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## The Case Against the China Consensus



**Jessica Chen Weiss** is David M. Lampton Professor of China Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, a Senior Fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute Center for China Analysis, and a former member of the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff.

In Jessica Chen Weiss's latest article on *Foreign Affairs* on September 16, 2024, "The Case Against the China Consensus," she critiques the prevailing U.S. approach to China, emphasizing open-ended competition without a clear definition of success.

Weiss argues that bipartisan rhetoric increasingly treats China as an existential threat, pushing aside nuanced debate and overshadowing diplomatic and cooperative opportunities. She warns that such a zero-sum mindset risks escalating tensions, including a potential conflict over Taiwan, and could undermine U.S. values and interests. "If policymakers overplay competition with Beijing, they risk more than raising the likelihood of war and jeopardizing efforts to address the many transnational challenges that threaten both the United States and China. They also risk setting the United States on a path to what could become a pyrrhic victory, in which the country undermines its own long-term interests and values in the name of thwarting its rival,"

wrote Weiss.

Instead, Weiss advocates for a balanced strategy that combines credible deterrence with diplomacy, economic integration, and cooperation on shared global challenges. She stresses the importance of pragmatic engagement and avoiding policies that isolate the U.S. from Chinese innovation and global supply chains. As for the issue of Taiwan, Weiss wrote, "deterrence, particularly in the Taiwan Strait, can be achieved only with the backing of strong diplomacy that combines credible threats and credible assurances. And both deterrence and prosperity require some degree of economic integration and technological interdependence."

The article highlights the need for a strategic recalibration in U.S.-China relations, focusing on coexistence rather than dominance, and emphasizes the risks of overplaying competition, which could harm both nations' long-term prosperity and security. "U.S. policymakers should seek a more durable basis for coexistence, striking a careful balance to ensure that efforts to address the real threats from China do not undermine the very values and interests they aim to protect," Weiss wrote.

In her article, Weiss especially pointed out the negative impact of deteriorating bilateral relations on Chinese Americans. She wrote, "People born in China or of Chinese descent should not be categorically treated as a fifth column in the United States; the diaspora has been a hotbed for resistance, which is precisely why the Chinese Communist Party is so bent on monitoring and intimidating it. And if the United States were to go so far as to enact bans or visa restrictions on the basis of national origin, it would compromise the very principles of nondiscrimination and equality before the law that embody the American ideal "

Read the *Foreign Affairs* article: <https://fam.ag/3TzhV21>.

**Juan Zhang**, editor at *US-China Perception Monitor*, contributed this report.

## A Program for Progressive China Policy



The screenshot shows the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (About Us, Program Areas, Research, Experts, Events & Webinars, Contact Us), a search icon, and a red 'Donate' button. The main content area features a blurred background image of flags and water bottles. A white box highlights a report titled 'A Program for Progressive China Policy' by Jake Werner, dated July 30, 2024. A red 'Download PDF' button is visible below the report title.

During the APA Justice monthly meeting on September 9, 2024, **Sandy Shan**, Director, Justice Is Global, and **Tori Bateman**, Director of Advocacy, Quincy Institute, gave a joint presentation on Quincy Institute Brief #62, "A Program for Progressive China Policy."

Sandy Shan began the discussion by highlighting the urgency for a constructive U.S. policy toward China. She emphasized the need to move away from the current confrontational and hawkish stance, which has exacerbated tensions between the two nations and fueled xenophobia against Asian and Asian American communities in the U.S. The forum took place as the House launched "China Week," underlining the timeliness of the conversation.

The Quincy Institute brief was authored by **Jake Warner** and co-produced by Justice Is Global and the Institute for Policy Studies. It reflects five years of dialogue among progressive groups, drawing on the expertise of specialists in climate, labor, peace, and Asian Pacific American communities. The brief seeks to address gaps in current U.S. policies, dominated by nationalist and militaristic rhetoric, by offering a more thoughtful framework for dealing with China's rise.

The brief acknowledges legitimate concerns about China's actions, including its human rights record and the impact of its policies on American workers. However, it warns that a confrontational approach risks empowering authoritarian forces in both the U.S. and China while undermining broader progressive goals like global economic equity and environmental sustainability. Instead, the brief advocates for a policy that reduces geopolitical tensions and promotes shared prosperity.

Tori Bateman expanded on this framework, describing the Quincy Institute's transpartisan focus on foreign policy. She expressed concern about the growing hawkish rhetoric on Capitol Hill, especially during "China Week." Tori emphasized that while many bills address real issues, they often fail to solve underlying problems and instead increase tensions. The Quincy Institute is engaging with lawmakers to promote a more balanced approach, urging Congress to focus on areas like climate cooperation and educational exchanges instead of exclusionary policies.

A summary for the September 2024 monthly meeting is being prepared and will be posted at <https://www.apajustice.org/> after review by the speakers. Past monthly meeting summaries are available at <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>.

Read the Quincy Institute brief at <https://bit.ly/3T2XJVY>

## China in the Heartland: Building a Balanced Approach



On October 10, 2024, the U.S. Heartland China Association (USHCA) and the Kansas University (KU) Department of Political Science will co-host a hybrid event on "China in the Heartland: Building a Balanced Approach."

As China's influence grows around the world, skepticism in the United States grows in tandem with it. Evidence of this is seen throughout the Heartland of America, where anti-China legislation and rhetoric have grown over the years. Professor **Jack Zhang** of the KU Department of Political Science will be joined by **Susan Thornton**, Vice Chair of the U.S. Heartland China Association and a retired senior U.S. diplomat with decades of experience in Eurasia and East Asia, and **Kyle Jaros**, an associate professor at the University of Notre Dame, for a discussion on building a balanced approach for relations with China.

In June 2024, the 4th Annual U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable was held in China for the first time. Co-organized by USHCA and multiple Chinese partners, the broad-based bilateral agricultural platform drew senior leaders spanning government, trade, business, education, and think tanks from both countries to convene around the theme: Global Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation. Major American agriculture players and producers of soy, rice, corn, sorghum, dairy, and beef from 9 different states were among those who traveled to China to participate.

First launched in 2021, the annual U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable honors three legendary agriculture scientists who made significant contributions to our world: **Norman Borlaug**, **Yuan Longping**, and **George Washington Carver**. USHCA launched the first U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable virtually with the belief that U.S.-China cooperation is essential for our planet to successfully deal with the critical global challenges of our time.

The 4th Annual U.S.-China Agricultural Roundtable reinforced the ongoing agriculture partnership between China and the U.S. while elevating the importance of collaboration to tackle global challenges through sustainable practices, technological innovation, and educational exchanges. Amid global food security concerns, this collaboration serves as a vital demonstration of international cooperation to enhance global food stability and foster understanding. Given both the U.S. and China's pivotal roles as leading agricultural producers, consumers, and importers, sustained dialogue between the two nations is crucial for shaping resilient food systems and protecting food security worldwide.

The in-person portion of the October 10 event is at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, 2350 Petefish Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045. Watch the event online at <https://bit.ly/3zkTyhT>.

**Min Fan**, Executive Director of USHCA, has accepted our invitation to speak at the next APA Justice monthly meeting to be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, starting at 1:55 pm ET.

## Anti-Asian Laws in America - Past, Present, and What's Coming



Anti-Asian Laws in America: Past, Present, & What's Coming by Rep. Gene Wu, Texas House District 137

On September 8, 2024, Texas State Representative **Gene Wu** hosted a Town Hall on "Anti-Asian Laws in America - Past. Present, and What's Coming."

During the Town Hall, State Rep. Gene Wu outlined the resurgence of anti-Asian and anti-immigrant laws, particularly targeting Chinese and Japanese communities, in states like Texas.



He referenced a history of such laws, dating back to the late 1800s, which banned immigrants from owning property, participating in business, and obtaining citizenship. Though many of these laws were repealed by the 1960s, new legislation in Texas and other states mirrors these discriminatory laws, signaling a renewed threat to Asian Americans.

State Rep. Gene Wu emphasized that current laws echo historical patterns, portraying Asian immigrants as spies or traitors without evidence. Project 2025, a comprehensive conservative policy document that focuses heavily on China, mentions China 800 times compared to Russia's 100 mentions. Project 2025 seeks to impose restrictions on Chinese nationals and Asian Americans, particularly in areas of land ownership, business, and education.

The community was urged to wake up to this threat, as these new legislative efforts have already been introduced in multiple states. For instance, Texas has established new committees solely to push bills that restrict Chinese land ownership and educational access, following a broader national trend. This is compared to past laws that targeted Japanese Americans during World War II, even when most were U.S.-born citizens. The urgency is underscored by Project 2025's broader intent to reshape national security policy with a disproportionate focus on China, while impacting Asian Americans domestically.

State Rep. Gene Wu has accepted our invitation to speak at the next APA Justice monthly meeting to be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, starting at 1:55 pm ET.

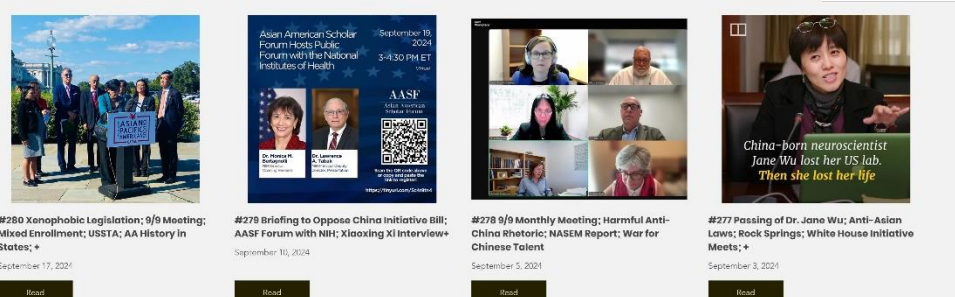
Watch State Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall: <https://bit.ly/4edgbDV> (50:44). Read his presentation: <https://bit.ly/3ZzweHR>

## APA Justice Newsletters Web Page Moving to New Website

**Newsletters**

APA Justice began publishing a free periodic newsletter about 4-7 times a month in July 2020. You can subscribe [here](#). Visit the [Virtual Library](#) to search the entire collection.

Filter by year: All



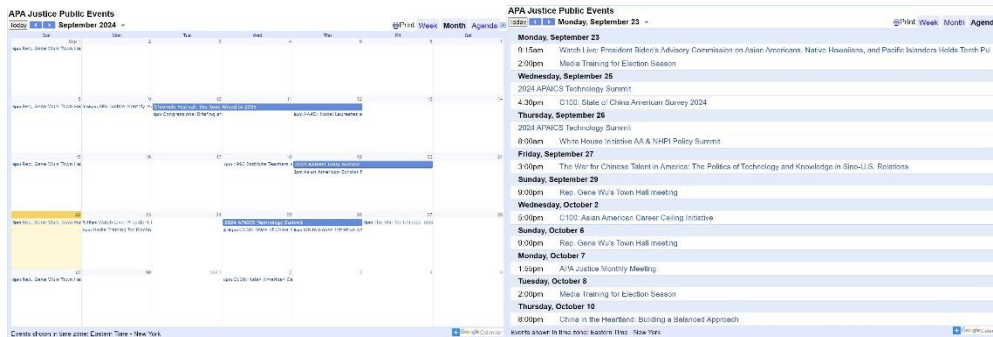
The screenshot displays a grid of four newsletter thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a representative image and a title with a date. Below each thumbnail is a 'Read' button.

- #280 Xenophobic Legislation; 9/9 Meeting; Mixed Enrollment; USSTA; AA History in States; +** (September 17, 2024)
- #278 Briefing to Oppose China Initiative Bill; AASF Forum with NIH; Xiaoxing Xi Interview+** (September 10, 2024)
- #278 9/9 Monthly Meeting; Harmful Anti-China Rhetoric; NASEM Report; War for Chinese Talent** (September 5, 2024)
- #277 Passing of Dr. Jane Wu; Anti-Asian Laws; Rock Springs; White House Initiative Meets; +** (September 3, 2024)

As part of its continuing migration to a new website under construction, we are moving the Newsletters webpage to <https://www.apajusticetaskforce.org/newsletters>. Content of the existing website will remain, but it will no longer be updated. We value your feedback about the new web page. Please send your comments to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).

## News and Activities for the Communities

### 1. APA Justice Community Calendar



#### Upcoming Events:

- 2024/09/23 Media Training for Election Season
- 2024/09/23 President's Advisory Commission on AANHPI Public Meeting
- 2024/09/25 C100: State of Chinese American Survey 2024
- 2024/09/25-26 APAICS Technology Summit
- 2024/09/26 White House Initiative AA& NHPI Policy Summit
- 2024/09/27 The War for Chinese Talent in America: The Politics of Technology and Knowledge in Sino-U.S. Relations
- 2024/09/29 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2024/10/02 C100: Asian American Career Ceiling Initiative
- 2024/10/06 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
- 2024/10/07 APA Justice Monthly Meeting
- 2024/10/08 Media Training for Election Season
- 2024/10/10 China in the Heartland: Building a Balanced Approach

The Community Calendar has moved. Visit <https://bit.ly/3XD61qV> for event details.

### 2. Committee of 100 Next Generation Leaders Program Class of 2025



**Press Releases**

**Applications For Committee of 100's Next Generation Leaders Program Class of 2025 Now Being Accepted**

**18th September 2024**

Committee of 100, a non-profit organization of prominent Chinese Americans, announced that applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Next Generation Leaders (NGL) class. The 2025 NGL class will be announced and spotlighted at Committee of 100's 2025 Conference & Gala, which will take place in Los Angeles in April 2025. Launched in 2014, Committee of 100's NGL program convenes an exceptional group of change-makers and rising leaders from diverse sectors, leveraging a collective sense of service and purpose to elevate the impact of each individual. Currently, there are over 200 NGL alumni across a multitude of sectors who make up a vibrant and diverse network.

Individuals who demonstrate a remarkable history of professional and personal excellence and are between 25-40 years old are encouraged to apply.

To apply for the Committee of 100 Next Generation Leaders Class of 2025, click [here](#).

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) can be found [here](#).

The deadline to submit applications is January 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

### **3. Incoming and Outgoing Executive Directors of WHIAANHPI**





**Helen Beaudreau** has been appointed as the incoming Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), succeeding **Krystal Ka'ai**, who held the position since May 2021.

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