

3 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2021: CHINA

1 Managing Bilateral Relations in the Biden-Xi Era

Between 2017 and 2020, the Chinese government grew more repressive at home and assertive internationally, while a bipartisan consensus emerged in Washington that China had become the United States' greatest security challenge. President Biden must stabilize and manage US-China competition, an electorate wary of globalization, and a Congress committed to enmity with the PRC.

2 Global US-China Relations

US-China competition will play out over decades on every continent, at both poles, in cyberspace, and in outer space. For the nationals of Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, managing Sino-US rivalry is a primary foreign policy challenge.

3 Ideas, Discourse, & Sino-US Soft Power

Chinese scholars acknowledge their government's "obsession" with developing soft power and discursive power as central elements in China's global competition with the United States. China remains committed to using its culture, universities, media, public diplomacy, and provision of public goods to win acceptance of its foreign policy goals and legitimize the practices of the Chinese Communist Party.