

indicated in July that he is [no longer hopeful about a follow-on trade deal with China](#).

Trump's apparent write-off of the Chinese relationship has made space for the anti-China hawks in his administration, led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Free to push a more muscular China policy than was previously possible, Pompeo arranged a series of speeches this summer in which he and his allies tried to lay out the intellectual foundation for a new tough-on-China policy. On June 24, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien [spoke in Phoenix on the ideology driving China's global aggressiveness](#). On June 26, Attorney General William Barr [spoke at the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum in Michigan regarding China's threat to U.S. technology and business](#). On July 7, FBI Director Christopher Wray [spoke at the Hudson Institute in Washington on Chinese computer hacking and surveillance](#). Finally, on July 24, Secretary of State Pompeo [summed up the argument at the Richard Nixon Library in California](#). Together, the speeches lay out an argument for what might be a new Cold War against China.

Red Scare

Whether you're planning a cold war or a hot war, the first step is to decide who you'll be fighting. Defining the enemy helps keep your focus on the strengths and weaknesses you'll be up against. For leaders in a democracy, defining the enemy is also critical for motivating the nation's citizens to fight. Painting the enemy as extraordinarily menacing and fanatical is often necessary to ensure the population will sacrifice its blood and treasure in the conflict. In the Pompeo speeches, a key theme was that the enemy isn't Chinese culture or the Chinese people, but rather the Communist Party of China (CPC). As during the U.S.-USSR Cold War, the

speeches raised the specter of expansionist, totalitarian Marxism-Leninism bent on dominating the world and molding it into a communist society.



National Security Advisor O'Brien speaking in Phoenix. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

According to Pompeo and the other speakers, the idea that engaging with China would make it more politically and economically liberal was naïve from the beginning. In their view, the U.S. opening to China and subsequent efforts to engage with it arose from Americans' innate optimism and a certain hubris after the U.S. victory in the Cold War. What the U.S. and its allies missed was the CPC's *ideology* as reflected in its own statements and actions. The speakers argued that a close look at those statements and actions shows the CPC and President Xi have but one motivation: to maintain and expand their dictatorship.

In these speeches, they claimed that in order to maintain and expand their dictatorship, the CPC and Xi are bent on total control over the Chinese political system, economy, and individuals, creating a unitary state in which all officials, companies, and individuals are controlled by and serve the government in Beijing. The speakers stressed that this effort also extends to other countries. In the words of O'Brien, "The CPC's stated goal is to...re-make the entire

