Are All Chinese Students and Chinese Americans Spies and Foreign Agents?

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Asia Society HK
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The Context: Clash of Civilizations?
Military War as Inevitability?
“Only Nixon Could Go to China”
From Normalization to Disengagement
“Constructive Vigilance”
Early Cases: Qian Xuesen

- From the NY Times obituary of Qian Xuesen: But by 1950 his American career was over. Shortly after applying for permission to visit his parents in the newly Communist China, he was stripped of his security clearance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and accused of secretly being a Communist. The charge was based on a 1938 document of the Communist Party of the United States that showed he had attended a social gathering that the F.B.I. suspected was a meeting of the Pasadena Communist Party. ... Aviation Week, which named Mr. Qian its man of the year in 2007, quoted Dan Kimball, a former under secretary of the Navy, as calling Mr. Qian’s deportation “the stupidest thing this country ever did.”
Early Cases: Wen Ho Lee

- Statement by U.S. District Judge Parker: I might say that I am also sad and troubled because I do not know the real reasons why the executive branch has done all of this. We will not learn why because the plea agreement shields the executive branch from disclosing a lot of information that it was under order to produce that might have supplied the answer. . . Although, as I indicated, I have no authority to speak on behalf of the executive branch, the president, the vice president, the attorney general, or the secretary of the Department of Energy, as a member of the third branch of the United States Government, the judiciary, the United States courts, I sincerely apologize to you, Dr. Lee, for the unfair manner you were held in custody by the executive branch.
Real Cases

Chinese hacker who tried to steal US military data 'deserves respect' – state media

Su Bin should be showed ‘gratitude and respect’ if he has indeed stolen military secrets, says Global Times editorial

One of China’s most bellicose newspapers has come to the defence of an admitted Chinese cyber hacker, a contradiction of Beijing’s official position that the country neither condones nor engages in computer espionage.

Global Times, an arm of the Communist party’s People’s Daily newspaper, published an editorial late Thursday headlined “Su Bin deserves respect whether guilty or innocent” that praised Su Bin, a Chinese national who pled guilty on Wednesday in a Californian federal court to conspiring to hack into the computer networks of US defence contractors.

Article from The Guardian
Changing Standards: Now

JUSTICE NEWS

Attorney General Jeff Sessions Announces New Initiative to Combat Chinese Economic Espionage

Washington, DC ~ Thursday, November 1, 2018

Remarks as prepared for delivery
Changing Standards: Not Too Long Ago
Double Standards

• Exhibit A in prosecutorial overreach is the case of Chunzai Wang. One of the world's leading experts on climate change, Wang worked for 17 years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. His papers, some of which focused on the interplay of El Nino and global warming, have been cited thousands of times. In 2012, Wang won NOAA's Research Employee of the Year Award for "personal and professional excellence," followed in 2013 by its Scientific Employee of the Year Award, for "professional excellence and exceptional productivity." He was indisputably the most prolific scientist on NOAA's staff.

• Hounded by the Commerce Department, Wang left the United States in 2016 and got a job as a research professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. . . In all, it appears that Chinese institutions paid Wang $2,100 over the course of three years for helping students there on research involving climate change.

• At court, Judge Cecilia Altonaga questioned the idea of prosecuting Wang, noting that her only regret "is that I have to adjudicate" his case. The judge also noted that "given the nature of Wang’s contributions to an area that is at the forefront of our daily review of news, climate change, given the nature of the research he conducts and — and the information he supplies and how valuable it is," she found it "regrettable" that Wang should end up a felon.

• John Pomfret in the Washington Post

Global Opinions

America’s new — and senseless — Red Scare
How NOT To Cure Cancer

The U.S. is purging Chinese scientists in a new Red Scare.

The Trump Administration Drove Him Back to China, Where He Invented a Fast Coronavirus Test

A federal crackdown on professors’ undisclosed outside activities is achieving what China has long struggled to do: spur Chinese scientists to return home. In this crisis, it’s costing the U.S. intellectual firepower.

by David Armstrong, Annie Waldman and Daniel Golden, March 18, 5 a.m. EDT
Scale: 350,000 per year pre-pandemic
Historical Precedent

SHALL WE HAVE

CHINESE

NO! NO! NO!

[Image of a town with an American flag]
Paper Sons and Confessions

- During the Exclusion era, Chinese continued to come, albeit by falsifying their ancestry.
- During the Cold War, the US government offered forgiveness and regularization of status in exchange for cooperation against Communism.
Racial Profiling?

Did Trump Call Most Chinese Students Spies?

*Politico* reports that the president called "almost every student" from China a spy.

By Elizabeth Redden // August 9, 2018

The director of the FBI says the whole of Chinese society is a threat to the US — and that Americans must step up to defend themselves.

Michal Kranz  Feb 13, 2018, 1:00 PM
TRUMP USES DINNER WITH C.E.O.S TO CLAIM CHINESE STUDENTS ARE "SPIES"

The business executives were there to discuss the economy, but things quickly went off the rails.

WORLD

American Graduates Of China's Yenching Academy Are Being Questioned By The FBI

August 1, 2019 · 8:53 PM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

EMILY FENG
Diaspora identity? Ethnic nationalism?

Possible to enforce laws without racial stereotyping?
New Trump Ad Suggests a Campaign Strategy Amid Crisis: Xenophobia

The ad, which calls Joe Biden soft on China and falsely suggests a former governor of Washington is Chinese, shows that President Trump plans to continue exploiting racial discord in his re-election bid.
