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Executive Summary

This report examines how pro-Palestinian activism in the United States (U.S.) is increasingly intersecting with influence operations tied to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It focuses on Neville Roy Singham, a U.S. businessman based in Shanghai, who built a wide-reaching network that funds activist groups with anti-U.S. and anti-Israel agendas. Key organizations in this network, such as the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, and the International People's Assembly, have facilitated the "Shut It Down for Palestine" (SID4P) campaign, which launched in the wake of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack. Evidence suggests that these groups benefit from funding and messaging consistent with China's global strategy, promoting itself as a defender of justice while weakening U.S. influence. The report outlines how these organizations connect through shared ideology, joint media efforts, logistical cooperation, and alignment with Beijing's broader information warfare goals. This report also unpacks China's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict, including its state media narratives and use of antisemitic tropes to complement this strategy. Finally, the report concludes that some forms of activism, while appearing organic, are enhanced by external influence campaigns that serve the geopolitical interests of foreign powers.

CCP Influence in U.S. Pro-Palestinian Activism

In July 2024, Senators Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland expressing concern over efforts by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its allies to foment dissent in the U.S. The senators specifically requested a Department of Justice (DOJ) briefing on whether certain far-left and antisemitic groups may have violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) due to their ties to the People's Republic of China (PRC).¹ FARA is a disclosure statute that requires individuals acting as agents of foreign principals in a political or quasi-political capacity to publicly report their relationship, activities, and financial disbursements.²

The letter implicated Neville Roy Singham, a U.S. citizen residing in Shanghai with ties to the CCP, as a central figure in a covert funding network supporting extremist organizations in the U.S. According to the senators, these groups escalated their activities following Hamas's October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel, disrupting Senate proceedings and participating in violent, antisemitic demonstrations across multiple U.S. cities.³

The senators cited an investigation in *The New York Times* that found Singham has long supported far-left entities, such as CodePink, which opposes U.S. interests and promotes narratives sympathetic to U.S. adversaries. Singham reportedly created an elaborate dark money network, channeling funds through non-profits like the United Community Fund and Justice and Education Fund, which have minimal real-world footprints.⁴

The senators also raised concerns about Singham's reported support for radical, antisemitic entities such as Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P), a coalition established in October 2023.⁵ According to the Network Contagion

¹ Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham, *Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland Regarding Neville Roy Singham and Foreign Influence*, July 10, 2024, <https://www.nationalreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/07.10.24-Rubio-Graham-letter-to-DOJ-re-Singham.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Justice, *Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) Overview*, accessed May 2, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/nsd-fara>.

³ Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham, *Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland Regarding Neville Roy Singham and Foreign Influence*, July 10, 2024, <https://www.nationalreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/07.10.24-Rubio-Graham-letter-to-DOJ-re-Singham.pdf>.

⁴ Mara Hvistendahl and Megha Rajagopalan, "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul," *The New York Times*, August 5, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html>.

⁵ InfluenceWatch, "Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P)," Capital Research Center, accessed May 5, 2025, <https://www.influencewatch.org/organization/shut-it-down-for-palestine-sid4p/>.

Research Institute (NCRI), a nonprofit that identifies, tracks, and forecasts the spread of ideologically motivated threats, disinformation, and misinformation across social media and physical spaces, organizations under the SID4P umbrella, including the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, and International People's Assembly, are part of Singham's donor network.⁶ Evidence links some of these groups to U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).⁷

The senators stressed that the CCP conducts information warfare against the U.S., seeking to influence foreign audiences through "united front work" and "external propaganda work."⁸ As detailed in the 2023 Annual Report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC), these efforts involve shaping global and domestic opinion through media influence, political engagement, and academic outreach.⁹

Experts like Gordon Chang echo these concerns, asserting that the CCP is using TikTok's algorithm to promote pro-Hamas content and incite unrest on U.S. campuses, an effort he described as an "act of war." He has cited data indicating a high proportion of Hamas-related content on TikTok appears to support the terrorist group. In 2020, Chang reported that a Chinese intelligence unit allegedly used big data from the now-closed Consulate-General of the PRC in Houston to identify Americans likely to join protests, sending them tailored videos on how to riot via TikTok. He warned that similar tactics may be influencing current anti-Israel protests on American university campuses.¹⁰

⁶ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

⁷ Francesca Block and Eli Lake, "Rashida Tlaib Speaks at Detroit Conference Tied to Terrorist Group," *The Free Press*, May 28, 2024, <https://www.thefp.com/p/rashida-tlaib-conference-terrorist-group-ties>; Ohad Merlin, "'Besiege the White House': PFLP Affiliated Organization Echoes Calls for Protests in June," *The Jerusalem Post*, May 30, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-804384>.

⁸ JNS Staff, "Rubio, Graham Call for US Probe of Pro-Hamas Groups Linked to China," *Jewish News Syndicate*, July 15, 2024, <https://www.jns.org/rubio-graham-call-for-us-probe-of-pro-hamas-groups-linked-to-china/>.

⁹ U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, *2023 Annual Report to Congress*, November 2023, <https://www.uscc.gov/annual-report/2023-annual-report-congress>.

¹⁰ Alicia Warren, "China, TikTok Role in Anti-Israel College Protests Is 'an Act of War,' Expert Says," *Fox Business*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/chinas-role-anti-israel-college-protests-act-war-expert-says>.

Similarly, in a May 2024 interview with *The National Desk*, Peter Schweizer, President of the Government Accountability Institute, asserted that Beijing's strategy is to foster internal division in the U.S. "Part of China's strategy toward the United States overall is to sort of divide the country, to encourage conflict in division because they believe that it saps the United States of its energy to be able to operate internationally."¹¹ His recent book, *Bad Money*, explores how the CCP allegedly exploits financial systems, social justice movements, and even the medical sector to destabilize American society and institutions.¹²

Neville Roy Singham and His Network

U.S. lawmakers have focused explicitly on Singham, whose financial network reportedly helped mobilize radical, anti-Israel activism in the U.S. in the aftermath of October 7. He is a wealthy American businessman and self-described socialist who has worked closely with Chinese entities to promote pro-CCP narratives in global activism. Singham has been described repeatedly as a financial backer of pro-Beijing initiatives, funding organizations that align with the Chinese government's anti-U.S. and anti-Israel stance.¹³

According to an investigation in *The New York Times*, Singham operates out of Shanghai, where one of his affiliated media platforms collaborates on a YouTube program funded in part by the city's propaganda office. Additional outlets linked to him have partnered with a Chinese university to promote Beijing's messaging abroad, further embedding his media network within China's broader influence apparatus. Singham's involvement extends beyond media partnerships; he personally participated in a Communist Party workshop focused on expanding global influence.¹⁴ The Chinese news site

¹¹ Kristine Frazao, "Who Are the Outside Groups Supporting Campus Protests?" *National Desk*, May 09, 2024, <https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/who-are-the-outside-groups-supporting-campus-protests-israel-gaza-palestine-hamas-war-new-york-city-columbia-george-soros-neville-roy-singham-chinese-communist-party-code-pink>.

¹² Peter Schweizer, *Blood Money: Why the Powerful Turn a Blind Eye While China Kills Americans*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2024), *Blood Money* – HarperCollins.

¹³ Bradford Betz, "Chinese Communist Party-Linked Network Behind 'Well-Funded' Anti-Israel Campus Protests, Group Says," *Fox News*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.foxnews.com/us/chinese-communist-party-linked-anti-israel-campus-protests-well-funded-non-organic-group-says>.

¹⁴ Mara Hvistendahl and Megha Rajagopalan, "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul," *New York Times*, August 5, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html>.

Guancha published a photo of Singham attending a 2023 workshop, which was held during a CCP forum.¹⁵

Figure 1

This image, published by the Chinese news outlet Guancha, features Mr. Singham (front right) participating in a breakout session held as part of a CCP forum. Credit: guancha.cn¹⁶



Singham's ties to China date back at least two decades. Employment listings on the Chinese job platform Boss Zhipin show he served as a strategic technical advisor to Huawei between 2001 and 2008.¹⁷ On June 30, 2020, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)¹⁸ officially designated Huawei

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/>.

¹⁸ Federal Communications Commission, *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – Huawei Designation*. DA 20-690A1. Released June 30, 2020, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/da-20-690a1>.

as a national security threat to the United States' communications networks.¹⁹ This designation was based on the FCC's assessment that Huawei has substantial ties to the CCP and China's military apparatus, and is subject to Chinese laws that mandate cooperation with the country's intelligence services.²⁰

During his time at Huawei, Singham openly expressed his admiration for China's economic system, praising its blend of market flexibility and centralized planning as a model for the world in a 2008 interview for *Fortune* magazine. He accentuated his contributions to Huawei in a 2010 keynote address at an Agile software development conference hosted by his company, ThoughtWorks, in Beijing.²¹ In 2017, Singham sold ThoughtWorks, a global technology consultancy company specializing in software development and digital transformation,²² to the British private equity firm Apax Partners for approximately \$785 million.²³

After leaving ThoughtWorks, Singham strengthened his financial engagement with China, investing in at least two Chinese firms: Shanghai Luoweixing and Gondwana Foods, each with a registered capital of \$20 million and \$32.5 million, respectively. He also holds the position of legal representative for Shanghai Shinong Company Ltd., registered in January 2020.²⁴

Closely tied to this network is Singham's wife, Jodie Evans (a.k.a. Jodene Evans), who plays a key role in advancing pro-CCP activism and funding initiatives. Evans is the co-founder of CodePink, a left-wing activist group

¹⁹ Sam Rutherford, "FCC Officially Designates Huawei and ZTE as Threats to U.S. Security," Gizmodo, June 30, 2020, <https://gizmodo.com/fcc-officially-designates-huawei-and-zte-as-threats-to-1844221021?>

²⁰ Catherine Thorbecke, "FCC Designates Chinese Firms Huawei and ZTE as 'Posing a National Security Threat'," Good Morning America, June 30, 2020, <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/story/fcc-designates-chinese-firms-huawei-zte-posing-national-71543199>.

²¹ Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/>.

²² Martin Fowler, "Roy Sells Thoughtworks," *MartinFowler.com*, August 23, 2017, <https://martinfowler.com/articles/201708-tw-sale.html>.

²³ "ThoughtWorks Holding, Inc. -- Moody's Assigns B1 CFR to Thoughtworks; Outlook Is Stable," Yahoo Finance, January 7, 2022, <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/thoughtworks-holding-inc-moodys-assigns-220206582.html>.

²⁴ Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/>.

known for its anti-war, anti-Israel,²⁵ and anti-U.S. military interventions stance.²⁶ Founded in 2002, CodePink initially gained prominence as an anti-Iraq War movement, but has since expanded its focus to include pro-Palestinian activism, opposition to U.S. foreign policy, and criticism of Western involvement in global conflicts.²⁷

Senator Jim Banks urged an investigation into CodePink for potential violations of FARA, citing alleged ties to the CCP. Banks and other lawmakers argue that CodePink's evolving rhetoric, particularly its shift from criticizing to defending China, suggests undue foreign influence aligned with CCP objectives, including efforts to undermine U.S.-Israel relations and stoke campus unrest. Senator Tom Cotton echoed these accusations, claiming that Communist China funds CodePink.²⁸ CodePink firmly denies all allegations and insists it receives no money from the CCP or any foreign government.²⁹

Together, Singham and Evans play a significant role in shaping the messaging and financial infrastructure of activist groups engaged in U.S.-based pro-Palestinian protest movements. Their support extends to organizations involved in campus demonstrations, sit-ins, and disruptions targeting institutions perceived as pro-Israel.³⁰

Evans's advocacy also extends into publishing. She is co-author of the book, *China Is Not Our Enemy*, written with Mikaela Nhondo Erskog,³¹ a researcher

²⁵ CodePink's Advisory Board includes major pro-Palestinian activists, such as Huwaida Arraf and Zaha Hassan. https://www.codepink.org/codepink_advisory_board. Arraf is a co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). According to the Anti Defamation League (ADL), "Although ISM claims to promote non-violence, over the years it has consistently recognized violence as a legitimate means of achieving Palestinian goals. ISM has expressed support for terror organizations and individuals, including in the wake of Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel." ADL Center on Extremism, "International Solidarity Movement (ISM)," Oct. 22, 2024, <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/international-solidarity-movement-ism>.

²⁶ What is CODEPINK," CODEPINK: Women for Peace, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.codepink.org/about>.

²⁷ NGO Monitor, "CODEPINK," Last modified January 24, 2024, <https://ngo-monitor.org/ngos/codepink/>.

²⁸ Seth McLaughlin, "U.S. Attorney General Urged to Probe Code Pink's Ties to Chinese Communist Party." *The Washington Times*, March 27, 2025, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/mar/27/us-attorney-general-urged-probe-code-pinks-ties-chinese-communist/>.

²⁹ Megan Russel, "CODEPINK: Funded by the CCP?" CODEPINK, April 4, 2025, <https://www.codepink.org/fundedbyccp>.

³⁰ Eric Revell, "American Multimillionaire Couple Funds Marxist Group Coordinating Anti-Israel Protests," *Fox Business*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/american-multimillionaire-couple-fund-marxist-group-coordinating-anti-israel-protests>.

³¹ Jodie Evans and Mikaela Nhondo Erskog, *China Is Not Our Enemy* (New York: OR Books, 2026).

affiliated with CCP-linked outlets Dongsheng News and the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.³² The Tricontinental Institute, led by Vijay Prashad, maintains ties to Renmin University's Chongyang Institute, a think tank connected to China's Ministry of Education and the Beijing municipal government.³³ Dongsheng News, founded in 2020, publishes multilingual content that explicitly promotes socialist and pro-China narratives.³⁴

Through this ideological and financial network, Singham and Evans constructed a web of activism and media designed to align domestic protest movements with the strategic interests of the CCP.

Shut It Down for Palestine

A May 2024 report by the NCRI identified three core conveners of the Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P) coalition: the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, and International People's Assembly (IPA) as financially, ideologically, and organizationally connected to Singham and Evans.³⁵ Formed in the immediate aftermath of Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, SID4P aims to disrupt institutions perceived as supportive of Israel.³⁶ It coordinates a range of protest actions across the U.S., including campus sit-ins, walkouts, and mass mobilizations.³⁷

As noted on the SID4P website, they call for the following actions:

- Walk out from work and/or school
- Picket Israeli embassies and consulates
- Picket against companies that profit from Israel's "occupation" of Palestine (Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Elbit Systems)

³² People's Summit, "Our People Speak!" accessed May 3, 2025, <https://peoplesummit2022.org/our-people-speak>.

³³ Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/>.

³⁴ Huang Lanlan, "Conveying the Real China: International Researchers Share Objective Stories about China with Foreign Audiences," *Global Times*, August 24, 2021, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232315.shtml>.

³⁵ Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), 'CCP-Linked Influence in U.S. Pro-Palestinian Movements,' May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

³⁶ InfluenceWatch, "Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P)," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.influencewatch.org/organization/shut-it-down-for-palestine-sid4p/#:~:text=Shut%20It%20Down%20for%20Palestine,27%2C%20and%20Palestinian.>

³⁷ Shut It Down for Palestine, "About," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.shutitdown4palestine.org/about>.

- Host speak outs
- Wear keffiyehs
- Wear black armbands

This same website links directly to the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, and the IPA as primary partners. CodePink is also listed as an official endorser, further reinforcing the web of coordination among groups tied to Singham's funding network.³⁸

The People's Forum

The People's Forum describes itself as "a movement incubator for the working class and marginalized communities, working to build unity across historic lines of division at home and abroad."³⁹ Based in New York, the organization was founded by Manolo De Los Santos, a researcher at Tricontinental Institute for Social Research.⁴⁰

The People's Forum has openly acknowledged financial support from Singham, referring to him in 2021 as a "Marxist comrade" supporter. In December of that same year, the group posted on its X account: "A few years ago we met Roy Singham, a Marxist comrade who sold his company & donated most of his wealth to non-profits that focus on political education, culture & internationalism."⁴¹ The same post emphasized that the People's Forum funding "bothers some folks" precisely because it furthers explicitly anti-imperialist goals, mirroring the ideological language of CCP-aligned rhetoric.

Between 2017 and 2022, the People's Forum reportedly received approximately \$20 million via the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund. Various reports attribute the source of these donations to Singham;⁴² however, no available sources,

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ The People's Forum, "About," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://peoplesforum.org/about/>.

⁴⁰ The People's Forum, "Staff," accessed May 6, 2025, <https://peoplesforum.org/about/staff/>.

⁴¹ The People's Forum (@PeoplesForumNYC), "For months we've been the target of a campaign that alleges our funding comes from 'dark money' A few years ago we met Roy Singham, a Marxist comrade who sold his company & donated most of his wealth to non-profits that focus on political education, culture & internationalism," X (formerly Twitter), December 21, 2021, <https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1473312812944531457>.

⁴² Chris Nesi, "Radical Anti-Israel Nonprofit Urged Rampaging Columbia Occupiers to Recreate BLM 'Summer of 2020' Riots," New York Post, May 5, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/05/05/us-news/radical-anti-israel-nonprofit-urged-rampaging-columbia-occupiers-to-recreate-blm-summer-of-2020-riots/>.

such as IRS form 990 filings or other official documentation, independently verify this. The People's Forum received \$2.5 million in 2017 and \$4.4 million in 2018, both designated for general support,⁴³ along with an additional \$12 million in 2019 earmarked for "community and human services."⁴⁴ Tax records reveal that in 2019, the People's Forum was the single largest recipient of donations through that fund,⁴⁵ surpassing even the American Friends of Cancer Research, Salvation Army, and Hamilton College.⁴⁶

The People's Forum's internal financial filings show a massive spike in revenue, from about \$487,000 in 2021 to \$4.4 million in 2022 as it ramped up its activism.⁴⁷ This windfall coincided with increased activities "in solidarity" with Palestine after October 7, 2023.⁴⁸ In December 2023, the People's Forum organized large-scale rallies such as "March for the Martyrs" and disseminated content praising figures like Leila Khaled, a PFLP militant and plane hijacker, as icons of "resistance."⁴⁹

⁴³ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Gs Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund for Wealth Management Inc., IRS Form 990 Schedule I (2017), entry (1657): Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments, and Individuals in the United States," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/311774905/201832619349300328/IRS990ScheduleI>; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Gs Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund for Wealth Management Inc., IRS Form 990 Schedule I (2018), entry (1990): Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments, and Individuals in the United States," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/311774905/201922279349300402/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁴⁴ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Gs Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund for Wealth Management Inc., IRS Form 990 Schedule I (2019), entry (2362): Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments, and Individuals in the United States," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/311774905/202022189349300322/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁴⁵ Compare the amount of cash grant for entry (2362) – Peoples Forum Inc EIN 61-1844780 (\$12,000,000) – to that received by other recipients of grants and other assistance enumerated in ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Gs Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund for Wealth Management Inc., IRS Form 990 Schedule I, Part II (2019): Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments, and Individuals in the United States," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/311774905/202022189349300322/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁴⁶ Joseph Simonson, "New York City Communists Pushing for a Gaza Ceasefire Took Millions from Goldman Sachs Charity," *Washington Free Beacon*, November 21, 2023, <https://freebeacon.com/democrats/new-york-city-communists-pushing-for-a-gaza-ceasefire-took-millions-from-goldman-sachs/>.

⁴⁷ Gabe Kaminsky, "CCP-Allied Charity Behind Anti-Israel Protests Sees Donations Skyrocket by Millions," *Washington Examiner*, December 14, 2023, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2756059/ccp-allied-charity-behind-anti-israel-protests-sees-donations-skyrocket-by-millions/>.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

Figure 2⁵⁰

Ideologically, the People's Forum has consistently signaled support for the CCP, hosting events celebrating "Xi Jinping Thought," praising China's "new era" of governance, and framing China as a model of socialist development. On October 19, 2024, it hosted "CHINA75: China's Path of Development – A Unique Model of Socialist Construction," featuring speakers aligned with CCP propaganda platforms.⁵¹

⁵⁰ The People's Forum (@PeoplesForumNYC), X, December 13, 2023, 9:21am, <https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1734941728740659334>.

⁵¹ The People's Forum, "CHINA75: China's Path of Development – A Unique Model of Socialist Construction," *The People's Forum*, October 19, 2024, <https://peoplesforum.org/events/china75-path-of-development/>.

Figure 3⁵²

ANSWER Coalition

According to its website, ANSWER Coalition was founded three days after 9/11. It strongly supports Palestinian self-determination and hosted the largest ever U.S., pro-Palestinian rally in 2002.⁵³ ANSWER Coalition operates as a fiscally sponsored project of the Progress Unity Fund (discussed below), a 501(c)(3) organization.⁵⁴ ANSWER Coalition was pivotal in coordinating nationwide protests, strikes, and direct actions under the SID4P banner. These efforts have included organizing mass demonstrations in major U.S. cities, such as the significant protest in Washington, D.C., on November 4, 2023, which was among the largest pro-Palestinian gatherings in U.S. history.⁵⁵

ANSWER Coalition has increasingly aligned its activism with opposition to U.S. geopolitical tensions with China. Its national director, Brian Becker, is a

⁵² The People's Forum, "CHINA75: The Making of The Revolution." *The People's Forum*, October 12, 2024, <https://peoplesforum.org/events/china75-the-making-of-the-revolution/>.

⁵³ ANSWER Coalition, "Who We Are." accessed May 3, 2025, https://www.answercoalition.org/who_we_are.

⁵⁴ InfluenceWatch, "ANSWER Coalition," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/answer-coalition/>.

⁵⁵ Zoe Sottile, "Pro-Palestine Protests in DC and across the US Call for a Ceasefire," *CNN*, November 4, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/04/us/washington-dc-ceasefire-protests-palestine/index.html>.

signatory to the Pivot to Peace mission statement, an initiative comprised of individuals who oppose what they describe as the U.S. government's accelerating antagonism toward China.⁵⁶ ANSWER Coalition has also collaborated with No Cold War, an international campaign promoting U.S.-China cooperation, including co-sponsoring events such as the webinar *For a Peaceful Pacific*, which featured ANSWER Coalition organizer Derek Ford.⁵⁷

The International Peoples' Assembly (IPA)

The IPA functions within the same ideological and financial ecosystem as the People's Forum and the ANSWER Coalition. IPA serves as a transnational alliance of socialist and anti-imperialist organizations and maintains ties to the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research,⁵⁸ whose leadership, as previously noted, has been affiliated with CCP-linked institutions such as Renmin University's Chongyang Institute. Like other SID4P conveners, the IPA promotes messaging consistent with Chinese state narratives and has hosted figures such as previously referenced PFLP terrorist Leila Khaled.⁵⁹ These connections fortify the coalition's ideological alignment and operational coordination with CCP-friendly actors and anti-Israel extremists.

Financial Connections and Funding Networks

Having established the ideological alignment and activism of Singham and Evans, it is crucial to understand how this influence is operationalized, primarily through a tightly interwoven financial network of nonprofits, think tanks, and activist groups. Through a complex web of nonprofits, Singham's funding reaches several key entities.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Pivot to Peace, "Mission," accessed May 6, 2025, <https://peacepivot.org/mission/>.

⁵⁷ ANSWER Coalition, "Apr 10 | Webinar – For a Peaceful Pacific: Opposing NATO's Military Aggression," ANSWER Coalition, April 3, 2021, <https://www.answercoalition.org/tags/pacific?;> Peoples Dispatch, "Actions in 60 Cities Stand with Asian Community Against Racism, War," Peoples Dispatch, March 30, 2021, <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2021/03/30/actions-in-60-cities-stand-with-asian-community-against-racism-war/>.

⁵⁸ International Peoples' Assembly, "Who We Are," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://ipa-aip.org/who-we-are/>.

⁵⁹ Peoples Dispatch, "People's Movements Set to Converge in Johannesburg for Dialogues on Socialism in Dilemmas of Humanity Conference," Peoples Dispatch, June 28, 2023, <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2023/06/28/peoples-movements-johannesburg-dialogues-on-socialism-dilemmas-of-humanity/>.

⁶⁰ Mara Hvistendahl and Megha Rajagopalan, "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul," *The New York Times*, August 5, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html>.

- **Justice and Education Fund (JEF):** By 2020, JEF received \$20 million through a Goldman Sachs donor-advised fund and subsequently disbursed funds to various groups in Singham's network.⁶¹ JEF's board included⁶² Manolo De Los Santos from the People's Forum and its general manager, David Chung,⁶³ indicating close internal coordination. JEF granted the People's Forum \$64,500⁶⁴ and funneled \$2.3 million to Shanghai's Maku propaganda outlet and \$2.9 million to NewsClick in India, an outlet later raided for allegedly receiving illegal Chinese funding.⁶⁵ In 2019, JEF also contributed \$876,000 to a newly formed group in Madison, Wisconsin, called the People's Welfare Association. According to 2020 Form 990 filings,⁶⁶ Daniel Tirado Behrens was one of its directors until September 2019. Behrens was an employee of Shanghai Luoweixing, a China-based company linked to Singham.⁶⁷
- **United Community Fund (UCF):** In 2019, UCF received an \$8.3 million grant from JEF⁶⁸ and redistributed it across Singham-aligned projects, including \$3 million to the People's Forum and \$700,000 to the Tricontinental Institute.⁶⁹

⁶¹ Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), 'CCP-Linked Influence in U.S. Pro-Palestinian Movements,' May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice and Education Fund Inc," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378>.

⁶² Justice and Education Fund, "About Us," <https://justiceandeducationfund.com/#about>.

⁶³ The People's Forum, "Staff," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://peoplesforum.org/about/staff/>.

⁶⁴ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf; ProPublica, "Justice And Education Fund Inc - Full Filing," Nonprofit Explorer, accessed May 8, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202413209349311861/full>.

⁶⁵ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice And Education Fund Inc, Form 990 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022," <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202333179349301938/full>; As previously mentioned, NewsClick was labeled a pro-CCP propaganda outlet by the Indian government. This designation led to a raid and investigation prompted by concerns over its potential impact on Indian national security. Furthermore, an investigation conducted by The New York Times in August 2023 revealed that Singham shares office space in Shanghai with Maku, a strategic communications firm known for promoting pro-CCP media aimed at the global south.

⁶⁶ ProPublica, "Peoples Welfare Association," Nonprofit Explorer, accessed May 8, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/834705654>.

⁶⁷ Alexander Reid Ross and Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/>.

⁶⁸ ProPublica, "Justice and Education Fund Inc. – Full Filing," Nonprofit Explorer, accessed May 8, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202001969349303150/full>.

⁶⁹ ProPublica, "United Community Fund – Full Filing," Nonprofit Explorer, accessed May 8, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/371913339/202002309349300500/full>.

Personnel overlap suggests coordinated operations: Tricontinental researcher Tings Chak served as a UCF director,⁷⁰ while another Tricontinental staff member served as UCF's treasurer.⁷¹

- **Progress Unity Fund (PUF):** PUF funded the ANSWER Coalition, providing approximately \$244,000 over five years, and shares an address with them.⁷² PUF has also sponsored Pivot to Peace, a group promoting pro-China messaging.⁷³ One Pivot to Peace member was arrested under FARA for acting as a Chinese agent.⁷⁴ ANSWER Coalition leader Brian Becker and the People's Forum openly support PUF's mission to reduce U.S. "antagonism" toward China.⁷⁵
- **Give Lively and SID4P Donations:** SID4P solicits donations via a Give Lively page hosted by the People's Forum.⁷⁶ According to the NCRI, multiple SID4P conveners, including the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, and the International Peoples' Assembly, are financially sustained by Singham's network.⁷⁷

Together, these interlocking entities illustrate how CCP-aligned financial resources have underwritten and sustained the infrastructure of the pro-Palestinian protest movement in the U.S.

⁷⁰ ProPublica, "United Community Fund," *Nonprofit Explorer*, accessed May 6, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/371913339>.

⁷¹ Ibid; Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), "CCP-Linked Influence in U.S. Pro-Palestinian Movements, May 2024," https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

⁷² Ibid; ANSWER Coalition, "Donate to Build the Movement Against War and Racism," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.answercoalition.org/donate>.

⁷³ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Progress Unity Fund. Form 990, Part III, 4a, Fiscal Year Ending December 2022," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943382208/202341389349300439/full>; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Progress Unity Fund. Form 990 (2022), Part IX, 24(c), Fiscal Year Ending December 2022," accessed May 21, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943382208/202341389349300439/full>.

⁷⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, "Massachusetts Man Indicted for Acting as an Illegal Agent of the People's Republic of China," Office of Public Affairs, May 15, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/massachusetts-man-indicted-acting-illegal-agent-people-s-republic-china>.

⁷⁵ Michael Starr, "China-linked network funding key anti-Israel protest groups in US - report," *The Jerusalem Post*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-801204>.

⁷⁶ InfluenceWatch, "Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P)," *InfluenceWatch*, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.influencewatch.org/movement/shut-it-down-for-palestine-sid4p/>.

⁷⁷ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

Media Arm

Beyond financial and organizational coordination, Singham's network also operates a media infrastructure that shapes public discourse and amplifies aligned narratives, particularly in the wake of October 7, 2023.

BreakThrough News (BTN), a digital media outlet of BreakThrough Media (BTM), is based in New York and operates out of the People's Forum,⁷⁸ the central hub of Singham's nonprofit and ideological network. According to *The New York Times*, BTN is one of several media outlets directly tied to Singham.⁷⁹ Financial disclosures reveal that between 2021 and 2023, BTM received more than \$710,000 in direct support and noncash lease-related payments from several affiliated nonprofit entities:

- The PUF granted the group \$15,600 in 2022 and \$45,000 in 2023.⁸⁰
- The People's Forum reported granting \$80,575 in 2021 and \$318,596 in 2022 to BreakThrough Media as noncash lease contract assistance.⁸¹
- The JEF contributed \$170,000 to BTM in 2023, while also receiving \$13,821 in 2021 and \$24,774 in 2022 in noncash assistance as lease payments from the People's Forum.⁸² Additionally, JEF granted BTM \$257,936 in 2022 for "charitable, religious, literary or educational purposes."⁸³

⁷⁸ The People's Forum, "Disrupters Event with BreakThrough News Anchor Rania Khalek," *The People's Forum*, accessed May 22, 2025, <https://peoplesforum.org/events/breakthrough-news-disrupters-event/>.

⁷⁹ Mara Hvistendahl and Megha Rajagopalan, "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul," *The New York Times*, August 5, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html>.

⁸⁰ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Progress Unity Fund. Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (2). Fiscal Year Ending December 2022," accessed May 22, 2025; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Progress Unity Fund. Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (1). Fiscal Year Ending December 2023," accessed May 22, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943382208/202341389349300439/full>.

⁸¹ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "People's Forum Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (1). Fiscal Year Ending December 2021," accessed May 22, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/611844780/202213129349302941/IRS990ScheduleI>; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "People's Forum Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (1). Fiscal Year Ending December 2022," accessed May 22, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/611844780/202303179349303505/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁸² ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice and Education Fund. Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (3). Fiscal Year Ending December 2023," accessed May 22, 2025, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202413209349311861/IRS990ScheduleI>; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "People's Forum Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II (2022)," listing noncash assistance to JEF, as lease contract for office space, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/611844780/202303179349303505/IRS990ScheduleI>; ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "People's Forum Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II (2021)," listing noncash assistance to JEF as lease contract for office space, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/611844780/202213129349302941/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁸³ ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice and Education Fund Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (4) (2022)." <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202333179349301938/full>.

- Furthermore, JEF reported granting \$17,284 for accounting services to the People's Forum in 2023,⁸⁴ as it had donated \$27,618 in 2022.⁸⁵

BTN regularly produces content that aligns with CCP talking points, including defenses of China's actions in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The NCRI classifies BTN as part of a broader ideological network that promotes Beijing's narratives under the guise of progressive or "anti-imperialist" messaging.⁸⁶ This strategic media activity serves as a form of soft power, designed to appeal to Western activist audiences while reinforcing China's geopolitical narratives.⁸⁷

BTN's staffing further evidences the ideological alignment. Many of its editors and producers are veterans of the ANSWER Coalition and the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL),⁸⁸ both of which are financially supported by the same Singham-linked nonprofit network.⁸⁹ This crossover between activism and media production suggests a deliberate effort to coordinate messaging across platforms.

Following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, BTN significantly shifted its editorial focus. Where its prior coverage centered on U.S.-China relations, anti-capitalist critique, and global imperialism, it pivoted toward intensive coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict.⁹⁰ This realignment of

⁸⁴ Propublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice and Education Fund Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (2) (2023)," reporting donated accounting services to The People's Forum, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202413209349311861/IRS990ScheduleI>.

⁸⁵ Propublica Nonprofit Explorer, "Justice and Education Fund Inc., Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, entry (2) (2022)," reporting donated accounting services to The People's Forum, <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202333179349301938/full>.

⁸⁶ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 13, 2024, <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/ccp-influence-and-radical-ideologies/>; BreakThrough News, "China," accessed May 3, 2025, <https://breakthroughnews.org/?s=China>.

⁸⁷ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 13, 2024, <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/ccp-influence-and-radical-ideologies/>.

⁸⁸ Liberation Staff, "Watch: Electrifying Closing Plenary of the People's Summit for Democracy," *Liberation News*, June 11, 2022, <https://liberationnews.org/watch-electrifying-closing-plenary-of-the-peoples-summit-for-democracy/>.

⁸⁹ U.S. Tech Mogul Bankrolls Pro-Russia, Pro-China News Network. William Bredderman, "U.S. Tech Mogul Bankrolls Pro-Russia, Pro-China News Network," *Yahoo News*, May 28, 2023, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/u-tech-mogul-bankrolls-pro-031329568.html>.

⁹⁰ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 13, 2024, <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/ccp-influence-and-radical-ideologies/>.

content paralleled a marked surge in BTN's online engagement, with the outlet experiencing explosive growth in its social media following.⁹¹

Together, these patterns suggest a strategic motive to influence Western political discourse through well-funded, ideologically synchronized media platforms that operate in lockstep with CCP-aligned protest organizers.

Ideological Alignment and Logistical Support

In addition to its financial and media apparatus, the Singham-CCP network supports a protest infrastructure rooted in shared ideology and coordinated logistics.

The CCP-linked activist network and Beijing share a strikingly similar worldview. Groups like the People's Forum and ANSWER Coalition explicitly frame the Israel-Hamas war as part of a broader struggle against U.S. "imperialism" – rhetoric that mirrors CCP propaganda. On October 8, 2023, just one day after Hamas' attack, a joint statement by the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, the PSL, Palestinian Youth Movement, and others declared: "we mobilize in the belly of the beast... to combat material support for Zionism, and [to weaken] the handmaiden of US global imperialism."⁹² This anti-U.S., anti-Israel stance is precisely in line with Beijing's messaging that the U.S. and its allies are the source of global conflict.⁹³

The NCRI has noted that while many of these protests are "nominally focused on Israel," they advance a revolutionary, anti-government, and anti-capitalist agenda hostile to the United States. NCRI characterizes leading groups in the movement as "versatile tools for foreign entities" such as the CCP.⁹⁴

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² The People's Forum, "Statement on Times Square Palestine Protest Held on October 8, 2023," October 11, 2023, https://peoplesforum.org/blog_post/statement-on-times-square-palestine-protest-held-on-october-8-2023/.

⁹³ Patricia M. Kim, Kevin Dong, and Mallie Prytherch, "Chinese Narratives on the Israel-Hamas War," *The Brookings Institution*, January 22, 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinese-narratives-on-the-israel-hamas-war/>.

⁹⁴ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 13, 2024, <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/ccp-influence-and-radical-ideologies/>.

The People's Forum not only opposes U.S. policy in the Middle East but also actively promotes CCP-friendly narratives. It has celebrated CCP ideology, hosting study sessions on Xi Jinping's thought and praising China's governance—for example, organizing the previously referenced event, *CHINA75: China's Path of Development – A Unique Model of Socialist Construction*, which highlighted China's development under CCP leadership.⁹⁵ As noted earlier in this paper, Jodie Evans, a board member at the People's Forum, has co-authored the book *China Is Not Our Enemy* and collaborated with researchers from CCP-linked outlets such as *Dongsheng News* and the *Tricontinental Institute*. These activities reinforce the identical ideological alignment between protest conveners and the CCP's strategic messaging.

Logistical and Organizational Support

Beyond ideology, this network offers substantial material infrastructure. The People's Forum operates a prominent Manhattan hub equipped with studios, conference rooms, and media production facilities, which are shared with allied groups such as BTN.⁹⁶ This space serves as a coordination center for SID4P operations, protest training, and media broadcasts. The coordination between groups like ANSWER Coalition and the People's Forum is evident in their joint mobilization efforts, including major demonstrations such as the May 2024 “Nakba Day” protest that shut down the Manhattan Bridge.^{97 98}

SID4P's campaigns feature professionally produced graphics and messaging, resources that appear to be primarily generated by Singham-associated

⁹⁵ The People's Forum, “CHINA75: China's Path of Development – A Unique Model of Socialist Construction,” *The People's Forum*, October 19, 2024, <https://peoplesforum.org/events/china75-path-of-development/>.

⁹⁶ The People's Forum, “Contact,” *The People's Forum*, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://peoplesforum.org/contact/>; BreakThrough News, “Donate,” *BreakThrough News*, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://breakthroughnews.org/donate/>.

⁹⁷ PAL-Awda NY | Yesterday, thousands took the streets for Nakba 76 in Brooklyn! Over a hundred comrades were successful in shutting down the Manhattan... | Instagram. PAL-Awda NY (@palawda), “Yesterday, thousands took the streets for Nakba 76 in Brooklyn! Over a hundred comrades were successful in shutting down the Manhattan bridge. The people united...,” Instagram, May 12, 2024, https://www.instagram.com/palawda/p/C64teJGMm88/?img_index=1.

⁹⁸ PAL-Awda NY | Yesterday, thousands took the streets for Nakba 76 in Brooklyn! Over a hundred comrades were successful in shutting down the Manhattan... | Instagram. The People's Forum (@peoplesforumnyc), “No amount of repression can stop the diverse, committed and GROWING movement for the liberation of Palestine! We vow to remain in the streets until there is an...” Instagram, May 11, 2024, <https://www.instagram.com/p/C610bYjut5i/>.

organizations, as demonstrated by a review of their official website.⁹⁹ NCRI's analysis found that these CCP-linked groups were more active than traditional grassroots Muslim or Arab organizations in disseminating the #ShutItDown4Palestine hashtag.¹⁰⁰ In fact, the People's Forum co-founder Manolo De Los Santos launched the hashtag.¹⁰¹ This communications capacity has allowed the network to dominate online narratives and enhance movement visibility.

Intersections with Designated Terrorist Organizations

The CCP-linked protest network also intersects with organizations linked to U.S.-designated terrorist groups. Samidoun, a Palestinian prisoner support network banned by Canada and the U.S. for its ties to the PFLP,¹⁰² endorses SID4P and works closely with coalition members.¹⁰³ Charlotte Kates, Samidoun's international coordinator and the wife of a senior PFLP official, frequently appears alongside U.S.-based protest leaders.¹⁰⁴

These patterns of cooperation transcend ideology and extend to operational collaboration. For example, the IPA, one of SID4P's leading conveners, hosted a conference where PFLP member Leila Khaled, previously barred from entering the U.S., appeared as a featured speaker.¹⁰⁵ This example of IPA's collaboration with a PFLP member demonstrates how far-left U.S. organizers and foreign extremist figures operate within overlapping networks.

⁹⁹ Shut It Down for Palestine, "Downloads," accessed May 6, 2025, <https://www.shutitdown4palestine.org/downloads>.

¹⁰⁰ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 13, 2024, <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/ccp-influence-and-radical-ideologies/>.

¹⁰¹ The People's Forum, "300,000 March in Largest Pro-Palestine Action in US History. Next Step: 'Shut it Down for Palestine!' on Nov. 9," *The People's Forum*, November 5, 2023. https://peoplesforum.org/blog_post/300000-march-in-largest-pro-palestine-action-in-us-history-next-step-shut-it-down-for-palestine-on-nov-9/.

¹⁰² U.S. Department of the Treasury, "United States and Canada Target Key International Fundraiser for Foreign Terrorist Organization PFLP," *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, October 15, 2024, <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2646>.

¹⁰³ Shut It Down for Palestine, "About," *Shut It Down for Palestine*, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.shutitdown4palestine.org/about>.

¹⁰⁴ Samidoun: What You Need to Know," ADL, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://www.adl.org/resources/article/samidoun-what-you-need-know>.

¹⁰⁵ Dilemmas of Humanity, "Dilemmas of Humanity: South Africa," *Dilemmas of Humanity*, accessed May 3, 2025, <https://dilemmasofhumanity.org/dilemmas-south-africa>.

China's Stance on the Israel-Hamas War

China adopted a posture of formal neutrality in the Israel-Hamas war while strategically signaling alignment with the Palestinian cause. In the immediate aftermath of Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, Beijing's statements avoided condemning Hamas, instead emphasizing concern over violence and the suffering of Gazan civilians.¹⁰⁶ Chinese President Xi Jinping waited nearly two weeks before commenting, then called for an immediate ceasefire and reaffirmed that the only solution is the "two-state" vision, creating an independent Palestine.¹⁰⁷ At the United Nations and other forums, China consistently pressed for halting Israeli military actions and delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza.¹⁰⁸ On November 30, while presiding over the UN Security Council, China issued a five-point position paper echoing these themes (ceasefire, humanitarian relief, a two-state solution, etc.) This broader pattern of messaging has been "*China's consistent message since October 7,*" according to analysts.¹⁰⁹

Alongside its calls for de-escalation, Beijing has steadily intensified its criticism of Israel's military campaign, while notably refraining from condemning Hamas's October 7 assault. By October 15, 2023, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi declared that "Israel's actions have gone beyond self-defense," describing the bombing of Gaza as a form of "collective punishment" against the Palestinian people.¹¹⁰ In doing so, Beijing diverged sharply from Western governments, which largely supported Israel's right to defend itself in the aftermath of the Hamas attacks.

Beijing has also used the conflict to escalate its criticism of the U.S. Chinese officials, including Yi, have asserted that U.S. "bias" in favor of Israel and its

¹⁰⁶ Patricia M. Kim and Zoe Y. Reeves, "Chinese Narratives on the Israel-Hamas War," *Brookings*, November 30, 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinese-narratives-on-the-israel-hamas-war/>.

¹⁰⁷ Joyce Huang, "China's Xi Urges End to Israel-Hamas Conflict Through Two-State Solution," *VOA News*, October 19, 2023, <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-xi-urges-end-to-israel-hamas-conflict-through-two-state-solution-/7318986.html>.

¹⁰⁸ Ahmed Aboudouh, "China Is Fixed on Discrediting the US on Gaza War. But This Policy Lacks Credibility and Will Likely Fail," *Atlantic Council*, December 14, 2023, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/china-gaza-hamas-israel-war/>.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ Chen Qingqing, "Chinese FM Says Israel's Actions Go Beyond Self-Defense, Calls to Avoid Collective Punishment of Gaza People," *Global Times*, October 15, 2023, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202310/1299847.shtml>.

failure to act as a credible mediator are among the root causes of the crisis.¹¹¹ In a clear demonstration of its geopolitical messaging, China welcomed a delegation of Arab and Muslim foreign ministers to Beijing in mid-November of 2023, portraying itself as a reliable partner of the Global South.¹¹² Chinese state media described the meetings as evidence that China is a “good friend and brother of Arab and Islamic countries.”¹¹³ However, this external messaging stands in tension with China’s domestic policies, particularly its widely documented repression of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang—a contrast that has led some observers to view Beijing’s positioning as a strategic effort to expand its influence in Muslim-majority regions rather than a consistent commitment to defending Muslim rights.¹¹⁴ Through this approach, Beijing positioned itself as a supporter of Palestinian rights and as an alternative voice to that of Western governments.

Strategic Objectives and Influence on Discourse

These statements and actions are not just reactions; they are part of a bigger Chinese strategy to influence global opinion, discredit the West, and expand China’s power by spreading its message through media and activist groups.

The overlap between China’s foreign policy rhetoric and the slogans of pro-Palestinian protests is clear. Both frame the conflict in terms of colonialism and imperialism, with calls to end Gaza’s suffering and critiques of the U.S. enabling of Israel. For instance, Chinese state media frequently casts the U.S. as the “driver of instability in the Middle East,” citing its “hegemonic behavior” and military interventions as having fueled the Israel-Palestinian

¹¹¹ Patricia M. Kim and Zoe Y. Reeves, “Chinese Narratives on the Israel-Hamas War,” *Brookings*, November 30, 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinese-narratives-on-the-israel-hamas-war/>.

¹¹² Ken Moritsugu, “China Hosts Arab and Muslim Foreign Ministers to Discuss Ending the Israel-Hamas War,” *PBS NewsHour*, November 20, 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/china-hosts-arab-and-muslim-foreign-ministers-to-discuss-ending-the-israel-hamas-war>.

¹¹³ Christina Lu, “How China Is Leveraging the Israel-Hamas War,” *Foreign Policy*, January 31, 2024, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/31/china-israel-hamas-global-south-us-foreign-policy/>.

¹¹⁴ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Assessment of Human Rights Concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China*. Geneva: OHCHR, August 31, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/2022-08-31/22-08-31-final-assessment.pdf?>.

crisis.¹¹⁵ Pro-Palestine demonstrators and left-wing groups echo these points, accusing the U.S. of supporting colonialism. This alignment is not coincidental but reflects how CCP propaganda efforts amplify themes that are already prevalent in anti-Israel, anti-Western circles worldwide. Chinese state-owned outlets have leaned into the Gaza war to discredit the U.S., just as they did the Ukraine war.¹¹⁶ As documented by The Brookings Institution, *Global Times* editorials argue that American “biased” support of Israel and neglect of Palestinian grievances sparked the war.¹¹⁷ In doing so, they help legitimize the protesters’ message by demonstrating that a major global power shares their concerns.

Figure 4

Posts by Global Times accuse the U.S. of causing and escalating the conflict¹¹⁸



¹¹⁵ Patricia M. Kim and Zoe Y. Reeves, “Chinese Narratives on the Israel-Hamas War,” *Brookings*, November 30, 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinese-narratives-on-the-israel-hamas-war/>.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ Institute for Strategic Dialogue, “Capitalising on Crisis: Russia, China and Iran Use X to Exploit Israel-Hamas Information Chaos,” *ISD*, October 25, 2023, https://www.isdglobal.org/digital_dispatches/capitalising-on-crisis-russia-china-and-iran-use-x-to-exploit-israel-hamas-information-chaos/.

China's posture and media messaging have helped shape the broader discourse since October 7, 2023, often in ways that align with grassroots activism. By highlighting Palestinian suffering and accusing the West of double standards, Beijing adds momentum to calls for a ceasefire and criticism of Israel. On social media, China's propaganda ecosystem (including influencers and outlets in multiple languages) circulates graphic images of Gaza and strong anti-Israel commentary, contributing to viral trends that protesters gravitate to.¹¹⁹ Notably, on Chinese social platforms like Weibo (described as the Chinese version of X), public sentiment was overwhelmingly against Israel, with popular hashtags ridiculing Israeli claims and endorsing the view that China owes no special favor to Israel.¹²⁰

CCP networks have been active on social media platforms such as X, disseminating narratives that align with Chinese geopolitical interests.¹²¹ These narratives often portray the U.S. and its allies negatively, suggesting that Western policies are responsible for escalating tensions in the Middle East. By promoting such content, these pro-CCP networks seek to undermine U.S. credibility and influence in the region.¹²²

Weaponization of Antisemitic Tropes

Occasionally, this propaganda facilitates radical animosity. In early October 2023, China Central Television (CCTV), the CCP's flagship state broadcaster, aired a segment that echoed antisemitic conspiracy theories. The program claimed that "Jews, who represent 3% of the U.S. population, control 70% of its wealth," a narrative long associated with far-right and extremist ideologies.¹²³ Although presented as an economic analysis, the segment

¹¹⁹ Steven Lee Myers and Sheera Frenkel, "In a Worldwide War of Words, Russia, China and Iran Back Hamas," *The New York Times*, November 3, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/03/technology/israel-hamas-information-war.html>.

¹²⁰ Patricia M. Kim, Kevin Dong, and Mallie Prytherch, "Chinese Narratives on the Israel-Hamas War," *The Brookings Institution*, January 22, 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chinese-narratives-on-the-israel-hamas-war/>.

¹²¹ Institute for Strategic Dialogue, "Capitalising on Crisis: Russia, China and Iran Use X to Exploit Israel-Hamas Information Chaos," *ISD*, October 25, 2023, https://www.isdglobal.org/digital_dispatches/capitalising-on-crisis-russia-china-and-iran-use-x-to-exploit-israel-hamas-information-chaos/.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ Yaqiu Wang, "Chinese Social Media Platforms Are Now Awash With Antisemitism," *The Diplomat*, October 23, 2023, <https://thediplomat.com/2023/10/chinese-social-media-platforms-are-now-awash-with-antisemitism/>.

promoted harmful stereotypes and could increase antisemitic feelings among viewers both in the U.S. and abroad. This episode illustrates how China's messaging not only criticizes the U.S. and Israel but also reinforces long-discredited stereotypes.

Strategically, Beijing is leveraging the Israel-Hamas war to deepen rifts between the West and the Global South, including countries like Brazil, India, South Africa, and Pakistan, thereby indirectly strengthening pro-Palestinian movements. Many nations across Asia, Africa, and Latin America have strongly condemned Israel's Gaza offensive and expressed frustration with U.S. policy. China has "seized the opportunity to align itself with the Global South" bloc against the U.S. on this issue.¹²⁴ By doing so, China positions itself as the champion of the developing world's outrage. This divide-and-conquer strategy plays out in international forums and media: China's Foreign Ministry emphasizes that it stands on the side of "peace and justice," supporting the "just cause" of the Palestinian people.¹²⁵ Such statements are then amplified by sympathetic outlets and easily reach activist circles worldwide as moral support. The *Foreign Policy* magazine observes that Beijing harnessed global anger at the U.S. over Gaza to boost its ambitions.¹²⁶ In practice, this means China benefits from and quietly encourages sustained protests that demand the U.S. respond to global calls for a ceasefire. When protests in cities like New York or London highlight global opposition to U.S. and Israeli policies, they reinforce China's position, and China-aligned groups, such as the People's Forum, ensure that they echo those messages.

CCP Objectives in Fueling Activism

China's alignment with and amplification of pro-Palestinian activism, whether direct or through ideological and financial proxies, serves several overlapping strategic objectives. According to analysts, this approach is not incidental, but rather a calculated component of the CCP's broader foreign policy and information warfare strategy.

¹²⁴ Christina Lu, "How China Is Leveraging the Israel-Hamas War," *Foreign Policy*, January 31, 2024, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/31/china-israel-hamas-global-south-us-foreign-policy/>.

¹²⁵ Grant Rumley, Rebecca Redlich, and Claudia Groeling, "Tracking Chinese Statements on the Hamas-Israel Conflict," *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, November 3, 2023, <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/tracking-chinese-statements-hamas-israel-conflict>.

¹²⁶ Christina Lu, "How China Is Leveraging the Israel-Hamas War," *Foreign Policy*, January 31, 2024, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/31/china-israel-hamas-global-south-us-foreign-policy/>.

First, one of Beijing's overarching aims is to weaken U.S. global leadership by exacerbating internal divisions within the U.S. The NCRI concludes that the recent surge in disruptive, direct-action protests in the U.S. is "in part driven by organizations connected to CCP foreign influence efforts."¹²⁷ These protests, which increasingly adopt anti-government and anti-capitalist tones, serve the strategic interests of "foreign entities hostile to the U.S."¹²⁸ By fueling such dissent, China can diminish American political capital, distract lawmakers, and project an image of Western dysfunction on the global stage.

Simultaneously, such unrest can serve to distract and drain Western focus. Continuous protest actions, particularly those that occupy college campuses or disrupt government proceedings, divert attention and resources away from foreign policy priorities. These actions redirect public attention to problems in other countries, making people less focused on China's human rights issues in Xinjiang or its aggressive moves in the Indo-Pacific. For example, in April 2024, CodePink protestors disrupted a Senate hearing, drawing attention from national security discussions.¹²⁹ U.S. lawmakers and intelligence officials have expressed growing concern that adversarial powers may be "meddling" in U.S. political movements through ideological influence or funding structures.¹³⁰

Second, by embedding CCP-aligned voices and narratives within activist circles, Beijing also seeks to shape a more favorable global narrative. Its objective is to reframe the war not as a confrontation with Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist group, but as part of a broader anti-colonial, anti-imperialist struggle. Organizations and media outlets funded by Singham, including BTN, Dongsheng News, and the Tricontinental Institute, have consistently echoed Beijing's messaging: condemning "U.S. imperialism," praising China's peacebuilding posture, and avoiding any criticism of Hamas.¹³¹

¹²⁷ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Brad Dress, "Gaza protesters repeatedly interrupt Senate hearing with Pentagon leaders," *The Hill*, April 9, 2024, <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/4582546-gaza-protesters-repeatedly-interrupt-senate-hearing-with-pentagon-leaders/>.

¹³⁰ U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, "Graham, Rubio Request DOJ Briefing on Chinese-Linked Activism, Potential FARA Violations," July 2024, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov>.

¹³¹ Gabe Kaminsky, "CCP-Allied Charity Behind Anti-Israel Protests Sees Donations Skyrocket by Millions," *Washington Examiner*, January 2, 2024, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/foreign/2863591/ccp-allied-charity-behind-anti-israel-protests-sees-donations-skyrocket/>.

This arrangement creates a feedback loop in which CCP talking points and activist messaging reinforce one another. As previously noted, following October 7, 2023, BTN rapidly shifted its editorial focus to Gaza, producing sophisticated videos and social media content that at times outpaced even traditional grassroots protest channels.¹³² As a result, their content dominated platforms under hashtags like #ShutItDown4Palestine, many of which were launched or amplified by CCP-linked networks.¹³³

Finally, aligning with the Palestinian cause enables China to bolster its image across the Global South. By casting itself as a champion of Palestinian rights, China strengthens its diplomatic credibility among Arab and Muslim states. Analysts argue that Beijing is willing to sideline its relationship with Israel, treating it as “collateral damage” to gain favor with energy-rich Gulf nations and build influence in international forums.¹³⁴ This message also matches what many pro-Palestinian activists are saying: that the conflict is about right and wrong on the world stage. China and the protest movement support each other’s claims that the U.S. and Israel are in the wrong, while China presents itself as standing for peace and justice.

Conclusion

In summary, growing evidence suggests that the CCP is using its financial, media, and ideological allies to support and amplify pro-Palestinian activism in the U.S. Through figures like Neville Roy Singham and aligned nonprofits such as the People’s Forum and ANSWER Coalition, the CCP has cultivated a network capable of organizing mass protests, producing compelling media, and disseminating anti-U.S. and anti-Israel narratives under the guise of grassroots resistance.

These organizations have spearheaded coalitions like SID4P, mobilized large-scale civil disobedience, and shaped online discourse, often with professionally

¹³² Michael Starr, “China-linked network funding key anti-Israel protest groups in US - report,” *The Jerusalem Post*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-801204>.

¹³³ Network Contagion Research Institute, *Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States*, May 2024, https://networkcontagion.us/wp-content/uploads/SID4P-Report_May-2024.pdf.

¹³⁴ Ahmed Aboudouh, “China Is Fixed on Discrediting the US on Gaza War. But This Policy Lacks Credibility and Will Likely Fail,” *Atlantic Council*, December 14, 2023, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/china-gaza-hamas-israel-war/>

produced content and access to logistical resources far beyond those of traditional activist groups. While individual protesters may be motivated by genuine outrage over the war in Gaza, the infrastructure surrounding their activism reveals deeper strategic intent.

At its core, Beijing's involvement is about power and positioning: using domestic dissent in the U.S. to project weakness abroad, while casting China as a principled champion of peace and justice. The October 7, 2023, attack opened another front in a global information struggle, a theater in which protests on American campuses and streets were leveraged as instruments of "discourse warfare."¹³⁵

¹³⁵ Miles Yu and Shane Leary, "China Insider: Antisemitism in China, Panda Diplomacy, and Vanguard and Gallup Exit China," *Hudson Institute*, November 6, 2023, <https://www.hudson.org/foreign-policy/china-insider-antisemitism-china-panda-diplomacy-vanguard-gallup-exit-china>.



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