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# Southern DAILY

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## Handling of U.S. trade dispute causes rift in Chinese leadership: sources

BEIJING (Reuters) - A growing trade war with the United States is causing rifts within China's Communist Party, with some critics saying that an overly nationalistic Chinese stance may have hardened the U.S. position, according to four sources close to the government.

A backlash is being felt at the highest levels of the government, possibly hitting a close aide to Xi, his ideology chief and strategist Wang Huning, according to two sources familiar with discussions in leadership circles.

A prominent and influential academic whose views have found favor in some party quarters has also come under attack for his strident views on Chinese power.

Wang, who was the architect of the "China Dream", Xi's vision for China to become a strong and prosperous nation, has been taken to task by the Chinese leader for crafting an excessively nationalistic image for the country, which has only provoked the United States, the sources said.

"He's in trouble for mishandling the propaganda and hyping up China too much," said one of the sources, who has ties to China's leadership and propaganda system.

The office of the party's spokesman did not respond to a request for comment on Wang and his relationship with Xi, or on whether China had erred in its messaging in the trade war.

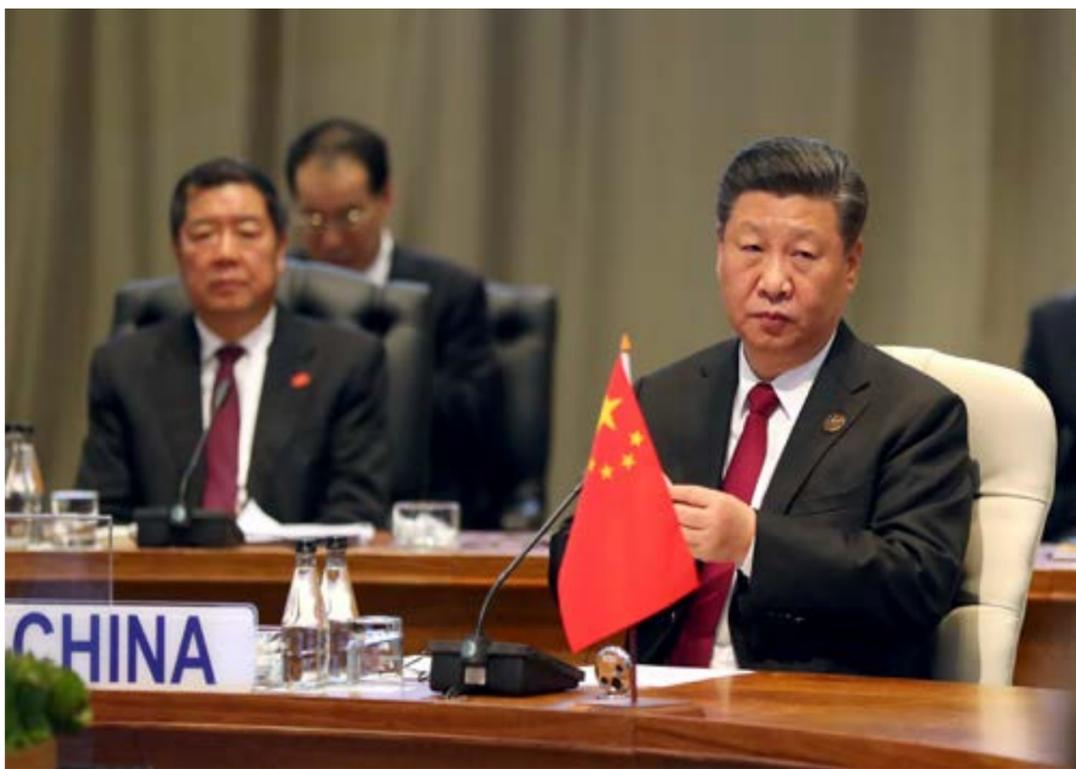
There is a growing feeling within the Chinese government that the outlook for China has "become grim", according to a government policy advisor, following the deterioration in relations between China and the United States over trade. The advisor requested anonymity.

Those feelings are also shared by other influential voices.

"Many economists and intellectuals are upset about China's trade war policies," an academic at a Chinese policy think tank told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. "The overarching view is that China's current stance has been too hard-line and the leadership has clearly misjudged the situation."

That view contrasts with the thinking at the beginning of the year of many Chinese academics who had touted China's ability to withstand the trade row in the face of Trump's perceived political weakness at home.

China thought it had reached a deal with Washington in



China's President Xi Jinping takes his seat at the first closed session of the leaders of the BRICS summit meeting in Johannesburg

May to avoid a trade war, but was shocked when the Trump administration, in Beijing's eyes, went back on that agreement.

"The evolution from a trade conflict to trade war has made people rethink things," the policy advisor said. "This is seen as being related to the exaggeration of China's strength by some Chinese institutions and scholars that

have influenced the U.S. perceptions and even domestic views."

One official who is familiar with China's propaganda efforts said the messaging had gone astray.

"In the trade war, the line of thinking in the propaganda has been that Trump is crazy," said the official. "In fact, what he

is scared of is us getting strong." Under Xi, officials have become increasingly confident in proclaiming what they see as China's rightful place as a world leader, casting off a long-held maxim of Deng Xiaoping, the former paramount leader.

## Musk's Tesla buyout plan could test Wall Street's nerves

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - A leveraged buyout of electric carmaker Tesla could be an ominous sign of market exuberance, but investors may need more justification to run for the exits.

CEO Elon Musk's suggestion on Tuesday that he wanted to take Tesla private at \$420 a share, putting a value of \$72 billion on the carmaker, had some investors wondering whether getting such a huge deal completed would signal that Wall Street has become overheated after nearly a decade of gains following the 2008 financial crisis.

"A mega-LBO of a company notorious for its cash burn rate would be the clear sign that this is the ultimate market top," Mike O'Rourke, Chief Market Strategist at JonesTrading, wrote in a client note. "This is the type of behavior often witnessed at market extremes."

Still, others took the opposite view, seeing Tesla as an exception to the rule. The company

draws both love and hate on Wall Street, being simultaneously favored by institutional investors like Fidelity and also the most heavily shorted major stock on the market.

"I don't think that the Tesla news tells us much of anything about the broader market," said Robert Phipps, a director at Per Stirling Capital Management in Austin, Texas. "Instead, it is just a reflection of Elon Musk's personality and how much he hates being accountable to shareholders and short-term measures of success."

Indeed, a deal is far from done and may never materialize. Pointing to the rate at which Tesla is burning through cash, growing competition from other electric carmakers, and its difficulty hitting production targets, analysts and investors were skeptical that lenders would be willing to finance what would likely be the largest leveraged buyout in U.S. history.



FILE PHOTO: Tesla Motors Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk pauses during a news conference in Tokyo

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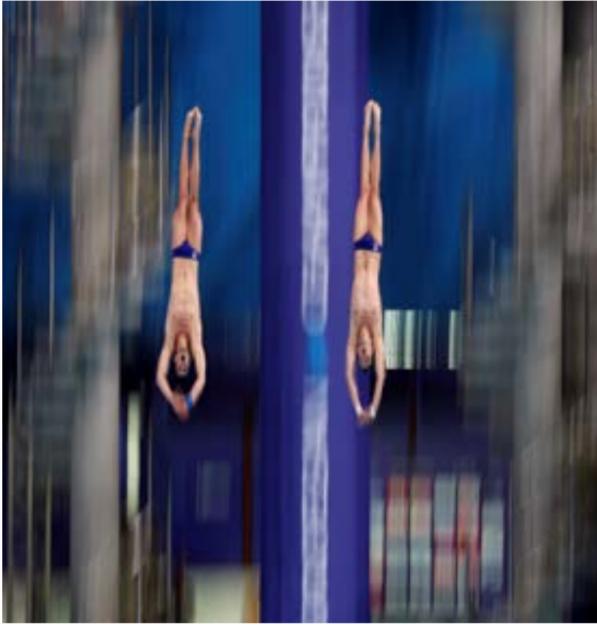
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# Editor's Choice



2018 European Championships - Diving, Men's Synchronised 10m Platform Final - Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh, Britain - August 9, 2018 Aleksandr Bondar and Viktor Minibaev of Russia in action REUTERS/Peter Cziborra



A Navy guard of honour contingent marches during the National Day parade along Marina Bay in Singapore



Ryan Hale and Ryan Ali, who were on trial alongside England cricket player Ben Stokes, leave Bristol Crown Court, in Bristol



2018 European Championships - Mountain Bike, Men's Cross-Country - Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails, Glasgow, Britain - August 7, 2018 - Anton Sintsov of Russia in action. REUTERS/Russell Cheyne TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Farmer David Barton sits on a quad bike as he inspects some of his herd of beef cattle at Manor Farm in Middle Duntisbourne in south west Britain



Cricket - England v India - Second Test - Lord's, London, Britain - August 9, 2018 India fans pose for a photograph outside the ground during a rain delay Action Images via Reuters/Paul Childs



A man guides a horse onto a boat to transport it to the mainland following Sunday's earthquake on Gili Trawangan, Lombok



A model presents a creation of Malene Birger show during Copenhagen Fashion Week, Denmark August 9, 2018. Ritzau Scanpix/Mads Claus Rasmussen via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY. DENMARK OUT.

# China Denies Entry To Disney's Winnie The Pooh Film

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

LOS ANGELES/BEIJING (Reuters) – China has denied Walt Disney Co's request to allow screening in the country of "Christopher Robin", a movie that features the honey-loving bear Winnie the Pooh, a source familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

It is unclear why the Chinese government denied the request and Chinese authorities do not provide reasons to Hollywood studios when they disallow screening of their movies, the source said.

However, the decision has revived online discussion as censors have in the past targeted the film's main character, originally conceptualised by English author A.A. Milne, due to memes that compare the bumbling bear to President Xi Jinping.



In 2013, a photograph of China's president Xi Jinping walking beside former US President Barack Obama juxtaposed with one of Pooh walking with his friend Tigger went viral. And in 2014, a photo of Xi shaking hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, placed side-by-side with a picture of Pooh holding donkey Eeyore's hoof also enjoyed massive internet fame. The similarities were unmissable.

China's Culture Ministry declined to comment and referred questions to the State Administration of Radio and Television, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China, the world's second-largest



Stuffed Winnie the Pooh and Eeyore characters are seen at the world premiere of Disney's "Christopher Robin," in Burbank, California, U.S., July 30, 2018. (Photo/REUTERS)

film market, limits the number of foreign-made films allowed into the country to 34 a year. It typically favours action-heavy blockbusters such as "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Black Panther", two of four Disney films that have played in China so far this year. Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time", which debuted around the world in March, has not been released in China.

Netizens have in the past likened Pooh's appearance – namely his portly stature – to President Xi. A small number of people have even used Pooh as a symbol of resistance.

Popular memes compare images of Xi and former U.S. President Barack Obama walking side-by-side to similar cartoon scenes including Pooh and his taller, leaner friend Tigger, a hyperactive tiger.

Other allusions include a popular comparison between a Winnie the Pooh car

toy image and the Chinese leader presiding over a military parade from the back of a moving vehicle.

"Can I still say Winnie the Pooh?" posted several users on Weibo, a Chinese microblogging site, on Tuesday, testing censors by adding images of Xi and Pooh. The images, seen by Reuters on Tuesday, had been blanked out on the site by Wednesday.



A scene from the Winnie The Pooh Film.

"If they don't let it into China, the joke is going to become huge," said another

In "Christopher Robin", the eponymous hero, now an adult, reunites with boyhood friend Pooh and others such as Eeyore the donkey and Piglet.

"It doesn't really matter what they do," said one anonymous Weibo user, "It's the internet, I can just pirate it anyway." (Courtesy oann.com)

The government in Beijing has censored online images of Winnie the Pooh after some opponents likened the bear's appearance to President Xi Jinping and have used Pooh as a symbol of resistance.



commenter. Taiwan's foreign ministry posted a message on its official Twitter account on Wednesday in response to the news that the movie would not be shown in China. "Taiwan's OhBear is dismayed at the ban slapped on his cousin Winnie's latest film by censors in China," it said, referring to its tourism mascot 'Oh Bear'.

"Make no mistake: All bears are created equal in Taiwan and (the Christopher Robin) movie is screening nationwide." While China's film regulator does not give direct feedback on specific movies, it has released regulations in the past that say it bars subversive themes, homosexual content and excessive violence.

In March, the Beijing International Film Festival pulled award-winning gay romance "Call Me By Your Name" from its program, not long after the country's film regulator deemed LGBT content inappropriate, alongside content that includes bestiality.

China, the world's second-largest film market, also limits the number of foreign-made films allowed into the country at 34 a year. It typically favours action-heavy blockbusters such as "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Black Panther", two of four Disney films that have played in China so far this year. Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time," which debuted around the world in March, has not been released in China.

In "Christopher Robin," the eponymous hero, now an adult, reunites with boyhood friend Winnie the Pooh and others such as Eeyore the donkey and Piglet. The characters were created by English author A.A. Milne. (Courtesy <http://www.thejakartapost.com>)

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# Trump Admin. Considering Immigration Plan To Make Best Use Of Taxpayer Funds

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The Trump administration is considering an immigration proposal which it hopes will make the best use of taxpayer funds.

A spokeswoman for the plan says it protects the American taxpayer, while making sure foreign nationals who want to become U.S. citizens are self-sufficient. Some immigration attorneys claim the proposal would make it harder for legal immigrants to become citizens.

Customs and Immigration Services rejected the claim, saying the proposal will not change the naturalization application process. Details of the plan are still being finalized.

Meanwhile, Arizona congressman Andy Briggs recently introduced the Fund and Complete the Border Wall Act, which would penalize the country of origin of each illegal immigrant by making cuts to foreign aid.

The penalty is slated at \$2,000 per incident and would be deducted from aid given to those countries. The money would then be used to fund the president's southern border wall.

The bill would also raise fees on foreign wire transfers, restore previous overtime pay rates for Border Patrol agents, and require the wall to be built by December 2019.

This comes after President Trump officially announced his pick to lead ICE. 30-year border protection veteran Ronald Vitiello has been chosen to lead the agency.

**Related**

**Plan to Punish Immigrants for Using Welfare Could Boost G.O.P. Candidates**



President Trump last Saturday in Ohio, where he backed Troy Balderson, a Republican running in a special election, saying a vote for Mr. Balderson's



U.S. Border Patrol agent Jerry Conlin looks out over Tijuana, Mexico, along the old border wall. (Photo AP)

**opponent was a vote for "open borders." AI Drago for The New York Times**

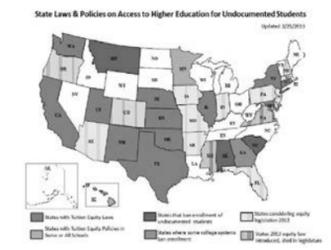
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is advancing a plan to punish legal immigrants for accepting food stamps, public housing and other government benefits they are entitled to — a strategy that appeals to conservatives and could help to galvanize Republican voters before the midterm elections.

The proposed rule first surfaced last year. Last month, the White House Office of Management and Budget published a notice that it was under consideration. A Trump administration official said Tuesday that details of the proposal were still weeks away from being finalized and made public.

But already, the rule could serve as a talking point for Republican candidates seeking to counter an expected wave of Democratic enthusiasm, seizing on President Trump's claims that immigrants are an outsize drain on American taxpayers.

As drafted, the rule would authorize federal officials to revoke legal resident status from legal immigrants who

accept government assistance currently available to them.



It essentially concludes that those immigrants are more likely to become "public charges" — dependent on programs like Medicaid, children's nutrition aid and even housing and transit subsidies. Many of Mr. Trump's supporters — voters who will be key to victories by Republicans in close contests this fall — believe that legal immigration has cost them jobs, depressed wages and forced higher taxes.

Recent studies, however, have found that increased legal immigration has led to higher, not lower, wages. Other studies by social scientists suggest that immigration leads to greater, not lower,

and services.

A 2016 report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found that while first-generation immigrants can be more costly to governments, subsequent generations "are among the strongest economic and fiscal contributors in the U.S. population, contributing more in taxes than either their parents or the rest of the native-born population."

Such studies are unlikely to convince the president's most ardent supporters, especially in the face of a barrage of campaign commercials that are certain to be broadcast in the months ahead. Republicans across the United States have already embraced the president's hard-line messaging about illegal immigration and crime. They are betting that they will benefit politically the way that Mr. Trump did during the 2016 presidential campaign.

At a rally on Saturday in Ohio, the president tried to bestow the issue on Troy Balderson, the embattled Republican House candidate in Tuesday's special election. The contest — the final special election before the November vote — was notable for its surprisingly tough challenge from a Democratic opponent in an overwhelmingly Republican district.

"A vote for Troy's opponent is a vote for open borders, which means massive crime," Mr. Trump said at the rally. "We want our country to be a sanctuary for law-abiding Americans, not criminal aliens!"

The crowd responded with enthusiastic chants of "build the wall!"

On its own, the proposal for legal immigrants who accept government aid is unlikely to be a political driver in

the midterm elections, said Jessica M. Vaughan, the director of policy studies for the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that supports stricter immigration policies.

"But I do think it will be well received by voters who tend to believe that our immigration system needs to be tightened, and that people applying for immigration benefits meet standards for self-sufficiency," she said.



The proposed rule would allow immigration caseworkers to consider "heavily weighed negative factors" in determining whether green card candidates and other legal residents are likely to become dependent on government assistance, according to a leaked draft of the proposal. Those "negative factors" include accepting common tax credits and other welfare programs, like food stamps, transit assistance and health programs for children.

It would exclude some entitlements from being considered in the "public charge" determination — like immunizations, attending public school, receiving free or reduced-price school lunches or earned benefits such as disability insurance and Medicare. (Courtesy The New York Times)

Unauthorized immigrants are already ineligible for nearly all public benefits. The rule could force even legal immigrants to voluntarily forgo benefits to avoid risking being deported — with severe impacts, especially for children. Trump administration officials said the proposal intends to promote fiscal responsibility by enforcing longstanding rules that require immigrants to support themselves financially when they enter the United States. (Courtesy The New York Times)

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