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**OPEN INTERNET CONTROL IN CHINESE FUTURE IS INEVITABLE.**

**Internet in China has become an indispensable part in daily life, not just confined to sending messages. Most everyone are using internet, and everyone notice Censorship of internet is more harm than good. I believe that China will gradually open the internet censorship in future. It is provide numerous advancements to Chinese people to improve their network quality, world value and free speech. Also it is a very good chance for Chinese government to improve their policy implementation, self-discipline of official and Country state on the world. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to Chinese internet economy to facing global internet competitions, and to Chinese network technology talent to enhance their skill in the global internet competitions.**

**The aim of the Chinese government with regards to internet censorship is to curb ant forms of political dissent. Additionally, the Chinese government wants to minimize the availability of information and news that are unflattering to the authorities or are perceived as a threat to the country’s status quo. To achieve these objectives, the Chinese government has blocked websites that have content that has authoritarian concepts touching on the Chinese government.**[[1]](#footnote-0) **Additionally, the government has censored any news content that address the growth of ecological and health issues that can be attributed to pollution. The censorship also applies to many other websites that the government regards as having the capacity to initiate feelings of insubordination within the people of China. Although the list of affected websites is constantly being updated, some of the websites that have been affected at some point are nytimes.com and Wikipedia.com.**

**The Great Chinese firewall conducts DNS blocking; this means that the firewall prevents DNS lookup of some domain names that brings a ‘site not found’ error message when a user attempts to search for censored content. The firewall also works through IP address blocking. This means that various IP addresses, for instance, Wikipedia.org as well as blogger.com have been put on blacklist. How this works is that when someone who is within Chinese borders attempts to access the affected sets, the firewall continuously returns a command for resetting the command.**[[2]](#footnote-1) **This goes on up to the point when “the connection has been reset” message is displayed on the screen instead of showing the blocked message. The Great Firewall works in such a way that URL keywords are blocked. In case the URL consists of a word that is prohibited, for instance, ‘FalunGong,’ the Chinese firewall prevents the access to the site even in cases where the site was not blacklisted.**[[3]](#footnote-2) **The firewall also works by method of scanning keywords of web page. This is one of the recent additions to the capacity of the firewall. When a user views a webpage, the Great Firewall additionally downloads the searched web page and does a scan to look for blacklisted words. In case the webpage contains any of the prohibited words the user is consequently banned for a certain period of time from being able to gain access to the website. Any further attempts by the user to gain access to the website will result in an increased length of the ban. The Chinese authorities have begun censoring web traffic that originates from anywhere other than China. For example, sessions of foreigners who are browsing in China is regulated to censor the foreigners’ history and looks for inappropriate content.**[[4]](#footnote-3)

**The success of the Great Firewall can be attributed to its non-confrontational method of blocking. The Firewall does not explicitly tell a user that it is blocking a certain website or that the content a user is attempting to access is prohibited. Instead, any of these attempts to access prohibited material results in an error in the user’s browser.**[[5]](#footnote-4) **This, to some extent, reduces the blow thrown by censorship since users are not certain whether the problem is with their machines or that the content they are looking for is prohibited.**

**Further, the success of the Chinese firewall can be attributed to its capacity to establish a balance between restricting the concept of free speech yet not unduly restricting trade. It is easy to bypass using encrypted web traffic as well as virtual private networks. This means that any business establishments that want to securely communicate can do so.**[[6]](#footnote-5) **Additionally, the firewall does not prevent an individual who is determined from accessing anything, it makes accessing of banned material hard to an extent that an ordinary individual will not makes the added effort.**

**The existence of the Chinese firewall means that companies from both within and outside China are able to conduct self-censorship of the content of their websites for economic reasons. This means that the government’s workload is reduced. Firstly, the Chinese market is vast with opportunities and is growing at a high speed. The second reason is that foreign websites want to be able to favorably compete with websites in China hence make efforts to self-censor.**

**With this level of effectiveness of the Chinese censorship initiative, there have been a lot of questions surrounding the effect such efforts have. It is hard when in China to access any current events or any form of basic information while in China.**[[7]](#footnote-6) **The censorship system has significantly slowed down the internet speed. Websites like Gmail have a hard time loading. The effect is on businesses where people are not able to access their business emails.**

**The censorship issue in china is addressed as a political matter. Although this is true, the phenomenon has effects on costs of productivity and business. A survey was conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing addressing questions about the issues of internet and cybersecurity of businesses operating in China.**[[8]](#footnote-7) **Of the respondents 55% perceive the internet restrictions in China as having negative capacity to affect their business or already affecting their businesses negatively. 66% of the respondents agreed that the disruption of popular search engine Google has caused companies a lot to get information and real-time data on the market or effectively collaborate with partners located outside China. 72% of the respondents said that the speed and instability of internet in China was an impediment to their capacity to run a business in China in an effective manner.**[[9]](#footnote-8)

It is no secret that internet censorship is a hot topic. The internet is regarded as one of the greatest enablers of free speech. The question on the lips of most people is why the government would want to censor the internet. Some of the fundamental reasons behind this censorship are regarded as understandable. Free speech is always associated with the troublesome speech phenomenon. Most of the society has the fundamental belief in limits to the idea of free speech. Gradually the censorship of the internet in China is becoming increasingly undetectable and refined. This can be attributed to two factors. First the technology has greatly advanced and this means there is a sophistication that accompany the mechanics of internet censorship in China.[[10]](#footnote-9) There has been an increase in the computing power in China. This has also been coupled with an advancement in technologies for analysis, much of which is acquired from the United States. The result is that Chinese authorities are given the capacity to adequately cast a net over the content that the authorities consider objectionable and allow everything else to be accessed. The current form of censorship in China is based on keywords. However, there have been a development in technical refinement where techniques to raise censorship are being formulated. Particularly, an advancement in voice recognition technologies might give the Chinese authorities capacity to censor videos online based on any words that have been banned. Further, although most websites airing news are still available in China, most of the famous ones like BBC is banned. A refinement of the techniques that the Chinese use for blocking websites will give the authorities an access to the foreign news websites and they will be able to restrict news articles that have discussions that are politically sensitive.[[11]](#footnote-10)

The Chinese have continually embedded themselves in the global map of economic development. There is a chance for the country to use loosening internet restrictions. The question that is on the mind of many people is whether the next administration in China will continue to roll back on the availability of the internet to foreign firms conducting business in China. Although companies are less likely to pull out of the Chinese market, there will be issues when thinking about moving regional headquarters to Beijing.[[12]](#footnote-11) Companies are still going to invest in China, it just depends with the scale to which they will invest.

Although entrepreneurs in China maintain that the internet censorship is beneficial in the sense that they are protected against foreign competition, the overall cost of the Chinese Internet controls on Chinese firms if projected to be higher. [[13]](#footnote-12)The competitiveness of Chinese firms is getting hurt in an age where the internet is the most important component of business. Very often, commercial firms are left to bear the collateral of such. Online portals have expressed frustrations regarding the time and energy that is spend on outsourced censorship activities from propaganda departments. The web giant in China Tencent, has been said to be working hard in order to address the censorship concerns that are expressed about its chat application WeChat among users outside China whose countries do not have an censorship on information sharing. [[14]](#footnote-13)Some of the Chinese companies like telecom giants ZTE and Huawei have been flagged by American authorities based on flimsy evidence, becoming victims of the opacity that China is implementing. Investors are having uncertainty regarding the censorship initiative and the over-regulation of internet in China. This means that the internet market in China will highly unlikely achieve its full potential. Most importantly, seeing that web technologies are becoming fundamental to learn, collaborate and innovate, there are high risks of China underachieving when it comes to its ambitions in Information technology. Chinese talent are inhibited from learning because websites for obtaining information are blocked. A report was released by UNESCO that said that open educational resources cannot be accessed by students and educators within China because the Great Firewall has censored them.[[15]](#footnote-14)

The future of the interne censorship in China is uncertain. Internet users are wondering whether the next administration in China will still continue with this trend. There are, however, some reasons to believe that in the future, the Chinese government will lift the ban on websites and eliminate the censorship initiative altogether.

Chinese authorities have continued a censorship on the internet even as the country’s economy is looking for greater openness into the world. There has been a rise in discontent among the Chinese as the government seems to ratchet up the efforts to continue censoring. There has been a rise in unreliable connections to companies like Google that have affected the download of information. Additionally, the effectiveness of instant message applications like Google Chat has been greatly reduced.

# In an article titled *What Would China be Like if the Internet Wasn’t Censored?,* the author draws a picture of what it would look like if the Chinese internet firewall was taken down. The writer writes about what it would look like if the Chinese government dropped the Great Firewall and the internet companies in china did not need to censor anything they put on the internet anymore. [[16]](#footnote-15)According to this article, it is important to learn from the openness that is exhibited by Americans in order to have the capacity to beat them. At the moment, the Chinese government has enacted the censorship initiative. The article details what it would entail for China to have an open internet control. The initial step would be for Chinese authorities to dismantle the Great Firewall. This would comprise of destroying the software put in place to block the IP addresses of social network sites like Twitter and Facebook that the Chinese government considers sensitive. According to an expert from Greatfire.org, an organization tasked with collecting data from the Chinese Great Firewall, there is no correct estimation of the number of websites that the Chinese government has blocked. The organization is aware of as many as 8,000 URLs that the Chinese Great Firewall has blocked. According to experts, there is no information on how many sites are blocked. What is known is that the Firewall blocks an IP address, domain name or keyword.[[17]](#footnote-16) An IP address can be used for hosting thousands of websites. The GFW of China throttles the speed of websites. When it is dismantled, a lot of foreign websites will be unblocked and additionally, many of them will be sped up.

# In China today, internet censorship has forced domestic websites to enlist the services of internal censors who are tasked with scrubbing any sensitive information. Any Chinese companies who maintain content generated by users are expected to have content teams that look through material for any censored information. This also includes any material that such companies consider objectionable.[[18]](#footnote-17) What these content teams get rid of is partially influenced by Chinese laws. On the other hand, it depends on the company standards and an estimation on what is appropriate. In some instances, companies get the lines blurred and government agencies order them to delete some content. However, a huge amount of censorship is done by companies where the government acts as an impetus but lacking a direct control of the process. [[19]](#footnote-18)

# The article examines the social and political changes that would result from the government lifting the ban on content in China. Firstly, there is a chance of an open internet control leading to social change off of the internet. Experts say that there would be increased social activism. This could be attributed to internet connecting like-minded people who could interested in working together online.[[20]](#footnote-19) Additionally, expert opinion on the possibility of a censorship free China predicts that an open internet control would have a great effect on artists as there would be an overflow of creativity on the internet.

# If Chinese authorities lift the censorship ban on internet content, the government and Chinese companies would be exposed and this would lead to an increase in openness and transparency.an open internet in China would result to increased competition between foreign firms like Google against Baidu and Twitter against Sina Weibo. Competition that is healthy will improve the services offered to Chinese population. This will be healthy competition that is beneficial to competitors.[[21]](#footnote-20)

# In the long run, the freeing of internet in China would lead to a growth of creative Chinese startup companies.[[22]](#footnote-21) This is attributed to the stimulation of innovations in the country and encouraging fair play. The government is more inclined to open the internet in China owing to the advantages it might have on trade. For instance, web companies will have the freedom to expand their services into foreign markets. Experts have compared the GFW as a form of trade protectionism.[[23]](#footnote-22) If the Chinese authorities take it down, trade will improve. In the existing internet censorship regime, web companies in China lack sufficient incentive to expand. Sina Weibo would be able to expand their services into other countries successfully.

In another article dubbed *China's censorship can never defeat the internet* writer WeiWei looks at different ways that the Chinese Great Firewall is a hindrance to freedom. The article emphasizes on the need for openness and transparency. WeiWei focuses on the need to express opinions as a way of expressing the freedom of Chinese citizens.[[24]](#footnote-23) When Chinese authorities get rid of internet censorships, the Chinese populace will grow strong and creative. In the current state of things, the ordinary Chinese person has never had the right to choose information or the free will to associate with different ideologies. This hinders their creativity because they are not able to develop innate character characterized by imagination and passion. The current state of things creates a populace that is devoid of independent and individualism. The Chinese people can be said to lack the thought process and willingness to take risks, a great hindrance to creativity.

The article *China's censorship can never defeat the internet* holds that an open internet control in China would propel the country far into the global map. The current system is creating generations that can only work at Foxconn. The writer uses the analogy of the dam to help the reader to understand the effects of the Chinese GFW. In the current state of affairs, the Chinese economy might seem in control. However, what is happening is that the GFW is building the pressure of information inside and eventually it will give in. The Chinese GFW makes nations admire the current Chinese system.[[25]](#footnote-24) However, in the long run, the Chinese administration will have to realize that it is impossible to control the internet. The only way this is achievable is if they shut off the internet altogether. Such consequences would be detrimental to the existence of the county. Open internet control in Chinese future is inevitable because eventually, the authorities will realize that the internet is a phenomenon that is uncontrollable.

# In another article *How Internet Censorship Is Curbing Innovation in China*, Bao shows that the internet censorship has prompted the populace to use other measures like the Virtual Private Network (VPN) in order to circumvent these restrictions. A VPN works by providing an encrypted channel that allows a user to connect to an internet server located in another country and the user is able to browse as if there are no restrictions. However, these VPNs are slow and a lot of time is wasted loading websites regardless of whether they are censored or not.[[26]](#footnote-25) Entrepreneurs in China are not able to access information on the internet. In the event that the GFW is dismantled, these entrepreneurs will be able to access information. The current system is marred with inefficiencies. Chinese populace lacks innovation that can be attributed to the lack of information on the latest trends due to the closed nature of Chinese internet. Slow internet hinders creativity. In the event that the GFW is taken down, there will be increased exchange of information with the outside world and homegrown entrepreneurs will grow. Additionally, Chinese people will get the right mix that fuels innovation with an open internet system. There will be information flowing freely, intellectual property rights that are strong, and a learning system and culture that fosters creative thought and speech.[[27]](#footnote-26) Business or innovation ideas can be generated from social issues that the Chinese government has prevented from being shared. The primary sources of innovation are collaboration and open. Opening the internet will expose the Chinese people to a sea of information that is, in the current state of things, been isolated.

# In another article titled *China Can't Keep Up Censorship Forever*, Woollacott shows how the Chinese government has inhibited the freedom of speech of its citizen. Much of the censorship, according to this article, is implemented during the memorial days in China like the July 4 1989 protests in Tiananmen Square.[[28]](#footnote-27) The justification given by Chinese authorities is that such measures are aimed for security reasons. The current state of internet affairs in China uses various forms of censorship. However, there have been concerns that China cannot uphold this initiative indefinitely. In the past, China appears to have loosened the controls on the internet after some period has passed after such security risk days. This can be interpreted as a form of recognition by authorities that this regime of censorship can only be enforced for so long before impeding the forces of free market. The current state of affairs in China is that its gradually losing what was referred to its drivers of growth. This means that China is losing investments and exports and most importantly, cheap labor. The government should stop the restrictions on the internet to foster other forms of growth drivers to improve the Chinese GDP.

# In another article, *“China’s self-defeating war with information*.” the author aims to prove that it is a futile proposition for China to want to stay a dominating world power and still be disconnected to the world. When China lifts the censorship on the internet, there will be a reduction in various inefficiencies and frictions. Currently, what China is trying to run is a system that separates the economic benefits of the internet from its political spirit. It is impossible to eliminate the political element of the internet since the internet is inherently a political tool. This article upholds the argument that was made by other arguments presented above. China is afraid that a free flow of information has the capacity to undermine the country’s authoritarian regime. However, when the crackdown is too strong as it currently is in China, hinders the desire of creating an economy that is innovative and undermine the general stability of China. This is s considering that it is greatly dependent on the fulfillment of economic growth.[[29]](#footnote-28)

# *“Tianjin Tragedy: The Chinese Government Needs to Stop Censorship* is an article that makes a point of why the Chinese government needs to stop its Censorship initiative. The article references a tragedy in China where 173 people were killed and almost 800 injured. After the incident, the Chinese government began measures of censoring information like Tianjin across the media and social networks like Weibo and WeChat. Government took action to shut down accounts and websites because they were accused of spreading false information. This is a portrayal of the lack of the lack of concern that the Chinese government has for its citizens. This is shown by the measures the government took to shut down any speculations and cover up any information. this is a tragedy that acts to prove how the Chinese initiative of censorship is not viable in a 21st century setting. [[30]](#footnote-29)The 21st century is a time when information is fundamental. It is therefore time that China stop pretending that implementing a ban on freedom of speech is a way of benefiting the people. The explosion in Tianjin, the following outcry by the public for answers and the consequential reaction by the government prove that the survival of China depends on freedom of speech and availability of knowledge to the public. In the event that the Great Firewall is taken down, the public outcry will be answered and people will be provided with information which will mean that they are satisfied in the government. In the current system, there is no trust in the government. The article shows that the belief of the public is that the government is capable of covering up tragedies hence it lacks the capacity to prevent the possibility of a repeat.

# The Chinese government can prevent such consequences through offering public knowledge. For instance, if the public is informed of the causes of the explosion, they will be able to prevent a repeat. Furthermore, offering information on fatalities and accompanying incidences could offer the public closure. In the current system, there is a risk of China facing protests, distress, anger and demonstrations that could end up being a repeat of the Tiananmen Square tragedy. Ironically, the attempts that the government is making to suppress public feelings only intensifies them. When the government starts making efforts to promote transparency and provide the public with information, it will be beneficial to both the government and people by easing unrests. For a long time, the Chinese government has censored information and held stories for people they considered inappropriate for long. History has proven over and over that with a free flow of information, a nation is successfully run. This is an ideology that China should adopt. Without transparency from the part of the government, there is a chance for the Tiananmen Square and Tianjin tragedies to happen again. If the Chinese Great Firewall is taken down, increased transparency can only act to strengthen China. From this evidence, it is clear that it will not be long before the Chinese government realizes that an Open Internet control is an inevitable phenomenon for the future of China.

# In the current state of affairs in China, the government is able to monitor and regulate the activities of its citizens. This means that Chinese populace is always wary of their online activities. This hinders their privacy which is considered a civil right. The current system in China acts as a hindrance to change and truth. This is mostly applicable to issues like corruption, police brutality and human rights. If in some situations there is evidence of any of these actions and they are removed from the reach of the people, it is a way of them being perpetuated in society. It is through complete transparency that truth and change can be encouraged.

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