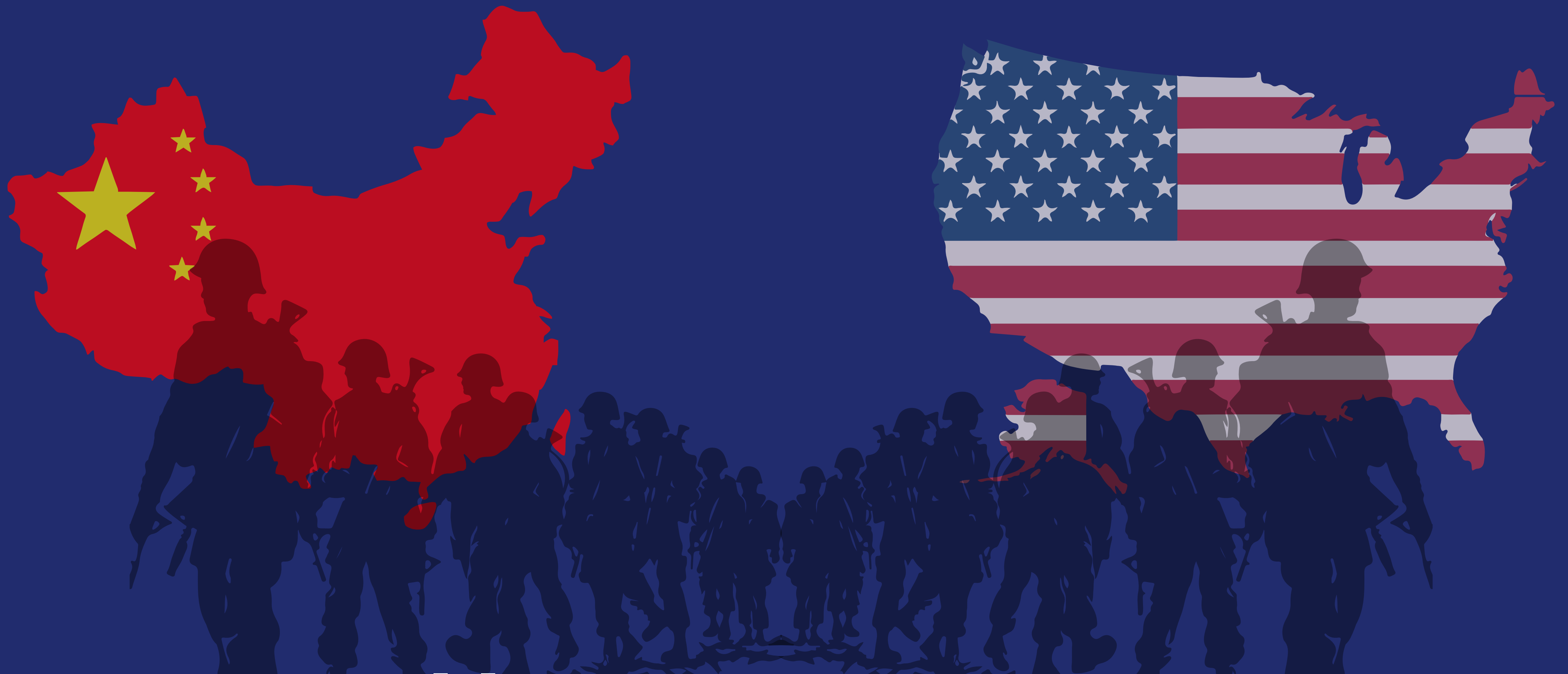




# USCET

US-CHINA EDUCATION TRUST



## World War II - 80 Years On: Remembrance and Reassessment in U.S.-China Relations

### *Beijing*

Session 1:

Dec 3, 2025, 9:00 - 11:20 CST

Session 2:

Feb 2, 2026, 9:00 - 11:10 CST



### *Washington DC*

Session 1:

Dec 2, 2025, 20:00 - 22:20 EST

Session 2:

Feb 1, 2026, 20:00 - 22:10 EST

As the world marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, this virtual conference brings together leading thinkers from the United States and China to examine the legacy of World War II for the U.S.-China relationship. Do Americans and Chinese remember this shared history differently? What lessons from wartime cooperation might inform today's tensions? And how can historical understanding contribute to navigating an increasingly complex bilateral relationship?

This convening is the 18th gathering of the American Studies Network (ASN), a consortium of Chinese academic institutions that offer American Studies programming. Since its formation in 2004, the network has grown to 55 academic institutions and plays a key role in bringing together scholars and students in the study of America and US-China relations. This year's program will be held virtually,

# Session 1

09:00-11:00 CST Dec 3 | 20:00-22:00 EST Dec 2

## Opening Remarks



**Amb. Julia Chang Bloch**

Executive Chair  
US-China Education Trust

## Keynote

### *War Memory and History Writing in China and the West*

Professor Mitter will discuss the conceptualization and writing of China's war of resistance against Japan as part of Western World War II historiography, expounding on the changes and evolution in academic research and public memory. Drawing on his scholarship, Mitter will explore the extent of cooperation between China and the United States in defeating Japan in the Asia-Pacific Theater and also unpack the significance of the differences in war memory along with its implications for the current bilateral relationship.

## Speaker



**Rana Mitter**

S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations  
Harvard University

## Speakers



**Wang Dong**

Executive Director, Institute  
for Global Cooperation &  
Understanding  
Peking University



**Rana Mitter**

S.T. Lee Professor of  
U.S.-Asia Relations  
Harvard University

## Fireside Chat

In this conversation, two leading academics from both sides of the Pacific discuss how World War II is taught, remembered, and commemorated in the United States and China. They explore the political, cultural, and educational factors that shape divergent historical narratives and consider whether shared historical understanding is possible – or even necessary – for managing contemporary relations.

## Panel Discussion

### **Remembering WW2 Across the Pacific - Memories and Legacies**

**Moderator:** Melinda Liu, Beijing Bureau Chief, Newsweek

#### **Panelists:**

- Emily **Matson**, Professorial Lecturer, Elliott School of International Affairs; Adjunct Lecturer, Georgetown University Department of History
- Shirley **Sun**, Filmmaker, Vinegar Joe (General Stillwell in China)
- **Zhao** Mei, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science
- **Zhu** Hua, Professor, Shanghai Ocean University

This panel brings together cultural historians, filmmakers, and experts to examine how institutions and individuals preserve and present the story of U.S.-China wartime cooperation. Panelists discuss how documentary films, museum exhibitions, literature, and personal testimonies shape public understanding of the alliance, and explore the challenges of keeping this history alive for new generations amid contemporary geopolitical tensions.

# Session 2

09:00-11:10 CST Feb 2, 2026 | 20:00-22:10 EST Feb 1, 2026

## Keynote

### *Cold War to Cold War? Legacy of Post-WW2 World Order*

Professor Wang will discuss the evolution of the relationship between China and the United States, from when both countries were allies in the war against Japan, through the Chinese Civil War and the Cold War, to the present day. Drawing on his scholarship, Wang will explore the answers to these questions: What is the legacy of post-World War II U.S.-China relations? How can a historical perspective from the post-WWII era and the Cold War inform how both countries navigate the contemporary environment of strategic competition?

## Speaker



**Wang Jisi**

Founding President, Institute of International and Strategic Studies;  
Professor  
Peking University

## Speakers



**Evan Mederios**

Professor and Penner Family  
Chair in Asian Studies,  
School of Foreign Services  
Georgetown University



**Wang Jisi**

Founding President, Institute  
of International and Strategic  
Studies; Professor  
Peking University

## Fireside Chat

In this conversation, leading strategic thinkers from both sides of the Pacific discuss the factors and the history behind the transformation of U.S.-China relations and each other's foreign policy over the decades. They will explore how post-war U.S.-China cooperation unraveled into strategic confrontation; whether today's tensions echo that rupture or represent something new; and what lessons from the Cold War might guide the choices our countries face now.

## Panel Discussion

### *From Allies to Competitors: Tensions in the US-China Relationship*

**Moderator:** David Finkelstein, distinguished research fellow, Center for Naval Analyses

#### Panelists:

- **Carla Freeman**, senior lecturer for International Affairs and director of the Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins University
- **Shao Yuqun**, senior research fellow, Center for American Studies at Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
- **Zhang Ling**, Senior Colonel (Ret.); former associate professor, National Security College, National Defense University

Eighty years after wartime alliance, the United States and China now view each other as strategic competitors. This panel of distinguished historians, former military and diplomatic officials, and policy experts examines the roots of contemporary tensions, assesses the risk of conflict, and explores whether lessons of history provide any pathway toward managing present rivalry. Panelists will make frank assessments of trade tensions, military competition, and ideological differences, while considering what guardrails might prevent competition from escalating into confrontation.

## Film Screening

### *A clip from Vinegar Joe - Documentary of General Joseph Stilwell by Shirley Sun*



**Shirley Sun**  
Film maker