

February 29, 2024

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

**Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues**

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,  
MP-IDSA**



## **China sends new naval fleet for escort mission in Gulf of Aden**

China Daily, February 21, 2024

The 46th fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy set sail from a military port in the coastal city of Zhanjiang in south China's Guangdong Province to take over an escort mission from the 45th naval fleet in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. The 46th fleet includes the guided-missile destroyer Jiaozuo, the missile frigate Xuchang, and the comprehensive replenishment vessel Honghu. It has over 700 officers and soldiers, including dozens of special forces personnel, and two helicopters onboard.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/21/WS65d5b6d8a31082fc043b857c.html>

## **China's rush to dominate A.I. comes with a twist: it depends on U.S. technology**

Paul Mozur, John Liu and Cade Metz

The New York Times, February 21, 2024

Even as the country races to build generative A.I., Chinese companies are relying almost entirely on underlying systems from the United States. China now lags the United States in generative A.I. by at least a year and may be falling further behind, according to more than a dozen tech industry insiders and leading engineers, setting the stage for a new phase in the cutthroat technological competition between the two nations that some have likened to a cold war. "Chinese companies are under tremendous pressure to keep abreast of U.S. innovations," said Chris Nicholson, an investor with the venture capital firm Page One Ventures who focuses on A.I. technologies. The release of ChatGPT was "yet another Sputnik moment that China felt it had to respond to."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/21/technology/china-united-states-artificial-intelligence.html>

## **China debuts latest Z-10ME attack helicopter at Singapore Airshow**

Hayley Wong and Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, February 21, 2024

China's latest Z-10ME attack helicopter is on display at the Singapore Airshow, the first time it has been featured in an overseas exhibition. Analysts said the international debut indicated China was on the lookout for new buyers as global weapons demand soars. The Z-10 is already in service with the People's Liberation Army, and is among the helicopter models used in drills on the border with India and near Taiwan. State-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), one of the developers of the aircraft, said an upgraded export version was being showcased at the

Singapore Airshow. This comes about six years after a production-ready version of the multirole attack helicopter was unveiled at a national air show in China.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3252744/china-debuts-latest-z-10me-attack-helicopter-singapore-air-show>

## **Silicon Valley venture capitalists are breaking up with China**

Erin Griffith

The New York Times, February 21, 2024

In Washington, actions to limit investing in China have piled up. President Biden signed an executive order last year restricting investments from U.S. firms in Chinese start-ups working on artificial intelligence, quantum computing and semiconductors. This month, a congressional committee investigation sharply criticized five U.S. venture firms in a report that outlined their investments in Chinese companies that helped facilitate human rights abuses and built weapons for the Chinese military. The committee did not accuse the firms of breaking the law, but urged lawmakers to pass legislation further restricting such investments.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/21/technology/silicon-valley-vc-china.html>

## **China begins construction on 2nd phase of Zhangzhou nuclear power project**

Xinhua, February 22, 2024

China has begun construction on the second phase of the Zhangzhou nuclear power project using Hualong One reactors, domestically developed third-generation reactors, in the city of Zhangzhou, east China's Fujian Province. The first four Hualong One units have been completed and put into operation, according to the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). The Zhangzhou nuclear power project is designed to consist of six nuclear power units, each with a 1-million-kilowatt power generation capacity. Hualong One reactors were designed by two nuclear power giants: China General Nuclear Power Group and the CNNC.

<https://english.news.cn/20240222/aeeba090938a44ce8566e361d4a64bea/c.html>

## **Leaked files from Chinese firm show vast international hacking effort**

Christian Shepherd, Cate Cadell, Ellen Nakashima, Joseph Menn and Aaron Schaffer

The Washington Post, February 22, 2024

A trove of leaked documents from a Chinese state-linked hacking group shows that Beijing's intelligence and military groups are attempting large-scale, systematic cyber intrusions against

foreign governments, companies and infrastructure — with hackers of one company claiming to be able to target users of Microsoft, Apple and Google. The cache — containing more than 570 files, images and chat logs — offers an unprecedented look inside the operations of one of the firms that Chinese government agencies hire for on-demand, mass data-collecting operations.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/02/21/china-hacking-leak-documents-isoan/>

## **China's National Narcotics Laboratory to leverage its technical support role in China-US drug control cooperation**

Guo Yuandan

Global Times, February 22, 2024

China's National Narcotics Laboratory will leverage its technical support role in bilateral drug control cooperation between China and the US, the Global Times learned, after recent close interactions on drug control between Chinese and American senior officials. The technical director of the laboratory hoped to restore previous pragmatic and efficient cooperation status between the two countries. China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong and US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas met in Vienna, Austria, discussing bilateral cooperation on drug control and law enforcement. The Chinese minister said he hopes that the two sides will uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and remove obstacles to bilateral drug control and law enforcement cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307506.shtml>

## **The top US Army general in the Pacific is 'worried' about China's missiles but counting on his soldiers being a 'dilemma' for the Rocket Force**

Chris Panella

Business Insider India, February 23, 2024

China's Rocket Force has seen substantial and sustained growth in the size of its arsenal in recent years, raising concerns in the US about the role that its missiles would play in a potential conflict in the Pacific. The commanding general of US Army Pacific told Business Insider during a large-scale training exercise in Alaska that while the growth has been "meteoric" and he is "always worried" about the missiles, the Army has many ways to create a "dilemma" that China may not be expecting. Last fall, the Pentagon released its annual report on China's military, detailing developments over the past year. The report highlighted increases in China's missile stockpiles across the board, increases in the number of launchers, and new capabilities within the Rocket

Force, the People's Liberation Army branch handling China's ballistic missiles for conventional and nuclear strike.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/defense/news/the-top-us-army-general-in-the-pacific-is-worried-about-chinas-missiles-but-counting-on-his-soldiers-being-a-dilemma-for-the-rocket-force/articleshow/107946092.cms>

## **China launches new communication technology experiment satellite**

Zhao Lei

China Daily, February 23, 2024

China launched a Long March 5 carrier rocket to deploy an experimental satellite into space, according to the State-owned conglomerate China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the nation's dominant space contractor. The rocket was made by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, a subsidiary of the company, and was the 11th in the Long March 5 series. The satellite was built by the China Academy of Space Technology, another CASC subsidiary, and is tasked with verifying multi-band, high-speed space-based communication technologies, according to the release. The mission was China's ninth rocket launch this year and the 509th flight of the Long March rocket family, the nation's main launch vehicle fleet.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/23/WS65d89f02a31082fc043b8d38.html>

## **China and US agree to keep communication open over Korean peninsula**

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, February 23, 2024

China and the United States have agreed to continue communicating over the situation on the Korean peninsula, as series of North Korean missile tests ratcheted up tensions in the region. In a meeting via video link, Liu Xiaoming, China's special envoy for Korean peninsula affairs, said a stable Korean peninsula was in the interests of the region and the world. "All parties concerned should face the crux of the question of the peninsula and address their respective concerns in a balanced manner through meaningful dialogue," Liu told Jung Pak, the US deputy special representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as North Korea is officially known.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3253029/china-and-us-agree-keep-communication-open-over-north-korean-missile-tests-and-escalating-tension>

## **China's top anti-espionage authority warns of secret leaks through smart wearable devices**

Global Times, February 23, 2024

China's top anti-espionage authority warned that various smart wearable devices may become "cyber spies" used by foreign intelligence agencies to carry out espionage activities, posing a threat to national security. The Ministry of State Security (MSS) said on its official WeChat account that when smart wearable devices are connected to smartphones via wireless networks or Bluetooth, foreign cyber spies could launch attacks on the devices through the internet, implanting specific Trojan horse programs without the user's knowledge, thereby gaining control over functions such as recording and taking photos to steal secrets. Some cameras placed in sensitive or classified areas, once utilized by foreign spy intelligence agencies, pose a threat to national security.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307573.shtml>

## **'The Sentinel State' review: China's citizen spies**

L. Gordon Crovitz

The Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2024

It's no secret that China's government keeps tabs on people it considers potential threats to the regime. Facial-recognition scanners, DNA samples and government-monitored mobile phones are the best-known means by which Chinese citizens—and increasingly anyone anywhere—are surveilled by Beijing. What has been a state secret is that the world's most advanced technologies are not the most important tool that the Chinese Communist Party uses to maintain order. As Minxin Pei explains in "The Sentinel State," the most effective methods to monitor Chinese citizens are deployed not by machines or computer code but by other Chinese citizens: a vast network of informants mobilized by government agencies at the national, provincial and local levels.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china/the-sentinel-state-review-chinas-citizen-spies-e2a95bd8>

## **Philippines' reckless actions in South China Sea only burn itself**

Ma Bo and Ruan Wenjia

China Military Online, February 23, 2024

Recently, the Philippines collaborated with countries outside the region to stir up the situation in the South China Sea by organizing the so-called joint air patrols and publicly hyping them. For this, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command responded and stressed that the situation was fully under control, and the troops of the Theater Command always remain high alert to resolutely defend China's national sovereignty, security, and maritime rights

and interests, and safeguard the peace and stability in the South China Sea. However, irrespective of how strong the desire to appease the US is, the Philippines, as a neighbor of China, should not employ accomplishments that compromise China's interests as proof of allegiance and tie its trajectory and destiny to the chariot of the US.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/WORLD\\_209198/WorldMilitaryAnalysis/16288521.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/WORLD_209198/WorldMilitaryAnalysis/16288521.html)

## **China names new vehicles for manned lunar exploration mission**

CGTN, February 24, 2024

China unveiled the names of its new manned lunar exploration mission vehicles. The lunar lander is called "Lanyue" and the manned spacecraft "Mengzhou," according to the China Manned Space Agency. The names were selected by a group of experts from nearly 2,000 public proposals, the agency said. "Lanyue," which means "Embracing the Moon" in English, first appeared in a poem written by the late Chairman Mao Zedong in 1965, the agency added. The word symbolizes China's aspiration and confidence in its exploration of the universe and expedition to the moon, according to the agency.

<https://www.cgtn.com/newsletter/sci-tech/108.html>

## **De-Coupling from China is proceeding. There can be no doubt**

Milton Ezrati

Forbes, February 24, 2024

Data from China and across the world shows success in U.S., European, and Japanese efforts to diversify sourcing away from China. Each of these important markets has diminished trade with China and appreciably so. The figures may exaggerate the degree of success, since Chinese business has repositioned itself into third countries and otherwise transshipped goods through other countries, and those operations do not count in the China trade data.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/miltonezrati/2024/02/24/de-coupling-from-china-is-proceeding-there-can-be-no-doubt/?sh=159f785c5d58>

## **Chinese aircraft carriers are getting 5G super stealth fighters. Watch out Taiwan**

David Axe

The Telegraph, February 25, 2024

The surprise appearance of China's newest stealth fighter on China's oldest aircraft carrier raised eyebrows this month. Is the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy planning to deploy the

Shenyang J-35 aboard the aging flattop Liaoning and her sister vessel Shandong, and not just on the newer – and much bigger – carrier Fujian? If so, it could complicate US Navy war plans as the Americans factor in the growing capability of the PLAN's growing carrier fleet. At present, the PLAN – which by some measures is the world's biggest navy – has just two operational carriers, compared to the US Navy's 11. The 61,000-ton Liaoning, a rebuilt ex-Soviet carrier that entered Chinese service in 2012, was the first. The slightly improved and newly-built sister ship Shandong joined the fleet in 2019.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/25/china-taiwan-aircraft-carriers-stealth-fighters-5th-gen/>

## **China slams false claim over 'ecological destruction' in South China Sea**

CGTN, February 25, 2024

A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines called relevant parties to respect the facts and not be misled by untruthful media tactics over "ecological destruction" in South China Sea. The comments came after a U.S. think tank accused China of having destroyed at least 21,000 acres of coral reefs in the South China Sea since 2012 through island construction and fishing of giant clams. "This think tank concocted the false report by citing a few satellite images and stirring up falsified allegations from years ago, and such a report is neither factual nor verifiable," the spokesperson said. China has always attached great importance to the protection of ecological environment of the Nansha Islands and Reefs and their adjacent waters, he added.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-02-25/China-slams-false-claim-over-ecological-destruction-in-South-China-Sea-1rtD17WPmA8/p.html>

## **China has biggest diplomatic footprint in the world just ahead of US, new analysis shows**

Stephen Dziedzic

ABC News, February 26, 2024

New analysis shows that China still has the largest diplomatic footprint across the globe, narrowly pipping the United States. Meanwhile, Australia maintains a relatively modest network of embassies and ranks 26th in the world for its diplomatic presence, behind several nations with smaller or comparable economies. Meanwhile, Taiwan's official diplomatic missions continue to dwindle, with Taipei losing eight allies to Beijing since the last survey. But Mr Neelam said Taiwan had still been busy building diplomatic links around the world by continuing to open unofficial embassies in a host of countries which don't extend formal recognition to it.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-26/china-beats-us-to-top-global-diplomacy-index-lowy/103505232>

## **China's new military commanders reflect Xi Jinping's naval ambitions**

Andrew S. Erickson

Fairbank Centre for Chinese Studies, February 26, 2024

National leaders generally want capable militaries, but no other nation's leader is overseeing increasing military capabilities at anything remotely approaching the scope, scale, and speed we are witnessing under Xi Jinping. China's paramount leader is a man in a hurry, determined to resolve disputed sovereignty claims—none more important than achieving control over Taiwan and ensuring unification on his terms. Xi would prefer to recover Taiwan and achieve other top-priority objectives without initiating outright conflict. But he believes that the capability to do so is essential to coercing adversaries into submission, if possible, and compelling them militarily if not. Two new military leadership appointments reflect Xi's deadly serious aims.

<https://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/research/blog/chinas-new-military-commanders/>

## **China looks to Ukraine War for guidance on attack helicopters**

Lyle Goldstein and Nathan Waechter

The Diplomat, February 26, 2024

Chinese media coverage of the war in Ukraine has been extensive. The close nature of the China-Russia “quasi-alliance” means that Chinese military analysts have not engaged in the ruthless critiques of Russian military performance that have been commonplace in the West. Yet, Chinese military analyses are still probing deeply for lessons to understand the shape of modern warfare. They have taken particular interest in the U.S. employment of novel weapons and strategies. To fully grasp the scope and depth of these Chinese analyses it is important to take assessments from a full range of Chinese military media, which is more extensive than is often appreciated in the West. These articles are generally associated with research institutes that are directly involved in the Chinese military-industrial complex.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/02/china-looks-to-ukraine-war-for-guidance-on-attack-helicopters/>

## **Chinese researchers confirm origin of cosmic rays for the first time**

Global Times, February 26, 2024

The Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) has discovered a giant ultra-high-energy gamma-ray bubble structure in the Cygnus star-formation region. This is the first time in human history that the origin of cosmic rays with energy higher than 10 Peta-Electronvolt (PeV) has been discovered, the Global Times learned from the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Cosmic rays are charged particles from outer space, mainly

composed of protons. The origin of cosmic rays is one of the most important frontier issues in modern astrophysics. Measurements of cosmic rays in past decades have revealed a break around 1 PeV in the energy spectrum, which is called the "knee" of the cosmic ray energy spectrum due to its shape resembling a knee joint.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307716.shtml>

## **China to make about 100 space launches in 2024**

The State Council Information Office, the People's Republic of China, February 27, 2024

China is projected to make about 100 space launch missions this year, setting a new record for the country, according to information released at a press conference. The launches include the maiden flight from China's first commercial spacecraft launch site, in addition to more satellite lift-offs to form constellations, according to the press conference. China's first commercial spacecraft launch site is now under construction in the city of Wenchang, in south China's island province of Hainan. The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the country's rocket series developer and the leading force of the country's space industry, released the 2023 blue book of China aerospace science and technology at the same press conference.

[http://english.scio.gov.cn/chinavoices/2024-02/27/content\\_117022257.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/chinavoices/2024-02/27/content_117022257.htm)

## **China's rapidly expanding nuclear weapon stockpile remains opaque**

The Economic Times, February 27, 2024

Without providing the world with any word of explanation, in the past five years, the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF) of China has expanded the types and quantity of its nuclear-tipped weapons more than at any point in its history. Indeed, last month, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists published its annual in-depth Nuclear Notebook. The chapter entitled Chinese Nuclear Weapons, 2024, authored by Hans M Kristensen, Matt Korda, Eliana Johns and Mackenzie Knight, warned, "In all, China's nuclear expansion is among the largest and most rapid modernization campaigns of the nine nuclear-armed states" in the world. The chapter's authors stated that in the past year, "China has continued to develop its three new missile silo fields for solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles [ICBM], expanded the construction of new silos for its liquid-fuel DF-5 ICBMs, has been developing new variants of ICBMs and advanced strategic delivery systems, and has likely produced excess warheads for eventual upload onto these systems once they are deployed. China has also further expanded its dual-capable DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile [IRBM] force, which appears to have completely replaced the medium-range DF-21 in the nuclear role."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinas-rapidly-expanding-nuclear-weapon-stockpile-remains-opaque/articleshow/108028788.cms?from=mdr>

## **Leaked Russian military files reveal criteria for nuclear strike: Doctrine for tactical nuclear weapons outlined in training scenarios for an invasion by China**

Max Seddon and Chris Cook

Financial Times, February 28, 2024

Vladimir Putin's forces have rehearsed using tactical nuclear weapons at an early stage of conflict with a major world power, according to leaked Russian military files that include training scenarios for an invasion by China. Although the files date back 10 years and more, experts claim they remain relevant to current Russian military doctrine. The documents were shown to the FT by western sources. The defensive plans expose deeply held suspicions of China among Moscow's security elite even as Putin began forging an alliance with Beijing, which as early as 2001 included a nuclear no-first-strike agreement. In the years since, Russia and China have deepened their partnership, particularly since Xi Jinping took power in Beijing in 2012. The war in Ukraine has cemented Russia's status as a junior partner in their relationship, with China throwing Moscow a vital economic lifeline to help stave off western sanctions.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f18e6e1f-5c3d-4554-ae5-50a730b306b7>

## **Chinese manned submersible Jiaolong conducts first dives in Atlantic**

CGTN, February 28, 2024

China's independently developed manned submersible Jiaolong has completed its first dives in the Atlantic Ocean during the country's 83rd ocean expedition, said China Ocean Mineral Resources R&D Association (COMRA). The submersible had made 23 successful dives in the southern Atlantic Ocean by February 23, and set a new record of nine dives in nine days. Jiaolong has carried out detailed and efficient operations in multiple hydrothermal areas with complex environments, obtaining about 300 geological and biological samples and some 4 terabytes of environmental data and visual materials, said the COMRA.

<https://www.cgtn.com/newsletter/sci-tech/109.html>

## **Silicon Valley's next mission: help the U.S. catch China and Russia in hypersonic weapons**

Heather Somerville

The Wall Street Journal, February 28, 2024

The U.S. is years behind its biggest rivals in cutting-edge hypersonic missile technology. Silicon Valley is betting it can help the military catch up. Venture capitalists, better known for pumping

money into business-software services and social-media apps, are now deploying hundreds of millions of dollars into developing the technology for hypersonic weapons the U.S. military wants but has struggled to figure out despite decades of trying. China and Russia already have them ready for use on the battlefield. The U.S. doesn't. Silicon Valley investors and startups want to help fill the gap.

<https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/silicon-valleys-next-mission-help-the-u-s-catch-china-and-russia-in-hypersonic-weapons-072c8eba>

## **China's first home-grown ground simulation space station passes acceptance review**

China Daily, February 28, 2024

China's first "ground space station," the home-grown Space Environment Simulation and Research Infrastructure, passed its acceptance review in Harbin, the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang province. SESRI is a ground-based, large-scale space science and technology experimental platform designed for the study of basic scientific issues in areas such as space materials, devices and magnetospheric physics. Developed by the Harbin Institute of Technology and the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, it has simulation capabilities for nine space environment factors, including plasma, particle irradiation and solar electromagnetic radiation. It is a major scientific facility in China's space sector, as well as the first major scientific and technological infrastructure project in China's northeastern region, according to local authorities.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/28/WS65de95e4a31082fc043b9832.html>

## **China broadens law on state security to include 'work secrets'**

Laurie Chen

Reuters, February 28, 2024

Chinese lawmakers have expanded a state secrets law for the first time since 2010, widening the scope of restricted sensitive information to "work secrets", according to a full text of the law published online. China's top legislative body passed the revised Law on Guarding State Secrets, Xinhua state news agency reported. It will take effect from May 1. Foreign business lobbies and analysts say the expanded law is further evidence of Chinese President Xi Jinping's increased focus on national security which has already led to a wide-ranging update to Beijing's anti-espionage law last April that some countries fear could be used to punish regular business activities.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-broadens-law-state-secrets-include-work-secrets-2024-02-28/>

## **China calls for protecting non-nuclear states from nuclear threats**

CGTN, February 28, 2024

The Chinese representative at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva called for drafting a road map to reach an international legal framework to protect non-nuclear-weapon states from nuclear threats, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing nuclear threats and the role of major powers in leading by example. Sun Xiaobo, the director general of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Arms Control, stated at the UN meeting that the international society is facing new security challenges as the country with the most powerful military is seeking absolute advantages, repeatedly breaking international treaties and stirring block confrontations, severely undermining strategic balance and stability.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-02-28/China-calls-for-protecting-non-nuclear-states-from-nuclear-threats-1ryuxJUyy9W/p.html>

## **Chinese space, nuclear development is ‘breathtakingly fast,’ DOD officials warn**

Patrick Tucker

Defence One, February 29, 2024

China’s advancements in space technology—and its nuclear triad—are proceeding with incredible speed, while Russia remains an unpredictable and dangerous threat, top officials from U.S. Strategic Command and Space Command told lawmakers. What “China and Russia are doing, particularly building with their counterspace weapons, they’re moving breathtakingly fast,” Gen. Stephen Whiting, the head of U.S. Space Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee. China, on the other hand, is far more dependent on space assets and so has a strong disincentive to launch a space attack that would harm satellites indiscriminately, Whiting said. China is also rapidly advancing its own nuclear triad capability, including a stealth bomber.

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2024/02/chinese-space-nuclear-development-breathtakingly-fast-dod-officials-warn/394597/>

## **The Navy’s Achilles Heel: China’s DF-26B missile could sink aircraft carriers**

Brandon J. Weichert

The National Interest, February 29, 2024

China’s strategic focus on annexing Taiwan and expanding military influence in the Pacific Ocean poses a significant challenge to US Navy power projection. Recognizing their inability to

win a conventional war, China has developed an overwhelming missile arsenal, notably the DF-26B, capable of targeting US assets, including aircraft carriers. With a substantial increase in missile capabilities, China aims to keep US forces at bay, enabling them to achieve their objectives without direct confrontation. As tensions escalate, the US faces a critical reassessment of its Indo-Pacific strategy and its commitment to defending Taiwan against Chinese aggression.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/navys-achilles-heel-chinas-df-26b-missile-could-sink-aircraft-carriers-209763>

## **EU fails to pass law requiring audits on Chinese suppliers, ‘reflecting that majority members against politicizing trade’**

Global Times, February 29, 2024

The European Union failed to pass a controversial law that would hold big companies responsible for human rights and environmental abuses in their suppliers after some opposite voices see it as “administrative burden” and “fear of an uneven playing field on the global stage”. The legislation itself lacks credibility and appears to be an attempt to use human rights and environment issue to suppress China, which is doomed to fail, experts said. The controversial law is actually another form of so-called decoupling, Li Yong, a senior research fellow at the China Association of International Trade, told the Global Times. It is not surprising that it has not succeeded. Trying to prevent Chinese companies from cooperating with the EU or European countries by distorting facts would only add meaningless costs to economic and trade, Li said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307921.shtml>

## **U.S. launches investigation of Chinese vehicles, citing security risks**

Jeanne Whalen

The Washington Post, February 29, 2024

The Biden administration announced an investigation into possible security risks of Chinese-manufactured autos, saying that modern vehicles are full of sensors, cameras and software that China could use for espionage or other malign purposes. The investigation comes as Chinese automakers become more powerful on global markets, exporting a flood of high-tech vehicles and posing new challenges to Western manufacturers. Chinese-made vehicles aren’t yet widespread on U.S. roads but are becoming more common in Europe, Asia and other markets.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/02/29/us-investigation-chinese-vehicles/>

## **Taiwan's DPP slammed for purchasing U.S. arms**

Xinhua, February 29, 2024

A Chinese defense spokesperson slammed Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities for procurement of weapons from the United States, noting that pursuing "independence" by force would only drive Taiwan perilously close to war. Zhang Xiaogang, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, made the comments in response to a media query concerning Taiwan's planned purchase of U.S. missiles. No matter how many weapons the DPP authorities procure using the hard-earned money of the Taiwan people, they cannot change the basic fact that Taiwan is China's Taiwan, let alone stop the inevitable trend of national reunification, Zhang said.

<https://english.news.cn/20240229/b515b73fcedb438894d2f8dadaf68a14/c.html>

## **Major products for manned lunar exploration enter preliminary development stage: Chinese space authority**

Fan Anqi and Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, February 29, 2024

In 2024, China's manned space program will coordinate two major tasks of space station application and development, and manned lunar exploration, authorities revealed. Major products for flying to the moon such as launch vehicles, manned spacecraft, landers, and lunar suits have all entered the preliminary design and development stage. Taking solid steps toward the goal of building a strong aerospace nation, all works related to the application and development phase of the space station are progressing steadily according to the plan, and various tasks in the lunar exploration project are under smooth development and research, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) told the Global Times.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307954.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak*

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