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CHINA INSIDER



MUSK'S STARLINK ATHREAT TO CHINA?

Children in China Diagnosed With Diabetes After Getting Chinese COVID-19 Vaccines

ears would well up in kindergartner's eyes whenever he saw other children snacking—a luxury to the boy ever since he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in

The diagnosis came a month and a half after the boy got his second dose of a Chinese-produced CO-VID-19 vaccine.

Puncture marks can be found all over every finger of both of the boy's hands due to the constant finger-pricking needed to monitor his blood sugar level, according to his father. He gets four doses of insulin every day, and every meal is weighed and measured for carbs.

The boy is one of 600 to 1,000 Chinese children who were diagnosed

CoronaVac

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SARS-CoV-2 antigen of 600 SU.

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SINOVAC LIFE SCIENCES CO., U

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Each dose (0.5 mL) contains

the cohort. Beijing ushered a nationwide campaign in late October to inoculate children aged 3 the 5-year-old Chinese to 11—the age range of most of the diabetic patients.

On May 31, the eve of International Children's Day, the parents wrote an open letter pleading for public attention.

"We initially didn't link it with vaccines, but thinking back and forth, our children didn't have any change in lifestyle or diet, the only change was getting the vaccine, and they got symptoms after the vaccination," they wrote in the letter, which was first published on a site managed by Wei Boxing, a Chinese health care activist.

The letter had more than 300,000 views and 800 comments as of June 11, with many of the commenters being anxious parents who said they had a similar exwith Type 1 diabetes between last perience. They left their phone October and May, according to an numbers and asked to be added open letter signed by parents in to a group on Chinese social media

Asserting that 'COVID-19 vaccines have nothing to do with leukemia and type 1 diabetes' without careful medical analysis is irresponsible.

Dong Yuhong, former senior medical expert,

COVID-19

A March Lancet patients found that those infected with the virus were diabetes.

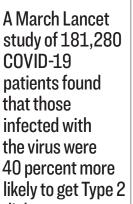
A vial of the

CoronaVac vaccine,

Sinovac firm, in

developed by China's

Bangkok on Feb. 24,





WeChat that included people who said they or a family member had experienced severe side effects after taking Chinese-produced COVID-19 vaccines.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system attacks itself and destroys beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin, which regulates blood sugar levels. It usually develops in children and young adults, especially among those around 13 or 14 years old, although it can appear at any age, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Genes and exposure to viruses and other environmental factors can trigger the disease.

after hundreds of parents alleged that the COVID-19 vaccines caused their children to develop leukemia. Many of those diagnosed with leukemia are between the age of 3 and 11.

The parents of newly diagnosed diabetic children said they initially started a group on WeChat to share treatment tips. They started two more groups after the membership of the first group grew to 500 members, the maximum size allowed for a WeChat group.

Lost Childhood

The 5-year-old boy had his first vaccine dose arranged by his kindergarten on Nov. 5, followed by a second dose one month later. He started experiencing increased thirst and frequent urination beginning on Jan. 15, his father said.

Being denied small pleasures he and his peers once took for granted is hard to reconcile, especially on June 1, International Children's Day, when all the kindergarteners were celebrating by enjoying a buffet.

"He cried so hard because we were always taking him home to eat," the boy's father, Wang Bin (a pseudonym), told The Epoch Times the next day from the port city of Ningbo in Zhejiang Province. To console their son, Wang's wife bought him chicken wings and cake for dinner.

Afterward, the boy's blood glucose levels shot up to 306 mg/dL, a dangerous level that they were told could have left him in a coma. The mother, who quit her job fol-

lowing her son's diagnosis, hurriedly gave the boy an insulin shot. She anxiously monitored his blood sugar level, and barely closed her eyes throughout the night.

Wang, a delivery driver, thought about buying a glucose monitor to minimize his son's ordeals, but the cost—450 yuan (\$67) every half-month—was too much for the family, given that Wang is the

only breadwinner and they have car loans and a mortgage.

"Each time a new member joins [the WeChat group], our heart would skip a beat," the parents wrote. "Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong disease. Our children have lost the joys of childhood and youth. They have become a group of patients.'

'Coincidental'

Wei, the health care activist, said on his website that he has received information on more than 300 diabetic cases, in which symptoms appeared after taking homegrown Chinese vaccines.

Most of them, he said, are linked to Sinopharm and Sinovac, two The parents' letter came months of the largest Chinese COVID-19 vaccine makers, while a handful of the patients got a vaccine from Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, which has been also approved for use in Colombia, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan. The first two are inactivated vaccines, meaning they contain copies of a killed virus to stimulate the immune system, while the latter is a protein subunit vaccine, which is made with isolated viral proteins. Among the samples that Wei analyzed, about two-thirds were

> in the 3 to 12 age group. Chinese authorities didn't confirm or deny whether certain side effects may have resulted from the vaccine.

"We are still in the process of understanding irregular vaccine reactions and its diagnosis. This requires us to constantly improve," said Wang Huaqing, a chief expert leading the national immunization program at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, at a press conference in late May. He said that any suspected vaccine-related side effects should be reported to health authorities, and a multidisciplinary group of experts would probe the

cases before giving an opinion. Even after official assurances, local immunization authorities have uniformly been dismissing parents' concerns, telling them, evaluation reports, that the diabetes was "coincidental" or "unrelated" to the vaccines, they said in the letter. Parents whose children were diagnosed with leukemia after inoculation said they were told the same by officials.

"Honestly, we don't think local governments should rush to such conclusions," the diabetic children's parents wrote. "Medical development is a result of clinical studies. Since our children have Type 1 diabetes after a vaccine injection, and they belong to a certain group, even if no prior evidence indicates the two are Gu Xiaohua contributed to this linked, what happened to them

should receive serious attention." Dong Yuhong, who previously worked as a senior medical expert for antiviral drug development at the Swiss-based drugmaker Novartis, also objected to the blanket dismissal by authorities. "Asserting that 'COVID-19 vac-

cines have nothing to do with leukemia and Type 1 diabetes' without careful medical analysis is irresponsible," Dong, currently a chief scientific officer for a Swiss biotech company, told The Epoch Times. The problem with such pronouncements, she said, is that they're "too absolute."

Dong noted that clinical and case studies warn of possible heart inin "almost identically worded" flammation from mRNA and protein-based COVID-19 vaccines, and all flag a risk of acute hepatitis from mRNA vaccines. Both of these are autoimmune conditions that the vaccine's spike protein appears to be responsible for, she said.

By the same analogy, "in theory, the vaccine could trigger an immune response targeting the insulin-producing beta cells," she said. "This is not impossible."

That could apply to any kind of COVID-19 vaccine, she added, including mRNA, inactivated, and protein-based vaccines.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

A technician works in a lab at Sinovac Biotech in Beijing on Sept. 24, 2020.



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Week 24, 2022 THE EPOCH TIMES

US-China Battle for Space Supremacy Heats Up

Commercial space technologies will define race for military innovation

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE

In the ever-expanding arms race between communist China and the United States, few domains of competition are as high stakes as that of space.

Satellite architecture is required for everything from GPS to bank transactions to missile defense systems. As such, it's no surprise that both nations are investing heavily in their militaries' space and counterspace capabilities.

What is often overlooked in this race, however, is just how each nation intends

Indeed, over the past decade, China's and the United States' visions for the future of space have increasingly diverged, and the means through which each nation seeks to leverage its native space industry has evolved with those visions.

In China, a growing statist architecture is designed to organize and direct space industry as one part of the whole of society, in unison with the communist whole. The United States, meanwhile, is betting big on American corporations to innovate a new answer to secure peace in the final frontier.

What is certain is that the relationship between these two states and their respective space industries will determine the character of their militaries, and of war, for decades to come.

To understand that, however, it's necessary to first understand just what the competition is about, and how it got here.

The State of US-China Space Competition

Commercial and military competition between China and the United States has been accelerating for years as relations between the two nations have plummeted. Perhaps nowhere is this more true than in the space domain, which is critical to military and civilian technologies the world over.

The Pentagon is currently seeking to reduce uncertainty in space operations even as China is developing weapons to

ing a comprehensive arsenal of space weapons, a stance apparently vindicated by recent comments from the Space Force's Lt. Gen. Michael Guetlein and Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall.

Guetlein said that the United States must act to develop capacities to defend itself in space, while Kendall said more specifically that the United States needs to develop new, offensive space weapons to defend itself.

Likewise, a 2020 report by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) found that China's ruling communist regime was implementing a long-term plan to systematically steal U.S. technologies in order to accelerate its own space-bound military

"The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is executing a long-term strategy to exploit U.S. technology, talent, and capital to build up its military space and counterspace programs and advance its strategic interests at the expense of the United States," the report stated.

"China's zero-sum pursuit of space superiority harms U.S. economic competitiveness, weakens U.S. military advantages, and undermines strategic stability. In short, it represents a threat to U.S. national security."

Much of the current Sino-American space rivalry stems from the fact that the United States and China don't collaborate on space development or space exploration. Since Congress passed the Wolf Amendment in 2011, NASA has been explicitly barred from cooperating with China on such issues.

Defense and security experts have said that China's space program is a direct military threat to the United States. The Wolf Amendment was part of a larger effort to ban the unwanted transfer of technologies to China from the United

The intention of the amendment was ostensibly to block the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from U.S. technology in order to limit its rapid technological as-

Government|s| are getting to feed off all of that private industry, investment, and advances, and creating much more capability for nations.

Peter Beck, CEO, Rocket Lab



All of this has created an imminent demand for next-generation space technologies in both China and the United States. Whether those technologies are rockets, image processing, weather data collection, broadband communications, or something else entirely, the militaries of each nation are in a rush to acquire and field them before the other can.

To be sure, the CCP is currently behind in this race. The United States has about 2,700 satellites in orbit, while China currently has fewer than 500. Much of that satellite infrastructure is dated, however, and terribly prone to attacks that could cause cascading failures across a plethora of systems.

"When a single U.S. communications satellite broke down in 1998, it was not only television and messaging systems that failed," wrote James Black, a senior analyst for the Rand Europe think tank. "Credit card systems stopped processing payments, weather radars went blind, and frustrated drivers found themselves unable to fuel their vehicles as automatic petrol station pumps seized up." As such, the No. 1 driving factor in

assessing the weakness or strength of space-based systems is currently its resiliency as measured by the size of its satellite clusters. To this end, China and the United States are looking to the growing commercial space industry for scalable, affordable answers as to how they might get as many satellites up and running as quickly as possible.

SpaceX, for example, operates about 2,000 satellites, four times as many as the CCP. Moreover, its signature Starlink satellite constellation has already demonstrated itself capable of withstanding foreign military attacks in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Likewise, a state-owned Chinese telecommunications company has announced plans to put 10,000 microsatellites in orbit by 2030.

What these companies are creating, then, and how governments can leverage it, is the central issue at the heart of the new space race, and will determine the success or failure of national and military strategies in the decades

The methods that China and the

United States are developing to leverage such technologies, however, are very, very different.

The New Statism: China's Answer to Development

While the Chinese space industry is managed by a complex array of military and civil organizations, the vast majority of the program is either directly organized or indirectly guided by the CCP's military wing, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), and specifically its Strategic Support Force (PLASSF), headquartered in Xi'an in western China.

In addition to space, the PLASSF oversees the integration of the CCP's cyber, electronic, and psychological warfare capabilities, and has consistently sought to leverage all of these domains together in pursuit of China's strategic goal of space dominance.

The PLA's two primary entities for developing the space program are the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. (CASC) and China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. (CASIC), which used to be a single entity but were split up to promote com-

CASC carries out most of the CCP's research and overseas launches for the PLA, while CASIC develops all of China's

Meanwhile, there are a growing number of private space companies in China, which are driving much of the CCP's space innovation.

Those companies, however, largely receive their directives on what to develop from the PLA and its associated entities such as CASC and CASIC, which funnel monies and milestone goals to companies in order to meet the Party's strategic

In this manner, according to one report by the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank, China's state-owned enterprises are simultaneously separated from the innovation of private industry while also directing it. That's because the PLA, as the primary end-user of space technology, manages the research and development programs for weapons and space systems while coordinating with the civilian defense community.

A separate report by the USCC noted that "Beijing consistently invests high levels of funding and political will to its space program, which has driven its steady progress in achieving important milestones.'

"In this role, Beijing aspires to lead international space-related innovation and exploration and establish an advanced system of infrastructure to serve its space sector." In this way, the CCP's model for space

development is a form of statism not unsurprising to a communist nation, in which the innovation of private companies are commanded which direction to go and their labor is subsumed for the state good.

For the United States, a New Commercialism

To many, the CCP's model for space development might appear as merely a heavy-handed version of the U.S. military's traditional acquisition process, in which the defense bureaucracy lethargically invests increasingly large sums into a few dedicated defense corporations for custom technologies.

The United States is moving away from that model, however, and pursuing instead a commercial-first approach to tech development for its space-based assets.

While the United States has traditionally favored long and costly contracts for bespoke projects, it is now shifting its strategy, and opting to buy commercial-first technologies including satellites for analytics, broadband, imaging, and data collection.

Indeed, it is the hope of the U.S. Space Force to co-opt readily available, and cost friendly, commercial space technologies for all its endeavors except so-called "no fail" missions such as missile defense.

Thus, even as the CCP appears to be taking a page from the United States' old playbook in leveraging the state to purchase from a directed commercial sector, the United States is prioritizing the purchase of dual-use technologies that already serve a commercial market and are not entirely dependent on government funding.

According to the U.S. Space Strategy, the Pentagon "will leverage and bolster a thriving domestic civil and commercial space industry" to combat the Chinese challenges to "freedom of operation in space."

U.S. Space Command considers this

acquisition-through-collaboration approach to be necessary in an age of ever-evolving and ever-expanding space technologies which, if the government had to fund from scratch, would be out of date by the time they became operable.

and diversity, resulting in new forms of commercial capabilities and services that leverage commoditized, off-theshelf technologies and lower barriers for market entry," the strategy said. "These developments are contribut-

"Commercial space activities have expanded significantly in both volume

AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ing to a burgeoning space industry driven by entrepreneurial innovation and investment, advanced technology, decreased costs, and increased demand for space-based services. The [Pentagon] has an opportunity to leverage innovation and cost-effective investments driven by the private sector, presenting opportunities for collaboration to develop game-changing capabilities with a more streamlined and responsive acquisition process."

As such, the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on strategic forces agreed on June 8 that commercial off-the-shelf technologies would be central to the U.S. space strategy, and that the military would play the role of setting standards for Western satellite and launch vehicle interfaces in order to ensure that the military could use technology from any company it purchased from.

A 'Gold Rush' for Space Manufacturing

This strategic need for commercial innovation may make the Pentagon much more dependent on the genius behind individual businesses, but has also led to something of a manufacturing boom among up-and-coming space companies in the United States, which are now seeking to have their products picked up for use by the U.S. military.

Peter Beck, CEO of aerospace manufacturing company Rocket Lab, said that there's a veritable "gold rush" among space companies to get assets on orbit to rake in lucrative government sales and contracts. "Government[s] are getting to feed off

all of that private industry, investment,

and advances, and creating much more capability for nations," he said. "I grew up and it was only NASA that did amazing things. Now, commercial

companies are doing amazing things and it's not a rarified event." During a speech to the U.S. Chamber

of Commerce, Beck said the push to put commercial technologies at the forefront of government initiatives was democratizing space by allowing publicly traded companies to lead the innovation that would improve and protect the nation.

What's more is that the initiative is already bearing some fruit.

China's Tiangong 2 space

lab is launched on a Long

March-2F rocket from the

Jiuquan Satellite Launch

Center in the Gobi Desert,

Gansu Province, China, on

Beijing consistently

invests high levels

political will to its

which has driven its

steady progress in

achieving important

space program,

milestones.

Commission

U.S.-China Economic

and Security Review

The United States has

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Sept.15, 2016.

While government agencies such as NASA has repeatedly struggled to compete with China in a new race to the moon, and even failed to create space suits on budget, private industry in the United States has soared to new heights.

Rocket Lab alone, for example, is planning unmanned missions to the moon, Mars, and Venus. And the industry is expected to reach \$1.4 trillion in value by 2030.

To be sure, Beck said, those strides wouldn't be possible without coordination and funding from the government, and particularly from the Defense Intelligence Agency and NASA. But in choosing to nurture industrial talent rather than develop from scratch, the United States has improved capacity.

Space in the Age of Technospheres The heated efforts to accelerate and

secure military and civil technologies, both in space and otherwise, are driving the United States and China to develop distinct and mutually unintelligible technologies, according to a new report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a securityfocused think tank.

The decoupling of digital innovation, systems, and data flows between Western nations and China, the increased statism of the CCP and standardized corporate leadership of the United States, are compounding the trends that have been in place since the Wolf Amendment in 2011, and creating two very different and rival technospheres.

"The overall geopolitical rivalry between China and the West makes it unlikely that technology decoupling will decrease," the report states. "Both see technology as a method to promote their respective worldviews while seeing each other's efforts as focused on national security competition."

What is left to be seen is how a centrally planned and authoritarian space architecture and an open and freely created one differ, and how they compete.

Andrew Thornebrooke is a reporter for The Epoch Times covering China-related issues with a focus on defense, military affairs, and national security. He holds a master's in military history from Norwich



The Nasa Mission Control Center at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston on July 21, 2019.

ANNA ROSE LAYDEN-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Elon Musk's Starlink Makes China 'Very Scared': Space Expert

One problem, expert says, is that China and Musk both see space as a strategic domain-but the US doesn't

GARY BAI

As Americans try out the newest Starlink dishes on their recreational vehicles, a space expert says Elon Musk's Starlink makes the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) "nervous," as the SpaceX satellite internet business is the "only" player in the field now when it comes to the United States' strategic space race with China.

"It is important to understand that Elon Musk's SpaceX company is the only thing keeping the U.S. in the space race with China," Brandon Weichert, space expert and author of "Winning Space: How America Remains a Superpower," told The Epoch Times in an interview in late May.

Weichert said Starlink, now "possibly a vital component of warmaking," is making America's rivals "nervous," even as Musk is under a two-fold "attack" by the White House and the military es-

Starlink, a satellite internet constellation operated by Musk's spacecraft company SpaceX, currently consists of over 2,400 satellites that orbit the earth at an altitude more than 60 times lower than the satellites that carry most of the world's internet today.

CCP Is 'Nervous'

The reason U.S. adversaries are nervous about Starlink, according to Weichert, is that the satellite system is resistant to mass-scale attacks U.S. adversaries are currently capable of and thus makes "destroying" America's space infrastructure much more difficult than before.

"Starlink is a great example of a private-sector profit motive providing a key example of how the military's vital-yet-vulnerable satellite constellations can be protected," Weichert said.

"The strength of Starlink is its redundancy. So basically, we saw | **altitude more** last summer, a solar flare knocked | than 60 times out something like 20—or maybe it was even 40—Starlink satellites, and Musk didn't even bat an eye. Within a day, those systems were | carry most of replaced because they're small and they're cheap."

As Weichert details in his book, Russia and China previously had the capability to prevent the U.S. military from accessing communication networks by attacking U.S. satellites, for example by using electromagnetic pulse attacks.

"Russia and China are both are threatened by this capability because they know how the Americans could use that to an advantage," he said. "And that is why those two countries are livid right now and trying desperately to figure out countermeasures to maintain what they think is their advantage, with counter-space capabilities, the ability to deny the Americans use of space in the event of a conflict."

He said one sign indicating that the CCP is threatened by Starlink is that the CCP complained to the United Nations that the Chinese Space Station "Tiangong" had to maneuver to avoid a collision with Starlink satellites in two separate



The SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket sits on launch pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Feb. 5, 2018.

Starlink

currently

consists of over

2,400 satellites

that orbit the

lower than the

satellites that

internet today.

the world's

earth at an

were screaming about how Elon Musk's—one of his Starlink satelnew modular space station, which of course was an over-exaggeration ... but they were tipping their Sole Player in Space Race hand by telling us that they're very scared of this new communication system." Weichert said.

The U.S. refuted the CCP's claims in a responding note verbale. SpaceX issued a statement acknowledging the encounter and saying it monitors its satellites' flight trajectory to maintain a safe distance from Tiangong.

The expert said Starlink has cyber-defense capabilities that seemed impressive even to defense specialists at the Pentagon.

"Pentagon's electronic warfare specialist was witnessing in realtime Starlink operators at SpaceX defend the Starlink satellite onboard system from the Russian cyber attacks, ceaseless cyber attack," Weichert said, quoting Dave Tremper, the Pentagon's director of electronic warfare, who told Breaking Defense that SpaceX's capabilities are "eye-watering" to him. Therefore, if China's military at-

tempted a cyber-attack on Starlink's onboard operating systems, lites—almost collided with their Weichert says, it "would be in for a very rude awakening."

Weichert says SpaceX is now the "only thing keeping the U.S. in the space race with China," yet it's forced to maneuver through institutional forces within the United

"The problem now is our own government seems to not recognize or care much for the fact that SpaceX is the only property right now that's keeping America in the new space race, keeping us competitive," Weichert said. "NASA is asleep at the switch and Space Force can't figure out what it wants to do.

"Meanwhile, American leaders, for the most part, are not envisioning space as a strategic domain. China does. Musk does."

The reasons for this lack of action, Weichert said, include a glaring disagreement in political ideology between Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, and the White House.

SpaceX "is also under a lot of political pressure because of Elon

PABLO COZZAGLIO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



"China came out and they An antenna for receiving Starlink satellite internet at the John F. Kennedy school in Sotomo, Chile, on Aug. 8, 2021.

Musk's political stances, particularly recently. Elon Musk is not a friend of the Biden administration," Weichert said, adding that this disagreement has "put a giant target" on Musk's back.

Musk's recent criticism of the Biden administration and the Democratic Party has stirred up controversy in the political world. The billionaire suggested that Biden wasn't the "real" U.S. president and called the Democratic Party the party of "division" and

"They started now going after Musk. They're going to go after him with a regulatory issue over the purchase of Twitter: not because of anything wrong, just because he's a political rival," Weichert said. "So the problem now is not the Chinese or the Russians."

Another key reason behind America's stagnation in the space race, Weichert said, is a cartel-like military establishment who are "nowhere near as innovative these days as SpaceX."

"What you have now is basically a cartel of a handful of very powerful defense contractors who don't really care about creating weapons systems that are both efficient, that are time-friendly, in terms of development, and that are cheaper than what they are right now," he said.

"And so SpaceX undermines that old cartel approach to the defense industry. That's why Musk is hated. That's why he's under attack from the bureaucracy plus all the political attacks in the Biden adminis-

Weichert suggests that America adopt SpaceX's innovative model of using networks of easily replaceable satellites to make America's space infrastructure more resilient to space-directed attacks in wartime scenarios.

"Whether it's SpaceX getting the contract to do this or another firm, they've got to replicate that SpaceX model. That's the key," Weichert

U.S. Space Force officials didn't respond by press time to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

ANALYSIS

THE EPOCH TIMES Week 24, 2022

Rubio Ratchets Up Campaign to Bar Federal Worker Investments From Going to Chinese Firms

MARK TAPSCOTT

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) isn't letting up in his campaign of pressuring Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) officials against investing the savings of members of the U.S. military and civilian workforce in Chinese firms.

In an exclusive release to The Epoch Times late on June 13, Rubio made public a hard-hitting, fact-filled, 3 1/2-minute YouTube video titled "Are You Retiring in China?" Produced by his staff, it makes the case that such investments only benefit the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which controls the increasingly aggressive and hostile regime in Beijing led by

"We know these Chinese companies do not play by the rules. There is absolutely no reason the retirement savings of servicemembers and federal employees should be funding companies working with the Chinese government and military," Rubio told The Epoch Times.

The FRTIB and its Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a vehicle established by a 1984 reform proposed by President Ronald Reagan to convert the federal career civil service's main retirement program from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution approach, such as those then being widely adopted in the corporate world.

Billions of dollars have since been invested by federal workers in the TSP, making it a potentially lucrative target for sellers of indexed investment tools made up of multiple countries from a wide variety of industries.

Rubio's new video comes despite his June 2 success while working with Republican Senate colleagues in gaining a promise from President Joe Biden's four nominees to the FRTIB that they wouldn't approve any investment of military or government employee thrift savings in Chinese firms.

A Rubio aide also pointed to a recent Financial Times report that observed, "For Xi, funding China's transformation into a global centre of high-tech innovation is central to national defense. In a speech published last year in the country's top journal of Communist party theory, he warned that 'only by grasping key core technologies in our own hands can we fundamentally guarantee national economic security, national defense security and other securities."

In the video, Rubio is shown in segments from multiple speeches on the Senate floor, in media interviews, and in public addresses explaining that sending the retirement savings of soldiers and civil servants to Chinese firms only strengthens America's most dangerous international adversary.

"It is a fact that when you are doing business with a Chinese company, you are ultimately doing business with the Chinese Communist Party," Rubio tells a business association in one segment.

In another clip from a Senate floor speech, Rubio tells colleagues, "Federal employees, including members of the House and Senate, your retirement dollars are helping capitalize companies that are actively trying to put American industry out of business forever."

In a third segment, Rubio says, "This is not a political game, it has nothing to do with that, it's not about politics. Do we not understand where we are headed? You have a country that is actively saying 'We are going to displace you, we are going to be the most powerful country in the



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) speaks during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies hearing on Capitol Hill on May 17, 2022.

world, and we are going to do that at your

Rubio has from the start been fighting the move to allow such investments, which began in 2015 under President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe

Last month, Rubio, joined by Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio), warned FRTIB Acting Chairman David Jones that the board shouldn't implement its proposed new Mutual Fund Window, which would enable investments in multiple Chinese firms, as well as firms based in other countries that represent serious national security problems for the United States. Also warning the FRTIB at the same time was a bipartisan duo from the House: Rep. Greg Murphy (R-N.C.) and Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.).

"U.S. service-members and other federal employees would likely be shocked to learn that the FRTIB is unaware of which companies make up these approved funds or what risk those companies pose," the

senators wrote in a May 24 letter. "They do not want their retirement dollars to underwrite the development of the CCP's advanced weapons systems and military modernization. They do not want to be implicated in sponsoring genocide of the Uyghur people, equipping concentration camps, and trafficking in forced labor. "They do not want to invest in an opaque mutual fund platform in which Chinese companies do not adhere to federal securities laws or submit to adequate disclosure requirements. When they invest through TSP, they rightly expect the FRTIB will protect them and their investments from

these types of dangerous investments." In response to Rubio and the other members of Congress, the four Biden nominees agreed to oppose such investments.

"We agree that it is unfitting for Americans to invest in companies from China or elsewhere that undermine U.S. national security," the nominees told Rubio, Cotton, and Tuberville in a June 2 letter. "Congress provided the authority to the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to ban any American from making such investments.

"We fully support OFAC's ability to exercise its authority and we commit that any company banned by OFAC, whether based in China or elsewhere, would not be included in any TSP fund."

The four Biden nominees are Dana Bilyeu, Leona Bridges, Michael Gerber, and Stacie Olivares. If confirmed by the Senate, the nominees will join the five-member FRTIB. Rubio, who had previously put a hold on the nominations, said on June 2 that he's now removed his hold so the Senate can complete its consideration.



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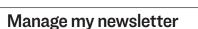


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