## AC – ONW – R1

### Overview

#### When we talk about a free press, China is one of the last places to come to mind. However, while China may be notorious for its own misinformation, it is also the target of misinformation campaigns from democracies around the world. Because our opinions about objectively good actions made by other countries are too often tarnished by the political desires of our homeland, I affirm Resolved: In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy

### Definitions

#### In order to understand what it means for me to affirm, we first need to define a few key words in the resolution.

#### First, the word “a” denotes a singular thing

**As the Cambridge English Dictionary writes,** (Cambridge English Dictionary; dictionary based on original research from the Cambridge English Corpus. “a” <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/a> No Date) // ELog

used before a [noun](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/noun) to refer to a [single](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/single) thing or [person](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/person) that has not been [mentioned](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/mention) before, [especially](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/especially) when you are not referring to a [particular](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/particular) thing or [person](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/person): I've [bought](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/bought) a [car](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/car). She has a [boyfriend](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/boyfriend). There was a [sudden](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/sudden) [loud](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/loud) [noise](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/noise). What a [shame](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/shame) that you couldn't go to the [party](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/party). I [heard](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/hear) a [child](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/child) [crying](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/crying). Is he a [friend](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/friend) of yours (= one of [your](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/your) [friends](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/friend))?

#### This means it is the job of the Affirmative to prove a singular instance where a free press that prioritizes objectivity would be preferable in a democracy

#### Next, “objective” means “not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts” according to Oxford Languages (https://www.google.com/search?q=objective+definition&sxsrf=APq-WBuHl0XyiRsN7xugy1WY0nQPX1aldg%3A1645738280458&ei=KPkXYpO\_G6OyqtsPsPW2kAk&oq=objective+defin&gs\_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAEYADINCAAQsQMQkQIQRhD5ATIFCAAQkQIyBQgAEJECMgUIABCRAjIFCAAQgAQyBQgAEIAEMgUIABCABDIFCAAQgAQyBQgAEIAEMgUIABCABDoHCAAQRxCwAzoSCAAQgAQQhwIQsQMQFBBGEPkBOggIABCABBCxAzoLCAAQgAQQsQMQgwFKBAhBGABKBAhGGABQiAFY9wVgvQ1oAXABeACAAZoBiAG-BJIBAzEuNJgBAKABAcgBCMABAQ&sclient=gws-wiz)

#### This means an objective press is a press that does not let external things influence how facts are presented

#### Finally, the word “ought” is “used to express duty or moral obligation,” according to Dictionary.com (<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/ought>)

#### This means this debate is not about whether it is possible to have an objective press, but rather whether or not one would be morally preferable

#### However, what is moral is so seemingly subjective. How are you meant to evaluate it at the end of the round? That’s where the value and value criterion come in.

### Value/Value Criterion

#### The value, or how to decide what is moral, is life – the biological state of being alive. Life must be the value we prioritize because keeping someone alive is intrinsically good and materially measurable, and because being alive is a precondition to all other moral questions

#### The value criterion, or how you evaluate who best achieves the value of life, is reverse utilitarianism, which means attempting to achieve the minimum amount of suffering. This is measurable and prioritizes the greatest good, but also ensures that nobody is left behind, making it the best way to access the value of life

#### With that out of the way, let’s get into why an objective press best achieves the value of life

### Contention: Belt and Road

#### I will prove that an objective press is the most life preserving with the specific example of the America Competes Act. The thesis of my argument is that the anti-China advocacy in this bill is worse than objective reporting because it harms the effectiveness of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which has positive impacts if successful. Let’s look at each part in more detail.

#### First, the America Competes Act encourages anti-China messaging, thus prioritizing advocacy over objectivity. This targeted coverage in countries considering China’s Belt and Road Initiative allows the Western counterpart, the Build Back Better World, to compete with and hinder the effectiveness of the BRI.

**As Lee Harris writes on February 9th,** (Lee Harris; writing fellow for The American Prospect, founder of New York Focus, former senior editor for The Chicago Maroon. “Congress Proposes $500 Million for Negative News Coverage of China” <https://prospect.org/politics/congress-proposes-500-million-for-negative-news-coverage-of-china/> 9 February 2022) // ELog

A tech and manufacturing bill currently moving through Congress allocates $500 million for media outlets to produce journalism for overseas audiences that is critical of China. Meant to “combat Chinese disinformation,” the bill would direct funding to the U.S. Agency for Global Media, a U.S.-run foreign media service, as well as local outlets and programs to train foreign journalists. The America COMPETES Act, just passed by the House, is an [industrial policy plan](https://prospect.org/politics/inflation-fighting-legislative-agenda-takes-shape/) for semiconductor production and supply chain resiliency. It sets aside technology investment funds for everything from high-level research to high school computer science. If a [domestic manufacturing bill](https://prospect.org/politics/congress-tries-to-compete/) seems like the wrong setting for spending on foreign news dispatches, sponsors say it’s a natural fit, since the need to stimulate American production is a matter of competition with Beijing. The sales pitch for reviving global competitiveness has been vivid: The country’s use of forced labor in Xinjiang camps, Nancy Pelosi [said](https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/2222-1) last week in a speech on the bill, “hurts American workers who have to compete with slave labor.” The House [version](https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20220131/BILLS-117HR4521RH-RCP117-31.pdf) of the legislation, which passed last week, is a companion to the Senate’s more hawkish bill on China competition, [USICA](https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/s1260/BILLS-117s1260es.pdf), which passed in June of last year. The plan is to merge both bills through a conference committee in the coming weeks. The bills have titles penned by the Foreign Affairs Committees of each chamber. Both include a section named “Supporting independent media and countering disinformation.” While both bills stipulate that the U.S.-funded media coverage should be “independent,” that mandate could be at odds with other requirements in the legislation. There is, at the very least, an appearance of conflict. For example, the Senate bill aims to crowd out Chinese investment in developing countries, and also encourages criticism of China’s projects in those markets. Critics of escalating tensions with Beijing expressed concerns over the push for anti-China coverage, saying it could potentially undermine the credibility of journalists involved in the reporting. “We welcome support for journalism,” Tobita Chow, the director of Justice Is Global, a group that advocates for a more equitable world economy, told the Prospect. “But if the government is setting out ahead of time in legislation what the conclusion and the point of coverage is going to be, that doesn’t really qualify as genuine journalism.” Editorially Independent State-Funded News The Senate bill aims to produce more anti-China media for regions where it says the Chinese Communist Party and other rivals are ​​promoting “manipulated media markets.” It notes that the sponsored news will be “independent.” Governments have long funded (relatively) impartial programming, from PBS’s educational shows for children to the titanic British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). But the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), which would receive the majority of the media support in this bill package, has a troubled legacy. A federally funded government agency, USAGM oversees outlets including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia (RFA), and the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB). The outlets have sometimes blurred the line between objective news coverage and pro-American propaganda—a distinction that all but dissolved in the Trump years. After the OCB came under fire for airing a 2018 [segment](https://www.usagm.gov/2019/05/21/embarking-on-reform-of-the-office-of-cuba-broadcasting/) calling the philanthropist George Soros “a nonbelieving Jew of flexible morals,” it conducted an internal review that offers a candid look at U.S.-run foreign media’s mission. “A primordial rule of successful political messaging and modern marketing is that to influence people, you must usually first establish empathy with them,” the [report](https://www.usagm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Embarking-on-OCB-Reform-English.pdf) explains. “OCB’s broadcasts and postings do that far too little. They seek instead to activate overt opposition and hostility to the entirety of the Cuban Revolution.” Instead, the report recommends a subtler approach that could more effectively sway Cuban public opinion. The Trump administration put a registered lobbyist for Taiwan in control of Radio Free Asia, drawing criticism from journalists who said the outlet’s credibility was tarnished. And staffers at Voice of America wrote in a [letter](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/20454442-voa-letter) that orders to broadcast a speech by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were an attempt to “stage a propaganda event.” Progressive critics said that media funded as part of strategic rivalry with a peer competitor can lose its objectivity, or at least the appearance of objectivity. U.S.-run broadcast networks have been responsive to changing political currents as recently as last December, when Voice of America expanded coverage in the area and named its network’s first-ever Eastern Europe chief, [citing](https://www.usagm.gov/2021/12/20/voice-of-america-names-first-eastern-europe-chief/) rising tensions with Russia and “the impact of Russia’s and China’s influence throughout the region.” In light of that history, anti-war activists have been wary of expansions to U.S.-run news networks. While they were careful not to equate reporting by state-funded media in the United States, where robust free-speech laws protect journalists, to heavily censored state media in China, several progressive critics said that media funded as part of strategic rivalry with a peer competitor can lose its objectivity, or at least the appearance of objectivity. “When the United States funds ‘independent’ media to report critically on China, very serious guardrails must be adhered to so that the U.S. government doesn’t simply appear to be pushing its own form of propaganda and to protect the safety and credibility of reporters who cover China with a critical lens,” one congressional progressive staffer said. “Otherwise, this funding is just an exercise in crude soft-power projection, with many sources at risk of being much more easily dismissed or repressed as pawns of a U.S. geopolitical strategy.” The staffer added that progressive legislators would push for outlets and journalists receiving U.S. funding or training to disclose that relationship transparently in their reporting. “The Chinese state’s own attempts to manipulate public opinion overseas tend to backfire,” Jake Werner, a researcher on China at Boston University and co-founder of Justice Is Global, told the Prospect. Although the funding could produce some good journalism, he said, “it would also tend to sow doubt and hostility toward journalists doing critical reporting on China’s activities among key audiences like overseas Chinese.” Responding to a request for comment, Rohit Mahajan, a spokesperson for Radio Free Asia, referred the Prospect to RFA’s [mission statement](https://www.rfa.org/about/info/mission.html). “Radio Free Asia’s journalists do not engage in propaganda,” Mahajan added. “RFA brings fact-based, independent news to millions living in places where authoritarians and elites do everything in their power to silence a free press and free speech.” Amendment to Limit Production of Propaganda In the 1970s, following reports that Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were backed with CIA funds, Arkansas Sen. J. William Fulbright, a pre-eminent critic of American foreign policy, [argued](https://www.nytimes.com/1972/03/26/archives/listening-in-on-radio-free-europe-the-station-that-fulbright-wants.html) that the “radios … [should] take their rightful place in the graveyard of Cold War relics.” While most of Fulbright’s opposition to U.S.-run broadcasting was unsuccessful, he led a reform effort that restricted the distribution of overseas propaganda material to Americans. Rep. Edward Zorinsky (D-NE) later extended that reform, [arguing](http://www.smithmundt.com/1985-amendment-from-senator-edward-zorinsky-d-ne-to-the-smith-mundt-act-of-1948/) that refraining from propagandizing the American people “distinguishes us, as a free society, from the Soviet Union where domestic propaganda is a principal government activity.” That prohibition, which extended to Radio Free Asia and other USAGM networks, was in place until 2012. An amendment in that year’s defense authorization bill [repealed the ban on disseminating propaganda](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mhastings/congressmen-seek-to-lift-propaganda-ban) to domestic audiences. A spokesperson for the USAGM (then called the Broadcasting Board of Governors) [said](https://archive.is/1aNyD#selection-973.130-977.11) at the time that repealing the ban would increase transparency and help the agency reach diaspora groups living in America, such as Somali expats in Minnesota. Now, progressives concerned about the new enthusiasm for producing reporting critical of competitors are hoping to limit the likelihood that new funding produces propaganda. An [amendment](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/ESCOTX_127_xml220131162839808.pdf) to the House bill, introduced by Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX), would prohibit the use of any funds “for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.” “The initial goal was to try to revive that long-standing prohibition on propagandizing people in the United States,” Erik Sperling, the executive director of Just Foreign Policy, told the Prospect. Sperling’s group worked on developing the Escobar amendment. When reached for comment, Sperling said he was surprised to see that language specifying “United States” had been cut from the amendment after he had last seen it. While his organization had only planned to push for the more modest request not to propagandize Americans, he welcomed a more general mandate not to distribute propaganda overseas. The amendment passed among two dozen Congressional Progressive Caucus [amendments](https://progressives.house.gov/2022/2/house-passed-america-competes-act-includes-congressional-progressive-caucus-amendments-to-advance-climate-equity-and-human-rights) to the House legislation. Since a ban on propaganda could be at odds with more hawkish coverage of China, it remains to be seen how it will be reconciled with the bill’s broader priorities. A progressive staffer said it is intended as a “guardrail.” China Criticism Aimed at Arenas Where U.S. Seeks to Compete Funding critical news coverage in a bill package that heightens competition with the subjects of that coverage could call into doubt the objectivity of U.S.-run media. One example is coverage of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Senate bill encourages criticism of the BRI, which it is directly seeking to compete with. China in recent years has erected ports, bridges, and other public works in countries from Pakistan to Peru. The result is an imperial-scale influence campaign, targeted at developing countries and geostrategic choke points, that has been compared to the Marshall Plan, America’s spending to rebuild Western Europe and contain the Soviet Union after World War II. Since taking office, President Biden has talked about [wresting back turf](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-27/biden-team-aims-to-rival-china-s-belt-and-road-in-latin-america) from China with rival investments, particularly in nearby Latin America and the Caribbean. USICA, the Senate bill, would raise U.S. spending through the Inter-American Development Bank, and introduce “conditionality measures” to block partner countries from borrowing simultaneously from China. One subtitle of USICA creates a “Countering Chinese Influence Fund” totaling $1.5 billion over a five-year period, with more than a third of funds aimed at media outlets. The push to counter China, the subtitle explains, should “raise awareness of and increase transparency regarding the negative impact of activities related to the Belt and Road Initiative.” It should also urge “support for market-based alternatives in key economic sectors, such as digital economy, energy, and infrastructure.” The House and Senate Foreign Affairs Committees did not respond to questions from the Prospect, including on how bill sponsors define “disinformation” and “misinformation.” The terms are not defined in either bill.

#### This disruption of the Belt and Road Initiative is bad, because a successful BRI will bring two great benefits.

#### The first of these is climate change – the BRI creates funding and guidance for green development that creates regional climate strategies and meets international climate standards

**As the MEE writes in 2017,** (Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China. “The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan” [https://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/Policies/policies/Frameworkp1/201706/t20170628\_416869.shtml May 2017](https://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/Policies/policies/Frameworkp1/201706/t20170628_416869.shtml%20May%202017)) // ELog

The Initiative of Jointly Building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (hereinafter referred to as the Belt and Road) aims to promote economic prosperity of countries along the routes and regional economic cooperation, strengthen exchange and mutual learning among different civilizations, and contribute to world peace and development. Since its inception, the Belt and Road Initiative has proceeded rapidly with the implementation of a number of major programs and international production capacity cooperation projects. In the field of eco-environmental cooperation, China has achieved positive progress and promising results by actively deepening bilateral dialogue, exchange and cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road, reinforcing eco-environmental information support services and advancing cooperation on environmental standards, technologies and industries. To strengthen cooperation on eco-environmental protection and enable eco-environmental protection to serve, support and guarantee the Belt and Road construction towards environment-friendly routes, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) hereby formulates The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan, pursuant to the Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (hereinafter referred to as the Vision and Actions), 13th Five-Year Plan for Protecting the Ecological Environment, and Guidance on Promoting Green Belt and Road. I. Significance (I) A fundamental requirement of environment-friendly Belt and Road China attaches high importance to eco-friendly Belt and Road. Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the concept of green development in many occasions, calling for in-depth eco-environmental cooperation and intense eco-environmental protection in a joint effort to build green Silk Roads. The Vision and Actions made it clear to promote ecological progress in conducting investment and trade and increase cooperation in conserving eco-environment, protecting biodiversity and tackling climate change. The cooperation on eco-environmental protection meets the fundamental requirement of reinforcing eco-friendly Belt and Road construction with a view to sustainable development and common prosperity while practicing the concepts of ecological civilization and green development. (II) An important way to realize green transformation of regional economy A majority of countries along the Belt and Road are developing countries and emerging economies. They are faced with multiple challenges brought about by industrialization and urbanization, such as environmental pollution and ecological degradation, and have growing expectations for accelerated transition to green development. China and a number of countries along the routes have met with success in actively exploring the model of coordinated environmental and economic development and vigorously boosting the green economy. The cooperation on eco-environmental protection is conducive to capacity building of countries along the routes. It provides an important way to achieve green transformation of regional economy by facilitating bypass that harmonizes economic development and environmental protection with minimum impact on the ecological environment. (III) An important measure to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Green development has been recognized by the world community. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations aims to jointly improve the welfare of all mankind and clearly specifies the targets of green development and environmental protection, mapping the road to sustainable development and international development cooperation in the next decades. The cooperation on eco-environmental protection under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative will inject an effective impetus to accomplishment of environmental targets in the Agenda in countries along the routes. II. Overarching Requirements (I) Guiding ideology In the Silk Road Spirit which advocates peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, we will persist in jointly building the Belt and Road through consultation to meet the interests of all, with a view to common development and prosperity. Firmly upholding the philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, we will integrate green development vigorously, orderly and effectively into policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds. A new pattern of higher-level cooperation on eco-environmental protection among diverse stakeholders will be created in the Belt and Road, thus contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals. (II) Underlying principles Green-oriented philosophy. Guided by the philosophies of ecological civilization and green development, the Belt and Road Initiative will be advanced in an environment-friendly way to improve green competitiveness, covering policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds. Joint construction through consultation to create mutual benefit and win-win situation. With full respect for the development needs of countries along the Belt and Road, we will strengthen strategic alignment and policy communication and cooperate on eco-environmental protection based on consensus, to build a community of shared interests, responsibility and future and create a win-win situation for economic development and environmental protection. Government guidance and diverse participation. We will provide better policy support and cooperation platforms and construct a network for eco-environmental protection cooperation characterized by government guidance, business commitment and social participation. The whole society will be mobilized to actively participate in environmental governance with the business sector bearing the main responsibility and the market playing the due role. Coordinated advancement and demonstration. In accordance with unified deployment with priority areas and industries, we will make steady and orderly progress and timely summarize lessons and results to form radiation effects and cooperate at higher standards. (III) Development goals To 2025, we will integrate the concepts of ecological civilization and green development into Belt and Road Initiative and create a favorable pattern of well-grounded cooperation on eco-environmental protection. Focusing on six economic corridors, we will beef up cooperation platforms and personnel exchanges; formulate and implement a series of support policies and strengthen information support; foster a cluster of high-quality green brands in railway, electric power and other key areas; apply a set of green financial instruments into investment and trade projects and lead capital flow to socio-environmentally friendly industries; and establish a group of international platforms for environmental business cooperation, including industrial cooperation demonstration bases, environmental technology exchange and transfer bases, technical demonstration and promotion bases, and science and technology parks. To 2030, we will promote cooperation on eco-environmental protection with higher standards and at deeper levels to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. We will deepen cooperation in key fields such as environmental pollution control, ecological protection, nuclear and radiation safety, and technological innovation in environmental protection; improve the comprehensive capacity in serving, supporting and guaranteeing eco-environmental protection, and build green, prosperous and friendly Belt and Road that benefit countries along the routes. III. Highlight the Concept of Ecological Civilization and Strengthen Policy Coordination (I) Share the concept and practice of ecological civilization and green development Share the concept of ecological civilization. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms will be fully used to deepen dialogue and exchange on concepts, laws and regulations, policies, standards and technologies for ecological progress and green development and facilitate the joint development of bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional and regional strategies and action plans for eco-environmental protection. Share experience in green development. The practical experience of green development will be summarized and environment-friendly technologies and products advocated to meet green development needs. Eco-environmental protection will be cultivated as a new engine of green transformation in countries and regions along the routes. (II) Build platforms for eco-environmental protection cooperation Step up the improvement of cooperation mechanisms and platforms. High-level governmental dialogue will be conducted based on such cooperation mechanisms as China-ASEAN Summit, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Lancang-Mekong RiverCooperation Mechanism, Euro-Asia Economic Forum, China-Africa Cooperation Forum, China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. We will strengthen regional exchanges on eco-environmental protection, expand cooperation with relevant international organizations and agencies, initiate the International Union for Green Belt and Road Development, and establish cooperation platforms with multiple participation that include governments, enterprises, think tanks, social organizations and the public. Advance the construction of environmental information sharing platforms. A big data service platform for eco-environmental protection will be put in place through cooperation to provide comprehensive information support and guarantee for eco-friendly Belt and Road. While strengthening information sharing, the platform will enhance advisory services for environmental risk assessment and prevention and stimulate cooperation on information products, technologies and services. (III) Fuel exchange and cooperation of social organizations and think tanks Encourage exchange and cooperation of non-governmental environmental organizations. We will actively provide platform and policy guidance for international exchange and cooperation of social organizations in the field of environmental protection. We will support non-governmental environmental organizations to forge cooperative partnerships with relevant institutions of countries along the Belt and Road and maintain contact in various forms, such as public service, joint research, exchange visits, scientific and technological cooperation, forums and exhibitions. Strengthen exchange and cooperation of eco-environmental think tanks. We will build an intelligence support system for cooperation on eco-environmental protection by increasing the involvement of think tanks in strategic development, policy alignment, and investment advisory services. Think tanks are encouraged to cooperate with domestic and international counterparts, government departments, enterprises and social organizations, and work with research institutions to create platforms for scientific research and technology research and development. IV. Respect Laws and Regulations to Promote International Production Capacity Cooperation and Eco-friendly Infrastructure Construction (1) Enable enterprises to play the major role in environmental governance Strengthen guide to green corporate behavior. We will implement the Guidance on Promoting Green Belt and Road jointly issued by MEP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation jointly released by MOFCOM and MEP, and the Initiative on Corporate Environmental Responsibility Fulfillment for Building the Green “Belt and Road” announced by 19 key enterprises. Enterprises will be required to consciously abide by local environmental regulations and standards and fulfill respective environmental responsibility. Industry associations and chambers of commerce will be recommended to introduce code of conduct on eco-environmental behaviors for overseas investment. Encourage enterprises to strengthen environmental management. Enterprises will be directed to develop low-carbon, energy-saving, environment-friendly materials, techniques and processes, increase reuse and reduce pollutant generation and discharge from production, service provision and product use. Green brands of high-quality production capacity will be nurtured in such industries as railway, electricity, automotive, communications, new energy, and iron and steel. Guidance will be provided on environmental impact assessment and environmental risk prevention by enterprises according to local requirements. Biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration will be enhanced, with priority given to in-situ conservation. Facilitate the disclosure of corporate environmental information. We will enable enterprises to publish annual environmental reports on a regular basis, and release plans, measures and environmental performance in implementing environmental laws and regulations via the mobile Internet and the Internet of Things. We will advocate that enterprises communicate with stakeholders on environmental protection matters in a timely manner, so as to form a harmonious social atmosphere. (II) Advance infrastructure construction in an eco-friendly way Promote green low-carbon construction, operation and management of infrastructure. We will improve green and low-carbon operation, management and maintenance of facilities by clarifying environmental protection requirements in infrastructure construction standards and enforcing environmental standards and practices in such sectors as green transportation, green building and green energy. Upgrade environmental management of industrial parks. We will jointly create eco-industrial parks with focus on enterprise agglomerations, eco-industrial chains and service platforms. Environmental protection facilities will be constructed, centralized sewage treatment and recycling and corresponding demonstration be promoted, and public service platforms on eco-environmental information, technology and business put in place in industrial parks. V. Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption and Boost Green Trade (I) Facilitate trade of environmental products and services Escalate environmental management of import and export trade. We will conduct researches on environmental protection’s role in optimizing trade and investment and explore the feasibility of including environmental considerations into free trade agreements with major countries along the Belt and Road. Joint efforts will be made to crack down upon illegal trans-boundary movement of solid waste. Reduction or cancellation of export tax rebates will be sought with regard to heavy pollution industries and environmental standards moderately raised for active polluting industries, energy-consuming industries and resource-intensive industries. Expand import and export of environmental products and services. We will share the successful practice in cooperation on environmental products and services, further open the market of environmental services, and expand the import and export of environmental products and services, covering air pollution treatment, water pollution control and treatment, as well as hazardous waste management and disposal. Exploration of ways to facilitate trade of environmental products and services will be made. Include eco-labeled products into government procurement. We will carry out eco-label exchange and cooperation projects and share experience in eco-label certification system. Countries along the Belt and Road will be recommended to include more eco-labeled products into government procurement. Efforts will be made to explore establishing mutual recognition mechanisms and encourage eco-labeling agencies to enter into mutual recognition agreements for eco-labeled products. (II) Enhance green supply chain management Establish a green supply chain management system. We will develop pilot projects and policy instruments for green supply chain management to promote green development from the perspective of the whole industrial chain ranging from production, circulation to consumption. We will carry out certification of standards and performance appraisal for green supply chain and try to establish green supply chain performance evaluation systems. Enhance international cooperation on green supply chain. Positive efforts will be made to develop the green supply chain cooperation network, support green production, procurement and consumption, and promote green supply chain management in international trade. Demonstration bases for green supply chain cooperation will be established. Strengthened exchange and visibility activities will be carried out to facilitate green supply chain management in countries along the Belt and Road, and inter-governmental initiatives on green supply chain cooperation be encouraged. Encouragement will be also given to publicity and promotion efforts made by such organizations as industry associations and international chambers of commerce. VI. Increase Support for Green Financing to Boost Financial Integration Formulate green financial policy. We will study and develop green investment and financing guidelines, identify green investment and financing needs of countries along the Belt and Road, and introduce administrative standards for green investment and financing that highlight green project scoping and screening and environmental and social risk management. Establish green development fund. A dedicated fund for resource development and environmental protection will be set up to support eco-environmental infrastructure construction, capacity building and development projects of green industries in countries along the Belt and Road. Guide green-oriented investment decisions. We will share the experience of green finance and strengthen environmental risk management in the Belt and Road Initiative and other overseas investment projects by raising the level of environmental information disclosure, applying such green financing tools as green bonds, and introducing mandatory environmental pollution liability insurance in fields prone to environmental risk. VII. Carry out Eco-Environmental Protection Projects and Activities to Enhance People-to-People Bonds (1) Strengthen cooperation in key areas of eco-environmental protection Deepen cooperation on environmental pollution control and treatment. The cooperation will be strengthened in air, water and soil pollution prevention and control, solid waste management and comprehensive rural environmental improvement. A number of environmental pollution control projects that benefit all participating parties will be implemented. Push forward ecological protection cooperation. We will establish biodiversity database and information sharing platform, launch demonstration projects for biodiversity conservation corridors in the Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Tibetan Plateau, and further develop the China-ASEAN partnership on eco-friendly cities. Strengthen nuclear and radiation safety cooperation. We will take active part in the development of international nuclear safety system and share good practice of nuclear and radiation safety supervision. We will get deeply involved in the various activities of international organizations, such as International Atomic Energy Agency and OECD Nuclear Energy Agency. We will promote the establishment of international cooperation and exchange platforms to help countries in need to enhance regulatory capacity for nuclear and radiation safety. Enhance cooperation on scientific and technological innovation. We will actively participate in scientific and technological cooperation and exchange in the field of eco-environmental protection to improve the capability of scientific and technological support. Environmental organizations will be fully mobilized in the research and development of environmental technologies and transfer, extension and application of scientific and technological achievements. Promote cooperation for compliance with environmental conventions. We will help relevant countries along the Belt and Road to fulfill commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as Convention on Biological Diversity and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, by building up cooperation mechanisms for MEA implementation and enabling technological exchange and South-South cooperation. (II) Provide more support to green demonstration projects Promote green foreign aid. We will develop strategies and action plans for green foreign aid which focuses on the fields of pollution control, ecological conservation, environmental protection technologies and industries, as well as sustainable production and consumption. Efforts will be made to incorporate eco-environmental cooperation in the scope of support by financial mechanisms such as the South-South Cooperation Fund. Foreign aid in the field of environmental protection will be upgraded in both scale and level, with priority given to environmental policy and legislation, personnel exchanges and demonstration projects. Implement Green Silk Road Envoys Program. We will further improve the implementation plan of Green Silk Road Envoys Program. Focusing on policy communication, capacity building, technical exchange, and industrial cooperation, the program aims to strengthen the interaction and exchange of environmental management personnel and professional technical personnel, build up environmental protection capacity, and improve environmental awareness and management in countries along the Belt and Road. Establish technical cooperation parks and demonstration bases for environmental protection industries. We will promote enterprise-centered technological and industrial cooperation on environmental protection and carry out pilots for the construction of environmental protection facilities and application of environmental pollution control and ecological restoration technologies. We will guide the cluster development of advantageous environmental protection industries, and explore the innovative model of cooperation in setting up technical parks and demonstration bases for environmental protection industries. VIII. Step up Capacity Building and Make Use of Local Advantages Strengthen environmental protection capacity building. We will formulate local plans and corresponding implementation programs for cooperation on eco-environmental protection that give full play to the geographical advantages of domestic provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) along the Belt and Road. Environmental regulation and governance capacity building will be strengthened in border provinces (autonomous regions) such as Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Xinjiang, Yunnan and Guangxi, while green development will be upgraded in Jiangsu, Guangdong, Shaanxi and Fujian. Local governments are encouraged to actively participate in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on environmental protection, establish international partnerships at provincial and municipal levels, and enable innovative cooperation models, so as to create a sound situation where governments at all levels have joint efforts, government and private sector have coordinated action, and think tanks can provide support. Establish environmental technological and industrial cooperation bases. Environmental technology innovation and transfer bases will be developed where conditions permit. Demonstration bases for environmental technology and industrial cooperation will be set up for and with states from ASEAN, Central Asia, South Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Arab World, and Africa. Support will be provided to raise the international level of environmental protection industrial parks, circular economy industrial parks, main industrial sectors, and environmental protection enterprises. Efforts to facilitate and implement environmental technology and industrial projects will be carried out in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, Bohai Economic Rim, Pearl River Delta, and Central Plains Urban Agglomeration as underpinning for green Belt and Road.

#### This is important, because unchecked climate change leads to extinction.

**As David Spratt writes in 2019,** (David Spratt and Ian Dunlop, \*Research Director for Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration and co-author of *Climate Code Red: The case for emergency action*; \*\*member of the Club of Rome AND formerly an international oil, gas and coal industry executive, chairman of the Australian Coal Association, chief executive of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and chair of the Australian Greenhouse Office Experts Group on Emissions Trading, "Existential climate-related security risk: A scenario approach," Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration, 5-30-2019, https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/148cb0\_90dc2a2637f348edae45943a88da04d4.pdf, Date Accessed: 7-5-2019, SB)

2050: By 2050, there is broad scientific acceptance that system tipping-points for the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and a sea-ice-free Arctic summer were passed well before 1.5°C of warming, for the Greenland Ice Sheet well before 2°C, and for widespread permafrost loss and large-scale Amazon drought and dieback by 2.5°C. **The “hothouse Earth” scenario has been realised**, and Earth is headed for another degree or more of warming, especially since human greenhouse emissions are still significant. While sea levels have risen 0.5 metres by 2050, the increase may be 2–3 metres by 2100, and it is understood from historical analogues that seas may eventually rise by more than 25 metres. Thirty-five percent of the global land area, and 55 percent of the global population, are subject to more than 20 days a year of lethal heat conditions, **beyond the threshold of human survivability.** The destabilisation of the Jet Stream has very significantly affected the intensity and geographical distribution of the Asian and West African monsoons and, together with the further slowing of the Gulf Stream, is impinging on life support systems in Europe. North America suffers from **devastating weather extremes including wildfires, heatwaves, drought and inundation.** The summer monsoons in China have failed, and water flows into the great rivers of Asia are severely reduced by the loss of more than one-third of the Himalayan ice sheet. Glacial loss reaches 70 percent in the Andes, and rainfall in Mexico and central America falls by half. Semi-permanent El Nino conditions prevail. Aridification emerges over more than 30 percent of the world’s land surface. Desertification is severe in southern Africa, the southern Mediterranean, west Asia, the Middle East, inland Australia and across the south-western United States. Impacts: A number of **ecosystems collapse**, including coral reef systems, the Amazon rainforest and in the Arctic. Some poorer nations and regions, which lack capacity to provide artificially-cooled environments for their populations, become unviable. Deadly heat conditions persist for more than 100 days per year in West Africa, tropical South America, the Middle East and South-East Asia, which together with land degradation and rising sea levels contributes to 21 perhaps a billion people being displaced. Water availability decreases sharply in the most affected regions at lower latitudes (dry tropics and subtropics), affecting about two billion people worldwide. **Ag**riculture **becomes nonviable** in the dry subtropics. Most regions in the world see a significant drop in food production and increasing numbers of **extreme weather events**, including heat waves, floods and storms. **Food production is inadequate** to feed the global population and food prices skyrocket, as a consequence of a one-fifth decline in crop yields, a decline in the nutrition content of food crops, a catastrophic decline in insect populations, desertification, monsoon failure and **chronic water shortages**, and conditions **too hot for human habitation** in significant food-growing regions. The lower reaches of the agriculturally-important river deltas such as the Mekong, Ganges and Nile are inundated, and significant sectors of some of the world’s most populous cities — including Chennai, Mumbai, Jakarta, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Shanghai, Lagos, Bangkok and Manila — are **abandoned**. Some small islands become **uninhabitable**. Ten percent of Bangladesh is inundated, displacing 15 million people. According to the Global Challenges Foundation’s Global Catastrophic Risks 2018 report, even for 2°C of warming, more than a billion people may need to be relocated due to sea-level rise, and In high-end scenarios “the scale of destruction is beyond our capacity to model, with **a high likelihood of human civilisation coming to an end**”. 22

#### The second positive impact of the Belt and Road Initiative is the economy – it increases access to goods that boosts the global economy and lifts millions from poverty.

**As the World Bank writes in 2019,** (World Bank. “Belt and Road Economics: Opportunities and Risks of Transport and Corridors” [https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31878/9781464813924.pdf 2019](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31878/9781464813924.pdf%202019)) // ELog

The reduction in trade costs due to BRI projects would increase global real income due to increases in income for both Belt and Road corridor economies and non-Belt and Road corridor countries. In the CGE simulation, the reduction in trade costs due to the BRI leads to a global real income increase of 0.7 percent in 2030 relative to the baseline (figure 2.5), not including the cost of infrastructure investment (see chapter 1).10 This is sizable compared with the estimates of other CGE models of the real income impact of global free trade of around 1 percent. The Belt and Road corridor economies capture 70 percent of this gain, with an increase in China’s real income that is equal to 20 percent of the total global gain. Overall, the new infrastructure network would increase real incomes for corridor economies by 1.2 percent—and for non-Belt and Road economies by 0.3 percent. Real income gains from BRI projects range between 1 percent for East Asia and Pacific and 2 percent for corridor economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. These positive income effects are driven by the reallocation of resources induced by the reduction in trade costs. With cheaper or higher quality inputs imported, resources are reallocated to increase productivity, improve exports, and boost incomes. Countries like Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic are expected to experience the largest gains in real income, respectively 10.5 and 10.4 percent higher than the baseline. The new BRI projects are expected to mostly improve these countries’ access to their export markets. East Asian economies are expected to have sizable gains: Thailand (8.2 percent), Malaysia (7.7 percent), Cambodia (5.0 percent), and Lao PDR (3.1 percent). Other countries with large gains in real income are Bangladesh (6.9 percent), Turkey (3.6 percent), the Islamic Republic of Iran (3.0 percent), and Tanzania (2.5 percent). The effects of BRI transport infrastructure projects on GDP tend to be larger in the structural model (see figure 2.5). BRI projects are expected to increase world GDP by 2.9 percent—the increase for non-Belt and Road economies at 2.6 percent and for corridor economies at 3.4 percent. While larger than the impact of the CGE model, these estimates in the structural model of the real income effect of BRI infrastructure are in line with estimates in the related literature. Using a similar model, Donaldson (2018) found that the vast network of railroads built in colonial India (Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan) toward the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century increased real income by 16 percent. As seen in the previous section, the larger gains from the structural models mostly accrue as the reduction in trade costs has a greater effect on trade, particularly in intermediate goods, leading to larger reallocations of resources and productivity gains. Upper-middle- and low-income corridor economies are expected to benefit the most from the infrastructure improvement. The result for upper-middle-income countries is driven by China’s improved access to foreign markets, estimated to increase its GDP by 3.4 percent. The impact for low-income countries is driven by the corridor economies in Sub-Saharan Africa as the new ports in Tanzania and Kenya could substantially improve the connectivity of those two countries to other corridor economies and the rest of the world. The welfare impact of BRI transport projects and the distribution of gains across countries need to account for the cost of building the infrastructure. The structural model compares the long-term real income gains for each country with an estimate of the share of the BRI infrastructure cost that each country is expected to pay.11 Corridor economies as a group enjoy a net welfare gain of 2.8 percent. Because trade gains are not commensurate with project investment, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan have a net welfare loss due to the high cost of infrastructure (de Soyres, Mulabdic, and Ruta 2019). Because the final cost of large transport projects is often substantially larger than their expected costs (see chapter 1), welfare losses could be a risk for a larger spectrum of countries. This highlights the importance of complementary reforms that improve the integration gains from transport projects (chapter 3), efficiency in public procurement (chapter 4), and managing the fiscal risks of infrastructure projects (chapter 4). The impact for non-Belt and Road economies is higher as they benefit from reductions in trade costs without bearing any costs related to the new infrastructure. Through its impact on integration and growth, the Belt and Road Initiative could reduce the percentage of people living in extreme poverty, with less than PPP US$1.90 a day. Under baseline conditions, it is expected that global extreme poverty will fall from 9.5 percent in 2015 to 3.9 percent by 2030 (CGE model). At the global level, BRI related investments could lift 7.6 million from extreme poverty (these effects abstract from the cost of infrastructure investment that could affect household income through changes in government spending and taxation). The benefits extend to 4.3 million in Belt and Road corridor economies and 3.3 million in non-Belt and Road countries. BRI-related investments could additionally lift up to 32 million people from moderate poverty, with less than PPP US$3.20 a day, with 26.7 million from corridor economies and 5.3 million from non-Belt and Road countries. Such higher poverty lines are more adequate for measuring poverty as countries leave low-income status (Jolliffe and Prydz 2016; Ravallion and Chen 2011).12 The global percentage of people below the moderate poverty line was estimated at 25.8 percent in 2015 and is projected to decline to 10.4 percent by 2030 under business-as-usual conditions. In Kenya and Tanzania, an additional 700,000 poor people would be expected to be lifted from extreme poverty by 2030. This is approximately equivalent to an additional 1.0 and 0.9 percentage point reduction in the extreme poverty headcount. In South Asia, Pakistan would see additional reductions in extreme poverty for 1.1 million people; Bangladesh is expected to see 200,000 people lifted out of extreme poverty (0.11 percent of headcount) (table 2.3).

### Underview

#### In conclusion, the Aff has a proven a scenario where we need our press to prioritize objectivity over advocacy. China’s Belt and Road Initiative brings objective good that minimizes suffering – it combats climate change that could otherwise cause extinction and creates economic growth that lifts millions from poverty. However, disinformation campaigns from places like the US that focus on advocacy prevent countries from taking up the BRI, leaving families impoverished and the planet on fire. With that, I open myself up to cross examination and points of further clarification.