



16 May 2019
Rep. Devin Nunes

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to our witnesses.

For many years, this Committee has warned about China’s aggressive activities that threaten the United States and our allies around the globe. Our strategic competition with China spans the economic, military, and technological domains, and crucially, in the information domain both at home and abroad.

The topic of today’s hearing—China’s digital censorship and surveillance, and its global influence operations—is a vital issue. I hope our discussion will draw attention to Chinese adoption and exportation of invasive surveillance measures designed to optimize political control, as well as Beijing’s overseas influence operations targeting the U.S. and Five Eyes governments, including activities directed by the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front Work Department.

It is important that we better understand what the Chinese Communists are doing because Beijing has implemented an aggressive and sophisticated whole-of-society influence campaign to win supporters, sow confusion in the American public, and undermine opposition to the Chinese threat within American society.

Today’s open hearing continues this Committee’s years-long initiative on China. The Committee’s views on the malign activities of Huawei and ZTE are reflected in our 2012 publicly available report, and last year’s unclassified report titled “Committee’s Review on China’s Malign Activities and the Intelligence Community’s Response ” provides important additional information for understanding the China threat.

Looking forward, this Committee needs to continue to explore the vast array of Chinese efforts to threaten American interests, including talent recruitment, academic exchanges, and Beijing's activities—both legal and illicit—to acquire critical national security technologies and intellectual property. In the last Congress, the Democrats focused disproportionate attention on false allegations that Trump associates colluded with Russia to hack the 2016 election, even interrupting an open hearing on China to demand a subpoena related to their Russia collusion theory. I hope in this Congress, the Committee will pay appropriate attention to the true array of threats emanating from Beijing and other bad actors worldwide.

While much of the Committee's work will by necessity remain classified, I hope this unclassified hearing will help Congress, the Administration, and the American people stay informed of the critical threats Beijing poses to the United States.

I yield back to the Chairman.