

Lies Spread by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

The CCP uses propaganda and spreads falsehoods to distort the outside world's perceptions of its history, policies, and goals. With more than one-third of young Americans believing China is an ally, we need to redouble our efforts to explain the true China threat to our constituents and peers.

1. Lie: Xi Jinping is the President of China.

- Xi is General Secretary of the CCP, and every level of the Chinese government answers to the CCP.
- China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) defends the CCP, not the people.¹
- The title "President" is only used in English translation and implies democratic legitimacy. Xi does not actually hold the title "President" and was not elected by the people.

2. Lie: The CCP is lifting its citizens out of poverty and improving their lives.

- Communism has caused around 100 million deaths in the 20th century, more than any other system.²
- The CCP has killed more Chinese people than any external force, through man-made famines and mass killings. Approximately 65 million people died due to Mao Zedong's policies.³
- Under the CCP, China deprives its citizens of the most basic human rights.⁴
- Openness to the U.S.-led international trading system grew China's economy, not CCP policies.

3. Lie: China is a benign power, not interested in territorial expansion.

- While most powers decolonized in the 20th century, since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CCP has invaded, conquered, or laid claim to over 2 million square miles of territory – roughly the size of the continental United States, minus Texas.
- Today, China is involved in militarized territorial disputes along most of its borders, efforts which include trying to steal territory from Southeast Asian nations by building militarized artificial islands.

4. Lie: The CCP is not interested in spreading its digital authoritarian system to other countries.

- The CCP explicitly considers democracy a threat, the Party's infamous 2013 "Document Number 9" states: "The point of publicly proclaiming Western constitutional democracy... is to oppose the party's leadership..."⁵
- Xi Jinping explicitly states that 'socialism with Chinese characteristics' "offers a new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development."⁶
- The CCP is providing massive subsidies to its technology companies to dominate global markets.



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- Huawei employees have been embedded in security agencies in African countries to support domestic, political spying and the arrest of opposition figures.⁷

5. Lie: The CCP is not a threat to Americans' way of life, including our education system and personal freedoms.

- Democracy is the CCP's greatest threat. The CCP is eroding its foundation globally, by censoring free speech, destroying sovereignty, and distorting free markets.
- The People's Republic of China is the largest source of foreign donations to U.S. universities since 2013⁸, and many U.S. universities' budgets are reliant on international enrollment from China.⁹
- China's 1000 talent program threatens U.S. businesses and universities through theft of intellectual property and other economic espionage.¹⁰
- To placate the Party and profit in China, businesses export the CCP's censorship – including into the United States. For example, in 2019 several foreign countries banned an American film for promoting CCP propaganda.¹¹
- The CCP considers free speech – anywhere – a threat to China's national security,¹² and projecting its censorship overseas is an integral part of the Party's efforts to protect its authoritarian system.¹³

6. Lie: China's rise is inevitable.

- General Secretary Xi's concentration of power, widespread purges of rivals, and installation of himself as leader for life has set the PRC up for a major leadership crisis.
- China has significant domestic challenges (e.g. aging population, pollution, wealth inequality, and dependencies on technology) that require access to the international system.
- Because China relies on the United States and other countries for technology, capital, and know-how, a coalition of like-minded countries can affect Chinese ambitions that threaten the global system.

7. Lie: China is a champion of multilateralism and the "global south."

- China's drive for regional hegemony and global preeminence is predicated on restricting other countries' sovereignty. In 2010 Yang Jiechi, the PRC Foreign Minister at that time, said: "China is a big country and other countries are small countries, and that's just a fact."
- Under CCP leadership, the PRC preys on developing countries the most. The "Belt and Road Initiative" is a major risk to developing countries' economies, environments, and sovereignty.¹⁴
- China is using its territorial aggression in the South China Sea to try to force Southeast Asian countries to accept China's veto power over their military exercises and energy exploration.¹⁵



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8. Lie: China is a market economy.

- In 2019, China withdrew its WTO lawsuit on its non-market economy status because it was losing the case.¹⁶
- Xi Jinping is expanding the role of the CCP in businesses and pioneering a dystopian “corporate social credit system” that could result in unprecedented coercion and control of businesses. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says it “threatens to render market-opening reforms significantly less relevant.”
- China is doubling down on industrial policies designed to destroy the competitiveness of Western innovators. China’s state-led economy and mercantilism distort global markets, harm the economies of its trading partners, and threaten to destroy the global trading system, fueling the current global protectionist backlash.

9. Lie: China remains an unmissable opportunity for businesses.

- The majority of American businesses feel unwelcome in China.
- Among OECD countries, China has one of the most restrictive investment regimes. Even if a sector nominally open, the CCP uses regulations—procurement and licensing—to block market access.
- Chinese human rights violations, private sector links with the PLA, and corruption increase reputational and sanction risks for companies doing business in China.

10. Lie: China is a leader in the response to climate change.

- China is an aggressive proliferator of dirty coal technology throughout the developing world.¹⁷
- Policy banks are financing and SOEs are constructing more than 150 coal power plants in third countries.
- China has more coal power plants in the works than the rest of the world combined.¹⁸
- China’s energy sector relies on massive market-distorting subsidies that harm American innovators.



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ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R45898>
- 2 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/100-years-of-communism-and-100-million-dead-1510011810>
- 3 <https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/the-legacy-mao-zedong-mass-murder>
- 4 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/china-includes-tibet-hong-kong-and-macau-china/>
- 5 <http://www.chinafile.com/document-9-chinafile-translation>
- 6 http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/download/Xi_Jinping's_report_at_19th_CPC_National_Congress.pdf
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- 18 <https://fortune.com/2019/11/20/china-coal-power-plants-pipeline-climate-change/>

