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## **American Attitudes Towards China**

*Views on Issues Concerning Greater China and US-China Relations*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY—Phase I**

#### **Summary of Key Preliminary Findings**

##### ***American Attitudes Towards China and US-China Relations***

- Familiarity with US-China relations has increased with 60% of General Public Somewhat/Very Familiar compared to 18%, 10 years ago. (Slide 8)
- Both Opinion Leaders and the General Public view China positively—and significantly more positively than ten years ago (59% in 2004 vs. 46% in 1994). (Slides 9, 10)
  - Furthermore, Americans view the current relationship with China as improving and expect relationships to continue to improve. (Slide 11,12)
  - Why? China's business and market-based economy was cited by opinion leaders as the number one factor with improved communications, a distant second. (Slide 13)
  - How to improve US-China relations? Increased negotiations/diplomacy, more communications/dialogue between the two countries. (Slide 14)
- Human rights issues remain the top concern of Americans (64% of Opinion Leaders, 46% of the General Public), who advocate linking China's trading status to its human rights record. (Slides 15, 16)
  - China's global environmental impact emerged as the second top concern by Opinion Leaders and in the second tier of key concerns of the General Public in a cluster that also included loss of U.S. jobs and China's military modernization. (Slides 17, 18)
  - Both Opinion Leader and General Public groups see China as an ally of the United States ranking above Saudi Arabia and France, but far below the U.K. and Japan. (Slides 19-21)
  - However, China is viewed by only about 30% of Americans as a "dependable ally" in the War on Terrorism. (Slide 22)
- China is viewed as a serious military threat by 12-15% by both groups, but as a potential threat by 67% of Opinion Leaders, and 51% of the General Public. (Slide 23)

##### ***American Attitudes Towards China in the Global Economy***

- Compared to military threat, China is viewed as a much higher serious economic threat (for 30% of Opinion Leaders and 24% of the General Public) with over 60% of both groups viewing China as a serious or potential economic threat. (Slide 25)

- Yet, over 60% of both groups, including union members, consider low cost goods from China as a benefit to the American consumer. (Slide 26-27)
- Over 70% of both groups consider economic trade with China as beneficial to the US. (Slide 28)
- Both Opinion Leaders and General Public agree that China's economic/industrial growth hurts the global environment. (Slide 29)
- Over 50% of Opinion Leaders and 30% of the General Public view the Chinese government as helping to cause the U.S.-China trade imbalance. (Slide 30)
- Among Opinion Leaders and the General Public, China, followed by India, is considered to be the major source of job losses versus Mexico. (Slide 31)
- Surprisingly, there is no union gap, with very little differences in attitudes regarding severity of job loss among union versus non-union households. (Slide 32)
- Significantly, Americans who lost their jobs in the past year do not view China as a major cause. (Slide 33)

***Other Factors Impacting Public Perceptions***

- 46% percent of Opinion Leaders and 30% of the General Public feel that Hong Kong is worse off since its handover from Britain to China in 1997. (Slide 35)
- Americans lean against greater US involvement in Cross Strait affairs, and moreover, they overwhelmingly oppose the use of US military force. (Slide 36)
- The first things that come to mind about China for Opinion Leaders are economic growth and population as the highest responses with Communism a distant third. (Slide 37)
- The American public cites work ethic, family values, history, and commitment to education as the most admirable things about the Chinese and their culture. (Slide 38)
- Both Opinion Leaders and the General Public view Chinese immigration as a significantly more positive than negative development. (Slide 39)
- Twenty three percent of Americans say that they have a friend or family member that adopted a Chinese baby. (Slide 40)

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