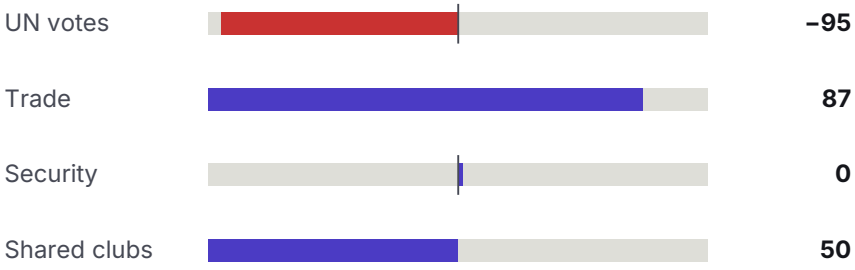
United States & China

Rivals at the UN, inseparable in trade.

−8

Distant

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

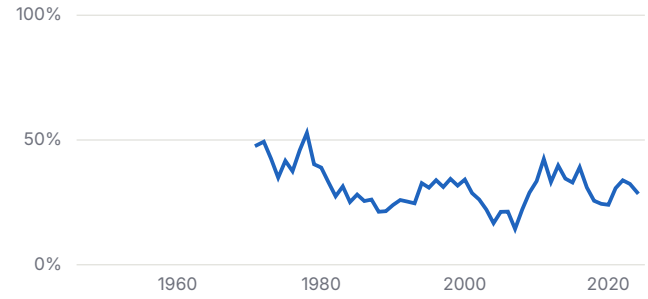


IN SHORT

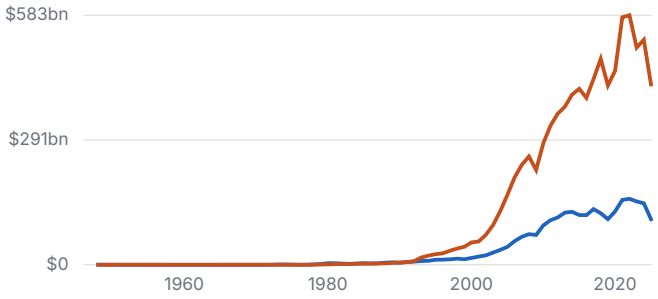
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in China, Taiwan, with the United States supporting another party, most recently in 1958.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 32% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($617 billion a year) is very important for China, and about as important for the United States.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, China names the United States more often than the reverse (272 sentences against 147).
- 2.5 million people born in China live in the United States (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



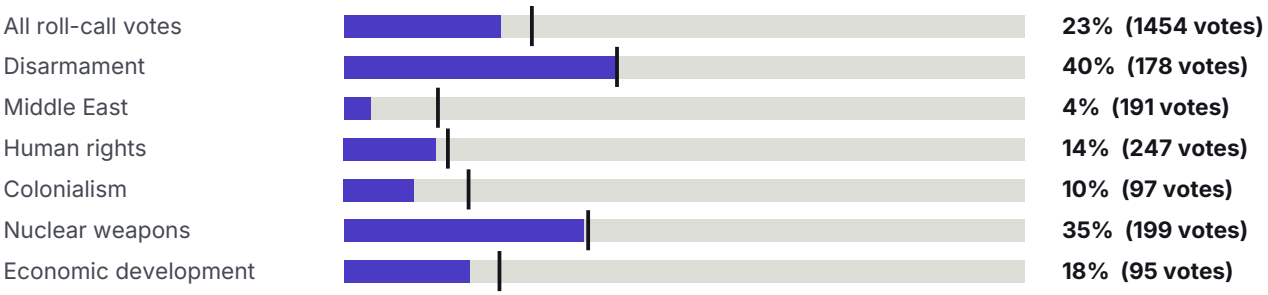
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



United States sells to China China sells to United States

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on disarmament (40% of votes the same), furthest apart on Middle East (4%), against 23% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of the United States and China was 32% in 2022–2024. For the United States, China is the 11th most distant voting partner out of 191; for China, the United States is the most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $617 billion a year in 2023–2025: 12.0% of all the United States' trade and 12.5% of China's. China is the United States' 3rd largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, the United States has named China in 147 sentences of its General Debate speeches; China has named the United States in 272.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (China, Taiwan, 1954–1958).
People	60,000 people born in the United States live in China and 2.5 million born in China live in the United States (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 8 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	268 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1971	The People's Republic takes China's UN seat (Resolution 2758)
1979	Diplomatic relations established
2001	China joins the World Trade Organization
2018	Trade war: tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as
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