

# China's Factory of Ideas | Quartz

By Isabelle Niu

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Isabelle Niu takes a look at China's burgeoning tech industry. She notes that major companies like Alibaba and Tencent grew in part because of the censorship of China's Great Firewall, rather than in spite of it. Her report finds that innovation doesn't necessarily need democracy, and that the future of tech will have to reckon with this fact as China's influence over the industry continues to grow.

## China's Factory of Ideas

Get ready for the future of the internet, courtesy of China—Tech giants like Alibaba and Tencent spent years growing behind the Great Firewall, nurtured by the Chinese government. Now, they're using their power and influence to shape our digital lives. In our second episode, Quartz reporter Isabelle Niu examines China's multi-billion-dollar livestreaming industry to understand how China is transitioning from being the world's factory of things, to a factory of ideas. Follow Quartz News for weekly deep-dives into the global issues shaping our future and tune in Thursdays at 12 pm EST for new episodes.

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