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## **United States Briefing Paper**

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**Introduction:**

The United States of America, a nation in North America divided into fifty states and inhabited by around 328,200,000 people, is a democratic and economic power-house, accounting for approximately a quarter of the global GDP. The US prides itself on self-reliance, equality, and freedom. The United States has had a long, tumultuous history in international relations with China. In this vein, there are issues on which we plan to cooperate, and others on which we hold strong, indelible views. We would like to engage in conversations on the following topics: the conflict in the South China Sea, Taiwan, Climate Change and Global Health, Trade and Technology, Development and Human Rights. We are more open to negotiations on the topics of Human Rights, Climate Change and Global Health, and Trade and Technology.

**Key points:**

1. The US wants to stay neutral in China and Taiwan's dispute, supporting an economic and social relationship with both countries. The US does not condone Taiwanese independence, nor does it support a war between the two countries.
2. We would like China to see the legitimacy of The United Nations on the Law of the Sea agreement. At some point in the future, we want to see China restrict their territory to their respective Exclusive Economic Zone.
3. The US plans to cooperate with China on the issues of Climate Change and Global Health. We would like to begin open negotiations soon.
4. The US wants to work on improving Human Rights for Chinese citizens. We would like to analyze and solve the issues of the Uighur genocide, privacy, and the Hong Kong protests.
5. The US must map out exactly how to manufacture new supply chains in Mexico and parts of the Southwestern/Western United States. Mapping requires the development of intricate, detailed procedures on what exactly went wrong in China, and how to integrate new supply chains as the primary source of consumer goods for the United States.

**Committee papers are on the pages that follow.**

## **Committee on the South China Sea**

We are the United States in the committee on the South China Sea. We feel strongly that the majority of China's claims in the South China Sea are *illegitimate*. Their claims breach The United Nations Convention on the Law of The Sea (UNCLOS), and the nine dash line goes far outside of China's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). We are strongly allied with the countries in South Asia that oppose China's actions in this area. In January of 2021, China passed the Coast Guard Law. This law states that the Chinese coast guard can shoot down any foreign boats that they believe to be in their territory, can demolish structures from other countries, and board foreign ships. The US sees this as a possible signal that violent conflict in the South China Sea is in the near future. Our Navy will continue to patrol the waters in the South China Sea as long as China is threatening other countries. The United States advocates for peace and justice in the South China Sea, and this cannot happen if China does not change their unjust territorial claims.

The United States has historically been involved in the conflict in the South China Sea. China has asserted dominance over the area for hundreds of years, but they began to aggressively control the area in 1974. That year, the Chinese killed dozens of Vietnamese troops stationed on islands in the South China Sea. This is considered to be the watershed event of the modern conflict. The US sails through the South China Sea to try to show China that the area is technically international waters under law. The US military has been using this technique for at least twenty years, and there are many examples of the Chinese harassing the US military.

In April 2001, a US intelligence plane and a Chinese military plane collided over the South China Sea. One Chinese pilot died. The US intelligence plane was forced to land on an island where the passengers ended up being detained by authorities. In March 2009 there were multiple incidents around the USNS Impeccable (an American navy ship). One day the Chinese coast guard shined a light on the ship that forced it to stop. Another time multiple Chinese military ships surrounded the USNS Impeccable. In June 2009, a Chinese submarine followed the USS John McCain destroyer. It is thought that the Chinese submarine ruined the sonar equipment on the American submarine. All of these examples of harassment from the Chinese government are completely unjust. In January of 2014, China created a fishing permit rule in the South China Sea. The US, Philippines and Vietnam firmly objected to this law. There are also infinite examples of the Chinese military harassing Vietnamese and Philippine people working in the South China Sea. The US is closely allied with these countries, so these events frustrate us as well. More recently, China has been making artificial islands to attempt to claim their territory. This still does not make China's territorial claims legitimate, as the UN does not recognize artificial islands as a valid reason to claim maritime territory. The Trump Administration (2016-2021) took a strong stance against the actions of China in this area. They felt strongly that China's actions consistently breached international law and that action needed to be taken around this issue. The Biden administration will continue with this stance on China. We will not cooperate with China on the South China Sea, but we are willing to cooperate on other issues, such as climate change and global health.

The US views the state of affairs as unjust and precarious. We are on the verge of a serious conflict. If we don't begin sorting out territorial claims soon, the situation will only get worse. The US's ultimate goal in the South China Sea is to have China retreat back to their Exclusive Economic

Zone and stop harassing valid claimants to the area. We would like to see the situation de escalate and become peaceful. We would like to see China see UNCLOS as valid and begin to follow international maritime laws. The US has been quite involved in the conflict. We have been rebelling against China's territorial claims by sailing through the areas to show that they are truly international waters. We are also strongly allied with the countries in South Asia that are working against China's unjust territorial claims. We are particularly strongly aligned with the Philippines.

The US does *not* see the nine-dash line as legitimate. The nine-dash line was first created in 1947 by a geographer named Yang Huairan. It was taken off of maps in the 1950s, but eventually returned in the latter half of the 20th century. Many geographers still think the line has a scientific basis because it marks where deep water ends and there is a continental shelf. Maybe to some the line has a scientific basis, but it is illegitimate under international law. The line extends far out of China's exclusive economic zone (a EEZ is defined by the UN as extending as far as 200 nautical miles away from a country's coastline). The UN has clarified multiple times that China's claim to this area does not stand, and that other countries in the area have very valid claims in the disputed territory. The US believes that the area in the nine-dash line is international waters. The US also does not approve of China's building of artificial islands in the last ten years. The UN does not recognize artificial islands as a valid reason to claim territory. The US strongly aligns itself with the international law created by the UN, so therefore we also say that this is not a legitimate claim to the area.

On January 22, 2013 the Philippines formally brought a case against China to the Court of Arbitrations. The case stated that China had breached UNCLOS. China did not comply with the trial. They did not even appoint representatives. The Phillipines earned a procedural victory during the trial. Other countries did not have to enter into the trial because they agreed with the outcome. The US sees the outcome of this trial and the trial itself as legitimate. In fact, we see it as a landmark event in this conflict, as it opens up legal discourse surrounding the legitimacy of the nine-dash line.

The US believes that military conflict is imminent in the South China Sea. We would like to avoid it, but it seems like things are not going in a healthy direction. We are fortunate that military conflict in the South China Sea would not affect our country's safety (because we are geographically distant from the area). Our nation would participate in the conflict. We would ally ourselves with any of the South Asian countries that are against China.

## Committee on Taiwan

Taiwan is an island located off the coast of mainland China. Taiwan briefly started off as a Dutch colony, and then was administered by China's Qing dynasty from 1683 to 1895. During this time, many migrants fled China and moved to Taiwan. In 1895, China had to cede Taiwan to Japan, but started ruling it again, with consent from the US and UK, after World War II. Then, there was Chinese civil war, and the losing side was driven back into Taiwan and established a dictatorship there. The island slowly started to become democratized, ruled by the Government of the Republic of China, or the ROC, with its first election in 2000. There are many disagreements about what Taiwan is and should be called. According to China, Taiwan is a breakaway province that has its own ruling system, although it still is part of China. Taiwan believes that it is its own country, while most other countries including the US refuse to comment so that they can still be on good terms with China. It would be best if the Taiwan/China conflict remains nonviolent, and the US would like to maintain strong relations with both mainland China and Taiwan. Taiwan and China have had a lot of animosity in the past, and those tensions continue even now.

Even though Taiwan thinks of itself as its own country, we, as the US, currently believe that Taiwan is a part of the Republic of China. We want to stay on good terms with China, because we care about having a meaningful relationship with it, both economically and socially. Still, we want a strong unofficial relationship with Taiwan, as they are also important to us and our economy, as can be seen from our many recent deals with them. Tensions are very high with Taiwan and China because of talks of independence and reunification, and so choosing sides might cause an unwanted war. In the meantime, the US will continue to remain relatively neutral while supporting relations with China and Taiwan.

When Chian Kai-Shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 and established the Republic of China, there was a great amount of tension between them and China. In 1980, their relationship started to improve, and China introduced a formula called "One Country, Two Systems." This system stated that if Taiwan agreed to reunification with China, they would be given significant autonomy. The offer of the system was rejected by Taiwan, though Taipei, Taiwan's capital, relaxed its restrictions on traveling and investing in China. In 1991, Taiwan announced that their war with the Republic of China was over. Talks with unofficial representatives of both countries started to occur, though Beijing's refusal to recognize Taiwan prevented government-to-government contact. Throughout the 2000's China's relationship with Taiwan has had ups and downs depending on Taiwan's president. Taiwan has elected presidents that want independence, and during those presidencies China imposed new laws and restrictions against Taiwan. When Taiwan elected a president who opposed independence, relations with China got better. Right now, the Taiwan/China relationship is still rocky, because they have opposing views on how Taiwan should be classified and ruled.

Taiwan currently thinks of itself as an independent country, and around 70 percent of the population considers themselves solely Taiwanese, not Chinese. Still, China thinks that Taiwan is a part of China, and behaves as if that is so. Currently, only fifteen countries, including Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Paraguay, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland and Tuvalu, recognize Taiwan as its own country. The US has supported Taiwan's economically, but still hasn't recognized Taiwan

either way, as that would mean cutting all ties with China or Taiwan. The US supports neither Taiwanese independence nor a war between the two countries.

In recent years there has been much tension between Taiwan and China because Taiwan wants eventual independence. Because China does not want Taiwan to have independence, it has used its strong economic influence throughout the world to threaten countries and corporations if they recognised Taiwan as its own country and made them acknowledge Taiwan as a part of China on their websites. China and its allies also do not let Taiwan join WHO (World Health Organization) and other world organizations, which makes it harder for Taiwan to get access to information such as about disease outbreaks like the COVID-19. In 2005, China passed a law that claimed they could use “non-peaceful” force against Taiwan if it ever tried receding from them. Because Taiwan’s current president wants independence, China’s interactions with Taiwan are mostly negative.

The United States hasn't officially recognized Taiwan as a country, partially because our trade with China is valued. Recently, the US was involved in an arms deal with Taiwan, in which the United States agreed to supply Taiwan with weapons if an attack should occur. This has fueled tensions a bit, since it adds pressure to China's decisions, particularly whether or not to "reunify" through force. This weapons' deal intensified the US's involvement in this issue, meaning that if a fight does occur, the United States might be expected to intervene. Still, Biden has made it clear that even if he is pro-Taiwan, he does not condone an attack between the two countries. The US has long been trying to balance the line between supporting Taiwan's economics and China's trade. The tensions between China and Taiwan are nowhere near gone, and if anything, they have intensified recently, but going to war would be a large step to take. There would have to be a pretty big event that acts as a catalyst before that happens, which will hopefully not happen for quite a while.

The US strategically decided to have an unofficial relationship with Taiwan, preserving trade and communication with China. The United States also decided to acknowledge the Chinese position that Taiwan is one China, of which Taiwan is a part. The US maintains these unofficial relations with Taiwan through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a nonprofit corporation that performs diplomatic services. The United States also maintains ties with Taiwan through the economic services that they provide for each other, as Taiwan is the US's ninth largest trading partner, and the US is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. The US has worked to foster a healthy economic relationship with Taiwan.

## **Committee on Climate Change and Global Health**

We are the United States in the committee on Climate Change and Global Health. The United States is a country home to almost 330 million people made up of 50 states in North America. It is home to people from all over the globe, of all different races, religions, orientations, and creeds. When it comes to climate change, the road for the United States has been a rocky one. On June 1st, 2017, former President Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, an agreement created by the U.N. made up of 189 countries who have agreed to reduce emissions and work together to lessen the effects of climate change. Former President Trump withdrew from this agreement because he said it “undermined” the US economy and put the country at a disadvantage. However recently, on his first day on the job, President Biden rejoined the agreement, getting the US back on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In attempts to regain the safe climate of our earth, the Paris Agreement hopes to cut the Earth’s carbon emissions by extreme amounts. They intend to keep the earth’s average temperature below 2°C, as a small increase in temperature would prove to critically change the earth’s atmosphere. Such issues like mass relocation, high sea levels, and severe weather are just three of the many impending issues that we will soon face if climate change is not acknowledged and dealt with. Most of the United States can admit to the presence of climate change, but few are still in denial of its existence. After the outbreak of the pandemic in March, the country saw how the sickness positively affected climate change. With fewer factories being operated and less cars on the road, our carbon emissions dropped by 7%. It is as if all of the world had been put on pause, and allowed our nature to live peacefully without disturbance. While a 7% decrease may not seem to be a notable amount, it was sufficient to provide visible differences. In our waterside towns, many reported seeing a significant increase in birds and fish. It made many happy to see this influx of animal life, and hopeful that the United States will be able to cut their emissions before it is too late.

There have been several policies enacted to ensure that the United States gets back on track. Currently, the United States is second in carbon emissions globally. Many states have established legislation that increases renewable energy and diverges from the use of fossil fuels. The burning of fossil fuels is a heavy factor that contributes to climate change. Turning away from these resources is crucial in our fight to reduce carbon emissions. The issue is that the fossil fuel business generates much capital. Turning away from fossil fuels has potential for a great loss in capital, which is why it has been so hard to enact these restrictions. Many big businesses that invest in the fossil fuel economy hold great power in our legislation. Due to this, many in high power are against the reduction of carbon emissions, deeming it very difficult to establish certain laws pertaining to the decrease of fossil fuels. There are many ways in which the United States can reduce their carbon emissions, and actually following through with these cuts will require a great deal of effort from everybody involved. Fossil fuels hold priority in many Americans' lives. The solution will be to find alternative energy so that the United States is not so reliant on fossil fuels, and so that many will not have to drastically change the ways in which they live their lives while continuing to maintain their livelihoods.

As we know, the Covid-19 pandemic originated in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been highly involved with China and communication with the rest of the

world since the virus was first discovered. Ever since the beginning of January, they have been in communications with Chinese officials and tried to do what they could to prevent the spread as soon as possible. For example, they have been heavily monitoring the number of cases since the start, tried to prepare poorer countries with medical supplies, space, and training and also promoted efforts to try and accelerate research for preventing the spread and creating a vaccine. However, the organization has faced severe criticism for their response efforts and even lost some of its funding from the United States. China has been very hands-on with Covid-19 since the beginning. In response to the outbreak of this pandemic, the Chinese government was able to shut everything down using the power of martial law. Martial law is a state in which the military exercises jurisdiction over the civilian government. In China's case, they were able to use martial law to impose tight restrictions in order to keep the pandemic under control. This kind of law often includes the use of violence to ensure that the civilians adhere to its enacted restrictions. Contrary to the nature of the Chinese government, the United States does not have the power of martial law. This same freedom is what allowed Americans to be able to disregard Covid-19 restrictions without the fear of severe consequence. As a result, Covid-19 has spread through the US uncontrollably, making it the country with the highest amount of cases and deaths beyond any other country. As of february 25th, 2021, the US had a record high 28.4 million total cases with a colossal 508,000 deaths. On the other hand, President Biden is trying to get the country back on track, with already over 66 million total doses of the vaccine administered. He has also issued an Executive Order stating that the US is rejoining the World Health Organization.



## **Committee on Trade and Technology**

The United States of America (USA) has a solid trade relationship with China. The US exports 169.8 billion dollars worth of goods to China and imports 478.8 billion dollars worth of goods from China. The US' predominant trade partners in the Asia-Pacific region include Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Australia, India, Taiwan, and Singapore. Importing vast amounts more than you export creates an intricate trade relationship, as we see between China and the United States. The US has developed a reliance on China for electronics: phones, computers, data processing equipment, and toys and games. Almost all United States imports from China are goods that will eventually be bought by individual consumers, forming a predominantly unwanted relationship between the average American retail purchaser and China's mass manufacturing system, much of which is made up of supply chains.

China's supply chains are disorganized and inefficient, and their plethora of issues have further permeated the system during the COVID-19 pandemic. China - as one of the world's leading manufacturing destinations - faces constant, ever increasing demand. The world's necessity for commodities and factory goods will not disappear, so China's supply chain industry is here to stay. From minimal workers, wages, and organization issues, to unpredictable demand and a shortage of materials, China's supply chains continue to suffer from the pandemic. However, the concerns with China's supply chains emerge from an ethical lens, as well as a financial one. The supply chain in the Xinjiang region, a mountainous area in China's Northwest, has drawn worldwide attention. It has drawn mainstream criticism for the exposure of the forced labor, child labor, substandard wages, and rampant sexual harrasment that plagues it. The United States faces an urgency to move its companies' supply chains out of China, a decision a group of corporations have committed to by 2023. In order to do so, the US must map out exactly how to manufacture new supply chains in Mexico and parts of the Southwestern/Western United States. Mapping requires the development of intricate, detailed procedures on what exactly went wrong in China, and how to integrate new supply chains as the primary source of consumer goods for the United States.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership, also known as the TPP, was introduced by the Obama administration as a free trade agreement between three North-American countries and nine Asia-Pacific countries. The TPP would have been the largest trade deal in history, accounting for 40% of the global GDP. Importantly, it would have lowered tariffs and created higher standards for labor and environmental protections. Despite these benefits, the Trump Administration rejected the idea, so without the US, the rest of the countries in the original TPP deal developed a new TPP deal on a smaller scale; income from the trade deal lowered from 492 billion to 147 billion. The TPP intentionally left out China in the deal. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, also known as the RCEP, is a smaller free trade agreement between Asia-Pacific nations, including China. Unlike the TPP deal, the RCEP does not include improvement for standards of labor but does lower trade tariffs. The expected income from the RCEP deal is 286 billion. The US is not participating in the RCEP because of many elements, including the trade war that erupted between the Trump

administration and China and other factors that threaten the United States' relationship with China on fair and safe trade.

United States' manufacturing has been threatened by China's trade prowess since their emergence as top suppliers for the world. The US simply cannot compete with China's extremely low wages and rapid production, which come at the cost of various human rights violations. For the United States to practice ethical manufacturing, they must put pressure on China to investigate their supply chains and make the necessary changes to eliminate the harmful practices that run rampant. If China does not investigate their supply chains themselves, the US must intervene, and conduct personal probes into the dangerous habits of China's manufacturing. Additionally, China's continuous encroachment into the South China Sea is troubling to the United States. The South China Sea is a major hub for marine trade, and China's potential militarization of the region does not stand well with the US Peaceful trade is a privilege, not a given, and if China continues to infringe upon the peaceful trade operations of the South China Sea, the United States would need to take a stand and come to the region's aid.

## **Committee on Development**

The United States, like every other country, faces constant developmental setbacks. Some of the more obvious ones include pandemic response, climate change, food security, diversity and inclusion, debt, access to education, immigration, energy, and financial regulation. To combat these insecurities, the United States hasn't always implemented perfect reform. Notably, President Roosevelt's New Deal and Second New Deal only mitigated the Great Depression, which was eventually hampered by WWII's war-time economy, but did create programs that are still bound today, such as Social Security and unemployment insurance. A contemporary pressing issue is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, a mission that requires cooperation of all federal government agencies. Various initiatives, such as stimulus checks, vaccination production and distribution, and impact grants have helped to lessen the pandemic's impact on all Americans. In terms of external support for development, China, being the third-largest destination for US goods and services, such as trucks, technology, and construction equipment, encourages the US economy by benefiting US companies and therefore providing jobs for Americans.

Specifically, China pegs their currency to keep the monetary value of the yuan lower than other countries and close to that of the US dollar by investing heavily in US Treasury bonds: stable government debt securities. This strategy secures China's economic prosperity and stimulates the global marketplace, as it allows for China's exports to be cheaper, and therefore more appealing to other nations. Though this type of currency manipulation by the People's Bank of China has sparked impressive figures and recent economic growth for China, manufacturers in other countries, such as the US, believe that the yuan's value has given the Chinese marketplace an unfair advantage in production. Despite complaints, manipulating the yuan's value to keep production/purchase cost low keeps inflation at a moderate level, economically benefits American companies, and makes products cheaper for American consumers, saving the average citizen around \$850 per-year. Though some may speculate the safety of China owning nearly 1.11 trillion dollars worth of United States debt, weaponizing their holdings by selling their bonds would likely hurt both countries: disrupting the US economy, dropping the price of US bonds, and rising interest rates.

Chinese developmental history informs its current economic, political and social stances. In late 1978, Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese government began to pursue an open-door policy (system of trade), in which it strove to achieve economic growth through the introduction of foreign capital and technology while maintaining its commitment to socialism. The aim of this policy shift was to rebuild its economy and society that were devastated by the Cultural Revolution from 1966 until 1976. The shift to an open-door economic policy ushered in a period of high economic growth in the first half of the 1980s. In 1998, per capita income was 14 times higher than in 1980. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that Deng Xiaoping's goal to improve the economic status of the people had been accomplished. This system of growth however had its downfalls, some of which are very apparent today. For example, the gap between the rich and poor is now extremely wide (revealing a more unsocialist disparity) and there is wealth disparity between coastal and inland regions, and between urban and rural areas.

Arguably the largest development in current China is the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) which President Xi Jinping coined in 2013. Reminiscent of the Silk Road, it is a massive infrastructure project that would stretch from East Asia to Europe. Its purpose is to promote economic development and inter-regional connectivity, and to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations. Some analysts see the project as a disturbing expansion of Chinese power, and the United States is also sceptical. Xi Jinping's vision included creating a vast network of railways, energy pipelines, highways, and border crossings, both westward—through the mountainous former Soviet republics—and southward, to Pakistan, India, and the rest of Southeast Asia. Such a network would expand the international use of Chinese currency. China has both geopolitical and economic motivations behind the initiative. Xi has promoted a vision of a more assertive China, because slowing growth and rocky trade relations with the United States have pressured the country's leadership to push development.

Developing the economies of South and Central Asia is a long-standing US goal that intensified after the start of the US-led war in Afghanistan and President Barack Obama's pivot to Asia. The Obama administration frequently referenced the need for the Afghan economy to move past foreign assistance. They also supported a \$10 billion gas pipeline and spent billions of dollars on roads and energy projects in Afghanistan, using diplomatic muscle to help craft new regional cooperation. BRI projects can prove useful for the United States because infrastructure initiatives in Central Asia being paid for by China are of US interest, but the United States has shared other countries' concerns about China's intentions.

The US remains suspicious about Chinese growth and questions its motives. But development in China can also create a bi-product of US interest in terms of supporting economic and international connections (through projects such as the BRI). As international relations are increasingly world wide with pressing global issues such as climate change, COVID-19, and security concerns, the US recognizes that China's developing role in global politics is immensely important.

## **Committee on Governance and Human Rights**

The United States values human rights highly. Nothing is more important than the safety of people. The United States is a powerful liberator of the oppressed, particularly in East Asia. That said, economic justice and trade are incredibly important to the Biden Administration. The United States considers free trade capitalism to be the only practical economic system. The United States is ruled by the people, and we believe that national sovereignty is necessary for the creation of a free and good state. National sovereignty is determined by the unity of the people who live in a country. Unity is what will propel the United States and many other countries into the next decade as fair and equitable nations.

In order to properly understand the current Chinese state, we must look at its history, specifically the legacy of former Chairman of the State, Mao Zedong. Mao is still considered a hero by his party, although current policies of the CCP do not reflect the ideals pushed by him. Nevertheless, Mao's legacy is imperative to understanding China's current political system. Zedong rapidly industrialized China, worked to end imperialism, and improved the lives of women through increased education. He also united China after the war, a great feat. Since Mao's death, China has slowly transitioned to a mixed economy due to serious damages done by Mao's state-planned economy. It is also important to note Mao's influence on Xi Jinping's governance in Xinjiang, which has now become one of China's worst human rights violations. However, most still consider Mao to be a hero. His influence has reached outside of China, with a majority considering him to be an international hero, despite his glaring mistakes.

China has a strict authoritarian government. Presidential elections are voted on by the NPC, an organization of about 3,000 people. All elections at the federal level are determined by the people's congress. Under current president Xi Jinping, elections at the local level have been opened up to a more democratic process, but federal elections remain controlled by the government. The US, on the other hand, uses a fully democratic election system. This is one of the major differences between China and the United States, and has caused much strife in the past.

The relationship between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (an intergovernmental Southeast Asian cooperation working to address economic, security, and political concerns) has been strong and long-lasting. The original five members intended to create a front against communism in 1967, and its membership has since doubled to include most of Southeast Asia. The United States has worked with ASEAN since 1977, and were the first non-ASEAN country to name an Ambassador to ASEAN in 2008. ASEAN does important work in ensuring a fruitful, free trade economy for all who work with it.

Protests have been rampant in Hong Kong since the 90s, but while the protesters have had some success, the Mainland has continued the process of reabsorption. Recently, Beijing has become concerned with Hong Kong's government. Although the legislature is mostly dominated by Chinese patriots, the CCP wants to impose more restrictions on Hong Kong in an effort to weed out those who they do not believe to be loyal to China. Joe Biden has many concerns about China's human rights violations, but the US does believe that its primary concern is protecting US citizens. We think

that the mainland needs to stay out of Hong Kong's business, although Xi Jinping strongly disagrees with Biden.

The United States manages peaceful protests and activists with experience and empathy. We condemn all violent protests, no matter the political affiliation of the protesters. Some of the activists in Hong Kong have sought refuge in our country, and we have accepted them with open arms. Citizen activists based in the United States have generally not requested refuge in Asian countries.

President Biden has stated that he will continue to engender policies supporting human rights for Tibetans living under Chinese rule. The United States urges Chinese authorities to respect the Tibetan people's human rights and traditions, and to engage in dialogue with the exiled Dalai Lama. We plan to work with our allies to promote religious freedom for Tibetans, both in China and elsewhere. In Xinjiang, President Joe Biden does not support China's genocide of the Uighurs, but recognizes the cultural differences between the two nations and Xi Jinping's duty to govern in a way that reflects the desires of the Chinese people. President Biden has said that he will be "standing up for democracy and human rights around the world."

One could say that the deportation of illegal immigrants is similar to situations in Tibet and Xinjiang. The United States recognizes that its actions under the Trump Administration were unacceptable, and pledges to slowly and carefully close ICE detention centers in order to remedy previous damage.

While we currently import some Chinese surveillance technology, we are working to blacklist those which could be detrimental to American national security with the goal of protecting our people. Our democracy has been threatened by foreign forces numerous times, and in order to protect our democracy, we must blacklist any Chinese or other foreign powers.

The US government is extremely concerned about China's censorship of Americans and the western media. We believe that the CCP uses money and influence to persuade American companies into taking pro-Beijing stances. Considering our stance on Chinese censorship of America, the United States adopts the same opinion on China's censorship of its citizens. We view it as an infringement on the fundamental human rights of Chinese citizens, and a violation of democracy. However, the United States also recognizes the need to work with China and maintain a positive relationship. We believe that taking an extremist anti-China stance on human rights violations to not be useful in fostering a peaceful trade system and relationship with China. But the US firmly condemns China's techno security state because it is an affront to human rights and decency.