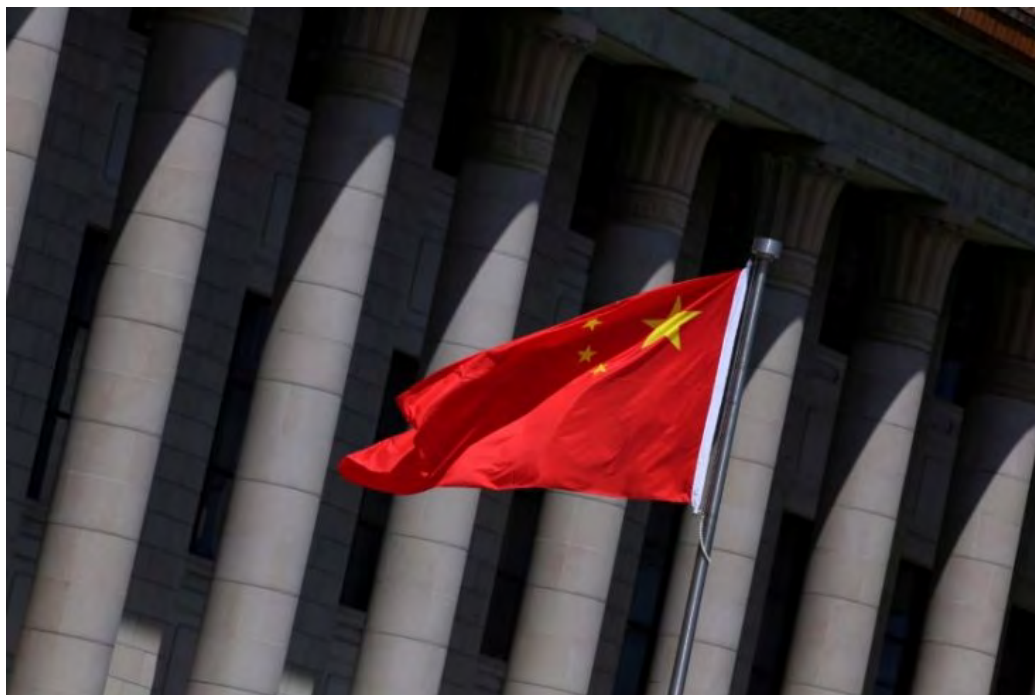


## *Latest News around us*

### ***Rockefellers Bankroll China-Based Nonprofits with Ties to Communist Government***

*Joe Schroffstall & Yuichiro - Reuters*



*A Rockefeller family nonprofit is sending millions in cash to China-based entities, many of which have strong ties to China's communist government.*

*The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) identifies China as a "pivotal place" for grant making opportunities. As part of their investments, the Rockefellers fund numerous environmental groups in the region that are linked to Chinese Communist Party members or bolster multibillion-dollar government initiatives that critics say are trapping countries in debt spirals.*

*"With innovative government policy, a vibrant marketplace, and growing public participation, China has the potential to lead the world in sustainable approaches to development," the group's 2019 tax forms state.*

*The RBF established its China-focused grant making program in 2005 to assist efforts "by engaging with and fostering collaborations among the government, business, civil society, and academia."*

*According to a review of the group's most recent [tax forms](#), RBF devoted \$750,000 to the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, which has a ["direct channel"](#) to China's State Council, the highest administrative authority of the Chinese government. It is [chaired](#) by high-ranking CCP official Han Zheng, the vice-premier of the State Council. In addition, the foundation donated \$100,000 each to the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Lancang-Mekong*

*Environmental Cooperation Center, both of which are controlled by the Chinese government.*

*The RBF has also awarded thousands of dollars to nonprofit groups that are led by Chinese Communist Party members and ex-government officials. Nearly \$400,000 went to the China Environmental Protection Foundation, a nominally independent nonprofit that is [spearheaded](#) by senior Chinese Communist Party members. The foundation also gave \$600,000 to the Guangdong Harmony Foundation, another [CCP-linked](#) nonprofit.*

*Other grant recipients carry water for the Chinese Communist Party even if they are not directly controlled by the government. China Youth Climate Action Network, which received \$200,000 from the RBF, hosts its flagship youth conference under the guidance of the Ministry of Ecology and the local Communist Youth League.*

*Still other recipients support the Chinese government's Belt and Road Initiative, a multibillion-dollar infrastructure project in developing countries. China Global Philanthropy Institute, Greenovation Hub, and China Dialogue Trust are all [linked to](#) the project and collectively received more than \$800,000 in RBF funds.*

*The Belt and Road Initiative has faced its fair share of controversy, including accusations that the infrastructure projects saddle developing countries with huge debts that leave them beholden to Chinese creditors.*

*Sri Lanka had to [give](#) up a port on its island to China after the former defaulted on its debt, giving China a crucial maritime base in the Indo-Pacific. Belt and Road projects have also caused environmental destruction that should be anathema to the green-minded Rockefeller Brothers Fund: Analysts [said](#) the projects have led to an "environmental disaster" in South East Asia, the region that receives the bulk of Belt and Road funding.*

*RBF did not respond to a request for comment on the China-based entities.*

***Organizations Linked to Chinese Military Are a Cash Cow for American Colleges Universities received \$88 million from CCP entities behind cyber attacks and espionage***

*Yuichiro & jack Beyrer*



Getty Images

*Chinese military-linked entities, including those behind extensive cyber attacks and espionage, funneled at least \$88 million into U.S. universities over the course of six years, according to a Washington Free Beacon review of federal records.*

*Some of America's most prestigious universities have cashed lucrative checks from Chinese institutions that directly threatened national security.*

*Duke University operates a joint-campus in China with Wuhan University, a public university that repeatedly [carried](#) out cyber attacks on behalf of the Chinese military.*

*Northwestern University and the University of California Irvine have together received more than \$4 million in research funding from an entity controlled by the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, a Chinese defense contractor that [used](#) stolen designs of American F-35 fighters to build planes for the Chinese military.*

*Institutions controlled by the Chinese government—state-owned enterprises, state-controlled public universities, government-controlled nonprofits, and other sources—collectively donated at least \$315 million to American colleges between 2014 and 2019. More than a quarter of the contributions—27 percent—came from either state-owned defense contractors or public universities that closely partner with the Chinese military to conduct defense research.*

*The expenditures indicate that the Chinese government is a much bigger player in U.S. academia than previously thought. State-backed entities often avoid scrutiny as their government ties are not immediately obvious. The \$315 million sum, based on federal disclosures, is likely a conservative estimate of Chinese influence peddling on campus.*

*A Department of Education audit found that U.S. universities failed to disclose more than \$6.5 billion in foreign funding from China and other countries in recent years. Ian Easton, the senior director for the Project 2049 Institute think tank, said that the Chinese donations to American universities could pose a grave threat to national security.*

*"It is imperative that the U.S. government dams up the torrent of CCP-linked money currently flowing into our education system. For U.S. national security, the implications of a continuation of the current arrangement are grave," Easton told the Free Beacon.*

*The Free Beacon combed through nearly 1,000 Chinese donations to U.S. universities logged in a Department of Education database, reviewing each donor to see whether it is formally owned or controlled by the Chinese government. The review found that 198 separate Chinese government entities funneled money to dozens of U.S. universities.*

*The biggest regime-backed donors were Chinese universities, which collectively donated more than \$192 million to U.S. colleges. These donations funded a wide variety of projects, but more than 40 percent of the money came from institutions that have been [identified](#) as close research partners of the Chinese military by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's China Defense Universities Tracker.*

*Some U.S. universities received research funding from a Chinese university with a history of stealing U.S. research. The University of Pennsylvania and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign collectively received more than \$28 million from Zhejiang University.*

*In 2013, the FBI [charged](#) a Chinese researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin for stealing U.S. cancer research to pass onto Zhejiang University.*

*None of the universities responded to requests for comment about their dealings with China.*

*Easton said that the Chinese military could easily exploit state-owned institutions to illicitly acquire American research knowledge. "The CCP's armed-wing, the People's Liberation Army, has access to any and all information collected by Chinese entities at American universities," he said.*

*"Xi Jinping's military-civil fusion strategy has removed even the thin cloak of plausible deniability Chinese companies and other civilian organizations previously could hide behind."*

*Several Chinese donors are also placed on various U.S. government ban lists. The University of Michigan has [received](#) \$1.3 million from Harbin Engineering University, an institution that the Treasury Department included on its ban list in 2020.*

*Zack Cooper, a China expert at the American Enterprise Institute, cautioned against considering all Chinese donations as nefarious, since the dataset provides few details on what the money is going toward. He said that while some donors likely do want to*

*acquire U.S. technologies for military purposes, others are likely motivated by more innocuous reasons.*

*"I'm sure there are some cases in which some of this money is going toward research that would be useful from a military or strategic standpoint. But also, I'm sure there's a lot that is just sort of public relations outreach," Cooper said.*

*"A lot of companies, globally, give money to many different causes."*

*U. S. policymakers in recent years have started to crack down on Chinese government attempts to gain clout in U.S. universities. In 2020, the FBI arrested several American researchers, including the chair of Harvard University's chemistry department, for concealing their research funding from the Chinese government-backed Thousand Talents Program. Congress also recently [passed](#) a bill to rein in the influence of the Chinese government-backed Confucius Institute.*

*"Americans must know how the CCP is poisoning the well of our higher education for its own ends, and how those actions degrade our freedoms and our national security," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a December speech.*

*"If we don't educate ourselves, we'll get schooled by Beijing."*

***Obama's Man in China Now Beijing's Man in Washington***  
*Yuichiro Katunami - National Security*

*Former ambassador Baucus appears regularly on Chinese propaganda outlets*



*Former U.S. ambassador to China Max Baucus / Getty Images*

*As the novel coronavirus wreaks havoc across the world, the Obama administration's ambassador to China has found a second lease on life as a pro-China talking head on regime propaganda outlets.*

*Former ambassador Max Baucus has given at least four different interviews to Chinese propaganda outlets in the last two weeks, repeatedly comparing the U.S. rhetoric about China to both the McCarthy era and Nazi Germany.*

*"Joe McCarthy [and] Adolf Hitler ... rallied people up, making people believe things that were really not true," Baucus said during a May 12 interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN), a regime mouthpiece.*

*"The White House and some in Congress are making statements against China that are so over the top and so hypercritical, they are based not on the fact, or if they are based on fact, sheer demagoguery, and that's what McCarthy did in the 1950s."*

*Since his retirement in 2017, Baucus has been a reliable critic of the Trump administration's increasingly confrontational China policy—chiefly the decision to wage a trade war with Beijing.*

*He once warned that the White House's decision to impose additional tariffs was a "slap on the face" to China. But Baucus's recent comments in the pandemic era have been more sympathetic to China—and critical of the United States—than ever before.*

*His post-retirement public statements praising China have coincided with his burgeoning overseas investments. In 2017, he founded the Baucus Group, a consulting firm that advises both American and Chinese businesses, according to his U.S. Chamber of Commerce [biography](#).*

*He also sits on the board of directors for Ingram Micro, a U.S. subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned conglomerate, as well as the board of advisers for Alibaba Group, one of China's largest tech companies.*

*Walter Lohman, director of the Asian Studies Center at the Heritage Foundation, said that it was "inappropriate" for a former ambassador to speak ill about his own government on a foreign propaganda outlet.*

*"It's like going to China and ... talking about your own government that way in meetings. I think that would be pretty inappropriate," Lohman said.*

*"So it would be inappropriate speaking on state media."*

*Baucus's public statements have received considerable attention from Beijing's propaganda outlets. When the former ambassador compared President Donald Trump's criticism of China to rhetoric used by Adolf Hitler and Joe McCarthy during a May 6 interview with CNN, Chinese propaganda outlets quickly amplified Baucus's comments about how Trump was "a little bit like Hitler in the '30s" and that Americans were worried about "getting their heads chopped off" if they voice their disagreement with the U.S. government's China policy.*

Xinhua News Agency, a state-owned outlet, extensively [cited](#) Baucus's attacks in a May 8 article, using it as evidence that the Trump administration is attempting to "deflect criticisms about their blunders by blaming China." The article was syndicated in party-controlled mouthpieces such as Global Times and People's Daily, [according](#) to the Investigative Research Center.

Baucus then appeared on CGTN on May 12 to double down on his Hitler and McCarthy comparison, blaming the Trump administration for flaming "sheer demagoguery."

"[The current U.S. rhetoric] is somewhat reminiscent, nowhere close to that yet, somewhat reminiscent of the McCarthy era and somewhat reminiscent of Germany in the 1930s," he told CGTN.

The former ambassador also gave an exclusive interview to Global Times on May 14, where he [said](#) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's claim that the virus may have originated in a Wuhan laboratory "makes no sense" and [accused](#) both Democrats and Republicans of being tough on China to score political points in an election year.

Baucus again [appeared](#) on CGTN on May 15, where he claimed that America is "sliding toward a form of McCarthyism" because the Trump administration is pressuring policymakers to be tough on China.

The former ambassador did [another](#) CGTN media hit on May 16, this time appearing alongside his wife Melodee Hanes, who blamed the presidential election for making dialogue "difficult."

"There are a lot of pretty smart people in the United States who are not speaking up. People in office, moderates, especially moderates on the Republican side," Baucus said on May 15.

"They are afraid to speak up, they are intimidated, intimidated by President Trump. And it's kind of sliding toward a form of McCarthyism—how it is politically incorrect to speak the truth, speak the truth to power."

When the Washington Free Beacon called the phone number listed for Baucus's home address, no one answered. A lawyer representing Baucus Group, the ambassador's consulting firm, also did not respond to a request for comment.

While Baucus rarely enjoyed this much attention from Chinese state media outlets after his retirement, this is not the first time he has spoken to Chinese media outlets in recent years.

Baucus also gave an exclusive interview to People's Daily in March 2018, [criticizing](#) U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods as the "wrong policy" and "too confrontational." He has also [spoken](#) at events backed by the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation, a registered foreign agent of the Chinese government [according](#) to a 2018 congressional report.

*Lohman, the Heritage Foundation expert, said that while Baucus has the right to appear on any domestic and foreign outlets, he should not have addressed a propaganda outlet with the same degree of candidness that he did with CNN.*

*"I think he must have gotten wrapped up in the media performances because when you shift from CNN to Global Times or CGTN, you've gone to an entirely new level," he said.*

*"And there I think you just have to express yourself differently. It's not an appropriate place to air political differences."*

### ***Lincoln Project Schlub Lounges on Mansion Patio, Compares Self to WW2 Soldiers, Civil Rights Heroes***

*Andrew Stiles - Politics*



*The Lincoln Project is a [Democratic-aligned](#) super PAC founded by schlubby white dudes with inflated egos and an unhealthy internet addiction. Despite raking in millions of dollars from wealthy libs in 2020, the group's efforts to unseat incumbent GOP senators were [not successful](#).*

*Lincoln Project co-founders such as Steve Schmidt, the former Republican strategist whose [most notable achievement](#) was persuading John McCain to choose Sarah Palin as his running mate in 2008, believe they are on the front lines of a noble crusade to defend American democracy.*

*Schmidt, a multimillionaire, regularly appears on MSNBC to attack Republicans from the comfort of his gaudy mansion. During one such appearance on the left-wing network, Schmidt went so far as to compare the Lincoln Project's efforts to annoy Donald Trump and elect Democrat politicians to those of the actual heroes who*



*risked their lives during the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War II, and the civil-rights movement.*

*"The side that is for democracy in this country needs to be prepared to use the First Amendment as our sword and our shield to prosecute on the battlefield of ideas the supremacy, the righteousness, the goodness of American democracy," Schmidt said.*

*"Thirteen generations of American patriots have made blood sacrifices, from Lexington to Concord, to Gettysburg and Antietam, to Normandy to the Edmund Pettus Bridge" in Selma, Alabama.*

*Speaking of the Civil War, Schmidt's colleague at the Lincoln Project, Rick Wilson, previously published [photos](#) of a Confederate-flag cooler while hanging out on his boat but continues to rake in millions from the super PAC. That's odd, given the group's ostensible dedication to liberal "wokeness," as evidenced by their decision to fire video editor Ben Howe for posting curse words on Twitter.*

*The Lincoln Project's determination to [name and shame](#) individuals who worked for Donald Trump is also odd, given that one of its co-founders, George Conway, is married to Kellyanne Conway, who served as Trump's senior counselor from 2017 to 2020.*

*Schmidt's efforts to preserve American democracy include trying to [forge an alliance](#) with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D., N.Y.), the former waitress and left-wing celebrity who has accurately assessed the Lincoln Project as a "scam."*

*He wanted AOC to know that the overpaid, schlubby white dudes at the Lincoln Project "don't look down on waitresses. We admire them. We are all the types of guys who always tip at 50% or more."*

*God bless this patriot.*



*God bless this hero.*



***Biden Restores Deleted Donor List After Criticism***

*Collin Anderson - Politics*

*President-elect expected to announce key ambassadorships in coming weeks*



*Getty Images*

*President-elect Joe Biden restored a page on his website that lists top campaign bundlers following criticism from conservative groups, only for the website to crash on Wednesday afternoon.*

*Biden recently [pulled](#) a list of individuals who raised at least \$100,000 for his campaign from his site, with the URL showing an error message and prompting users to purchase Biden-branded merchandise as of Tuesday afternoon. After conservative groups such as America Rising [criticized](#) the decision, however, the list was [restored](#), again disclosing the more than 800 individuals who raised six figures for the Democrat's presidential bid. The website briefly crashed Wednesday as the Biden team scrambled to update the list.*

*The move comes as Biden is expected to announce key ambassador picks in the near future. Top bundlers nominated for ambassadorships could face scrutiny in the Senate—while such positions have historically been awarded to high-dollar donors, progressive Democrats have condemned the practice in recent years.*

*Senators Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) and Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) promised not to give ambassadorships to wealthy donors during the Democratic presidential primary, with Warren calling the routine "Washington corruption at its worst" and asking "every candidate" in the race to take the same pledge.*

*Biden stopped short of accepting Warren's challenge but claimed that his nominees would be the "best people" for the job regardless of their financial support.*

*"Nobody, in fact, will be appointed by me based on anything they contributed," Biden said in December 2019.*

*Biden has already awarded White House positions to a number of top campaign bundlers, including labor secretary nominee Marty Walsh, Health and Human Services secretary nominee Xavier Becerra, and secretary of the interior nominee Rep. Deb Haaland (D., N.M.), all of whom raised at least \$100,000 for Biden's campaign.*

*Multiple individuals rumored to be favorites for ambassadorships in the Biden administration—such as former congressman Steve Israel, Disney executive Bob Iger, and Miami real estate developer Michael Adler—also funneled six figures to the Delaware Democrat's campaign.*

*The Biden transition team did not respond to a request for comment on the decision to remove and later restore the bundler list, which can be viewed [here](#).*

*[Collin Anderson - Politics](#)*

***Biden Pick For Civil Rights Chief Promoted Racism and Anti-Semitism at Harvard***

Kevin Daley



*Kristen Clarke / YouTube Screenshot*

*Kristen Clarke, President-elect Joe Biden's pick to lead the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, advanced pseudoscientific theories of black racial superiority and organized an event with a notorious anti-Semite as a student at Harvard University.*

*Clarke and a coauthor outlined "the genetic differences between Blacks and whites" in [a 1994 letter](#) to the editors of Harvard's student newspaper, which criticized the political scientist Charles Murray's book *The Bell Curve*.*

*The genetic difference they identify, varying levels of melanin between whites and blacks, accounts for disparate cognitive abilities, physical power, and even spirituality, the pair said. The so-called melanin theory has no basis in science.*

*"Melanin endows Blacks with greater mental, physical and spiritual abilities, something which cannot be measured based on Eurocentric standards," they wrote.*

*Clarke's remarks will ignite a white-hot confirmation battle in the Senate at a time of heightened racial tension. Though the incendiary statements are more than 25 years old, several of President Donald Trump's judicial nominees were grilled over comparatively tamer items they wrote as college students, prompting public apologies and even a withdrawal.*

*If confirmed, Clarke would shape federal litigation strategies and lead enforcement of the nation's civil-rights statutes. Tucker Carlson Tonight was the first to report on her writings.*

Clarke also [came in for criticism](#) from Jewish students after she invited the anti-Semitic academic Tony Martin to campus in her capacity as president of the Black Students Association.

Martin, then a professor of Africana studies at Wellesley College, promoted false theories implicating a Jewish cabal in the global slave trade and self-published a book called *The Jewish Onslaught* just one year before visiting Harvard at Clarke's request. A majority of Martin's faculty colleagues condemned the book as anti-Semitic, according to [a 2001 column](#) in the *Boston Globe*.

"Professor Martin is an intelligent, well-versed Black intellectual who bases his information of [sic] indisputable fact," Clarke said in response to critics of Martin's visit.

Though the views Clarke advanced at Harvard might be excused as harmless dorm-room radicalism, senators from both parties were hard on Trump nominees who made milder remarks as college students.

Ryan Bounds was one such nominee. He was slated for a seat on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals until a left-wing advocacy group circulated a series of opinion columns he wrote about race-based student groups and campus multicultural initiatives as a student at Stanford.

In one piece, Bounds mocked diversity events as "feel-good ethnic hoedowns." In another, he said the school's "strident racial factions" employed tactics similar to those of the Nazis. He apologized for those and other statements during his confirmation hearing, calling them overheated and disrespectful.

Sens. Tim Scott (R., S.C.) and Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) nonetheless joined with Democrats and opposed Bounds on a procedural vote, citing Bounds's undergraduate writings and their belated disclosure to lawmakers. The White House withdrew Bounds's nomination in July 2018.

Judge Neomi Rao's 2019 nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit was likewise endangered over an op-ed she wrote about alcohol and sexual assault.

As an undergraduate at Yale, Rao argued that women bear some complicity for date rape.

"A woman, like a man, decides when and how much to drink," she wrote.

"And if she drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice. Implying that a drunk woman has no control over her actions, but a drunk man does, strips women of all moral responsibility."

The article seriously imperiled Rao's nomination. At the time, Sen. Joni Ernst (R., Iowa) had only just revealed that she was sexually assaulted in college. Ernst said the column gave her pause, and she met privately with Rao to smooth the issue over.

*Ernst's concerns came as Sen. Josh Hawley (R., Mo.) suggested he would oppose Rao, citing legal scholarship Rao produced hinting at a liberal bent on social issues.*

*Justice Clarence Thomas, a Rao mentor, ultimately helped salvage the nomination. The justice spoke privately with Hawley and Scott about Rao, who clerked in his chambers in 2001. She was confirmed in March 2019.*

*The Biden transition office did not respond to requests for comment about Clarke.*

### ***Biden Labor Secretary Pick Funneled \$1.2 Million Into Girlfriend's Consulting Firm***

*Joe Schoffstall - Politics*



*Getty Images*

*Boston mayor Marty Walsh (D.), President-elect Joe Biden's pick for labor secretary, funneled nearly \$1.2 million into a consulting firm that employs his longtime girlfriend.*

*Walsh's mayoral campaign pushed the payments to LB Strategies, where his live-in girlfriend, Lorrie Higgins, works as a fundraising consultant. The firm received the cash through a contract that allows it to compensate its employees with the money.*

*From 2013 to March 2019, Walsh's campaign sent a total of \$888,750 to the firm, the [Boston Globe](#) reported. A review of state campaign finance [records](#) shows that since the time of the [Globe's](#) 2019 report and December 2020, LB Strategies received*

*an additional \$280,100 for fundraising consulting work, bringing its total windfall to more than \$1.16 million.*

*The timing of the contract and Higgins's hiring [drew](#) accusations of nepotism, which could spark concerns about Walsh having decision-making power over business issues as head of the Labor Department. While legal, the payments raised eyebrows over LB Strategies' small size and Walsh's girlfriend being one of only three individuals working at the firm at the time.*

*In fact, Higgins was brought on board shortly after Walsh's campaign began dishing out cash for the firm's services. Higgins joined the group in March 2014, just two months after Walsh's campaign agreed to \$5,000 monthly payments. The agreement allowed the firm to pay newly hired staff. Newer records show that the payments have since ballooned to \$14,650 per month.*

*It is unclear how many individuals LB Strategies employs today. The firm has a scarce online presence and no website. Massachusetts [corporation records](#) show that Laurie Bosio carries multiple positions with the firm, including acting as the group's president, treasurer, secretary, and director.*

*Higgins and Bosio [are](#) two of only four people [to list](#) LB Strategies as their employer on LinkedIn. Walsh's campaign did not respond to an inquiry. LB Strategies could not be reached for comment.*

*Biden announced Walsh as his labor secretary pick last Friday. "I look forward to working with you to deliver good jobs with dignity, security, with prosperity and purpose to all American families," Walsh said.*

*Walsh, a former [top](#) union leader, gathered together more than \$100,000 for Biden's campaign and affiliated committees. Fox News [reports](#) that at least eight individuals who bundled six figures' worth of donations for Biden will be appointed or nominated to senior White House roles.*

*Biden recently pulled a page on his website that showed campaign bundlers who collected at least \$100,000 to fuel his presidential efforts, including Walsh. The list has [since been restored](#) after its deletion sparked criticism from groups such as America Rising.*

*The Biden transition team did not respond to a request for comment.*

***U.S. Commission Says China Possibly Committed Genocide Against Xinjiang Muslims***

*David Brunnstrom - Reuters*



*Chinese paramilitary police patrol on a street in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang region / Getty Images*

*WASHINGTON (Reuters) – China has possibly committed "genocide" in its treatment of Uighurs and other minority Muslims in its western region of Xinjiang, a bipartisan commission of the U.S. Congress said in a report released on Thursday.*

*The Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) said new evidence had emerged in the past year that "crimes against humanity – and possibly genocide – are occurring."*

*The CECC also accused China of harassing Uighurs in the United States. China has been widely condemned for setting up complexes in Xinjiang that it describes as "vocational training centers" to stamp out extremism and give people new skills and which others have called concentration camps.*

*The United Nations says at least 1 million Uighurs and other Muslims have been detained in Xinjiang. Faith leaders, activist groups and others have said crimes against humanity, including genocide, are taking place there. Beijing denies abuse accusations.*

*The CECC report called for a formal U.S. "determination on whether atrocities are being committed" in Xinjiang, and such a determination is required within 90 days of U.S. legislation passed on Dec. 27.*

*Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in his final days in office before President-elect Joe Biden succeeds President Donald Trump on Jan. 20, has already been weighing a determination, although given current turmoil in Washington, officials have played down the possibility of an announcement before that.*



*CECC co-chair, Democratic Representative Jim McGovern, called China's actions to crush human rights in the past year "shocking and unprecedented" and urged Congress and the incoming Biden administration to hold Beijing accountable.*

*"The United States must continue to stand with the people of China in their struggle and lead the world in a united and coordinated response to the human rights abuses of the Chinese government," he said.*

*Relations between the world's two biggest economic powerhouses have plunged to the lowest level in recent years over disagreements on issues including human rights, the coronavirus pandemic, trade, espionage and a sweeping national security law imposed on Hong Kong.*

*Experts say a genocide determination would be an enormous embarrassment for China, the world's second-largest economy and a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.*

*It could also pose problems for Biden by complicating his dealings with Beijing, although his campaign had already declared, before the November election, that genocide was occurring in Xinjiang.*

*In October, Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, said Beijing was perpetrating "something close to" genocide in Xinjiang and other officials have referred to concentration camps there.*

*Under international law, crimes against humanity are defined as widespread and systematic, whereas the burden of proof for genocide – the intent to destroy part of a population – can be more difficult to prove.*

*Expectations that Pompeo might declare genocide were raised in June when he labeled as "shocking" and "disturbing" reports that China was using forced sterilization, forced abortion and coercive family planning against Muslims.*

*He was referring to a report last year about the situation in Xinjiang by German researcher Adrian Zenz, which the CECC report also cited.*

*Zenz said his findings represented the strongest evidence yet that Beijing's Xinjiang policies met one of the criteria cited in the U.N. genocide convention, namely "imposing measures intended to prevent births within the (targeted) group."*

*A U.S. genocide declaration would mean that countries would have to think hard about allowing companies to do business with Xinjiang, a leading global supplier of cotton. It would also raise pressure for further U.S. sanctions against China.*

*On Wednesday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the United States was imposing a region-wide ban on all cotton and tomato products from Xinjiang over allegations that they are made with forced labor by detained Uighurs.*

*(Reporting by David Brunnstrom; Additional reporting by Humeyra Pamuk; Editing by Michelle Nichols and Nick Macfie)*

## ***GOP Leaders Press State Department to Designate China's Treatment of Uighurs as Genocide***

*Adam Kredo*



*Getty Images*

*Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee are pressing the State Department to formally designate China's suppression of its Uighur minority population as a genocide, according to a copy of the congressional communication obtained by the Washington Free Beacon.*

*Reps. Jim Banks (R., Ind.) and Joe Wilson (R., S.C.) say that mounting evidence indicates the Chinese government is committing genocide by forcing the country's Uighur Muslim minority into concentration camps and using them as slave labor. The State Department is currently examining whether to classify China's actions as genocide.*

*"The CCP has engaged in a systematic and widespread campaign of violence, torture, detention, forced sterilization, and enslavement of the Uighur Muslim people in [China's Xinjiang province]," the lawmakers wrote, according to a copy of the [letter](#) sent Wednesday to the State Department.*

*"Its actions reflect an intent to destroy, whether in whole or in part, this population."*

*With its final days in office, the Trump administration could escalate tensions with Beijing by labeling its treatment of the Uighurs as genocide, a label that is rarely applied to global human rights situations and could compel U.S. intervention.*

*Activist groups and lawmakers from both parties have pressed the outgoing administration to move forward with the designation for months, citing evidence that*

*China is forcing the vulnerable population into work camps and worse, including reports of torture and forced abortions.*

*Incoming president Joe Biden [described](#) the genocidal situation while on the campaign trail and could instruct his State Department to pick up the deliberations if President Donald Trump's team fails to act.*

*"Our next move must be to condemn the CCP's treatment of Muslims in Xinjiang as genocide, because that's the word that accurately describes what has been going on there," Banks, the Republican Study Committee chairman, told the Free Beacon.*

*"If the world turns a blind eye to what's going on in Xinjiang, it will embolden the CCP to do it again somewhere else."*

*The issue has received bipartisan attention, with a group of senators from both parties introducing [legislation](#) late last year designating China's treatment of Uighurs as genocide. Banks and Wilson are just the latest lawmakers to raise the issue and press for greater action.*

*The United States has only applied the genocide label twice in its history, most recently in 2016 when the Obama administration classified ISIS as committing genocide against Christians, Yazidis, and Shia Muslims in the Middle East. The designation in China's case would likely spark a wholesale rethinking about the U.S. economic relationship with the country.*

*Public reporting indicates that as many as one million Uighurs are imprisoned in labor camps and forced to work in Chinese factories, claims that have been elevated by senior members of the Trump administration, including National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, who [accused](#) China in 2019 of operating "concentration camps."*

*Banks and Wilson maintain there is more than enough evidence for the State Department to move forward with a genocide classification, arguing China "has deliberately killed, tortured, detained, and inflicted harm against the Uighur people and created conditions calculated to bring about the destruction of the Uighurs in whole or in part."*

*The letter also notes a 2019 New York Times [report](#) outlining official Communist Party declarations to systematically target the Uighur community. This includes CCP government documents issuing orders to "break [Uighurs'] lineage, break their roots, break their connections, and break their origins."*

*Human rights groups have claimed that Uighur women are subject to forced sterilization and often have their children taken away from them and placed into labor camps.*

*China has "imposed measures intended to prevent births in the Uighur community, forcibly transferred the children of the people outside of the community, and actively worked to systematically destroy the Uighur culture and religion," Banks and Wilson wrote.*

*Wilson, chair of the House RSC's National Security and Foreign Affairs Task Force, told the Free Beacon, "It is time that we call out the CCP for what it really is: a genocidal organization that will stop at nothing to wipe out the Uighur population."*

*As it contemplates a genocide label, the United States is taking steps to restrict the importation of products produced in the Xinjiang region. On Wednesday, Customs and Border Protection put into place a policy to detain cotton and tomato products produced in the region with Uighur labor.*

*The United States "will prevent goods made by forced labor from entering our country, and we demand the Chinese close their camps and stop their human rights violations," acting homeland security deputy secretary Ken Cuccinelli said in a statement.*

*A spokesman said the State Department would not discuss internal deliberations on potential policy decisions. The spokesman, however, said officials are "deeply concerned" about China's "appalling campaign of repression in Xinjiang against Uighurs and members of other predominantly Muslim minority groups."*

*The U.S. government will continue efforts to hold human rights violators in the country accountable and "impose costs on the individuals and entities that enable abuses," the official said.*

[\*Adam Kredo\*](#)