

A Glance over the Shoulder: US Plays Offense with Export Controls, CFIUS, and Coercive Economic Actions in 2020

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During 2020, the United States deployed an extraordinary variety of offensive tools in its efforts to combat strategic competitors from achieving technological parity. There now appears to be a willingness to use tariffs, sanctions, export controls, and a number of other measures in the interest of what is often referred to as national security but is more precisely described as techno-nationalism or the protectionism of technological innovation. Deploying §232 and §301 tariffs, restrictions on exports and foreign investment in the United States, as well as other coercive tools, the United States has erected higher walls around the crown jewels.