Democrats use Nvidia chief's resignation to denounce Trump as insufficiently belligerent against China

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The Democratic Party has seized on the resignation of Nvidia chief Jensen Huang, an associate of US President Donald Trump, to launch a broadside against the administration from the right, declaring that it is insufficiently belligerent against China and demanding an acceleration of economic decoupling between the two countries.

ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox together devoted about 40 minutes of their main Sunday talk shows to the Huang case, giving Democrats a platform to grandstand against the administration's alleged ties to the "Chinese Communist Party." All five programs together spent about six minutes on the war with Iran.

Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland accused Trump on ABC's *This Week* of "essentially siding with President Xi in the question of sending very high-end chips to China. That is crazy. That undermines our national security." Van Hollen demanded that Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick be fired over the Huang case.

Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on CBS's *Face the Nation* that Nvidia had an incentive to sell its chips to China. Himes added: "It's the government's job, it is the commerce secretary's job, and the president's job to stop that from happening..."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told the Senate on November 10 that Trump "continues to show a troubling resistance to confront China on AI and to protect American national security." Schumer demanded the passage of three bills "to cut off China's access to advanced American technology before it's too late." Representative Gregory Meeks of New York, the senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and two other Democrats wrote to Lutnick on November 9. The letter said: "We call on the Department of Commerce to immediately halt exports of advanced artificial intelligence chips to the People's Republic of China..."

Huang, who presided over what was until last week the second most valuable company in the world and whose chips power the artificial intelligence boom, has been the leading public opponent of the policy of economic "decoupling" from China. Huang argued that American capitalism's national security interests are best preserved by open competition with China, and that export barriers would have a net negative effect on American competitiveness. Huang said in Washington in October 2025: "A policy that causes America to lose half of the world's AI developers is not beneficial in the long term, it hurts us more."

Huang resigned as president and chief executive of Nvidia on November 12, the morning after a lengthy board meeting, following a sex scandal publicized in the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker*. The *Times* reported on October 29 that "American officials had concluded" that Huang's lover, Alice Huang, a Chinese executive and no relation, was "a Chinese intelligence asset." No agency has published evidence for the claim, and Himes, asked on Sunday how certain US intelligence was of the charge, answered, "I don't think that we know."

Huang flew with Trump on Air Force One to Beijing in May and sat at the head table at Trump's state dinner for Chinese President Xi Jinping in September. In December 2025 Trump let Nvidia sell its H200 chips to China in return for 25 percent of the proceeds. Nvidia donated at least $20 million to Trump's White House ballroom fund, the *Times* reported. Trump defended Huang at the White House on November 9, and the *Times* reported that Trump had urged Huang not to step down.

The *Times* published its first report on October 29, the Thursday before the midterm elections and three weeks

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before Trump's next meeting with Xi. Trump is scheduled to meet Xi in Shenzhen on Thursday, for the third time this year. The *Washington Post* wrote on November 13: "Huang's downfall, which has the potential to mark a dramatic shift in power, was ultimately set in motion by one of the capital's most influential China hard-liners, national security adviser and Secretary of State Marco Rubio." The *Post* added that "the hawks are ready to seize on the moment to redirect the national agenda toward tougher policies on China."

Emboldened by the Democrats' aggressively anti-Chinese statements, the Republicans interviewed on the talk shows spouted open racism. Representative John Moolenaar of Michigan, the Republican chairman of the House China committee, said on *Face the Nation* that "every Chinese national can be pressured by the Chinese Communist Party to comply whatever directives they have from the intelligence." Moolenaar declared every Chinese national in the United States a potential agent of Beijing, and he thereby marked Chinese and Chinese-American scientists, students and workers as suspects in their laboratories, classrooms and workplaces.

The policy of economic "decoupling" from China was initiated by the first Trump administration and previewed by Vice President Mike Pence in a speech at the Hudson Institute in Washington on October 4, 2018. "At President Trump's direction, we're also implementing tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese goods, with the highest tariffs specifically targeting the advanced industries that Beijing is trying to capture and control," Pence said.

The Commerce Department put the telecommunications company Huawei on its export blacklist in May 2019 and the chipmaker Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation in December 2020. Trump signed an order in November 2020 forbidding Americans to buy shares in companies that the government designated "Communist Chinese military companies."

This course was continued under President Joe Biden, who kept every one of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods. Biden banned the export of advanced computer chips and chipmaking equipment to China in October 2022 and ordered limits on American investment in Chinese semiconductors, quantum computing and artificial intelligence in August 2023.

The election expressed growing popular opposition to war and austerity. In the AP Voter Poll, which surveyed more than 100,000 voters, 64 percent called the attack on Iran the wrong decision, and about seven in 10 said the US economic system favored the wealthy.

Ahead of the election, a YouGov survey taken April 24 to 27 for the Institute for Global Affairs asked whether lawmakers should increase or decrease the military budget. Forty-seven percent said lawmakers should cut the military budget, and 10 percent said they should raise it.

The Democrats are determined to entirely defy the mandate given by the electorate and instead press for an even more aggressive foreign policy, centrally targeting Russia as well as China.

Representative Tom Suozzi of New York, a Democrat, is co-chairman of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. Suozzi wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* on November 4: "Finally, we must scrutinize the administration's decisions on spending, healthcare, energy and national security, especially the wars in Iran and Ukraine, and develop a clear plan to replenish munitions and ensure readiness."

Meeks, Representative Adam Smith of Washington and Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island are the senior Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the two armed services committees. The three said on November 11 of Trump's envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff: "They and Trump are working for Putin, not for the benefit of the people of the United States." The three Democrats added, "Congress and the American people also understand that Putin responds only to strength."

This is the policy the Democrats intend to pursue, accompanied by attacks on social spending. Smith, who is expected to chair the House Armed Services Committee, set the Democrats' ceiling for the military budget on November 4 at $1 trillion. On November 9 Schumer and 20 other Senate Democrats joined the Republicans in voting to advance a permitting bill that slashes environmental regulations on major corporations and that Trump had called on the Senate to pass.

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