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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



The US reportedly believes China fills missiles with water instead of fuel. Is that plausible?

Justin Ong

Channel News Asia, January 11, 2024

Missiles filled with water and soldiers using rocket fuel for hotpot - these are alleged examples of the extent of corruption in China's military, according to recent reports. Citing unnamed individuals said to be familiar with US intelligence, a Bloomberg article of January 6 also linked such rampant graft to an extensive purge of senior Chinese officers in late 2023. Military experts and China watchers CNA spoke to stressed that the US assessments were scant on detail and could not be verified - something the Bloomberg report itself acknowledged. The PLA's Rocket Force does operate a combination of conventional and nuclear; solid- and liquid-fuelled missiles, said Dr James Char, a research fellow at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) think-tank

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/world/china-missiles-water-fuel-cna-explains-us-intelligence-corruption-pla-4040281>

US companies and Chinese experts engaged in secret diplomacy on AI safety

Madhumita Murgia

Financial Times, January 11, 2024

Artificial intelligence companies OpenAI, Anthropic and Cohere have engaged in secret diplomacy with Chinese AI experts, amid shared concern about how the powerful technology may spread misinformation and threaten social cohesion. According to multiple people with direct knowledge, two meetings took place in Geneva in July and October last year attended by scientists and policy experts from the North American AI groups, alongside representatives of Tsinghua University and other Chinese state-backed institutions.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f87b693f-9ba3-4929-8b95-a296b0278021>

China set to lose crown as top U.S. exporter after 17 years

Rintaro Tobita and Iori Kawate

Nikkei Asia, January 11, 2024

China was likely knocked off the perch as the top exporter to the U.S. for the first time since 2006 last year, outpaced by Mexico as tensions between the world's two largest economies reshape supply chains. American goods imports from China dropped more than 20% on the year for the January-November period, according to U.S. Commerce Department data released this week.

China accounted for 13.9% of total U.S. imports, the smallest share since 2004, after peaking at more than 21% around 2017. U.S. exports to China have stayed roughly flat on the year.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/China-set-to-lose-crown-as-top-U.S.-exporter-after-17-years>

China firmly opposes the Philippines' efforts to stir up trouble in South China sea by courting non-regional country: Defence Spokesperson

China Military Online, January 12, 2024

The Philippine side's so-called joint patrols in the South China Sea with countries outside the region will only escalate tensions in the South China Sea and undermine regional peace and stability, said Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence (MND), at a regular press briefing. According to the media, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States Indo-Pacific Command recently conducted joint patrols in the South China Sea. Commander-in-chief of the Philippine Army said that the move marked a breakthrough in the Philippine-US alliance and their military coordination. "China has always upheld that defense cooperation between countries should not harm the interests of a third party or undermine regional peace and security", said the spokesperson, noting that the move of the Philippine side is merely to stir up trouble in the region by using external forces.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16280090.html

Private firm launches world's most powerful solid-fuel rocket

Zhao Lei

China Daily, January 12, 2024

Orienspace, a private space company, carried out the debut flight of its Gravity 1 rocket, which has become the most powerful solid-propellant launch vehicle in the world. The 30-meter-tall rocket blasted off from a launch service ship off the coast of Haiyang in Shandong province and soon transported three remote-sensing satellites into an orbit about 500 kilometers above the ground. The Gravity 1 rocket model consists of three core stages and four boosters, all powered by solid-propellant motors and equipped with flexible swinging nozzles. It has a liftoff weight of 405 metric tons and a liftoff thrust of 600 tons. The rocket is able to send spacecraft with a combined weight of 6.5 tons into a low-Earth orbit, or 4.2 tons into a typical sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 km, according to Orienspace, which was founded in 2020 by a group of veteran researchers from State-owned space enterprises.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202401/12/WS65a092c5a3105f21a507beb7.html>

China's meddling in Taiwan election presages year of misinformation threats

Joseph Menn, Naomi Nix, Cat Zakrzewski and Pranshu Verma

The Washington Post, January 12, 2024

A sophisticated Chinese Communist Party effort to tip Saturday's election in Taiwan may establish a template for interfering elsewhere ahead of a wave of critical global elections, analysts in multiple countries said. The close contest between the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the more mainland-friendly Kuomintang (KMT) is the first major vote in a year that also features electoral battles in Indonesia, Pakistan, Mexico, Russia and the United States. While the Chinese government is the biggest power interfering in Taiwan, which Beijing views as part of its territory, it is just one of multiple nations likely to meddle in elections elsewhere this year, especially in the United States, experts said. China, for example, has been ramping up U.S. information operations and triggered multiple takedowns of fake accounts at Facebook, while Russia is trying to dissuade European countries from supporting Ukraine.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/01/12/taiwan-election-china-misinformation/>

China's IC imports plunge 15.4% in value as semiconductor self-sufficiency accelerates amid US sanctions

Global Times, January 13, 2024

Value of China's integrated circuit (IC) imports plunged 15.4 percent year-on-year in 2023, customs data showed, with the nation's semiconductor self-sufficiency accelerating amid US curbs, industry analysts said. According to data from the General Administration of Customs of China, China's IC imports dropped in value by 15.4 percent year-on-year in US dollar terms, while the total import volume saw a decrease of 10.8 percent. The slump was a further decrease from 2022, when China's IC imports recorded a fall of 3.9 percent compared with 2021 in terms of value. 2022 also marked the year when China's imports of integrated circuits declined for the first time in almost two decades, according to a Bloomberg report.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202401/1305308.shtml>

The 'crown jewel' of the Chinese military appears to have a serious corruption problem, but the US can't afford to bet on its missiles all being defective

Chris Panella

Business Insider, January 14, 2024

China's military has undergone several significant leadership shakeups, and new intelligence reports indicate that corruption is running rampant in parts of the People's Liberation Army,

specifically the prized rocket force, to the point that some of its missiles were supposedly filled with water rather than fuel. "The rocket force is the center of gravity for the Chinese military," Tom Shugart, a former US Navy officer who is now an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security think tank, told Business Insider. It's their "crown jewel," especially for conflict over Taiwan or hitting US naval forces and bases in the Pacific. But the US and its allies can't afford to assume that its missiles are all defective, in part because it's difficult to know the extent of the rot but also because China's leadership is hellbent on building a modern army that can fight and win wars, and that can't be overlooked.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/defense/news/the-crown-jewel-of-the-chinese-military-appears-to-have-a-serious-corruption-problem-but-the-us-cant-afford-to-bet-on-its-missiles-all-being-defective/articleshow/106841203.cms>

War of words after Taiwan election highlights the intractable divide over the island's fate

Emily Wang Fujiyama and Ken Moritsugu

The Associated Press, January 14, 2024

A war of words erupted the day after Taiwan's presidential and parliamentary elections, with Taiwan on Sunday accusing China of making "fallacious comments" and China criticizing the U.S. for congratulating the winner. The verbal sparring highlighted the seemingly intractable divide over Taiwan's fate, a major flashpoint in U.S.-China relations that risks leading to an actual war in the future. The victory of Lai Ching-te in election was a setback for China's efforts to bring Taiwan under its control. His Democratic Progressive Party advocates maintaining the status quo, in which Taiwan governs itself but refrains from declaring formal independence — a move that could trigger a Chinese military response.

<https://apnews.com/article/taiwan-china-election-lai-4198659310a8bdfd391b82ad5f889fa8>

What Taiwanese voters' defiance means for China

Kathrin Hille and Joe Leahy

Financial Times, January 14, 2024

Before Taiwan's voters went to the polls, the Chinese Communist party made sure they knew its preferred outcome, calling on them to make the "right choice" between peace and war and denouncing the Democratic Progressive party's Lai Ching-te as a dangerous separatist. But now that Lai has won the presidency, Beijing has toned down its rhetoric. Commenting on Lai's victory with 40 per cent of the vote and the DPP's loss of its legislative majority, China's Taiwan Affairs Office said the result showed that "the DPP can by no means represent mainstream public opinion

on the island". In the complex world of cross-Strait relations, Beijing's response could be interpreted as good news. Many analysts see the reaction as evidence that despite the DPP's unprecedented win of a third term in office, Beijing might feel reassured by the sharp drop in voter support for the party it refuses to engage with because the DPP sees Taiwan as an independent country separate from China.

<https://www.ft.com/content/9cc5924a-883c-4b7c-87be-ca7f3e0b7420>

Japan makes China's life more dangerous and expensive

Milton Ezrati

Forbes, January 15, 2024

As China and the United States continue to seek economic advantages, one over the other, Japan has greatly complicated Beijing's political-economic calculations. Tokyo's huge increase in defense spending and its decision to allow its armed forces more latitude to maneuver steepen both Beijing's military and its economic challenges and at an especially difficult time for China's leadership. Beijing has already complained about Tokyo's plans, but otherwise there is little it can do diplomatically. Still, Japan's moves have greatly complicated Beijing's plans. The only answer of substance Beijing has is to expand still more than was already planned China's own military capabilities.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/miltonezrati/2024/01/15/japan-makes-chinas-life-more-dangerous-and-expensive/?sh=6c2942c72cf2>

Nauru to sever 'diplomatic ties' with Taiwan region, showing one-China principle a prevailing consensus

China Military Online, January 15, 2024

Chinese Foreign Ministry said China appreciates and welcomes Nauru's decision of severing "diplomatic ties" with the Taiwan region, which was announced on the heels of the regional election in the island, reflecting that the one-China principle is a prevailing consensus among the international community. The decision is also considered a slap in the face to some ill-intentioned moves made by very few US-led Western countries aiming to turn the Taiwan question into an international topic and to continue playing "the Taiwan card" in containing the Chinese mainland, experts said. They also believed that Nauru has made such a correct choice based on its own national interest, and with the rise of the influence of China and its international status, most countries have made a clear judgment about what diplomatic choice they will make regarding the Taiwan question.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/OPINIONS_209196/Opinions_209197/16280486.html

Philippines to develop occupied islands in disputed waters amid China tensions

South China Morning Post, January 15, 2024

The Philippines will develop islands in the South China Sea that it considers part of its territory to make them more habitable for troops, Manila's military chief Romeo Brawner told reporters. The plans come amid heightened tensions between the Philippines and China, both of whom claim territory in the South China Sea and have traded accusations of aggressive behaviour in the strategic waterway. Apart from the Second Thomas Shoal, locally known as Ayungin, the Philippines occupies eight other features in the South China Sea, and considers them part of its exclusive economic zone. "We'd like to improve all the nine, especially the islands we are occupying," Brawner said after attending a command conference led by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr at the military headquarters.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3248459/south-china-sea-philippines-develop-occupied-islands-disputed-waters-amid-china-tensions>

Chinese Nuclear Forces, 2024: A "Significant Expansion"

Hans Kristensen, Matt Korda, Eliana Johns, Mackenzie Knight

Federation of American Scientists, January 16, 2024

The Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Information Project, a component of the Federation's Global Risk program, released its latest assessment of China's growing nuclear arsenal: the 2024 Nuclear Notebook on Chinese Nuclear Forces. The 24-page report, published in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, includes details on China's nuclear weapons arsenal, including types of weapons, delivery vehicles, operations, and, importantly, questions that can help determine the reliability and accuracy of projections about the future growth of China's nuclear capabilities. The Notebook comes at a critical time for U.S. analysis and policy debates regarding China's nuclear forces and the appropriate U.S. and allied response.

<https://fas.org/publication/chinese-nuclear-forces-2024-a-significant-expansion/>

Chinese company unveils revolutionary nuclear battery with 50-year lifespan

Wang Songsong

China Daily, January 16, 2024

Recently, a Chinese company claimed to have developed a new battery that could generate power for 50 years. Released by Beijing Betavolt New Energy Technology Co Ltd, the nuclear battery utilizes nickel-63, a kind of nuclear isotope, decay technology and diamond semiconductors to miniaturize, modularize and reduce the cost of atomic energy batteries, Science and Technology

Daily reported. The company's first product, the BV100 battery, has a power of 100 microwatts, a voltage of three volts and a size of 15×15×5 cubic millimeters, which is smaller than a coin. Atomic energy batteries, also known as nuclear or radioactive isotope batteries, work by converting the energy released from the decay of nuclear isotopes into electricity.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202401/16/WS65a68ff7a3105f21a507c9b7.html>

Laos' ASEAN chairmanship faces Chinese reality check

Marwaan Macan-Markar

Nikkei Asia, January 16, 2024

In some of Southeast Asia's capitals, diplomats have their work cut out for them in 2024 keeping tabs on China's debt grip on Laos, this year's chair of ASEAN. China's financial lifeline will be crucial if Laos is to ride out this year's high point in its diplomacy. Without that support, the landlocked, communist-ruled country might have to default on its sovereign debt this year. "China is key for Laos to pull through," remarked one official. Laos' financial dependence on China has shifted perceptions about the small, underdeveloped country's location and significance in ASEAN, added another official.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Laos-ASEAN-chairmanship-faces-Chinese-reality-check>

China-Russia nuclear industry cooperation

Daniel Shats

China Aerospace Studies Institute, Air University, January 16, 2024

In May 2021, Russian president Vladimir Putin and Chinese president Xi Jinping presided over a groundbreaking ceremony for their countries' biggest joint nuclear energy project to date: the construction of four new nuclear reactors in China's Jiangsu and Liaoning Provinces. The 20 billion renminbi (RMB) (\$2.81 billion USD) construction project is part of a package of strategic cooperation agreements signed by Russia and China in 2018. More generally, it is a manifestation of growing China-Russia cooperation in the nuclear field since the 1990s, which has accelerated in recent years due to both countries' ambitious nuclear energy goals and increasingly close relationship. While the larger China-Russia partnership has become increasingly lopsided with Russia finding itself in the position of junior partner, nuclear energy is a rare area where Russia continues to play the more senior role. However, this dominance is also likely to wane in the coming years as China's nuclear industry continues to mature.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/3642740/china-russia-nuclear-industry-cooperation/>

Time to stop playing silly games in which Philippines ends up as proxy

Global Times, January 17, 2024

Tensions between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea have been bubbling up for some time. At the beginning of 2024, the feud almost flared up with the Philippines continuing its provocative moves and remarks, including the joint patrol with the US and its announcement to develop islands to make them more habitable for troops. Where is the South China Sea situation headed in 2024? Could a conflict be sparked accidentally?

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202401/1305568.shtml>

Russia's Kinzhals are frustrating Chinese analysts who want to find out how Beijing's hypersonic missiles might stack up against US battlefield defences

Matthew Loh

Business Insider, January 17, 2024

Modern militaries have been looking to the war in Ukraine as a proving ground for advanced weapons. But observers in China hoping to study Russia's use of hypersonic missiles — one of the most-hyped tools in Beijing's own arsenal — are signaling they won't learn much from Moscow. Chinese defense magazines have, in the past year, been reporting on the Russian Kinzhal with great interest, analyzing its performance against US-provided Patriot systems and in the war in general. China hopes its own hypersonic missile, the Dongfeng, will be game-changing in its capacity to take down US aircraft carriers. But the Kinzhal, touted by the Kremlin as an "unstoppable" hypersonic weapon, is being reported by the West to have been thwarted by Patriot systems or to have simply missed its targets.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/russias-kinzhals-are-frustrating-chinese-analysts-who-want-to-find-out-how-beijings-hypersonic-missiles-might-stack-up-against-us-battlefield-defenses/articleshow/106919014.cms>

China eyes defence ties reboot with Australia despite Taiwan tensions

Sophie Mak

Nikkei Asia, January 17, 2024

China's ambassador to Australia called for the two countries to "work harder" at resuming halted defence ties, even as he took a swipe at Canberra over its reaction to Taiwan's weekend election. In a wide-ranging news briefing, Xiao Qian also brushed off concerns about the

Pacific island nation of Nauru cutting diplomatic ties with Taiwan for China this week and pointed a finger at Japan over a naval incident last year in which Australian divers were injured by sonar initially linked to a Chinese warship. Chinese-Australian military cooperation -- including joint military exercises -- has been on ice since 2020, when relations soured over calls by then-Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for an independent investigation into the origins of COVID-19.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-eyes-defense-ties-reboot-with-Australia-despite-Taiwan-tensions>

Simulation experiments expected on China's space station to explore the existence of extraterrestrial life

Global Times, January 18, 2024

Along with the Tianzhou-7 cargo spacecraft that has successfully docked with China's Tiangong space station, a special delivery has arrived - anaerobic archaea. By simulating extraterrestrial environments, Chinese researchers aim to verify the age-old mystery of whether life exists outside of Earth. The anaerobic archaea are one of the oldest life forms on Earth and a major contributor to methane in the Earth's atmosphere. They are widely distributed in anaerobic environments such as deep-sea environments, rice paddies, and the stomachs of ruminant animals.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202401/1305634.shtml>

Tianzhou-7 cargo craft docks with Tiangong space station

CGTN, January 18, 2024

China's cargo craft Tianzhou-7 has docked with the Tiangong space station. On January 17 night, China successfully launched the Tianzhou-7 to deliver supplies to China's Tiangong Space Station. The launch site was in Wenchang, southern China's island province of Hainan. CGTN's Zheng Yibing reports. This is the first spacecraft to visit China's space station in 2024. The liftoff of the eighth Long March 7 carrier rocket drew great attention. The mission sent the Tianzhou-7 cargo spaceship into the low Earth orbit to supply China's Space Station, the Shenzhou-17 crew and the Shenzhou-18 crew's upcoming launch this year. The mission was a complete success.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-01-18/VHJhbnNjcmIwdDc2OTQ5/index.html#:~:text=On%20Wednesday%20night%2C%20China%20successfully,China's%20space%20station%20in%202024.>

China's commercial space companies compete to reduce rocket cost, enhance performance

Fan Anqi and Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, January 18, 2024

With the massive demand brought by the scale deployment of China's internet satellite mega constellation, China's commercial space industry is experiencing unprecedented development. Unlike SpaceX which has an absolute dominance in the US market, China has seen a flourishing trend in private ventures, which can fully stimulate market competition and drive technological revolution, industry insiders say. Gravity-1, as the first launch of a commercial rocket this year and a new type of rocket making its maiden flight, has dazzled the world not only by its plump design but also an array of remarkable distinctions - the largest, heaviest, first of its kind and unprecedented. But this is just the beginning of China's space endeavors in 2024. The year 2024 will be extremely busy with many exciting highlights, among which commercial spaceflight will play a crucial part.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202401/1305636.shtml>

China lab simulates attack on US warships using space weapons, hypersonic missiles

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, January 19, 2024

An American aircraft carrier strike group churns through the ocean at full throttle. With warplanes, its combat range is 1,000km (620 miles). From 1,200km (745 miles) away, a salvo of Chinese hypersonic anti-ship missiles is launched skyward. They climb for more than 200km (124 miles), then head for the US warships, whose radars do not detect them until 10 minutes after launch. By then the missiles are just 50km (30 miles) away. This is how a computer-simulated attack played out in a Chinese research lab in Chengdu – an exercise that showed how the People's Liberation Army might use space weapons to strike an American aircraft carrier group.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3249028/china-lab-simulates-attack-us-warships-using-space-weapons-hypersonic-missiles>

China has no intention of participating in the 'space race' imagined by the US: Global Times editorial

Global Times, January 19, 2024

At a hearing held in the US Congress, American space experts, government officials, and members of Congress reached or reinforced a unified understanding: "For the US and its partners not to be

on the moon when others are on the moon, is unacceptable." The US and its allies should win the 21st century "space race" and lead a "rules-based international order" there before China creates its own "undesirable norms." China has no intention of participating in the "space race" imagined by the Americans. China's development of aerospace technology emphasizes three aspects: peaceful utilization, equal mutual benefit, and inclusive development. It has always led by example in promoting international space communication and cooperation. However, the US has been excluding and guarding against China in various aspects, from satellite navigation to the International Space Station.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202401/1305700.shtml>

No place to hide: a look into China's geosynchronous surveillance capabilities

Clayton Swope

Centre for Strategic and International Studies, January 19, 2024

China launched a remote-sensing satellite called Yaogan-41 into geostationary orbit (GEO) on December 15, 2023. Analysts expect the satellite to settle into a position that would allow continuous surveillance of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, as well as Taiwan and Mainland China. Paired with data from other Chinese surveillance satellites, Yaogan-41 could provide China an unprecedented ability to identify and track car-sized objects throughout the entire Indo-Pacific region and put at risk numerous U.S. and allied naval and air assets operating in the region.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/no-place-hide-look-chinas-geosynchronous-surveillance-capabilities>

US urges discussions with China on practical nuclear risk reduction steps

Reuters, January 19, 2024

The United States does not expect formal nuclear arms-control negotiations with China anytime soon, but does want to see a start of discussions on practical risk-reduction measures, a senior White House official said. Pranay Vaddi, the senior White House official for arms control and non proliferation, told a Washington think tank it had been important to have initial arms-control talks in November with China, but stressed the need for them to involve key Chinese decision makers or influencers on the country's nuclear posture. "We know that we are not going to leap into formal arms control negotiations anytime soon. We know that their arsenal is still being built up," Vaddi told the Center for Strategic and International Studies, while adding: "On the arms-control front, we really want to see China respond to some of our more substantive ideas on risk-reduction, and we're still waiting to see if they will."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-urges-discussions-with-china-practical-nuclear-risk-reduction-steps-2024-01-18/>

Zhuque-3 reusable rocket completes vertical return technology test

Xinhua, January 20, 2024

The vertical return technology of China's reusable rocket Zhuque-3 successfully completed its first flight test at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, laying the foundation for the maiden flight of the country's first stainless steel liquid carrier rocket. The flight test verified the vertical recovery of a rocket at low altitude and low speed, matching between the control system and engine thrust adjustment performance, and the rocket vertical recovery's guidance and control algorithm, according to the rocket's developer LandSpace, a Chinese private rocket company. Zhuque-3 has a diameter of 4.5 meters and uses liquid oxygen-methane as propellant, with its first stage designed to be reused at least 20 times. It can launch multiple satellites at one time, such as flat stackable satellites.

<https://english.news.cn/20240120/1a7836ed4fe34c30b769d73e53e211f5/c.html>

The US is failing to quickly field hypersonic missile defence

Rear Adm. Mark Montgomery (ret.) and Bradley Bowman

Defence News, January 20, 2024

The Pentagon warned in its annual report to Congress last year that China already possesses “the world’s leading hypersonic arsenal” and is sprinting to field even more advanced offensive capabilities. These weapons would give Beijing a capability to conduct a prompt strike that paralyzes America’s command-and-control and missile-defense capabilities. The good news is that the United States is making progress on its own offensive hypersonic weapons. The bad news is that American efforts to develop systems that can defend against Chinese hypersonic capabilities are not keeping pace. If Washington does not act quickly to expedite the Pentagon’s fielding of hypersonic missile defense capabilities, deterrence may fail in the Pacific.

<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/2024/01/19/the-us-is-failing-to-quickly-field-hypersonic-missile-defense/>

China’s strongest ally in Taiwan is weaker than ever

Chun Han Wong

The Wall Street Journal, January 20, 2024

Beijing’s closest political partner in Taiwan is fighting to remain relevant in an island democracy where voters increasingly see a future that is detached from an authoritarian China. The Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, once governed China and had dominated Taiwanese politics for decades. It is now on its longest losing streak in presidential elections since this self-ruled island

started choosing its leader by popular vote, consigned to a third straight term in opposition. Whether the century-old party can get back on its feet has ramifications for Taipei's rocky relationship with Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its territory and considers the KMT a useful partner in efforts to assimilate the island.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/asia/chinas-strongest-ally-in-taiwan-is-weaker-than-ever-d3e104b9>

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

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