

# Axios: China, Russia Use H-1B Workers for Cheap Propaganda

[Neil Munro](#) 30 Mar 2022



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Malevolent groups are using the huge H-1B visa-worker program to do bad things in the United States, says a shocked [report](#) in Axios.com.

“Foreign propaganda organs — including those from Russia and China — have used a visa program designed to lure high-skilled workers to

the U.S. to place reporters, editors and producers at their American outposts, records show," according to the Axios [report](#).

The report headlined "Propagandists plumb 'high-skilled' visa program," continued:

**Why it matters:** The H-1B program is designed to bolster U.S. competitiveness by seeding American firms with educated workers from abroad. Government data shows it's also being used to boost foreign state media operations on U.S. soil.

[...]

**By the numbers:** China leads the way by a large margin, with H-1B visa approvals for state-run outlets such as CCTV, People's Daily, China Daily and Xinhua.

Without the visa programs, the foreign media outlets would have been pressured to hire American journalists, likely allowing a more accurate coverage of America around the world.

But Axios' disfavor towards the use of visa-worker journalists is in sharp contrast to its [gentle coverage](#) of the Fortune 500's use of the H-1B to sideline myriad American non-journalist graduates.

The H-1B program is just one of many programs — such as the J-1, L-1, OPT, TN, and EB-3 — that are used by companies to cut payroll costs and [spike share values](#).

Most of the imported workers are merely [mid-skill, no-rights, compliant workers](#). They are used by investors and executives to [bump outspoken, ambitious American professionals](#) out of Fortune 500

careers, sometimes with [disastrous results](#). But the visa programs were also used to import more than one million wage-cutting foreigners for [nursing and technician jobs](#) sought by American women.

Axios also claimed "Competition for H-1B visas is intense due to a strict cap on the number awarded annually." Actually, there is no cap on the award of new H-1Bs to universities and non-profits. Also, there is no limit on renewals of the three-year H-1B visa, and there are many alternative visa-worker programs.

About 3 million H-1Bs have been imported since 1990.

Many of those visa workers have gone home — usually with an outsourced U.S. job — back to low-wage India after learning from skilled Americans how to do the job.

Many of the contract workers have stayed to become citizens — perhaps 1.2 million of the workers, plus their families. The permanent inflow ensures continued wage-cutting competition for a vast array of Fortune 500 technical and management jobs.

Many H-1Bs — at least 350,000 — remain working in U.S. jobs long after their first three-year visa has ended.

This massive displacement of the U.S. professional sector has [pushed many Americans](#) into non-technical jobs. The shift floods the labor market for other careers, such as journalism. The result is that many U.S. graduates [earn less](#) — and also must pay higher prices for apartments and homes.

In March 2020, Breitbart News covered the use of H-1B visa workers in [U.S.-based Chinese media](#):

Chinese media outlets import numerous journalists into the United States via the H-1B program, usually at very low salaries.

The imported visa-workers' wages are as low as \$33,000 per year – despite the large number of Americans seeking journalist careers – according to federal data collected by [MyVisaJobs.com](#).

MyVisaJobs.com uses federal data to track job opportunities [for](#)

[foreign graduates](#) in the United States. The [data shows](#) that employers nationwide nominated 11,153 Chinese-born migrants for green cards in 2019; 12,612 in 2018; 8,603 in 2017; and 7,217 in 2016. Overall, 59,870 Chinese has been nominated for green cards since 2010 by U.S. employers. Nearly all of those requests are approved by the government, after a short delay.

[...]

The MyVisaJobs data shows the many requests for H-1B workers in 2019, 2018, and 2017 by China-run outlets, as well as by U.S. media companies that hire Chinese workers:

Xinhuanet North America Corporation asked for [five H-1Bs](#) in 2019, at an average wage of \$82,400.

Xinhua Book Store USA Corp. sought [four H-1Bs](#) and a green card for one employee who is being paid just \$43,000.

Sinovision Inc., asked [for 68 H-1Bs](#), at a wage between \$34,800 and \$50,700.

Chinese Information Radio sought [one H-1B](#) for an employee to be paid \$42,000.

Backchina sought [10 workers](#) at an average of roughly \$33,000.

Sino Television Inc., sought [seven H-1Bs](#), at an average wage of \$33,000.

Pacific Culture Enterprise Inc., [asked for 34 H-1Bs](#), at an average wage of roughly \$40,000. The company reportedly [includes](#) the [China Press](#).

World Journal Llc. sought [54 H-1Bs](#) between \$35,00 and \$62,000. The company produces Chinese-language [newspapers](#).

[Zhong Want TV](#) Inc. sought [seven H-1Bs](#).

This month, the Department of Homeland Security is expected to provide investors with another 85,000 H-1B work permits. Employers will use many of those permits to hire foreign graduates eager to work long hours, at low pay, in the hope of getting green cards.

So far, [Axios Media](#) has only sought to hire one H-1B engineer and one reporter, who might be Australian.

But many other U.S. media outlets — Bloomberg, BuzzFeed, Gannett, Dow Jones, Univision — import reporters and editors under the “[arts](#)” [category](#) of the H-1B program. This inflow reduces the hiring of American journalists, especially at foreign-language media outlets in the United States.