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Trump considers delisting Chinese firms from U.S. markets: source



Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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Republicans see impeachment backfiring. Democrats fear they may be right



U.S. President Donald Trump arrives aboard Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S. September 26, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

(Reuters) - Having his morning coffee and cigarette outside a Starbucks in one of the most politically contested counties in the United States, Richard Sibilla recoils at the memory of President Donald Trump's election. But impeach him now? Sibilla can see little upside. "After this he has a much better chance of winning another election, as scary as that sounds," said Sibilla, 39, a resident of Pinellas County, Florida, who voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. "It's not even worth following because it's all going to help him." Alarmed by a whistleblower's revelations that Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate the 2020 Democratic presidential front-runner, former Vice President Joe Biden, Democratic leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives this week launched a formal impeachment inquiry into the Republican president. Among the public, interviews with more than 60 voters across four of the most important counties in the 2020 election showed

Republicans largely confident the impeachment process will backfire and Trump will win re-election. Democrats, on the other hand, are worried they may be right. Marc Devlin, a 48-year-old consultant from Northampton County, Pennsylvania, said he expects the inquiry to "incense" supporters of the president. "This is my fear, that it will actually add some flame to his fire with his base," he said. "I just fear 'party over country.'" Throughout the 2020 election cycle, Reuters is monitoring voters in four areas that could determine the outcome of the Nov. 3 presidential contest: Pinellas County, Florida; Maricopa County, Arizona; Northampton County, Pennsylvania; and Racine County, Wisconsin. Given the sharply divided electorate and the rules in America's state-by-state races that determine the winner in the Electoral College, those four states will be among the most targeted by presidential candidates next year. Public opinion has time to shift before voters cast their ballots next November. But for now, the prospect of impeachment has done little to

sway opinions, largely formed along party lines, according to the interviews and polling.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll taken on Monday and Tuesday showed 37% of respondents favored impeaching the president versus 45% who were opposed. That 37% figure was down from 41% three weeks earlier and down from 44% in May, after the release of former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian meddling in the 2016 election. "I don't think he did anything wrong," said Joe D'Ambrosio, 78, who runs a barber shop in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and cheers Trump's efforts to crack down on illegal immigration. Lee Snover, chair of the Northampton County Republican Committee, said she felt the impeachment inquiry was the latest instance of the Democrats using unfair tactics to try to take Trump down. It showed, she said, how disconnected Washington's politicians are from the country.

"I have not had one Republican crack or say they're turning or going the other way. They're laughing it

off. I think it's going to help him," said Snover, 50.

That sentiment was shared at a meeting of College Republicans United at Arizona State University on Wednesday. "They have this idea that everyone is siding with them, that Trump is an impeachable president, when really it's only a minority," Rose Mulet, 19, said of the Democratic leadership in Congress. "It's not a reflection of the general public." Moreover, odds of impeachment succeeding are long. None of America's 45 presidents have even been removed that way. Though the Democrats control the House of Representatives, where they need a simple majority of votes, the Senate, controlled by Republicans, would have to vote with a two-thirds majority to remove the president from office.

That reality has only frustrated Democrats angered by what they see as a string of offenses by Trump, from bragging about grabbing women by the genitals to Mueller's conclusion that Trump interfered with his probe.

"I am enraged," said Barbara Lebak, a 66-year-old librarian who was working her way through a crossword puzzle from a bench in Racine County, Wisconsin.

Like Lebak, fellow Racine County resident David Ferrell, 56, said he saw multiple reasons to impeach Trump, including what he called the president's hardline policies on immigration and inflammation of race relations.

"What has taken so long? It should have been done long ago," said Ferrell. "I'm voting for a Democrat, no matter who it is."

While polls and interviews suggest most voters are solidly entrenched, some, like Chris Harman, have been swayed.

Harman, 52, who works in sales and marketing in Maricopa County, said he voted for Trump in 2016 but will not in 2020. He said the president had already committed impeachable offenses even before the Ukraine scandal erupted.

U.S. President Donald Trump arrives aboard Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S. September 26, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst "It should have been done a long time ago," Harman said as he left a baseball game in Phoenix. "I'm not voting for Trump. I tried it, it was a grand experiment, but I'm not going to try it again."



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Trump considers delisting Chinese firms from U.S. markets: source

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump's administration is considering the possibility of delisting Chinese companies from U.S. stock exchanges, a source briefed on the matter said on Friday, in what would be a radical escalation of trade tensions between the two countries.

FILE PHOTO: Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., September 9, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

The move would be part of a broader effort to limit U.S. investments into China, the source said, confirming an earlier report by Bloomberg that sent shockwaves through financial markets.

Shares of Alibaba Group Holding (BABA.N), JD.com (JD.O), Pinduoduo (PDD.O), Baidu (BIDU.O), Vipshop Holdings (VIPS.N), Baozun (BZUN.O) and IQIYI (IQ.O) fell between 2% to 4% in afternoon trading.

RELATED COVERAGE

U.S.-listed China shares, indexers fall after delisting reports

China's yuan currency, traded in off shore markets CNH=, fell by 0.4% against the dollar after the news to trade near its weakest against the greenback in about three weeks.

Exact mechanisms for how to delist the companies were yet to be worked out and any plan is subject to approval by President Donald Trump, who has given the green light to the discussion, Bloomberg reported here citing a person close to the deliberations.

Officials are also examining how the U.S. could put limits on the Chinese companies included in stock indexes managed by U.S. firms, although it was not clear how that would be done, the agency

cited three sources as saying.

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A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers in June introduced a bill to force Chinese companies listed on American stock exchanges to submit to regulatory oversight, including providing access to audits or face delisting.

Chinese authorities have long been reluctant to allow overseas regulators to inspect local accounting firms - including member firms of the Big Four international accounting networks - citing national security concerns.

As of February, there were 156 Chinese companies listed on the NASDAQ and New York Stock Exchanges, according to government data, including at least 11 state-owned firms. (here)

NYSE declined to comment on Friday while Nasdaq, MSCI, S&P and FTSE Russell all did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

PLOY?

Trade talks between the United States and China are expected to resume next month after months of tit-for-tat moves by both sides which have weakened global growth and driven rollercoaster moves in markets.

"It's all very disruptive, it just adds to uncertainty and its a big negative for business investment," said Scott Brown, chief economist at investment bank Raymond James. He noted, however, that both sides have tended to use aggressive moves in the past as leverage ahead of talks.

"You never know if its a ploy to get some lever-



FILE PHOTO: Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., September 9, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

age," he said.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump arrives for a photo opportunity with sheriffs from across the country on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S., September 26, 2019. REUTERS/Erin Scott

Trump on Tuesday delivered a stinging rebuke to Beijing's trade practices in a speech at the United Nations before a day later stoking hopes that the nearly 15-month standoff could be nearing an end.

"They want to make a deal very badly... It could happen sooner than you think," he told reporters in New York on Wednesday.

The reports on Friday knocked around half a percent off the value of the S&P 500 and reduced the value of the largest U.S. exchange-traded fund tracking Chinese stocks, the iShares China Large-Cap ETF (FXI.P), by more than 1.4%.

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People march to mark the fifth year since the disappearance of the 43 students of the Ayotzinapa Teacher Training College, in Mexico City



Model Daisy-May Demetre presents a creation by Designer Eni Hegedus-Buiron for luxury children's wear label Lulu et Gigi during Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France, September 27, 2019. REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes



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Cast member Natalie Portman arrives at a premiere for the film "Lucy in the Sky" in Los Angeles, California, U.S., September 25, 2019. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Children Traumatized By Hurricane Harvey Seek Healing Through Their art



The Queen of Harvey

2018 AWARD RECIPIENT - LEVEL 2 (GRADES 3-5) Grade 4

“The Queen of Harvey is a character I created and The Queen of Harvey has a special heart that can heal Harvey. To me my character and God can work together.”

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

The flooding and recovery from Hurricane Harvey left emotional scars on countless people in the Houston area. Just like their parents, children had to deal with the trauma and the loss brought by the storm. For many, the impact lingers.

Mental Health America of Greater Houston put together a Children's Mental Health Art Showcase, providing an opportunity for children to express themselves after the impact of Hurricane Harvey two years ago.

“Simply put, art provides an outlet when words fail,” said Tilicia Johnson, mental health literacy manager for MHA Houston. “Words don't come easy for some. And if you can't completely understand what you're feeling, this is one way children can find their 'voice' that can lead to healing or recognition--getting the help

that leads to the road to recovery.”



The artwork reflects the wide range of traumatic losses children endured during and after Harvey: damage or loss of their belongings or homes; relocating schools because of extension damage; nightmares and sleep disruption; and even injury to themselves or someone they love, and death.

“We often talk about children in terms of resiliency—that they seem to bounce back quickly from adversity. But that's

not the reality—especially in extreme circumstances,” Johnson said. “While on the surface the child may seem fine once the crying stops, the gravity of disaster situations weighs on the child's mind.” Johnson said disaster recovery occurs over time in phases and is not a linear process. Experts say a typical disaster recovery trajectory is one to three years, depending on the severity of the disaster and the individual impact.

“What may be hard for parents to process is that changes in behavior, anxiety, difficulty concentrating in school, acting out, may occur months later,” Johnson added. “And the reliving, as years pass, can remind them of that difficulty and cause a re-occurrence of trauma-related symptoms.”



Harvey Aftermath

Grade 7

“I chose this because during the hurricane I was scared for my family, but after I was happy & thankful my family didn't get hurt.”

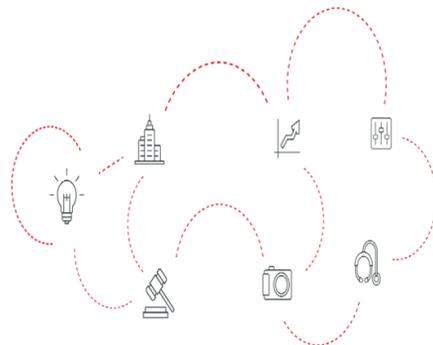
Johnson noted that traumatized children see their parents struggling to right their world. They see their friends, neighbors, teachers, continue to struggle. They hear stories and see pictures over and over again.

MHA Houston encourages parents to talk to their children about their feelings after a traumatic event. “It's important your child feels safe and that can come from what you do and say,” said Johnson. “It's also important to maintain routines for everyone in the family. We are creatures of habit and find comfort in that.” (Courtesy chron.com)

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Misinformation Haunts 2020 Primaries



(Illustration/Grillo/Axios)

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

Despite broad efforts to crack down on misinformation ahead of the 2020 election, the primary season so far has been chock full of deceptive messages and misleading information.

Why it matters: More sophisticated tactics that have emerged since 2016 threaten to derail the democratic process by further polluting online debate. And the seemingly unending influx of fakery could plant enough suspicion and cynicism to throw an otherwise legitimate election into question.

The big picture: Social media platforms, which host the greatest volume of misinformation, have gotten wise to basic techniques used in previous elections, and now regularly take down swaths of accounts they say are fake or meddling.

In response, trolls both foreign and domestic have developed new attacks.

But plenty of simple bots that appear to be foreign controlled still slip through the companies' automated sieves, experts say, further endangering the already-precarious coming elections.

And the playing field has grown. "Far more people have gotten the idea that you can throw a U.S. election by trolling," says Ben Nimmo, a misinformation

expert at the Atlantic Council.



Driving the news: Kamala Harris and Joe Biden were the most frequent targets of misinformation during and immediately after the most recent Democratic debates, according to a new report from VineSight, a company tracking Twitter activity.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that bot-like activity pushed racially divisive content, especially about Harris, during the Democratic debates, citing data from social intelligence company Storyful.

Some of the most important shifts and tactics:

1. Smarter bots: Bad actors are relying less on phalanxes of bots known as botnets, instead creating convincing fakes to manipulate humans into doing the dirty work for them.

Bots today are more likely to mimic humans by hacking real accounts, aping human behavior or targeting people with

lots of followers who can easily disseminate false or misleading information.

A lot of this happens on Twitter, because that's where journalists, experts and politicians hang out. "The impact of coordinated campaigns and bots on Twitter is first and foremost to set the news agenda," says Matthew Hindman, a professor at George Washington University. "Setting the agenda is hugely powerful."

2. Audience building: Rather than churn out short-lived fake accounts that spread misinformation but are quickly shut down, sophisticated players build pages and accounts that post engaging non-political content just to build a following.



A large group of trusting followers is more likely to spread a well-timed meme or political message snuck in between anodyne posts.

3. Shift from foreign to domestic: Influence from overseas, particularly Russia, has remained a central concern for government watchdogs — but misinformation is coming from other countries and inside the U.S., too.

False rumors about Mayor Pete Buttigieg

committing sexual assault, for example, were created by two American white nationalists. And last week, Yahoo News obtained an FBI document warning that conspiracy theories are a new domestic terrorism threat.

Homegrown players range from troublemakers on internet message boards to high-profile consultants.

4. Shift in focus to obscure platforms: Facebook and Twitter have sucked up most of the attention since 2016, but fringe sites like 4chan and 8chan, plus niche blogs and pages, are breeding grounds for misinformation, and largely outside the public eye.

5. Targeting individual influencers: The rumormongers' holy grail is to get a mainstream journalist or celebrity to amplify misinformation. Tailored messages over Twitter DMs or emails can help win their trust, Nimmo says.

6. Distorting candidates' backgrounds: Newer candidates, still relatively unknown to the public, are having their pasts picked apart and misrepresented — a new spin on the racist "birther" attacks on President Obama's background.



Harris has been a particular target for misinformation.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke weathered false claims that he left racist language on an answering machine in the 1990s, per Politico.

7. Shift in focus on mainstream media: Even traditional outlets, with their large followings, have been caught spreading misinformation. Fox News hosts have recently been accused of peddling conspiracy theories about Joe Biden's health. And most major outlets, including The New York Times, have cited Russian troll accounts in news and opinion pieces, according to a study from UW Madison.

8. Deepfakes: The potential for a manipulated videos to create chaos for voters became clear after an edited clip of Nancy Pelosi went viral earlier this year. That wasn't a deepfake — those sophisticated AI-manipulated videos haven't shown up in the U.S. political sphere yet, but experts worry they will soon. Most campaigns, however, are largely unprepared for the threat.

But, but, but: Despite the increasingly sophisticated tactics, some of the kludgy methods used in past election campaigns persist undetected.

"There's still an enormous amount of very crude obviously fake accounts on pretty much every platform," says Hindman. (Courtesy axios.com)

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