

# CREATE A DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

<p><b>ISSUE</b></p>	<p>Despite prioritizing economic security, the U.S. government’s response to these emerging challenges has been largely fragmented, with responsibilities spread across multiple agencies, including Commerce, State, Treasury, and USTR. Existing interagency coordination has not kept pace with the scale and complexity of growing challenges, limiting efforts to address critical issues such as supply chain vulnerabilities, economic coercion, and emerging technologies. As these challenges increase in importance and urgency, a more coordinated and strategic approach is needed to effectively mobilize tools such as export controls, investment screening, sanctions, and strategic tariffs.</p>
<p><b>SIGNIFICANCE</b></p>	<p>Economic security is increasingly inseparable from national security as global competition and interconnected risks intensify. U.S. vulnerabilities in critical supply chains and emerging technologies jeopardize both economic and national security. China’s state led economic practices, including subsidies and dumping goods, pose systemic risks to U.S. competitiveness. China controls nearly 90% of rare earth processing capacity and dominates production of active pharmaceutical ingredients, battery minerals, and solar-grade polysilicon—materials critical to advanced technologies, defense systems, and healthcare. Without sustained investment and focus, U.S. leadership in sectors such as AI, quantum computing, and biotechnology could erode. Russia’s weaponization of energy supplies underscores how economic disruptions can contribute to security crises.</p>
<p><b>EXPECTATIONS IN THE REGION</b></p>	<p>Japan and South Korea have implemented their own economic security strategies, passing new laws and appointing senior officials to oversee initiatives. Other regional partners increasingly recognize the importance of economic security, particularly for resilient and secure supply chains. Initiatives like the Mineral Security Partnership and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework reflect ongoing collaboration. These nations look to the United States for leadership in addressing shared challenges such as countering economic coercion and protecting critical technologies.</p>
<p><b>DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS/ CONSIDERATIONS</b></p>	<p>While there is bipartisan support for enhancing U.S. economic security, effective implementation requires clear delineation of responsibilities, avoiding duplication, and engaging Congress and private sector stakeholders. Since agencies are often protective of their mandates, increased coordination must integrate and strengthen existing capabilities while aligning government efforts.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION</b></p>	<p>The incoming administration should establish a deputy national security advisor for economic security within the National Security Council to lead interagency coordination, develop a cohesive strategy, and work with international partners and the private sector. This position should be supported by a small team with authority to convene working groups, resolve interagency disputes, and oversee critical initiatives.</p>