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US Unexpectedly Sanctions China Officials Hours After Demanding Beijing Condemn Russia

by Tyler Durden

4-5 minutes

Apparently not content with diplomatic war on one front with Russia, the Biden administration appears ready to escalate with China following on the heels of last week's persistent accusations that Beijing was mulling cooperation with Moscow on weapons resupplies for its Ukraine operation, as well as assistance on Western sanctions evasion.

Monday afternoon Secretary of State Antony Blinken **announced more visa restrictions on Chinese officials related to prior charges that state authorities are overseeing the ethnic cleansing**

of Uighurs. It's certainly interesting timing in terms of pulling out the the human rights card, given that throughout last week the admin's China criticisms seemed exclusively focused on its "fence-sitting" over Ukraine.

Blinken called on China to **"end its ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, repressive policies in Tibet, crackdown on fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong, and human rights violations,"** as cited in *Bloomberg*.

"The United States rejects efforts by (Chinese) officials to harass, intimidate, surveil, and abduct members of ethnic and religious minority groups, including those who seek safety abroad, and U.S. citizens, who speak out on behalf of these vulnerable populations," Blinken [said](#). "We are committed to defending human rights around the world and will continue to use all diplomatic and economic measures to promote accountability."

It's unclear as yet which and how many Chinese state officials will be impacted by the new visa restriction measures, which will effectively ban them from travel into the United States, and it's an

expansion of prior Trump restrictions.

Earlier, the White House issued a statement saying - like UK prime minister Boris Johnson's words over the weekend - that Beijing must condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and stop downplaying it.

Meanwhile, here's commentary from *Rabobank* on the implications of how China figures into the Ukraine crisis...

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But next up must surely be many in markets. On Friday, I argued if the Biden-Xi call went well, markets would take it as positive; if it went badly, markets would take it as a huge negative; and yet what we were told happened on the call might not be the whole story. Markets saw the bullet points released by the Chinese side **before the call was even over**, which had key words like "peace" and the need for good US-China relations,.... and fell for it hook, line, and stinker even though the US readout was short and brusque.

That's a very bad call call. It's as bad as Eurasia Group's Ian Bremmer calling for President Biden to

visit Kyiv, when if a bomb hits him it's WW3; or one on Twitter from an Asian hedge fund player (although in truth I find it hard to tell if they are a parody account or not) which says: *“Seems initial reaction to Xi - Biden call was positive, as expected, but let's see how Western media 'interprets' it. US and China= BFFs?”* And, when someone pushes back, the response being: *“...not everyone's view counts equally. The view of those participating in the capital markets matters disproportionately more, this is why the US runs the world.”* **Which is ironically what this is all about, while still being completely wrong.**

Geopolitical analysts, including ones who cover markets too, note that underneath the algo-triggering headlines the reality was that Beijing:

1. Blamed the US for the crisis by expanding NATO, rather than Russia expanding Russia;
2. Stated the US would have to resolve it using a Chinese idiom;
3. That this includes addressing *Russian* security needs too, and linking this all back to Taiwan;

4. Saying China would help if the US backs off on trade war, tech war, AUKUS, the Quad, etc.

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