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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

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

**An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)**



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

## **Chinese scientists find mass distribution of new stars variable**

Zhang Zhihao

China Daily, January 20, 2023

Chinese astronomers have made a remarkable discovery that challenges the basic understanding of large-scale star formation that may have wide applications in astrophysics, according to a study published in the journal Nature. They discovered that time and metal content in a stellar cradle can affect the variation in the mass of newborn stars.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202301/20/WS63c9e894a31057c47ebaac94.html>

## **Links to campuses at heart of China's military ambitions**

Geraldine Scott

The Times, January 22, 2023

When Cambridge University signed a “joint research initiative” with President Xi’s alma mater in 2019, it said it was “delighted”. Less than four years on, the deal looks less wise, with Tsinghua University linked to cyberattacks and high levels of defence research for Beijing. The partnership between one of Britain’s leading institutions and Tsinghua is the tip of the iceberg. A Times investigation has revealed the full extent of UK links with Chinese institutions deemed very high risk for their links to military and security research.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/links-to-campuses-at-heart-of-chinas-military-ambitions-xv3z6wfmw>

## **China's Big New Warship Is Missing an Important New Weapon**

Thomas Corbett and Peter Singer

Defence One, January 23, 2023

Last Christmas, the PLA Navy received a long-awaited gift when its seventh and eighth Type 055 destroyers entered service, completing delivery of its first batch of its lethal new class of warship. At roughly 13,000 tons, the Type 055s are Asia's biggest surface warships since World War II; the U.S. Navy classifies them as cruisers. However, despite impressive armaments, advanced radar systems, and other impressive capabilities, initial reporting indicates that the Type 055s appear to be missing a key weapon: the long-planned next-generation ship-to-air missile.

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2023/01/chinas-big-new-warship-missing-important-new-weapon/382082/>

## **US confronts China with evidence of companies aiding Putin's war in Ukraine**

The Times of India, January 24, 2023

The trend is worrying enough that US officials have raised the matter with their Chinese

counterparts and warned about the implications of supplying material support for the war, the people said, though they declined to provide details of those contacts. President Xi Jinping has avoided criticizing Russia over the war but has also offered to play a role in peace talks and come out against the use of nuclear weapons in the conflict.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-confronts-china-with-evidence-of-companies-aiding-putins-war-in-ukraine/articleshow/97266356.cms>

## **Report to Congress on Chinese Nuclear and Missile Proliferation**

USNI News, January 24, 2023

The U.S. government has continued to express concerns about China's record concerning the proliferation of nuclear- and missile-related technologies to other countries, with more recent focus on the threat of Chinese acquisition of U.S.-origin nuclear technology. Official U.S. government reports indicate that the Chinese government has apparently ended its direct involvement in the transfer of nuclear- and missile-related items, but Chinese-based companies and individuals continue to export goods relevant to those items, particularly to Iran and North Korea.

<https://news.usni.org/2023/01/24/report-to-congress-on-chinese-nuclear-and-missile-proliferation>

## **How China became the world's leading exporter of combat drones**

Zaheena Rasheed

Al Jazeera, January 24, 2023

From Saudi Arabia to Myanmar and Iraq to Ethiopia, governments and militaries across the globe are stockpiling Chinese combat drones and deploying them on the battlefield. Data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks global arms transfers, shows China has delivered some 282 combat drones to 17 countries in the past decade, making it the world's leading exporter of the weaponised aircraft.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/24/how-china-became-the-worlds-leading-exporter-of-combat-drones>

## **Drones could play key role in PLA's 'final unification war' on Taiwan**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, January 24, 2023

A Chinese military magazine has highlighted the vital role drones would play in the event of a war across the Taiwan Strait. It said drones could be used to "assassinate enemy leaders" and that their use could minimise casualties by shortening the conflict. They could also be used to target Taiwan's mobile missile launchers and heavy weaponry. The article in Ordnance Industry Science Technology outlines how a People's Liberation Army attack on Taiwan might unfold.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3207780/drones-could-play-key-role-plas-final-unification-war-taiwan>

## **2023: Upcoming crisis for China's policy toward Korean Peninsula**

Yun Sun

The Korea Times, January 25, 2023

Nonetheless, in the context of the U.S.-China strategic competition, China's mentality about North Korea has undergone subtle shifts. For the longest time, the North Korea nuclear issue had been regarded as a potential area of cooperation between the U.S. and China as well as an important area of strategic leverage for Beijing vis-a-vis Washington. The great power competition inevitably increased the space for North Korea to manipulate the great powers so as to improve its own external environment.

[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2023/01/197\\_344107.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2023/01/197_344107.html)

## **Taiwan's Urgent Task**

Michael Brown

Foreign Affairs, January 25, 2023

Since the Ukraine war began, a growing number of U.S. officials have stressed the urgency of deterring Chinese military action against Taiwan. President Xi Jinping's comments in October reinforced this view when he declared that China was prepared to take "all measures necessary" against foreign "interference" on the island and that "the wheels of history are rolling on toward China's reunification" with it. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that Beijing may intend to seize Taiwan on a "much faster timeline" than previously thought.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/taiwan-urgent-task-new-strategy-to-keep-china-away>

## **Russian warship armed with hypersonic missiles to train with Chinese, South African navies**

Radina Gigova and Simone McCarthy

CNN, January 26, 2023

A Russian warship armed with advanced hypersonic missiles completed a drill in the Atlantic Ocean, ahead of joint naval exercises with the Chinese and South African navies scheduled for next month, the Russian Defense Ministry said. China has not made a statement directly confirming its participation, but its Ministry of Defense website posted an article from state news agency Xinhua referencing South Africa's announcement of the drills. China is celebrating a week-long Lunar New Year holiday.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/26/asia/russian-hypersonic-warship-south-africa-china-intl-hnk/index.html>

## **China makes progress on advanced warship bigger than Type 054A frigate, according to new satellite images**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, January 27, 2023

New satellite images show China has almost finished building an advanced frigate that experts have described as a mini destroyer designed to keep up with the country's third aircraft carrier. Imagery from a Pleiades satellite of Hudong Shipyard in Shanghai on January 21 shows a complete hull that appears similar to the Type 054A frigate, according to a picture posted by former US submariner Tom Shugart on his Twitter account.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3208207/china-makes-progress-advanced-warship-bigger-type-054a-frigate-according-new-satellite-images>

## **China's Y-20 large transport aircraft expected to generate more variants**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 27, 2023

China's Y-20 large transport aircraft is expected to generate more variants and get more powerful engines after a series of successful development and mission deployments since its maiden flight one decade ago, experts said. The domestically developed military cargo plane celebrated the 10th anniversary of its maiden flight. The development of a large plane like the Y-20 required China's complete independence in terms of aviation technologies as well as breakthroughs in fields including new materials, modern manufacturing, advanced engines, electronics information and automatic control and computer technologies, state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), the maker of the Y-20, said in a press release.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284299.shtml>

## **PLA fighter planes track, monitor foreign aircraft on Chinese New Year in S.China Sea airspace**

China Military Online, January 27, 2023

On the day of the Chinese New Year, two fighter planes of a naval aviation brigade under the PLA Southern Theater Command took off from Yongxing Island in the Xisha Islands to track and monitor foreign aircraft over the South China Sea, the PLA Southern Theater Command revealed on WeChat. In the face of the approaching foreign aircraft, the PLA aircraft changed their flight attitude considerably several times to ensure that the target was within monitoring range and maintained the position until the foreign aircraft flew away.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/10214222.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/10214222.html)

## **Joe Biden to allow Hong Kong citizens facing Chinese repression to remain in US**

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, January 27, 2023

Joe Biden has extended a programme that allows Hong Kong citizens facing potential political repression from China to remain in the US following pressure from progressive lawmakers and human rights groups. Biden declared that Hong Kong citizens residing in the US could remain in the country for two more years as he extended the Deferred Enforced Departure programme. The US president took the move — ahead of the programme expiring on February 5 — because China had “continued to erode” the human rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents.

<https://www.ft.com/content/fddbcd29-d406-4bdd-89a9-9ac6db003e92>

## **US chips ban won't deter China from technological cooperation**

Global Times, January 27, 2023

The global semiconductor industrial chain is one that embodies broad collaboration and global division of labor, and China is already the world's largest semiconductor consumption market. Given China's position in the global semiconductor supply chain, it seems to be self-defeating for the US to coerce its allies into cooperating with its highly discriminative and unethical export bans, which will only make more companies like ASML fall victim to Washington's geopolitical game.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284298.shtml>

## **US air force general predicts China conflict in 2025**

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, January 28, 2023

A top American air force general has predicted that the US and China will probably go to war in 2025, in the most dramatic warning yet from a senior military officer about the likelihood of a conflict over Taiwan. General Mike Minihan, head of US Air Mobility Command, said the two military powers were likely to end up at war because of a series of circumstances that would embolden Chinese president Xi Jinping.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2b50ce67-bf88-4aff-bac9-eb9ac1b3b2ca>

## **Satellite pics catch China in the act in South China Sea**

Jamie Seidel

News.com, January 28, 2023

Commercial satellites have again caught China out: this time capturing photos of hidden anti-aircraft missiles installed on its “non-militarised” South China Sea islands. Enormous engineering

works began building islands out of the sandbanks and reefs of the South China Sea in 2015. At the same time, military facilities on the occupied Paracel Islands began to be dramatically upgraded.

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/satellite-pics-catch-china-in-the-act-in-south-china-sea/news-story/ac869269e0862c15cee9021704c5bce8>

## **Netherlands, Japan to join U.S. on imposing limits on chip tech to China**

Market Watch, January 29, 2023

Japan and the Netherlands have agreed to a deal with the U.S. to restrict China's access to materials used to make advanced computer chips, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. China has responded angrily, saying trade curbs will disrupt supply chains and the global economic recovery. "We hope the relevant countries will do the right thing and work together to uphold the multilateral trade regime and safeguard the stability of the global industrial and supply chains," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said earlier this month. "This will also serve to protect their own long-term interests."

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/dutch-company-says-u-s-allies-near-deal-to-limit-chip-technology-to-china-01675031295>

## **Would a Cold War-style agreement help prevent China-US tensions from escalating?**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, January 29, 2023

China and the US should establish a mechanism similar to the agreement reached between Washington and Moscow during the Cold War to prevent the escalation of tensions, a retired People's Liberation Army officer said. But his suggestion prompted a sceptical response from a former US Defence Department official who managed military-to-military relations between China and the United States. "For those watching the war in Ukraine and worrying that a similar conflict might occur in the Taiwan Strait, my response is simple: it's the South China Sea, stupid," Zhou, now a senior fellow at the Centre for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University, wrote.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3208282/would-cold-war-style-agreement-help-prevent-china-us-tensions-escalating>

## **Wi-fi deal 'let Beijing see Britain's nuclear secrets' after firm part-owned by China provided internet to UK military HQ**

Mail Online, January 29, 2023

A firm part-owned by the Chinese state had access to secret information about Britain's nuclear weapons by providing wi-fi to the UK's military headquarters and 45 other defence bases for three

years. Experts fear the security bungle, exposed by The Mail on Sunday, has allowed China to build a 'comprehensive understanding of British military operations' and access personal information that could be used to blackmail troops to reveal state secrets.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11688435/Wi-fi-deal-let-Beijing-Britains-nuclear-secrets.html>

## **China's Top Nuclear-Weapons Lab Used American Computer Chips Decades After Ban**

Liza Lin and Dan Strumpf

The Wall Street Journal, January 29, 2023

China's top nuclear-weapons research institute has bought sophisticated U.S. computer chips at least a dozen times in the past two and a half years, circumventing decades-old American export restrictions meant to curb such sales. A Wall Street Journal review of procurement documents found that the state-run China Academy of Engineering Physics has managed to obtain the semiconductors made by U.S. companies such as Intel Corp. and Nvidia Corp. since 2020 despite its placement on a U.S. export blacklist in 1997.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinas-top-nuclear-weapons-lab-used-american-computer-chips-decades-after-ban-11674990320>

## **China's 'reusable' hypersonic missile interceptor inspired by MIT & NASA**

Baba Tamim

Interesting Engineering, January 29, 2023

Chinese aerospace engineers have allegedly created a new “reusable” air defense system, a step closer to shielding China from hypersonic missile attacks. The “reusable” technology, an unmanned aircraft with an air-breathing engine, can fly significant distances at accelerations greater than five times the speed of sound, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported.

<https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/china-missile-interceptor-inspired-by-mit-nasa>

## **A Chinese invasion of Taiwan is a real and dangerous possibility that could wreck armies and ruin the global economy worse than the 1929 stock market crash**

Jacob Zinkula and Jake Epstein

Business Insider, January 29, 2023

Separated from mainland China by a narrow strait, Taiwan faces a constant threat from a powerful neighbor that claims the island as an inseparable part of its territory. Taiwan is armed to the teeth and has powerful friends, but with China growing stronger and more aggressive, the risk of armed conflict is climbing higher. Beijing continues to view the island's democratic government as a



challenge to its authoritarian rule, and has never taken the use of force off the table to get what it wants.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/policy/economy/news/a-chinese-invasion-of-taiwan-is-a-real-and-dangerous-possibility-that-could-wreck-armies-and-ruin-the-global-economy-worse-than-the-1929-stock-market-crash/articleshow/97418880.cms>

## **Xi's unchallenged rise doesn't mean factionalism in CCP is dead. It's just getting started**

Aadil Brar

The Print, January 30, 2023

Many experts have suggested Xi Jinping's rise has dealt a blow to factional politics at the very top. But Wu Guoguang disagrees with that assessment. "Xi's status and authority as a top leader are unlikely to meet any challenges from within high-ranking CCP cadres, but factional competition is already starting to take place among the various groups of Xi's followers who currently sit on the Politburo and its Standing Committee. In this sense, the current CCP elites can't be "united as a piece of hard steel," Wu wrote in China Leadership Monitor journal.

<https://theprint.in/opinion/chinascope/xis-unchallenged-rise-doesnt-mean-factionalism-in-ccp-is-dead-its-just-getting-started/1341677/>

## **How America Would Be Screwed if China Invades Taiwan**

Sascha Brodsky

Daily Beast, January 30, 2023

The vaunted fleet of the U.S. Navy may not be ready for a conflict with China. A recent analysis found that the U.S. would likely lose a vast number of ships in a war with China over Taiwan, thanks to a narrowing technological advantage. And experts say the U.S. fleet of over 490 ships is also losing its edge in numbers compared to China's fleet of 661 vessels. "We are nowhere near adequately prepared," said William Toti, who led the Navy's anti-submarine China strategy before his retirement. "I fear that we've awakened a sleeping giant. They have more ships than we do. They have more industrial capacity than we do."

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-america-would-be-screwed-if-china-invades-taiwan>

## **China's PLA aims to leverage advanced technology for use of unmanned weapons, artificial intelligence, says report**

The Economic Times, January 30, 2023

Chinese President Xi Jinping presented a report on behalf of the 19th CCP Central Committee at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CCP) on October 16, 2022. An important point in the report was regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for the People's

Liberation Army (PLA), The Singapore Post reported. The PLA is aiming to leverage advanced technology for its use of unmanned weapons and artificial intelligence, as per the news report. China aims to achieve military modernisation of the PLA to a stage where it is fully automated and computerised by 2027.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinas-pla-aims-to-leverage-advanced-technology-for-use-of-unmanned-weapons-artificial-intelligence-says-report/articleshow/97431564.cms>

## **China Coast Guard expels Japanese ships from Chinese territorial waters around Diaoyu Islands**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 30, 2023

China's coast guard expelled Japanese ships that illegally entered China's territorial waters around the Diaoyu Islands on Monday, a move experts said was the right one in safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, adding that it displayed the coast guard's capabilities. Five Japanese ships, including the Shinsei Maru, illegally entered China's territorial waters around the Diaoyu Islands, and China Coast Guard vessels took necessary management and control measures and warned them away according to the law, said spokesperson Gan Yu in a statement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284490.shtml>

## **AUKUS represents outdated political ideology, won't have extensive appeal**

Fei Xue

Global Times, January 31, 2023

Such a cold war mentality and the hegemonic consciousness of the US and the West is destined to have no real space and market in the future framework of Asia-Pacific economic and political cooperation. The world can see that China is a trustworthy, lovable and respectable image. In the face of such a China, it is believed that the differences between the US and its allies on the issue of China must be greater than the common interests. Thus, AUKUS is more like a paper tiger with no real sense of realistic deterrence.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284545.shtml>

## **Complete US ban on Huawei a 'paranoid, last-ditch' move, set to bite US companies more**

Global Times, January 31, 2023

The Biden administration has reportedly halted approving licenses for US suppliers to export most items to Chinese tech company Huawei, and is weighing complete ban to cut Huawei off from all

American suppliers, a sign that paranoid Washington has taken its relentless assault on the Chinese tech industry a step further and morphed it into a geopolitical battle for supremacy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284563.shtml>

## **Sino-US ties should be based on mutual respect**

Mo Jingxi

China Daily, January 31, 2023

The Foreign Ministry said that China is ready to carry out both bilateral and multilateral communication and cooperation with the United States on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, but urged Washington not to cross the red line on the Taiwan question. Speaking ahead of a planned visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said that the US cannot demand communication and cooperation from China while continuing to interfere in China's internal affairs and hurting its interests.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202301/31/WS63d8480ba31057c47ebabe74.html>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs  
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