilance as November's elections loom. China has become "really brazen, doubling down on their activities to steal intellectual property and compromise sensitive networks," Joyce told reporters Thursday. "They establish persistence and move laterally across the interconnected networks so malicious state sponsored activity is a major threat to U.S. critical infrastructure, election systems, national security systems and the Department of Defense along with the defense industrial base that we help protect." The advisory is the fourth of its kind to be released since 2020.

Read the full article here.

WESTERN ORGS WARNED ABOUT MOUNTING RUSSIAN INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE

SC Staff | SC Media | September 15, 2022

Western companies have been warned by experts to be vigilant for possible Russian industrial espionage efforts after Russia acknowledged lacking technological development as a result of mounting sanctions amid its ongoing war with Ukraine, reports The Record, a news site by cybersecurity firm Recorded Future.Russian President Vladimir Putin's pronouncements on the role of the country's Foreign Intelligence Service or SVR in fostering technological advancements in Russia should worry Western organizations, according to Keir Giles, a senior consulting fellow at Chatham Houses Russia and Eurasia Programme. "I think its another of those ones where weve forgotten just how busy the Russian intelligence services always were during Soviet times doing precisely this, trying to steal technological secrets from the West because they were unable to develop things themselves," said Giles. However, Gavin Wilde, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former director for Russia at the U.S. National Security Council, said that Putin has not considered the "insurmountable barriers" to the technological self-sufficiency of Russia.

Read the full article here.

EX-UK PILOTS LURED TO HELP CHINESE MILITARY, MOD SAYS

Gordon Corera | BBC News | October 18, 2022

Former British military pilots are being lured to China with large sums of money to pass on their expertise to the Chinese military, it is claimed. Up to 30 former UK military pilots are thought to have gone to train members of China's People's Liberation Army. The UK is issuing an intelligence alert to warn former military pilots against working for the Chinese military. Attempts to headhunt pilots are ongoing and had been ramping up recently, Western officials say. A spokesperson from the Ministry of Defence said the training and the recruiting of pilots does not breach any current UK law but officials in the UK and other countries are trying to deter the activity. "It is a lucrative package that is being offered to people," said one Western official, adding that "money is a strong motivator". Some of the packages are thought to be as much as £237,911 ($270,000). "They are a very attractive body of people to then pass on that knowledge," a Western official said. "It's taking Western pilots of great experience to help develop Chinese military air force tactics and capabilities."

Read the full article here.

UK SPY CHIEF SAYS RISE OF CHINA WORLD'S TOP SECURITY ISSUE

Jill Lawless | The Associated Press | October 11, 2022

The head of Britain's cyber-intelligence agency on Tuesday accused China of trying to "rewrite the rules of international security," saying Beijing is using its economic and technological clout to clamp down at home and exert control abroad. Jeremy Fleming, director of GCHQ, said that despite war raging in Europe since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Beijing's growing power is the "national security issue that will define our future." In a rare public speech to the Royal United Services Institute think tank, Fleming alleged that Beijing's Communist authorities want to "gain strategic advantage by shaping the world's technology ecosystems." "When it comes to technology, the politically motivated actions of the Chinese state is an increasingly urgent problem we must acknowledge and address," Fleming said. "That's because it's changing the definition of national security into a much broader concept. Technology has become not just an area for opportunity, for competition and for collaboration, it's become a battleground for control, for values and for influence."

Read the full article here.

U.S.-CHINA TENSIONS FUEL OUTFLOW OF CHINESE SCIENTISTS FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES

Sha Hua and Karen Hao | The Wall Street Journal | September 22, 2022

An increasing number of scientists and engineers of Chinese descent are giving up tenured positions at top-tier American universities to leave for China or elsewhere, in a sign of the U.S.'s fading appeal for a group that has been a driver of innovation. The trend, driven in part by what many of the scholars describe as an increasingly hostile political and racial environment, has caused the Biden administration to work with scholars of Chinese descent to address concerns.

Read the full article here.

NSF HOPES BIG DATA WILL FINGER GRANTEES NOT REPORTING FOREIGN SUPPORT

Jeffrey Mervis | Science | September 30, 2022

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will soon begin crunching several large databases to see whether there are scientists who failed to disclose ties to foreign institutions in their grant applications. It is arguably the boldest of several steps federal research agencies are taking to comply with a new law that aims to boost U.S. technological innovation–and prevent China and other foreign governments from pilfering federally funded research. The CHIPS and Science Act, signed by President Joe Biden on 9 August, appropriates $52 billion over 5 years to stimulate research, training, and manufacturing in microelectronics—and promises tens of billions more for fundamental research in many fields. Along with those investments is a mandate to strengthen research security (see sidebar, below). In recent years, lawmakers and others have faulted federal research agencies for failing to be more vigilant against potential security problems.

Read the full article here.

UK TO DESIGNATE CHINA A 'THREAT' IN HAWKISH FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT

Dan Sabbagh | The Guardian | October 11, 2022

China is to be formally designated a "threat" to Britain in a hasty rewrite of Boris Johnson's defence and foreign policy that is being brought forward to end confusion among ministers about how to deal with Beijing. Under Johnson, China had been categorised as a "systemic competitor" but the new prime minister, Liz Truss, wants to take a more hawkish stance quickly, as she seeks to shore up support for her faltering premiership on her backbenches. The redesignation will bring the UK's official position towards China close to its stance on Russia, currently classed as "the most acute threat" facing the UK. But it is almost certain to provoke a hostile reaction from Beijing. It had been intended to complete the policy rewrite at the end of the year, but sources said a special China strategy review was now being brought forward after the Department for Education was forced into a climbdown by No 10 over the weekend after expressing support for China's Confucius Institutes. One insider said the change could come "within days".

Read the full article here.

ASCE
ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM