



CHINANET

Tools of Authoritarians

Sources

- **The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State**
 - by Elizabeth C. Economy
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/162092/htg-explains-how-the-great-firewall-of-china-works/>
- <https://www.engadget.com/2020-03-30-china-huawei-new-ip-proposal.html>
- <https://blocky.greatfire.org/>

History and Current Political Leadership

- Every Chinese Dynasty has made efforts to censor rival political ideas to empower their own
- The President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping believes efforts to influence public thought in the cyber world should mirror the tangible world
- The Stopping political movements against the CCP before they get off the ground
 - Ren Zhiqiang “lost his party spirit”
- CCP is less protective of local governments

Great Firewall/Golden Shield



- Domestic
- Same tools that blocked coolmathgames.com in middle school
 - Proxy servers and firewalls
- Fang Binxing 方滨兴, Computer Scientist “Father of China's Great Fire Wall”
- CCP place “Network Security officers” at firms and internet sites
- Block foreign social media platforms and create a Chinese copy

Technical Methods

- DNS Poisoning
- Block IP
- Analyzing and filtering URLs
- Inspecting and filtering packets
 - Zoomer lingo turns blocking search terms into a game of cat and mouse
- Resetting connections
- Blocking VPNs
- Phillip the madman
- IP was not made with authoritarians in mind.



Less Technical Methods



- Influential accounts/communities get special attention
- “In 2013, across government and private sectors 2,000,000 people were employed as “internet public opinion analysts” (*Beijing business news*)
- 488,000,000 posts by internet public opinion analysts annually
- 100,000 people are dedicated to manual censorship (basically discord mods)
- Shut off internet of misbehaving provinces

Great Cannon

- Foreign
 - Man in the middle attack-
 - GitHub
 - Denial of service attack
 - GitHub
 - New York Times

Cost of Authoritarianism

- Science
- Innovation
- Reputation/soft-power
- It's complicated, but population is generally ok with it