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May 5, 2021

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKER INTRODUCES BILL TO FIGHT IP THEFT BY CHINA'S COMMUNIST REGIME

Tom Ozimek | The Epoch Times | May 5, 2021

Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) on Tuesday reintroduced legislation that would set into law the denial of export privileges against nations that steal American intellectual property, with the bill part of a broader legislative thrust to counter the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). "What Americans innovate, China steals. China's long history of intellectual property theft costs the United States billions of dollars each year. My bill combats China and other hostile nations' ability to steal our intellectual property and do untold harm to our economy," Buck said in a statement. Buck noted in the release that the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property has estimated that intellectual property theft costs the U.S. economy \$600 billion per year, with China's communist regime the world's main source of intellectual property theft. He cited John Demers, the head of the National Security Division at the Department of Justice, as saying that over 80 percent of all cases charged as economic espionage—and 60 percent of all trade secret cases—involve China. Buck first introduced the bill, H.R.8831, in December 2020, and it was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the waning days of the 116th Congress.

Read the full article [here](#).

FBI TECH TUESDAY: STRONG PASSPHRASES AND ACCOUNT PROTECTION

Jim McCabe and Brooke Brennan | Federal Bureau of Investigation | May 4, 2021

In honor of World Password Day on Thursday, May 6, 2021, the FBI is encouraging the public to strengthen their passwords/phrases and account protection. Passwords are used for everything; we use them for our phones, computers, email, even financial information. Unfortunately, many use the same simple passwords, like 1234 or Password1, for multiple accounts. Simple passwords, even those with special characters, are easier for someone to crack. Recent guidance from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) advises that password length is much more important than password complexity. Instead of using short complex passwords, use passphrases that combine multiple words and are longer than 15 characters. For example TechTuesday2021Strengthen! Strong passphrases can also help protect against personal data breaches. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a personal data breach is defined as a leak/spill of personal data which is released from a secure location to an untrusted environment.

Read the full article [here](#).



CHINA ON CAMPUS: HOW THE DOJ HAS BATTLED 'NONTRADITIONAL ESPIONAGE'

Jerry Dunleavy | Washington Examiner | May 5, 2021

The Justice Department's China Initiative is shining the spotlight on the Chinese Communist Party's coordinated and multifaceted efforts to steal research and technology from academic institutions across the country, with prosecutors mounting aggressive efforts over the past few years to crack down on Chinese malign influence at U.S. universities. Attorney General Merrick Garland appeared before the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday and was pressed on what the DOJ was doing to counter China, especially with regard to the Chinese government's massive theft of intellectual property at public and private institutions. "Well, within the last month or so, the intelligence community has identified China as a threat ... with respect to espionage, with respect to theft of intellectual property, so the FBI is working very hard on these issues," Garland replied.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA ON CAMPUS: CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES COLLAPSE NATIONWIDE

Jerry Dunleavy | Washington Examiner | May 4, 2021

The Chinese Communist Party-linked Confucius Institutes are collapsing in the United States, falling from over 100 to just over a couple dozen in a few years thanks to pressure from the Trump administration and growing concern within the U.S. government about the challenge posed by Chinese influence at U.S. colleges and universities. The U.S. government considers Confucius Institutes to be part of the Chinese government's numerous and varied foreign influence operations, and the Trump administration increased pressure against the groups, including labeling their center in the nation's capital to be a "foreign mission" of Beijing. While the number of Confucius Institutes in the U.S. numbered over 100 just a few years ago, they have now dwindled to what the State Department says is just 27 university sponsors currently operating exchange visitor programs affiliated with the Chinese organization, though that might not fully capture a number of other Confucius Institute partnerships the group has in the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL EXPORTS TO NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

U.S. Department of Justice | April 28, 2021

A Chinese national pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston in connection with illegally procuring and causing the illegal export of \$100,000 worth of U.S. origin goods to Northwestern Polytechnical University (NWP), a Chinese military university that is heavily involved in military research and works closely with the People's Liberation Army on the advancement of its military capabilities. According to court documents, Shuren Qin, 44, a Chinese national residing in Wellesley, Mass., gained admittance into the United States through the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program in 2014 and established LinkOcean Technologies, LTD., which he used to import goods and technology with underwater and marine applications into the PRC from the United States, Canada and Europe. Today, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully export items from the United States to NWP without first obtaining the required export licenses; one count of visa fraud; two counts of making false statements to law enforcement agents regarding his customers and the types of parts he caused to be exported from the United States to the People's Republic of China (PRC); four counts of money laundering; and two counts of smuggling hydrophones from the U.S. to the PRC.

Read the full article [here](#).



DESPITE CONCERNS, SHOULD UNIVERSITIES ENGAGE WITH CHINA?

Philip G. Altbach and Hans de Wit | University World News | May 1, 2021

Academic relations with China have become a fraught and controversial topic globally. Developments in China itself, the COVID-19 crisis and the role attributed to China in it, increasingly problematic trade relations, the rise of nationalism and populism – in China and elsewhere – and other issues have all increased geopolitical tensions and challenge academic collaboration in research and education between China and Australia, North America and Europe. These issues play themselves out in the media around the world with constant, and occasionally, with exaggerated or even false narratives. But there are real issues involved – and current and future academic relations between China and the rest of the world hang in the balance. Several examples illustrate the tensions. Faculty and students at Cornell University in the United States are opposing a proposed joint degree programme with Peking University, noting academic freedom problems in China, among other issues.

Read the full article [here](#).

BIDEN ADMIN ISN'T RECOGNIZING THREAT OF CHINA COMPROMISING US SCIENTISTS: FRED FLEITZ

Teny Sahakian | Fox News | April 26, 2021

A former National Security Council member is sounding the alarm on communist China's efforts to infiltrate American institutions. U.S. officials on Thursday shared concerns that China may have compromised hundreds of federally funded scientists dispersed at colleges and universities across the country. More than 500 federally funded scientists are under investigation, the National Institutes of Health revealed. Fred Fleitz, president of the Center for Security Policy and former NSC chief of staff under President Trump, said the government needs to take a much more aggressive approach in identifying and rooting out Chinese influence within U.S. academia. "We have to have a huge study into what is going on here," Fleitz said in an interview with Fox News. "I don't think the government understands how widespread this threat is and I don't think academics are reporting what they know."

Read the full article [here](#).

ACTIVISTS, EXPERTS AND POLICY MAKERS SPEAK OUT ON CHINESE STATE INFLUENCE IN CANADA

Christy Somos | CTV News | April 29, 2021

Activists, experts and policy makers are speaking out on what they describe as an ever-growing "influence" of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Canadian business, academic and political circles. There has been mounting scrutiny on the CCP's increased flexing of its intelligence muscles since the ascension of President Xi Jinping in 2013. Canada's intelligence agencies have taken the rare step of naming China as a significant threat to the country's sovereignty, with CSIS director David Vigneault publicly saying in a February 2021 speech that Canadians are being "aggressively" targeted by foreign interests – and Beijing was engaged in "activities that are a direct threat to our national security and sovereignty." The redacted version of the 2020 National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) annual report said "the threat from espionage and foreign interference is significant and continues to grow" and that "intelligence shows that China and Russia remain the primary culprits."

Read the full article [here](#).



CHINA TARGETS FOREIGN SPIES AND 'HOSTILE FORCES' WITH NEW ANTI-ESPIONAGE RULES

James Griffiths | KAKE | April 26, 2021

China is stepping up anti-espionage activities amid worsening ties with the United States and a renewed focus on national security ahead of a key Communist Party anniversary later this year. Announcing the new regulations Monday, state news agency Xinhua quoted a senior official at the Ministry of State Security as saying "overseas espionage and intelligence agencies and hostile forces have intensified infiltration into China, and broadened their tactics of stealing secrets in various ways and in more fields, which poses a serious threat to China's national security and interests." The regulations create new responsibilities for a host of bodies -- including "social groups, enterprises and public institutions" -- to keep a watch out for and prevent foreign espionage activity. Once designated by the Ministry as being responsible for anti-espionage work, entities must vet and train personnel, particularly ahead of any foreign trips, after which they must be debriefed about any national security issues -- essentially treating a broad range of bodies, including potentially universities and private businesses, as if they are sensitive government agencies.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNIVERSITIES HIRE MCGRATHNICOL TO ASSESS FOREIGN INTERFERENCE RISK

Consultancy.com.au | April 29, 2021

A set of Australian universities have tapped McGrathNicol to help assess the potential risk of foreign interference in their research programmes – with a focus on threats from China. The move is fueled by global concern that academic researchers from China are infiltrating top universities worldwide – sending the findings back home for intelligence and military use. In 2018, Australia's government enacted the Foreign Influence Transparency Register – where certain activities conducted on behalf of a foreign government or political institution have to be declared. The universities of Sydney, New South Wales, Monash and Queensland have chosen to highlight their commitment in this space – hiring specialist corporate advisory firm McGrathNicol to help detect the risk of influence. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, this might involve auditing academics to check for secondary loyalties. Leading the charge is John Garnaut – a senior risk advisor at McGrathNicol, and a widely recognised authority on elite politics, political business and foreign interference techniques.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA IMPOSES STRICT ANTI-ESPIONAGE MEASURES ON STAFF VISITING NEW ZEALAND, FIVE EYES NATIONS

Zane Small | Newshub | April 27, 2021

Strict anti-espionage measures have been imposed on Chinese staff from companies considered "high-risk" of being exploited when visiting Five Eyes nations. China rolled out the new anti-espionage regulations on Monday, according to the Global Times, a state-backed newspaper under the auspices of the ruling Chinese Communist Party. China's Ministry of State Security, often dubbed "secret police", has listed companies and organisations considered at-risk of foreign infiltration and will require them to adopt strict new security measures. The list is unknown, but according to the Global Times, it will be "drawn up based on the level of confidentiality that the industry involves, the degree of foreign involvement and whether there have been previous incidents that endangered national security".

Read the full article [here](#).



BIDEN ORDER TO REQUIRE NEW CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS IN RESPONSE TO SOLARWINDS ATTACK

Dina Temple-Raston | NPR | April 29, 2021

The Biden administration is putting the final touches on an executive order aimed at helping the U.S. defend itself against sophisticated cyberattacks like the one Russian hackers recently leveled against Texas software-maker SolarWinds. The order, which is still being drafted, lays out a series of new requirements for companies that do business with the government. The initiative includes plans for more systematic investigations of cyber events and standards for software development. The idea is to use the federal contracting process to force changes that will eventually trickle down to the rest of the private sector. "So essentially, federal government procurement allows us to say, 'If you're doing business with the federal government, here's a set of things you need to comply with in order to do business with us,'" Anne Neuberger, the deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technology at the White House, told NPR in an exclusive interview. She says the executive order will "set the goal, give it a timeline and then establish the process to work out the details" on a handful of cybersecurity initiatives, from setting up new ways to investigate cyberattacks to developing standards for software.

Read the full article [here](#).

US EMBASSY IN CHINA TO OPEN STUDENT VISA SERVICE ON MAY 4; RESTRICTIONS ON CHINESE STEM STUDENTS STILL EFFECTIVE

Zhao Yusha and Xing Xiaojing | Global Times | April 30, 2021

The US embassy and consulates in China are scheduled to open visa appointments for Chinese students on May 4, after Washington announced easing of travel restrictions for foreign students. The move is positive but no sign of improvement for China-US people-to-people exchange, Chinese analysts say, as visa restrictions for Chinese STEM students remain effective. William Bistransky, acting consul general at the US Embassy in China, announced the visa re-opening for Chinese students during a Friday press conference. Mr. Bistransky said the embassy will gear up visa processing for those students once appointments officially re-opened, but certain details, such as anti-pandemic measures for those students and whether local vaccinations received by Chinese students will be recognized by the US, remain unknown. His remarks were made after the Biden administration announced on Tuesday that it was easing restrictions for Chinese and other students traveling to the US this fall.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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