



China's Threats to the American Homeland

August 14, 2025

China is not just a foreign policy problem—it is a direct homeland security threat. China's dominance of critical technologies and infrastructure has left the United States beholden to the whims of the authoritarian Chinese Communist Party (CCP), while Chinese infiltration of the American education and telecommunications systems has left the United States vulnerable to the CCP's malign influence and surveillance campaigns. Without decisive action, China will maintain leverage and influence over the United States on multiple fronts, diminishing the freedom and independence of every American here at home. Though the federal government is often seen as the main theater for foreign policy, states have both a unique ability and mandate to pursue policies to protect their citizens in partnership with the federal government and private sector to stop these covert attacks.

If you are interested in collaborating on best practices and strategies for how your state can confront the Chinese threat to America's homeland, reach out to Thor Mortensen at thor@vandenbergcoalition.org.

CHINA ABUSES EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIONS WITH U.S. UNIVERSITIES.

- A congressional investigation found [several hundred million dollars](#) in federal research has been abused by Chinese researchers at American universities in order to support technological developments directly benefiting the Chinese military and could be used against American troops if there is a conflict.
- Chinese universities participating in joint education institutes with American universities [manipulate](#) this collaboration to send critical U.S. technologies and expertise back to the CCP, which are in turn used to “facilitate human rights abuses,” including the CCP's ongoing [genocide and repression](#) of the Uyghurs.
- Foreign students involved with the approximately [150 chapters](#) of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association have attempted to [shut down campus events](#) that go against the CCP's agenda to shut down the free speech of opponents of the regime.

CHINA OWNS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF AMERICAN FARMLAND.

- China owns more than [380,000 acres](#) of farmland in the United States and major food companies like Smithfield Foods, allowing the CCP to threaten our food security.
- Some of this Chinese-owned land is [near military bases](#), threatening national security and prompting [warnings](#) from the U.S. Air Force about the adversary trying to negatively impact its immediate and future operations.

CHINA WEAPONIZES TIKTOK TO ATTACK AMERICANS THROUGH INFORMATION WARFARE.

- Chinese company ByteDance fully controls TikTok's advanced algorithm which [prioritizes user retention](#) over all else and pushes [harmful content](#) to its young audiences, with “35.71% of ‘Normalization of Pedophilia’ content, 33.33% of ‘Minor Sexual Solicitation’ content, 39.13% of ‘Minor Physical Abuse’ content, 50% of ‘Glorification of Minor Sexual Assault,’ and 100% of content ‘Fetishizing Minors’” getting [past moderators](#).
- The CCP [requires](#) every Chinese company—including TikTok—to turn over user data, allowing it to gather information on Americans. Despite claims asserting otherwise, [leaks](#) from official TikTok meetings have demonstrated regular CCP access to U.S. data, with TikTok officials stating directly, “everything is seen in China.”
- ByteDance has many employees with backgrounds from Chinese state propaganda organizations who [weaponize](#) TikTok's algorithm to only share CCP-approved content without users' knowledge.



CHINA DOMINATES THE PRODUCTION OF PHARMACEUTICALS SOLD IN AMERICA.

- Industry organizations have warned that **over 80 percent** of the top generic drugs in the United States [use entirely imported](#) active pharmaceutical ingredients, with China being one of the two largest exporters, giving them a chokehold on important medications.
- Drugs with Chinese components, like the blood thinner Heparin, have [killed Americans](#) due to the introduction of toxic materials during the manufacturing process in China.

CHINA CONTROLS THE CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAIN.

- China [refines 68 percent](#) of the world’s nickel, **40 percent** of copper, **59 percent** of lithium, and **73 percent** of cobalt, which are core components of critical technologies like batteries.
- With its near dominance in metal refining, China can exercise extreme control over other metal exports in the future to cause supply chain shocks and harm U.S. companies, just as it did in [2011](#) and [2024](#).

CHINA HAS INFILTRATED U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL NETWORKS.

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency observed that China has compromised telecommunications companies to [steal communications](#) data of American citizens.
- China is a leading supplier of solar technology and has put [suspicious communications equipment](#) in critical solar inverters that are connected to the American electrical grid.
- Chinese cranes [used in 80 percent](#) of U.S. ports have unauthorized communications technology that enables remote access by malign actors such as the CCP. Many ports themselves [collaborate](#) with [blacklisted](#) Chinese military shipping company COSCO over American companies.

CHINA ACTIVELY HARMS U.S. BUSINESSES.

- According to the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chinese companies [steal American intellectual property](#)—including from the likes of Tesla and Motorola—with the CCP and its regulatory authorities intervening legally to protect Chinese companies from retribution.
- The U.S. Trade Representative [found](#) that “China has largely achieved its dominance goals, severely disadvantaging U.S. companies, workers, and the U.S. economy generally through lessened competition and commercial opportunities and through the creation of economic security risks from dependencies and vulnerabilities” in the shipbuilding realm.

PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORTS STRONGER ACTION ON THE CHINA THREAT.

- Polling from The Vandenberg Coalition shows voters [want stronger action](#) against China.
- **75 percent** of Trump voters [view](#) China as a “high” or “extremely high” threat to American national security.
- Nearly **90 percent** of Trump voters [support](#) initiatives to block China from acquiring U.S. land.
- Over 2/3 of Trump voters [want](#) to see either a forced sale of TikTok to American owners or an outright ban, while only 9 percent are happy with the status quo.
- Over **80 percent** of Trump voters [think](#) it is “extremely important” for the United States to maintain dominance over China in science, technology, and defense.
- Over **70 percent** of Trump voters [would support](#) a defense of Taiwan against Chinese aggression.

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