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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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White House repeats no Taiwan policy change; experts see Biden gaffe

WASHINGTON, Oct 22 (Reuters) - The White House on Friday reiterated that Joe Biden was not signaling a change in U.S. policy toward Taiwan when he said the United States would come to the island's aid if it was attacked by China, and analysts dismissed the president's remark as a gaffe.

While Washington is required by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, it has long followed a policy of "strategic ambiguity" on whether it would intervene militarily to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack.

Biden called that into question when he was asked at a CNN town hall in Baltimore on Thursday night whether the United States would come to Taiwan's defense if it was attacked by China and he replied: "Yes, we have a commitment to do that."

Shortly after he spoke, a White House spokesperson said there was no change in policy and analysts said it appeared the president misspoke.

Asked at a Friday news briefing whether it was Biden's intention to move away from strategic ambiguity to make an unambiguous statement about how the United States would respond to a Chinese attack on Taiwan, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: "Our policy has not changed. He was not intending to convey a change in policy, nor has he made a decision to change our policy."

Psaki added that, as stated in Brussels earlier on Friday by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, "nobody wants to see cross-strait issues come to blows, certainly not President Biden, and there's no reason that it should."

Psaki said the U.S. defense relationship with Taiwan was guided by the long-established Taiwan Relations Act, under which Washington would "continue assisting Taiwan in maintaining a sufficient self-defense capability."

Another principle of the act was that Washington "would regard any efforts to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of grave concern to the United States," she



added.

Bonnie Glaser, a Taiwan expert at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, called Biden's remark a "gaffe" and said it was "patently not true" that



Washington has a commitment to defend Taiwan.

"Some are suggesting a deliberate effort to send unclear signals, but in my view, that makes no sense. A confused U.S. policy weakens deterrence," she said, noting that Biden's Asia policy czar, Kurt Campbell, had rejected "strategic clarity"

over Taiwan.

Another Taiwan expert, Douglas Paal, a former U.S. representative in Taipei, said Biden was focused at the town hall on selling his domestic

economic agenda.

"Despite his reputation on foreign affairs, he can be occasionally sloppy when distracted," Paal said. "The White House was right to issue a speedy 'no-change-in-policy' correction, because that is where policy is."

U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during a town hall about his infrastructure investment proposals with CNN's Anderson Cooper at the Baltimore Center Stage Pearlstone Theater in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S. October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst/File Photo

Biden's remark comes at an awkward time, while White House officials are gearing up for a virtual meeting between him and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, which, sources say, they hope will show the world Washington can responsibly manage tense relations between the rival superpowers.

China, which claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own, expressed its displeasure, with a foreign ministry spokesman saying Beijing has no room for concessions on its core interests.

China urges the United States "not to send the wrong signals to the forces of Taiwan independence, to avoid seriously harming Sino-U.S. ties and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

Taiwan's presidential office said its position remained the same, which is that it will neither give in to pressure nor "rashly advance" when it gets support.



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China coal prices notch worst week since May on govt intervention

BEIJING, Oct 22 (Reuters) - China's thermal coal futures plunged on Friday and turned in their worst week in five months, following Beijing's strongest intervention in years to boost supply and cool runaway prices of the commodity amid a widespread power crunch.

The most-traded contract on Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange, for delivery in January, hit the lower daily trading limit of 14% and settled at 1,408.4 yuan (\$220) a tonne.

That was nearly 30% below a record high hit on Tuesday and down nearly 15% for the week, the biggest weekly drop since May.

The contract later fell a further 6.1% in Friday's night session, which counts as part of the Monday trading day, and was down 3.4% at 1,360.4 yuan as of 1343 GMT.

Coking coal shed 11.1% and coke futures dropped 9% on the Dalian Commodity Exchange on Friday, extending losses from prior sessions.

"We're now seeing the fruits of China's supply response, as the government has given miners carte blanche to produce at full tilt - even permitting the relaxation of safety inspections in some cases," said Atilla Widnell, managing director at Navigate Commodities in Singapore.

"The parabolic pricing action largely represented the fear of buyers being unable to source sufficient volumes to feed power plants and coke ovens," Widnell said.

"Therefore, we can expect prices to fall almost as fast as they've risen now that a wave of supply is inbound," he added. China has been pushing coal miners to ramp up output and hiking imports so that power stations can rebuild stockpiles before the winter heating season, but analysts say shortages are likely to persist for at least another few months. read more

On Friday, President Xi Jinping said China will make efforts to ensure the stable supply of coal and electricity for economic and social use and also called up more exploration and development of oil and gas, state media reported. read more



Men stand by a car near a coal-fired power plant in Shanghai, China October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Aly Song

China's state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), has put out several statements since Tuesday night that it was studying ways to guide prices back to a "reasonable range" and to crack down on "excessive profits" at coal firms. read more

On Friday, the NDRC said it held a meeting with large state-run companies including oil refiner Sinopec, aluminium giant Chinalco and steel-maker China Baowu on "rational" energy usage by industry on Thursday and said they should take the lead in energy-saving and carbon reduction.

The NDRC "has concluded that the unbridled soaring of coal prices is partly driven by those

hoping to hit the jackpot by taking advantage of the power supply falling short of actual need", Chinese state media outlet China Daily wrote on Thursday.

There should be "zero tolerance to the hoarding of coal", the newspaper added. "It is of the utmost importance to rein in coal prices as they will pose a threat to people's daily lives when winter sets in."

Due to cold winds and rain, temperatures in most parts of central and eastern China are currently lower than normal, the National Meteorological Center said.

WAIT AND SEE

Spot coal prices also hit the brakes after a week of daily increases as some of China's major coal producers vowed to cap thermal coal prices in the winter and next spring. Key coal transporting ports such as Qinhuangdao have also pledged not to hike prices.

Editor's Choice



A woman looks at The Empire State Building and the New York Skyline during a preview of SUMMIT One Vanderbilt observation deck, which is spread across the top four floors of the new One Vanderbilt tower in Midtown Manhattan, New York, October 18, 2021. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



People attend the preview of SUMMIT One Vanderbilt observation deck, which is spread across the top four floors of the new One Vanderbilt tower in Midtown Manhattan, in New York, October 18, 2021. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



An image of assassinated President Jovenel Moïse is seen in the background as locals maneuver past a burning barricade in protest of fuel shortages in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Adrees Latif.



A woman attends the preview of SUMMIT One Vanderbilt observation deck, which is spread across the top four floors of the new One Vanderbilt tower in Midtown Manhattan, New York, October 18, 2021. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



A protestor adds to a burning barricade during a demonstration against high prices and fuel shortages, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Ralph Tedy Erol



A man, part of group of locals who set up a barricade to protest against fuel shortages, covers his face as he speaks to a man recording video on a mobile device in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Celebrating Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



By Connie Hanzhang Jin - NPR Writer

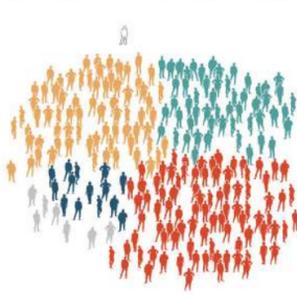
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

“Smart.” “Hard-working.” “Nice.” Those were among the adjectives that respondents offered up in a recent poll when asked to describe Asian Americans. The poll, conducted by the nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was another all-too-familiar reminder that Asian Americans are still perceived as the “model minority.” Since the end of World War II, this myth about Asian Americans and their perceived collective success has been used as a racial wedge — to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans. Characterizing Asian Americans as a model minority flattens the diverse experiences of Asian Americans into a singular, narrow narrative. And it paints a misleading picture about the community that doesn’t align with current statistics.

Here’s a look at some common misconceptions driven by the model minority myth. **Myth: Asian Americans are a single monolithic group**

Currently, more than 22 million people of Asian descent live in the U.S., making up approximately 7% of the nation’s population. They trace their heritage to different regions around the world, with people of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent making up the largest shares, though no group makes up a majority. More than 1.5 million Pacific Islanders, who descend from Micronesia, Melanesia or Polynesia, live in the U.S. as well.

ASIAN AMERICANS TRACE THEIR HERITAGE TO DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD



NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

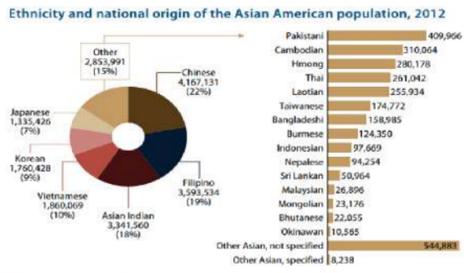
Academics and activists trace the term “Asian American” to 1968, when students at the University of California, Berkeley, founded the Asian American Political Alliance. At the time, the group sought to unite students of Japanese, Chinese and Filipino descent to fight for political and social recognition.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders” (AAPI) is a term that has its roots in the 1980s and ‘90s, when the U.S. Census Bureau used the “Asian Pacific American” classification to group Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders together. In 1997, the bureau disaggregated the categories into “Asian” and “Pacific Islander.”

Scholars and activists have critiqued both terms for masking differences in histories and needs among communities, as well as supporting the myth that Asian Americans are a monolithic group.

Within these regional groups, a huge variety of ethnicities exist within the Asian American community. People who identify their heritage as Chinese, Indian or Filipino make up the largest share.

MANY ETHNICITIES FALL UNDER THE ASIAN AMERICAN UMBRELLA



Notes: Ethnicities with fewer than 100,000 people not shown. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

These numbers have risen rapidly in recent years. The Asian American population is the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., growing by 81% from 2000 to 2019. The Hispanic population saw the second-fastest growth, at 70%, followed by Native Hawaiians and Pacific

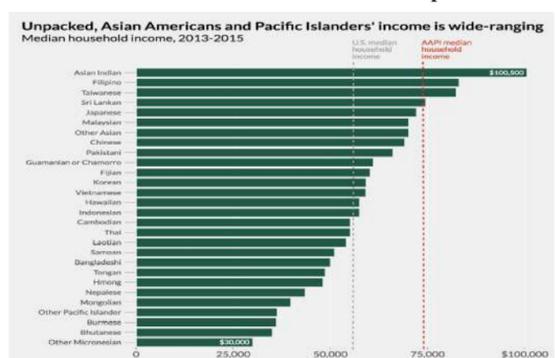
Islanders, at 60%. The white population grew by only 1% in that time.

Myth: Asian Americans are high earning and well educated

Asian Americans have a median household income of around \$78,000 a year, which is higher than the national median of about \$66,000. However, that overall statistic obscures large differences among different Asian-origin groups.

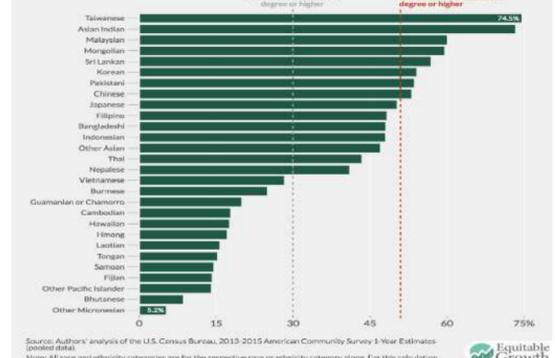
These economic disparities are partially driven by similar disparities in education levels among Asian Americans. The highest-earning groups — Indian American and Taiwanese American households — also have the highest levels of education, while the lowest-earning groups have comparatively lower levels of education.

Key Disparities In Income And Education Among Different Asian American Groups



Source: Author’s analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (rounded data). **Note:** All race and ethnicity categories are for the respective race or ethnicity category alone. For this calculation, a household’s race is determined by the race or ethnicity of the head of household.

Unpacked, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders’ college attainment highly differs



Source: Author’s analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (rounded data). **Note:** All race and ethnicity categories are for the respective race or ethnicity category alone. For this calculation, we only include individuals age 25 and over.

NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey **Credit:** Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

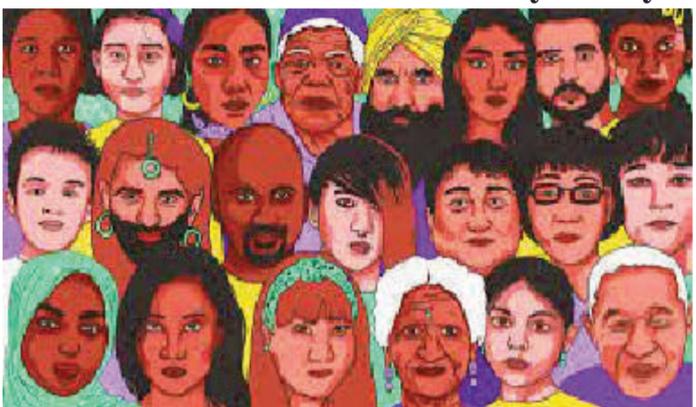
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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

(Continued From Page C3)

Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



INDIAN AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE HIGHEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$127,000 A YEAR. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, BURMESE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE LOWEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$46,000 A YEAR.

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

In fact, a 2018 Pew Research Center study found that Asian Americans were the most economically divided racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with Asian Americans in the top 10th of the income distribution making 10.7 times more than those in the bottom 10th. **Myth:** Asian Americans immigrate to the U.S. in the “right” way

More than half of those who identify as Asian American and at least 17% of Pacific Islanders were born outside the U.S., according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Asian American community has the highest proportion of immigrants of any ethnic or racial group in the United States. Yet, Asian Americans are often overlooked in debates about immigration reform. Asians have a wide range of reasons for immigrating to the U.S., including those coming as refugees or asylum-seekers. Out of the almost 11 million estimated undocumented immigrants in the U.S., around 1.5 million (14%) are from Asia, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

A LARGE NUMBER OF ASIANS IN

AMERICA ARE UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS

Out of the top 10 most common origin countries for unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., an estimated one million people come from India, China or the Philippines.

ORIGIN COUNTRY	EST. NUMBER OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS	SHARE OF TOTAL
Mexico	5,572,000	51%
El Salvador	750,000	7%
Guatemala	580,000	5%
India	469,000	4%
Honduras	402,000	4%
China	384,000	4%
Philippines	233,000	2%
Dominican Republic	181,000	2%
Colombia	182,000	2%
Brazil	145,000	1%

NOTES: Data as of 2018. **Source:** Migration Policy Institute **Credit:** Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

Heightened immigration enforcement has also impacted Asian Americans. From 2015 to 2018, Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested about 15,000 immigrants from Asia, according

to a report by the nonprofit Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

The report also found that Southeast Asian immigrants were three to four times more likely to be deported for old criminal convictions compared with other immigrant groups. Out of the approximately 16,000 Southeast Asians with final removal orders in that period, more than 13,000 had removal orders that were based on old criminal convictions.

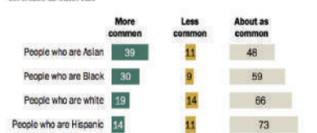
Myth: Asian Americans Face Less Systemic Racism And Discrimination

Since the coronavirus pandemic started, hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans have increased. In an April survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 32% of Asian American adults — a greater percentage than any other racial or ethnic group — said that they feared someone might threaten or physically attack them.

ASIAN AMERICANS AND OTHER GROUPS REPORT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

About four-in-ten Americans say it is more common for people to express racist views about people who are Asian than before COVID-19

% saying it is... for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about each of the following groups in our society compared to before the coronavirus outbreak



Notes: Asian adults were interviewed in English only. **Note:** Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer not shown. White, Black and Asian adults indicate those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. **Source:** Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020. **Note:** Many Black and Asian Americans say they have experienced discrimination amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Share of respondents who say each of the following has happened to them since the coronavirus outbreak because of their race or ethnicity.

NOTES

Asian American adults were interviewed in English only. Sample does not include Pacific Islanders.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11.

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR



In response, the House of Representatives passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act on May 18. The bill would have the Justice Department appoint a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19. It would also direct resources toward making the reporting of hate crimes more accessible.

Despite increased news coverage of various attacks against Asian Americans and the upcoming legislation, the LAAUNCH survey, which was conducted between March 29 to April 14, found that 37% of white Americans were not aware of increased incidents of hate crimes.

But anti-Asian bias and discrimination are not new to the pandemic. To understand the current climate, it’s important to look at historical context. In past periods of national tension, especially during times when the U.S. has been at war with Asian countries, anti-Asian racism has similarly risen.

Myth: Asian Americans are fairly represented in leadership positions

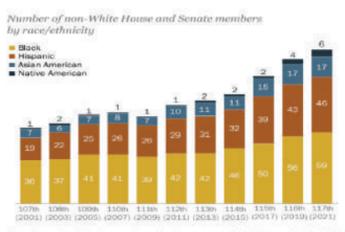
The recent LAAUNCH survey also found that almost half of Americans incorrectly believe that Asian Americans are overrepresented or fairly represented in senior positions within American companies, politics, media or other realms.

In reality, Asian Americans are underrepresented in these positions of power, holding about 3% of these positions in comparison with composing 7% of the U.S. population, a report from The New York Times found last year.

More specifically, Asian Americans have the lowest degree of representation in political office compared with any other racial or ethnic group.

Asian Americans Are The Most Politically Underrepresented Group

When it comes to holding elected office, as of last year Asian Americans were underrepresented relative to their population by a differential of -85%. White people were overrepresented by 46%.



Notes: Nonvoting delegates and commissioners are excluded. Figures for the 117th Congress are as of Jan. 20, 2021. Asian Americans include Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics are of any race. Members who have more than one racial or ethnic identity for the above groups are counted in each applicable group. **Source:** Congressional Research Service, CD Staff, Brookings Institution.

Asian Americans are even underrepresented in states with a high concentration of Asian American residents, like New York and California, according to a report by the Reflective Democracy Campaign. Especially since the start of collective activism among Asian Americans in the 1960s, Asian Americans have had a rich history of political activism and involvement. But that history has not always translated to greater representation in political leadership.



One finding in the LAAUNCH survey may point to answers: 92% of Americans polled said they were comfortable with Asian Americans as doctors or friends, but only 85% said they were comfortable with an Asian American as a boss and 73% as a president of the United States. Despite these perceptions, Asian Americans are pushing forward. Asian Americans increased their voter turnout rate by more than any other racial or ethnic group in the 2020 election and in part helped Joe Biden win Georgia. In that same year, 158 Asian Americans ran for state legislatures, the highest number since the 2018 midterms. (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)