GUEST ESSAY

China Is Scared of A.I. Just in Not the Way We Are.

American A.I. companies know they can't tap the brakes on A.I. by themselves — China has to go along…Too often, however, A.I. safety experts assume that China has the same concerns as we do about A.I. The reality is, the Chinese have a different set of worries…shifting views of A.I. risks suggest both countries may be motivated to cooperate on A.I. safety out of sheer national interest. On the other hand, each country's suspicions of the other will make any kind of agreements about A.I. safety difficult.

Fortunately, common ground is possible. Rather than jump straight into debates over a global slowdown or an arms control treaty for A.I., the United States and China should start with something much more basic: **realizing and acknowledging how the other side sees A.I. risks**. From there, they can start to explore areas where both sides share an interest in mitigating threats from third parties or even the technology itself.

Kyle Chan, The New York Times, Sept. 17, 2026