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Hacking the Vaccine ¹

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SCENARIO

You are a member of a team of staffers who work cybersecurity issues for the National Security Council. During the last meeting, the president complained loudly about China's hacking of research organizations that are developing COVID-19 vaccines. He mentioned "the story in the news," and you have been tasked to provide a briefing and policy options.

REFERENCES (required)

D'Agata, Charlie. *Chinese hackers try to steal COVID-19 vaccine research*. CBS Evening News. 11 May 2020. YouTube video, 1 min., 36 sec. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smg8Ivdc0ZI>.

China suspected of hacking coronavirus research. This video should be provided to students and is mandatory viewing.

REFERENCES (optional)

"The Race to Develop a Coronavirus Vaccine," CNBC. 14 March 2020. YouTube video, 10 min., 14 sec., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek3T8xiu1Fw>.

This video provides some idea of the stakes involved, both financial and for public health.

Alpert, Bill. "A Covid-19 Vaccine Could Be Worth Billions for Moderna and Its Rivals." *Barron's*. 19 May 2020. <https://www.barrons.com/articles/a-covid-19-vaccine-could-be-worth-billions-for-moderna-and-its-rivals-51589902769>.

This article provides further details the high stakes in developing a vaccine.

Lawrence, Susan V. and Karen M. Sutter. *China Primer: U.S.-China Relations*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 3 March 2021. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10119>.

This report provides background on US-China relations to set the proper context. It provides basic information about Chinese leadership and the history of US-China relations. In addition, it covers several of the central issues in the bilateral relationship: economic issues (trade deficit, currency manipulation, tariffs), security issues (Chinese military modernization, North Korea, South China Sea), human rights

continued...



1. The views presented are those of the speaker or author and do not necessarily represent the views of DOD or its components.



(Hong Kong, Tibet), and, last but not least, Taiwan. This is an important reading and should be required unless these issues have already been discussed in the class.

United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator. *Annual Intellectual Property Report to Congress*. Washington, DC. March 2020. <https://www.iprcenter.gov/file-repository/ipec-2020-annual-intellectual-property-report-1.pdf/view>.

This in-depth reading informs students on the issues involved in economic espionage and US government strategies to address it. Topics include engagement with US trading partners, legal authorities, law enforcement actions, and partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders.

REFERENCES (optional for additional depth or context)

Libicki, Martin C. *Cyberspace in Peace and War*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2016.

Chapter 8 offers significant depth on the cost to the US of Chinese economic espionage. In particular, courses with significant economic content could benefit from this reading.

Huang, Yukon and Jeremy Smith. “China’s Record on Intellectual Property Rights is Getting Better and Better.” *Foreign Policy*, 16 October 2019. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/10/16/china-intellectual-property-theft-progress/>.

True to the title, this article argues that China has made significant progress on intellectual property rights.

Eftimiades, Nicholas. “The Impact of Chinese Espionage on the United States.” *The Diplomat*, 4 December 2018. <https://thediplomat.com/2018/12/the-impact-of-chinese-espionage-on-the-united-states/>.

This article offers a dissenting view of China’s intellectual property rights progress.



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