

U.S. and China Relation Whether Will Be More or Less Intense

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Abstract: The President Election in the U. S. just ended. The new policy of Biden towards China has become a focal topic worldwide. Thus, this article will analyze both Trump and Biden's policy and make rational predictions on the tendency of the relation between the two largest economic entities in the world. Most importantly, a questionnaire will be spread to collect the perspectives of Chinese youth to make the research outcomes unique and valid.

1. Motivation

I come from a family that holds the conviction of diligence, inquiry and self-reflection. After my mother was injured in a car crash, our lives changed forever. I realized that disastrous incidents could happen instantly, and people may not have time to respond effectively. The same goes for international relations: things are changing quickly and often unpredictably. This statement is particularly true for U.S.- China relations. In this paper, I review U.S. China policy at the end of the Trump administration and China's approach to international relations under the Xi administration. Furthermore, I will speculate on Biden's China policy. Finally, a survey among Chinese youth about U.S.-China relations will be implemented because they will play a critical role and feel the most significant impact in the future.

2. Literature Review: Trump's policy and Xi's policy

In this section, I will lucubrate the issue of Chinese-U.S. relations by reviewing some influential works from American and Chinese scholars and officials. To begin with, during the Trump administration, the president mainly focused on economic aspects and ignored human rights. The issue of economic decoupling (the process of separating the two countries' intertwined economies and supply chains) has resurged in foreign policy circles as the U.S.-China relationship has become increasingly combative (Elis, 2020, p.1). However, a full decoupling was not possible to bring supply chains back to the United States. The process now is globalized. The modern U.S economy depended heavily on Asian manufacturing. This phenomenon is both deeply rooted and remarkably stable over time. During the time of global financial crisis in 2009, China became the assembly plant of the world and it was in charge of Asia's manufacturing exports to the United States. That pattern lasts for a decade till now (Huang and Smith, 2020).

President Biden, on the other hand, is inclined to resurrecting the Obama's foreign policy. His foreign policy team includes many people who worked for Obama, such as Anthony Blinken (State), Kurt Campbell (Defense) and Jake Sullivan (NSC), but China today is very different from China when Obama left office. John Kerry Climate gave his first major post-election foreign policy interview to NPR, arguing that the United States needed to put climate change cooperation at the forefront of U.S.-China relations (Elis, 2020, p.1). From China's perspective, Beijing has been engaging in "One Belt and Road" to strengthen the trade with other countries (Hali, Shukui and Iqbal, 2013, pp. 147-164). Meanwhile, President Xi is concerned with whether the Color Revolution will happen (Gadsden, 2016, pp.6-8), thus emphasizing the education reformation especially in places like Hongkong (Xili Dai, 2016, p.1).

Moreover, he launched a major anti-corruption campaign. (Gadsden, 2016, pp.6-8). While the Biden administration has just taken office and must deal with the Trump legacy, Xi Jinping has led China since 2012. Biden needs to address a number of issues that have been developing for many

years under Xi and have recently become more serious, such as: militarization of the South China Sea; military modernization; Xinjiang; Hong Kong; Taiwan; and human rights.

3. Possible policy of Biden and my anticipations

3.1 The first day of Biden's administration

In the first day of Biden's administration, there are 30 executive actions he has taken, the president halted the funding of building walls at the boarder of U.S and Mexico. Also, he withdrew the travel ban levied on Muslim countries. Besides, he established strong regulations to deal with the pandemic, such as mask mandate, vaccination supplies and proof of COVID-19 by travelers (Sullivan, Hickey, and O'Key, 2021).

3.2 To working on addressing the pandemic is the top priority for the new president

Biden and his colleagues have been working on their ambitious plan of delivering 100 million vaccines into arms by April 30 — a pace of about a million doses a day. To conquer the “dismal failure” caused by Trump's administration, the incoming team hinted it is difficult for the federal government to alleviate the logistical challenges faced by States and vaccine suppliers (Levin, 2021)

4. Other challenges that are solved or indecisive

(1) Paris Climate Agreement and foreign students' visa policy are the easiest things. After the inauguration, President Biden announced the U.S. plans to reenter the Paris climate accord. Rejoining the agreement is a significant step by the Biden administration to reverse the climate policies of the last four years. It enables the U.S. to send a signal, showing its eager to cooperate with its alliances and emphasize the leadership role by standing at the forefront of climate change (Kann, Atwood, 2021).

(2) Harvard University president Lawrence Bacow asked President Joe Biden to allow foreign students to return to the United States as soon as possible. While criticizing how the Trump administration's actions were disrespectful to immigration, the dean hopes President Biden to work on the Student Exchange Visa Program, and help students to study through distance (LaChance, 2021). However, the differences U.S and China keep them standing on the opposite sides. Regarding technology, economics and culture exchanges, the hardest things are remaining.

5. Security and balance issues

(1) Cyber Security: The views on cybersecurity between the United States and China are different at the basic ideological level. From America's perspective, the ideal Internet is an open, secure platform, free for all to enjoy. However, the Chinese government focuses on regulations of speech. Prompting the idea of cybersecurity sovereignty, the Chinese authority wants to be completely independent from other countries. As a dim glimmer of hope, in 2015, President of China, Xi Jinping, signed a cyber agreement that prohibits both countries from knowingly supporting cyber theft of intellectual property for the economic advantage of domestic companies while he was visiting the U.S.. Whether the president Biden is willing to put forward the agreement can decide if the U.S. and China relations on cybersecurity is maintained on the right track.

(2) Restoring Balance: The U.S. now is working on regrouping its allies, aiming to restore a balance of power with China, thus shoring up the international order in Asia. To be more specific, the U.S. ought to strengthen the capabilities of Indo-Pacific states to deter Chinese behavior, disperse U.S. forces across Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean, and deepen new military and intelligence partnerships between these regional states (Putz, 2021).

(3) Human rights in Xinjiang: Comparing to President Trump, who was not inclined to Muslim immigration, China and the United States will continue to struggle to reach an agreement on human rights in Xinjiang. After the U.S. embassy in Beijing claimed the mistreatment of Muslim minorities: Muslim minorities were forced to learn Han Chinese culture and taught Communist Party doctrine.

China foreign ministry said its China's own sovereignty to counter terrorism.

6. The Research Survey

I launched a survey for Chinese young adults to observe their view towards the future of U.S. and China relations. I hand out questionnaires via WeChat to my contacts to collect opinions from them. The questionnaire includes 5 demographic questions about the respondents' age, location, education and working status, and foreign study experience. More importantly, it includes 6 true or false questions on Biden's personal experience to study the respondents' curiosity towards the American President election and 8 multiple choice questions to research the respondents' attitude and anticipation towards the US and Chinese relation. Because of China's laws on surveys and time limitations, I could only reach a sample size of twenty four people, mostly fellow high school students. But it's capable to consider the research as a valid one with a handful of bias. Afterwards, I gather the data and draw a few pie charts based on the numbers of options to visualize the result. More importantly, the whole survey is kept anonymous to ensure the free expression environment for the participants. However, under coverage bias may also exist due to the centralized distribution of participants (all the fellow students are based in Shandong, while regional variation may influence the accuracy of the outcome). This bias can be eliminated with the further implementation of the research, because of the increasing diversity of respondents.

Due to the word limit of this paper, I will only present the outcomes of the multiple-choice questions analyzing people's attitude and anticipation towards U.S. and Chinese relation. To begin with, in the question "*Anticipation of Biden and his presidency: [from the most important to unimportant]*", no one choose the answer: U.S. and China will have wars. 4/24 believe U.S. and China will have a cold war. 12 people think that the relations between U.S and China will be improved, while 8 of them believe U.S. will still be the leader of the world. That is to say, but a half of people are optimistic towards the future relations between U.S. and China.

Furthermore, in the question "*Your predictions about how Taiwan problems can be solved? [choose 3 choices]*", 20 people think Taiwan problem will remain a frozen conflict. 12 believe that U.S. will not interfere militarily while 2 people disagree. Four people state that China needs to send out troops to Taiwan. None of them are concern the revolution in Hongkong in 2019 will spread to Taiwan, nor believe that Taiwan is an independent country.

7. Analysis and Outlook

From Chinese young adults' perspective, the relationship between China and the United States is closely related to the future. The Biden and Trump administrations' very different attitudes can even decide whether or not talents exchange, including study overseas, can continue, thus exerting a "butterfly effect" on the life, employment, work, family, almost all aspects of U.S. and China. President Trump was inclined to decouple economically, while President Biden is likely to have a more holistic perspective. Meanwhile, the paper analyzes the actions and reactions by President Xi from the perspective of China. Moreover, due to the time limit, I only have 30 samples now. However, by analyzing these samples, I find a rather different perspective from the scholars mentioned above. This deviation occurs mainly because I conduct this survey from the perspective of Chinese teenagers. They have a deep-rooted belief to guard China's sovereignty and the strong aspiration to make China a mightier nation due to their patriotic education.

As more and more young Chinese adults begin to engage in U.S. and China relations, they are confident about their country with more open-minded perspectives: hoping to alleviate the relations between U.S. and China and holding a cordial prospect of China's flourish. Therefore, the relation is likely to be improved. However, many discrepancies remain between the U.S. and China: in the survey, a few people insist that China must set out wars in order to end the territorial disputes with Taiwan. Thus, it's likely that the U.S. and China will be both a friend and foe, having a certain amount of cooperation while discrepancies remain.

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