

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [China Orders Apple to Remove Popular Messaging Apps](#)

**Article Link:** [https://www.wsj.com/tech/apple-removes-whatsapp-threads-from-china-app-store-on-government-orders-a0c02100?mod=hp\\_lead\\_pos2](https://www.wsj.com/tech/apple-removes-whatsapp-threads-from-china-app-store-on-government-orders-a0c02100?mod=hp_lead_pos2)

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**Tweet:** Citing national security concerns, China ordered Apple to remove Meta's WhatsApp and Threads, as well as Signal and Telegram, from the Apple store. Apple has 17% of the Chinese smartphone market.

**Summary:** Meta Platforms' WhatsApp and Threads as well as messaging platforms Signal and Telegram were taken off the Chinese App Store Friday. Apple said it was told to remove certain apps because of national security concerns, without specifying which. "We are obligated to follow the laws in the countries where we operate, even when we disagree," an Apple spokesperson said. These messaging apps, which allow users to exchange messages and share files individually and in large groups, combined have around three billion users globally. They can only be accessed in China through virtual private networks that take users outside China's Great Firewall, but are still commonly used. Beijing has often viewed such platforms with caution, concerned that these apps could be used by its citizens to spread negative content and cause social unrest. Much of the news China censors at home often makes it beyond the Great Firewall through such channels.

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**Primary Topic:** China

**Topics:** China, GDP, News article, Trade (not deficits)

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