

# US v. China

for CNIT 160

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## FOR THE MOTION



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Michael Pillsbury is a distinguished defense policy adviser, former high-ranking government official, and author of... [read bio](#)



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## AGAINST THE MOTION



**Graham Allison** – Douglas Dillon Professor of Government, Harvard Kennedy School

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**Jake Sullivan** – Former National Security Adviser to Vice President Joe Biden

Jake Sullivan is a Montgomery fellow at Dartmouth College, Martin R. Flug visiting lecturer at Yale Law School, and... [read bio](#)

# Pro

- The prospect of China becoming an open and liberal state is now seemingly a fantasy, and recent U.S. policies are finally responding to the threat China poses to the West.
- The U.S. is getting tough on China's rampant intellectual-property theft and unfair trade practices through tariffs. And it's working: China's economic growth is at its lowest in decades.
- China is developing advanced cyber weapons capable of cutting off U.S. access to strategic waters in the region. The U.S. must respond with strength to maintain its global power.

# Con

- The United States and China are great competitors – not enemies. It is a mistake to label China as such, particularly when the two countries have economies that are inextricably linked.
- Current tariffs and trade policies are not productive: They are hurting American workers, slowing the global economy, and, some argue, benefiting China more than the United States.
- In getting tough on China, the U.S. is dangerously increasing the risk of escalating tensions. And a miscalculation could lead to unwanted conflict.

# China's Importance

- ...all sides agree that **China is the issue of our time**
- ...what we're seeing in the world is a contest of models
- China and the U.S. are in a competition for the most attractive, best, productive model

# Taiwan

- ...most important: what the Chinese call **the foundation of U.S./China relations** and there is an incident during the Trump transition that I'll tell you about that tested this foundation.
- It's usually known as our **one China principle** or our one China policy. It was worked out in great secrecy through a series of meetings with Henry Kissinger... And the idea generally speaking was to recognize Beijing as the only China and to turn Taiwan into a non-country.

# Trump's Acknowledgement of Taiwan

- Part of the deal is we would not transfer Taiwan to China. They're a non-country, but China cannot have them. They cannot claim sovereignty over them. And the Chinese vociferously said we could never agree to that. So, the compromise was both sides would never mention it again.
- And that's held since 1972 until the president of Taiwan quote unquote, remember it's a non-country, so she's a non-president. She called up to congratulate Donald Trump. He took the call. ... They put out a press release in Trump Tower. **"I just spoke for eight minutes with the president of Taiwan."** You never can imagine the Chinese reaction.

# Chinese Provocation

- what the United States is seeking to do is have China a prosperous, powerful China
- ...that's not what China wants.
- Xi Jinping stood in the Rose Garden and publicly promised President Obama that they would not militarize the islands they were building in the South China Sea. They have militarized the islands they've built in the South China Sea.
- They are **not honoring their promises not to hack American businesses**. They are forcing Communist Party commissars onto the boards of American businesses that operate in China, thieving intellectual property from American businesses, threatening American allies.

# Allies

- President **Trump is right** to take a different and sharper-edged approach.
- We need allies willing and capable to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us. We have those kinds of relationships, but we have allies who over the last 30 years have allowed more and more of the responsibility for our common security to migrate to the United States.

# Response from Allies

- ...while I would not advocate the **needless antagonism of America's allies** that President Trump has engaged in, the fact that allies are worried about whether the United States will honor our obligations to join in their defense has caused **a strong uptick in activity by those allies** in policy fronts, in defense spending fronts.
- I wish they weren't doing it because the United States was unreliable under President Trump, but in the long run we can fix the reliability problem with **a different president**.
- ...what the president is succeeding at is **driving up the cost to China** of not playing by the rules and resetting China's sense of how it needs to engage the international order and that's actually a productive American policy.

# Infrastructure and Immigration

- The first of these is that the single most important thing the United States could do to have a productive approach towards China is **invest in ourselves**, in our sources of national strength. And here, the Trump administration's record is severely lacking. **No investment in infrastructure. Massive proposed cuts to our science and research budget** -- while the Chinese are racing ahead and have, in fact, surpassed us on research and development. We spend one dollar for every three the Chinese spend on clean energy.
- And when it comes to investing in perhaps the greatest source of American strength -- **immigration** -- the United States is putting out a not-welcome sign to the talent of the world, and thereby squandering, perhaps, our greatest advantage over China.

# Alienating Allies

- ...what has the Trump administration done ... pulled out of **the Trans-Pacific Partnership**, which was our effort to right the rules of the road in the Asia Pacific.
- They **declared our own allies a national security threat** over steel -- Canada.
- And they've come to the point now, where, in Germany, **more Germans believe China is a trustworthy trading partner than the United States.**

# America's Image

- China is presenting an alternative model to the world and if more countries followed them it would be adverse to American interests and values. So, I ask you in terms the American approach to China, **has the last 30 months made democracy as a model look better or worse?**
- Has America presented a more or less appealing face to the world? A recent poll showed two things.
- Number one, that **China's leadership is now more respected globally than America's** and number two, that for the first time in a long time **America is actually seen more unfavorably than favorably** across the Asia-Pacific.

# Inconsistency

- ...the problem with our approach to China policy is that there are about six or seven different China policies in this administration.
- One day, **Huawei is a threat to national security**... The next day, it's a bargaining chip at the table
- One day, Mike Pompeo is saying, "**We stand in solidarity with the protesters in Hong Kong.**" The next day, Donald Trump is saying, "That's China issue, and we don't have anything to do it."
- One day, the president is questioning the one-China policy. The next day, they're pulling it back.
- ...the president's erratic behavior has caused the Chinese to wonder whether they are taking the right approach to the United States

# Confusion in Beijing

- ...**the Chinese government finds Trump mystifying**, the way many Americans do.
- I've had conversations in Beijing with people who work directly for Xi Jinping, and they say, "**We have an extremely difficult time understanding who this person is**, and what he cares about. We have a conversation, and then there's a different conversation.
- We hear different noises from the administration, as we -- one day Pence gives a speech that declares Cold War 2.0. The next day there's a phone call that says, 'We didn't really mean that.'
- Then Pence sets up a speech that he's going to attack the Chinese for their activity in Hong Kong. All of a sudden, he's not giving that speech this week; maybe next week, maybe the week after."

**Grindr**

Jan 2019

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Mar 2019

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/28/us/politics/grindr-china-national-security.html>. The page is from the "POLITICS" section of The New York Times. The headline reads: "Grindr Is Owned by a Chinese Firm, and the U.S. Is Trying to Force It to Sell".

May 2019

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