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**It could be “Win-Win”: the US-China bilateral relationship**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS

in

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

by **Xiaying Huang**

April 30, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Under the guidance and approval of the committee, and approval by all the members, this thesis project has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.

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It could be “Win-Win”: the US-China bilateral relationship

### **Abstract**

The bilateral relationship between the United States and China is crucial for international relations since these two great power states will influence the global economy, politics, and security. However, the US-China bilateral relationship has not always been stable and peaceful. The trade war was current issue to make the relationship between the two countries tenser and tenser. On the US side, the trade war was thought to promote domestic production, but the reality was the opposite; the trade war just broke the bilateral relationship and provided no long-term advantages to the US economy. In March 2022, the U.S. restores tariffs on Chinese goods to pre-trade war levels. In terms of technological development, the United States has shifted from cooperation to competition, which will turn this technological competition into another "trade war." Competition has been a significant theme between the United States and China, from economics to science and technology development. This type of competition benefited neither side, and more competition will have the same results. Long-term competitive relationships will only make US-China bilateral relations more unstable, which would harm both sides' healthy growth. Instead of competition, cooperation can make both parties attain a win-win result. This paper will involve some original Chinese primary sources to express the authentic Chinese voices on all these conflicts.

## **Introduction**

The relationship between China and the United States has recently become the world's most important and unique bilateral relationship. China and the United States have enormous influence as the world's two most powerful countries. The instability in their relationship has a significant impact on the global economy, politics, and security. Economic and commercial connections between China and the United States and their constructive and cooperative relationships are critical to global peace and prosperity. It is especially important to encourage the steady and healthy growth of bilateral relations in order to keep the globe at peace.

The relationship between China and the United States has experienced significant and complex transformations. It may have an impact on the growth of both countries. There were more conflicts and rivalries between these two countries during this time period than cooperation. Healthy and manageable competition is not harming China-US relations, but most of the time, people will quickly make the healthy competition become vicious competition. The trade disputes between the U.S. and China, often known as trade wars, have already harmed the bilateral relationship. In the past few years, the U.S. didn't get any benefits, and even though they claimed that the trade war would boost domestic manufacturing, some American economists proved that trade war-protectionist trade policy wouldn't help the economic growth. Therefore, a trade war can be said to be a failed policy or action. Only the economic cooperation between the two sides can achieve mutual benefit and a win-win in the end.

In the advancement of science and technology, the United States and China have recently transitioned from a previous cooperative relationship to a competing relationship. Many people believe that the technological competition between the United States and China will lead to the next "trade war." Historically, the United States and China have worked closely together to

advance science and technology, and the two countries have numerous academic cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence. However, because the United States considers that China's scientific and technological growth has become a threat to their future global stature, the US reduces many of the cooperation that they had before. The adverse consequences of the trade war during the Trump administration still keep affecting the development of US-China relations. Now the "war" on technological development will have the same as the trade war consequences - it will not lead to any positive effect except to damage the relationship between the two sides. Cooperation is actually not harmful to the United States and China, and China has never been a threat to the United States. China has always realized that the United States has been of great assistance to China in previous cooperation, and China has no intention of surpassing the United States to become a superpower nation. China merely wants to live in peace and collaboration with the rest of the world. Cooperation that benefits both parties is ideal, but the rivalry will only lead to a slew of conflicts and problems.

## **Method**

China's economy has risen significantly since the country's reform and opening up, and it is now the world's second largest. It has made tremendous achievements in scientific research, military, and economic fields that have little or no impact on the United States, yet it is regarded as a "threat" by the United States and some other Western nations, and the "China Threat Theory" is being spread. However, there are quite different voices in China viewing the development of China's strength, and other countries' media and scholars have not reported these voices and attitudes. As a result of a lack of accurate and appropriate information, there are numerous questions about China, as well as anxieties and fears about China. The crucial point is

that many remarks about China in the world do not emanate from China itself but rather from other countries. As a Chinese national studying International Studies in the United States, I aim to do this research utilizing original Chinese sources to portray China's real voice. All of the sources included in this research are reliable, the authors and publishers are both professional and trustworthy in their professional fields, and their background information is introduced. Because of cultural differences, in many fields, China advocates a positive-sum theory, and there is significant evidence to show that the US and China could reach win-win outcomes if they cooperated; a single-minded competition will cause an unstable and vicious competitive relationship, and this is not beneficial to both sides. As a result, rather than preserving the current China-US bilateral relationship with fewer advantages, the US and China should cooperate more to obtain more advantages.

This paper is divided into four sections to discuss the relations between China and the United States. The first section is providing background information and some important history events about China-US bilateral relationship. The second section is discussing the conflicts-trade disputes (trade war) between China and the US. The third section is about the most recent events and development of the bilateral relationship. The last section is about the science and technology development of these two nations, and how it might affect the future bilateral relationship.

### **History of China-US relation**

At the beginning of the founding of New China which was also called People's Republic of China, the United States implemented a comprehensive policy of suppressing China and resolutely supported the Chiang Kai-shek(蔣介石) regime in Taiwan. In this regard, the New

China also competed to implement a "one-sided" foreign policy, falling to the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. After the outbreak of the Korean War, Western countries led by the United States began to openly become enemies with China, and all parties fought inextricably on the Korean battlefield. In this way, the relationship between China and the United States has become more tense, and there is no possibility of easing. In the 1960s, with the end of the honeymoon period of China-Soviet Union relations, China began to resist the great-power chauvinism of the Soviet Union. Facing the difficult situation, China recovered its economy on its own and successfully completed the nuclear test, which greatly enhanced the nation's self-confidence and pride. The United States, on the other hand, was caught in the quagmire of the Vietnam War and could not extricate itself and was under constant pressure at home and abroad. The U.S. government and opposition are aware that China's rise in international status is an indisputable fact, and it is obviously not desirable to continue to hostile and isolate such a rising power. After the China-Soviet "Zhenbao Island Incident", the United States believed that the opportunity to improve relations with China had come, and both China and the United States had real needs. In the same year, during his visit to Cambodia, the leader of the Democratic Party of the US Senate, sent a letter to Premier Zhou Enlai for the first time to seek the possibility of a meeting. In addition, the US government has also expressed its desire to improve relations with China through countries such as Pakistan and Romania. This was also a time when China was aggressively adjusting its foreign policy. Faced with the "triangular connection" between China, the United States, and the Soviet Union, Chairman Mao understood that China could not be at conflict with both the Soviet Union and the United States at the same time, and it was critical to improve China-US relation. According to the article "1979 年中国对美政策讨论与中美互动 China's Debate on the U. S. Policy in 1979 and the U. S.-China Interaction" by Chao Fan,

Associate Professor of China Foreign Affairs University, and his research interests include contemporary Chinese diplomatic history, China-US relations. He claimed that

Deng Xiaoping had no solid reason to reject the suggestion for China-Soviet Union national relations dialogue during the height of China's negotiations with the US. When the conference of diplomatic envoys overseas concluded, China and the Soviet Union had already established in the diplomatic process that discussions would begin. To cease de-escalating with the Soviet Union, it was vital to demonstrate to decision-makers the importance of China-US relations as well as the harm and difficulty of de-escalating with the Soviet Union. The United States' corrective efforted, particularly Mundell's visit to China, demonstrated that China may earn enormous benefits from China-US relations, while also providing an opportunity to re-examine its stance toward the Soviet Union. (Fan 140).

The Soviet Union posed a great threat to the United States, which made the United States seek cooperation, and China's relations with the Soviet Union deteriorated at that time. The reason why China and the United States began to establish bilateral relations was actually that they both had a common threat - the Soviet Union. If the two sides did not establish relations, the United States would hardly have the opportunity to contain the continuous expansion of Soviet power, and China would always be threatened by the Soviet Union. In other words, the threat of the Soviet Union was an important factor in the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.

By the early 1970s, Nixon had taken what he described as "the first public step in action against China," boldly mentioning that the Chinese are great and alive, and they should not



continue to be isolated. In the long run, it was unimaginable to establish a stable and lasting international order without the efforts of this country with more than 700 million people.

Afterwards, Nixon also expressed on multiple occasions that the United States was glad to see China's rise and was ready to have a positive dialogue with Beijing. After repeated observation and testing by both sides, China-US relations had finally made substantial progress through a sports event. In early 1971, Japan held the 31st World Table Tennis Championships, and both China and the United States sent their own sports delegations to participate. As the first foreign sports delegation during that big sport, the Chinese table tennis team was given a special mission from the very beginning. The US table tennis delegation was pleased by the Chinese team's exceptional talents during the World Table Tennis Championships and intended to have technical discussions and exchanges. When the news reached China, Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou were instantly interested, and the idea of inviting the American table tennis group to visit China was formed.

For the first time in more than 20 years, "ping-pong diplomacy" eliminated the isolation of personnel exchanged between China and the United States, marking a major step in China-US reconciliation. The exchange of visits between the Chinese and American table tennis teams created a sensation in international public opinion and turned into a significant event that drew worldwide notice, dubbed "ping-pong diplomacy" by the media. Since then, the more than 20-year-long ban on personnel exchanged between China and the United States has gone, and the reconciliation between China and the United States has quickly reached a historic milestone.

On February 21, 1972, US President Nixon's airplane touched down in Beijing, setting a precedent for a US president to visit a nation with which the US has not yet established

diplomatic relationships. Zhou Enlai and other Chinese leaders made a special journey to the airport to greet US President Richard Nixon and his entourage. Although Nixon's power was considerably diminished as a result of the "Watergate affair" during his re-election campaign, his trip resulted in the temporary suspension of the formation of China-US diplomatic relations, which had been put on the agenda. This breakthrough, however, unquestionably boosted China-US ties and altered the worldwide political scene at the time. On December 15, 1978, China and the United States finally signed the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America". The United States officially recognized the legal status of the People's Republic of China, and the abnormal state between China and the United States ended. On January 1, 1979, with the official entry into force of the Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and the United States, China and the United States formally established diplomatic relations.

China recovered its position on the UN Security Council, becoming one of the five permanent members. However, due to a lack of reform and opening up at the time, the economy was exceedingly weak, and there were few genuine "friends" in the United Nations. This may be observed in the 1979 self-defense counterattack against Vietnam. Only a few of the United Nations' more than 100 member countries backed China at the time. The United States was the most unique among them. After China's self-defense offensive against Vietnam, Carter warned the Soviet Union over the US-Soviet hotline not to take any steps that might aggravate the existing situation and prevent the Soviet Union from embarking on any military expeditions against China. On February 17, 1979, the counterattack in self-defense against Vietnam started. The next day, the Soviet Union immediately supported Vietnam, and demanded that China withdraw its troops. Since the deterioration of China-Soviet relations in the 1960s, each side has

stationed millions of troops on the border, and a world war will break out at any time. In addition, the Soviet Union and Vietnam signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam to ensure the mutual security of both parties. The day after the Chinese army launched the attack, the Soviet Union issued a protest statement through the United Nations, but did not take any real action, only dispatching military experts and providing some weapons support. Another important reason why the Soviet Union did not dare to take direct military action was that the United States stood with China at this time. There are no lasting friends, only permanent interests. This reaction demonstrated that some nations opposed China's sending soldiers for their own reasons, while others sided with China because they needed China's cooperation. The United States intended to combine with China to oppose the Soviet Union, and it seldom supported China in sending soldiers to fight the other camp.

Deng Xiaoping, China's second-generation core leader, conducted an official visit to the United States in 1979, shortly after diplomatic relations were established. During the nine-day visit, he attended over 80 events and signed a number of cooperation agreements with Carter, the then-President of the United States, cementing their connection. Fan also reported that

In addition to counseling Carter on a constructive China strategy, Brzezinski and Oxenberg "actively urged cabinet members to visit China so that every significant policymaker and every important department of the government could be brought to the fore." Coming in to establish a positive connection with China. Obtaining broader support for the expansion of the relationship with China. And Brzezinski sees Vice President Mondale's visit to China as the pinnacle of "visit diplomacy." (Fan 141).

Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States had effectively promoted the exchanges and cooperation between China and the United States in the fields of economy, culture, science and technology, and opened the door for exchanges and cooperation between China and the Western world. Since then, the curtain of friendly exchanges between China and the United States had been officially opened. A new stage in the relationship between the two countries had entered a ten-year honeymoon period. The development of nation-to-nation relations cannot be simply explained by the logic of "historical inevitability", especially the China-US relationship with a fragile foundation, extensive involvement and complex structure.

The Taiwan issue was the most important and sensitive core issue in China-US relations. Even China and the U.S. successfully established diplomatic relations, they had totally divided view on Taiwan issue. President Reagan constantly maintained the "dual-track policy" strategy, which included the following steps: first, continue to supply weapons to Taiwan. Meanwhile, it was continually searching for grounds to circumvent the communique's constraints on the number and quality of arms shipments and pursued substantial arms sales; second, while providing weapons to Taiwan, the US was simultaneously expanding relations with Taiwan in other areas. The U.S. tried to enhance Taiwan's international standing and consider Taiwan as a distinct country in some ways and pursue quasi-official relations were examples. China had always maintained a one-China policy, and China was not able to accept the United States treating Taiwan as a country and providing weapons to it. In the book

*斗而不破：中美博弈与世界再平衡 Fighting but not breaking: China-US game and world rebalancing*, by Wenzhong Zhou, and he was a diplomat and politician of the People's Republic of China. He served as ambassador to the United States from 2005 to 2010, and deputy foreign

minister from 2003 to 2005. In 2010, Zhou became Secretary-General at Boao Forum for Asia, and vice-president at China-US People's Friendship Association. He reported that

On December 4, 1981, China and the United States began negotiations in Beijing on the issue of US arms sales to Taiwan. China required the US to commit to suspending sales within a time limit and opposed the US linking China's efforts to peacefully resolve the Taiwan issue with the US's cessation of arms sales to Taiwan. The United States did not agree to do so, leading to a deadlock in the negotiations. (Zhou 30).

The Taiwan issue was the core issue affecting china-US relations. No matter what happened to the situation on the island of Taiwan, the basic fact that the mainland and Taiwan belong to the same China had not changed and would not change. The reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait was an inevitable trend, and no one or any force could stop it. In the 1980s, China was in the early stages of reform and opening up after 10 years of instability, its economic development began, and people's living supplies were not especially abundant. Even though China's overall power was significantly lower compared to that of the United States at the time, China maintained the one-China policy on the Taiwan issue and had no intention of backing down. This was the bottom line for China. Zhou reported

After difficult negotiations, the two sides finally agreed that the communique should make it clear in some way: "Mutual respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs are the fundamental principles guiding China-US relations"; the issue of arms sales to Taiwan should not be directly linked to China's peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue; The

communiqué should at least include agreement or compromise on "gradual reduction" and "not seeking to implement a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan." After the communiqué was approved by the two governments, it came into effect simultaneously on August 17, 1982. (Zhou 21).

The China-U.S. August 17 Communiqué is the "Joint Communiqué between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America" issued by China and the United States on August 17, 1982. It was an agreement reached by the two sides after 10 months of repeated negotiations on a step-by-step until the final settlement of the US arms sales to Taiwan. China reiterated that the Taiwan issue was China's internal affairs; the United States reiterated that it had no intention of infringing upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, or interfering in China's internal affairs, or pursuing the "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" policy. The U.S. government promised that the performance and quantity of arms sold to Taiwan would not exceed the level of supply in recent years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States. Only by thoroughly resolving the issue of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan could the obstacles in developing relations between the two countries be removed. China was still very valuable to the United States in terms of combating the Soviet Union's development. It was difficult for China to make any concessions on the Taiwan issue, and the United States could only make concessions on the Taiwan issue in comparison to the threat posed by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was interested in negotiating a loosening of China-Soviet relations in the early 1980s. This was a warning sign for the United States. If the United States had a negative relationship with China because of the Taiwan problem, China was likely to align with the Soviet Union, making the threat to the United States much bigger at the moment. China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and it has influence in the

UN even it is a developing country. In other words, after assessing the advantages and disadvantages, the United States is reluctant and unable to give up China since doing so would bring more harm than good. In many circumstances, governments make rational decisions based on benefits and drawbacks.

On December 25, 1991, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics officially disintegrated. Due to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the confrontation between the two superpowers in the Cold War ended, and only the United States was left as a country qualified to fight a world-scale war, and the danger of a new world war was further reduced. After the end of the Cold War, the hegemonism of the United States and other Western powers expanded rapidly, and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries also increased significantly. The strategic common interests formed by China and the United States on the basis of confronting Soviet hegemonism no longer exist, and the two sides regard each other as an uncertain factor on strategic security issues. The US was not able to maintain the "Joint Communiqué between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America" which issued by China and the United States on August 17. The U.S. keeps providing weapons to Taiwan for decades. As mentioned before, the original purpose for building relation between the US and China was against the Soviet Union's growth and threat. Zhou reported in the book that

The Bush administration reportedly sold 150 F-16A/B advanced fighter planes to Taiwan for \$6 billion in 1992. China has struggled tenaciously against the United States. Since then, the two sides' conflict over the supply of weapons to Taiwan had so far not abated. In particular, after Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States triggered the "Taiwan Strait Crisis" in 1995 and 1996, the United States increased arms sales to Taiwan, arguing

that the premise for the United States to implement the "August 17 Communiqué" was the prospect of a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue. During the eight years from 1993 to 2000, the US publicly announced arms sales to Taiwan amounted to about \$8.3 billion. (Zhou 24-25).

Parallel with developments in China and the United States' common strategic interests, the Taiwan issue, which had tended to relax on the basis of the China-US joint communiques, had once again become prominent in the two countries' relationship. Shortly after the Soviet Union's disintegration, the US broke through the constraints of the China-US "August 17 Communiqué" in 1992 and began selling substantial amounts of modern weaponry to Taiwan. This attitude of the US strongly encouraged "Taiwan independence" parties on the island of Taiwan, and they moved further and farther down the road of dividing the country. This directly threatens China's fundamental cause of reunification while also raising the Taiwan issue to the most sensitive and explosive issue in China-US relationships. The Taiwan issue was unavoidable and destructive factor in China-US relations. Taiwan was China's inherent territory, and the Taiwan issue was a historical issue left over from China's civil war, and it belonged entirely to China's internal affairs. Even the US became a superpower country, it had no right for the US to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries.

Since the establishment of China-US bilateral relationship, there were plenty of valuable cooperation between the US and China. The two governments placed a high value on cooperation in research, technology, and education. Scientific and technical cooperation was frequently a foundation to economic and trade cooperation, and it would undoubtedly support in the establishment of economic and trade connections. In the 1990s, the United States imposed



limitations on China's high-technology exports, resulting in limited progress in US-China science and technology cooperation. However, lately the US government had lifted prohibitions on China's technology exports, signaling a positive trend in US-China technological collaboration. Similarly, a large number of American students and researchers had traveled to China to study and conduct language research, to participate in collaborative research projects, or to teach at higher education institutions. Scientific and technological cooperation, as well as cultural and educational exchanges, between China and the United States not only supported the development of science and technology and the economy of the two countries, but also improved understanding between experts and scholars from the two countries, while also promoting the relationship between the two countries' political and economic development. According to the article “剧变后的反思：苏联解体与中美关系 Reflections After Upheaval: The Disintegration of the Soviet Union and China-US Relations”, by Hongzhi Zhang, Member of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Central Academy of Party History and Literature, he reported that

With the strengthening of China's reform and opening-up, as well as the country's continued economic progress, the Chinese market had grown increasingly appealing to the United States. In the face of political difficulties, this had resulted in the development of US-China commercial and trade contacts, making China a unique one in the entire US-China relationship. More and more Americans recognized that "China is one of the main markets that will determine US industry's future competitiveness." Anti-Chinese activists had been unsuccessful in their efforts to deprive China of normal commercial treatment. Economic and trade exchanges had steadily evolved into the most beneficial and effective

driving force in the stabilization and development of bilateral cooperation.  
(Zhang).

It was undeniable that the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States was done to counter the power of the Soviet Union, but through exchanges and interactions since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries had also discovered important and valuable cooperation. One of the more cooperation was trade. The relationship between the two nations had made the United States aware of the extensive Chinese market. According to the article “90年代的中美关系两大特征 Two Characteristics of China-US Relations in the 1990s” by Laiqiang Ding, a professor from Department of Political Science and Law, Shandong Normal University, he reported

The economic and trade relations between the two countries have continued to develop and have become a torrent. In recent years, the United States has been an important trading partner of China, and China has become the sixth largest trading nation of the United States. Currently, U.S. wheat exports to China account for about 90% of total wheat exports. Phosphate fertilizer exports to China account for about 1/6 of its total output, and US commercial aircraft have a large market in China; Chinese toy exports to the US account for 31% of all US imports of toys, footwear 45%, and textiles and clothing 26% , Travel luggage accounted for 40%. From 1990 to 1997, the trade volume between China and the United States increased from 11.767 billion US dollars to 48.99 billion US dollars. The average annual growth rate was 24%, of which the average annual growth rate of China's exports to the United States was 3143%. The annual increase in imports The average rate is 16.08%. By the end of 1998, the United States had become

China's second largest trading partner, and China had become the fourth largest trading partner of the United States. Currently, U.S. exports to China have provided more than 300,000 job opportunities for the United States, and the United States has invested in more than 24,000 projects in China, with an agreement value of \$42 billion. The development of China-US economic and trade relations has played a certain role in promoting the development of the US economy, stimulating the prosperity, increasing employment opportunities and enhancing international competitiveness. But objectively speaking, the main beneficiary of the development of China-US economic and trade relations is China, and China has obtained huge economic benefits from this. Accelerate the process of modernization and improve the comprehensive national strength (Ding 14).

China and the United States had their own national interests, different cultural traditions, and differences in development models and paths, but there was still huge potential for economic cooperation between China and the United States. China and the United States had formed a closely linked community in international economic exchanges. First, China exported a lot of products to the United States, which improved the welfare of American consumers, lowers the price level, and helped the Federal Reserve keep interest rates low and stimulate economic growth. Second, U.S. companies had invested in China and have benefited enormously from China's economic growth. The cooperation between China and the United States was not limited to the economic field, but the economic field could best reflect the complementary advantages of the two sides, and it was also an important channel for enhancing strategic mutual trust and expanding practical cooperation. China and the United States should strengthen economic communication and coordination to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, benefit the two

peoples, and make do contributions to maintaining the prosperity and stability of the world economy.

On July 2, 1997, the Asian financial crisis hit Thailand. Soon, the storm spread to Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and South Korea, Hong Kong China and other places. The currencies of Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and other countries depreciated sharply, and at the same time, most of the major stock markets in Asia fell sharply; foreign trade companies in Asian countries were hit, resulting in the closure of many large enterprises in Asia, unemployment of workers, and social and economic depression. It broke the picture of rapid economic development in Asia. The economies of some of the major economies in Asia had begun to slump, and the political situation of some countries had also begun to be chaotic. Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea were the countries most affected by the financial crisis. Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Hong Kong were also affected. However, Mainland China and Taiwan, China were hardly affected. Before this crisis, China did not implement the capital liberalization policy like Southeast Asian countries, which fundamentally blocked the liquidity of international capital entering the Chinese market. Therefore, China's economy was largely independent. At the time, the Chinese government was reforming and opening up in order to increase the quality of economic development and decrease its reliance on debt. In contrast to the crude and inflated economy of foreign capitalist private capital, depreciation of currency, and asset transfer The Chinese government had incorporated the four biggest asset corporations into the bank, changed them into commercial banks, listed them at domestically and overseas, and financed them globally. Bank of China had reached the top four banks in the world in one fell swoop, which could be defined as a tremendous reputation. In this Asian financial crisis, the United States and the rest of the world was able to see that China's economic strength could not

be ignored. Moreover, China's GDP had been growing rapidly, and China had great potential for economic development.

Since the turn of the century, the United States' approach toward China has been one of "bet on both sides." It not only hoped that a powerful China would do something and contribute more to the international community, but it was also concerned that a strong China would take the spotlight from the US and become the US hegemony. "Gravedigger". Therefore, the US policy toward China has always oscillated between cooperation (engagement) and confrontation (containment). Barack Obama, who entered the White House in early January 2009, had adopted a different rhythm in his China policy than previous U.S. presidents. In the past, when new presidents entered the White House, such as President Bush Jr., President Clinton, and President Reagan, the rhythm of their China policy adjustments was often depressing first and then positive, i.e., starting with a hard-liner approach to China and ending with a friendly approach to China. Obama's China policy adjustment differed from that of his predecessors in that its rhythm was first positive and then negative. Zhou stated that

The common interests between China and the United States far outweigh the divisions, and the coordination and cooperation between the two sides far outweigh the friction and conflict. Looking back at the history since the normalization of China-US relations, we can see that although China-US relations have ups and downs from time to time, they are generally moving forward.

Chairman Xi Jinping once said to President Obama: China and the United States are closely linked and their interests are intertwined, but it is hoped that the United States can objectively view China's core interests and development

interests and can view China's development stage objectively. The top priority now is for the US to work with China to expand mutual trust, increase cooperation and manage differences. As far as some current problems in China-US relations are concerned, the key to solving these problems is that the US should respect China's core interests and take real actions. Only in this way can the two sides establish a cooperative partnership featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit and win-win results, and can they embark on a path of developing a new type of major-country relationship oriented towards the 21st century. (Zhou 37-38).

Following Obama's election, the two sides maintained strong touch on both an official and private level. From a series of international summits to strategic and economic conversations, from parliamentary diplomacy to economic, energy, and military diplomacy, the two countries' frequent interactions, broad scope, high level, and profound meaning are not only unprecedented in the history of China-US ties. It was also uncommon in current's international affairs. So far, the two heads of state had attended three summit meetings, which had not only built a solid working relationship and personal friendship between the two leaders but had also set the general tone for the growth of bilateral relationship. On specific policy issues, China had also strengthened policy coordination with the United States. Regarding the reform of the international financial system, China had adopted a moderate and gradual attitude, and did not seek revolutionary subversion of the existing financial system, which was objectively conducive to maintaining the existing dominance of the US dollar; in anti-terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, On issues such as military exchanges, China had also adopted a cooperative

stance, providing policy guarantees for maintaining the continued stability of China-US relations.

President Obama took the initiative to visit China in November 2009, meeting with then-President Hu Jintao in Beijing. They had in-depth conversations about China-US ties as well as significant international and regional challenges, and they came to several important conclusions. At the invitation of President Barack Obama of the United States of America, President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China had a state visit to the United States from January 18 to 21, 2011. China and the United States issued a joint statement-"U.S.-China Joint Statement" in Washington on the 19th. According to the "U.S.-China Joint Statement," which was post on the U.S. government website-the White House President Barack Obama.

The United States and China committed to work together to build a cooperative partnership based on mutual respect and mutual benefit in order to promote the common interests of both countries and to address the 21st century's opportunities and challenges. The United States and China are actively cooperating on a wide range of security, economic, social, energy, and environmental issues which require deeper bilateral engagement and coordination. The two leaders agreed that broader and deeper collaboration with international partners and institutions is required to develop and implement sustainable solutions and to promote peace, stability, prosperity, and the well-being of peoples throughout the world. The two countries, recognizing the importance of open trade and investment in fostering economic growth, job creation, innovation, and prosperity, affirmed their commitment to take further steps to liberalize global trade and investment, and to

oppose trade and investment protectionism. The two sides also agreed to work proactively to resolve bilateral trade and investment disputes in a constructive, cooperative, and mutually beneficial manner. (U.S. - China Joint Statement).

U.S. President Barack Obama revealed in a speech at the 2014 APEC Business Leaders' Summit on October 10 that the U.S. and China agreed to new visa arrangements that would extend the validity of student visas from the current one year to five years, and business and tourist visas to ten years. This action was undoubtable to create much more opportunities to have exchanges and interactions between U.S. and Chinese citizens. At the same time, it was an excellent action for increasing the export in the US GDP. During Obama administration, the US and China had plenty of economic interactions and cooperation, and both sides were benefited. According to “历年对外直接投资统计公报 Statistical Bulletin of Foreign Direct Investment in the Past Years” which was post on Ministry of Commerce of People's Republic of China, it reported that

China's total foreign direct investment (flow) in 2003 was 2.9 billion US dollars. China's total foreign direct investment (stock) at the time was 33.4 billion US dollars. China's foreign direct investment flow was 65 million US dollars in 2003, ranking sixth in the world. In 2003, the stock was valued at US\$502 million, placing it fourth in stock (after Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, and the British Virgin Islands) and first in China's foreign direct investment in major developed countries. Since then, the yearly flow of Chinese direct investment in the United States has gradually increased but has yet to reach US\$1 billion before 2010. The flow was \$909 million in 2009. The stock was worth US\$3.338 billion in 2009. In 2010, the flow surpassed \$1 billion. Customs reached 1.308 billion US dollars in



2009, with a stock of 4.874 billion US dollars in 2010. China's direct investment in the United States more than quadrupled in terms of both flow and stock over the five years from 2011 to 2015. (Ministry of Commerce of People's Republic of China).

The economic engagement between the United States and China was not only beneficial to the Chinese, but China also invested directly in the United States. Concerning China's rapid economic expansion, Obama's approach was that appreciation was preferable than animosity. China had more than \$700 billion in US debt and vast foreign currency reserves, making it a critical partner for the US in dealing with the financial crisis. Undoubtedly, the trade deficits were the serious problem in the US, but it was not related with China, and American politicians shouldn't blame China for problems. China's economic strength was not comparable to that of the United States, but China was also a good economic partner. After the financial crisis, China purchased a large amount of US treasury bonds. Although China's purchasing power was limited, this action also helped the US economic recovery.

Indeed, after more than 30 years of growth, China-US relationships have reached a mature stage. The high degree of interest integration, broad cooperation area, and complicated conversation mechanism make these difficulties reasonably manageable and expand the common interests of both parties. Truthfully, China and the United States share many similar interests, which are still evolving and are represented at the bilateral, regional, and global levels. China-US economic and trade relations have continued to develop and deepen, reaching an unparalleled degree of dependency. China is the United States' second largest trading partner, third largest export market, second largest source of imports, and largest holder of its national debt. China's

greatest trading partner, largest export market, and second largest direct exporter is the United States. Regardless of how many tensions exist between the two sides in the economic and trade fields, the massive trade volume demonstrates the two nations' mutual economic requirements and interests. Furthermore, in the social realm, the Chinese and Americans have a favorable opinion of one another and maintain a positive momentum of regular interactions. At the regional level, China and the United States have mutual interests in resolving the DPRK nuclear problem, stabilizing Asia's financial and economic structure, and ensuring East Asia's general stability. On a worldwide scale, China and the United States have an amount of opportunity to cooperate together on issues like counterterrorism, non-proliferation, climate change and other environmental challenges, energy security, waterway security, and supporting global free trade.

### **Trade War during Trump administration**

Ignoring China's objections, the Trump administration insisted on initiating a trade war in 2018, starting a new round of China-US trade tensions. The reasons and types of trade disputes between China and the United States were significant as follows: microeconomic disputes caused by specific import surges or import restrictions on one side; macroeconomic disputes caused by trade imbalances between the two sides; investment disputes related to international investment; disputes caused by different trade regimes; and technical disputes caused by technical trade barriers. In reality, trade conflicts were unavoidable in the context of economic globalization. China is a giant developing country, and its market economic system is far from perfect. The political systems, cultural traditions, and political systems of the United States and China are vastly different. It is common for certain trading disagreements to happen. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, particularly China's "WTO

membership," had boosted economic and trade contacts between the two nations. However, numerous long-standing challenges in the two nations' trade relations, such as exchange rate and trade disparity issues, had yet to be effectively resolved. With the continuous growth of economic integration between the two nations, there would be many system collisions, resulting in a variety of challenges. With the fast expansion of China-US economic and trade relations in recent years, bilateral trade frictions have also increased. The core subject of China-US trade disputes was trade imbalance, special textile protection, and anti-dumping against China. The primary causes for the developing bilateral trade frictions include rivalry for economic interests between China and the United States, the return of domestic trade protectionism in the United States, and the United States' strategic containment of China. Trade disputes have had a negative impact on the development of China-US economic and trade relations.

There is an article, "Why the United States and China Forgot How to Cooperate," written by Evan A. Feigenbaum, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an academic with a Ph.D. in Chinese politics from Stanford University. Feigenbaum mentioned,

"First, countries do not need to be "friends" to get meaningful things done...

Second, that means the United States and China do not need common interests to get things done, just complementary ones... Third, U.S.-China geopolitical competition is real. Furthermore, nobody can simply wish that away... Fourth, coordination is incredibly hard." (Feigenbaum).

These are the four most important aspects of the US-China relationship. Feigenbaum also presented some explanations under these four aspects.

Nations do not need "friends," and during the past, the U.S. and China cooperate for self-interests, not love or some other special relationship. International relation is highly rational, and all national leaders do not make any decisions emotionally (Feigenbaum).

At the same time, they avoided persistent competition with one another since it undermined their capacity to define their own values. In other words, if they remained antagonistic to each other over an extended period of time, it would be detrimental to their self-interest. The political systems and tendencies of the United States and China are significantly different; the United States is a capitalist country, whereas China is a communist country with numerous divisions. Furthermore, these theoretical differences were not able to be eliminated; they would remain indefinitely. China and the United States' relationship was growing more cooperative rather than competitive. However, disagreements and disputes did emerge due to historical reasons, political culture, and other factors. In general, there was more cooperation than conflict, and common interests outnumbered mutual conflicts. The differences between China and the United States may be separated into ideological differences and many disputes in the national interests. The relationship between the United States and China is inextricably related to the overall state of China's growth, and it was also critically essential to the United States. Both sides should increase communication and mutual trust based on their strategic objectives to sustain a stable and peaceful relationship.

National self-interests tend to be economic growth and trade. Trading is the most common cooperation between different countries, and it is also the usual way to start or maintain relations or connections. At the same time, trading makes each other better off; regardless of how the trade project looks like, it always makes each other better off. Otherwise, the trade will not

come into existence. Making the trade between China and the U.S. an example, some people consider that the trade most likely benefited China because its GDP dramatically increased when it started the trade with the U.S. This statement is not fake or wrong; China did benefit from the trade relation. However, people should not ignore the benefits that the U.S. had in this trade relationship. Trade is mutually beneficial and win-win. The trade between the U.S. and China is business; it is not a favor from the U.S. to China, and the product that the U.S. imports from China are not produced domestically, and domestic demand must be imported from international sources. The United States can import from China but also from other countries. The price of imports from China is lower, and the quality of products is better. Of course, some products can be produced in the United States. The United States has not said that it cannot produce products, but if they produce them domestically, the opportunity cost will be extremely high, so people might need to pay more for domestic products. Therefore, in this situation, importing from China is due to opportunity cost, which is the basic principle of trade. Trade is able to lower opportunity costs from both sides.

To begin with, most Americans felt that in the US-China trade, the Americans were on the losing end, while the Chinese were on the winning end. As a result, Americans considered that tariffs were too low and limitations were too few in trade between the United States and China, allowing Chinese goods and services to flood the U.S. market irresponsibly, creating a severe impact on U.S. trade and industry. China had higher tariffs than the United States and various "non-tariff barriers," resulting in high operating expenses for American goods and services in China, making it harder for American companies to compete with Chinese companies and build a foothold in the Chinese market. To that end, Americans thought that the most remarkable conclusion would be for China to undertake changes—that is, "structural reforms"—

to completely open up its markets like the United States, allowing Chinese and American companies to compete equally. If this was not achievable, the U.S. should construct various tariff and non-tariff barriers to make it difficult for Chinese companies to compete with American firms in the U.S. market. The final outcome was a "fairer" system that minimizes the trade deficit between the United States and China. Second, Americans saw US-China trade as more than just a trading problem since China had challenged the U.S.'s "existence." The implication was that the US-China trade war was part of the U.S.'s strategy to restrict China and, at the very least, change China's "hostile" attitude. The ultimate purpose of the trade war was not just to establish a "fair" trading system but also to make China a country that presented no threat to the U.S., both in terms of capabilities and attitude. Third, Americans thought that the United States could take the shock of the trade war between China and the United States, but China may not be able to bear it. Americans believed that the United States and its customers did not need to pay a high price for the China-U.S. trade war; the United States' economy had fared well, and the trade war between the United States and China had minimal influence United States' economy. Furthermore, if China "does not deal effectively," it would lose billions of dollars in U.S. trade surpluses, lose its significant U.S. market, and suffer significant internal challenges. Fourth, Americans felt that the U.S. did not oppose free trade but desired free trade that conformed to "American interests." Obviously, the North American trade deal was re-signed after Trump entered office, which was in the interests of the U.S. Thus, the U.S. should support it. On the other hand, China would not have the United States' support unless it also signed a new agreement with the United States that was in the interests of the United States. Fifth, Americans plainly assumed that the trade war between the United States and China was just getting started. This trade war between the United States and China was just the beginning of what may be a

protracted economic conflict. If Trump wins, the future of free and fair trade will be improved. However, if China pushed the United States to back down, free trade would suffer gravely. This would be disastrous for free merchants and global development.

Many people were unaware that the United States imports things that it does not produce domestically due to high opportunity costs. Labor costs are unusually high in the United States; producing low-cost or low-technology items will cost significantly more than importing from other nations. Some fast fashion brands, for example, choose to locate their facilities in China due to reduced production costs. As a result, companies may sell the items at lower pricing in order to attract more customers. As China's economy expanded rapidly, so did the average Chinese household's income, implying that China's labor costs were rising. As a result, while some fast fashion brands would further continue to keep their factories in China because the quality of their products is high, others will relocate their factories to India, Vietnam, Burma, and other low labor cost countries; even though the quality of the products is lower, the producing cost is also lower, allowing them to lower their sell prices. The "Made in the USA" label is practically never seen on fast fashion band items. If people build up factories in the United States that can only create low-priced goods, the opportunity cost is relatively high. At the same time, American customers are savvy, and they will not pick the same quality goods at a high price. Even if some business owners are willing to support U.S. factories producing low-cost items, they may not have market demand for their products since the costs of low-cost products are greater. People buy a wide variety of everyday things. Importing those items from other nations is indeed a sound economic decision. Domestic producers in the United States produce high-technology items that some other nations are unable to produce. The manufacturing industry in the United States remains strong, and its goods are sold all over the world. Food, chips, energy

engines, and so forth are examples. The manufacturing industry in the United States may be considered to include all areas of apparel, food, housing, and transportation, and it is also exported to more than half of the world's countries. The United States' airplane industry is the world's largest, and American manufacturers produce items such as aerospace, automobiles, and technologies. Automobiles, airplanes, and aerospace items have substantially greater selling prices than textile products. People would believe that if certain U.S. manufacturers employed their high-tech machinery and well-paid laborers to make essential products such as textiles, furniture, or living items, these factories would go bankrupt immediately.

When the cost of manufacturing is high, the selling price is substantially greater. People will not purchase more expensive things than their living budget or their expected price. People spend their money logically, and no one wants to throw away a single penny. As a result, no manufacturer will waste their resources, and they will use them in the best and most efficient imaginable way. Running a profitable firm needs a logical business owner or team. They will take some rational actions in order to maximize revenues. At the same time, because US economists are rational and knowledgeable, they recognize that importing some items from other nations effectively decreases their opportunity costs.

Many people do not understand that the protectionist trade policy will not affect economic growth for the long term. According to the book *Macroeconomics*, by Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, the Robert M. Beren Professor of Economics at Harvard University. Professor Mankiw is a prolific author and regular contributor to academic and policy discussions. His works have appeared in scholarly journals such as the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, as well as in more popular



publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

He mentioned that

Protectionist trade policies do not affect the trade balance. It only leads to a high exchange rate. The increase in the price of domestic goods relative to foreign goods tends to lower net exports, offsetting the increase in the net exports that is directly attributable to the trade restriction. As protectionist policies do not alter either investment or saving, they cannot alter trade balance (Mankiw 155).

Protectionist trade policies will not benefit American citizens, but they will definitely damage the relationship with other countries. For example, the trade war between U.S. and China will not benefit the U.S. economy. People might see that the imports from China absolutely decrease in the short term, and the net export increases. However, the exchange rate subsequently increases, imports will increase again, and the net exports will decrease. Therefore, in the end, the U.S. net export remains the same, and the trade war does not make any change on the net export on the U.S. side.

According to the article "Economists Actually Agree on This: The Wisdom of Free Trade" by Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, which post on *The New York Times*. Mankiw provides some explanation about the reason people who have limited knowledge about economics consider protectionist trade policy is suitable for their countries. He mentioned that

there are three biases: anti-foreign bias, anti-market bias, and make-work bias; the anti-foreign bias, in many people's minds, makes the foreigners their competitors, and they undervalued the advantage of working with foreigners. International trade can be win-win instead of war. With the anti-market bias, people unvalued the advantage of the market mechanism. With the make-work bias, people unvalued the advantage of labor

savings and, as a result, are concerned that imports would hurt the employment in import-competing businesses. On the other hand, long-term economic progress results from discovering methods to cut labor input and redeploy employees to new, rising industries. (Mankiw).

These three biases explain why people support and vote for protectionist trade policies.

International trade does not harm a country's economy, but rather benefits it. People should not be influenced by these biases, and protectionist trade policies should not be allowed to destabilize international relations.

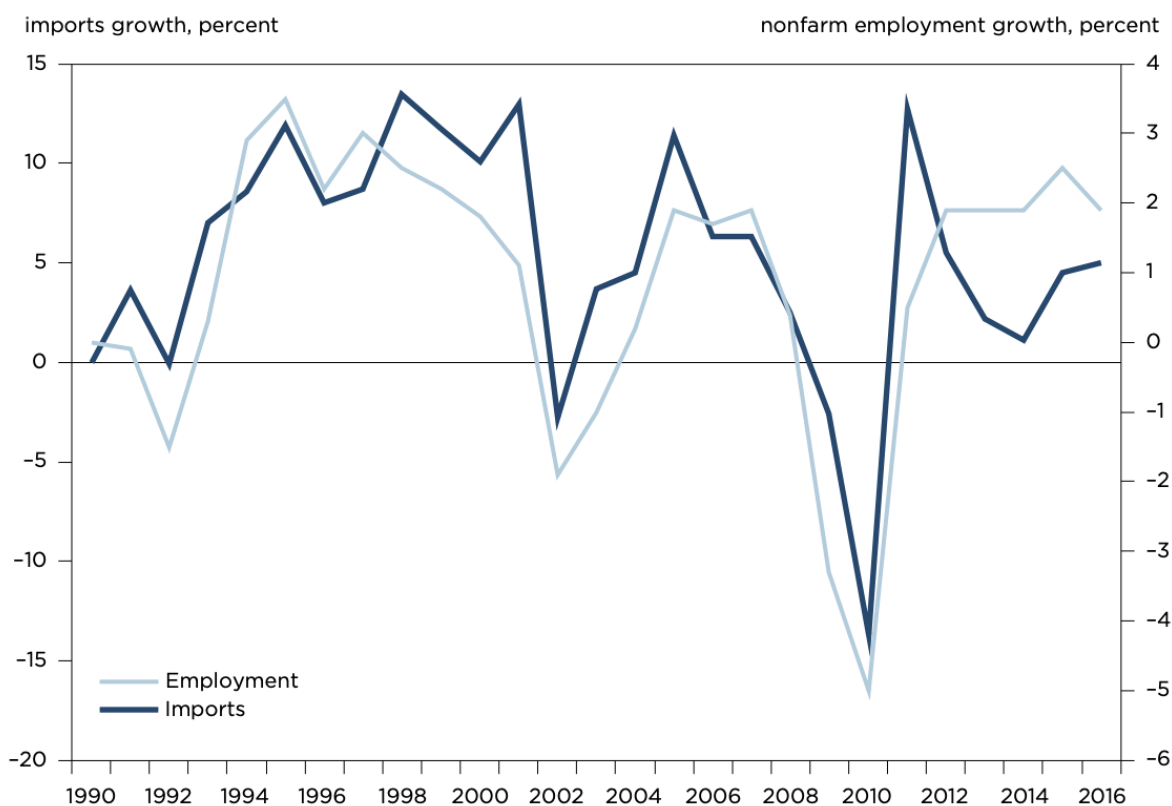
There was another article that also provided explanations about the trade deficit is misleading. According to the article "Five Reasons Why the Focus on Trade Deficits Is Misleading," by Robert Z. Lawrence, Albert L. Williams Professor of International Trade and Investment, a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and he currently serves as Faculty Chair of The Practice of Trade Policy executive program at Harvard Kennedy School. He served as a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 1998 to 2000. Lawrence claims that

"... trade deficits are not, in fact, a good measure of how well a country is doing with respect to its trade policies. Many of the assumptions on which the evidence does not support the administration's beliefs rest. This Policy Brief argues that trade deficits are not necessarily bad, do not necessarily cost jobs or reduce growth, and do not measure whether foreign trade policies or agreements with other countries are fair or unfair. Efforts to use trade policy and agreements to reduce either bilateral or overall trade deficits are also unlikely to produce the effects the administration claims they will.

Such efforts could prove counterproductive and lead to friction with U.S. trading partners, harming the people the policies claim to help. The United States benefits both from importing and from exporting; to raise U.S. living standards, therefore, trade policies should aim to reduce trade and investment barriers at home and open markets for U.S. products abroad." (Lawrence).

Trading deficits were a source of pain for many Americans, so they saw the United States as being at a disadvantage when it came to trade with China. Trade deficits provided convincing evidence of an unfair or unequal trade relationship between the United States and China.

However, Lawrence, the economic professional, believes that trade deficits are not an useful measure of a country's economic progress. Despite trade imbalances, the US economy was able to maintain growth.

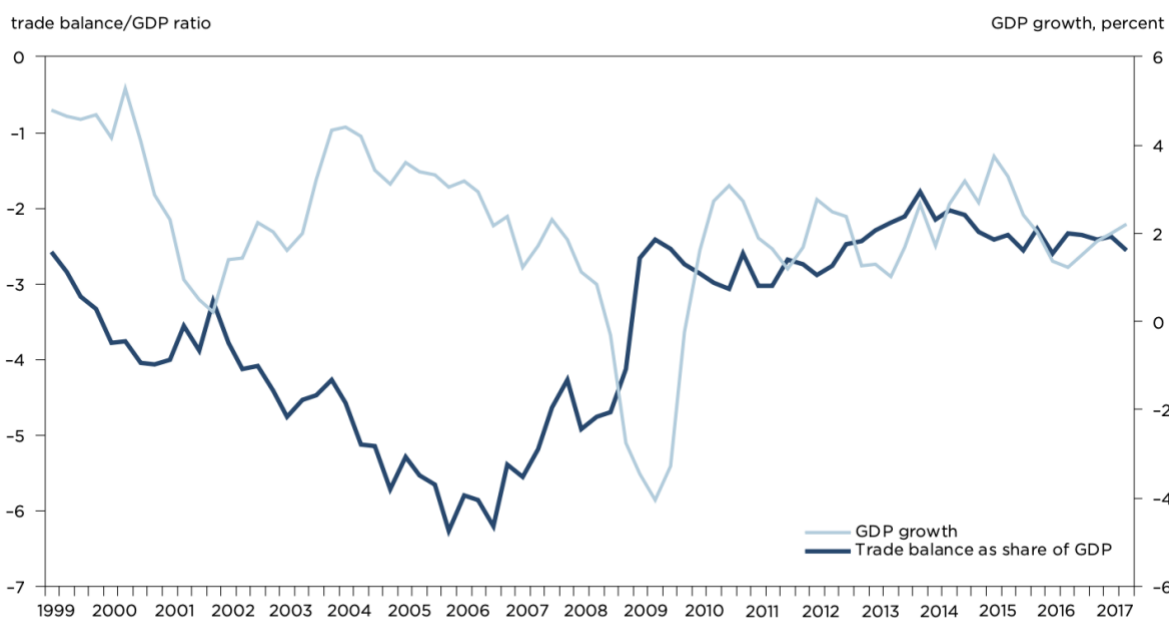
**Figure 2 Relationship between US employment and imports (1990–2016)**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Lawrence also provides this figure in his article for showing the relationship between US employment and imports during 1990-2016, and this figure is from *Bureau of Economic Analysis*. This is a convincing figure. It can be observed that the development of US employment is essentially associated with the growth of US imports. When import growth increases, employment increases, and when import growth decreases, employment starts falling. Lawrence briefly discussed why the US economy is a consumer economy driven by domestic demand. The cause of the reduction in imports is sometimes insufficient consumption, and economic development slows, resulting in weak employment; yet it was a signal of significant job growth. Trade deficits had little effect on economic growth, and trade deficits had no effect on the US

economy.

**Figure 3 Relationship between US GDP growth and trade balance as a share of GDP (1999–2017)**



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

At the same time, Lawrence also provides another figure about the relationship between US GDP growth and trade balance as a share of GDP during 1999-2017. This graph emphasizes the connection between the trade balance/GDP ratio (the lower the number, the higher the US trade deficit) and US economic growth, demonstrating a strong inverse correlation. The lower the ratio, the faster the US economy grows. Having said that, the US economy has profited greatly from the trade deficit. Assume Trump intervenes artificially and forces a change in the China-US trade structure in a short period of time since the global supply chain cannot be altered in time. In such situation, the unavoidable outcome is that the economic growth benefit of the tax cut proposal will be totally offset by the increase in the national debt in the United States.

Lawrence also claimed that

"The chain of causation posited by the Trump administration that runs from unfair trade and bad trade agreements to large trade deficits, employment declines, and

reductions in welfare and growth reflects flawed thinking. Over the long run, trade policies are not the most fundamental cause of fluctuations in the trade balance; changes in the determinants of national saving and investment are. Moreover, the state of a nation's trade balance per se tells us very little about the health of its economy. Trying to achieve balanced trade (or surpluses) with individual trading partners will only generate distortions and constrain the diversity of goods for purchase while raising prices, with little or no benefit to national welfare."(Lawrence).

The U.S. attempted to balance trade, which was inefficient in terms of enhancing the U.S. economy. Growing national savings and investment is one of the most efficient strategies, and if the U.S. attempts to take specific actions to increase net export, they should pay much more attention and put much more effort into increasing export. When The U.S. exports more products, the economy will undoubtedly benefit. At the same time, expanding exports will be an efficient method to deal with the unemployment problem.

The US GDP growth rate was 3% in 2018, 2.16% in 2019, and -3.49% in 2020. It shows that the US GDP grew slower during the protectionist trade policy. According to the website “United States Census Bureau”, it posts all the data about U.S. trade in goods with China. It reports that

the U.S. imported \$464,420 million USD goods from China in 2016, \$505,165.1 million USD goods from China in 2017, \$538,514.2 million USD goods from China in 2018, \$450,760.4 million USD goods from China in 2019, \$434,749 million USD goods from China in 2020, and \$456,832.2 million USD goods from China during January to November 2021. (United State Census Bureau).

All of these import statistics demonstrate that the trade war had no effect on imports or the trade balance, and they provide strong support for Lawrence's and Mankiw's claims. Trade policy, particularly trade protectionist policy, has little affection for economic growth and is not an effective method for improving the economy. Trade between the United States and China is already close to pre-trade war levels. At this time, the Trump administration's trade protectionist policy is ineffective and worthless, and it has no impact on the US economy.

Trade relations between China and the United States have changed over time, from icebreaking to cooperation to containment, trade liberalization to trade protectionism. The primary reason for these trade conflicts is that the United States intended to eliminate unbalanced trade, which indicates that the trade deficit is one of the fundamental issues. Lawrence and Mankiw, on the other hand, clearly point out that people were misled and present solid evidence and explanations concerning trade deficits and trade protectionist policies. Trade disputes are not just about trade; they have already had a negative impact on diplomatic relations, and there is much information behind the trade war. The foundation of this trade war is that the US wants to reshape the relationship between the US and China and construct an order in which the US leads and China follows. The entire trade war process is one in which both parties display their power and gain the right to determine future China-US relations. China and the United States have reacquainted themselves with each other and reaffirmed each other's strength through unprecedented trade sanctions and countersanctions. The Chinese did not foresee the United States using its power and fighting so hard. Americans did not foresee China to be so beaten and able to carry it that its economy would be in order, and its society would be peaceful and orderly. As a result, the two parties established a preliminary mutual consensus and signed the first phase

agreement. The United States' overall strength is far greater than China's, whereas China has sufficient power and commitment to defend its core interests.

China would remain on the defensive in the China-US relationship for a long time. If China has not accepted numerous requirements imposed by the US during the last two years, China-US relationships would be unable to maintain balance in the future. The US would see China's strategic weaknesses and be slightly unhappy. If it disagrees with China in any critical situation, it will put pressure on it, lose interest in negotiating solutions with China, and frequently employ economic penalties to push China to make concessions. The US side is now united on three points. First and foremost, China will immediately undertake economic countersanctions. Second, the impact of US economic sanctions on China was significantly less than expected, and China was able to tolerate its full impact of it. Third, while the economic impact of the trade war on the United States was not as severe as it was on China, it was one of the most significant variables impacting the US stock market and one of the most significant uncertainties about the future path of the US economy. The Chinese economy as a whole suffered no significant losses, and the CNY was typically in an acceptable exchange rate range during fluctuations, which is the most essential and considerable proof.

Since the trade war, the relationship between China and the United States has cooled, and as one official described it, China and the United States are strategic competition. The foundation of mutual trust created between China and the United States has shifted, and fundamental difficulties have formed between the two countries. The United States now views China as a strategic competitor, and it will be difficult for the two nations' relationship to return to normalcy. In the strategic competition between China and the United States, the two nations have conflicting goals: the United States wants to preserve its global leadership, while China seeks to



maintain its own right to growth. However, having economic cooperation will make these two nations reach their goals. Having stable and regular trade with China definitely benefit the US economy and society, and they should not consider that having trade with China only helps the Chinese economy and ignores the advantage they have. Cooperation is a win-win action for both sides.

### **Current bilateral relationship**

No one can assert that cooperation is better than competition or that competition is better than cooperation for the development of a vast nation. Cooperation and competition motivate the countries and societies to develop better, and China is more likely to prefer cooperation, and the U.S. is more likely to prefer competition. Two countries under different cultures have divided preferences, and it is customary and reasonable. However, the competition between the U.S. and China is not avoidable. The U.S. has been a superpower country for decades, and it has maintained the top position in many different fields. China is an emerging power country, and its power is rising faster than all other countries in the world. These two countries are two great powers. Therefore, competitions are inevitable. Without conflict, confrontation, mutual respect, and win-win cooperation, which is an ideal state and a beautiful wish under the current situation.

There might be a word to redefine China-US relations, "cooperation." As the word shows, it is the combination of cooperation and competition. It is a word to describe the business relationship, but it is what the U.S. and China are doing; they are competitors in some fields, but they also have limited cooperation. According to the article "It's not a cold war: competition and cooperation in the U.S.–China relations" by Robert S. Ross, a professor of Political Science at Boston College and Associate, John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University. He mentions that

the U.S. and China work together to enhance the World Health Organization during the Covid-19 pandemic because their cooperation is essential for preventing the virus all around the world (Ross).

Even the U.S. and China have some political and economic conflicts during the Trump administration, and they still cooperate when the pandemic happens. It is the cooperation between two competitors, and it is not the only case or situation. Ross also mentions that

"China and the United States share vital interests in non-proliferation of nuclear weapon technologies in Iran and North Korea...The U.S.–China agenda for cooperation also includes stopping the trade in illicit drugs...The United States and China also have a common interest in managing global climate change."  
(Ross).

The U.S. and China still have some common goals or interests even they have some conflicts. They are able to work together to achieve their common goals or interests and ignore the conflict problems. The relation-coopetition will keep major-country relations rational, generally controllable, and even constructive interaction. The relations between the two countries have boundaries and bottom lines. Competition only emphasizes the negative and competitive side of the relationship between the two countries, which tends to go to extremes, vicious interactions, and zero-sum games. It only emphasizes relative benefits rather than absolute benefits, resulting in an unstable, uncontrollable, and unpredictable situation.

China-US relation is interdependent, even though these two countries sometimes have conflicts. "Future of Globalization: A Flatter and Deeper World?" -a conversation between Wang Huiyao, the President of Center for China and Globalization (CCG), and Thomas L. Friedman, an internationally renowned author, reporter, and New York Times Op-Ed columnist, three-time

Pulitzer Prize winner. This conversation is about the new trend of globalization in the post-epidemic era, the dilemma faced by global governance, how to build trust between China and the United States, and how to view China's development achievements. In this conversation, Friedman thinks the best-case scenario for the world is interdependence. He hopes that China can rely on Intel's chips, while he feels that it is wonderful for the U.S. to rely on China's supply chain. He feels that the more profound the dependency between China and the U.S., the more politics will follow this trend of cooperation. He thinks that the more profound the integration between China and the United States, the more things will happen, but trust is the core issue right now. Friedman also claimed that

China and the U.S. need to conduct in-depth dialogue and exchanges, which is precisely the purpose of this dialogue. We need to examine whether different values can seek common ground while reserving differences, but there should also be some new narratives because China has been opening up to the outside world for the past 40 years and has undergone tremendous changes, and foreigners who came to China 30 or 40 years ago will realize these vicissitudes of life. We should be more tolerant of different systems. As President Biden said, we are competitive, but we can cooperate. We can have peaceful competition and cooperation. Therefore, there can be no more Cold War. Many people believe that there should be both cooperation and peaceful competition with each other. I have noticed that the Ford Foundation and many American foundations have launched China-US scholar exchange programs. We hope that the Fulbright Scholars Program can be restarted, the Chinese and American consulates in Houston and Chengdu can be resumed, and the exchange program for international students can be resumed. There is something new in the Biden administration, and they have become more

pragmatic. They also stopped arresting, accusing more Chinese of spying, and calling all Chinese students spies. If we share common values, such as prosperity and peace in the world, we can drop specific old-fashioned ideas and focus on reality and focus on efficiency, and effectiveness. I have noticed that there may be two consensuses in the U.S. Congress, one on China and the other on infrastructure. The U.S. needs to revamp its infrastructure, and China leads the world in this regard. So maybe China and the U.S. can cooperate on infrastructure. China and the U.S. are the two largest countries in the world, and we want to compete peacefully rather than confrontationally. We are different, but let's work together to build a more transparent mechanism about competition rules (Friedman)

Many people may have assumed, before hearing this dialogue, that China is the one working on how to re-establish cooperation with the United States. However, as the dialogue demonstrates, Friedman, as an American, is also prepared to re-establish cooperation between the United States and China. Improving the China-US relationship is a goal shared by both nations, and perhaps other countries share this goal as well. All people are now living in a period of globalization, in which countries are interdependent in terms of politics, economy, and commerce. China and the United States are likewise interdependent and connected. In economic terms, if the United States suffers from an economic crisis, no country's economic system will be unaffected. All countries are inexorably connected and impacted by one another. If there is a crisis in China, it will have an impact on the United States, whether they have cooperative or competitive relations. In some instances, the United States and China must exchange information in order to protect their own people and country. The culture of the United States is open, liberal, and inclusive. Many Americans just want a peaceful society and a healthy economic environment, and they want to

improve their own quality of life rather than make it worse for others. They were also dissatisfied with President Trump's policies, and they disagreed with the government's actions. As a result, President Trump lost the election in 2020. A win-win situation may be the most significant conclusion for everyone. Peaceful, stable, and healthy China-US relations will very certainly lead to people living better lives.

In reality, the US administration has always advocated for competitive relationships, but China is genuinely in a passive condition, and China only can accept competition caused by the US. China discourages competition because unmanageable competition is destructive to the two nations' stable development. Zhou claimed that

The Chinese government will always prioritize sustainable development and use its limited capabilities and resources to expand the economy and enhance people's livelihoods. This indirect elaboration fundamentally contradicts the logic of the so-called "when the capacity increases, the purpose will necessarily increase."

After China's national strength has been strengthened, the first priority will be to resolve the country's 1.3 billion people's development challenges. This intention will not change, because there are too many problems for the 1.3 billion people. In the past, it was to solve the problem of food and clothing, but now it is to solve the problem of comprehensive well-off, and in the future, it will also solve the problem of sustainable prosperity and national prosperity. In his speech in Seattle, Chairman Xi explained this truth to the American public in the form of storytelling. President Xi also pointedly pointed out that China's wisdom more than 2,000 years ago revealed the profound truth that "though a country is big, warlike will surely perish (Zhou 47-49).

As a developing country, China already has a 1.4 billion population right now, and there are plenty of internal affairs that need to be resolved. People might just realize that China's GDP has become the top one in the world, and they develop so rapidly. However, they might ignore one essential factor: China has 1.4 billion people. At the same time, the global PPP rank of China is around 100, which is lower than many other nations in the world. Therefore, China needs to develop much more complicated to enhance people's lives. The well-known cities such as Beijing- the capital city, Shanghai and Shenzhen have plenty of fabulous living resources, but dozens of small cities or towns lack completed educational and medical resources. On the basis of proceeding to promote development, steps should be taken to address the issue of unbalanced and insufficient development, vigorously improve development quality and efficiency, and allow people to share the good outcomes of development in economic, political, cultural, social, ecological, and other fields. A more genuine sense of gain, happiness, and security, as well as a continuing promotion of people's natural growth and the shared prosperity of all people. In particular, the Chinese government must adhere to the strategic direction of supply-side structural reform, turn the strategic point of expanding domestic demand, make production, distribution, circulation, and consumption rely more on the domestic market, improve the adaptability of the supply system to domestic demand, and form demand-driven supply, supply creates a higher-level dynamic balance of demand, in order to better meet people's needs for a better life in many aspects. Chinese has no interest in being the US competitor because they want to develop the country well and have peaceful and stable lives. However, the US did not recognize the Chinese voices, and they only placed China in a threat position.

**Future (Will technology development become a new war or cooperation?)**

Like people all know, in less than 300 years, there have been three industrial revolutions, and people are now experiencing the fourth industrial revolution. The first industrial revolution took place in the middle of the 18th century in England and then swept across Europe and Russia, and people entered the age of steam; the second industrial revolution took place in the United States in the 1860s and spread rapidly throughout Europe and Japan, and people began to enter the age of electrification; the third industrial revolution took place after the 1960s, and again, with the United States as the leader, the entire Western world led the third industrial revolution. The first half of this industrial revolution was marked by the dramatic changes in technology and industry represented by the miniaturization of computers, microelectronics, atomic energy, and molecular biology. In contrast, the second half was marked by the rise of the new communication industry as the advent of the information age. Each industrial revolution of people has extensively promoted the development of productivity and the change of production methods, and all participants have gained significant benefits and achieved leaps and bounds.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, China-US non-governmental scientific and technological cooperation has significantly increased with China's accession to the U.S. technology companies outsource product production and assembly to Chinese suppliers, giving birth to China's local technology industry chain development. China and the United States have gradually formed an industrial cooperation chain in which American companies dominate technology research and development, appearance design, brand marketing, and supply of critical components. Chinese companies dominate the assembly and supply of low-end components. Tech products assembled and produced in China are shipped back to the United States and distributed globally through the sales network of American companies. In order to further develop the Chinese market, American technology companies have established a large

number of R&D centers in China. These centers not only use Chinese scientific researchers to serve the projects of the company headquarters but also guide the development of the company's industrial chain in China through these centers. Chinese technology companies with an international perspective have also set up R&D centers in the United States, recruiting top talents in cutting-edge technology from the United States and pre-arranging the industrial chain relying on cutting-edge technology. The rapid expansion of the global technology market has made the technology industries of China and the United States face talent and investment gaps, which has prompted a large number of Chinese researchers to go to the United States for further study, as well as mutual investment in the field of technology between China and the United States. Active interaction in the private sector has also fostered cooperation at the government level.

China-US are having cooperation in the science and technology field since 1979. According to the report “Trends in US-China Science and Technology Cooperation: Collaborative Knowledge Production for the Twenty-First Century?” by Richard P. Suttmeier, and this research report prepared on behalf of the U.S.-China economic and security review commission. It reports that

“The governments of the United States and China have been cooperating in areas of science and technology (S&T) for 35 years under the 1979 U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, which was renewed most recently in 2011. Over the years, the Agreement has facilitated a complex government-to-government relationship consisting of some 30 agency-to-agency protocols and more than 40 active sub-agreements and annexes between the technical agencies of the two countries in a wide range of fields including agriculture; energy; environmental protection; public health;



earth, atmospheric, and marine sciences; basic research; standards and metrology; and nuclear safety.” (Suttmeier).

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the scientific and technological cooperation between China and the United States has been more than 40 years, and the scientific and technological relations between the two sides have also undergone major changes. Although the economic and trade friction between China and the United States has intensified recently, in terms of scientific and technological cooperation, the foundation of friendly cooperation accumulated by the people of the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States still exists, and it has a broad base of public opinion and a solid foundation, and the fundamentals of China-US cooperation have not occurred. The fundamental reversal of the concept of no conflict, no confrontation, and mutual benefit and win-win results is still recognized by many people from all walks of life in the two countries.

The China-US relation development has affected the S&T cooperation and relationship. When the China-US relationship was closer, the S&T developed smoothly; when China and the U.S. had some conflicts at trade, and the relationship became tense, the cooperation of S&T development between China and the U.S. also cooled down. There are four stages of the cooperation of S&T development between China and the US-Initial exploration stage (1979~1989); stable development stage (1990~2010); deep development stage (2010~2016); uncertain new stage (2016~). According to the article which posts at China Social Science Network, Relying on the profound academic accumulation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China Social Science Network draws on the fine tradition of the construction of academic journals of the Chinese Social Sciences Magazine, with a global academic vision, based on the Chinese philosophy and social sciences, National-level social science academic

research network, super-large domestic and foreign comprehensive information network, showing the spirit and style of Chinese academics, "中美科技关系发展历程及其展望 The Development History and Prospect of China-US Science and Technology Relations " by Gang Zhao, he reported that

Since the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation, the U.S.-China relationship has evolved from sporadic science and technology exchanges to the current "all-round, multi-level, broad field" cooperation, covering agriculture, high-energy physics, medicine and health, marine fisheries, earth and atmospheric sciences, basic physical and chemical research, energy-related industries, civil industry technology, geology, health, and disaster research, which has comprehensively strengthened the bilateral relationship. Overall, the development of the U.S.-China science and technology relationship has yielded significant results. Through countless science and technology cooperation projects, the two countries have greatly promoted exchanges between the science and technology communities, raised the level of science and technology of each other, and enhanced the understanding and friendship between the two peoples through two-way exchanges between government officials and scientists, leading to the overall development of the two countries' relations. For example, from China's perspective, through cooperation, China has achieved some scientific and technological achievements that are leading in the international arena, such as the remote sensing satellite ground station of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing Positron Collider, China's digital seismic network, the discovery of the largest spiral galaxy in the universe so far,

the research on Freon replacement technology for household refrigerators and the production of super energy-saving fluorine-free refrigerators, the formulation of nuclear safety supervision and management regulations and nuclear From the perspective of the United States, thousands of Chinese scientists and engineers who have stayed in the United States or have been stationed in the United States have also made important contributions to the scientific and technological progress and economic development of the United States (Zhao).

The development of China-US diplomatic relations and the development of China-US scientific and technological cooperation are synchronized and mutually influenced. China-US scientific and technological cooperation is based on China-US diplomatic relations. China-US science and technology relations are guided by science and technology diplomacy concepts between the two countries. For a long time, the U.S. government has regarded technology as a critical factor in achieving economic growth and future prosperity. Therefore, it has been paying attention to science and technology diplomacy very early and is committed to resolving diplomatic difficulties with science and technology relations and creating favorable conditions for scientific and technological progress through diplomatic mediation. From a historical point of view, during the period when China-US relations were closely integrated, there were more cooperation projects and opportunities between China and the U.S. When the Trump administration was in power, China-US relations were frosty, so technological cooperation between the two sides also slowed down at the same time.

The United States has always been on high alert for the rise of China's technology industry. Although the United States' comprehensive siege and interception of Chinese technology companies occurred after the sanctions against ZTE in 2018, the United States'

restrictions on Chinese high-tech companies Huawei actually started as early as ten years ago. It has already begun, and the imposition of technological blockade on China has been a consistent practice and foreign policy of successive U.S. governments. Especially after China issued the "Made in China 2025" blueprint in 2015, the United States has begun to suppress and contain China's technology industry intensified.

In November 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an operation called the China Initiative to address what it called "security and technological threats" from foreign countries. The "China Initiative" is part of the Trump administration's "whole-of-government" strategy toward China, which aims to undermine high-tech exchanges between the United States and China, hinder the rapid development of China's high-tech sector, and thereby achieve the goal of slowing down or even undermining China's overall development process. The goal is to slow down or even undermine China's overall development process. Although the Biden administration has made some adjustments in its foreign policy since taking office, it has continued and even intensified elements of the previous administration's highly hostile policy toward China. Specifically, in science and technology, the Biden administration continues to pursue the China Action Plan and other related initiatives to accelerate the process of "decoupling" between China and the United States in science and technology. The U.S. side believes that China's rapid rise in science and technology is due to close exchanges with the United States and other Western countries. As long as the scientific and humanistic exchanges with China are cut off, the U.S. can maintain its superior position in science and technology in competition with China. This shows that the U.S. has blind confidence in its own science and technology level.

The "China Initiative" has had many negative effects on normal exchanges and cooperation between the U.S. and China in the fields of science and technology and humanities. First, it has a "chilling" effect, causing some Chinese American scientists to be apprehensive about working with the Chinese side, thus reducing their contacts with Chinese counterparts and closing joint projects. Second, it will increase the discrimination against the Chinese community in the United States. Third, it will have a negative effect on cooperation with China in other fields in the U.S. In addition to science and technology and humanities, people of Chinese descent in other fields will also worry whether they will face similar risks. In addition, the bad political climate created by the China Action Plan will cause a brain drain of scientific talent from the United States. In addition to Chinese, other ethnic minorities are also concerned about whether they may become the next target of the U.S. government's malicious suppression. This is a huge impact on the overall research climate in the U.S. and the social climate of tolerance and diversity. According to the article "The US government is ending the China Initiative. Now what?" by Jess Aloe and Eileen Guo, they reported that

“Our investigation found that by 2021, cases classified by the federal government as “China Initiative cases” had become a mishmash of prosecutions accusing defendants of a wide range of offenses. The only throughline was what Justice Department officials have described vaguely as a “nexus to China.”” (Aloe and Guo).

The "China Initiative" reflects the narrow and distorted national security concept of the current U.S. government, undermines the atmosphere for scientific and humanistic exchanges between the two countries, threatens the normal working and living atmosphere and personal safety and freedom of scientists in both countries, and runs counter to the spirit of open and inclusive

science, revealing the serious prejudice and discrimination of some U.S. politicians against ethnic minority groups such as Chinese. However, the U.S. government has turned a deaf ear to the obvious racial discrimination that has resulted from the China Action Plan. In the long run, the image and attractiveness of the U.S. as a global hub for research and innovation will be significantly diminished.

The "China Initiative" is a typical example of the U.S.'s politicization, national security, and ideologization of its relations with China in recent years, behind which the U.S.'s lingering Cold War mentality, ideological bias, and "imaginary enemy" thinking are at work. In recent years, the U.S. has regarded the high-tech sector as the key to suppressing China and has been engaged in artificial "wall-building," "supply-cutting," and "decoupling" in the field of science and technology even deliberately stigmatizing and discrediting both sides. This approach undermines global scientific and technological openness and undermines the scientific exchange and cooperation between scientists from both sides. This approach undermines the positive environment of global openness and cooperation in science and technology and is also inconsistent with the world trend and the interests of scientists and people of both countries. This narrow-minded and closed mentality will eventually hurt the United States itself. The U.S. should view the standard science and technology and humanities exchanges between China and the U.S. with more sunlight and less gloom; more understanding and empathy and less tinted glasses; more openness and tolerance, and less deliberate blocking and even destruction.

The establishment of bilateral relations must meet the interests and needs of both sides, and it must be win-win cooperation in line with the overall diplomatic strategy; otherwise, the bilateral relations will not be established or maintained for a long time. In the nearly 40 years since 1979, China-US scientific and technological relations have been deepened, which fully

shows that both countries have benefited from it. Strengthening China-US scientific and technological relations is in the common interest of the economic development of both countries. Of course, this does not mean that there are no differences between the two sides. The two countries are at different stages of development, and there are differences in systems, cultures, and other aspects. The two countries strive for their own best interests, and science and technology relations are full of significant power games. According to the virtual meeting on November 16, 2021, the two national leaders also discussed S&T development. Chairman Xi states that the U.S. and China should promote cooperation in S&T development. China's S&T development is mainly at the same stage as the U.S., so the U.S. will not have the worse off in the cooperation.

In these decades, China has had an outstanding performance on developing technology, and its performance is as excellent as the U.S. does. In the Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) field, China has some specialties in development. According the report “人工智能发展报告 2011–2020 Report on Artificial Intelligence Development” its report that

The number of artificial intelligence patent applications surpassed the United States for the first time, becoming the world's number one. (Report on Artificial Intelligence Development).

As the report, China did an excellent performance in the A.I. field. At the same time, Harvard Business Review also posted an article about China's A.I. development, "Is China Emerging as the Global Leader in A.I.?" it reports that

"China is quickly closing the once-formidable lead the U.S. maintained on A.I. research. Chinese researchers now publish more papers on A.I. and secure more patents than U.S. researchers do. The country seems poised to become a leader in

AI-empowered businesses, such as speech and image recognition applications."  
(Harvard Business Review).

It is possible that some people will have some questions about the reliability of CCTV News. However, the Harvard Review is a professional and authoritative organization, and its wholly owned subsidiary of Harvard University, reporting to Harvard Business School. China's A.I. development is leading in the world is not a rumor, but it is a fact. In the A.I. field, China has an excellent performance on development. Therefore, if the U.S. and China cooperate on technology development, the cooperation will be highly fair and equal. The U.S. will not be at a disadvantage, and it will definitely benefit all A.I. researchers.

The U.S. tended to be the leader in the technology field for many years, and the U.S. is one of the most developed countries in the world, but in the A.I. field, China is already caught up. According to the Fox News report "Ex-Pentagon software chief says China beating the U.S. in tech war a 'done deal': 'Kindergarten levels'" by Emma Colton, and Colton reported that

"China is on track to defeat the United States in the battle over artificial intelligence, the Pentagon's former software chief said. "We have no competing fighting chance against China in 15 to 20 years. Right now, it's already a done deal; it is already over, in my opinion," Nicolas Chaillan, who resigned from his position in September over the slow pace of technological advancement in the U.S. military, told the Financial Times. "Whether it takes a war or not is kind of anecdotal." He added that U.S. cyber defenses in some government departments were at "kindergarten level." (Colton).

Mr. Nicolas M. Chaillan was appointed as the first Air Force Chief Software Officer (CSO). He is also the Co-lead for the DoD Enterprise DevSecOps Initiative (DSOP) with the Department of



Defense Chief Information Officer. Chaillan is an expert with no question in the technology field, and his word is valuable in this technology field. He considered that the U.S. is already lost the competitive chance, which might be the warning that China is no longer a weak technology country. Some people might feel that China is a developing country even its GDP has been growing fast these decades. However, it is a developing country, so they might underestimate the technological development that China has. At the same time, some people might think that information about China's technology development is not accurate because they still clearly remember how weak China's technology was. However, Chaillan's word is a strong warning for all the U.S. people.

China's technology development is supported by the government, when the government has a plan for technology development, the people's governments of all provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government, all ministries and commissions of the State Council and all institutions directly under the Central Government will conscientiously implement the plan. The Chinese government had a plan for A.I. development, in 2017, the Chinese government posted a notice on the government website Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (中华人民共和国中央人民政府), "国务院关于印发新一代人工智能发展规划的通知 Notice of the State Council on Issuing the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan," this notice is included the details about specific goals, plans, missions of all institutions. It mentions that

the strategic goal is divided into three steps: The first step is that by 2020, the overall technology and application of artificial intelligence will be synchronized with the world's advanced level—the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in an all-

round way. The second step is to achieve a significant breakthrough in the basic theory of artificial intelligence by 2025, some technologies and applications will reach the world's highest level, artificial intelligence will become the main driving force for my country's industrial upgrading and economic transformation, and positive progress will be made in the construction of an intelligent society. The third step is that by 2030, artificial intelligence theory, technology, and application will generally reach the world's highest level, become the world's leading artificial intelligence innovation center, and achieve remarkable results in the intelligent economy and intelligent society, laying an essential foundation for becoming the forefront of innovative countries and an economic powerhouse. (Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China).

This notice does not only include the goals and tasks, but it is a plan with all the details. Setting up the goals and tasks is the fundamental structure of the plan, and it also provides all information about which fields will need the A.I. technologies and how they can improve people's lives. It also mentions how they will arrange all the resources to reach the goal and which departments, or institutions will be involved; it also informs that people who have related professional skills or knowledge can apply to join the institutions. One of the reasons that China developed its technology fast is that the government gets involved from beginning to end. At the same time, China is a collectivist country, and people highly cooperate with the development of the country; they put national development and interests first instead of personal interests or profits.

Plenty of people consider technology competition is the main competition in the world. At the same time, the U.S. and China are displayed in this competition. At present, both China and the United States are in the first phalanx of the big global data and artificial intelligence

field, and they are the frontrunners. However, unlike in the past and other fields, China has not lagged behind the United States in the field of big data and artificial intelligence. The United States is unable to implement a technical blockade and suppression of China's big data and artificial intelligence, and China's advantages are becoming more and more apparent. China has unique advantages in big data, which almost no one can match. First of all, China has a vast territory, a large population, a substantial economic scale, and is still in the process of medium and high-speed development. For example, China's Internet users have exceeded one billion, ranking first in the world. This scale will provide inexhaustible resources for the formation of China's big data; China has a complete range of industries and is the only country that thoroughly covers the United Nations Industrial Directory. Enthusiasm is high. After more than 40 years of reform and opening-up, China's economy has become the second-largest economy in the world. Moreover, China's domestic demand is strong, and the market space is growing, which will provide unlimited space for China's significant data generation.

The risk of bifurcation in the global technology system is rising. The "asymmetric competition" adopted by the United States has increased the differences in the policy forces of the two countries, which has changed the way the two countries are connected to the global scientific and technological system. As the two main centers of today's technological globalization, the two countries may form a technological chain that lacks the intersection of technological ideas, markets, and demands. This goes against the common aspiration of developing countries, including China, to promote the globalization of science and technology and a community with a shared future for humankind. The United States is gradually reducing its "catch-up anxiety" toward China and no longer seeks to compete head-to-head with China in areas such as 5G and primary applications of artificial intelligence. The United States has put

more resources and energy into re-establishing its dominance in the next round of technological revolution, and its focus may turn to areas that are currently immature, such as vital artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genetic engineering. This makes the effect of U.S. R&D investment likely to be fully demonstrated for a more extended period of time, making it difficult for other countries to catch up and overtake.

The US and China probably can establish some cooperation on technology development in the future. The US and China are the leaders of the technology development; they will achieve much huger success if they are willing to cooperate. According to the new article “外交部：美新一届政府应正确看待中国科技发展和中美科技合作 Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The new US administration should have a correct view of China's scientific and technological development and China-US scientific and technological cooperation” from the Chinese website *China Daily*(*中国日报*), a new financial media sponsored by China News Service, which has the qualification of Chinese Internet news information collection, editing and publishing services, it mentions that

Zhao Lijian, the current Chinese Deputy Director-General of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the 31st Spokesperson, pointed out that technology is an important engine for promoting economic and social development. Global scientific and technological cooperation is the aspiration of the people and the general trend. For a long time, the United States has been a huge beneficiary of global technological openness and cooperation. The scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation between China and the United States serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples. (*China Daily*).

Zhao, as a spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, can represent the voice of Chinese government. China has strong willingness to have some cooperation with the US regarding to technology development for greater achieve for both sides. It doesn't mean that China or the US need someone else to develop the technology; these two countries can have an excellent performance on their own, but it might have even better results if they are able to cooperate. They both have their own specialities on technology development, so if they can cooperate, the outcomes will be probably greater than they expect.

China-US technology competition is essentially a competition between companies. Artificial intelligence research has a relatively robust community around the world. The best researchers have gone to the United States to do research, and many researchers are from China. If people look at the attraction of talents, the US actually imports many talents, and it is difficult for China to compete with the US. In terms of artificial intelligence, American research is still very advanced, as is quantum computing. However, it seems that the Chinese system can channel large-scale resources into scientific research. Meaningful and controllable competition is suitable for both parties, especially in technology, where technology will not develop without competition. Especially under the new crown epidemic, because everyone competes with each other, scientific research develops very fast, enabling the world to have a free market, making China a very booming economy. China and the United States are two major economies, and they must cooperate, for example, to formulate standards on the Internet. Unless these two countries cooperate, there will be two sets of standards and systems in many fields, which is the wrong direction. Politically, other countries in the world are forced to choose to take sides, and technology also forces those countries to choose, which will only make the world more and more divided. Therefore, China and the United States must cooperate in standard-setting, including

ethical issues. Ethics will also be challenged by technological development. There needs to be much discussion on these ethical issues. Significantly, China and the United States are the two major scientific and technological countries in the world, and they should cooperate. To solve some ethical issues in technology, for example, biotechnology has caused many very troublesome issues, which need to be discussed.

China-US scientific and technological cooperation is an important part of China-US relations, but it also faces some challenges and problems. Both China and the United States attach great importance to scientific and technological cooperation. It should be said that China-US scientific and technological cooperation is rich in content and has achieved remarkable results. It is an important force in promoting the development of China-US relations. One of the connotations of partnership. According to the article “America’s Sharpening Focus on Technology Competition with China” by Ryan Hass, a senior fellow and the Michael H. Armacost Chair in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings, where he holds a joint appointment to the John L. Thornton China Center and the Center for East Asia Policy Studies. He claimed that

“As the US–China relationship settles into a new phase of hardening, long-term competition, the two countries will likely increase their focus on technology issues as the core of bilateral competition. The US and China both recognize that technological innovation provides windfall benefits, not just economically, but also in terms of rule-setting around emerging technologies and the prestige that derives from being the pacesetter. Leaders in both countries also see significant national security implications for whichever country outpaces the other in machine learning, quantum computing, life sciences, development of 5G and 6G

telecommunications technologies, and military applications of artificial intelligence, among other examples.” (Hass).

The cooperation will make the U.S. gain profits from the massive Chinese market. As the region with the complete supply chain, China is the fastest in the application of new technologies. At the same time, thanks to China's massive consumer market, the high cost of new technologies can be quickly rationalized through large-scale production. With the strong support of national policies, technology companies' R&D investment and intensity will continue to increase. The future growth and competitive advantages of leading brands will become more and more driven by R&D, which will significantly accelerate the development of China's overall development consumer electronics industry. China has no barriers for foreign capital to participate in Chinese innovation. Especially in the national high-tech development zone, many foreign enterprises have participated in the development of the high-tech development zone or directly entered the development zone. There are incubators, financial institutions, and venture capital in the high-tech zone. Now the financial industry is slowly opening up, and some foreign banks are participating in loan financing for Chinese SMEs. From this point of view, if American technology companies develop in China, they are objective interests.

The U.S. and China have already started doing the research papers together. For academic prospects, some scholars will ignore the political conflicts and have cooperated with some other international scholars. Many scholars in the world have the willingness to explore their professional field as much as possible. According to the article "傅莹:人工智能技术或将成为各国合作新纽带 Fu Ying: Artificial intelligence technology may become a new link for cooperation between countries," which was published on the CCTV News, it reports that

The relationship between Chinese and American scholars in the field of artificial intelligence is quite close. The number of international cooperation papers between China and the United States has grown the fastest. In the past five years, mainland China has carried out the most international cooperation with the United States, while the United States has carried out the most international cooperation with mainland China, with more than 4,000 cooperative papers. (CCTV News).

Academic studies have limited affection under the political environment. Even the relationship between the U.S. and China has been tense for these couple of years, and it did not stop the academic cooperation. The countries should consider that cooperation on technology development might have more positive than negative outcomes. At the same time, the countries should also promote cooperation in order to benefit their own countries. At this point, competition will barely benefit people. Some people might have some concern that the other countries will learn or "steal" their own knowledge, share the knowledge with their own people, and establish patents with their own people. Therefore, they fully disagree will the cooperation. For Intellectual Property protection, no matter the U.S. or China, they both have laws to protect; simultaneously, the International Association For The Protection Of Intellectual Property has some articles for these solving concerns. According to the report "Trends in US-China Science and Technology Cooperation: Collaborative Knowledge Production for the Twenty-First Century?", Suttmeier reported

"Since 1991, IPR issues have been handled under the terms of Annex 1 of the S&T Agreement, reference to which has been incorporated in most subsequent or renewed protocols and MOUs. Since most areas of cooperation have focused on nonproprietary science and technology in support of public goods, though, I.P.



concerns have not been prominent. However, as China-U.S. cooperative activities under the Agreement come to be characterized by greater industry participation and public-private arrangements, I.P. is becoming more important. This is especially well-illustrated in the case of CERC. The building of the public-private consortia, which characterize the CERC initiative, required that IPR issues be given high priority. As a result, a special IPR Annex that builds on—but departs from—the language of Annex 1 of the Agreement was made part of the protocol. During the first two years of the program, efforts were focused on the development of common understandings about intellectual property, the results of which have now been incorporated into the technology management plans used by the consortia in developing new projects...At this point, no IPR disputes in the CERC program have been reported after the completion of the technology management plans. However, Lewis notes that in many ways the provisions have not been tested, even though on paper they do provide for processes to determine how benefits of I.P. creation should be shared." (Suttmeier).

IPR issues should be cautious, and many people consider that China has a weak IPR system. China's intellectual property system was established relatively late, with a history of only more than 20 years, but it has developed rapidly. Since the 1980s, the Chinese government has realized the importance of protecting intellectual property rights. The development trend of the international intellectual property system is mainly manifested as follows: intellectual property is becoming a strategic resource for countries to enhance their national economic, scientific and technological strength and international competitiveness, and safeguard their national interests and economic security; the internationalization of the intellectual property system is accelerating,

and intellectual property protection has become a national an essential part of scientific and technological, economic, trade and cultural cooperation and exchanges between countries; with the rapid development of information technology, life sciences, marine technology, new material technology and other high-tech The scope is constantly expanding, and the level of protection and the strength of protection are continuously strengthened; intellectual property rights are becoming an essential means for enterprises in various countries to gain market competitive advantages; the number of intellectual property applications or registrations is growing rapidly, and mastering and controlling intellectual property rights in critical fields and cutting-edge technologies has become a competition among countries. The Chinese government attaches great importance to intellectual property work, regards improving the capability of independent innovation as the central link in adjusting the economic structure, transforming the model of economic growth, and improving national competitiveness, and regards building an innovative country as an important strategic choice for the future, and has basically established a complete system of Intellectual Property Legal System. The IPR system in China has not been perfect yet, but the government is enhancing the IPR system.

Even if there is some evidence that cooperation would result in win-win outcomes for both countries, other people believe that the US should maintain a competitive relationship with China. Despite the fact that China's technological growth is accelerating, it still has significant weaknesses, such as a chip shortage. The present chip scarcity has expanded to numerous industries, including consumer electronics goods such as mobile phones, tablets, gaming consoles, and personal computers, automotive sensors, and microcontrollers (MCUs). For many years, China's main chips were dependent on imports, and China's overall chip imports exceeded fossil fuel imports. Operating systems and high-end lithography equipment are still monopolized

by corporations from other nations, as are the great majority of sensors. Using mobile phone chips as an example, if a mobile phone terminal maker utilizes Qualcomm mobile phone chips, they must additionally pay Qualcomm patent royalties in addition to the chip purchase charge. Even if mobile terminal suppliers do not utilize Qualcomm processors, they must nevertheless report mobile phone sales to Qualcomm and pay patent fees on a regular basis. Every year, high import costs have resulted in massive trade deficits. As a result, China is seeking to re-establish technological cooperation with the United States in order to reduce the chip shortage.

It is indisputable that cooperation between China and the United States in scientific and technology development will enhance China's scientific and technological growth. If China and the United States stop cooperating or even confronting each other, China's technological progress would undoubtedly slow down. No one knows when China will be able to produce their own high-end chips. If there is no significant progress and breakthrough in the research and development of high-end chips, China's technological growth would suffer significantly. In reality, China has always recognized that high-end chips cannot be overly reliant on imports, but China's research and development speed cannot keep up with worldwide technological advancement. The most significant barrier to China's technical progress is its reliance on imported high-end chips. As a result, many people believe that the United States should have less or no cooperation with China in order to slow down its science and technology development speed. At the same time, China will no longer have the possibility to exceed the United States.

Another reason why some people are strongly opposed to cooperation. The advancement of Chinese technology has put the United States' interests in the developing world in danger. Consider smart electric devices as an example. People in developing nations may prefer Chinese brands to US brands since the costs of Chinese products are cheaper than those of US products.

Consequently, as the proportion of Chinese products in the global market increases, the proportion of other nations decreases, and the United States may be one of them. If the two countries cooperate in science and technology, the gains derived from scientific and technical breakthroughs must be shared proportionately. The United States would therefore receive far less economic benefits, which it is unwilling to accept. Therefore, there are some opposing voices in the United States. Maintaining a competitive relationship may not contribute to problems or negative outcomes, but it must be healthy competition. There can be no progress without competition, but only healthy competition can lead to mutual learning and growth that is constant and healthy. The Chinese side believes that competition between China and the US should be healthy and positive, with each trying to outperform the other rather than replace it. However, it is too difficult to maintain healthy competition, and healthy and sustainable competition is often replaced by vicious rivalry.

Faced with China's massive market demand, it is bound to stimulate the growth of American companies while also allowing high-end American products to occupy a prominent position in China. Cooperation between China and the United States in the field of computers has also aided in the shared growth of science and technology in the two nations, and companies in both countries can benefit massively. However, the United States intentionally inhibits Chinese companies, preventing many US companies from working with Chinese firms. This approach will inevitably result in a lose-lose situation. Japan and South Korea, the Asian technological powerhouses, have their own place in the field of computers and smartphones and have a huge share in the international market. While the United States and China are in vicious competition, they will also be products of other countries and stand out in the international trade market, which will inevitably lead to more and more competitors in the United States. At the same time,

China will also face such problems. At the same time, the US will lose the Chinese market because of vicious competition. The Chinese market demand is gigantic compared with many other countries. Meanwhile, with the improvement of the national confidence and patriotism of the Chinese people, vicious competition will only make the Chinese people reject the United States, and the United States will lose China's market. China does not exclude competition; China is only strongly opposed to vicious competition. At the same time, the United States has no way to maintain a healthy competitive environment.

The U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the 21st century and has been recognized by both countries. Cooperation between China and the United States will bring great opportunities to both countries and the world, and confrontation between China and the United States will bring great damage to both countries and the world, but the construction of a new type of great power relationship between China and the United States with mutual respect and mutual benefit is unprecedented and requires the joint efforts of both countries, and the lack of sincerity of either side will lead to failure. Looking to the future, the U.S.-China science and technology relationship needs to be further strengthened, focusing on global issues on the one hand, as a science and technology power and a science and technology power, leading developed and developing countries respectively, to share responsibilities; on the other hand, to strengthen dialogue, reduce conflict, comprehensively promote official, semi-official and civil science and technology exchanges and cooperation between China and the U.S., with innovation dialogue as a link, technology transfer centers, science and technology innovation parks, joint R&D centers, accelerate the construction of U.S.-China innovation cooperation centers, speed up the layout of U.S.-China science and technology innovation parks, promote the radiation of U.S.-China technology transfer centers, expand the scope of areas of

U.S.-China joint research centers, and push the U.S.-China science and technology relationship toward deeper. Having cooperation on technologies development is benefiting the US definitely. China's technologies development is top 3 in the world, and the cooperation between the US and China will bring some much significant greater outcomes to the world. In the past decade, the United States has been suppressing China's economic and technological development, but the United States has not achieved the results they expected. The US suppression is ineffective, and China's economy and technology are still developing rapidly. Since the suppression is ineffective, the United States should consider cooperating with China to develop science and technology, because China is a strong technological partner in the world. The cooperation between the two major scientific and technological countries is of unlimited benefit to both parties and even the whole world. Cooperation between the two countries is bound to be a win-win result, and continued competition and suppression will only damage bilateral relations; competition and suppression have all harm and no gain.

### **Conclusion**

The world is currently experiencing exponential growth, transition, and adjustment. The world is becoming more multipolar, economic globalization is deepening, and countries are becoming more interdependent. The China-US relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The steady growth of China-US relationships is critical for the rest of the globe. When two major powers, China and the United States, clash, the entire world is affected, and conflicts can only be addressed through dialogue. China-US cooperation can accomplish great things that are beneficial to the two countries and the world, while China-US confrontation will definitely be a disaster for the two countries and the world. In recent years, the Western media has carried out violent attacks on China, and the West's distrust of China has

caused disastrous consequences for economic, political, and cultural exchanges. At such a difficult time, maintaining the stability of China-US relations becomes even more critical. During Trump's presidency, the trade war— the so-called "new Cold War" artificially created, was an attempt to deflect criticism of America's internal problems by creating an external enemy. Western media hype the concept of a "new Cold War" to spread pressure and fear among the people. Western countries need to understand China's vision of building a community with a shared future for people, which is based on the concept of global governance based on extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. People must understand that war only fuels fire. Only dialogue can resolve differences.

China-US confrontation has become the central theme of today's international stage. After Trump entered the White House in 2017, he regarded China as the primary strategic threat and biggest strategic competitor and made every effort to suppress and contain China through trade wars, technology wars, and other means, resulting in the rapid deterioration of China-US relations. After the Biden administration came to power, it failed to take improvement measures in China-US relations, but it also intensified and joined allies and partners to suppress China in an all-around way further. Some strategic experts in the United States have been trying to push the U.S. government to "join Russia and oppose China." If the suggestions of these experts are adopted by the U.S. government, it will be a "geopolitical nightmare" for China. The fear and hatred of Russia in the United States and European countries make it impossible for politicians in these countries to adopt the strategy of "alliance with Russia and anti-China." In the anti-Russian "political correctness" atmosphere, these countries instead continued to stimulate Russia in terms of security by promoting the continuous eastward expansion of NATO, resulting in increasingly tense relations with Russia until the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The Russian-

Ukrainian war destroyed the possibility of the United States "connecting Russia against China." In the coming period, the relationship between Russia and Western countries will be challenging to repair, and Russia will significantly increase its reliance on China in the game with the West in international politics. If the U.S. cannot change its strategy of regarding China as its main competitor in the short term and attack China and Russia on both the east and west fronts at the same time, according to the U.S.'s current national strength and international coordination capabilities, it may be overwhelmed.

It is apparent that the relationship between China and the United States has already deteriorated, as the United States expects, following a series of unilateral actions in the United States. In fact, China is quite passive, and it is always waiting for the United States to make moves and then react. It is also clear from this level that the unilateral shift in the relationship between China and the US is the result of the US, and China has clearly been looking forward to preserving consistency and peaceful coexistence.

Cooperation is mutually beneficial, and confrontation is mutually detrimental is the historical experience of China-US relations; mutual respect and seeking common ground while reserving differences is the right way for China and the US to get along. China, with a civilization of more than 5,000 years and having experienced countless turbulent waves, is today more determined and resilient than ever to deal with various risks and challenges and steadily achieve its goals. In the face of the complex and serious situation of China-US relations, China insists on acting in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and the peoples of the world, and in good faith and sincerity, we will strive to promote the development of a China-US relationship free of conflict and confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. The U.S. side should stop challenging the core interests of the Chinese side. Any bullying and injustice imposed on



China by the U.S. side will be resolutely countered, and any attempt to obstruct China's development and growth will be doomed to failure.

The economies of China and the United States are at different levels of development and are highly complementary. The economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is determined by the international industrial division of labor and is also the choice of enterprises and consumers of the two countries. The essence of China-US economic and trade relations is mutual benefit and win-win, which has been proved by a lot of facts. Chinese consumers have benefited enormously from China-U.S. trade, which has helped, not hurt, U.S. manufacturers and jobs. The loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs and the unemployment of U.S. workers have little to do with imports from China. The protectionist trade policy which also mean trade war cannot help the US economy development well. According to the new report “The Biden administration will allow some Chinese imports to avoid Trump-era tariffs” on *The New York Time*, In March 2022, the trade office said that

it will reintroduce some tariff exemptions that had expired at the end of 2020, allowing some corporations to avoid tariffs on Chinese items that could not be bought elsewhere. (*The New York Time*).

From 2018 to 2021, the trade war for more than three years was a real confrontation in trade. The United States decided to restore the trade environment to the one before the trade war and end the trade war ultimately. This is the US's disapproval of the trade war, so they decided to revert to the trade environment before it to achieve a mutually beneficial win-win situation. The past three years are the most substantial evidence - that win-win cooperation is the most desired result for both parties. The trade war has proven that rivalry is not mutually beneficial. Therefore, the development of science and technology should learn from the experience of the trade war. China

and the United States should not continue to compete against each other but should communicate and cooperate with each other to achieve a beautiful situation of mutual benefit and win-win results.

China and the US should not compete viciously. The United States has made China a strategic competitor to stimulate its own sense of crisis and creativity. However, China has no intention of engaging in "strategic competition" with the United States. The use of "strategic competition" to define China-US relations is driven by zero-sum thinking and will lead to a new Cold War or even a head-on conflict. However, China does not shy away from the competition between the two major powers in different fields such as science and technology, economy, etc. The confrontation and competition between China and the United States is not entirely a bad thing. The key is to control the intensity and intensity of the conflict and, at the same time, let the competition between China and the United States maintain a healthy competition situation and not turn into a vicious competition. Any competition that finds the cause from oneself and rises from where it fell after realizing the gap is healthy competition, but blindly finds the grounds from the opponent, blames all the blame on the other party, and habitually the competition that pulls the other side's hind legs to prevent the other side's development is vicious competition. Furthermore, only healthy competition is good for the United States, China, and the world. Hopefully, this competition will remain on a benign track and ultimately achieve mutual prosperity and strength together.

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