



MINING CRACKDOWN

072 / 24 SEP 2021 / CHINA / RARE

THE MINERS MOVE ON.

On 24 September 2021, China's National Development and Reform Commission published Notice 1283, a nationwide directive against cryptocurrency mining. Dated 3 September and issued with ten other departments, it prohibited new projects and called for existing operations to leave the industry in an orderly way.

The crackdown was already reshaping mining months earlier. On 21 May, the State Council's Financial Stability and Development Committee called for action against Bitcoin mining and trading. Sichuan's energy regulator followed with an 18 June notice ordering generators to stop supplying mining operations, part of the earlier wave of restrictions.

The September notice joined energy policy to financial regulation. Authorities cited electricity consumption, carbon emissions and financial risks, while directing local governments to identify mining sites, monitor abnormal power use and remove policy support. It established a detailed national framework for closing mining projects after the earlier interventions.

Cambridge researchers recorded a 38% fall in global Bitcoin hashrate during June, followed by a partial rebound in July and August. They interpreted that recovery as evidence that some equipment had been redeployed overseas. By August, their estimates placed the United States first, with Kazakhstan and Russia among the largest mining centres.

The illustrated worker packing a machine makes this geographic upheaval tangible. These are imagined people and premises, representing the labour behind relocation. Later Cambridge data also indicated substantial covert mining within China. THE MINERS MOVE ON captures an industry changing its map, rather than a claim that every miner left.

DETAILS IN THE ART

01 NOTICE 1283

The wall notice pairs 1283 with 2021.09.03. Both point to the national mining directive: 3 September is its signed date, while the card's 24 September date marks publication. The illustrated paperwork is a stylised prop.

02 MAY AND JUNE

The MAY 2021 and JUN 2021 crate labels anchor the earlier crackdown. May brought the national call against Bitcoin mining and trading; June brought shutdown measures. Packing and relocation were underway before September's published notice.

03 THE ICO 2017 FILE

The folder marked ICO 2017 recalls China's earlier intervention against token fundraising. That announcement ordered token-financing activities to stop and restricted exchange services. It supplies regulatory background rather than dating this warehouse scene.

04 THE UNADDRESSED TAG

The right-hand crate carries a blank shipping tag and an upward handling arrow. Together with the packed machine, they suggest equipment in transit and the work of relocation. No destination or departure date is written into this imagined shipment.

SOURCE & ART NOTE

Sources: NDRC Notice 1283, September 2021; NDRC mining notice explanation, September 2021; State Council directive, May 2021; Sichuan power restrictions, June 2021; Cambridge mining map, October 2021; Cambridge mining follow-up, May 2022; China ICO restrictions, September 2017. The warehouse, workers and shipment are imagined. Notice 1283 carries its 3 September signed date; 24 September marks publication. The month labels recall earlier restrictions. The blank tag identifies no destination. The caption is editorial, and the scene implies no named operator or endorsement.