
RARE EARTH METALS AT THE HEART OF CHINA'S RIVALRY WITH US, EUROPE

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What if China were to cut off the United States and Europe from access to rare minerals that are essential to electric vehicles, wind turbines and drones?

At a time of frequent geopolitical friction among those three powers, Washington and Brussels want to avoid this scenario by investing in the market for 17 minerals with unique properties that today are largely extracted and refined in China.

The expected exponential growth in demand for minerals that are linked to clean energy is putting more pressure on US and Europe to take a closer look at where the vulnerabilities are and the concrete steps these governments can take, said Jane Nakano, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

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