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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°34

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2012 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



## Scientific Articles

### **Development of New Generation of Artificial Intelligence in China: When Beijing's Global Ambitions Meet Local Realities**

Written by Shaleen Khanal, Hongzhou Zhang, Araz Taeihaghn, published online on 09/04/2024

*China's emergence as a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI) raises a critical question: how has the nation achieved this status, and can it surpass the United States in the ongoing AI race? While existing research highlights the pivotal role of China's central government in driving AI development, this narrative overlooks the substantial influence of local governments. These local entities, with their varying interests, capacities, and strategies, play a crucial role in shaping the trajectory of AI development. This study investigates how local governments in China interpret and implement central policies on emerging*

technologies like AI. Focusing on the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan (NGAIDP), this article examines the convergence and divergence between central and local priorities through a detailed analysis of policy documents and provincial variations. By utilizing a unique dataset of provincial AI-related policies that reference the NGAIDP, the study employs content analysis and fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) to uncover the patterns and dynamics of policy diffusion.

## **The U.S. - China Trade War: Who is More Injured?**

Written by Lixia Wang, Lin Sha, Yingqian Gu, Fangyuan Guo, published online on 07/01/2025

The U.S.-China trade war is a strategic effort by the United States to repatriate manufacturing and curb corporate financialization, aiming to strengthen the real economy and prevent overreliance on financial activities. However, the actual economic impact of the trade war, particularly regarding corporate financialization, remains insufficiently examined. This study addresses this gap by analyzing panel data from listed non-financial enterprises in both China and the U.S. from 2014 to 2021. The findings reveal that the trade war has led to a significantly higher level of corporate financialization in the U.S. compared to China. This outcome highlights that the U.S., contrary to its intentions, experiences greater damage to its real economy as a result of the trade war.

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## **News from China**



### **President von der Leyen promotes openness and stronger European competitiveness during keynote speech at the Davos World Economic Forum**

Posted by European Commission on 21/01/2025

As the first quarter of the 21st century draws to a close, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, highlighting the challenges and opportunities of globalization in a rapidly evolving world. President von der Leyen painted a sobering picture of the global landscape: rising trade barriers, intensified

technology controls, weaponized supply chains, and geostrategic competition for raw materials and new technologies. Despite these challenges, she expressed a steadfast belief in balancing security with innovation to drive prosperity. Regarding China, She highlighted the EU's balanced approach of addressing market distortions while pursuing mutually beneficial opportunities. With the US, she stressed the deep interdependence of trade and innovation, affirming that pragmatic cooperation, rooted in shared values, remains essential.

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## Trump reiterates Feb. 1 tariff deadline, muddying timeline for trade action

Written by ARI HAWKINS, DOUG PALMER, posted by Politico on 21/01/2025

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump reaffirmed his intent to impose steep tariffs on key U.S. trading partners, particularly China, Mexico, and Canada, starting February 1. Despite earlier suggestions that the tariff agenda would unfold over a more extended 100-day period, Trump maintained a firm stance, citing national concerns such as fentanyl trafficking and immigration. He proposed a 10% tariff on China and a 25% tariff on Mexico and Canada. While the sweeping executive order on trade issued Monday night laid the groundwork for potential tariffs, it did not immediately implement them. Instead, it directed Cabinet officials to review trade policies and prepare recommendations, pushing any tariff decisions to April 1 at the earliest.





## The 20th Century's Lessons for Our New Era of War

Written by Hal Brands, posted by Foreign Policy on 17/01/2025

The post-1945 peace, while arduous and fraught with moral dilemmas, was achieved through sustained military, economic, and diplomatic efforts, offering a stark lesson: cold wars are the reward for averting hot ones. Today, the fragile peace faces renewed threats, particularly from China and Russia, as revisionist states challenge the existing order. In Ukraine and the Western Pacific, the risks of high-intensity warfare persist, highlighting the urgency of robust deterrence. Taiwan, with its strategic importance, demands a multi-layered defense strategy to exploit its natural geographic advantages, counter China's proximity, and deny Beijing an easy victory. This includes arming Taiwan, fortifying the first and second island chains, and ensuring the U.S. military's readiness for prolonged conflict. Similarly, NATO must strengthen its eastern front to counter Russian aggression, maintaining a credible deterrent to nuclear coercion. The Western Hemisphere remains a vital yet underappreciated theater of competition. Echoing the Monroe Doctrine, America must prevent hostile powers from gaining influence in its backyard. The rise of Chinese economic and security interests in Latin America, alongside Russian and Iranian meddling, underscores the importance of regional cooperation and strategic denial. A reinvigorated North American partnership, leveraging economic and

technological integration, can serve as a counterweight to China's global ambitions.

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**The calendar of activities for the Centre in 2025 will be released soon.**

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