

# Trump wants to admit more Chinese students, but shouldn't

President Donald Trump says he is returning home from Asia with commitments for trillions in new investment in the United States. Let's hope he is leaving behind his plan to take in hundreds of thousands of Chinese students at U.S. universities.

This summer, the Trump administration wisely announced plans to "aggressively revoke" visas of Chinese students in the United States "including those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields." But then Trump reversed course, announcing in August that he would increase the number of Chinese students attending American universities to 600,000. This would more than double the approximately 275,000 Chinese students in the United States, and allow China to surpass India as the country with largest enrollment in the U.S.

That is a terrible idea.

The FBI reports that China is engaged in a systematic effort to target U.S. universities, using Chinese students and researchers to conduct espionage and steal "technologies needed to advance China's national, military, and economic goals."

In some cases, students appear to spy on our military. In 2020, recent Chinese graduate students at the University of Michigan pleaded guilty



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after being caught photographing defense infrastructure at a naval air station in Key West, Florida. In August 2023, five Chinese students at the University of Michigan were caught outside Camp Grayling, 200 miles north of their school, during a U.S. National Guard training operation that included the Taiwanese military. In 2024, a Chinese graduate student at the University of Minnesota was convicted of using a drone to take photos of naval bases in Norfolk.

But more often, students are recruited to target research at U.S. labs and universities. In 2022, then-FBI director Christopher A. Wray reported that the FBI was investigating more than 2,000 cases of Chinese intellectual property theft in the U.S. and opening up new Chinese espionage cases at a rate of one every 12 hours - many of them involving U.S. colleges and universities.

For example, in 2020 the Justice Department indicted a Chinese researcher at Harvard who was arrested attempting to smuggle vials of biological research to China. The U.S. also indicted an undercover Chinese military officer who

was a student at Boston University researching U.S. military projects, and who had allegedly compiled information for the Chinese People's Liberation Army on two U.S. scientists with expertise in robotics and computer science.

Amazingly, some Chinese researchers on campus don't even hide their PLA affiliations. In 2018, the Financial Times reported that American universities had hosted more than 500 visiting scholars from People's Liberation Army-affiliated schools over the previous decade, many of whom wrote joint papers with U.S. academics. Why has the U.S. government permitted students openly linked to the Chinese military to receive U.S. visas?

Many Chinese students may conduct espionage for Beijing willingly. Others are certainly coerced by the regime. In 2017, China passed a National Intelligence Law requiring that all Chinese citizens support and cooperate with state intelligence work, whether at home or abroad, meaning that Chinese nationals at U.S. universities have no choice but to inform the Chinese Communist Party if they are asked to do so. As Stanford Review reporters Garret Molloy and Elsa Johnson noted in an investigation this year, family members of Chinese students can be taken to police stations in China if students won't hand over certain

documents. "If you do not comply with the national intelligence law, your family back in China is under threat," Molloy told me. "Therefore, students have a very strong incentive to do exactly what the party says."

Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Michigan), chairman of the House select committee on China, recently sent a letter to the presidents of Stanford, Carnegie Mellon, Purdue, the University of Illinois, the University of Maryland and the University of Southern California warning that "the unchecked enrollment of Chinese nationals in American institutions risks facilitating the technological transfers that strengthen Beijing's military and economic competitiveness at our nation's expense." Chinese students, Moolenaar continued, are giving China "access to cutting-edge research in fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and aerospace engineering."

There is a reason China has made protecting visas for Chinese students a top priority. They help the Chinese Communist Party carry out what Wray called "the largest and most sophisticated theft of intellectual property and expertise in the history of the world." Given this fact, why on earth would the Trump administration give the Communist China the opportunity to

double the number of its students in the U.S. to help carry out that espionage?

In 2012, President Barack Obama signed legislation prohibiting Iranian students from studying energy, nuclear science or nuclear engineering in the United States. We should be imposing similar restrictions on Chinese students, not expanding their access to U.S. research and technology.

Asked by Fox News's Laura Ingraham why the administration would welcome 600,000 students from Communist China to attend U.S. universities, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick absurdly argued without those Chinese students filling spots in America's top schools, U.S. students "would go up to better schools, and the bottom 15 percent of universities and colleges would go out of business in America." In other words, by Lutnick's logic, we should let Chinese students displace Americans at the best U.S. universities, pushing Americans down the academic ladder to schools so bad that they would otherwise close, while giving the Chinese students the opportunity to collect intelligence at the most sophisticated research institutions in America.

How, exactly, is that putting "America First"?

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# Who's afraid of the big bad Bari?

There's something bonkers in the hard left's hysteria over Bari Weiss becoming editor-in-chief of CBS News. A psych eval comes toward the end.

John Oliver recently delivered an unhinged tirade against Weiss as a right-wing tool of MAGA. Oliver was his usual self -- frantic hands, googly eyes and a rapid-fire string of quips that seldom rose above the merely cute. (His producers had the laugh track in fifth gear. You can tell by the repeated "wall of laughter" that suddenly stops.)

Weiss resigned from her columnist post at The New York Times and proceeded to launch The Free Press, a site that skewers both right and left. Of course, Oliver cherry-picked the items that hit the left. In doing so, he ignored such Free Press headlines as "What Does Trump Think He's Doing with Venezuela?" and "Young Republicans are Radicalizing Themselves Online."

One of Oliver's attempts at ridicule was to note that the University of Austin, a free speech college that Weiss co-founded, "is housed on a couple of floors of a former department store in downtown Austin, which is pretty unusual."



FROMA HARROP

## This skirmish is part of a bigger battle in the Democratic Party between the noisy far left and a majority that's more moderate and knows not to call themselves socialists. There is no reason why Donald Trump got elected again other than a woke left that Republicans used to scare off the moderate multitudes.

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is acting like CBS News internally is aghast is not capturing the actual mood."

Time to put the agitated left on the therapist's couch. Why are these true believers so triggered by Bari Weiss and her like? I'm generally center-left myself, so I know what ball-park the hotheads are playing in. Contrarians like to make fun and are also good at poking holes in the "official story." And because they're not easily identified as the enemy, they subject the doctrinal purists to narcissistic injury.

The famous saying goes that "the devil cannot endure to be mocked." (My friends on the center-right see similar hurt on the far-right.)

A former media reporter for Politico, CNN and NBC/MSNBC, Byers wrote, "In my 15-plus years covering this business, in fact, I have never witnessed such a Rorschach test."

This skirmish is part of a bigger battle in the Democratic Party between the noisy far left and a majority that's more moderate and knows not to call themselves socialists. There is no reason why Donald Trump got elected again other than a woke left that Republicans used to scare off the moderate multitudes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rally showed what democracy looks like

BY JERRY NESS  
Nome, North Dakota

To the editor,  
Saturday, Oct.18, found my wife and I traveling to Valley City from our farm south of Nome to join in the "No Kings Rally."

After being told by House Speaker Mike Johnson that the crowd would consist of anti-American, Hamas supporting terrorists, we were filled with trepidation and concern. Our minds were filled with scenes of violence and debauchery. Maybe Central Avenue would be ablaze. Perhaps the bakery would be being looted by crazy people scooping up glazed doughnuts and long-johns. I had visions of farmers throwing soybeans at local law enforcement. Our hearts were filled with fear as we descended the hill past the Bubble.

Imagine our surprise when we found a large, calm, and peaceful crowd lining the sidewalk. Not a single Palestinian keffiyeh was in sight. Instead,

I saw caps with seed companies' emblems proudly displayed. American flags were proudly waved, and not one was aflame.

Instead of terrorists, I saw teachers, active and retired, expressing dismay at an administration that actively attacks free speech and expression. There were clergy who are concerned about families being torn apart without any semblance of due process. There were healthcare workers who are witnesses to tragedy as the administration and the majority party slash Medicaid, the ACA, and grants for medical research.

There were people, young, old, and in between, who were expressing their alarm and dismay at a president who believes his power is infinite and not bound by the Constitution. They were concerned by a congressional delegation that completely lacks courage. A delegation that remains silent no matter what act of craziness emanates from what was once "the people's house." The folks who gathered chanted "this is what democracy looks like." We could not have been more proud to be a part of this wonderful gathering.

That's rich. The New York headquarters of CBS News, which Oliver called "one of the most trusted names in American journalism," is in a repurposed Sheffield Farms dairy depot (circa 1938) on the far west end of 57th Street.

Seems the old building does the job.

Puck, a liberal-leaning media outlet, reported on the left's loss of neurological control in a piece titled, "Bari, Bari, Quite Contrary." Dylan Byers notes that Weiss does have agendas not beloved by many on the left, but that she also stirs up envy. Not every

journalist can parlay a Substack "with a bold mission statement" into a nine-figure business, as Weiss has.

Byers cites The Independent site's contention that CBS employees are "literally freaking out" about Weiss taking over the newsroom. These employees, all unnamed, used words like "depressing" and "doomsday."

But Byers said he also spoke to CBS News sources, at least 15 of them, and "the overwhelming response has been excitement, cautious optimism and relief." One of them, also not named, said, "Anyone who

The MAGA right knows that keeping bright spotlights on the left fringes is poison for Democrats. That's currently the best hope Republicans have to avoid a wipeout in the upcoming midterms. That Democrats finally have strong voices able to counter the party radicals is a threat to Republicans, not Democrats.

And so who's afraid of big bad Bari? Not I. She's a breath of fresh air-- and entertaining, besides.

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