

DEVELOPMENT AND DIPLOMACY: ESSENTIAL TO AMERICA'S COUNTER-CHINA STRATEGY

- From the State Department and USAID to our nation's other development agencies, **America's diplomatic and development programs and resources are powerful tools in our strategy to compete with China.**
- China sees opportunity in an unstable world and has greatly **increased its investments in development and diplomacy to capture relationships, influence, markets, and access to critical supply chains** – often in a manner detrimental to America's strategic interests. Over the last ten years of available data, China's investments in development finance and aid increased by more than 430%.
- **China has overtaken the U.S. as the #1 trading partner with countries around the world.** In 2000, the U.S. was the top trading partner for 80% of countries. In 2018, China became the top trading partner to 67% of countries with the U.S. as top partner to only about 30% of countries.
- As of 2021, the **People's Republic of China had overtaken the United States with its diplomatic footprint**, not only in the number of embassies and consulates globally, but also in missions to multilateral and international organizations, according to the Lowy Institute's Global Diplomacy Index.

Bipartisan Members of Congress Agree:

- **Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).** “America's national security and economic competition with the CCP is a defining challenge for our country. And not just us, but for all our friends and partners around the world; anyone who values an international order built on freedom and self-determination instead of their opposites.”
- **Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA).** “Keeping our country safe and competitive is not just about defense spending. Keeping our country safe means investing in diplomacy and development to counter political and economic coercion, to promote stability, to stand up to autocrats, to support our allies, and advance our global leadership instead of ceding ground to the governments of China and Russia.”

- **Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Jim Risch (R-ID).** “The American people need a State Department that is fully capable of advancing interests and values of all Americans, and this will only increase in the future as China becomes a greater and greater challenge for us. Now, we should all remember that that is the first challenge that we have, even though we have other things going on like the Ukraine War, which are very important to us. But we can do more than one thing at a time. China's still the challenge of the century.”
- **Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jack Reed (D-RI).** “Successfully addressing the multi-dimensional challenges posed by China requires a strategic, whole-of-government effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance legislation that boosts U.S. technology, innovation, trade, diplomacy, and more. These are force multipliers for the Department of Defense and help keep our country safe, deter aggression, and protect American interests around the world.”
- **House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX).** “Both the USAID and the Development Finance Corporation play key roles in developing lasting partnerships and long-term development and trade with other countries. Every day we should make sure people around the world know that our aid is not the debt trap diplomacy that the CCP uses to exploit developing countries.”
- **House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Gregory Meeks (D-NY).** “An effective China strategy is one that invests in and that leverages our strengths, and one which does not exaggerate the threats we face. A smart strategy is not simply about responding to Chinese actions or provocations. It is one where the United States leads by representing a positive agenda and a vision for the rest of the World... Our alliances and partnerships are our superpower and something Beijing cannot replicate.”
- **House Select Committee on China Chairman Mike Gallagher (R-WI).** “Part of the committee’s work is going to be reminding people that we’re the good guys. We have to believe in the self-evident superiority of the values of the free world... I believe our foreign policy is stronger when it rests on a bipartisan foundation... I think more than anything, the CCP fears us actually mustering a bipartisan, whole of government response to their aggression.”
- **Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).** “We have an important opportunity to seize the momentum in Congress to further bolster our domestic supply chain, strengthen trade and investment overseas, drive innovation and build tomorrow’s technology workforce, empower U.S. companies to compete more effectively and cement our relationships with partners and allies to better respond to the Xi regime’s threats. We must act on these priorities today to maintain U.S. global leadership tomorrow.”
- **Representative Young Kim (R-CA).** “As we see growing aggression from China and North Korea, America's partnerships with our allies in the Indo-Pacific are more important than ever.”