Turbulent Times for Chinese Americans

Setting the Context

2023 Committee of 100 Annual Conference
San Jose, California

Jeremy Wu, Ph.D.
Founder, APA Justice; Member, Committee of 100

May 5, 2023
This Is Not New - Turbulent Times Never Ended

Chinese Exclusion Act

Nicknames
Enacted by Effective
Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
the 47th United Statee Congreee
May 6, 1882

House Passes Resolution of Regret for Chinese Exclusion Act
06/19/2012

Internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII

FACEIm: President Ronald Reagan’s apology for the US internment of Japanese Americans during World War II - ABC7 Los Angeles

Qian Xuesen

Qian and his family aboard SS President Cleveland before his departure from Los Angeles, 1955

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05/05/2023
In 1982, the horrific baseball bat beating death of Vincent Chin on the eve of his bachelor party, and the miscarriage of justice that allowed his two white killers to be freed without spending a night in jail, ignited the modern Asian American civil rights movement and built a multiracial, multicultural coalition united for equal justice and human dignity which stands as a landmark of American history.

In 2022, 40 years later, the lessons of building solidarity and unity to obtain justice for Vincent Chin brings people together to counter division and hate, and inspire older and younger generations to link arms to work for positive change.
Start of Current Turbulent Times

2001/09/11

Balbir Singh Sodhi
First murder victim after 9/11

Section 702 Amendment to Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)
In 2008

Used by the government to conduct warrantless surveillance of international communications, including those of Americans.

RACIAL PROFILING AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

After 9/11, Muslims and people of Arab and South Asian descent became targets of government practices that result in racial profiling.
May 21, 2015

Accused of Spying for China, Until She Wasn’t

Sherry Chen, a hydrologist for the federal government in Ohio, was arrested last October and accused of economic espionage. Afterward, she said, “I did nothing but cry for days.” Maddie McGarvey for The New York Times

Temple professor is Chinese spy: Justice Dept.

By Nicole Perlroth
May 9, 2015
APA Justice was created in the Fall of 2015. Steven Pei, Vincent Wang, and Jeremy Wu are co-organizers.

The “China Initiative”

11/01/2018 Launched
12/02/2021 MIT Technology Review reports
02/23/2022 Ended

Cases charged under the China Initiative by year

- Other
- Import/export
- Corruption
- Agent of a foreign government
- Espionage and agent of a foreign government
- Espionage
- Hacking
- Hacking and theft of trade secrets
- Theft of trade secrets
- Economic espionage and theft of trade secrets
- Research integrity and theft of trade secrets
- Research integrity

After Missteps, U.S. Tightens Rules for Espionage Cases

We built a database to understand the China Initiative. Then the government changed its records.

Our months-long investigation revealed a major DOJ effort troubled by shifting narratives and a lack of focus. Here’s how we got the facts.

By Eileen Guo, Jess Aloe, & Karen Hao

December 2, 2021
"China Initiative" Cases
Sorted by alphabetical order of last name; click on link to visit individual web page.

Case #45 Simen Saw-Teong Ang (洪思恩)
Case #58 Baimadajie Angwang (昂旺)
Case #74 Gang Chen (陈刚)
Case #20-02 Li Chen (under development)
Case #52 Zherdong Cheng (程正东)
Case #53 Lei Cuan (关磊)
Case #36 Anming Hu (胡安明)
Case #XX Haihou Hu (胡海润)
Case #37 James Patrick Lewis (李斯杰)
Case #38 Xiao-Jiang Li (李晓江)
Case #48 Charles Lieber
Case #XX Shaorong Liu (刘绍荣)
Case #54 Turab Lookman (特拉伯·鲁克曼)
Case #34 Wanzhou Meng (孟维众)
Case #XX Meyia Meyappan (梅宜梅)
Case #33 Shar Shi
Case #43 Chee Song (宋建辉)
Case #45 Juar Tang (唐剑)
Case #19 Franklin Tao (陶丰)
Case #39 Qing Wang (王青)
Case #44 Xin Wang (王晓)
Case #70 Mingqing Xiao (肖明清)
Case #67 Lin Yang (羊林)
Case #30 Yannong Ye (叶延农)
Case #XX Xiaoming Zhang (张小明)
Case #46 Kaikai Zhao (赵凯凯)
Case #31 Zhaosong Zheng (郑兆松)
Case #41 Song Guo Zheng (郑国松)
Case #20-01 Yu Zhou (周玉)
Case #20-02 Yu Zhou (周玉)

BY JAMIE SATTERFIELD
KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL
Published 6/6 p.m. ET June 13, 2021

Trial reveals federal agents falsely accused a UT professor born in China of spying

Fed. prosecutors dismiss criminal case involving former Cleveland Clinic doctor with ties to China

FBI charges into medical research provided to China dismissed

U.S. Drops Case Against Police Officer It Had Called an ‘Insider Threat’

Baimadajie Angwang, a New York Police Department officer, had been accused of spying for China. Prosecutors said the charges were dismissed after new information had come to light.
"I am the luckiest among the unlucky."

MIT Professor Gang Chen

**Prosecutions**

**Investigations**

**Surveillance**

"Traditional" FISA, which requires lengthy applications to the secret FISA court, was used in fewer than 500 cases last year. Section 702, which doesn’t require individual court orders, can cover orders of magnitude more targets: more than 230,000 in 2021.

The Chinese Threat is Real: FBI Says They Average a New Counterintelligence Case Every 12 Hours

Christopher Burgess / Feb 8, 2022

"Of the nearly 5,000 active FBI counterintelligence cases currently underway across the country, almost half are related to China."

Christopher Wray, FBI Director
July 7, 2020

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Science Editorial: “The institutions and the NIH need to resolve this. Given the information available in the public domain, the scientific community could easily conclude that this is a xenophobic program to harm Chinese scientists and cut off international scientific cooperation. The federal government needs to figure out a way to let the NIH and the institutions reassure the community that this is all worth it.”

Dr. Michael Lauer head of NIH’s extramural research
Turbulent Times Again in the Name of Security

- Legalizing Discrimination
- Return of McCarthyism
- Warrantless Surveillance

Section 702 is up for reauthorization; it expires on Dec. 31, 2023.
AAPI Heritage Month Spotlight

Pursuing a More Perfect Union and an Equitable Society

By: Jeremy Wu

Thank you, Agnes, Oscar, Li-En, and the Yellow Whistle Team!