



### [The United States and China Engage in Tense High-Level Talks](#)

During this past week, officials from the United States and China engaged in tense high-level talks which ended in a stalemate. Diplomats from the two countries discussed what each saw as the issues that need to be addressed, and the actions that they would like to see from the other. The U.S. expressed that its policy towards China is a complex one which enables it to work with them in some areas, while still confronting the ruling government on other matters as well. China, however, conveyed its dismay with this and made it clear that collaboration is an all-or-nothing proposition. This latest round of talks comes after strong condemnation of China by the U.S. for repeated cyberattacks. In addition to this, there are several major points of contention and factors behind the recent escalation in tensions. The U.S. has ramped up its criticism on serious human rights concerns within China such as the regime's repressive behavior in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, while China has focused its attention on American sanctions, visa denials, extradition requests, and company suppression, and demanded that the U.S. not interfere with what they deem to be "internal affairs."

The United States originally sought closer ties with China during the Cold War era in an effort to add a counterweight to the threat posed by Russia. However, since that time, the leverage that the U.S. has held over China has decreased significantly and China in turn has gained more power on the global stage. As a result, the U.S. has found it more difficult to achieve its desired goals for cooperation with China while still calling out the regime for multiple human rights violations. In fact, China has reacted angrily to the United States expressing concern over the genocide and forced labor of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang. The U.S. has also passed sanctions for the anti-democratic crackdowns in Hong Kong and condemned media suppression. Furthermore, the U.S. has been very vocal over Chinese cyberattacks and the Taiwan issue.

China views the policies enacted by the U.S. to be an aggressive attempt to contain and hinder Chinese influence. The ruling government continues to claim that the U.S. has made China out to be an imaginary enemy, and has initiated the contention between the two nations. In the recent round of talks, China openly discussed the problem that they have with U.S. policies such as sanctions on its communist party members, the denial of student visas, requesting the extradition of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, and the suppression of Chinese companies. They also contend that the U.S. is being hypocritical regarding human rights abuses, stating that the United States' treatment of the Native Americans leaves little room for criticism. Lastly, Chinese government officials argue that the U.S. is breaking its own customs within international law and is the sole inventor of coercive diplomacy.

Ultimately, rising tensions combined with the increasing interdependence of the two nations makes it extremely hard for either to attain positive progress on the various issues of contention. As such, the talks this past week ended in a stalemate and any dialogue in the near future is likely to continue in that direction barring a major shift in the balance of power dynamics between the United States and China.