

CEDING GROUND TO CHINA

U.S. International Assistance Terminations are Endangering Our National Security and Prosperity



U.S. GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP
COALITION

U.S. international assistance helps to maintain our presence on the global stage and engender goodwill with strategic allies vital to advancing U.S. security and economic priorities. As the U.S. steps back from its commitments, China is stepping up: taking full advantage of the opportunity to replace us and grow its influence around the world.

If America doesn't lead, China will.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE COUNTERACTS CHINA'S RAPIDLY EXPANDING SOFT POWER INITIATIVES.

- **Over the past 15 years, Chinese development initiatives have [increased](#) by 525 percent**, expanding their influence across the world to the most vulnerable regions.
- International assistance cuts will see U.S. development support fall behind China in 40 countries. **The cuts will allow China to [surpass](#) the U.S. as a bilateral development partner in both volume and range for the first time.**

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND DIPLOMACY STRENGTHEN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS IN STRATEGIC REGIONS TO CHECK CHINA'S GROWING POWER.

- U.S. international assistance and diplomacy cuts have [hit](#) African countries—including some of the most well-endowed sources of critical minerals—the hardest. Meanwhile, **China has [pledged](#) \$50 billion to infrastructure projects and [strengthened](#) its economic partnerships in key African countries.**
- **China recently [forged](#) nearly two dozen pacts with African nations in its bid to surpass the U.S. in space.** Investments in infrastructure are helping China build strategic alliances where U.S. international assistance programs are being cut.

- **In Latin America and the Caribbean, 22 out of 33 countries have now signed up for China's Belt and Road initiative. As one expert [said](#), "Beijing wants to 'turn the Caribbean Sea into a Chinese lake'."** Cuts to U.S. international assistance in the region are having a significant negative impact on U.S. influence, while Chinese influence continues to grow.
- China's International Capital Corporation recently [announced plans](#) to **prioritize resources to strategic regions including Latin America and Southeast Asia** to support China's Belt and Road Initiative.

CUTS TO U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO COUNTER CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE AND ADVANCE AMERICAN INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD.

- In testimony before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Commander of the U.S. Africa Command General Michael Langley [stated](#), **"There's a number of programs that we see that the Chinese Communist Party is trying to replicate...they're trying to match what we do. So that's what we're seeing as we start to fold in the capabilities of USAID under [the] State Department. Those capabilities are needed for the U.S. to maintain a strategic advantage over the Chinese Communist Party."**
- The dismantling of Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia, U.S. government-funded outlets that aim to counter authoritarian propaganda, have left Chinese nationalists [cheering](#).

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INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, ALONGSIDE A STRONG MILITARY, IS CRUCIAL TO ACHIEVING PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AND COMPETING EFFECTIVELY WITH CHINA.

- Retired four-star Generals Laura Richardson and Anthony Zinni [explained](#), **“America’s competitors and rivals are seizing on the opportunity to fill the vacuum we are leaving behind.”**
- Retired four-star General Victor “Gene” Renuart Jr., commander of the U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, [said](#), “China and Russia are playing the long game. They are betting that America will grow tired, turn inward, and leave the field open. **If we cede that ground now, we may never get it back...Strategic, precision-driven investments protect our borders, bolster our economy and secure the rules-based order we have fought so hard to establish.**”
- Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe James Gilmore [stated](#), “The decisions we make today will create the world of tomorrow. **If we start by abandoning foreign assistance, that new world will be run by China and our adversaries.**”
- Richard Fontaine, CEO of the Center for a New American Security and former aide to Senator John McCain, [said](#), **“The charge for the United States is to deter war with China without capitulation and to compete effectively across all areas of soft power.... Strangely, these are the efforts most under threat.... If it goes too far, it will amount to unilateral disarmament in the world’s most important contest.”**