

# Reality Check: Falsehoods in US Perceptions of China (IV)

## 美国对华认知中的谬误和事实真相 (四)

**Falsehood 18: Climate is not about ideology. It's about math. If China sticks with its current plan and does not peak its emissions until 2030, then the rest of the world must go to zero by 2035. And that's simply not possible.**

**Reality Check: The US holds undeniable responsibilities for climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction. It shouldn't shift responsibilities onto others, nor should it practice "double standards".**

● Developed countries, due to their unconstrained emissions over more than two centuries of industrialization, bear undeniable historical responsibilities for climate change. From 1850 to 2011, developed countries contributed to 79 percent of global carbon emissions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement all require developed countries to repay their historical debts.

● From a historical perspective, developing countries are not the primary emitters of GHG, but the victims of climate change. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is the cornerstone of global climate governance. As developed and developing countries do not bear the same historical responsibilities for climate change, and have different development needs and capabilities, it would be both inappropriate and unfair to apply the same restrictions on them. Wera Mori, Minister for Environment Conservation and Climate Change of Papua New Guinea (PNG) said on the sidelines of COP26 that countries like PNG have become victims of climate change caused by the industrialization of developed countries and are now bearing the consequences of their actions, which is absolutely unfair.

● In tackling climate change, China is not just a responsible participant, but also a serious doer. President Xi Jinping committed explicitly that China will strive to peak CO<sub>2</sub> emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. That means China will move from carbon peak to neutrality in only 30 years, while the time the EU, the US and Japan give themselves is respectively 2.4, 1.4 and 1.2 times of China's.

China has made notable contribution to the global efforts in energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, transport and building, which are all in the range of 30 to 50 percent. By the end of 2020, China's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP had dropped by 48.4 percent relative to the 2005 level. The proportion of coal in total energy consumption fell from 67 percent in 2005 to 56.8 percent in 2020. The cumulative installed capacity of renewable power generation exceeded 1 billion kilowatts, accounting for 43.5 percent of the national total. Chinese companies have taken 15 spots in the world's top 20 PV companies list, including all the top five spots, and seven spots in the top 10 wind power companies list. In the past ten years,

谬误18: 气候问题不是意识形态问题, 而是数学问题。如果中国坚持目前的计划, 在2030年前不降低排放量, 那么世界其他国家排放量必须在2035年前降至零, 这是基本不可能的。

事实真相: 美国对于全球气候变化、减少温室气体排放负有不可推卸的责任。美国不应转嫁责任, 不应奉行“双重标准”。

◆发达国家在过去200多年的工业化过程中无序排放, 对全球气候变化负有不可推卸的历史责任。1850年到2011年, 发达国家碳排放量占全球排放量的79%。《联合国气候变化框架公约》、《京都议定书》、《巴黎协定》都要求发达国家偿还历史债务。

◆从历史发展角度来看, 发展中国家不是温室气体的主要排放者, 而是气候变暖的受害者。共同但有区别的责任原则是全球气候治理的基石。发达国家和发展中国家在造成气候变化上历史责任不同, 发展需求和能力也存在差异, 用统一尺度来限制是不适当的, 也是不公平的。巴布亚新几内亚环境部长韦拉·莫里在《联合国气候变化框架公约》第二十六次缔约方大会(COP26)期间表示:“因为它们(发达国家)的工业化活动, 我们成为全球气候问题的受害者, 正承受着他们制造的气候后果。这绝对不公平。”

◆在应对气候变化方面, 中国不仅是认真负责的参与者, 更是脚踏实地的行动派。习近平主席明确提出, 中国二氧化碳排放力争于2030年前达到峰值, 努力争取2060年前实现碳中和, 时间只有30年, 而欧盟、美国、日本给自己规定的时间分别是中国的2.4倍、1.4倍和1.2倍。

中国在节能、提高能效、发展可再生能源、交通、建筑等领域所做的贡献基本上都占全球总量的30%-50%, 贡献显而易见。截至2020年底, 中国单位GDP二氧化碳排放较2005年降低约48.4%。煤炭消费占比由2005年的67%下降到2020年的56.8%。中国可再生能源发电累计装机容量超10亿千瓦, 占全国发电总装机容量的43.5%。全球光

China phased out 120 million kilowatts of coal-fired power generation capacity, which is larger than the total installed power capacity of the UK. By the end of 2021, China's new energy vehicle ownership had exceeded 7.84 million units, and 2.95 million units were newly registered in 2021, accounting for 11.25 percent of all newly registered vehicles that year.

The share of renewable energy in China's energy mix has already exceeded that of the US. By the end of 2019, the total installed capacity of China's hydro, wind and solar power generation had reached 756 million kilowatts, 2.8 times that of the US. Renewable energy accounts for 12.7 percent of China's primary energy consumption, approximately 1.4 times that of the US.

● The US is the world's largest GHG emitter in cumulative terms, and its per capita carbon emissions are 3.3 times that of the global average. In the 270 years from 1750 to 2019, the US emitted a cumulative 412.5 billion tons of GHG, accounting for about 1/4 of the global total. The US has produced the world's largest cumulative emissions, which are almost twice that of China's. Here are some statistics: the historical peak of US per capita GHG emissions was 23.44 tons; in 2018, US per capita emissions were 16.85 tons, while China's were 7.56 tons. Despite its status as a major manufacturing nation, China's current per capita carbon emissions are not even half that of the US, and its per capita cumulative emissions are only around 1/8 that of the US. Even by the time of 2030, when China's carbon emissions will have peaked, the country's per capita carbon emissions will still just be around 7-8 tons. In comparison, when the US had its carbon peak in 2005, its per capita carbon emissions had already reached 14 tons.

● In June 2017, the US announced its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and in November 2020, it officially pulled out of the accord. Such a move seriously undermined the equity, efficiency and efficacy of global climate governance. The US had stayed outside the Paris Agreement until February 2021. Despite the improvement in political posture, the GHG emissions generated simply cannot be rolled back. Instead of cutting emissions, the US produced more emissions in 2021 than 2020, drifting further away from the course set by the Paris Agreement. With its flip-flopping on such an existential issue, the US has fully exposed its utilitarian approach to major issues of principles and lost its credibility in the family of nations.

● It is the unshirkable moral responsibility of developed countries to provide funding for developing countries to help them better cope with climate change. At Copenhagen in 2009 and Cancún in 2010, developed countries committed to a goal of mobilizing jointly 100 billion US dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. More than ten years have passed, developed countries have never truly delivered on their commitment. Report by a well-known international think tank shows that not only did developed countries fall short of their collective climate financing target every year, they also juggled the figures, providing far less funds than officially released figures. Most notably, the US only fulfilled less than 20 percent of its due contribution.

● For years, the US has been saying publicly that it wants to work with China on climate change, but its actions say otherwise. While demanding China to consume less coal, it asks China to continue buying coal from it; while appealing for the development of renewable energies, it imposes sanctions on Chinese PV businesses.

伏企业前20强中有15家是中国企业，前五名均为中国企业。全球十大风电企业中有七家是中国企业。中国过去10年淘汰1.2亿千瓦火电，超过了英国目前装机发电总规模。截至2021年底，中国全国新能源汽车保有量达784万辆，其中2021年新注册登记新能源汽车295万辆，占新注册车辆总数的11.25%。

中国可再生能源占比已超过美国。2019年底，中国水电风电光电装机容量达到7.56亿千瓦，是美国的2.8倍。中国可再生能源占一次能源消费比达到12.7%，约为美国的1.4倍。

◆美国作为全球累计温室气体排放量最多的国家，人均碳排放量是全球平均水平的3.3倍。1750年到2019年的270年间，美国累计排放4125亿吨温室气体，约占全球总量的1/4，是全球最大累计国，为中国的近两倍。数据显示，美国温室气体排放量历史最高值为人均23.44吨，美国2018年人均排放量为16.85吨，而中国的这一数字是7.56吨。中国作为制造业大国，目前人均碳排放量不及美国一半，人均历史累计排放量约为美国的八分之一。即便是2030年中国实现了碳达峰，中国的人均碳排放量大致也只有7-8吨，但美国2005年碳达峰时人均碳排放量已达14吨。

◆2017年6月，美国宣布将退出《巴黎协定》，2020年11月正式退出该协议，极大地损害了全球环境治理的公平、效率和成效。2021年2月，美国才正式重新加入《巴黎协定》。虽然政治姿态有所恢复，但其温室气体排放量却回不去了，2021年排放量较2020年不降反增，离《巴黎协定》的要求越来越远。美方在事关全球整体前途命运的问题上反复无常，充分暴露了其在重大原则问题上的实用主义态度，已经失信于全球大家庭。

◆向发展中国家提供资金，帮助他们更好应对气候变化，是发达国家不可推卸的道义责任。在2009年哥本哈根和2010年坎昆会议上，发达国家承诺到2020年每年共同调动1000亿美元资金帮助发展中国家应对气候变化。然而十多年来，发达国家从未能真正兑现这一承诺。国际知名智库报告显示，发达国家每年提供的气候出资不仅总额不达标，而且存在“掺水”“凑数”等问题，实际提供的有效资金远低于官方通报数据。特别是美国仅完成应承担份额的不足20%。

◆美国多年来在公开场合表示希望与中方合

Take PV products as an example, starting from 2012, the US has imposed anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese PV products, with rates as high as 34 to 47 percent. In December 2014, the US conducted anti-dumping and countervailing investigations on Chinese PV manufacturers. In January 2018, the previous US administration decided to slap global safeguard tariffs on 8.5 billion US dollars' worth of solar panel imports. In late 2021, the so-called "Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act" was signed into law by the US, which is yet another attempt to hobble the PV industry in Xinjiang under the disguise of human rights. Relevant US measures have not only impeded normal trade in PV products and disrupted normal supply chains, but also undermined global efforts in countering climate change. The US should correct its wrong practices in order to create an enabling environment for climate cooperation with China.

● Climate change has caused serious challenges to human survival and development, and must be tackled through global cooperation. Developed countries, the US included, should honor the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and follow the requirements of the Paris Agreement. They need to face up to their historical responsibilities, and level up their ambitions and actions. They need to take the lead in making substantial reductions of emissions and strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. In the meantime, they need to give developing countries due space for development and emission, and deliver on their commitments of providing developing countries with adequate finance, technology and capacity-building support. On the basis of meeting financing pledges and leveraging public funds, efforts can be made to promote the development of green finance and bring private investment into low-carbon sectors. It is also important to build national, regional and global carbon markets and carbon pricing mechanisms, bring down the costs and raise the level of emissions reductions, promote technological innovation and sustainable development, and provide developing countries with stable sources of funding for mitigation and capacity-building through the benefit sharing mechanism of carbon markets.

**Falsehood 19: To counter illegal and illicit narcotics, especially synthetic opioids like fentanyl, we want to work with China to stop international drug trafficking organizations from getting precursor chemicals, many of which originate in China.**

**Reality Check: The US has itself to blame for the root cause of fentanyl abuse in the country.**

● Narcotics abuse, a chronic malaise plaguing the US, has deep historical and social roots.

With five percent of the world's population, the US consumes 80 percent of opioids in the world, making the country the world's biggest market for narcotics. There is a prevalent tradition of prescription painkiller abuse in the US, undergirded by a complete chain of pharmaceutical companies, medical representatives and doctors. All-out marketing by pharmaceutical companies, over-prescription by doctors, ineffective government crackdowns and the negative implications of marijuana legalization are among the combination of factors behind an ever-growing market for narcotics. Opioid abuse in the US and its rising toll started with OxyContin, an opioid painkiller made by Purdue Pharma and approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1995. When it comes to discouraging demand and

作应对气候变化,但行动上却自相矛盾。美国要求中国控制煤炭消费的同时却要求中国继续从美国进口煤炭;提出发展可再生能源的同时却制裁中国的光伏企业。以光伏产品为例,从2012年开始,美国针对中国光伏产品征收反倾销和反补贴税,税率高达34%-47%。2014年12月,美国对中国光伏制造商进行“双反”调查。2018年1月,美国上届政府决定对85亿美元的进口太阳能电池板征收全球保障性关税。2021年底,美国将所谓“维吾尔强迫劳动预防法案”签署成法,打着人权的幌子打击新疆光伏产业。美有关举措不仅打压正常的光伏产品贸易、打乱正常供应链,也破坏全球应对气候变化的努力。美方应纠正错误,为中美两国气候合作营造有利环境。

◆当前气候变化给人类生存和发展带来严峻挑战,需要各国合力应对。包括美国在内的发达国家应切实遵循共同但有区别的责任原则,按照《巴黎协定》的要求,正视其历史责任,展现更大的雄心和行动,率先大幅度减排,早于2050年实现碳中和,并为发展中国家留出应有的发展和排放空间,落实向发展中国家提供充足资金、技术和能力建设支持的承诺。在兑现出资承诺、发挥公共资金引导作用的基础上,积极发展绿色金融,引导社会投资流向低碳领域。各方还要积极建立国家、区域和全球的碳市场、碳定价机制,降低减排成本,提高减排力度,促进技术创新和可持续发展,通过碳市场收益分成机制,为发展中国家适应气候变化和开展能力建设提供稳定的资金来源。

谬误19:在打击非法毒品特别是合成阿片如芬太尼方面,我们希望与中国合作,阻止国际贩毒组织获得化学前体,其中许多都源自中国。

事实真相:美国国内芬太尼滥用问题的根源在美国自身。

◆毒品泛滥是长期困扰美国的一大顽疾,有深刻历史和社会根源。

美国以占世界5%的人口,消费了全球80%的阿片类药物,是全球第一大毒品消费市场。美国国内普遍存在滥用处方止痛药的传统,其背后是药企、医药代表、医生利益的完整链条,药企大力兜售、医师滥开处方、政府打击不力、大麻合法化负面导向等多种因素交织,最终造成毒品消费市场持续扩大。美国阿片类药物滥用和死亡人数增加,起源于1995年美国食品药品监督管理局批准