CURRENT SITUATION

Over the last two decades, China has become more engaged internationally, including in conflict zones and fragile states of strategic interest to the United States. From civil wars in neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan and Burma, to more distant conflicts in Africa, China has a substantial influence on local, regional, and international efforts to reduce violent conflict. Meanwhile, a shifting international order and the return of competition among powerful states has raised the potential for geopolitical rivalries to exacerbate conflicts—or, with the right frameworks, serve as areas of constructive cooperation between Washington and Beijing.

USIP’S CURRENT WORK ON CHINA

Through rigorous research, policy dialogues, and expert working groups, USIP provides evidence-based analysis of China’s activities and influence in fragile and conflict-affected states. USIP also assesses the impact of China’s policies and behavior on efforts to prevent, mitigate, and resolve violent conflict, and provides recommendations for ways the United States government and other key stakeholders may account for these dynamics in their work to support lasting peace.

Convening High-Level Policy Dialogues. USIP brings together high-level officials and other experts from the United States, China, and around the world to discuss China’s growing influence. In these private and ongoing discussions—some of which have been underway for more than a decade—key stakeholders are able to share candid views and explore new policy ideas in an unofficial context.
setting. For example, USIP facilitates a range of discussions that explore new strategies for managing conflict and competition in Burma, North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Southeast Asia, Latin America, South Asia, the Red Sea region, and various states in Africa.

**Producing Independent Research and Analysis.** USIP conducts and supports research and analysis that examine China’s effect on peace and conflict dynamics. Recent projects have assessed China’s bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, as well as China’s growing participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations. The Institute also supports research on the execution and impact of China’s major investment projects in conflict-affected areas, including the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as Beijing’s evolving approaches to peacebuilding, development, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction. Additional topics include promoting stability among major powers and conflict prevention, particularly in Asia.

**Advancing New Strategies for Preventing Conflict and Managing Competition.** USIP works to identify creative and concrete actions that the United States, China, and other key players might take to reduce violent conflict. A central theme of that work is examining the future of the international order, the global system’s ability to address violent conflict, and ways the United States and China can both cooperate and manage competition. By partnering with scholars and practitioners to share their respective insights, experiences, and expertise, USIP helps policymakers and other key stakeholders around the world do their work more effectively.

**Leading Senior Study Groups on China’s Impact on Conflict Dynamics.** USIP leads a series of bipartisan working groups that examine China’s role in specific conflicts. The groups’ reports offer new insights into China’s objectives and generate recommendations for ways the U.S. government and other key stakeholders may account for China’s growing international footprint.