

US Chip Ban Most Punitive Move Yet Against China

Description

Excerpt

[. . .] In a speech to the Communist Party Congress a week after the US controls were announced, China's [President Xi reaffirmed, twice](#), his country's goal to "join the ranks of the world's most innovative countries, with great self-reliance and strength in science and technology" within five years.

The controls announced by the Biden administration directly undermine Xi's ambition for China. They seek to maintain US tech supremacy, while simultaneously eroding China's ability to conduct fundamental research. Given this, a significant escalatory response from China should not be unexpected.

US-China decoupling

In an age when militaries, economies and our daily lives depend on technology it is astounding how many people continue to tune out when technology – and the policies that shape it – are discussed. If there ever was a time to tune in, it is now.

For several years, leaders and commentators the world over have speculated about the possibility of the US "[decoupling](#)" from China: reducing economic and technological entanglement with the rising Asian power.

Debates on the feasibility of economic decoupling will continue. However, historians will pinpoint Biden's decision on October 7, 2022, as the moment at which US and Chinese technology decoupling became inevitable.

The US has now played its hand. The most consequential question remains: what will China do next?

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