

《为何特朗普的高尔夫外交对于习近平而言并不奏效？》

导读:习近平主席访美在即，作为高尔夫爱好者的美国总统特朗普会邀请习主席打高尔夫球吗？值得期待。



Beijing (CNN) — It's the US President's preferred weekend pastime and one he's used to strike up a rapport with other world leaders.

CNN??? ???

But few expect Donald Trump to tee off with Xi Jinping, his Chinese counterpart, in Florida this week.

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Trump will host Xi at his exclusive Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach on April 6 and 7.

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Xi, an avid soccer fan, isn't known to be a golfer -- and he's been waging a war on the sport in his country.

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Since he came to power nearly five years ago, Xi's government has shut down scores of golf courses across China and effectively banned the 88 million members of the ruling Communist Party from playing.

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"For Xi, golf is just such a touchy topic back home, saddled with so much baggage," said Dan Washburn, author of "The Forbidden Game: Golf and the Chinese Dream," a book on the tumultuous history of golf in China.

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"It's a symbol of the corruption Xi has been railing against," he added. "It represents a lot of the things he has spent much of his presidency fighting, so it's hard to envision the government embracing the game any time soon -- at least publicly."

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Rich man's game

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The Communists banned golf in China after they took power in 1949, denouncing it as a "game for millionaires."

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Even after China re-opened to the outside world and golf emerged again in the mid 1980s -- largely as a way to attract foreign investment -- Beijing has swung between rejecting and supporting the sport.

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A 2004 nationwide ban on new golf course projects was aimed at preserving natural resources in a country with a severe shortage of water and arable land. However, local officials, eager for huge profits from selling land, had often ignored the order until Xi decided to enforce it.

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Golf habit

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Trump has been taking some heat for indulging in his golf habit.

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His presence at a Virginia golf club in late March triggered an online uproar, as his aides had claimed he was working in the White House during the same time.

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