



# THE RSC NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The RSC National Security Strategy: Strengthening America and Countering Global Threats is a conservative Congressional strategy designed to preserve global American leadership and address our nation's most pressing foreign policy issues while putting "America First." The solutions-oriented proposals would build on the Trump administration's bold efforts to secure our nation and restore the United States' international credibility. The RSC National Security Strategy contains over 130 recommendations that address great power competition with China and Russia, lethal threats in the Middle East from Iran and the Salafi-jihadi terrorist movement, as well as the need to maintain an international order based on American values and implement results-oriented reforms to foreign aid and international diplomacy.

## **Communist China: A New Strategy for Countering America's Top Threat**

- **Preserving American leadership:** The strategy stands up to the Chinese Communist Party's attempts to reorient today's world order to one based in authoritarianism by standing strongly for American values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and open markets.
- **A tough but targeted approach to China:** The strategy offers the toughest package of sanctions ever proposed by Congress on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It would specifically sanction the entire United Front Work Department and senior CCP leaders, including members of the Politburo for their malign influence campaigns, internment of Uyghurs, and assault on Hong Kong. The strategy proposes targeted measures rather than broad-based tariffs that may hurt the U.S. economy.
- **A multifaceted strategy to protect American innovation and ideas:** The strategy would enhance U.S. laws safeguarding American intellectual property (IP), modernize the Foreign Asset Registration Act (FARA), block Chinese propaganda efforts, and ensure a whole-of-government effort to stop the transfer of critical technology to China.
- **Bold free trade expansion around the world:** The strategy proposes bilateral free trade agreements with democratic partners facing increasing threat or malign influence from China, including Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Brazil, Kenya, and others.

## **Russia: Rolling Back Aggression Through a Strategy of Deterrence**

- **Stopping Putin's aggression:** The strategy offers the toughest package of sanctions on Russia ever proposed by Congress, including secondary sanctions on Russian oil and gas projects, sanctions on Russian sovereign debt, sanctions on Russian proxies in other countries, and designating Russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.
- **Communicate with the Russian people:** The strategy would call for the creation of a strategy to communicate directly to the Russian people and support their aspirations for democracy and human rights.

## **Advancing American Interests in the Middle East: Confronting Iran & the Jihadi Terrorist Movement**

- **Enhancing the President's maximum pressure campaign on Iran:** The strategy proposes the toughest sanctions on Iran ever proposed by Congress. It codifies many of the President's successful efforts into law, blocks additional sectors of Iran's economy, and sanctions Iran's regional proxies, including its militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, the Assad regime in Syria, as well as Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- **Deplete the resources of Iranian proxies:** The strategy would prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from

funding Iran's proxies in Lebanon and Iraq by ending aid to the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

- A new clear authorization to pursue terrorist groups: The strategy pushes back against House Democrats' efforts to limit the President's war powers by offering for consideration a new AUMF that would allow the President to go after any State Department designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

- Directly confronting the Salafi-jihadi ideological movement: The strategy would prevent the creation of Salafi-jihadi safe havens and cut off financing and state support for associated groups. It would codify President Trump's efforts to deplete terrorist's resources and designate additional terrorist organizations.

### **Maintaining an International Order Based on American Values**

- Elevating human rights and democracy: The strategy would elevate these values in American foreign policy by strengthening human rights sanctions and codifying the Ministerial on Religious Freedom. It would support Secretary Pompeo's Commission on Unalienable Rights and reject attempts by international organizations to redefine human rights and curtail economic and religious liberties.

- Competing to win at the U.N. and other multilateral organizations: The strategy would counter China and Russia's efforts to control international bodies. It would also urge Congress to support President Trump's efforts to withdraw from irreparable organizations and replace them with new mechanisms of multilateral cooperation with democratic countries.

- Promoting accountability at the U.N.: The strategy would mandate that U.S. Ambassadors meet annually with their host governments to discuss that country's voting record at the U.N. It would also audit the use of U.S. funding by the U.N. and condition funding to U.N. bodies on implementation of accountability reforms. The U.N. must cut off assistance to dictatorships such as humanitarian aid that is being diverted to the Assad regime in Syria.

### **A Results-Oriented Approach to Foreign Aid and International Diplomacy**

- Aligning U.S. foreign aid with U.S. foreign policy: The strategy would help assistance reach more people while better advancing our international interests. It supports replacing the Foreign Assistance Act with new legislation reducing legislative directives for foreign assistance, placing the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) inside the Department of State, and empowering Ambassadors to have a stronger role in administering foreign aid.

- Modernizing the Department of State: The strategy would strengthen diplomacy by ensuring the State Department concentrates on its core competencies. It supports replacing the Foreign Service with a new diplomatic corps rooted in merit rather than tenure, as well as eliminating duplicative bureaus and programs, and elevating human rights, democracy, and multilateral affairs.

- Strengthening public diplomacy, international broadcasting, and counter disinformation efforts: The strategy would reconstitute the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and empower it with U.S. public diplomacy and counter disinformation efforts. The USIA's mission would be to promote American ideals of democracy, human rights, and open markets, and undermine U.S. adversaries such as China, Russia, Iran, and others. The USIA would be able to contract with private entities to assist in counter-disinformation efforts.