

# 2016 US-China Public Perceptions Snapshot Survey Briefing Book

# **Goals & Methodology**

#### **Survey Objective:**

The aim of this snapshot survey is to determine American attitudes toward China, in order to identify the most salient domestic issues in U.S.-China relations.

At a time when China is politically, economically, and socially ascendant, it is more crucial than ever to find paths to mutual understanding and stronger bilateral relations.

The snapshot survey findings provide a window into the American public's opinions and can be used to foster more fact-based discussion.

The Committee of 100 conducted this snapshot survey to inform fact-based dialogue at its 26th Annual Conference in April. This survey explores many of the same themes C-100 has been exploring in its survey work since 1994.

The Committee of 100 worked with Brunswick Insight to design and conduct the 2016 U.S. snapshot survey.

Who?



A representative sample of the United States population based on U.S. Census data





**n=1,001** of the general population (±3.1% margin of error) **n=200** oversample of Chinese Americans (±6.9% margin of error)

When?



March 1 to 10, 2016

Method?



Online survey using sample from SSI's online panel



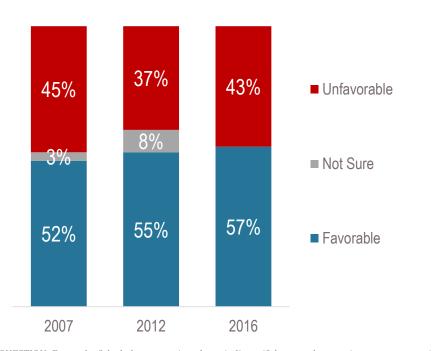
China's slowing economy and declining markets have sparked fear and concern across global markets in recent months. At the same time, China's global political profile continues to rise, prominently marked by the country assuming the presidency of the G-20 nations in 2016. How have recent events such as these shaped American views of China?

Our survey finds that Americans have mixed perceptions of China. On one hand, they see cooperation between the two countries as necessary, and recognize the benefits of increased trade and investment. On the other hand, they are skeptical of China's economic and political intentions.

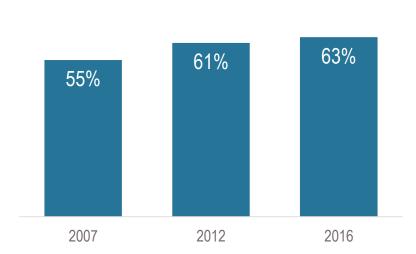


#### Perceptions of China are favorable and stable; Two in three call China an important partner

How would you describe your impression of China?



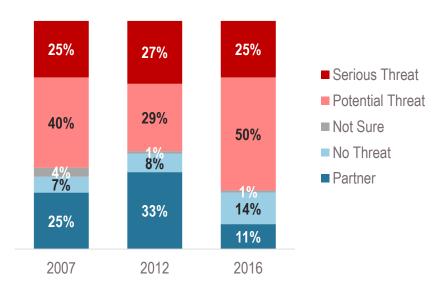
Percent that say China is an important partner to the U.S. in the world today.



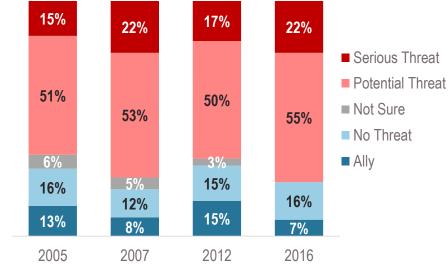


# Yet Americans are skeptical – strong majorities call China an economic and military threat

How do you view China's emergence as a global economic power?



How do you view China's emergence as a military power?

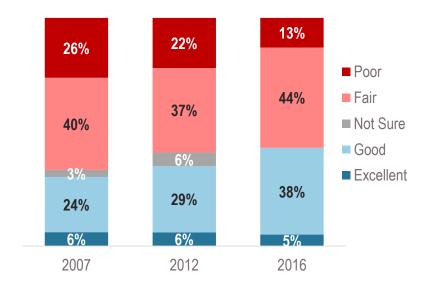


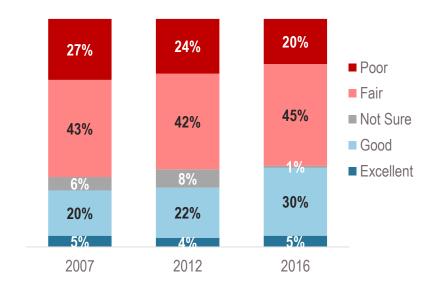


# Although neither the U.S. nor China is seen as handling bilateral relations particularly well, perceptions have improved over time

How would you rate the U.S. government's handling of its relations with China?

How would you rate the Chinese government's handling of its relations with the U.S.?

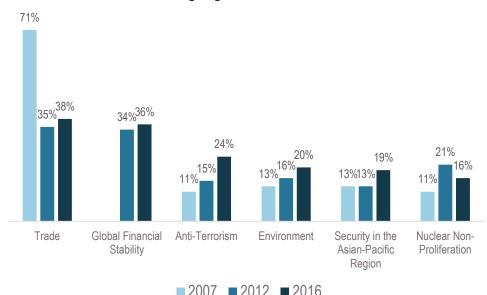




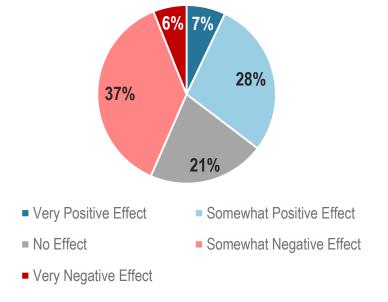


# Trade and financial stability are top areas for collaboration; Americans are divided in how they see the potential impact of cooling Chinese growth on the U.S. economy

In what areas do you think that the U.S. and China would benefit from working together?

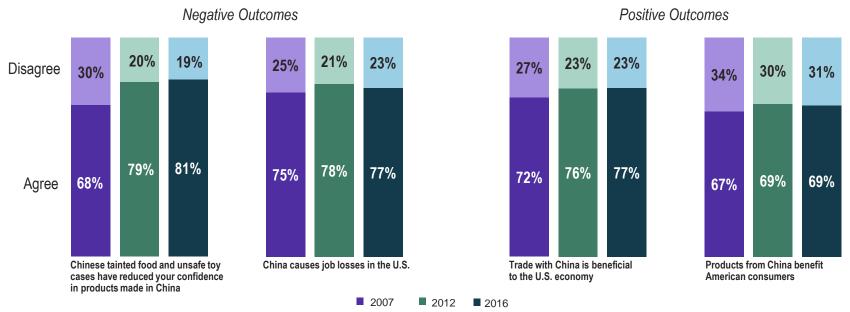


How do you view the effect of a slowing Chinese economy on the U.S. economy?



# Americans have mixed views toward trade with China, equally seeing costs and benefits

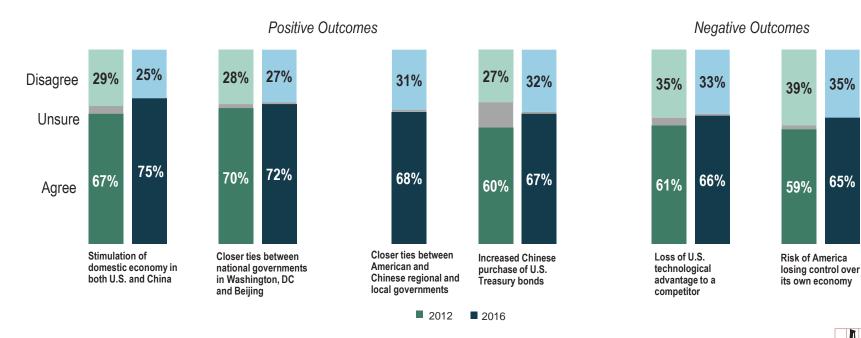
Do you agree or disagree with these statements?





### Americans have a complicated perspective of Chinese investment in the U.S.

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?



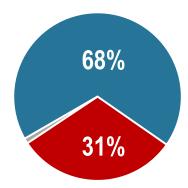
35%

65%

# Fewer respondents believe China will be the world's leading superpower compared to 2012, but there is strong agreement that the U.S. accepts China's rise

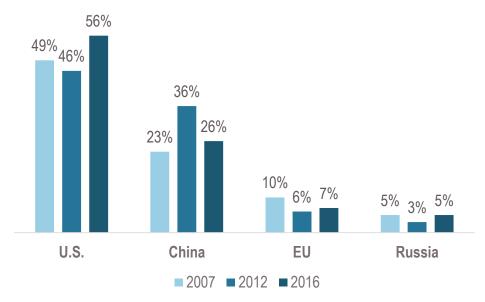
Which of these comes the closest to your views about how the U.S. sees China's rise?

The U.S. accepts China's status as a rising power and wants a collaborative relationship.



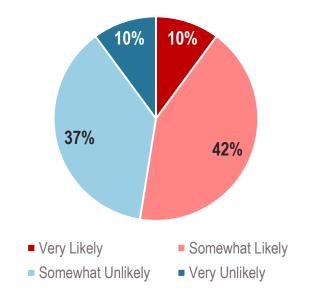
- The U.S. is **trying to prevent** China from becoming a great power.
- Not Sure

Which nation or political region do you think will be the world's leading superpower twenty years from now?



### More than half of Americans believe the U.S. and China will go to war in the next decade

How likely is a military conflict involving the U.S. and China in the next ten years?

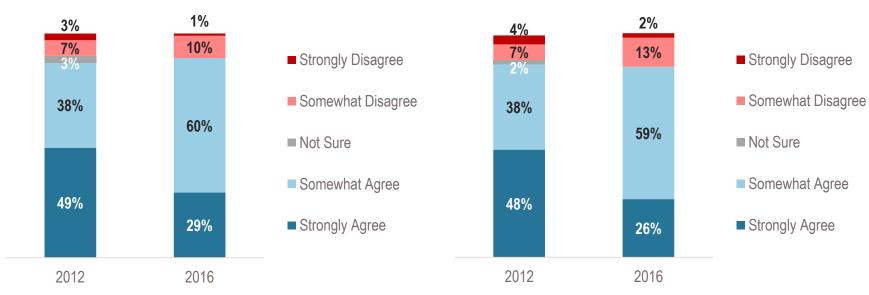




#### In the past year, optimism about social and political change in China has dropped

China's growing middle class could contribute to **social change**.

China's growing middle class could contribute to **political change**.



# Economic Espionage

Chinese scientists and researchers in the United States have increasingly become the focus of criminal investigations and prosecutions involving national security, intellectual property theft, and corporate espionage in the United States. Some of these investigations have been warranted, while others have not.

Our survey finds that many
Americans view Chinese
professionals with a cautious eye,
and three in four Chinese
Americans say the community
faces discrimination in the
workplace.

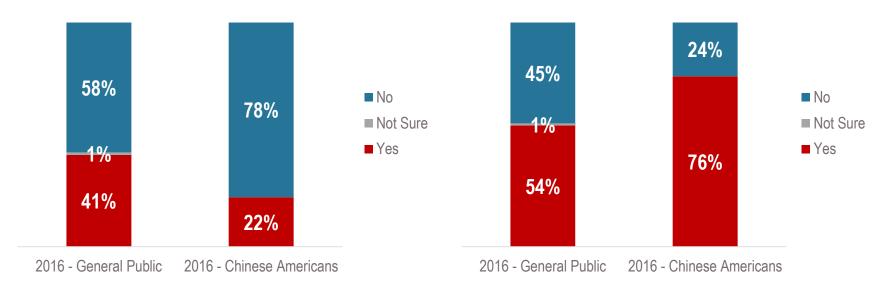


## **Economic Espionage**

# Two in five Americans believe Chinese Americans and immigrants pose a security threat

Many Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans work for the U.S. government and U.S. companies as researchers, scientists, and engineers. **Do you think these individuals pose a security risk to the U.S.?** 

Do you think Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans face discrimination at work in the U.S.?



QUESTION: Many Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans work for the U.S. government and U.S. companies as researchers, scientists, and engineers. Do you think these individuals pose a security risk to the U.S.?



# Cybersecurity

The frontlines of the next major conflict may not be on a battlefield, but rather in cyberspace. As more data goes online, more nations, hackers, and criminals are attempting to get access.

Our survey finds that cybersecurity is now as significant of a concern as job loss and the trade deficit when Americans think of China. When it comes to stopping hackers, blame is equally placed on the governments of America and China.



# Cybersecurity

## Concern about cybersecurity has tripled since 2012; now seen as most likely source of conflict



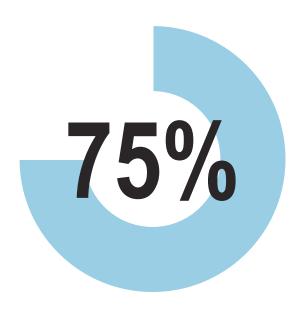


# Cybersecurity

## The U.S. and China are equally blamed for failing to prevent cyber-hacking



Believe the **Chinese** government is not doing enough to prevent cyber-hacking



Believe the **American** government is not doing enough to prevent cyber-hacking

# Hollywood and China

In 2015, Hollywood films in China had their most successful outing yet. At the same time, China's footprint in Hollywood is growing rapidly as Chinese investments in American films and U.S. film companies continue to rise.

A majority of Americans see Chinese investment in the U.S. as a positive trend. But they are more cautious when it comes to investment in Hollywood. Our survey finds that concerns about creative control drive much of this skepticism.

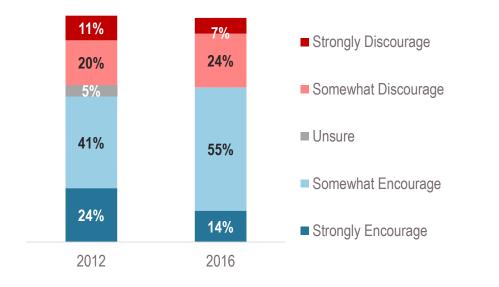


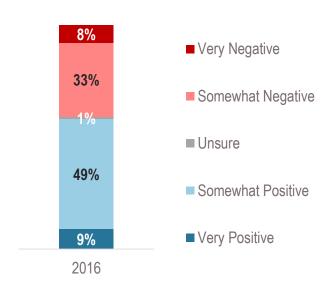
# Hollywood and China

# While support for Chinese investment in the U.S. has softened, a majority says it should be encouraged; views of Chinese investment in Hollywood are more negative

How much should the United States encourage Chinese investment in the U.S.?

How do you feel about Chinese investment in Hollywood's film industry?

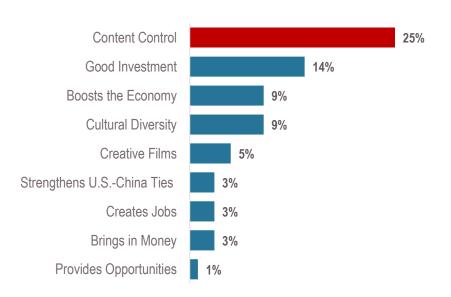




# Hollywood and China

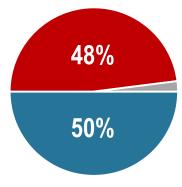
# Underpinning these views is a belief that Chinese investors are after influence and control

Why do you have such a view of Chinese investment in Hollywood's film industry?



Which of these comes the closest to your views about Chinese investment in the U.S.?

Chinese investors are buying up American companies and resources to **increase China's influence** on the U.S.



- Chinese investors are attracted to the U.S. by the financial opportunities those investments present.
- Unsure



# **Soft Power**

China is investing billions of dollars in improving its image abroad through education, entertainment, and art. Is this strategy working?

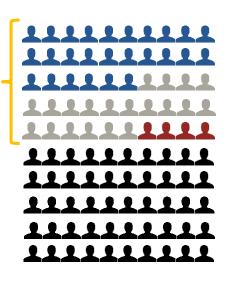
Our survey findings suggest that Chinese soft power is helping to shape American views. Many have seen Chinese art, and this results in many having more favorable perceptions of China.



#### Soft Power

#### A majority of those who have seen Chinese art have more positive views as a result

**50%** of Americans have seen Chinese art in a gallery or exhibition



**26%** say this gave them a more favorable view of China

20% say this did not change their view of China

**4%** say this gave them a <u>less favorable</u> view of China

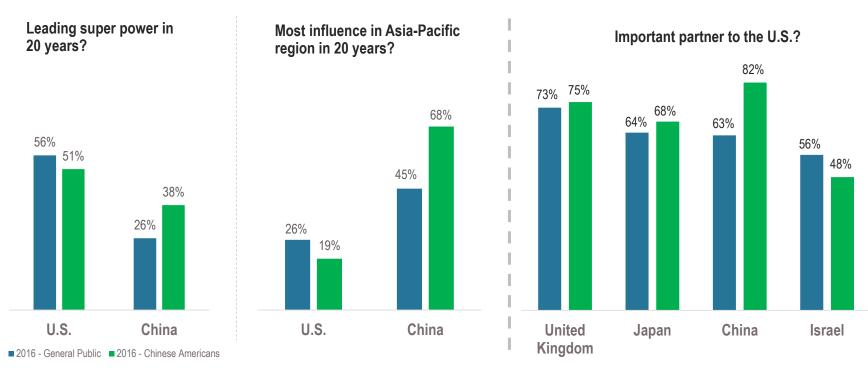
# Chinese American Views

Chinese Americans view China as America's most important partner in the world today. But like the rest of Americans their perceptions of China are underpinned by skepticism.

While the U.S. population is most concerned about the domestic economic effects of a rising China, Chinese Americans are more focused on China's human rights record and environmental protection policies.

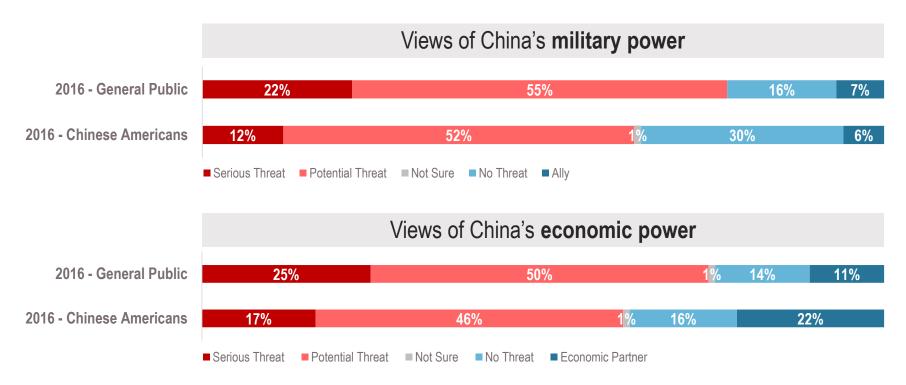


# Chinese Americans see China as America's most important partner in the world today





# While more optimistic than the U.S. public, a majority of Chinese Americans call China a threat





# Chinese Americans are most concerned about human rights and environmental policies

#### Biggest concerns about U.S.-China relations?

General Public			
1	Loss of jobs to China	34%	
2	Trade deficit within China	31%	
3	China's cybersecurity threat	30%	
Chinese Americans			
Chi	nese Americans		
Chi	nese Americans China's human rights situation	28%	
		28% 26%	
1	China's human rights situation		

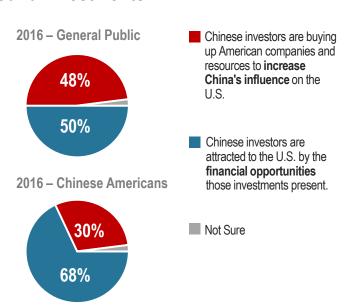
#### Biggest sources of conflict in the near future?

General Public			
1	Cybersecurity	36%	
2	Trade	26%	
3	Human rights	25%	
Chinese Americans			
1	Human rights	31%	
2	Cybersecurity	29%	
3	U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region	28%	



### There is more optimism about Chinese investment in the U.S. among Chinese Americans

# Is China trying to buy influence or make sound investments?



# How will increased investment from China impact the U.S.?

General Public			
1	Hurt the U.S. economy	39%	
2	Create national security concerns	32%	
3	Improve the U.SChina relationship	31%	
Chinese Americans			
1	Help the U.S. economy	51%	
2	Improve the U.SChina relationship	44%	
3	Create national security concerns	27%	

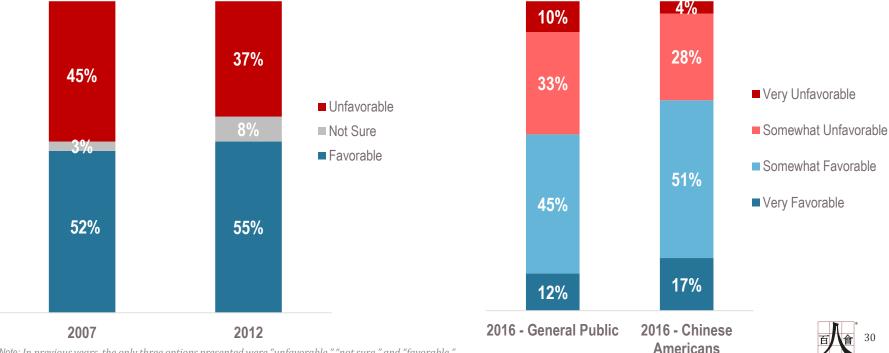


# 2016 US-China Public Perceptions Snapshot Survey Full Analysis



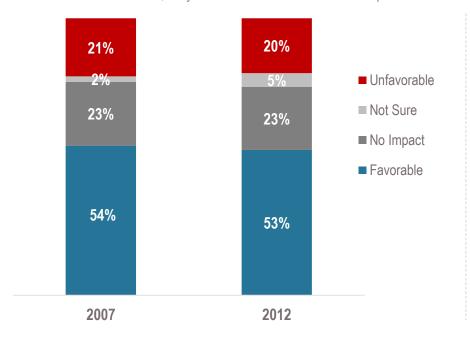
# Favorable impressions of China have increased

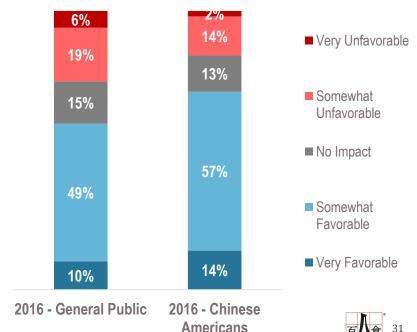
**BASE QUESTION:** How would you describe your impression of China? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?



# More Americans say the impact of Chinese culture on the U.S. has been favorable

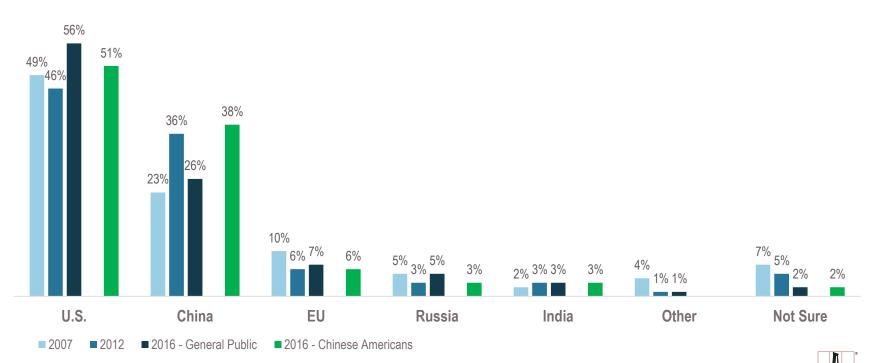
**BASE QUESTION:** Would you say the impact of Chinese culture on the U.S. has been very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or has it had no impact?





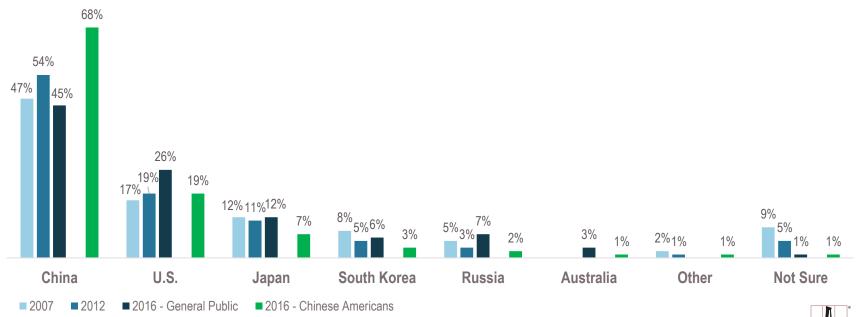
# Fewer predict China's international dominance, but Chinese Americans are more optimistic

**BASE QUESTION:** Which nation or political region do you think will be the world's leading superpower twenty years from now?



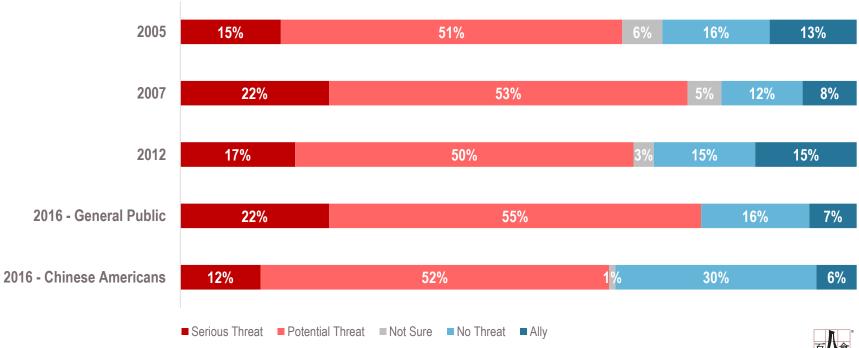
# U.S. gains in most recent influence forecast; Chinese Americans see China as the dominant force in Asia by a large margin

**BASE QUESTION:** Which one of the following countries do you expect to have the greatest degree of influence in the Asia-Pacific region twenty years from now?



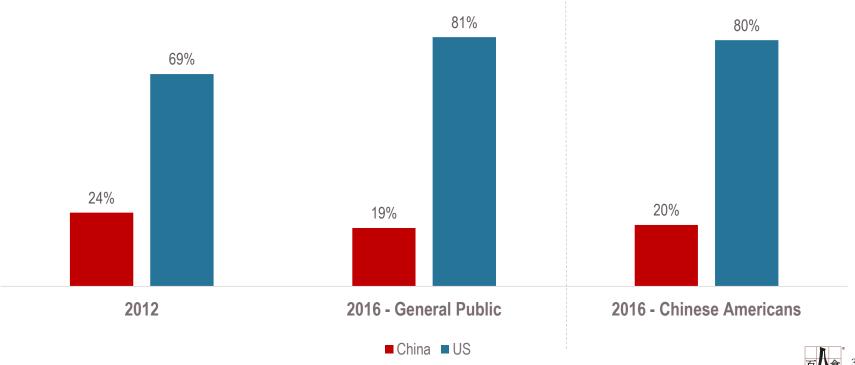
# Americans increasingly see China's military power as a threat

**BASE QUESTION:** How do you view China's emergence as a military power — as a serious threat to the U.S., a potential threat, no threat, or as an ally of the U.S.?



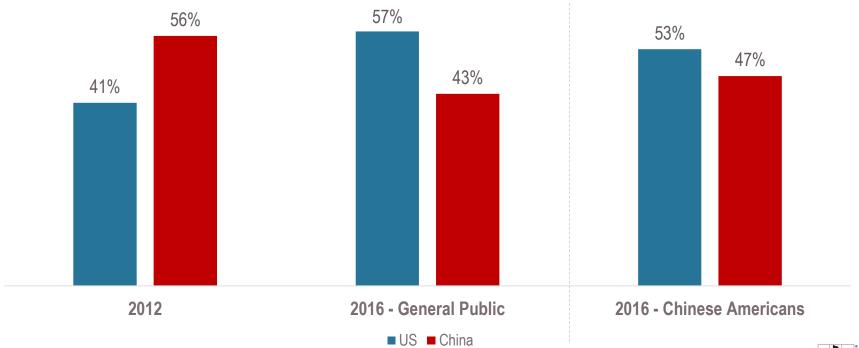
# The U.S. has consistently had a better international image than China

**BASE QUESTION:** Which country currently has a better international image?



# United States is now expected to lead the global economy in the next 20 years

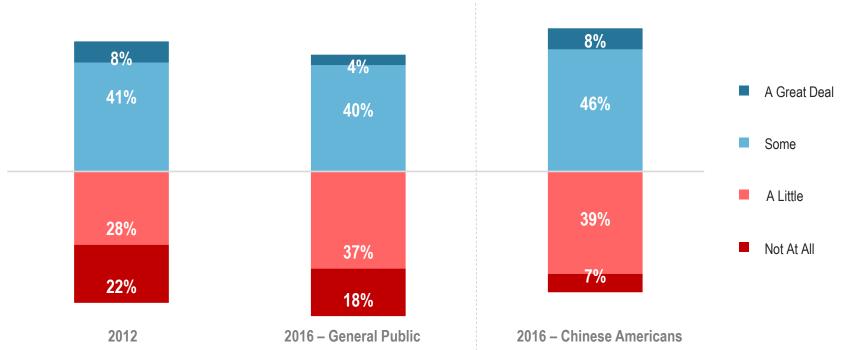
BASE QUESTION: Which country do you think will have the most influence over the global economy in the next 20 years?



### **Overall Impressions**

## Americans tend to approach China with distrust, although views are divided

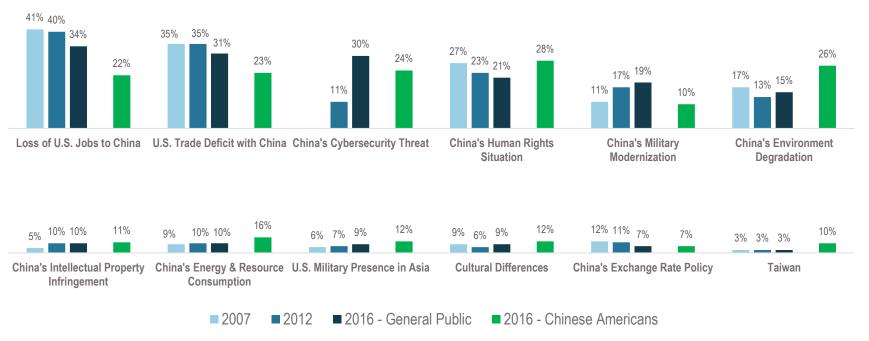
**BASE QUESTION:** How much do you think that the U.S. should trust China – a great deal, some but not a lot, a little or none at all?



### **Overall Impressions**

## Cybersecurity and economic imbalance are top concerns for the U.S.-China relationship

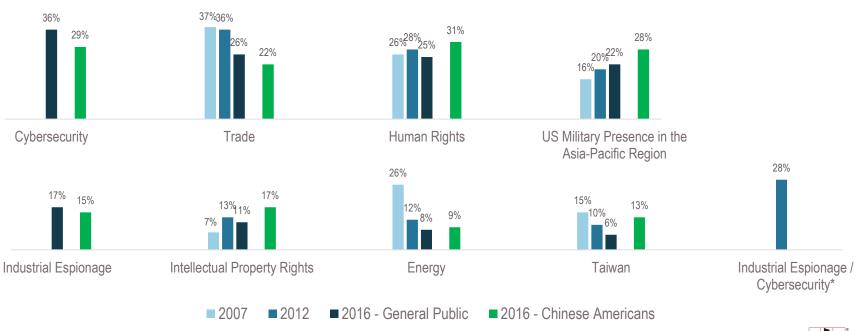
**BASE QUESTION:** What are your two greatest concerns about the U.S.-China relationship?



## **Overall Impressions**

# Cybersecurity is biggest conflict area, but US presence in Asia is also an intensifying concern

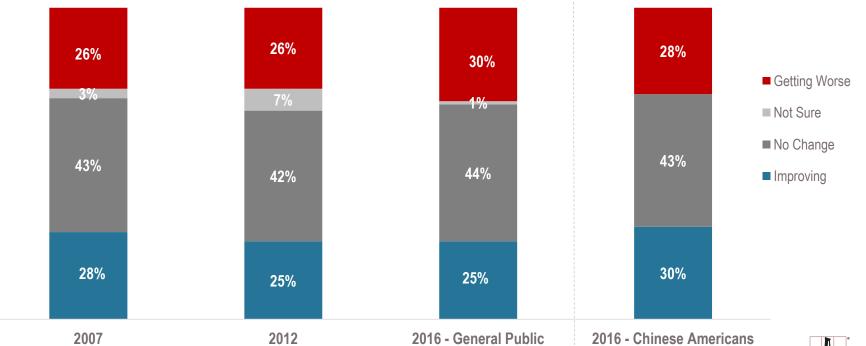
**BASE QUESTION:** What are the two most likely sources of conflict between the U.S. and China in the near future?





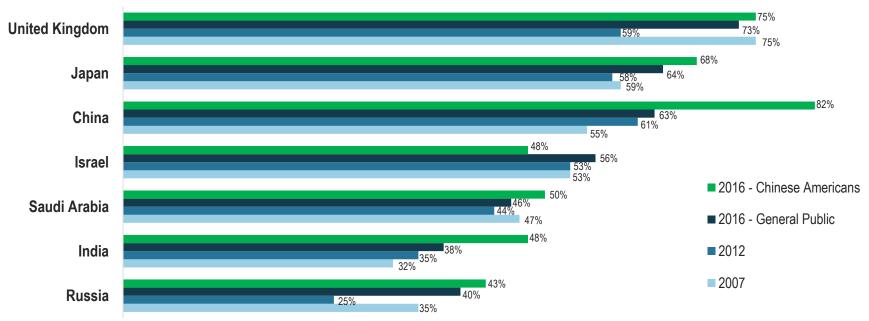
## Nearly half of respondents believe there has been no change in the U.S.-China relationship

**BASE QUESTION:** Do you believe that the relationship between the U.S. and China is currently improving, getting worse, or is there no change?



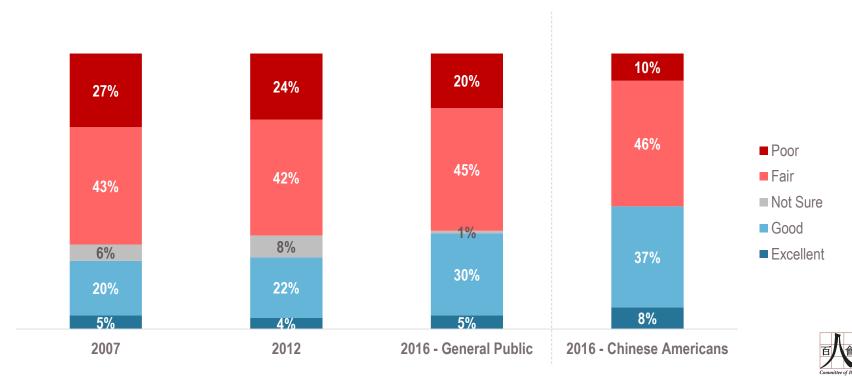
### China's importance as a partner to the U.S. has steadily increased over the past few years

**BASE QUESTION:** For each of the below countries, please indicate if they are the most important, a very important, a somewhat important, or not an important partner to the U.S. in the world today.



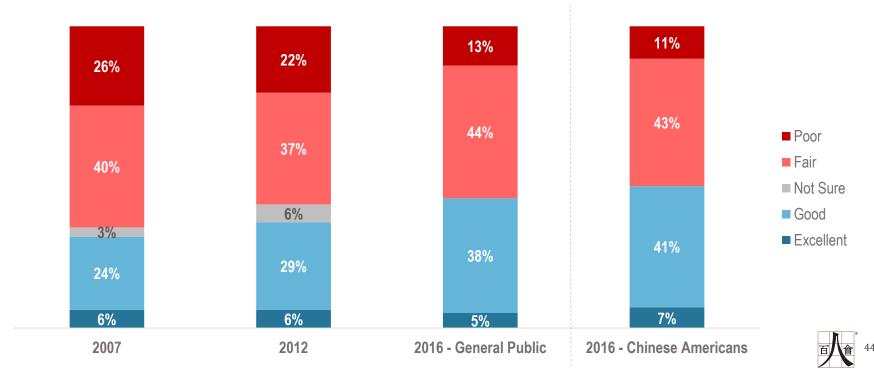
# While there has been a slight increase in positivity, respondents still rate the Chinese government's handling of its relations with the U.S. poorly

**BASE QUESTION:** How would you rate the Chinese government's handling of its relations with the U.S.?

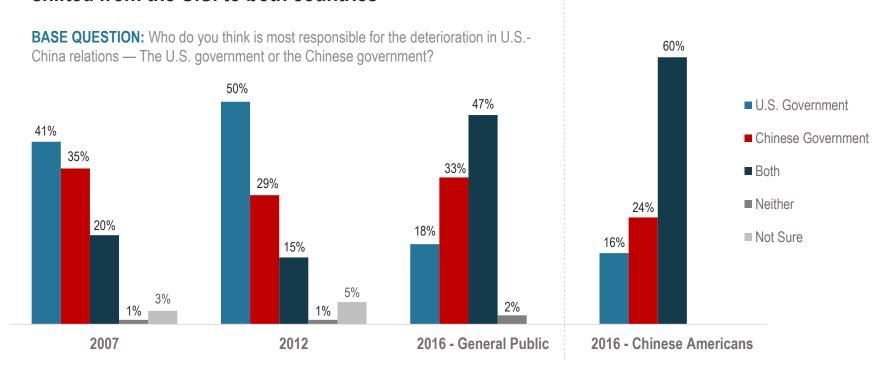


# Respondents consistently rated the U.S. government's handling of its relations with China better than China's handling of its relations with the U.S.

**BASE QUESTION:** How would you rate the U.S. government's handling of its relations with China?

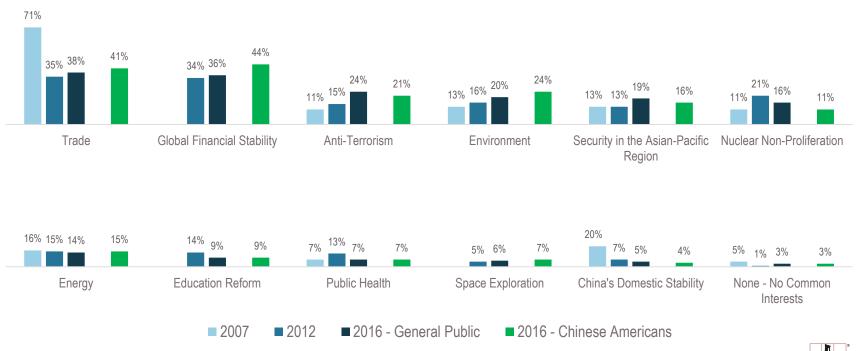


Of those who believe the relationship between the U.S. and China has gotten worse, fault has shifted from the U.S. to both countries



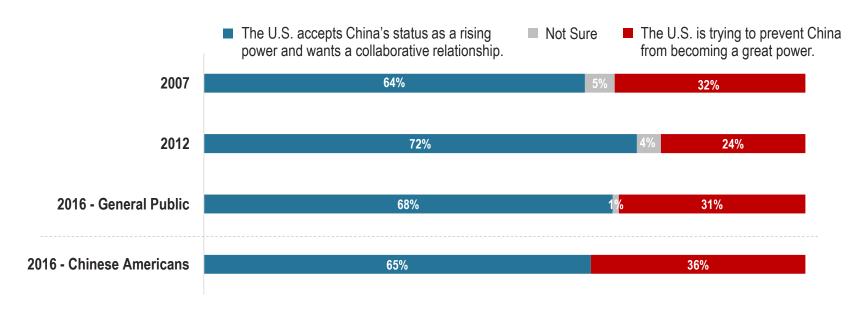
### Trade and global financial stability remain top two areas of common interest

**BASE QUESTION:** In what two areas do you think that the U.S. and China would benefit from working together?



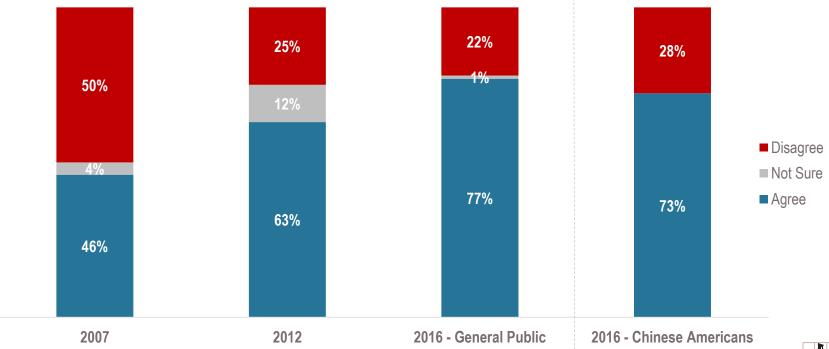
## Two in three believe America accepts China's rise

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate which statement comes closest to your view. The U.S. accepts China's status as a rising power and wants a collaborative relationship OR The U.S. is trying to prevent China from becoming a great power.



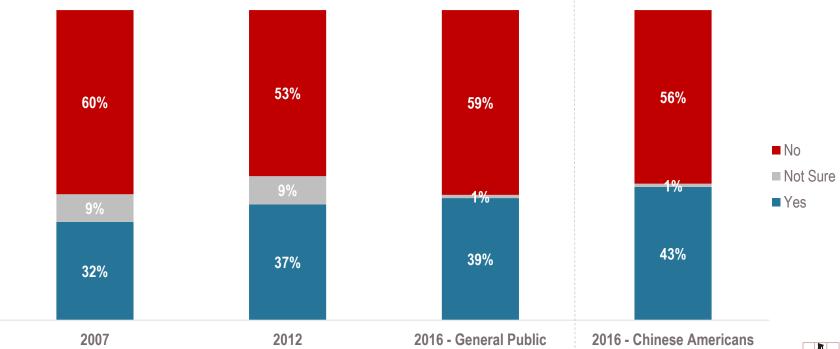
## Public increasingly agrees the U.S. should take an active role in China-Taiwan relations

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: China-Taiwan relations is a strategic issue in U.S.-China relations.



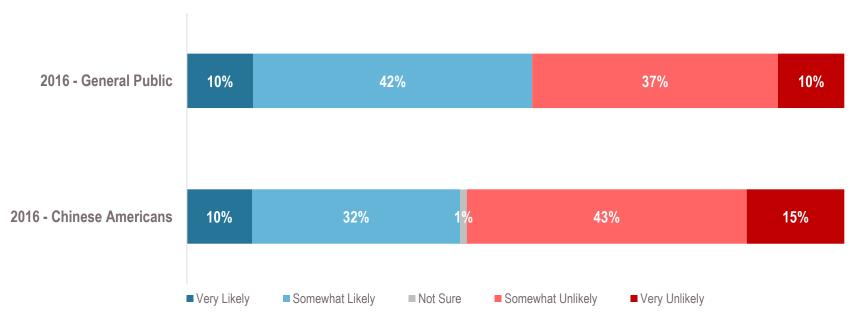
## Consistent opposition to military intervention in China-Taiwan affairs

**BASE QUESTION:** If a declaration of independence by Taiwan leads to military hostilities with China, do you think the American public should support U.S. military intervention?



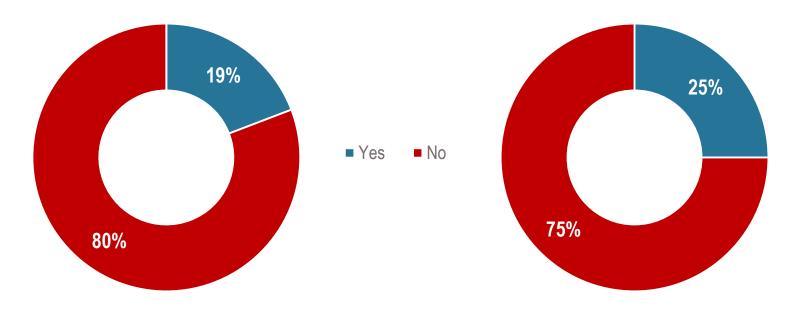
## Chinese Americans less likely than the general public to expect open conflict in next ten years

**BASE QUESTION:** How likely is a military conflict involving the U.S. and China in the next ten years — very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?



## U.S. and China are equally blamed for lack of international cyber-hacking prevention efforts

**BASE QUESTION:** Is the [Chinese/American] government doing enough to prevent international cyber-hacking?



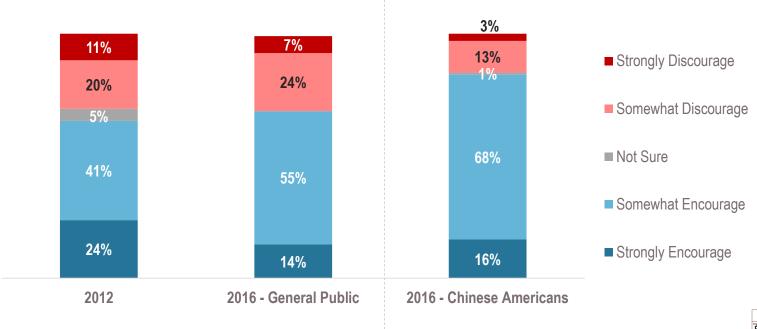
"The **Chinese** government is doing enough to prevent cyber-hacking"

"The **American** government is doing enough to prevent cyber-hacking"



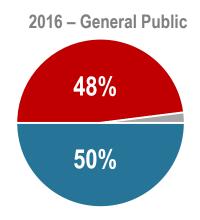
# Support for Chinese investment in the U.S. has softened, but a majority still says it should be encouraged

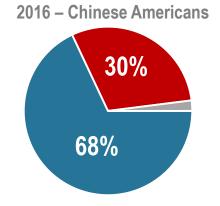
**BASE QUESTION:** How much should the United States encourage Chinese investment in the U.S.?



# Americans are divided on the motivations of Chinese investors; Chinese Americans see these investments as being driven by financial opportunity

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate which of the following statements comes closest to your view about Chinese investment in the U.S.

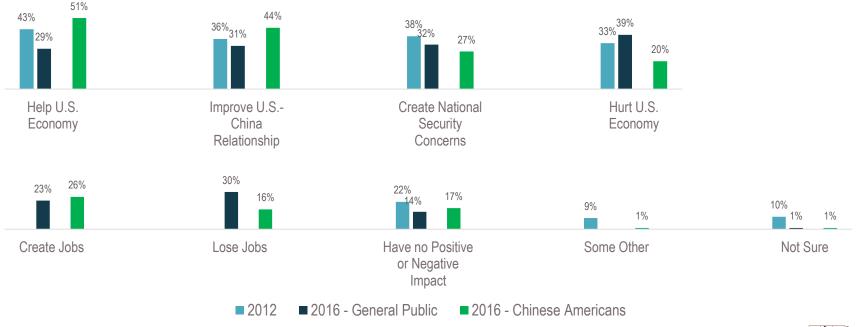




- Chinese investors are buying up American companies and resources to increase China's influence on the U.S.
- Chinese investors are attracted to the U.S. by the **financial opportunities** those investments present.
- Not Sure

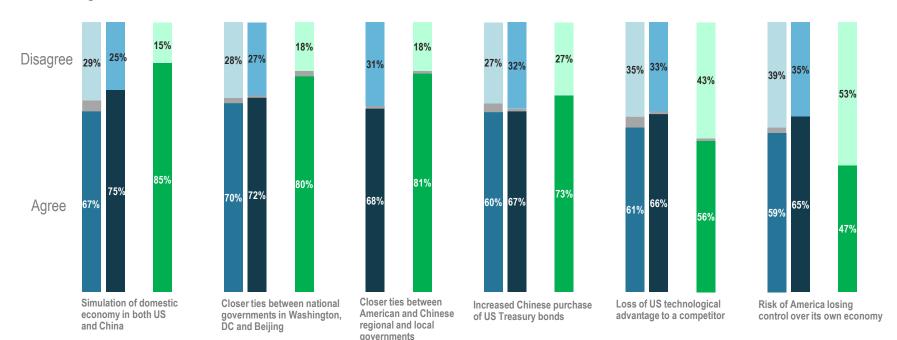
# Americans are more likely in recent years to say that increased investment in China will hurt the U.S. economy

**BASE QUESTION:** Other than buying U.S. Treasury bills, do you think increased investment from China in the U.S. will:



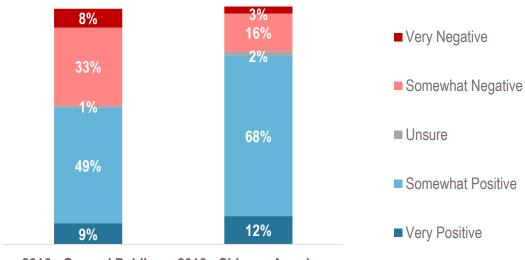
## Americans expect increased investment to strengthen US-China political connections

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statements below. Investments between the U.S. and China will result in:



# Most Americans say Chinese investment in Hollywood is positive, although support is lower than support for investment broadly

**BASE QUESTION:** How do you feel about Chinese investment in Hollywood's film industry? Is it very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

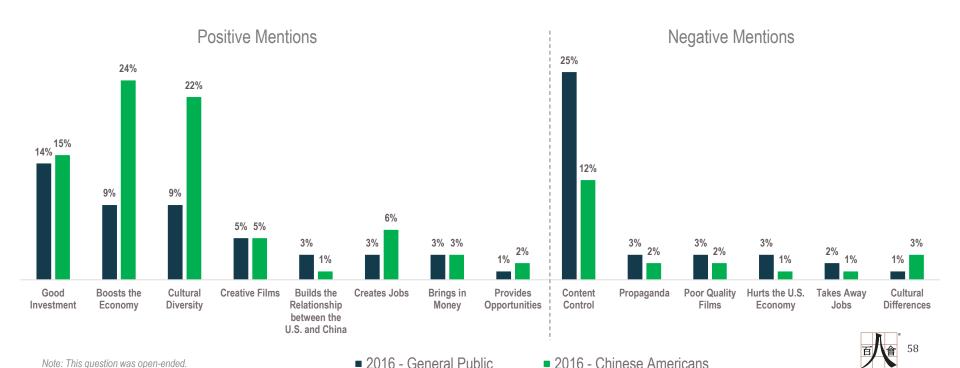


2016 - General Public

2016 - Chinese Americans

# The Chinese investment in Hollywood's film industry is mostly seen as an advantage; with Chinese control and influence being the top disadvantages

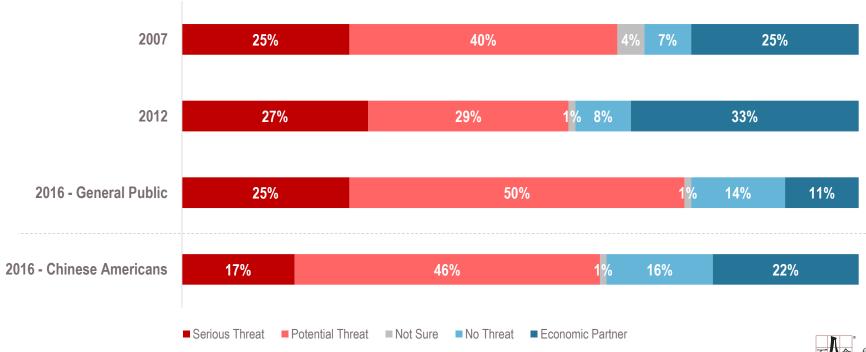
**BASE QUESTION:** Please explain why you view Chinese investment in Hollywood's film industry as being [previous answer]?





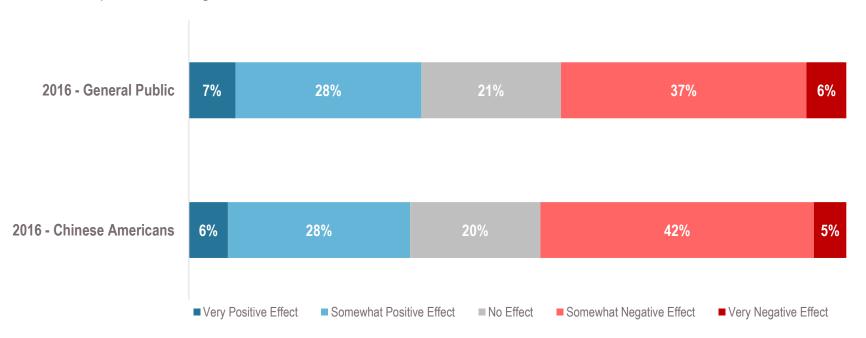
## As more Americans see economic threat on the horizon, fewer think of China as a partner

**BASE QUESTION:** How do you view China's emergence as a global economic power —as a serious threat to the U.S., a potential threat, no threat, or as an economic partner of the U.S.?



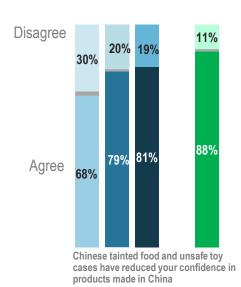
## A slowing Chinese economy is viewed as potentially damaging to the U.S. economy

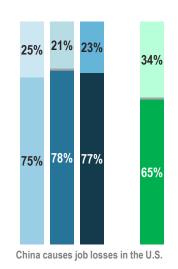
**BASE QUESTION:** How do you view the effect of a slowing Chinese economy on the U.S. economy - will it have a positive effect, negative effect, or no effect?

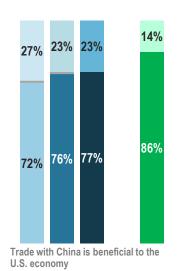


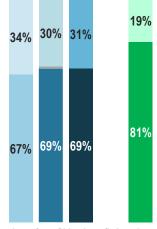
#### Americans say they have low confidence in Chinese products, but 8 in 10 Americans say trade with China is beneficial

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statements below.





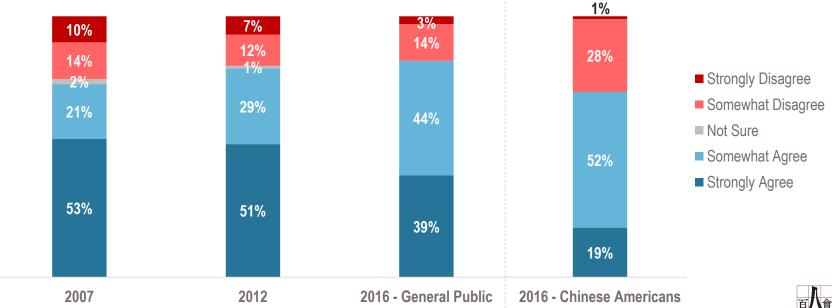




Products from China benefit American consumers

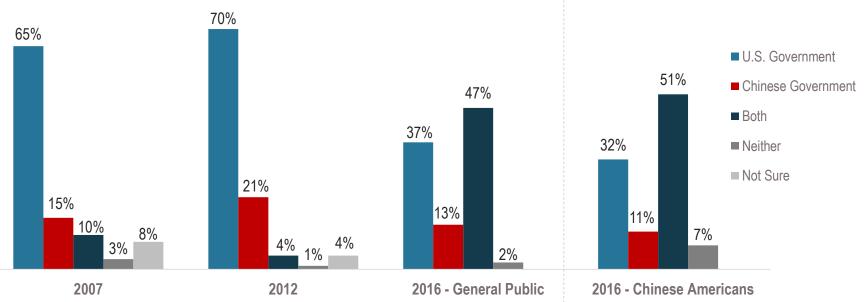
### Americans are firmly opposed to outsourcing, although intensity of this view has softened

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: The U.S. should not outsource manufacturing jobs to China even if eliminating outsourcing results in higher prices for U.S. consumers.



# Respondents find both countries' governments, but particularly the U.S., responsible for the U.S. trade deficit with China

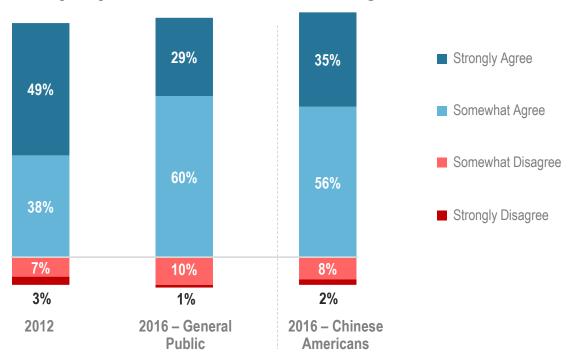
**BASE QUESTION:** Who do you think is most responsible for the U.S.'s trade deficit with China—The U.S. government or the Chinese government?





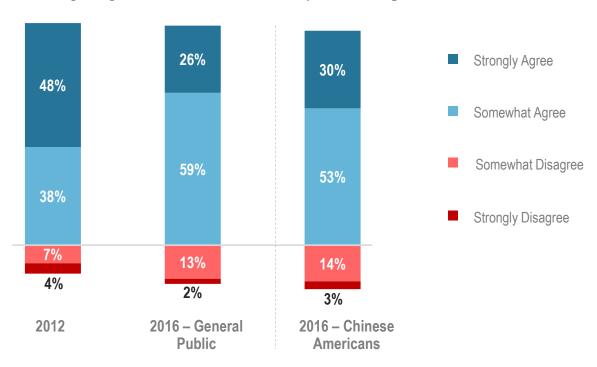
## Expectations for economic development to lead to social change in China have softened

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements: China's growing middle class could contribute to **social change**.



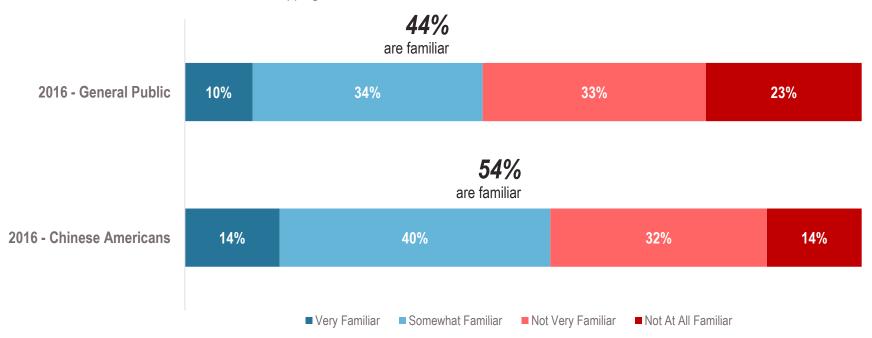
# Fewer Americans agree that China's growing middle class could contribute to political change

**BASE QUESTION:** Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements: China's growing middle class could contribute to **political change**.



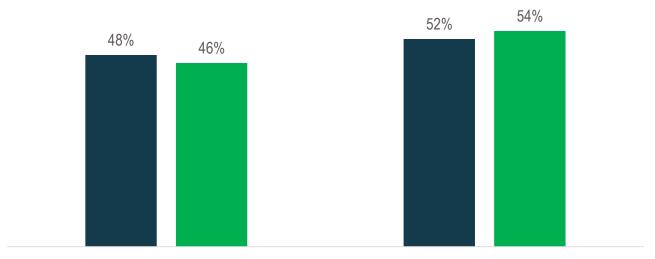
## Chinese Americans more aware of South China Sea disputes than general public

**BASE QUESTION:** How familiar are you with the current situation in the South China Sea where China, Vietnam, the Philippines and several other Asian countries have overlapping claims in the resource-rich sea?



## General public split on implications of South China Sea disputes

BASE QUESTION: Do you believe that the situation in the South China Sea is a regional issue that should be resolved by the nations that are involved, or is it an international issue that should be resolved by the US?



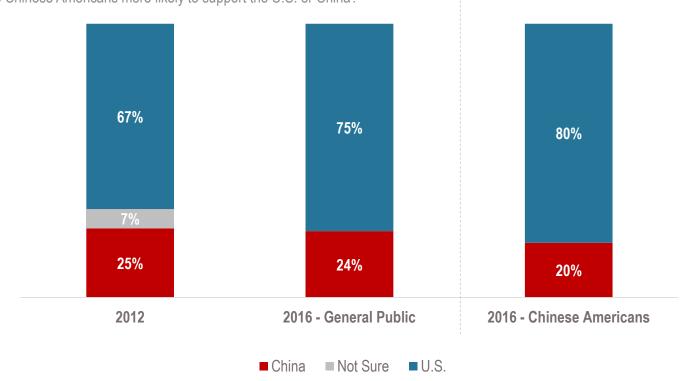
South China Sea situation is an international issue

South China Sea situation is a regional issue



## Strong expectation for Chinese Americans to side with the U.S. on U.S.-China disputes

**BASE QUESTION:** Generally speaking, when it comes to economic/military issues between the United States and China, in your view, are Chinese Americans more likely to support the U.S. or China?

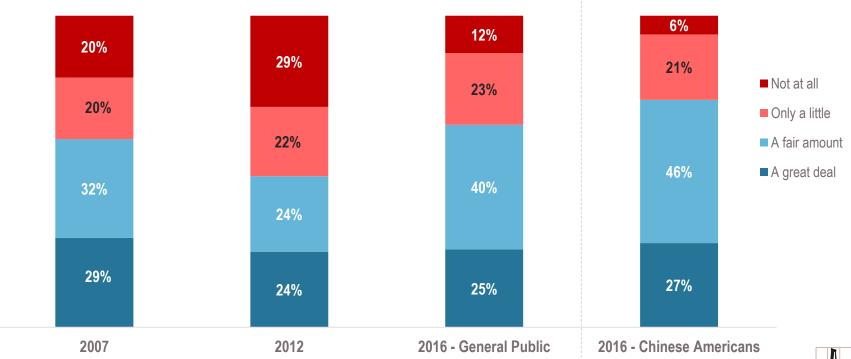




#### Environment

### Climate change is consistently top-of-mind

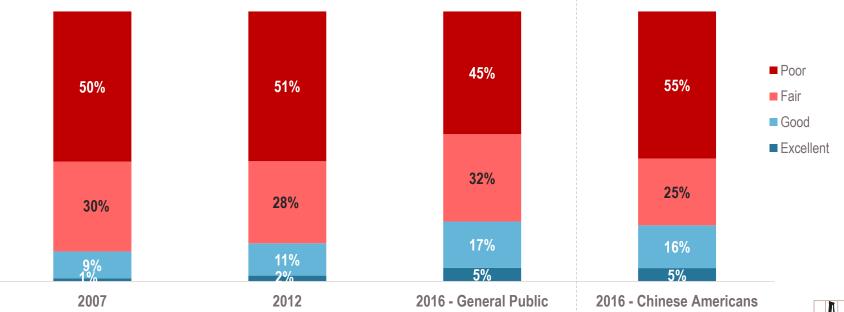
**BASE QUESTION:** How much do you personally worry about climate change —a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?



#### Environment

## The majority of respondents believe the Chinese government is doing a poor job at handling environmental issues

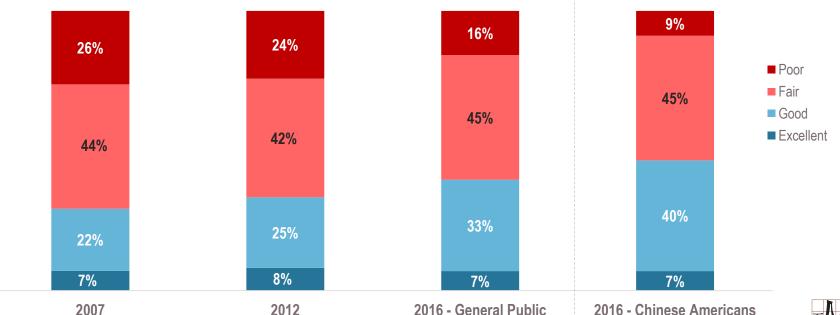
**BASE QUESTION:** How would you rate the Chinese government's performance in handling environmental issues?



#### Environment

## The majority of respondents believe the U.S. government is doing a fair job at handling environmental issues

**BASE QUESTION:** How would you rate the American government's performance in handling environmental issues?



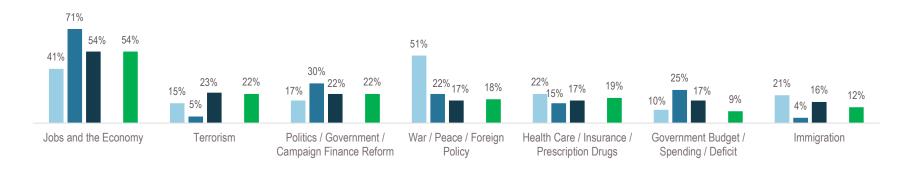


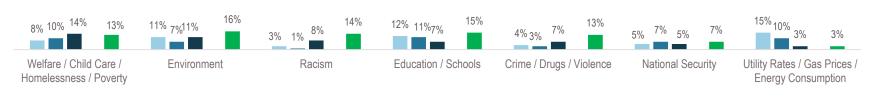
### **Overall Impressions**

## Jobs, terrorism, and politics are preeminent concerns in this election year

**BASE QUESTION:** What are the three most important issues facing the U.S. today?

2007



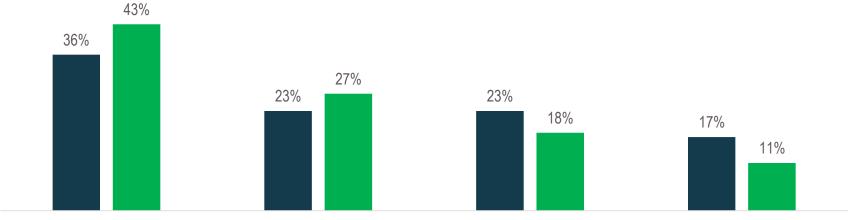


■ 2016 - General Public

#### **Environment**

# Most respondents believe the American and Chinese joint climate change agreement is a step in the right direction, but not ambitious enough

**BASE QUESTION:** Recently, the American and Chinese governments reached a joint agreement on climate change. Which of these statements comes the closest to your views toward that agreement?



The agreement is a step in the right direction, but is not ambitious enough to effectively address climate change

The agreement will help to address climate change because the two biggest carbon emitters are now taking steps to address the issue

The agreement will fail to address climate change because one or both countries will fail to hold up their side of the deal

The agreement will fail to address climate change because the deal is too ambitious and one or both countries will be unable to successfully meet the terms of the agreement

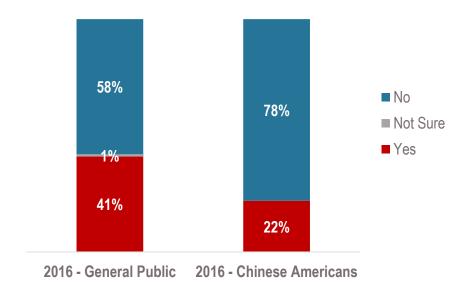
■ 2016 - General Public

■ 2016 - Chinese Americans



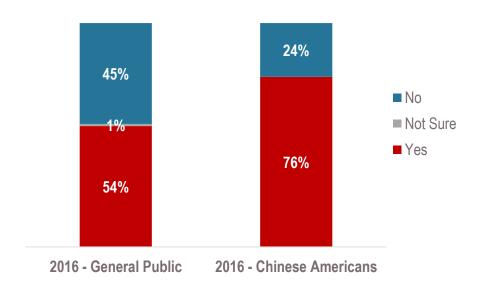
## Two in five Americans believe Chinese Americans pose a security threat

**BASE QUESTION:** Many Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans work for the U.S. government and U.S. companies as researchers, scientists, and engineers. Do you think these individuals **pose a security risk to the U.S.**?



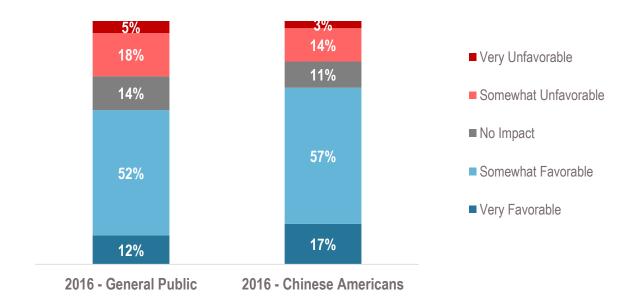
## More than half say Chinese Americans and immigrants face discrimination at work

BASE QUESTION: Do you think Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans face discrimination at work in the U.S.?



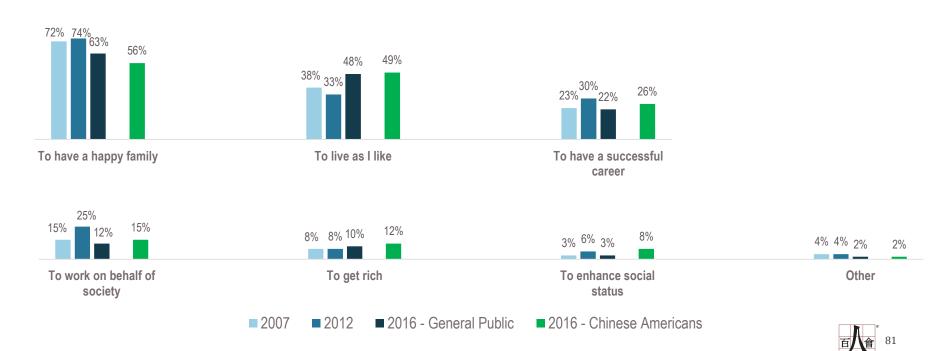
### Americans see the impact of U.S. culture on China as favorable

**BASE QUESTION:** Would you say the impact of U.S. culture on China has been very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or has it had no impact?



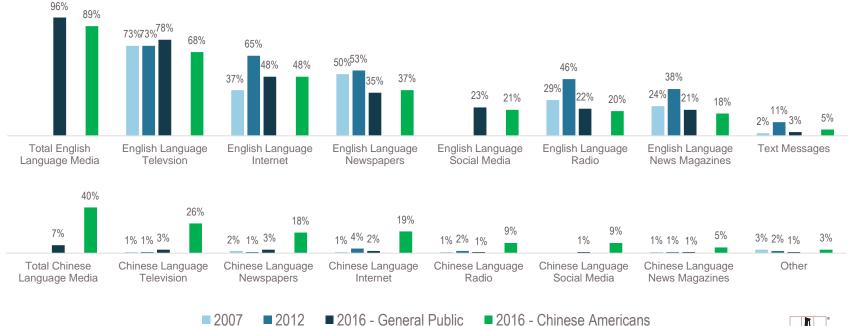
# 2016 respondents align with previous years by saying that having a happy family is their top personal goal

**BASE QUESTION:** Which of the following comes closest to your current personal goal in life?



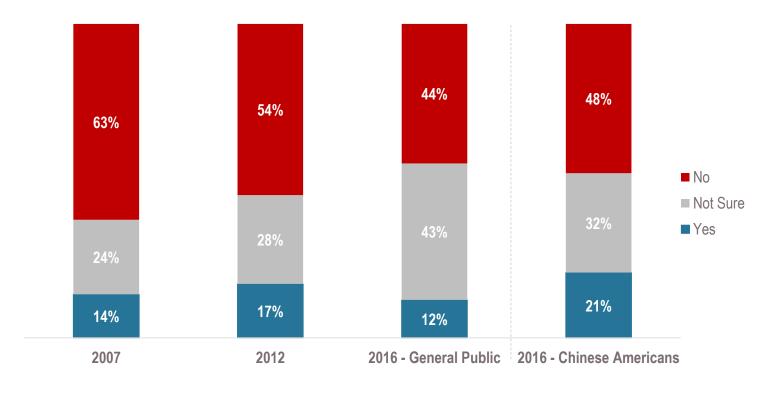
### English language media is more popular than Chinese language media; Chinese language television is the most popular source of Chinese language media

**BASE QUESTION:** From which sources do you get your news about China? Please select all that apply.



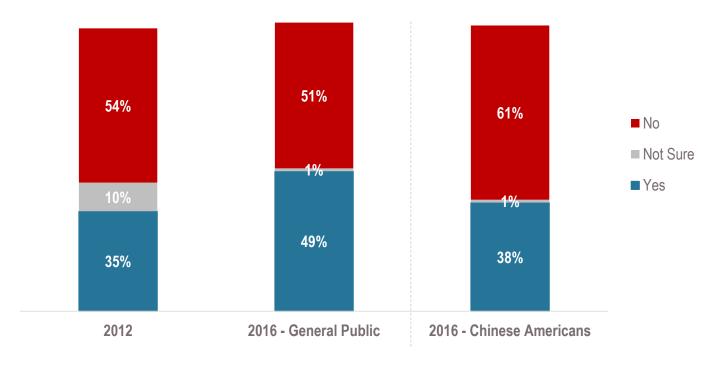
### Respondents are increasingly unaware of the accuracy of U.S. portrayals in Chinese media

**BASE QUESTION:** Do you think that the Chinese news media generally portrays an accurate picture of the U.S.?



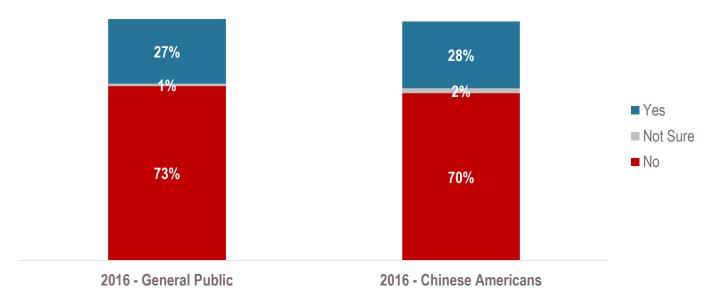
## Americans are split over whether the U.S. media covers China fairly

**BASE QUESTION:** Now, thinking about the U.S. news media, do you think this generally portrays an accurate picture of China?



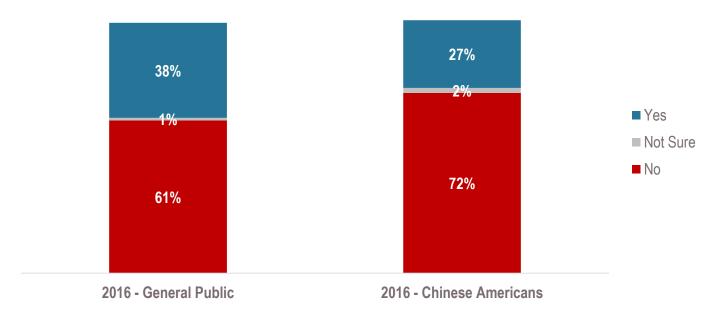
# Neither the general public nor Chinese Americans think that Chinese entertainment programs portray an accurate picture of the U.S.

**BASE QUESTION:** Do you think that Chinese entertainment programs, such as movies and television shows, generally portray an accurate picture of the U.S.?



# Chinese Americans were more likely to say that American entertainment programs do not portray an accurate picture of China

**BASE QUESTION:** Now, thinking about American entertainment programs, such as movies and television shows, do you think this generally portrays an accurate picture of China?



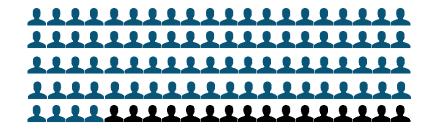
## Chinese Americans are twice as likely as other Americans to have watched a Chinese movie or television show

**BASE QUESTION:** Have you ever watched a Chinese movie or television show?

2016 - General Public

40%

2016 - Chinese Americans



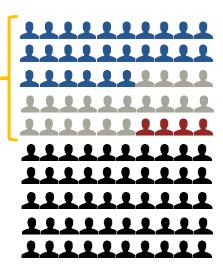
84%

## A majority of those who have seen Chinese art have more positive views as a result

**BASE QUESTION:** Have you ever seen Chinese art in a gallery or exhibition?

**BASE QUESTION:** Did seeing Chinese art in a gallery or exhibition give you a more favorable or less favorable perception of China? Or did it not make an impact on how you view China?

**50%** of Americans have seen Chinese art in a gallery or exhibition



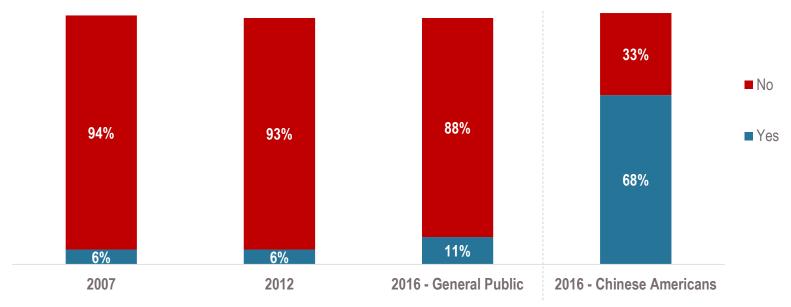
26% say this gave them a more favorable view of China

20% say this did not change their view of China

**4%** say this gave them a <u>less favorable</u> view of China

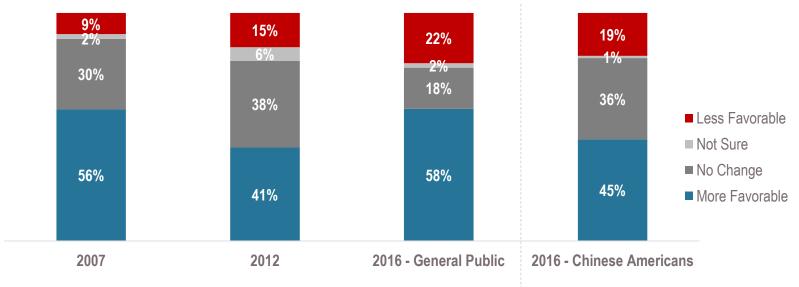
## More Americans are visiting China than in previous years

**BASE QUESTION:** Have you ever visited mainland China?



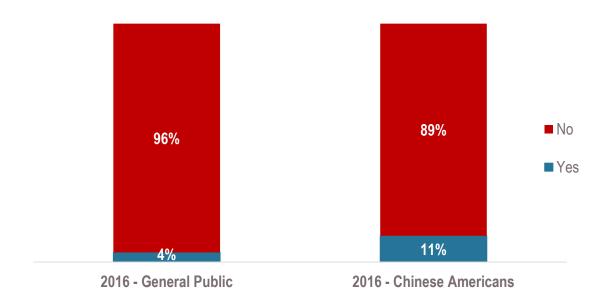
# Over half of Americans who have gone to mainland China say they have a more favorable impression after visiting

**BASE QUESTION:** After visiting mainland China, is your impression of China more favorable, less favorable, or was there no change?



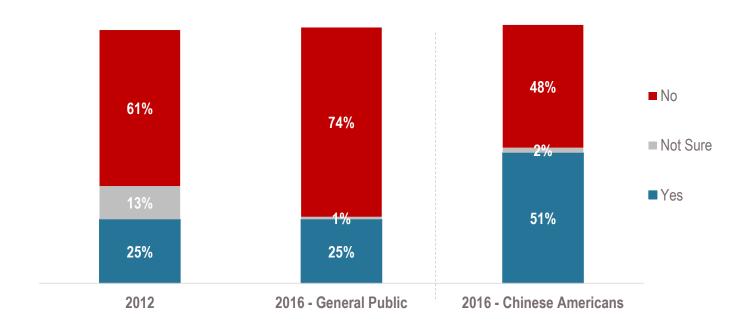
## One-third of Americans who have traveled to China did so as part of a study abroad program

**BASE QUESTION:** Have you participated in a study abroad or educational exchange program in China?



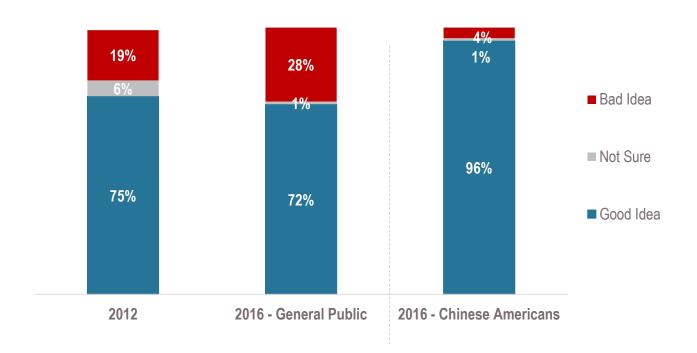
## Three in four Americans are unaware if Chinese is being taught in their local schools

**BASE QUESTION:** Do you know if Chinese is being taught in your local schools?



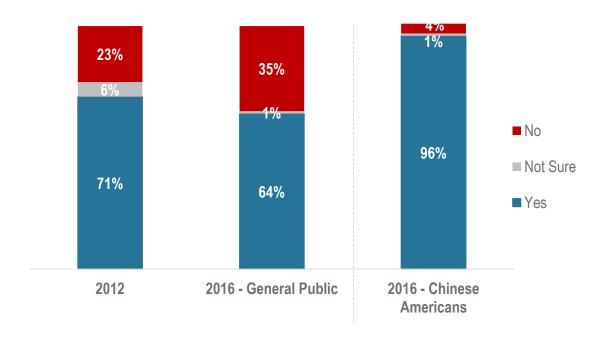
## **Most Americans support teaching Chinese in school**

**BASE QUESTION:** Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to teach Chinese in school?



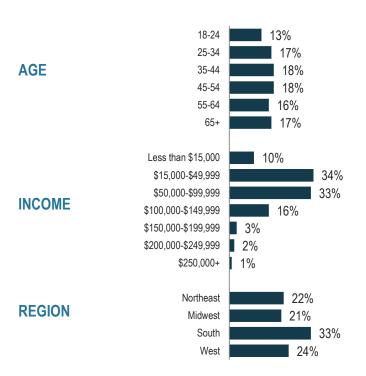
## The majority of Americans say they would want their child to learn Chinese, but opposition has increased

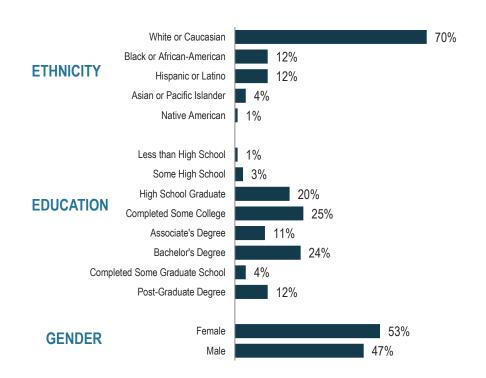
**BASE QUESTION:** If Chinese were being offered in schools in your area, would you want your child to take Chinese?



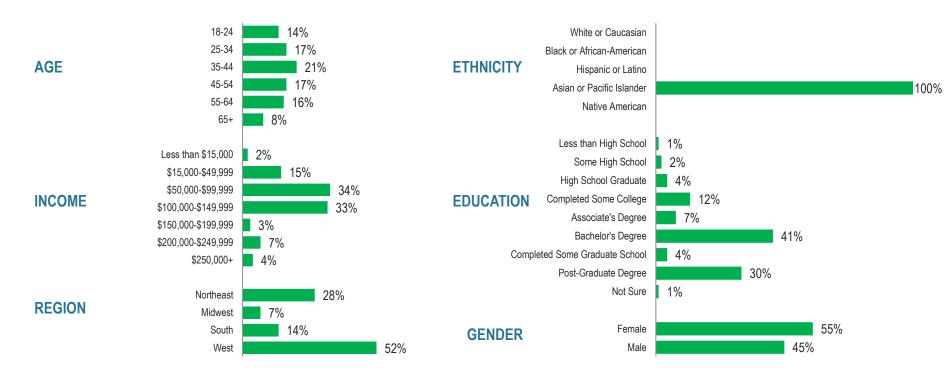


## Respondent Demographics **2016 - General Public**





## Respondent Demographics **2016 - Chinese Americans**





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