

FREE NEWSLETTER

Miffed Miners

Plus, how the U.S. and China are both strategizing on semiconductor chips.

AUGUST 7, 2022

Good evening. A lot of news stories lately have focused on China's domination of mines in mineral rich countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). But [our cover story this week](#) shows a new and interesting development in that story: What happens when the DRC government pushes back against the Chinese mining companies? Elsewhere, we have [infographics on Congress's many 'China competition' bills](#); an [interview with Robert Zoellick](#) on accepting China as it is; a [reported piece on China's use of open-source technology](#) to achieve chip self-sufficiency; and an [op-ed about how China could avoid strong inflation](#). If you're not already a paid subscriber to *The Wire*, [please sign up here](#).

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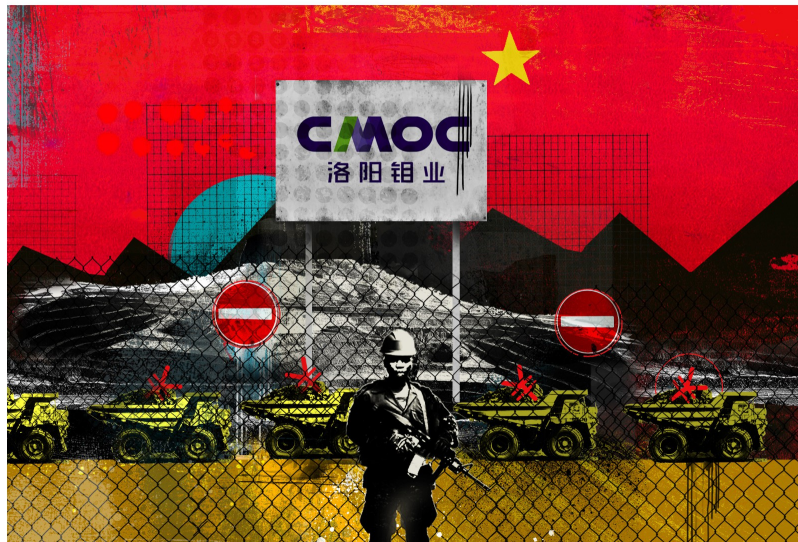


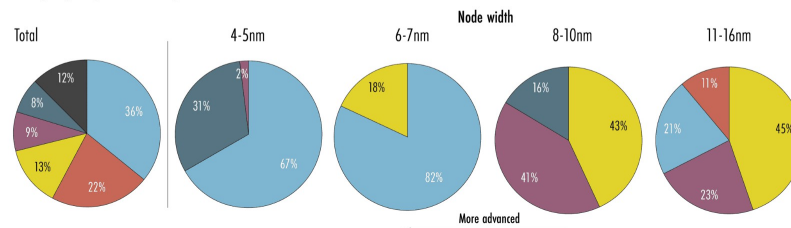
Illustration by Tim Marrs

The Congo Standoff

Chinese mining companies dominate the Congo's critical mineral production, but an ongoing, nasty dispute at a cobalt mine shows the country is starting to drive a harder bargain. After more than a decade of Chinese companies operating largely unchecked in the DRC — almost 70 percent of the country's mining is controlled by Chinese companies — the standoff could represent a turning point. [Garrett O'Brien reports.](#)

Chip Production Capacity by Region and Chip Type

While China and the U.S. account for 22 and 13 percent of total global logic chip capacity respectively, Taiwan and South Korea dominate the most cutting edge chip manufacturing.

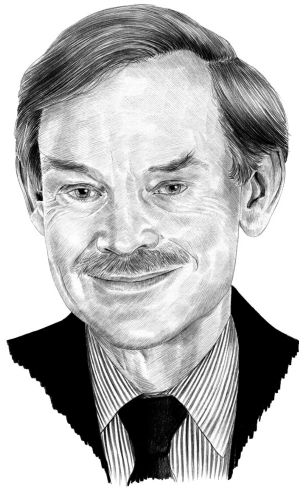


Data: [Center for Security and Emerging Technology](#)

The Big Picture: Congress, China and the Plan to Compete

While expansive in its spending, the recently passed CHIPS and Science Act — a \$250 billion bill aimed at boosting America’s chipmaking capacity — dropped several measures initially planned as part of Washington’s broader set of “China competition” bills. This week, [infographics by Eliot Chen](#) look at the CHIPS Act: what made it in, what got left out, and what it means for Washington’s grand plans to compete with China and counter its influence.

A Q&A with Robert Zoellick



Robert B. Zoellick has long played an important role in Republican security and economic policy-making circles, including policy towards China. In this week’s [Q&A with Bob Davis](#) — part of our series ‘Rules of Engagement’ — the former U.S. Trade Representative, diplomat and World Bank president talks about his 40-year relationship with China, including refreshing the WTO deal; the danger of fortress economies; why engagement hasn’t failed; and what he thinks about Xi Jinping.

Robert Zoellick
Illustration by Lauren Crow



Credit: RISC-V via [Twitter](#)

Chips and the Open-Source Secret

A critical semiconductor element known as “instruction set architecture” is locked up by two companies: the U.S.’s Intel and Arm, a Japanese-owned, U.K.-based company. But a nonprofit called RISC-V International has developed an increasingly popular open source alternative to Arm and Intel’s designs, and [as Isabella Borshoff reports this week](#), Chinese

companies are buying in.



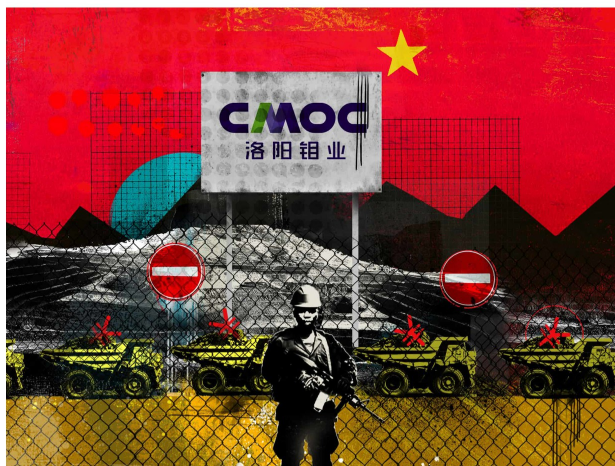
Governor of the People's Bank of China, Yi Gang. Credit: IMF/Ruan Rayburn via [Flickr](#)

Why Might China Avoid Strong Inflation?

With unemployment in China rising, economic stimulus is urgently needed. But as Zhang Jun, the Dean of the School of Economics at Fudan University and the Director of the China Center for Economic Studies, a Shanghai-based think tank, [argues in this week's op-ed](#), Premier Li Keqiang has been wise to highlight the importance of not overdoing it.

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● COVER STORY



The Congo Standoff

BY GARRETT O'BRIEN

Chinese mining companies dominate the Congo's critical mineral production, but an ongoing, nasty dispute at a cobalt mine shows the country is starting to drive a harder bargain. After more than a decade of Chinese companies operating largely unchecked in the DRC — almost 70 percent of the country's mining is controlled by Chinese companies — the current standoff could represent a turning point.

● THE BIG PICTURE

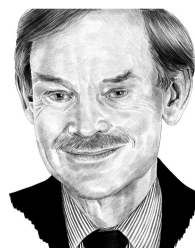


Congress, China and the Plan to Compete

BY ELIOT CHEN

A look at the CHIPS and Science Act: what made it in and what got left out.

● Q & A



Robert Zoellick on Accepting China as It Is

BY BOB DAVIS

The former U.S. Trade Representative, diplomat and World Bank president talks about his 40-year relationship with China, including refreshing the WTO deal; the danger of fortress economies; why engagement hasn't failed; and what he thinks...



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