

Trump to ‘Rejoice in Grandiosity’ in Beijing, but will a Hawkish Turn Follow?

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Donald Trump is [set to arrive in Beijing](#) on November 8 after he stops in Japan and South Korea. Widespread expectations are for an all-smiles, low-substance visit.

- China is making efforts to not “view [Trump] as an ‘other’ or a joke,” one Chinese international relations professor [told Reuters](#), but at the same time, another Chinese scholar said that “we must seize upon his special characteristics, such as liking instant gratification,” and let him “rejoice in grandiosity,” as ego-stroking is now “important to keeping relations stable.”
- The *New York Times* [cites](#) (paywall) several Chinese analysts who believe that Trump, given his adoration of who he calls China’s “king,” will be much more likely than former president Obama to agree to Xi Jinping’s idea of a “new type of great power relations.” This would be a significant strategic shift, because this idea has traditionally been seen by the U.S. as “code for allowing China to establish a sphere of influence in Asia, with the United States withdrawing to minimize conflict.”
- Both U.S. and Chinese officials expect this American president to be unusually submissive to his Chinese counterpart while he is visiting Beijing — to the point that human rights is not even expected to be on the agenda, [CNBC reports](#).
- However, the *Washington Post* [reports](#), “The Trump administration is slowly but surely coming around to a more hawkish, traditional Republican stance on China.”
- The *Post* explains that “Trump is filling his Asia policy team with China hawks inside the national security agencies and around the region,” and they are conducting an “Indo-Pacific strategy review” that will result in the administration “being much more explicit about the challenge that China poses.”
- Part of that push to refocus on the “Indo-Pacific” — a term targeted to sound less Chinese than “Asia-Pacific” — begins with an unusual four-party meeting between India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia to happen on the sidelines of the [APEC meeting](#) on November 13–14. China’s foreign ministry has already raised concerns about this plan, warning that it should not “target or damage” a “third party’s interest,” [India Today reports](#).

China will almost certainly offer some tweetable business deals to Trump while he is there. Here are a few potentials:

- Reported [last week](#) by *Reuters*: China may offer a lucrative oil deal to Trump from its state-owned giant Sinopec, which “could reduce China’s trade deficit with the United States...while allowing Beijing to tap growing U.S. crude supplies

as the top global oil importer seeks to diversify its import sources.”

- A \$5 billion fund for investing in U.S. manufacturing and other sectors is being negotiated between China Investment Corp., China’s largest sovereign wealth fund, and Goldman Sachs, a Wall Street giant that China sees as having favor within the administration, the *Wall Street Journal* [reports](#) (paywall).
- The *Journal* says that “other contracts” and “letters of intent,” and “agreements [that] involve aviation, liquefied natural gas and soybeans” are also expected to be announced by Trump in Beijing.

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- More on Trump in Beijing
[Opinion: The Trump presidency is causing instability in Asia](#) / Washington Post (paywall)
“It only takes a few days in Asia to get the overwhelming sense that Trump’s presidency has given a dose of accelerant to China’s rise.”
[When it comes to U.S. presidents, Trump is China’s dream](#) / The Daily Beast
[America still holds the aces in its poker game with China](#) / FT (paywall)
 - Trump and climate change leadership
[As climate wars rage in Australia, China hits Paris target a decade early](#) / Australian Financial Review (paywall)
[How China and environmentalists became unlikely bedfellows](#) / Bloomberg
[China may grasp climate leadership at U.N. talks with Trump pulling out](#) / Reuters
 - Energy and the environment
[Beijing to achieve gas-fired heating in six downtown districts](#) / China Daily
Part of an effort to “cut the city’s coal consumption by a total of 9.2 million tonnes annually.”
 - Censorship of Springer Nature (?)
[Chinese censors issue fresh warning to foreign publishers after Springer Nature pulls articles](#) / Reuters
[Tencent announces partnership with Springer Nature](#) / China Daily
[China censorship drive splits leading academic publishers](#) / FT (paywall)
 - National anthem laws
[China’s patriotic crackdown: three years in jail for ‘disrespecting’ national anthem](#) / The Guardian
[Any law requiring Hongkongers to stand for national anthem would be ‘unrealistic’ and ‘impractical’ – legal experts](#) / HKFP
[Hongkongers must stop walking and stand still for China’s national anthem, Beijing delegate says](#) / SCMP
 - South China Sea and China’s super-dredger
[China launches ‘magical’ island-building ship on eve of Trump visit](#)
Watch a [video on the ship](#) from *SupChina*.
[Philippines to keep wary eye on new Chinese dredger](#) / Reuters
 - India
[China objects to Nirmala Sitharaman’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh](#) / The Hindu

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