



Concerns Rise Over China's Global Exports Of Surveillance Tech

Most writers and analysts have no awareness of Technocracy in China, even though it is acting in perfect accord with the “science of social engineering”, and exporting its population control systems to anyone who will take them. □ TN Editor

China has created a vast surveillance apparatus at home consisting of millions of cameras equipped with facial recognition technology.

Now, some of the country's largest firms have signed deals around the world to sell their tech abroad.

Experts raised concerns about data being siphoned back to China, authoritarian regimes using the tech to increase their power and ultimately the Chinese Communist Party having more influence abroad.

[China's](#) push to export its surveillance technology via some of its biggest companies, including to liberal democracies, has raised concerns because of the risk of data being siphoned back to Beijing and the growing influence of the Communist Party, experts told CNBC.

The world's second-largest economy has [built a vast surveillance state](#) comprised of millions of cameras powered by facial recognition software. The devices, perched on lamp posts and outside buildings and streets, are able to recognize individuals.

Some of China's most valuable technology firms have been involved in such projects across the country. But this technology is now being exported as the nation's technology firms expand their global footprint.

Chinese tech companies — particularly Huawei, Hikvision, Dahua, and [ZTE](#) — supply artificial intelligence surveillance technology in 63 countries, according to a September report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank. Of those nations, 36 have signed onto China's massive infrastructure project, the Belt and Road Initiative, the report said, adding that Huawei supplies technology to the highest number of countries.

Some of these so-called "smart city" projects, which include surveillance technologies, are underway in Western countries, particularly in Europe, including Germany, Spain and France, according to analysis by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

Experts warned of a number of risks including potential access to data by the Chinese government.

"I think that sometimes there is an assumption that 'oh well when we roll out this technology we aren't going to use it in a negative way, we are using it to provide services or we are using it in a way that is seen as acceptable, socially acceptable in our society,'" Samantha Hoffman, a fellow at ASPI's Cyber Centre, told CNBC's "Beyond the Valley" podcast.

"But actually (we) can't be sure of that because the difference isn't necessarily how the technology is being deployed, but who has access to the data it's collecting," she said. "If it's a Chinese company like Huawei,

and that ... data goes back to China and can be used by the party in whatever way that it chooses.”

Chinese laws and regulations

Hoffman cited laws in China that [appear to compel Chinese firms to hand over data](#) to the government, if asked. She did not accuse Huawei of wrongdoing, but just used the company as an example.

Earlier this year, [Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei said](#) he would “definitely say no” to any request for customer data from Beijing.

“I think we don’t even quite understand the full scale of the problem that we are dealing with when it comes to Chinese surveillance technology when it is exported. It’s not just that other regimes can use it in similar ways, it’s that when it’s exported the (Chinese Communist) Party can attach its interests as well,” Hoffman added.

Nowhere is China’s surveillance state more visible than in Xinjiang, home to China’s Uighur minority. The [territory has made headlines for its detention and “re-education” camps](#) that hold [an estimated 1.5 million Muslims](#), many of them for violating what [Amnesty International describes](#) as a “highly restrictive and discriminatory” law that China says is designed to combat extremism.

Maya Wang, a China researcher at Human Rights Watch, focuses on Xinjiang and the surveillance activities there. She warned of the dangers of China’s surveillance technology going to authoritarian states.

“I think the worse future could be these governments adopting these technologies and adding that arsenal to the existing ones for the control of people,” Wang told CNBC.

Earlier this year, an [ASPI report](#) highlighted other concerns from China exporting its surveillance tech, including being able to undermine democracies, get an edge on new technologies and in military areas.

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