

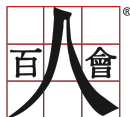


**PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS**

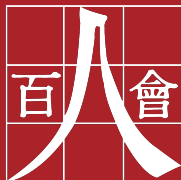
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OPINION SURVEY 2017

TEASER REPORT



*Committee of 100*



*Committee of 100*

The Committee of 100 (C100) is a national non-partisan, non-profit membership organization comprised of prominent Chinese Americans in a broad range of professions. For over 25 years, the Committee has been committed to twin missions of promoting the full participation of Chinese Americans in all fields of American life, and encouraging constructive relations between the peoples of the United States and Greater China. C100 is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit, with headquarters in New York City, and regional chapters in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Beijing.

[www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org)

# USHINA

**PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS**

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## **SURVEY OBJECTIVE:**

The aim of this survey is to determine American attitudes toward China, and Chinese attitudes toward the United States, in order to explore the most salient 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 study illuminates the hopes and fears of Americans and Chinese people for U.S.-China relations, and can be used to foster more fact-based dialogue and decision-making.

## **ABOUT THIS SURVEY:**

The Committee of 100's Public Perceptions Opinion Survey project began in 1994 and produced reports in 2001, 2005, 2007, 2012, and 2017.

This is an abbreviated version of results from the full report, covering 79 questions showing responses in China and the United States from four target respondent groups: the general public, business leaders, policy experts, and journalists.

Learn more: [www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org)

# METHODOLOGY

This year, the survey was conducted among 3,696 Chinese respondents via face-to-face interviews and 1,019 American respondents by telephone between November 18 and January 9, 2017.

Committee of 100 collaborated with Brunswick Insights Group to conduct the English-language survey in the United States. The data for the China survey are drawn from Horizon Dataway's own continuous self-sponsored and annually released survey on China's global views "The World in Chinese Eyes".

More information about survey methodology is available in the full report, available at [www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org).

**U.S.-CHINA  
MUTUAL  
SENTIMENT  
HAS DECLINED**

# CHINESE ARE LESS TRUSTING OF AMERICA

SURVEY QUESTION 1.6: How much do you think that the U.S. should trust China? A great deal, some but not a lot, not much, or none at all?

80%

(up from 56% in 2012)

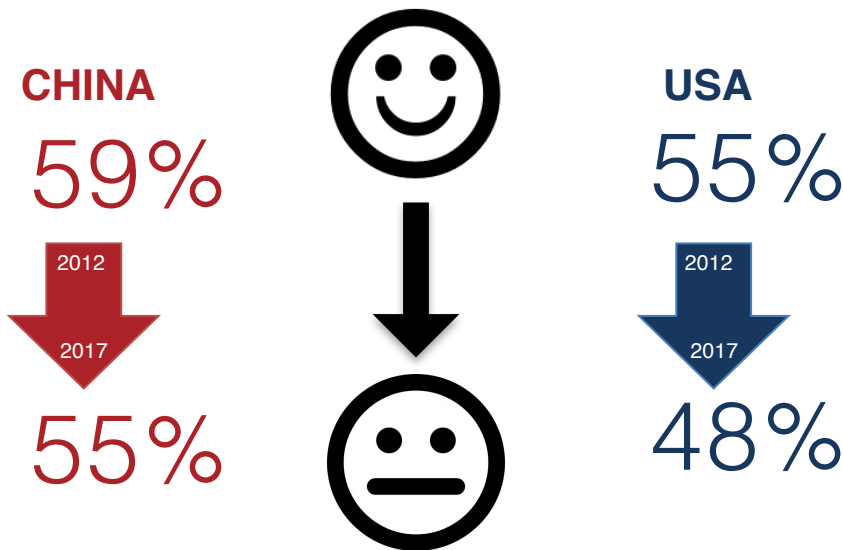
of Chinese think China should trust the U.S. not much to none at all

This decline in trust from the Chinese may be linked to their views about American intentions to curb China's rise. In 2017, **61%** of Chinese believe the U.S. is trying to prevent China from becoming a great power, up from **52%** in 2012 and **45%** in 2007.



# FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES DECLINED

SURVEY QUESTION 1.2: How would you describe your impressions of China / U.S.? Very to Somewhat Favorable or Somewhat to Very Unfavorable?



**HOWEVER...  
INTERESTS IN  
CHINA AND THE  
U.S. ARE NOW  
CONVERGING**

**AMERICANS & CHINESE NOW  
SHARE IN COMMON THE TOP  
DOMESTIC CONCERN:**

# **JOBS + ECONOMY**

In 2012, the top concern in China was **Politics / Government /  
Corruption**

SURVEY QUESTION 3.1: What are the three most important issues facing the U.S. / China today?

**74% OF CHINESE AND 91%  
OF AMERICANS BELIEVE  
IN THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-  
CHINA COLLABORATION TO  
ACHIEVE DESIRED GOALS ON  
NORTH  
KOREA**

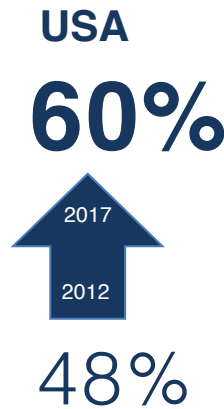
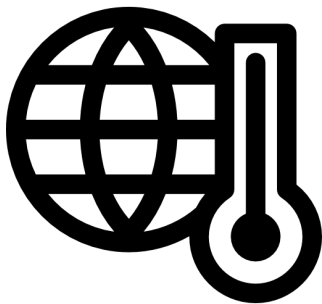
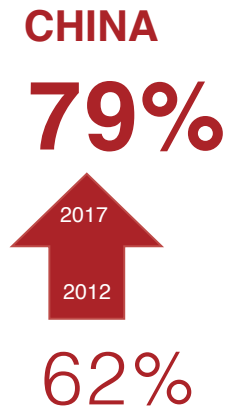


U.S. QUESTION 3.6: How important is China in the U.S. efforts to deter nuclear proliferation in N. Korea?  
CHINA QUESTION 3.7: How important is U.S.-China Cooperation in reducing tensions on the Korea peninsula?

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# BOTH AMERICANS & CHINESE ARE **INCREASINGLY WORRIED** ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

SURVEY QUESTION 3.8: How much do you worry about climate change? (percentage shown for answers “a fair amount” to “a great deal”)



U.S. QUESTION 3.5: In what two areas do you think that the U.S. and China would benefit from working together?

FOR THE **FIRST TIME**,  
AMERICANS AND CHINESE  
**AGREE** ABOUT AREAS IN  
WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES  
WOULD **BENEFIT FROM**  
**WORKING TOGETHER.**

# **3 TOP AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST:**

- **Trade**
- **Global Financial Stability**
- **The Environment**

# AMERICANS & CHINESE NOW SHARE THE **TOP PERSONAL LIFE** **GOAL:**

TO HAVE A  
**HAPPY**  
**FAMILY**



In 2012, the top personal goal for Chinese was “to get rich”

*SURVEY QUESTION 3.11: Which of the following comes closest to your current personal goal in life?*



# **U.S.-CHINA CHALLENGES:**

**AMERICAN CONCERNS  
OF MILITARY, ECONOMIC,  
AND CYBERSECURITY  
ISSUES**

THE MAJORITY OF  
AMERICANS PERCEIVE  
CHINA'S EMERGING

**MILITARY  
POWER** 73%



AND **GLOBAL  
ECONOMIC** 63%  
**POWER** AS  
POTENTIAL TO  
SERIOUS THREATS.

*SURVEY QUESTION 1.4-1.5: How do you view China's emergence as a military power?  
How do you view China's emergence as a global economic power?*



The two **GREATEST CONCERNS**  
Americans have about U.S.-China relations:



**U.S. TRADE  
DEFICIT &**

**U.S. LOSS  
OF JOBS  
TO CHINA.**



*SURVEY QUESTION 3.2: What are your two greatest concerns about the U.S.-China relationship?*

# Emerging Concerns of CYBERSECURITY



Americans cite cybersecurity as the TOP LIKELY SOURCE OF CONFLICT between the two countries, along with trade.

Concern for the threat of cybersecurity doubled in importance for Americans from 11% (2012) to 24% (2017).

*SURVEY QUESTIONS 3.2 & 4.1 : What are your two greatest concerns about the U.S.-China relationship? What are the two most likely sources of conflict between the U.S. and China in the near future?*

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# **U.S.-CHINA CHALLENGES:**

**CHINESE CONCERNS OF  
U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE  
IN ASIA AND  
CONTAINMENT**

**79%** of Chinese see America's military power as a potential to serious threat.

*SURVEY QUESTION 1.4: How do you view America's military power – as a serious threat to China, a potential threat, no threat, or an ally of China?*

**61%** of Chinese believe America is trying to prevent China from becoming a great power (up from 52% in 2012)

*SURVEY QUESTION 4.8: Please tell me which comes closest to your view: 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.*

**50%** of Chinese believe that a military conflict between U.S. & China is likely in the next 10 years.  
(compared with 39% Americans)

*SURVEY QUESTION 4.9: 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?*



The two **GREATEST CONCERNS**  
Chinese have about U.S.-China relations:

**CHINA'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEGRADATION**



**& TAIWAN**

*SURVEY QUESTION 3.2: What are your two greatest concerns about the U.S.-China relationship?*

# CHINA'S TERRITORIAL DISPUTES ARE SOURCE OF U.S.-CHINA CONFLICT



**72%** of Chinese see disputes over claims in the South China Sea as a regional issue rather than an international one

**50%** of Chinese believe that the U.S. military presence in Asia will **create tension** among stakeholders rather than maintain the security of the region (19%).

*SURVEY QUESTIONS (4.11) How will US political involvement and military presence in Asia Pacific region affect the stability of the region? (4.12) How familiar are you with the territorial issues in the South China Sea? (4.13) 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 the US should be involved in?*



**CHINA'S  
ASCENDANCE,  
WHILE SHARING  
GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP  
WITH THE U.S.**

# CHINESE OPTIMISM AT ALL-TIME HIGH:

**SURVEY QUESTION:** Overall, do you think that China is headed on the right track or are things on the wrong track?

92%

**Chinese think  
China is  
headed on the  
RIGHT TRACK**

**(vs 54% in U.S. believe we are headed in the wrong track)**

**60% of Chinese believe they will surpass the  
U.S. as the world's leading superpower.**

**SURVEY QUESTION 1.1:** Which nation or political region do you think will be the world's leading superpower twenty years from now?

# CHINESE RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S SHARED GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



**66%** of Chinese

**believe that the influence of the U.S. has either increased or stayed the same in the past 10 years.**

**59%** of

**Chinese feel that the influence of the U.S. in the world will increase or stay the same under the Trump administration.**

**SURVEY QUESTIONS (2.6):** In your opinion, over the past ten years, has the influence of U.S. in the world increased, remained about the same, or decreased? **(2.8)** In your opinion, will the influence of the U.S. in the world increase, remain about the same, or decrease under the Trump administration?

# **MILLENNIALS: HOPE AND OPTIMISM FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS**

# MILLENNIALS HAVE **MORE FAVORABLE** IMPRESSIONS AND ARE **MORE TRUSTING**

**60%**

Chinese under 35  
years old have a  
favorable impression  
of the U.S.

vs 55% China General Public



**57%**

Americans under 35  
years old have a  
favorable  
impression of China

vs 48% U.S. General  
Public

**Both countries' millennials are also more**  
**TRUSTING** of the other country, more  
**RECEPTIVE** to the other culture, and more **IN**  
**FAVOR** of language and educational exchange.

SURVEY QUESTIONS: (1.2) How would you describe your impressions of China / U.S?

(1.6) How much do you think that the U.S. / China should trust China / U.S. - a great deal, some but not a lot, a little or none at all?

# AMERICAN MILLENNIALS HAVE MOST POSITIVE VIEWS FOR U.S.-CHINA



While Chinese millennials hew more closely to Chinese general public views on most issues:

**American millennials (18-34 years) are more positive about China than the U.S. General Public on most issues:**

- More view China as America's most important partner (Q4.2)
- Less view China as a military and economic threat (Q1.4; Q1.5)
- More are opposed to military intervention (Q4.10)
- More encourage Chinese Investment in U.S., including Chinese investment in Hollywood (Q2.1; Q3.9)

LEARN MORE ONLINE:

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**PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS**

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