

The English-language site for Global Times, a government-controlled Chinese tabloid known for its hawkish, nationalistic tone. The site does not disclose its connection to the Chinese government.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 39.5/100

Ownership and Financing

Global Times is owned by the People's Daily, a Chinese government-controlled outlet. People's Daily is operated by People's Daily Online Co., which is publicly traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. In its 2012 filing to go public, the company listed China's Ministry of Finance as its largest revenue source, according to The Wall Street Journal. People's Daily Online Co. has other stakeholders, but the majority of shares are held by the Chinese government. The government has also given People's Daily Online Co. other financial help, such as tax allowances that exempted the company from paying income taxes from 2010 to at least 2013, The Wall Street Journal reported.

People's Daily Online Co. also earns revenue from online censoring services. According to Reuters, People.cn has deals with Chinese tech firms, including leading news aggregator Jinri Toutiao, "to identify and delete material that does not meet government guidelines" on sensitive issues such as the Tiananmen Square crackdown and the status of Hong Kong.

The About section of the People's Daily Chinese-language site states that the People's Daily is operated by the Communist Party of China's Central Committee. However, the newspaper's English-language site does not mention its ties to the Communist Party of China or to the government, only stating in its About section only that "China's leaders attach great importance to the development of People's Daily Online."

In June 2020, the U.S. State Department announced that Global Times, along with three other China-owned outlets, would be designated as official entities of the Chinese government.

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
-  Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Global Times describes itself as “your key to understanding China’s changes.” Its About page states that “the newspaper has become essential reading for every China-watcher.” The site covers global breaking news, business, and culture, with a focus on China and its global relationships. The site’s motto, prominently displayed at the top of each page, is “Discover China. Discover the world.”

The site consistently advances a hardline pro-China perspective, with articles advancing a narrative that supports China’s interests and portrays China’s opponents in a negative light.

Sections featured on the home page include China, China-U.S., China-India, China-Europe, World, and Source (which covers business). Typical headlines have included, “GT investigation: Can India’s fragile economy survive its own ‘boycott China’ campaign?,” “US rated by Chinese people as biggest stumbling block in China-Australia relations: survey,” and “Southeast Asia aware of China’s win-win approach and US strategic goals.”

The site regularly posts video reports, including a regular feature called “Hu Says,” consisting of commentary from Hu Xijin, the site’s editor-in-chief.

In addition to its Chinese-language site, Global Times offers print editions in Beijing and Shanghai.

Credibility

Articles on GlobalTimes.cn are typically based on interviews with Chinese government officials, business leaders, and Chinese academic experts, or cite reporting from other outlets. Headlines reflect the content of stories. However, articles often include misleading or unsubstantiated claims, often in service to a pro-China and anti-U.S. agenda that the site does not disclose.

For example, a June 2020 article titled “Source of Beijing cases renews speculation over COVID-19 origin” suggested that the coronavirus could be traced to meat or seafood that was imported from Europe. “Suspensions are mounting that imported seafood or meat provided the origins of the novel coronavirus in

China's epidemic," the article stated. "Experts said this finding indicated that it is very likely the clustered infections in Beijing were caused by imported seafood that was contaminated by the coronavirus in Europe before being delivered by cold-chain transportation to China."

As a source for this claim, the article cited unnamed experts and anonymous Internet speculation, stating that "netizens and experts [are] speculating the outbreak that occurred in Wuhan's Huanan seafood market may also relate to imported food or animals." The claim apparently originated when the chairman of a Beijing wholesale market said the virus had been found on a cutting board for salmon, and a Chinese epidemiologist told people to avoid salmon. However, Chinese authorities later said there was no evidence to back the claim regarding imported seafood, which Global Times has promoted in at least 10 articles.

A New York Times report about the connection between imported salmon and Beijing's coronavirus outbreak stated that "state media and health officials have started to walk back their earlier statements about salmon," adding that "Shi Guoqing, an official from the Chinese Center for Disease Control, said that there was no evidence to suggest that salmon could host the new coronavirus." Global Times continued to mention imported seafood as a potential vector for the disease, even following that statement from Shi.

A June 2020 article headlined "India will pay heavy price if it 'miscalculates China'" claimed that a clash between Chinese and Indian soldiers in the Himalayan mountains was entirely India's fault. "India's nationalism is growing sharply following the India-instigated border clash in the Galwan Valley, and the Indian foreign ministry and media are still spreading misinformation about the incident," the article stated, citing only Chinese officials as sources.

The article was about a military skirmish that occurred on June 15, 2020, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a disputed border between the two countries. CNN and many other news outlets have reported that the origin of the attack is unclear, and India and China

have blamed the other side. However, the Global Times article provided only the Chinese perspective, quoting Wu Qian, a Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson, who said that Indian soldiers “crossed the LAC to provoke the Chinese side.” Also, an unnamed “military expert at a Beijing-based military academy” was quoted stating the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers during the clash is “the price they paid for their foolish attempt” at crossing the LAC.

Articles on the site often downplay the plight of the more than 1 million ethnic Uyghurs who human-rights groups say have been detained and mistreated by China in political re-education camps. Global Times has repeatedly claimed that Chinese actions in Xinjiang are necessary to prevent and stop terrorism by Muslim separatists. For example, a June 2020 article titled “Xinjiang documentary tests Western media’s collective blindness” claimed that China was waging an “anti-terrorism fight in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.” The article quoted a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, who asked why Western reporters “indulge lies made by people with malicious intentions regarding Xinjiang, but sidestep when truth and facts are placed right in front of you.”

A January 2020 article titled “Latest set of rumors about Xinjiang refuted” addressed a book published by a Japanese author about a Uyghur woman who escaped an internment camp in Xinjiang. The article quoted the spokesperson of the Xinjiang regional government’s information office at length claiming that the subject of the book had been arrested “on suspicion of inciting ethnic hatred and discrimination” and accusing her of lying about being treated poorly.

Contrary to the portrayals on GlobalTimes.cn, Uyghurs have been systematically mistreated by the Chinese government in the camps, according to reports by human rights groups, media outlets, and U.S. agencies. The bipartisan U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China described the camps as “the largest mass incarceration of a minority population in the world today,” and cited reports that “torture and other human rights abuses are occurring in

overcrowded centers secured by guard towers, barbed wire, and high walls.” Moreover, although a Muslim separatist group called the East Turkestan Islamic Movement does operate in Xinjiang, its membership is disparate and relatively small, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonpartisan think tank. “Human rights groups maintain that China uses counterterrorism efforts as a pretext to suppress Uighurs, who often resent the restriction of religious and cultural expression,” CFR wrote in a report about the movement.

GlobalTimes.cn does not disclose its pro-China perspective, and in fact even suggests that the site covers China in an even-handed way. “The Chinese public is not satisfied with old orthodoxies and stale stories, and neither is the Global Times. It provides in-depth coverage of controversial stories,” according to its About page. This description fails to acknowledge the site’s political perspective, including a consistently pro-government stance that stems from its ownership by the Chinese government.

Although some articles on the site are labeled as “editorial” or “op-ed,” many that are not labeled include opinion, typically voicing criticism of the U.S. and support for the Chinese government.

For example, an unlabeled June 2020 article titled “Poor US handling of pandemic exposes cruelty of capitalism” stated that China has dealt with the coronavirus more effectively than the U.S., writing that “China is confronted with a lack of humanitarianism when dealing with capitalist countries such as the inhuman and brutal US, which has the ultimate greed and recklessness. They are unreasonable about human life, and can fool people.”

Another June 2020 article that was not labeled as opinion, titled “EU chooses pragmatic approach to China, distances itself from US,” stated that European nations are choosing to align with China over an “aggressive US,” and claimed that “the EU will not put ideology above national interests, but will rationally weigh its relations with China and the US.”

A May 2020 article that also was not labeled as opinion, titled “Blame game diminishes Western appeal to Chinese people,” compared the U.S. public response on coronavirus to Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister. “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it,” the site quoted Goebbels as saying, adding: “It is exactly what the current US administration and a number of other Western politicians are trying to do.”

Because GlobalTimes.cn publishes articles that advance China’s agenda without disclosing that the site is China-owned and that its purpose is to promote China’s interests, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standards for gathering and presenting information responsibly. Because the site publishes unlabeled opinion, NewsGuard has determined that it does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

GlobalTimes.cn does not post a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

The site did not respond to two June 2020 emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on its editorial standards, its approach to corrections, and its handling of the difference between news and opinion.

Transparency

Global Times does not disclose that it is controlled by the government of China. The site links to the People’s Daily and other China-run sites, but Global Times does not provide information about these sites or disclose its connection to them.

The site does not identify its editorial leaders. Although most articles name the writer, the site does not provide contact or biographical information for its writers — which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for providing information about content creators.

Advertising is distinguishable from editorial content.

GlobalTimes.cn did not respond to two June 2020 emails seeking comment on its lack of disclosure regarding its ties to the Chinese government, its editorial leadership, and its content creators.

History

The Global Times was founded as a weekly Chinese-language magazine in 1993, according to Quartz. The English-language site and an English-language print newspaper launched in April 2009.

Following the creation of the English site, The Guardian wrote that “the Chinese edition of the Global Times has built a reputation as a lively, nationalist and popular tabloid despite belonging to the People's Daily, the mouthpiece for the party. Its circulation is well over a million.”

In a 2016 interview with Quartz, Global Times editor-in-chief Hu Xijin said that the CCP “can’t speak willfully, but I can.” Hu’s editorials and video series are hawkish and nationalistic.

In June 2020, the U.S. State Department said that Global Times and three other China-owned outlets would be designated as official entities of the Chinese government, not independent news organizations, which required the news agencies to provide the State Department with all of their U.S. employees’ names, ages, and addresses. They also must notify the State Department of any property they own or lease in the U.S. and get approval before leasing or purchasing new property.

In addition to Global Times, this designation was applied to China Central Television, China News Service, and People’s Daily. The State Department said that “while Western media are beholden to the truth, PRC media are beholden to the Chinese Communist Party.” Five other China-owned outlets had been designated as foreign assets earlier in 2020.

Written by: [Gabby Deutch](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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