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ANALYSIS

Trump leaves China with stalemate



The meeting in Beijing between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping did not secure any public commitment from China to help the United States end the war in Iran. EVAN VUCCI/POOL/REUTERS

Summit yields modest economic deals, little else

Michael Martina, David Brunnstrom, David Lawder and Mei Mei Chu
 REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s visit to Beijing may have produced modest results by the standards of U.S.-China summits but it highlighted a clear benefit for China: After the extremes of last year’s trade war, the countries have reverted to their familiar economic and strategic standoff.

Two days of talks between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping underscored that even after Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariffs and the ensuing trade detente the two sides reached late last year, Washington and Beijing are still locked in the contest that Trump inherited when he started his second term.

For the United States, that means that the most troubling aspects of the relationship – from what it considers Beijing’s mercantilist trade policies to its efforts to increase its military clout in the Indo-Pacific – remain largely unaddressed.

But for Xi it offers some breathing room and a return to a more predictable set of challenges. He appeared to describe the change with a new framework for the countries’ relations he called “constructive strategic stability.”

China came out ahead, given the retreat from the Trump administration’s brash approach on trade from early 2025, said Scott Kennedy, a China expert at Washington’s Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“Compared to where we were a year ago, with 145% tariffs and the U.S. really trying to push China and the rest of the world to fundamentally change, we’ve had a counterrevolution and we’re back at stability,” Kennedy said.

Trump brought to the May 14-15 summit some of America’s most powerful executives, from Tesla’s Elon Musk to Nvidia’s Jensen Huang, but most had little to show for their time, aside from a lavish banquet.

The meeting also did not secure any public commitment from China to help the United States end the war in Iran

that has roiled global markets and dented Trump’s approval ratings.

“The summit projected stability but it left the stalemate intact,” said Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. It “produced modest, marketable and managed outcomes, which is about all the U.S.-China relationship can bear right now.”

Asked for comment, a White House official said, “President Trump leveraged his positive relationship with President Xi of China in order to bring home deliverables for the American people,” citing the sale of Boeing aircraft and agricultural agreements to expand American exports.

A spokesperson with the Chinese embassy in Washington called the meetings between Xi and Trump “candid, in-depth, constructive and strategic,” adding that they “explored the right way for two major countries to get along with each other.”

With last year’s trade war, Trump appears to have overestimated the power of tariffs to coerce China into

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INFANT DEATH

Jury finds Marion County woman guilty

Austin L. Miller
 Ocala Star-Banner
 USA TODAY NETWORK

A jury ruled May 14 that a woman was guilty in her baby’s 2021 death. Here’s what we know:

State v. Melissa Waiman Schroer

Judge: Circuit Judge Barbara Kissner-Kwatkosky.

Lawyers: Assistant State Attorneys Marissa Meyer and Katrina Self; D. Gary Lashley represented Schroer.

Charge: Aggravated manslaughter of a child.

When was Schroer arrested? January 2022.

Was there a plea offer? No.

About the case: Sheriff’s detectives had warrants for the arrest of Schroer, 43, and her husband, Jeffrey Thomas Schroer, 45, in connection with the death of their son, Wailan Ray Schroer. The boy, a little more than 2 months old, died in December 2019, authorities said. The defendant has previous convictions of tampering with a monitoring device and endangering a child.

Is Schroer in or out of custody? In custody since her arrest.

When was the trial? It began May 11 with jury selection and ended May 14. A trial for Schroer’s husband, who is in the county jail without bond, is tentatively set for Sept. 28 with jury selection. His attorney is Public Defender Julia Williamson.

How many people were picked for the jury? Eight, including seven women and one man.

What happened at trial? Before testimony began, the judge dismissed one juror, a woman, for medical reasons. The defense moved to dismiss the case, arguing evidence had not been provided for trial; the judge denied the motion.

Self said in her opening statement that the Schroers moved from Kentucky to Florida. At the time, they had one child. The couple later had two more children and lived in Belleview. On the day their son Wailan died, their 11-year-old son noticed his brother was not moving in his car seat. Self said the boy frantically called his parents, but they were unmoved. No one called 911 or attended to Wailan for hours, and

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