



Federal Bureau of Investigation Counterintelligence Division

(U) The Counterintelligence Threat Posed by the People's Republic of China

(U//FOUO) The Government of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) strategic goals include becoming a comprehensive national power, creating innovation-driven economic growth, and modernizing its military. It aspires to equal or surpass the United States as a global superpower and influence the world with a value system shaped by undemocratic, authoritarian ideals and actions. Using a whole-of-government approach to achieve these goals, the PRC exploits every opportunity – financial, technological, educational, and diplomatic – afforded by our country's free and open society to develop and maintain a strategic edge.

(U//FOUO) The execution of the PRC's grand strategy is unfolding with profound negative consequences to the United States and other like-minded nations. The PRC's aggressive actions undermine our democracy and threaten the individual freedoms afforded to everyone in the United States.

(U//FOUO) To effectively counter the PRC, the FBI must clearly message and demonstrate how we protect the American people from the PRC's illicit activities. At every opportunity, the FBI will demonstrate zero tolerance for threats to our national security and will leverage every available tool to investigate and hold those who violate our laws accountable.

(U//FOUO) The FBI will protect the cornerstones of our society from systematic attack by the PRC, consistent with the FBI's mission to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States:

(U) Fundamental Human Rights

(U//FOUO) All persons in the United States have fundamental rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution regardless of race, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, disabilities, sexual orientation, or gender identity. As it gains power, the PRC is becoming more aggressive and less constrained by individual or other nations' rights. No longer content to limit its repression of dissent to within its own borders, the PRC routinely targets, threatens, and harasses US-based Tibetans and Uyghurs, Falun Gong members, Taiwan and Hong Kong pro-democracy advocates, and any others who question the legitimacy or authority of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The PRC violates US sovereignty, laws, and the individual rights and freedoms of US persons and uses its economic power and access to its economy as leverage to silence critics of its authoritarian practices.

(U) Democratic Norms

(U//FOUO) The PRC seeks to undermine our democratic processes and institutions at all levels of government. Relationships which may begin as seemingly overt and grounded in shared interests, are sometimes leveraged in ways that take advantage of and undermine some of our most cherished freedoms. China seeks to use these seemingly benign relationships and engagements to push their own policy objectives covertly, while hiding the fact that Beijing is behind the request or narrative. The PRC also holds officials and businesses hostage to positions that are in line with the PRC's best interests, primarily through coercive economic practices. The PRC will also go so far as to engage in outright criminal activity, violating US federal law regarding campaign finance, for example, in an attempt to corrupt our democratic processes.

(U) Economic Security

(U//FOUO) The United States' economic and national security are inextricably linked. Our academic institutions, research enterprises, and private sector drive the US economy and are the envy of the world. They are also targets. The PRC is engaged in a well-resourced and systematic campaign to steal our intellectual property, compromise the integrity of our academic institutions, and put our companies out of business in pursuit of the "innovation-driven" economic growth highlighted in their Five Year and Made in China 2025 strategic plans. The PRC does not abide by the concept of a free and fair market. Their economic strategies subvert the open international system championed by the United States, and put all US businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

(U) The Rule of Law

(U//FOUO) The United States' and the PRC's concepts of Rule of Law are in conflict. The PRC doesn't abide by rule of law, but rather rule by law – law not as a tool to advance fairness and justice, but to compel behavior beneficial to the party and punish those who run counter to PRC interests. The PRC brazenly violates well-established norms regarding sovereignty and the rule of law in pursuit of those it has accused of alleged crimes against the regime. Simultaneously, the PRC seeks to undermine our impartial judicial system and weaponize its own courts against US businesses and individuals.