



21ST CENTURY CHINA CENTER

2020 NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS



AN ESSENTIAL FORUM ON REBUILDING BILATERAL RELATIONS

The 21st Century China Center held the second **China Forum** in La Jolla from Jan. 29 – Feb. 2, just before the world entered lockdown from COVID-19. The bipartisan forum included more than 60 participants, some of whom may join the incoming Biden administration. The China Forum offered a candid and forward-thinking discussion on China's internal politics, global relations, and the intensifying competition with the U.S. on trade, technology and talent. We also held a virtual forum during the summer on how the pandemic is worsening U.S.-China relations along multiple fronts of tensions, from 5G to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

ADAPTING TO A VIRTUAL HUB

As we transitioned from on-campus events to webinars in 2020, we were able to help a wider audience to understand China as it recovers from the pandemic and pursues its ambitions on the global stage. In the spirit of building that knowledge, we dispatched a **new bulletin, China 360°**, curating original analyses from our experts and researchers. Because we are living in historic times, we also launched the **China Throughlines** webcast series, featuring conversations with historians on the echos and connectedness of China's storied past to current events.



Economist and investor **Weijian Shan** shares his odyssey of living through Mao's China to become one of Asia's most successful investors in the 9th So Kwan Lok Distinguished Lecture on China on **March 9, 2020**.

Former student **Deborah Seligson** joins a GPS faculty panel on the first of the COVID-19 Global Impact webinars to discuss whether the pandemic will further aggravate U.S.-China tensions or open a new moment for global cooperation on **April 9, 2020**.



New York Times reporters **Chris Buckley** and **Steven Lee Myers** discuss their last reporting trips before being expelled from China, and the escalating battle of limiting journalist access on **June 11, 2020**.



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SUPPORT

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Sign up for the new China 360° email bulletin to receive policy reports, expert interviews, data visualizations and media analysis to illuminate the complex and multidimensional developments in China.

DEEP RESEARCH AND TEACHING THE MOMENT

The [China Data Lab](#) continues to explore new frontiers of data-based research and train students in the use of analytic tools for studying China. Its series of surveys, under the title “China From the Ground Up,” has published several rounds of preliminary results. Professor Victor Shih’s Chinese elites database has gone interactive with [snazzy visualizations](#).

To understand how China is managing the pandemic, we have curated [teaching resources](#) from research, reporting and multimedia analysis.

Thanks to a generous gift from alumnus Wayne Rong, the [Ichimore Student Research Award](#) has funded two projects by UC San Diego graduate students, with a new round of awards coming up in 2021.

TOWARDS A NEW U.S.-CHINA POLICY

Members of the [Task Force on U.S.-China Policy](#) and the [China Forum](#) responded swiftly as the pandemic ravaged the globe, issuing an urgent call by a bipartisan group of signatories for [Saving Lives in America, China, and Around the World](#) on April 3, 2020. The effort was jointly organized with Asia Society’s Center on U.S.-China Relations.

After a year of deliberation and study by a bipartisan working group chaired by Dean Peter Cowhey, we published a policy report titled [“Meeting the China Challenge: A New American Strategy for Technology Competition”](#) on Nov. 16, 2020 with specific recommendations on fundamental research, 5G, AI and biotechnology.

