

Evolution Trends in The Discourse System of U.S. Critical Minerals and China's Strategies in Response

Chunyan HE, Bing WANG, Ruimin ZHANG, Weiwei LIU, Jianping GE*

Global Energy and Resource Discourse Research Centre, Institute of Natural Resources Strategic Development, China University of Geosciences Beijing

I. Discourse Characteristics and Evolution of U.S. Critical Minerals Strategy: An Analysis from the Perspective of Government Agencies

From 2018 to 2024, the discourse focus of U.S. government agencies regarding critical minerals shifted from supply chain security to clean energy transition, with emotions evolving from anxiety to optimism. Major events, especially the presidential elections, promulgation of policies and the Sino-U.S. trade dispute, have intensified changes in both discourse and emotional characteristics, and thus highlight the profound influence of policy shifts and international relations on government discourse.

1. Strategic Insights into Discourse Characteristics

From 2018 to 2024, U.S. government agencies primarily concentrated their discussions on critical minerals on several key areas: supply chain security, clean energy transition, government policy direction, infrastructure development, the strategic importance of rare earths, and international economic cooperation (esp. in the Indo-Pacific region).

The focus of various government agencies on the theme “critical minerals” has undergone notable shifts over distinct time periods, as depicted in Figure 1. Drawing from the evolving discourse trends observed among different government agencies, the subsequent strategic insights can be deduced.

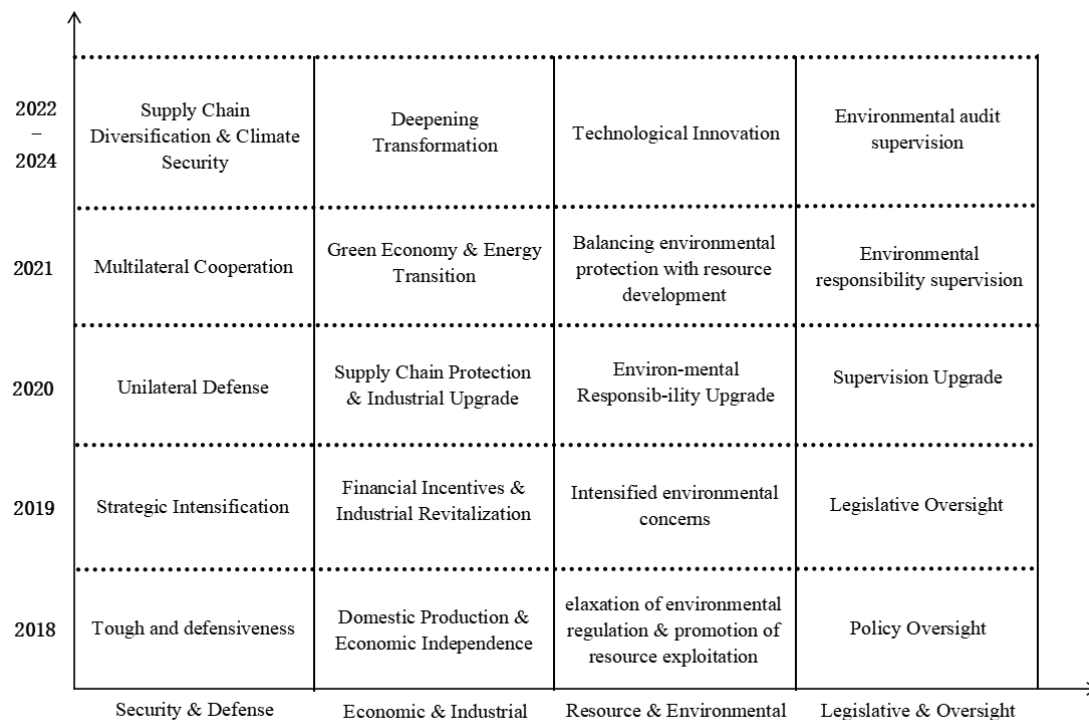


Figure 1: Evolution Path of Discourse Characteristics Across Different Government Agencies

● Security and Defense Agencies

The Enhancement of Strategic Positioning for Critical Minerals: Security and defense agencies have progressively elevated the significance of critical minerals from an economic concern to a national security issue. This shift signals that the U.S. intention to further diminish reliance on particular nations by employing policy instruments and fostering international collaboration, simultaneously bolstering domestic mineral extraction and stockpiling efforts.

The Geopolitical Influence on Mineral Issues: Security agencies are intensely attentive to the impact of critical mineral supply chains on national military prowess and strategic competition. This indicates that critical minerals are poised to emerge as a pivotal arena of strategic rivalry between the United States and other nations, notably China.

● Economic and Industrial Agencies

The Deep Integration of Critical Minerals into New Energy Strategies: Economic and industrial agencies have redirected their attention towards clean energy and the

development of a green economy. This shift underscores the critical mineral supply chain's emergence as a crucial pillar for the U.S. in advancing its energy transition and achieving technological innovation.

The Promotion of Domestic Self-Sufficiency and Technological Progress through Policy Design: The U.S. is placing a strong focus on domestic mineral development and technological innovation, indicating that the nation intends to increasingly leverage policy instruments to steer capital and technological resources. This approach aims to progressively diminish reliance on imported minerals and to foster the localization and enhancement of supply chains.

- **Resource and Environmental Agencies**

The Internationalization of Ecological Responsibility: Resource and environmental agencies are increasingly concentrating on the environmental repercussions of resource exploitation, highlighting the importance of sustainability and the adoption of green technologies. This suggests that the U.S. may establish stricter environmental regulations to strive for a stronger power of discourse on the international governance of minerals.

The Balance Between Resource Development and Environmental Protection: The policies of these agencies underscore the significance of scientific data and technological backing, reflecting the U.S. endeavors to achieve a dynamic equilibrium between mineral exploitation and environmental conservation.

- **Legislative and Oversight Agencies**

The Shift from Emergency Response to Institutionalization: Legislative agencies have driven a shift in critical mineral policy from crisis response to long-term policy frameworks, indicating that the U.S. will rely on laws and regulations to establish a stable and transparent critical mineral governance system.

The Enhancement of International Rule-Making Influence: By strengthening transparency and accountability, legislative agencies provide legal support for the U.S. in international governance, thereby bolstering its leadership in global mineral issues.

In summary, the annual shifts in focus highlight the diversification of issues, which

demonstrates that U.S. critical mineral policies are evolving towards a holistic governance. Furthermore, they reveal a coordinated strategy to shape global regulations. The synergistic efforts of various government agencies signify that the U.S. is strengthening its domestic supply chain independence while simultaneously shaping international rules to promote the standardization of global critical mineral governance.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrate the emotional evolution of U.S. government agencies' discourse on critical minerals, with which the following insights can be revealed.

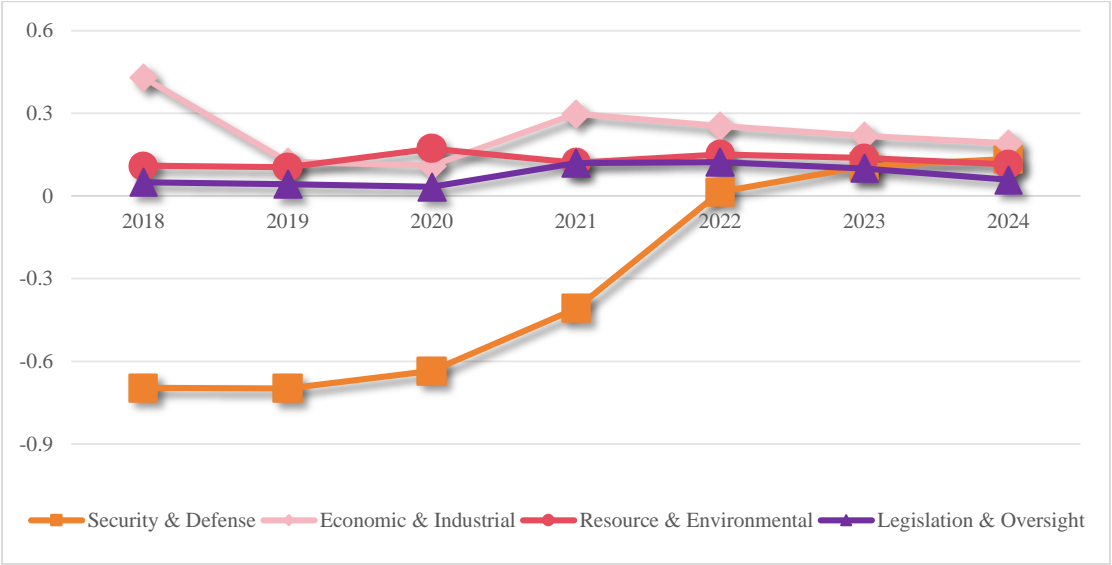


Figure 2: Evolution Path of Emotional Characteristics Across Different Government Agencies (Sentiment Polarity)

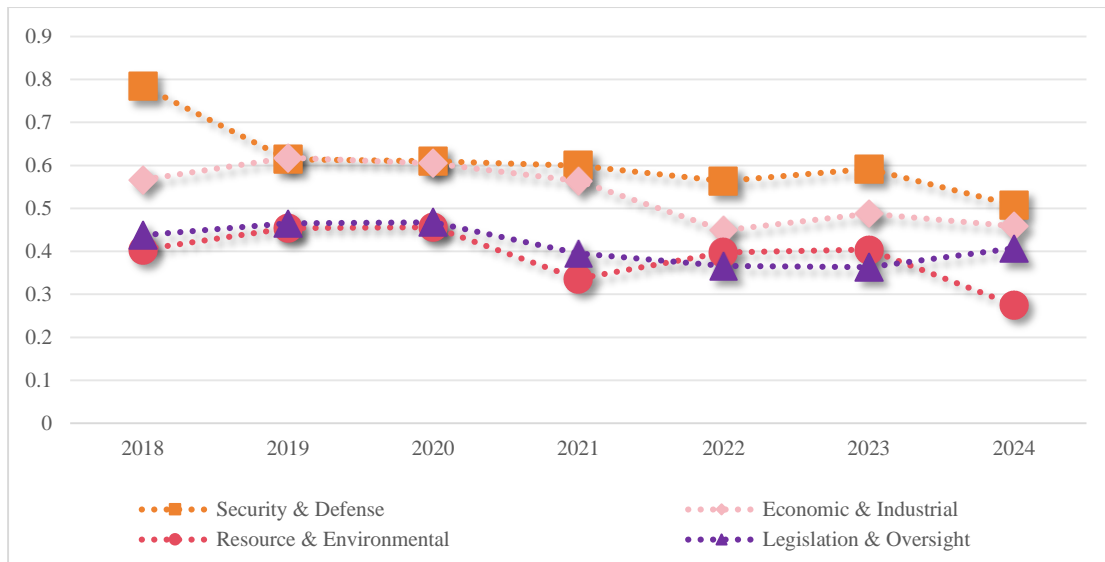


Figure 3: Evolution Path of Emotional Characteristics Across Different Government Agencies (Subjectivity)

● Security and Defense Agencies

Security Concerns Drive Policy Acceleration: The discourse within the defense agencies has gradually revealed noticeable tension and anxiety, driving faster policy execution, particularly in the diversification of supply chains and the establishment of strategic mineral reserves.

Emotional Resonance Reinforces Strategic Decision-Making: The strategic significance of critical minerals has been amplified by a negative emotion, indicating a robust internal consensus on mineral-related matters and emphasizing the necessity of prioritizing critical minerals as a national security concern to garner domestic and allied backing.

“Fear of Supply Chain Disruption” Accelerates Technological Replacement and Self-Reliance: The discourse surrounding “supply chain disruption” has fueled faster technological research and domestic production goals, with increasing demands for mineral autonomy in fields such as new energy and military technologies.

● Economic and Industrial Agencies

Positive Sentiments Foster Policy Assurance: The display of optimism and assurance by economic agencies plays a crucial role in stabilizing market expectations, sending

clear signals to both domestic and international investors. This in turn draws additional capital into the mining industry, invigorating the industrial supply chains.

Positive Emotions Communicate Developmental Aspirations: The utilization of affirmative expressions has underscored the economic advantages that critical minerals offer for economic growth and energy transition, thereby invigorating domestic spirit and fostering an inviting policy climate conducive to international collaboration.

- **Resource and Environmental Agencies**

Objective Rationality Enhances Policy Legitimacy: The objective and neutral expression reduces policy controversy, improving transparency and scientificity, and enhance the credibility of policies and the technical credibility in international dialogue.

Cautious Tone Reflects Policy Complexity: The cautious tone suggests heightened awareness of international responsibility in resource development and the high sensitivity to the balance between mineral development and environmental protection, leaving space for future technological breakthroughs and international dialogue.

- **Legislative and Oversight Agencies**

Technical Language Enhances Trust: The calm and technical tone within legislative agencies reduces the controversy of critical mineral policies, providing a guarantee for the fairness and enforcement of public policies.

Neutral Language Supports International Dialogue: The cautious and neutral emotional characteristics of legislative discourse enhances its credibility and fairness in international rule-making and cooperation, fostering greater support from the global community.

In summary, the changing dynamics of emotional characteristics reflect the functional positioning of various agencies, ranging from the urgency of defense agencies to the optimism and confidence of economic agencies, and to the neutrality and rationality of resource and legislative agencies, collectively constructing a comprehensive policy outlook on critical mineral issues. From another perspective, it also reflects the significant role of emotional transmission in enhancing policy enforcement, with the anxiety of security agencies driving policy urgency, the confidence of economic agencies strengthening market attractiveness, and the composure of neutral agencies ensuring policy legitimacy, forming a multi-level support system for policy

implementation and public recognition.

2. Insights from Major Events and Key Nodes in the Evolution of Discourse and Emotion

- Before and After the Presidential Election

Prior to the presidential election, global competitiveness became a focal point of political rivalry, signaling that critical minerals policy had become an important domestic political issue. The emphasis on national security and international competitiveness served as a compelling argument for electoral campaigns. The purpose of anxious emotions is to strengthen public support and encourage voters to pay more attention to the government's defensive capabilities and global competitiveness.

After the election, policies trends become more pragmatic and coordinated, with emotions gradually becoming more positive. This indicates that policies return from political propaganda to technicality and sustainability after the election, focusing on long-term interests, reflecting the U.S.' emphasis on international cooperation and environmental governance at the strategic level.

- Before and after the promulgation of policies

The focus of policies has shifted from traditional threats to modern needs, indicating that the U.S. is gradually adjusting its critical minerals policy to meet the demands of technological innovation and energy transition, enhancing competitiveness in the new energy field.

After the promulgation of policies, supply chain self-sufficiency has become a priority, reflecting the U.S. is committed to reducing geopolitical risks by strengthening local capabilities, while promoting the deep integration of the industrial chain with new energy technologies.

The anxious characteristics in emotions are the accelerator for the acceleration of policy discussions and introductions, and thus this anxious emotion gradually turns into positivity and maintains a certain level of confidence after the promulgation of policies.

- Before and After the Sino-U.S. Trade Dispute

Following the outbreak of the Sino-U.S. trade dispute, the shift in discourse focus suggested that the U.S. was accelerating the construction of a critical minerals strategy

centered around domestic production to address geopolitical uncertainties. Later, the heightened vigilance of the discourse set the tone for future strategic competition, signifying that critical minerals have become a key area in the Sino-U.S. rivalry, with future policies likely to adjust more sensitively to the evolving dynamics of Sino-U.S. relations and the global competitive landscape.

II. Discourse Characteristics and Evolution of U.S. Critical Minerals Strategy: An Analysis from the Perspective of News Media (2018-2024)

From 2018 to 2024, the strategic discourse on critical minerals in the U.S., as portrayed in media coverage, centered on "China threat theory" and supply chain security. Over time, the discourse shifted from caution towards China to an emphasis on supply chain resilience and the green energy transition, with emotions transitioning from concern to anticipation of international cooperation and sustainable development. Major events such as presidential elections and trade disputes significantly influenced media discourse and emotional reactions, highlighting the profound impact of policies and international relations on public discussions.

1. Strategic Insights into Synchronic Discourse Characteristics

U.S. media discourse on critical minerals mainly covers five key issues: "China threat theory," geopolitics, green energy transition, economic decoupling, and supply chain resilience. Based on an analysis of the coverage and key terms related to each issue, the following insights can be drawn.

- **“China Threat Theory”**

The U.S. has reinforced the "China threat theory" to shape the competitive landscape in global resource governance, aiming to build a public opinion and policy barrier against China. This reminds us that we need to strengthen our positive external publicity, clarify China's responsibilities and willingness to cooperate in the global mineral supply chain, and avoid being described simplistically as a "threat".

- **Geopolitics**

The U.S. has focused on China's "resource control" strategy, using geopolitical rivalry to expand its international influence. China needs to emphasize multilateral cooperation

on international platforms, balance criticisms of “China’s resource hegemony”, and strengthen international trust through multilateral agreements.

- **Green Energy Transition**

The U.S. has emphasized reducing dependence on China to drive green transformation, reflecting the ongoing reshaping of the global supply chain ecosystem. China can establish a positive image by promoting green mining technology innovation and global cooperation to contribute to the clean energy transition together.

- **Economic Decoupling**

Economic decoupling has become a core element of U.S. policy towards China, aiming to rejuvenate domestic industries and reduce dependence. China should strengthen its economic ties with other countries, diversify export routes, and enhance its international competitiveness to mitigate the potential risks of isolation.

- **Supply Chain Resilience**

The U.S. has promoted supply chain security and diversification, emphasizing the balance between domestic capacity building and international cooperation. China needs to demonstrate its key role in supply chain stability, promote win-win cooperation, especially by strengthening its dominant position in resource areas such as rare earths.

2. Strategic Insights into Diachronic Discourse Characteristics

Figure 4 illustrates the evolution of media discourse issues and emotional responses. Based on the changes in issues and emotions over time, the following insights can be drawn.

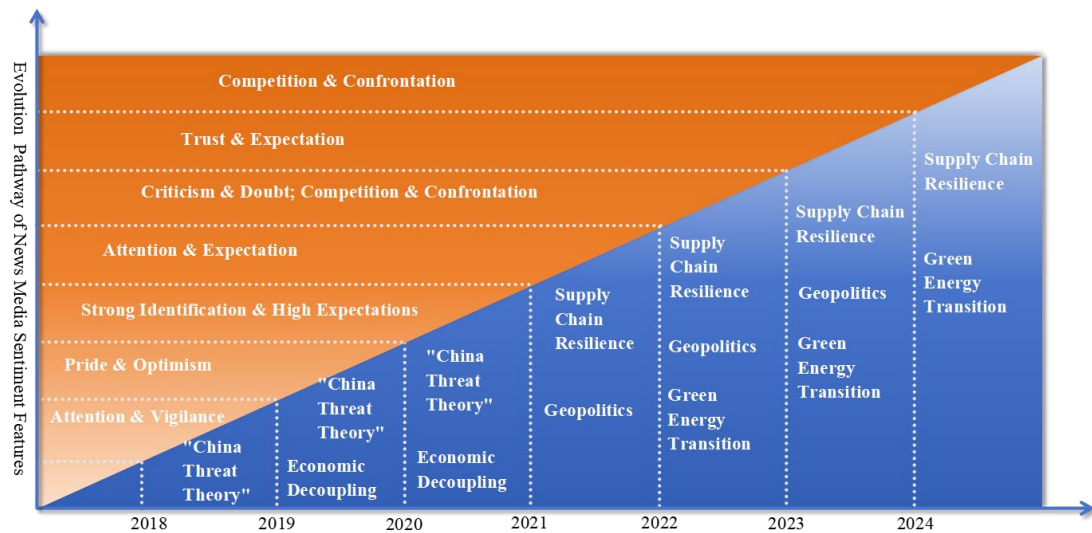


Figure 4: Evolution Path of Media Discourse Issues and Emotional Responses

● 2018

“China Threat Theory”: The U.S. media emphasized the "China threat theory" to strengthen domestic resource security awareness. China should enhance its international communication efforts, actively clarify its responsible role in the global supply chain and reduce the negative impact of perceptions of “China as a monopoly”.

Vigilance and Concern: The U.S. media express vigilance over China's dominant position in mineral resources. China needs to eliminate international concerns about monopolization of its supply chains through transparent and cooperative approaches, emphasizing China's contribution to global resource stability.

● 2019-2020

Economic Decoupling: In response to economic decoupling pressures, China should accelerate the independent study and development of key mineral technologies domestically while strengthening cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road, building a diversified supply chain and market structure.

Pride and Optimism: In the face of a confident emotional tone towards the U.S. decoupling strategy, China needs to focus on enhancing its own technological strength, maintaining competitiveness through technological innovation and efficiency improvement, and at the same time, promoting neutralized cooperation agendas to

hedge against the risks of unilateral decoupling.

● 2021

Supply Chain Resilience: Supply chain diversification is the main direction for future global mineral governance. Thus, China needs to demonstrate its significant role in the stability of the global supply chain and utilize its technological and supply advantages to promote the construction of a multilateral cooperation framework.

Cautious Optimism and Expectation: The U.S. has shown optimism in supply chain resilience, indicating that policy implementation has received certain social support. China needs to strengthen targeted cooperation with regions such as Europe in the mining sector, expand international markets, promote diversification of supply chains, and at the same time, promote international dialogue mechanisms in the field of critical minerals.

● 2022

Intensification of Geopolitical Competition: The U.S. has elevated the issue of critical minerals to the core of geopolitical competition, posing a challenge to China. China should leverage international cooperation mechanisms and regional agreements (such as RCEP, etc.) to reduce the confrontational nature of geopolitical competition and strengthen its leadership on cooperative agendas.

Increased Criticism and Confrontation: The peak of media sentiment indicates increased pressure on the U.S. in policy implementation and international competition. China needs to alleviate external concerns about its rise by actively participating in international cooperation and policy initiatives, and should strengthen cooperation with other developing countries to expand its support base.

● 2023-2024

Green Energy Transition: The global green energy transition presents both opportunities and challenges for China's critical mineral industry. China should actively participate in the rule-making process for the global green energy transition, promote the export of related technologies and development of standards, and consolidate its leadership in the field of new energy.

Trust and Confrontation: The transition to green energy not only creates opportunities

for cooperation but also intensifies the global competitive pressures. China must integrate its mineral resources strategy with environmental protection issues, leverage technological innovation, and participate in the formulation of international standards to further enhance its soft power and shape a positive national image amidst the complex and intertwined competition and cooperation landscape.

3. Insights from Major Events and Key Nodes in the Evolution of Discourse and Emotional Response

● Before and After the Presidential Election

Prior to the election, emotions tend to be tense and confrontational, reflecting the policy battles between candidates and their strategies to attract voters; after the election, the focus of discussion gradually shifts to the effectiveness of policy implementation, highlighting the importance of the government's stable execution capabilities. China can pay attention to the shift in discourse during the election period to formulate strategies to deal with various policy directions.

● Before and after the promulgation of policies

Prior to the promulgation of policies, there is often a sense of caution or anxiety, while after their promulgation, the media shows a certain level of anticipation for the policies. China should seize the opportunity of international discussions before policies are announced to actively engage, in order to mitigate any potential negative impact the policies might have on its own interests.

● Before and After the Sino-U.S. Trade Dispute

The trade dispute shifted the discourse from calm to confrontational, with emotions becoming more tense and vigilant. China needs to mitigate the potential risks of dependence on a single market by enhancing the technological capabilities and diversification strategies of its supply chain, while actively promoting international cooperation to reduce the negative impact of disputes.

III. Discourse Characteristics and Evolution of U.S. Critical Minerals Strategy: An Analysis from the Perspective of Corporations and Associations

The language and discourse of U.S. mining corporations and associations have experienced notable transformations in recent years. These corporations have

increasingly concentrated on sustainable development, technological innovation, and supply chain security, whereas mining associations have highlighted the importance of policy support and industry protection. With the changes in the global political and economic situation, especially the influence of geopolitical risks and the energy transition, the conversation within the mining sector has progressively shifted towards environmental protection, green development, and mineral recycling technologies. Mining corporations and associations have demonstrated a clear capacity for adaptability and strategic adjustments in response to significant policy changes and international disputes. These corporations and industry associations are greatly affected by policies and laws, and their influence on policy-making remains to be further observed.

1. Strategic Insights into Synchronic Discourse Characteristics

● U.S. Mining Corporations

Figure 5 illustrates the synchronic characteristics of mining corporations' discourse, from which the following insights can be derived.

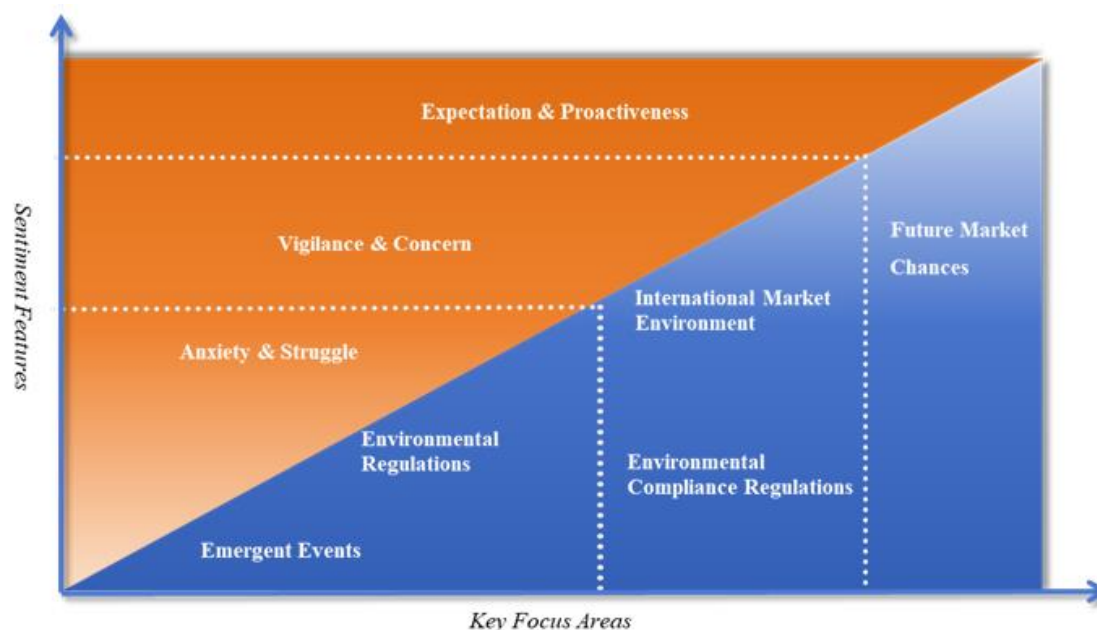


Figure 5: Synchronic Characteristics of Mining Corporations' Discourse

Strategic Significance of Core Resources: The escalating attention from U.S. mining corporations towards critical resources such as rare earths and copper highlights their

growing significance within global supply chains. China needs to strengthen its discourse power in the international rare earth market, advocate for the export of high-value-added commodities, and take an active role in the formulation of pertinent regulations to preserve its dominant position in the market.

Technological Innovation and Environmental Protection: U.S. mining corporations are improving the efficiency of resource utilization and mitigating environmental impacts by leveraging technological advancements, thereby highlighting the importance of green mining development. China should expedite the research and development of green mining and recycling technologies for critical minerals, and promote environmentally friendly mining standards to bolster international competitiveness and increase its influence.

Energy Transition and Resource Security: Corporations are focusing on the demand for mineral resources in the context of a low-carbon economy. China has the opportunity to reinforce its indispensable role in the global energy transition by guaranteeing a stable and eco-friendly supply of these essential minerals.

● **U.S. Mining Associations**

Figure 6 depicts the synchronic characteristics of mining associations' discourse, from which the following insights can be derived.

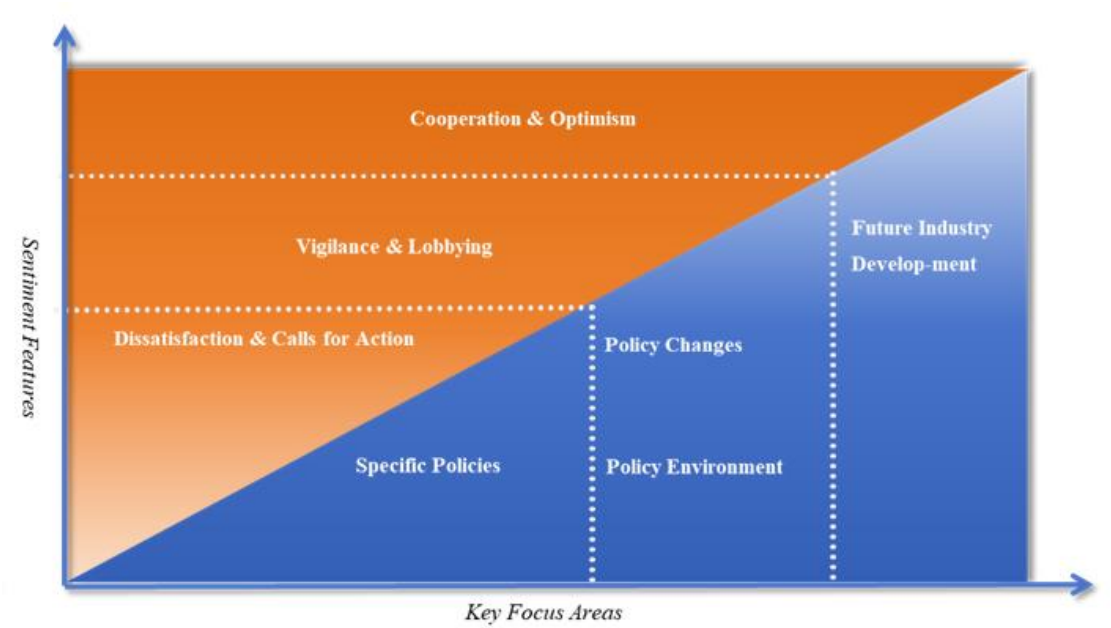


Figure 6: Synchronic Characteristics of Mining Associations' Discourse

Policy Support and Legislative Optimization: U.S. mining associations lobby for policy support and regulatory improvements, emphasizing the need for a favorable policy environment for the mining industry. Chinese mining corporations and associations ought to enhance their external communication channels and proactively engage on the global stage to ensure a level playing field, steering clear of undue restrictions and "political" interventions.

Supply Chain Security and Economic Independence: Associations' emphasis on supply chain security signals that China should promote multilateral cooperation and regional supply chain development, strengthen strategic reserves of domestic resources, and encourage joint development in the resource sector with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

Technological Innovation and Global Competitiveness: Associations advocate for mineral recycling and technological advancements, indicating that China should guide domestic mining corporations to boost their research and development spending, improve their technological prowess, and cultivate a high-tech and high-efficiency reputation on the global stage.

2. Strategic Insights into Diachronic Discourse Characteristics

From 2018 to 2024, the focus of U.S. mining corporations and associations has progressively shifted from traditional mineral extraction towards technological innovation and environmental responsibility. Drawing on these traits,, the following insights can be drawn:

Strengthened Position of Core Resources: Given the increasing significance of critical minerals, China ought to reinforce its dominant position in the supply chain for resources such as rare earths. Simultaneously, it should foster technological advancement and international collaboration within burgeoning critical minerals sectors, including lithium and nickel, to further expand its resource-based advantages.

Strengthening Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection: China should bolster its green mining development strategy, cultivate a positive international environmental image, and advocate for green mineral development technologies and standards to enhance its the discourse power in global mining governance.

Heightened Emphasis on Supply Chain Security: In light of escalating concerns regarding supply chain security, China ought to further its "going out" strategy, bolster the diversification and stability of global mineral supply chains, and set up robust risk management mechanisms to counteract unforeseen geopolitical events.

The Emergence of the new theme “Energy Transition”: The burgeoning demand for minerals within the renewable energy sector offers China the chance to amplify its export capabilities and deepen technological partnerships. It is imperative for China to hasten its investments in the critical minerals supply chain for new energy sources, leveraging its technological prowess to spearhead the international formulation of regulations and establishment of standards within this arena.

3. Insights from Major Events and Critical Moments in the Evolution of Discourse and Emotional Response

U.S. mining corporations and associations exhibit clear discourse adjustments before and after major events, especially around presidential elections, key mineral policy changes, and the Sino-U.S. trade dispute. These shifts demonstrate their rapid adaptation to new policies.

● Before and After the Presidential Election

Prior to the election, corporations and associations underscored the importance of domestic resource independence and supply chain security, indicating that China ought to proactively address the U.S. reduction in reliance on imported minerals. This can be achieved by enhancing product value-added and technological advantages, as well as intensifying international collaboration within the critical mineral sector. Following the election, corporations and associations have primarily sought policy support. It is imperative for China to monitor the new government's approach to mineral policies, promptly refine its export strategies, and enhance its agility and responsiveness within international markets.

● Before and After Policy Implementation

Mineral recycling and technological innovation have emerged as pivotal concerns, underscoring the imperative for China to expedite the advancement of mineral recycling and circular utilization technologies. This strategic move aims to establish a comprehensive industry chain advantage, stretching from raw materials to finished

products, thereby enhancing global competitiveness. Amidst shifts in U.S. policies, China must bolster collaboration with third countries to mitigate export pressures resulting from unilateral policy alterations. Concurrently, China should actively engage in global resource governance dialogues and contribute to the formulation of international rules.

● **Before and After the Sino-U.S. Trade Dispute**

The trade dispute prompted U.S. corporations to increasingly depend on domestic manufacturing, indicating that China must bolster its domestic production of critical minerals, fortify the resilience of its supply chains, and safeguard its market position despite diminishing external dependencies. Supply chain diversification emerged as a paramount concern for the U.S., and China has the opportunity to address this by enhancing cooperation with nations participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, establishing regional supply chain networks to alleviate uncertainties in external markets.

IV. U.S. Critical Minerals Strategy Outlook and Proposed Countermeasures for China

1. Strategic Outlook and Insights

● **Government Agencies**

The Ongoing Standoff and Enhanced Prevention Efforts by Security and Defense Agencies: China must vigilantly observe the U.S. moves to restrict mineral trade with China under the pretext of national security. It should further solidify its dominance in the realm of rare earths and critical minerals, while also underscoring the robustness of its supply chains. This emphasizes China's indispensable role within the global supply network.

The Game of Technological Competition and Cooperation in Economic and Industrial Agencies: China has the potential to participate in the global transition towards a green economy by exporting technology and engaging in international cooperation projects. By leveraging its technological and industrial strengths, China can propel the development of global clean energy and simultaneously improve the international image.

The Resources and Environmental Agencies' Environmental Competition and Rule

Guidance: China ought to adopt a proactive stance on environmental matters, crafting an international image as a responsible power by advancing green mining standards and environmental technologies, addressing criticisms from opponents regarding China's environmental issues.

Tightening Supervision and Rule Adjustments by Legislative and Regulatory Agencies: The legislative and regulatory agencies in China should persist in monitoring the precise trajectories and assessment frameworks of the U.S. critical mineral policies. They should also intensify domestic policy research efforts and devise mineral governance strategies that are congruent with international regulations, thereby securing a favorable stance in the global arena of mineral rule-making.

● **News Media**

Confrontational Discourse: China needs to strengthen international public opinion guidance and public relations strategies, proactively engaging with confrontational narratives and clarifying its constructive role in critical mineral supply chains. By disseminating objective information through third-party organizations and media, China can help to diminish adversarial sentiments.

Green Energy Competition: China can leverage its technological prowess in the new energy and critical minerals sectors, emphasizing its positive contribution to the global energy transition. This approach can help to alleviate strategic misunderstandings about China and promote a cooperative, mutually beneficial international image. China can highlight its positive contributions to the global energy transition by promoting its technological advantages in the fields of new energy and critical minerals. This approach can help alleviate strategic misunderstandings about China and shape an international image of cooperation and mutual benefit.

Strategic Decoupling: China should prepare for and respond to the U.S.'s "decoupling" policies by means of strengthening the trade cooperation with other markets to reduce reliance on single markets, exposing and counteracting the negative impacts of decoupling policies within multilateral cooperation frameworks.

● **Mining Corporations and Industry**

Supply Chain Security: China should accelerate the development of global mineral supply chains, deepen collaboration with resource-abundant nations, establish a

diversified and stable supply network. At the same time, by strategically positioning production capacity, China can stabilize international market expectations and enhance the reliability of the supply chain.

Environmental Protection and Social Responsibility: Chinese mining corporations ought to prioritize environmental stewardship and social accountability, by advancing the adoption of green mining technologies and circular economy paradigms, they can enhance the global image of China's mining sector and establish a standard for mining corporations worldwide.

Technological Innovation and Market Competitiveness: Chinese mining corporations must escalate their research and development expenditures on cutting-edge technologies, boost the deep processing proficiencies of critical minerals, capture high-end segments within the mineral market, and reinforce their technological discourse influence, thereby preventing the perpetuation of their role as mere suppliers of primary resources. Chinese mining corporations need to increase investment in the research and development of new technologies, enhance the deep processing capabilities of critical minerals, and capture the high-end mineral industry chain market. This will strengthen their technological discourse power and prevent the solidification of their role as merely primary resource suppliers.

Domestic Policy Response and Lobbying: China ought to establish communication channels between industry associations and government agencies, leveraging the nation's mineral resource strengths to foster policy support. This initiative aims to bolster the global competitiveness of domestic mining corporations and enhance their resilience against risks.

2. Proposed Countermeasures for China

To bolster the national image and international discourse power, the following six recommendations are proposed:

- **Strengthen Government-Corporation Collaboration:** Offer financial support to encourage corporations' engagement in international discourse; set up interdepartmental coordination mechanisms.
- **Forge a Positive International Image:** Craft an international communication strategy; construct a discourse framework for China's strategic mineral resources;

create promotional materials in multiple languages.

- **Proactively Address Misleading Foreign Media Coverage:** Establish an information transparency mechanism; construct a public opinion monitoring and early warning system for mineral resources; harness the expertise of international teams.
- **Participate in International Rule-Making:** Proactively nominate experts; collaborate with global sinology centers; host international conferences.
- **Enhance International Collaboration and Dialogue:** Forge bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements; foster civil exchange initiatives.
- **Enhance Research and Exchange:** Establish a global mineral data-sharing platform; regularly publish policy recommendation reports; set up regional and country-specific research bases for mineral resources.