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**Reflective Annotated Bibliography**

**Introduction**

**My research question is**: What ways is China conducting espionage on the U.S. and what can the U.S. do about this? **This topic interests me because** I have been seeing many events on the news that have to do with China and U.S. relations. I see firsthand the plethora of young adults and adults using TikTok. On the news I see Chinese balloons being shot down and even spies being caught inside U.S. companies along with various acts of espionage inside the U.S.. I want to explore what is really going on. Are we amid a gray war? Is China’s reach that far? Are universities catching on to potential spies? How does the hunt for spy’s affect honest Chinese students and professors? Where does TikTok fall into the spying agenda? **I already know that**: Spies have been caught inside of U.S. companies like GE, a Chinese ‘weather balloon’ was shot down, TikTok has been banned on government employees’ phones, tensions in Taiwan are escalating as Taiwan fears an invasion from China. **I want to explore:** What is really going on, how long has this been happening? Should average American citizens be worried? What is the extent of the Chinese government's spy campaign? Are we witnessing the second Cold War, and will this lead to a Hot war? How are gray wars fought and how are they won?

Source Entry #1

**Part 1: MLA Citation**

Bhattacharjee, Yudhijit. “The Daring Ruse That Exposed China’s Campaign to Steal American Secrets.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 7 Mar. 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/07/magazine/china-spying-intellectual-property.html>.

**Part 2: Summary**

In the *New York Times* feature piece “The Daring Ruse That Exposed China’s Campaign to Steal American Secrets,” the author Yudhijit Bhattacharjee tells the story of Hua, an engineer at G.E Aviation who was invited to give a research talk at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics in eastern China. A seemingly innocent visit to his birth country uncovered the machine of China’s deeply rooted spying campaign which targeted intellectual property from the U.S. Company G.E Aviation and many others. Bhattacharjee walks through the maze of events which lead to the FBI arrest of a Chinese man by the name of Xu, who facilitated the meetings between himself and Hua. Bhattacharjee writes how the Chinese government – although they fully deny their participation – targets Chinese university students, faculty and employees of American companies. He explains that it is no secret that China is spying. An assistant secretary from the U.S. Department of Defense said during a meeting of American and Chinese representatives, “Look, spying is OK, we spy, you spy everybody spies... What we object to is your economic espionage.” What Bhatta sheds light on is China’s exploitation of Chinese people living in the United States. Chinese leadership stated, “Chinese belong to China, no matter what country they were born or living in.” This all coincides with China’s “Made in China 2025” initiative, which seeks to make China the world's top manufacturer in multiple areas, from aerospace to artificial intelligence. A U.S. national security official calls this initiative “a road map for theft.” Bhatta writes how these two men, Hua and Xu, both Chinese, one working for the U.S. and another for China, are “chess pieces in a geopolitical game that they had little control over.”

**Part 3: Reflection**

Bhattacharjee provides a detailed look at the ways in which China conducts espionage within the United States. What I learned from the text is the extent China will go to, just to obtain intellectual property from the U.S.. It is really a massive mechanism that drives on the purpose of siphoning as much information from the U.S. as possible. What is fascinating is the way they looked to manipulate Hua, who had no intention of spying but simply got caught in their game. By using his pride in his birth country and his fascination with engineering, they were able to manipulate him into almost giving up sensitive material, before the FBI intervened. This goes to show China's lack of morality when conducting such operations – which tends to be the case with any intelligence organization, not just China’s M.S.S (Ministry of State Security). Any Chinese person can be a target of these spying operations.

**Part 4: Rhetorical Analysis**

Yudhijit Bhattacharjee’s primary audience is Americans. The story's focus is on the geopolitics between the U.S. and China. His writing style is as much a narrative of the events that unfolded as it is informative of the details of Chinese espionage. The occasion of the piece comes after the Chinese balloon that was shot down over the United States. The article was published in the *New York Times Magazine,* March 7, 2023. The purpose of this article was to tell the story of the events that uncovered details of how China conducts its economic espionage. The author uses logos as well as pathos. Bhattacharjee gives the reader facts and quotes from reputable people in the government and does not stray away from this approach of fact driven journalism along with showing sympathy for Hua and what happened to him.

**Part 5: Quotes**

“Perhaps most unsettling is the way China has sought to exploit the huge numbers of people of Chinese origin who have settled in the West. The Ministry of State Security, along with other Chinese government-backed organizations, spends considerable effort recruiting spies from this diaspora. Chinese students and faculty members at American universities are a major target, as are employees at American corporations. The Chinese leadership “made the declaration early on that all Chinese belong to China, no matter what country they were born or living in.”

**“No one begrudges** a nation that generates the most innovative ideas and from them develops the best technology,” John Demers, former assistant attorney general for national security, said in a 2018 hearing before the U.S.. Senate Judiciary Committee. “But we cannot tolerate a nation that steals our firepower and the fruits of our brain power.”

“Chinese agents and civilians have been implicated in the theft or illicit transfer of various military technologies, including those related to radar, fighter jets, submarines and weapons systems — China’s espionage expanded in the 1980s and beyond to also target commercial technologies as diverse as pesticides, rice seeds, robotic cars and wind turbines.”

“An assistant secretary from the U.S.. Department of Defense was explaining: Look, spying is OK — we spy, you spy, everybody spies, but it’s for political and military purposes,” Lewis recounted for me. “It’s for national security. What we object to is your economic espionage”

**Source Entry #2**

**Part 1: MLA Citation**

Babbage, Ross. “A War with China Would Be Unlike Anything Americans Faced Before.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 27 Feb. 2023,<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/27/opinion/a-war-with-china-would-reach-deep-into-american-society.html>.

**Part 2: Summary**

In the *New York Times* opinion editorial “A War With China Would Be Unlike Anything Americans Faced Before,” author Ross Babbage writes about the threat of a war with China. He explains how the tensions in Taiwan as China seeks to unify Taiwan with mainland China could be a “probable spark.” His explanaton not only provides the existential threat of a large-scale attack on Taiwan by China which would “[p]unch a hole in the U.S. and allied chain of defense in the region” but also the vast capabilities of the Chinese military which he says is “capable of making a war felt in the American homeland.” He points out that China is willing and prepared to conduct a much broader form of warfare, one targeting the U.S. directly with means of political and cyberwarfare. He says, “China has built formidable political and cyberwarfare capabilities designed to penetrate, manipulate and disrupt the United States and allied governments, media organizations, businesses and civil society.” With this he explains how China could create division and distrust within the U.S., as they have done to Taiwan where China has “waged disinformation campaigns.” Babbage also goes into how China could “weaponize its dominance of supply chains and shipping.” China is becoming the largest manufacturer of ships, steel, smartphones, chemicals, metals, heavy industrial equipment and electronics. Baggage says these are “[t]he basic building blocks of a military-industrial economy.” Babbage proposes the U.S. should strengthen its military presence in the Western Pacific and find ways to protect social media in the U.S. from Chinese disinformation.

**Part 3: Reflection**

Babbage gives an outline of the vast capabilities of China’s military and industrial complex which is becoming a growing threat to the United States. What I took from this text is the reach China has and how it could potentially reach into our backyard. The idea of coordinated attacks via cyber or physical onto the U.S. mainland seems to convey a sort of fear mongering. Yet being a young man, seeing the U.S. military recruiting numbers declining rapidly, I do wonder if a hypothetical war with China would result in a draft much like we’ve seen before. Considering the massive scale a war with China would be, and the possibility of another World War, I do sometimes wonder if I and many young men like me would be thrown into such a war. I do worry mostly about the political, subversion and disinformation attacks that we can’t see. These have proven sometimes more effective at destroying a country than a physical assault. I wonder if we are already seeing such attacks underway by the Chinese government, meant to sow disorder and division. I agree with Babbage on the need to strengthen our defense against these types of “cyber threats” that aim to dismantle the U.S. from within. It reminds me of a quote from the *Art of War* by Sun Tzu, “The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.”

**Part 4: Rhetorical Analysis**

Babbage's primary audience is Americans. In the title he directly says “Americans.” His purpose of writing this piece is to shed light on what a conflict with China would look like and to look at some of China’s military capabilities. His writing style is persuasive and informative. He is trying to persuade the reader as the title suggests “A War With China Would Be Unlike Anything Americans Faced Before.” His genre choice is op-editorial to stress his main idea and give him room to make estimates on what China’s strategy would be in a conflict against the U.S.. He uses the rhetorical appeal of ethos to inform the reader of the looming threat and suggest Americans should not think lightly of China as a threat. He also uses logos by noting specific Chinese military capabilities and strategy. Ross Babbage has strong credibility. He is the Managing Director of Strategy International, a national security consulting and educational services company as well as CEO of The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments which is a non-profit focusing on US defense policy, force planning, and budgets, based in Washington D.C. Babbage also has multiple publications surrounding the topic of defense strategy, political warfare and Russian and Chinese strategy. His op-ed was published in the *New York Times* which has been publishing daily newspapers since 1851 and won 112 Pulitzer Prizes. This article is current and was published on February 27, 2023.

**Part 5: Quotes**

**“**Despite this, U.S.. military planners would prefer to fight a conventional war. But the Chinese are prepared to wage a much broader type of warfare that would reach deep into American society” (Babbage).

“If war were to break out, China can be expected to use this to disrupt communications and spread fake news and other disinformation. The aim would be to foster confusion, division and distrust and hinder decision making. China might compound this with electronic and probably some physical attacks on satellites or related infrastructure” (Babbage).

“The U.S.. economy is heavily dependent on Chinese resources and manufactured goods, including many with military applications, and American consumers rely on moderately priced Chinese-made imports for everything from electronics to furniture to shoes” (Babbage).

“A successful Chinese invasion of Taiwan would punch a hole in the U.S.. and allied chain of defenses in the region, seriously undermining America’s strategic position in the Western Pacific, and would probably cut off U.S.. access to world-leading semiconductors and other critical components manufactured in Taiwan” (Babbage).

**Source Entry #3**

**Part 1: MLA Citation**

FBI. *Made in Beijing: The Plan for Global Market Domination*. *YouTube*, YouTube, 7 Mar. 2022,<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdapE82GceA&t=258s>. Accessed 9 Apr. 2023.

**Part 2: Summary**

The YouTube video “Made in Beijing” by the Federal Bureau of Investigation tells the story of multiple cases of China conducting economic espionage on U.S. companies. The FBI explains how China has been for some years infiltrating various U.S. based companies via their employees, who are usually Chinese born U.S. Citizens. These events show how China can use the U.S. as a ground for theft. They often target technology that has taken U.S. companies decades to produce and implement. In one case a Chinese man was caught stealing a specific genetically modified corn seed from a company in the Midwest that is extremely expensive to produce. These spies then attempted to ship the corn back to China but were intercepted by the FBI. Another example shows Chinese employees working on a buoyant foam for a U.S. company who stole the formula and created their own company which they then boasted to undercover FBI agents to have supplied this material to the Chinese military’s navy. This mini documentary shows just some of the recent events of espionage that have been uncovered.

Part 2: Reflection

The FBI tells an interesting story, showing the great lengths China will go to boost and fulfill their “Made in China 2025” initative. What I find interesting is how China has completely relied on theft to enhance their technological capabilities by relying little on their own research and development, rather than using the U.S. as a sort of breeding ground. I think this is quite cunning. Their ability to target multiple facets of the U.S. technology development sector and U.S. companies is quite remarkable. What I’d like to know from the FBI is what countermeasures can the U.S. produce to prevent this type of espionage from taking place? As well as should the U.S. go to greater lengths to punish China for conducting such brazen spying or is it just the name of the game? Since China seems to target just about any company conducting research or producing products, should the U.S. be much more worried about China’s inside threat to national security?

**Part 3: Rhetorical Analysis**

The FBI’s primary audience is U.S. based companies. Throughout the video they talk specifically about targeted espionage against U.S. companies and talk about how companies can better protect against spies. The FBI’s purpose of making this video was to spread awareness of the threat of economic espionage which happens all the time. The style of the video is a narrative, showing examples and telling the story of multiple acts of espionage in recent years. The video is also informative by giving insight into how these bad actors inside companies conduct espionage. The FBI is credible because they deal directly with domestic intelligence and security, having been so since 1908 when they were officially constituted. The FBI investigates cybercrime, terrorism, public corruption and white-collar crime, making them extremely credible for relaying information regarding economic espionage done by China, since they are the direct responders.

**Part 4: Quotes**

“The Chinese communist party attempts to follow suit. They launch an ambitious roadmap to rapidly transform their manufacturing base into a high-tech global powerhouse by the year 2025” (Fishman)

“There literally is a shopping list of technology, and if your company is on that shopping list please beware because whatever means possible will be utilized to acquire that technology if it is critical for the development of the economy in China by the Chinese government” (McGahn)

“Think your company couldn’t possibly be a target of Chinese espionage? Think again. Experts say it is a viable threat, and U.S. businesses of all sizes need to be on guard.” (Fishman)

**Conclusion**

In my research, I uncovered some very interesting stories regarding Chinese espionage. I learned that there are a plethora of ways China conducts espionage in the United States, from cyberattacks done to steal sensitive information, to boots on the ground spies working for companies inside the U.S. who siphon technology and intellectual property directly back to the Chinese government. My thinking changed regarding the frequency of acts of espionage on the U.S. by China. Something I thought was a rare occurrence turned out to be much more common than I had initially expected. The research I conducted is important because I believe it sheds light on a real problem that the U.S. faces, that directly affects the economy and security of the United States. It sheds light on the geopolitical game of which we are part. And because of the rising tensions in the East, it can perhaps give a peek into why tensions are so high. The ideal audience indivduals who are interested in geopolitics as well as people who are interested or worried about the Chinese Communist party as rising threat to the U.S. The genre I will choose to present my research will be a Podcast video taking a closer look into Chinese espionage as well as looking at the growing tensions between the U.S. and China. I will be giving an informational breakdown on how Chinese spies steal technology, what they do with it and how this effects the U.S. I will give a brief overview of espionage conducted by China, along with some recent events which have shown how China conducts these operations. My main goal is to inform the general public of this threat and simply better understanding of China’s role in stealing information.