

Chinese-Language Media Landscape

Official and Semi-Official Chinese-Language Media

By 2018, all of the major official Chinese media outlets had embedded themselves deeply into the communications and broadcasting infrastructure of the United States.

- CCTV or CGTN (English and Chinese), the semiofficial Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV, and a few Chinese provincial TV channels are available in add-on packages of two major satellite TV providers in the United States, DISH Network and DIRECTV. CCTV channels (English and Chinese) are in the cable systems of all the major metropolitan areas of the United States.
- The major official Chinese TV networks, including CCTV and major Chinese provincial TV networks, and the quasi-official Phoenix TV, are all in the program lineups of Chinese TV streaming services that have become popular among Chinese communities in the United States. There are four major Chinese streaming services in the United States: iTalkBB Chinese TV (蜻蜓電視), Charming China (魅力中國), Great Wall (長城平台), and KyLin TV (麒麟電視). All these services carry the major official Chinese TV channels, including major provincial channels, and are accessible nationwide.
- The major official Chinese media organizations, CCTV (CGTN), Xinhua, the *People's Daily*, and *China Daily* (the only major official newspaper in English), have a heavy presence on all major social media platforms of the United States and have many followers. All these outlets use Facebook and Twitter and other platforms, even though those platforms are blocked in China.
- Quasi-official Phoenix TV (鳳凰衛視), a global TV network with links to the PRC's Ministry of State Security and headquartered in Hong Kong with branches around the world, including the United States, also has a substantial presence on all the major social media platforms in the United States.

Chinese media social media presence

(E) = English version; (C) = Chinese version

Platform	Official Organizations and Subscribers/Followers				Quasi-official
	CCTV (CGTN)	Xinhua	People's Daily	China Daily	Phoenix TV (fully controlled by Chinese government)
Twitter	CCTV: 532K (E+C) CGTN: 7.19M (E)	11.8M (E) 11.6M (C)	4.54M (E) 221K (C)	1.8M (E)	7K (C)
Facebook	CCTV: 48.04M (E); 3.44M (C) CGTN: 58.28M (E) CGTN America: 1.2M (E)	46.92M (E)	43.15M (E) 171K (C)	35.17M (E)	14K (C)
YouTube	289K (C)	173K (E)	25K (E)	3K (E)	75K (C)
Instagram	550K (E)	111K (E)	696K (E)	23.5K (E)	N/A

PRC-Funded and PRC-Controlled Media Outlets

The Chinese Communist Party liaises with Chinese-language media mainly through the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council (or Qiao Ban 侨办). The Qiao Ban holds an annual conference on Chinese-language media called the World Chinese Media Forum. These media outlets are registered in the United States by US citizens or permanent residents, but they might actually be owned by Chinese state-run companies.

The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of PRC (中國國務院僑務辦公室) appears to directly control the Asian Culture and Media Group (美國亞洲文化傳媒集團) in America, which has three media subsidiaries: SinoVision (美國中文電視), the *China Press* (Qiaobao or 僑報), and the *Sino American Times* (美洲时报). Sky Link TV (天下衛視) is another media outlet in the United States. Unlike SinoVision and Qiaobao, it is fully owned by Guangzhou Media American Co, Ltd. (美國廣視傳媒有限公司), which in turn is owned by GZ Television Media (广州影视传媒有限公司), a Chinese state-owned media outlet.

SinoVision

The group's main TV outlet is SinoVision. It operates two twenty-four-hour channels (one Chinese and one English), and it is on the program lineups of cable systems Time Warner Cable-73, Verizon FiOS-26, Cablevision-73, and RCN-80, covering about thirty million people. SinoVision's website (美国中文电视, <http://www.sinovision.net>) ranks

twelfth among all the Chinese websites in the United States. Its reporting hews closely to China's official media:

- **Example 1:** On June 27, 2017, the US Department of State, in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report 2017, put China at Tier 3, the lowest class. In reporting this news, SinovisionNet simply reposted comments from the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China attacking the human rights record of the United States.¹
- **Example 2:** In March 2017, the US State Department published its 2016 Human Rights Report. SinovisionNet published two stories on this topic. One reported the reaction to the story by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other story came from Xinhua, which was highly critical of the US human rights situation. SinovisionNet also published two reports by the Information Office of the State Council of China on America's human rights record. It did not publish State Department's human rights report.²
- **Example 3:** On the tensions in the South China Sea, almost all the stories posted on SinovisionNet are from official Chinese media outlets and websites. They are naturally critical of US actions in that area.³

Qiaobao and the Sino American Times

Qiaobao, or the *China Press* (僑報, <http://www.uschinapress.com>), is the flagship pro-PRC newspaper published in the United States. Its website ranks forty-first among all the Chinese websites in the United States. Qiaobao was established in 1990. It is headquartered in New York City with branches in twelve major metropolitan areas of the United States. The *Sino American Times* (美洲时报) is a free paper and not a major media presence in the United States.

Independent Media

Over the course of the last decade, most of the independent Chinese-language media outlets in the United States have been taken over by businessmen sympathetic to the PRC.

- **Wenxuecheng** (文学城, wenxuecheng.com) is the most popular Chinese-language website in the United States. In 2003, it was purchased by a Taiwanese American

businessman with business interests in China. There is an unsubstantiated rumor that the investment was subsidized by \$1 million from the Ministry of Propaganda.

- **Duowei** is another online source that was for years an independent Chinese-language media. It was purchased in 2009 by a pro-PRC Hong Kong businessman.
- **Mingjing, or Mirror Media**, a Chinese-language web presence based in Canada, was once considered independent of Beijing's control but has modified its reporting in recent years.
- **Backchina.com**, (倍可亲, ranked as the fifth most popular Chinese website in the United States), was once a staunch critic of China like Duowei. But in 2017 its editors attended the ninth World Chinese Media Forum in China and its reporting became far more positive about the PRC.
- **Sing Tao Newspaper Group** was established in Hong Kong in 1938. In 2001, it was purchased by a pro-Beijing businessman.
- **The World Journal** (世界日报) was for years the premier Chinese-language paper in the United States. It, too, has softened its stance on the PRC in recent years.
- **Ming Pao** served the Hong Kong-immigrant community. It is another formerly independent newspaper that has fallen under Beijing's control.
- **Boxun** is a Chinese-language news site whose servers are located in North Carolina. It was founded by an immigrant from China. Its news is highly unreliable.
- **The Epoch Times** (大纪元), the Hope Radio, and New Tang Dynasty TV, remain independent of PRC control. They are either owned or operated by adherents to the Falun Gong sect, which is banned in China. Their reporting on China is uneven.
- **Vision Times** (secretchina.com) was founded in 2001 as a website, secretchina.com, and began publishing a free weekly newspaper in 2005.

NOTES

- 1 “美国务院欲将中国人权状况调为最差等级 外交部回应。” Sinovision. June 27, 2017. news.sinovision.net/politics/201706/00411546.htm.
- 2 “中国国新办发布《2016年美国的人权纪录》。” Sinovision. March 9, 2017. news.sinovision.net/politics/201703/00401996.htm; “中国外交部就美国人权报告涉华内容等答问。” Sinovision. March 6, 2017. news.sinovision.net/politics/201703/00401682.htm.
- 3 “航行自由≠军事行动自由 中方驳斥对南海问题误读。” Sinovision. February 19, 2018. news.sinovision.net/politics/201802/00431582.htm; “过年也不消停？美国航母“卡尔森”号春节前南海巡航。” Sinovision. February 13, 2018. news.sinovision.net/politics/201802/00431309.htm.

