

World

Biden calls Xi a dictator after carefully planned summit

By **Trevor Hunnicutt** and **Jeff Mason**

November 16, 2023 12:56 PM EST · Updated 7 months ago



WOODSIDE, California, Nov 15 (Reuters) - U.S. President Joe Biden said on Wednesday he had not changed his view that Chinese President Xi Jinping was effectively a dictator, a comment likely to land with a thud in Beijing after the two leaders held [straightforward summit talks](#).

Biden held a solo news conference after four hours of talks with Xi on the outskirts of San Francisco. At the end of the news conference, he was asked whether he still held the view that Xi was a dictator, something he said in June.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

"Look, he is. He's a dictator in the sense that he's a guy who runs a country that is a communist country that's based on a form of government totally different than ours," Biden said.

In response, China's foreign ministry said it "strongly opposes" the remarks, without mentioning Biden by name.

"This statement is extremely wrong and irresponsible political manipulation," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters on Thursday at a routine briefing.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Feedback

"It should be pointed out that there will always be some people with ulterior motives who attempt to incite and damage U.S.-China relations, they are doomed to fail."

Mao refused to specify the identity of "some people" in answer to a follow-up question.

Last March Xi [clinched a third term](#) as president when nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, voted unanimously for him in an election in which there was no other candidate.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Xi is considered the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, after [a decade of consolidating power](#) in policy-making and the military, and stifling media freedoms.

There was no immediate reaction from the Chinese delegation, which had come to the United States to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. Hundreds of critics of Beijing [marched through the city's downtown](#) [↗](#) around noon, chanting "free Tibet" and "free Hong Kong."

When Biden made a similar dictator reference in June, China called the remarks [absurd and a provocation](#). But the spat did not prevent the two sides from holding extensive talks aimed at improving strained relations, which culminated in Wednesday's meeting.

Get the latest news and expert analysis about the state of the global economy with Reuters Econ World.
Sign up [here](#).

Writing by Steve Holland; Additional reporting by Laurie Chen in Beijing; Editing by Heather Timmons, Stephen Coates and Raju Gopalakrishnan

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#). [↗](#)

[Purchase Licensing Rights](#)



Jeff Mason
Thomson Reuters

Jeff Mason is a White House Correspondent for Reuters. He has covered the presidencies of Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden and the presidential campaigns of Biden, Trump, Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain. He served as president of the White House Correspondents' Association in 2016-2017, leading the press corps in advocating for press freedom in the early days of the Trump administration. His and the WHCA's work was recognized with Deutsche Welle's "Freedom of Speech Award." Jeff has asked pointed questions of domestic and foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. He is a winner of the WHCA's "Excellence in Presidential News Coverage Under Deadline

Pressure" award and co-winner of the Association for Business Journalists' "Breaking News" award. Jeff began his career in Frankfurt, Germany as a business reporter before being posted to Brussels, Belgium, where he covered the European Union. Jeff appears regularly on television and radio and teaches political journalism at Georgetown University. He is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a former Fulbright scholar.



Read Next

Middle East

Israeli forces push deeper into southern and northern Gaza

ago

United States

Biden's shaky debate has overseas allies bracing for Trump return

ago

Middle East

Iranians vote in presidential election with limited choices

ago

Africa

Kenya protests expose jet-setting Ruto's neglect of discontent at home

ago

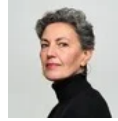
Follow those who follow opportunity. Explore and subscribe.

Sponsored by Bank of America Institute



Virginia: The List Of The Top Financial Advisor Firms Is Out

Sponsored by smartasset



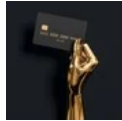
This Wall St. Millionaire Has a Different Idea for Your Money in 2024

Sponsored by Stansberry Research



This Card's Unique Sign-up Bonus is One of the Best We've Seen

Sponsored by The Motley Fool



Safe, secure, powerful crypto trading. Start trading with just \$10

Sponsored by Kraken



How to Track Down a Lost 401(k)

Sponsored by Charles Schwab



World >

Former Americanas CEO Gutierrez arrested in Madrid, sources say

World · June 28, 2024 · 9:56 AM EDT · 10 min ago

The former chief executive of Brazilian retail giant Americanas, Miguel Gutierrez, has been arrested in Madrid on Friday at the request of Brazilian authorities, two sources familiar with the matter said.

Africa

Kenya protests expose jet-setting Ruto's neglect of discontent at home

13 min ago

World

Exclusive: Firm making car that Putin gifted to Kim uses South Korean parts

14 min ago

Middle East

Israeli forces push deeper into southern and northern Gaza

17 min ago

United States

Democrats scramble to limit damage after Biden's wobbly debate showing against Trump

18 min ago

Sponsored Content

dianomi ▶

Financial Considerations of Moving Abroad

Sponsored by Charles Schwab



What's in Your Portfolio?

Sponsored by Charles Schwab



Virginia: The List Of The Top Financial Advisor Firms Is Out

Sponsored by smartasset



Safe, secure, powerful crypto trading. Start trading with just \$10

Sponsored by Kraken



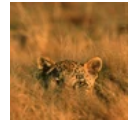
5 financial tips to help care for your kids. Your parents. And you.

Sponsored by Guardian Life



Our perspective, your advantage. Explore and subscribe to insight.

Sponsored by Bank of America Institute



Sponsored Content

dianomi ▶

Hands Down One of the Best Cards for Good Credit

Sponsored by The Motley Fool

The 5 Dumbest Things We Keep Spending Too Much Money On

Sponsored by The Penny Hoarder

Do you have the skills to succeed in new roles? Explore our programs.

Sponsored by HBS Executive Education

7 Ways To Help Generate Income Once Your Portfolio Reaches \$500,000

Sponsored by Fisher Investments

Pay Off Debt Without A Loan. See If You Qualify For The Program.

Sponsored by Weekly Financial Solutions

New AI Experiment, PRIME, is Set to Shock the World

Sponsored by InvestorPlace

Latest

Home

Authors

Topic sitemap

Media

 Videos

 Pictures

Browse

World

Business

Markets

Sustainability

Legal

Breakingviews

Technology

Feedback

About Reuters

About Reuters [↗](#)

Careers [↗](#)

Reuters News Agency [↗](#)

Brand Attribution Guidelines [↗](#)

Reuters Leadership [↗](#)

Reuters Fact Check

Reuters Diversity Report [↗](#)

Stay Informed

Download the App (iOS) [↗](#)

Download the App (Android) [↗](#)

Newsletters

Information you can trust

Reuters, the news and media division of Thomson Reuters, is the world's largest multimedia news provider, reaching billions of people worldwide every day. Reuters provides business, financial, national and international news to professionals via desktop terminals, the world's media organizations, industry events and directly to consumers.

Follow Us



Thomson Reuters Products

Westlaw [↗](#)

Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology.

Onesource [↗](#)

The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs.

Checkpoint [↗](#)

The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals.

LSEG Products

Workspace [↗](#)

Access unmatched financial data, news and content in a highly-customised workflow experience on desktop, web and mobile.

Data Catalogue [↗](#)

Browse an unrivalled portfolio of real-time and historical market data and insights from worldwide sources and experts.

World-Check [↗](#)

Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks.

All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See here for a complete list of exchanges and delays.

[Cookies](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy](#) [Digital Accessibility](#) [Corrections](#) [Site Feedback](#)

© 2024 Reuters. All rights reserved

