SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



A Taliban highway could lead to the future. But it's stuck in the past

Rick Noack and Carolyn Van Houten

The Washington Post, February 1, 2025

The regime wants to build a highway through the Wakhan Corridor, the narrow, rugged panhandle in the far northeast, to connect the Afghan heartland with China — and place itself at the center of international commerce. If the road is ever completed, it would bypass Pakistan, dramatically cutting travel times between Central Asia and China and potentially promoting trade in rare minerals and other resources, such as lithium, cobalt and gold. The highway's boosters see it returning Afghanistan to the central place it held ages ago on the Silk Road, as China pushes forward with plans to build a modern version of the route with an intercontinental network of land and maritime routes.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/02/01/wakhan-corridor-highway-afghanistan-china/

Smart turbine engine for China's Mach-4 'Blackbird' completes ground test: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 1, 2025

China's aerospace industry has made significant strides in the development of a superfast turbojet that can add heat in the global race for new-generation military aircraft. Scientists at Taihang National Laboratory, a leading aerospace engine research institute in southwest China, have completed ground tests of an unnamed turbine engine with advanced artificial intelligence technology that enables it to operate efficiently and stably at speeds of up to Mach 4. The engine meets the military's requirement for "100 per cent supply chain localisation", according to the project team led by researcher Ji Chunsheng in a peer-reviewed paper published on January 16 in the Chinese journal Propulsion Technology.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3296089/smart-turbine-engine-chinas-mach-4-blackbird-completes-ground-test-study

Former Federal Reserve official accused of passing secrets to China

Claire Jones, Stefania Palma and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, February 2, 2025

A former senior Federal Reserve official was arrested after US prosecutors accused him of passing on economic secrets to China.

John Rogers, a senior adviser in the Fed's international finance division from 2010-21, used his position to access sensitive data on China-related tariffs, briefings to officials and policy debates and announcements, according to an indictment unsealed on Friday in federal court in Washington. Rogers, 63, of Virginia, was accused of transferring sensitive information to his personal email account before printing it out and passing it on to Chinese officials disguised as graduate students. He also used encrypted messaging apps to communicate with Chinese officials, the indictment said.

https://www.ft.com/content/1cf013ed-5e49-4925-acd4-3041eab6b028

China's Type 055 destroyer can stop US fleet with unmanned 'kill web', war game suggests

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 2, 2025

A simulated battle by the team, set in the western Pacific, just a few hundred kilometres east of Taiwan, saw a Type 055 destroyer confront an advancing US naval fleet. China's Type 055 is one of the largest warships in the world, but in the simulation the US fleet boasted eight Arleigh Burkeclass destroyers. Accompanying the Type 055, two unmanned mother ships were commanded to move forward and release 32 drones and 14 unmanned boats. In response, the US fleet launched 32 Tomahawk and LRASM stealth anti-ship missiles, all aimed at the single Chinese warship.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3296056/chinas-type-055-destroyer-can-stop-us-fleet-unmanned-kill-web-war-game-suggests

China warns Japan chip curbs would threaten supply chains

Ouyang Shijia

China Daily, February 2, 2025

The Ministry of Commerce said Japan's plans for export controls on semiconductors will undermine the stability of the global industrial and supply chains as well as disrupt normal business operations. "For some time, certain countries have been stretching the concept of national security and abusing export control measures to impose sanctions aimed at suppressing China's semiconductor and other industries," a spokesperson with the Ministry of Commerce said. According to the MOC spokesperson, China urges Japan to listen to the rational voices of industry stakeholders and reconsider its course of action.

http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202502/02/WS679e57bea310a2ab06ea9e46.html

Home-grown aircraft carrier Fujian will be the tip of China's blue-water spear

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, February 2, 2025

China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier the Fujian represents the tip of the Chinese navy's spear and is a crucial part of Beijing's efforts to keep up with the US carrier strike groups in the Indo-Pacific region. The People's Liberation Army plans to have six carriers by 2035, a fleet that would make it the world's second-largest blue-water navy after the United States. The Fujian is China's second domestically designed aircraft carrier and the only one equipped with cutting-edge electromagnetic catapults. The US is the only other country to use the technology on its carriers.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3297057/home-grown-aircraft-carrier-fujian-will-be-tip-chinas-blue-water-spear?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

What to know about China's role in the fentanyl crisis

Katrina Northrop and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, February 3, 2025

Announcing the new levies, Trump described the additional 10 percent tariff on all Chinese goods as a way to hold China accountable for its promises to stop "poisonous fentanyl and other drugs from flowing into our country." He accused the ruling Chinese Communist Party of having "subsidized and otherwise incentivized" companies to ship fentanyl and related chemicals to the United States. China, primarily due to its huge chemical manufacturing industry, was the primary source of fentanyl trafficked in the United States, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. In 2019, however, following pressure from U.S. officials, Beijing designated fentanyl as a controlled substance, leading to a drop in direct fentanyl shipments to the United States.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/02/03/us-china-fentanyl-crisis-tariffs/

China's submersible, research vessels fine-tuned for deep-sea missions

CGTN, February 3, 2025

China's manned deep-sea submersible Jiaolong and research vessel Dayang Yihao (Ocean No. 1) are set to complete major upgrades in preparation for deep-sea exploration missions this year, according to the country's oceanic affairs administration. Jiaolong, named after a mythical sea dragon, is capable of diving to depths exceeding 7,000 meters. The China-made underwater ship has explored waters in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean. Its upgrades are

currently in progress and technicians have already completed major enhancements to its critical components, including the lithium battery system. The sea dragon-inspired submersible is scheduled to undergo tank tests in February and sea trials in the South China Sea in March.

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-02-03/China-gears-up-for-future-deep-sea-missions-1AGxiLeegpy/p.html

Trump is sowing the seeds of an anti-American alliance, playing into Chinese hands

Gideon Rachman

Financial Times, February 3, 2025

The Biden administration's key insight was that, if the US is engaged in a global contest with China, it is much more likely to prevail if it can persuade the other advanced democracies to work alongside it. Trump, by contrast, has decided to go after America's allies much more vigorously than its adversaries. The likely consequence is that he will drive those allies back towards China. Chinese mercantilism and Beijing's support for Russia's war on Ukraine remain major stumbling blocks to any rapprochement between China and Brussels. But if the Trump administration abandons Ukraine — and Beijing takes a tougher line with Russia — the way would be open for a European tilt towards China.

https://www.ft.com/content/ba1c81a2-0b5e-4a40-a9f6-35228d958b19

China announces export controls on items related to tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum, indium

Xinhua, February 4, 2025

China announced export controls on items related to tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium, according to a statement jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and the General Administration of Customs. In response to media inquiries, an MOC spokesperson said the move is a common international practice. As a major global producer and exporter of tungsten and other items, China has long been committed to fulfilling non-proliferation and other international obligations, and imposed export controls on specific items according to laws and based on the need to safeguard national security and interests, the spokesperson said. This move not only serves to better protect China's national security and interests, but also enables the country to better fulfill non-proliferation and other international obligations, the spokesperson said, adding that it also safeguards the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains.

https://english.news.cn/20250204/cb07a7cd42a94ba3b4ed44cbcdecd9e4/c.html

China displays multiple weapons in retaliation for Trump's tariffs

David J. Lynch, Katrina Northrop, Lyric Li and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, February 4, 2025

China retaliated Tuesday for President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports with an array of economic weapons designed to convince Washington that an escalation in the trans-Pacific trade war would quickly become painful for the United States. The Chinese government announced 15 percent tariffs on imports of U.S. coal, liquefied natural gas, agricultural equipment and other goods; restrictions on exports of minerals used to make high-tech products; an antitrust investigation of Google; and the blacklisting of two other U.S. companies.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/02/04/trump-china-tariffs-trade/

PLA decries US-Philippine air drill over South China Sea as tensions escalate

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, February 4, 2025

The Chinese military conducted routine airspace patrols over Scarborough Shoal, coinciding with a Philippine Air Force exercise with the US above the South China Sea, in a continuing escalation of bilateral tensions. "On February 4, the Air Force of the Southern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army conducted a routine patrol in the airspace above Huangyan Island," PLA spokesman Senior Colonel Li Jianjian said, using the Chinese name for the shoal. "During this period, the Philippines colluded with extraterritorial countries to organise a so-called joint patrol, deliberately undermining peace and stability in the South China Sea region," Li said in a statement.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3297247/chinese-military-disputes-manilas-version-south-china-sea-naval-crossing?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Chinese Foreign Ministry on additional 10 percent tariffs on Chinese products due to fentanyl issues by the US

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, February 5, 2025

China is one of the world's toughest countries on counternarcotics both in terms of policy and its implementation. Fentanyl is an issue for the U.S. and the root cause lies in the country itself. China has given support to the U.S. response to the fentanyl issue in the spirit of humanity. At the U.S. request, China announced back in 2019 the decision to officially schedule fentanyl-related

substances as a class. We are the first country in the world to do so. In recent years, China has conducted practical counternarcotics cooperation with the U.S. side in a broad-based way. The achievements we have made are there for all to see in such fields as the scheduling of drug-related substances, intelligence sharing, cooperation on individual cases, removal of online ads, exchange on drug testing technology, and multilateral interaction.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202502/t20250205 11549507.html

China is building a giant laser facility to master near-limitless clean energy, satellite images appear to show

Laura Paddison

CNN, February 5, 2025

Images from space reveal an enormous X-shaped building rising up from rocky terrain in southwestern China. This is a huge nuclear fusion research facility, analysts say, and it could be a sign China is leaping ahead in the quest to harness this futuristic energy source. It could also mean they are amping up nuclear weapons development. Decker Eveleth, an analyst at US-based research organization the CNA Corporation, has been among those watching this facility for years. In 2020, a US official released images purporting to show various potential Chinese nuclear locations, including the site near Mianyang in Sichuan province.

https://edition.cnn.com/2025/02/05/climate/china-nuclear-fusion/index.html

South-east Asia calculates its next move as US and China face off

Chris Miller

Financial Times, February 5, 2025

As US President Donald Trump wields tariff threats, and China's record trade surplus approaches \$1tn, how are other countries navigating trade and tech tension? South-east Asia — economically interlinked, politically often neutral — is a laboratory for efforts not only to mitigate the cost of trade disputes, but to capitalise on them. Some south-east Asian officials have similar concerns about Chinese manufacturing plants opening in the region. When western companies open factories there, they do so because they want access to local labour and component supply, which are cheaper than at home. When Chinese firms arrive, they don't only import most components from China — they often import Chinese workers, too.

https://www.ft.com/content/a86cf0f1-bc81-41cc-9811-e0778006f513

DeepSeek proves 'small yard, high fence' cannot hinder innovation

Global Times, February 5, 2025

China's artificial intelligence (AI) company DeepSeek has launched its latest large model, DeepSeek-R1, which has achieved breakthroughs in several areas at an unexpectedly low cost, gaining popularity among users in multiple countries. This is a positive development in the field of AI, but some sectors and individuals in the US have shown hostility and aggression toward DeepSeek. However, if the US government attempts to block it with tariffs, export controls, or intellectual property claims, such actions would not only hinder the overall progress of AI technology but also be detrimental to the healthy and orderly development of AI technology in the US itself.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202502/1327847.shtml

Chinese military conducts routine patrol in South China Sea

China Military Online, February 5, 2025

The Chinese PLA Southern Theater Command conducted a routine patrol in the waters of South China Sea on February 5, said Air Force Senior Colonel Tian Junli, spokesperson for the PLA Southern Theater Command (STC) in a written statement. The spokesperson pointed out that the Philippines has been colluding with countries outside the region to organize the so-called "joint patrols" in an attempt to destabilize the South China Sea and endorse its illegal claims in the South China Sea, which undermines China's legitimate maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea. The theater command will remain on high alert to resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. Any military activities that disrupt the South China Sea are fully under control, stressed the spokesperson.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16367764.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-Cambodia relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, February 6, 2025

China and Cambodia are iron-clad friends supporting each other and sharing weal and woe. This time-honored friendship was cultivated by the older generation of leaders of both countries, and has stood the test of the changing international landscape. At present, China and Cambodia are guiding the high-quality development of bilateral relations with high-level mutual trust, continue to enrich the "Diamond Hexagon" cooperation framework, formulate cooperation plans for the Industrial Development Corridor and the "Fish and Rice Corridor," advance the implementation

of priority cooperation projects, boost each other's modernization process, deliver more tangibly for the two peoples and provide more stability and certainty for the effort to address international and regional challenges.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202502/t20250206 11550284.html

Nuclear power is 'making a comeback' around the world, says IEA executive director Fatih Birol

Daniel Hojnacki

Atlantic Council, February 6, 2025

"Today I can confirm that nuclear is making a comeback," said Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) at an Atlantic Council event. Birol, who is also an Atlantic Council International Advisory Board member, spoke about his organization's first-ever report dedicated solely to nuclear energy and what its findings could mean for the future of global energy security. "More than forty countries have concrete plans and projects in place to build or expand their nuclear capacity," said Birol. "We have never seen this before." The IEA, an independent intergovernmental organization based in Paris, commissioned its report on nuclear energy in June 2024 amid growing global interest in nuclear power and increased electricity demand.

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/nuclear-power-is-making-a-comeback-around-the-world-says-iea-executive-director-fatih-birol/

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Panama's withdrawal from the BRI

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, February 7, 2025

China firmly opposes the U.S. smear and sabotage of Belt and Road cooperation through the means of pressuring and coercion, and deeply regrets Panama's decision to not renew the Memorandum of Understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI is an economic cooperation initiative with the participation of more than 150 countries, including over 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and its outcomes have benefited people of many countries, including Panama. In recent years, China and Panama's cooperation under the BRI has produced fruitful outcomes and continued to deliver tangibly for the two peoples. We hope that Panama will bear in mind the overall bilateral relations and the long-term interests of the two peoples, steer clear of external interference and make the right decision.

 $\underline{https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202502/t20250207_11550953.html}$

China can detect US Seawolf-class submarine with magnetic wake tracking: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 7, 2025

For US submarines operating in waters near China, the era of absolute stealth may be ending – one magnetic ripple at a time. Researchers with Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xian claim to have developed a groundbreaking method to detect even the quietest underwater vessels by harnessing the magnetic fields generated by their wakes – a discovery that could reshape naval warfare. Led by associate professor Wang Honglei, the team modelled the Kelvin wake, a V-shaped surface disturbance created by submarines as they slice through water.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3297575/china-can-detect-us-seawolf-class-submarine-magnetic-wake-tracking-study

Chinese industry chamber urges US to resolve differences via dialogues as American firms, consumers pay price for tariffs

Global Times, February 7, 2025

The China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME) said it strongly opposes the US' unilateral move to impose tariffs on goods imported from China, stating that the practice is a serious violation of WTO rules, in response to the US' imposition of a 10 percent additional tariff on Chinese imports under the pretext of the fentanyl issue. "This will not help the US solve its own problems and will do harm to normal China-US economic and trade relations," the CCCME said in a statement posted on its official WeChat account.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202502/1328003.shtml

US lawmakers back ending 'one China'

Taipei Times, February 8, 2025

Two US representatives reintroduced a resolution calling for the US to end its "one China" policy, resume formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan and negotiate a bilateral Taiwan-US free trade agreement. Republican US representatives Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania's 10th District were backed by 22 Republican members of the US House of Representatives. The two congressmen first introduced the resolution

together in 2021. The resolution called on US President Donald Trump to "abandon the antiquated 'one China' policy in favor of a policy that recognizes the objective reality that Taiwan is an independent country, not governed by or included within the territory of the People's Republic of China."

https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2025/02/08/2003831541

Full text: China-Thailand joint statement on advancing comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership

The State Council, The People's Republic of China, February 8, 2025

The government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the Kingdom of Thailand issued a joint statement on advancing the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and building a China-Thailand community with a shared future for enhanced stability, prosperity, and sustainability through a forward-looking and people-centered vision. The two sides signed cooperation documents on economic development, digital economy, AI, customs facilitation and market access for food and agricultural products (farmed aquatic products), nuclear technology, lunar exploration, green development, postal service, press and media.

 $\frac{\text{https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202502/08/content_WS67a717dbc6d0868f4e8ef7c9.html\#:}{\text{xt=8\%20\%2D\%2D\%20The\%20government\%20of,enhanced\%20stability\%2C\%20prosperity\%2}{\text{C\%20and\%20sustainability}}$

PLA rapidly modernizing, but still lacking, MAC says

Chung Li-hua and Jonathan Chin

Taipei Times, February 9, 2025

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is rapidly modernising, but has yet to attain the joint warfare capability necessary to conquer Taiwan, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) said in its latest quarterly report on China. Chinese President Xi Jinping has pursued comprehensive military reforms to modernize the PLA's muti-domain and joint warfare capabilities, the MAC said, citing the US Department of Defence's 2024 China Military Power Report. That includes enhancing the cooperation between land, sea and air forces, and nuclear, space, electronic and cyberwarfare, it said.

https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2025/02/09/2003831578

Catalyst DeepSeek: How China is building global tech competitors

Yang Zhao

CGTN, February 9, 2025

DeepSeek's rise has not only reshaped perceptions of China's AI capabilities but also sent a wake-up call to tech giants. Traditionally, China has played catch-up in AI applications, but DeepSeek's success proves that China can now compete at the foundational technology level. It's hard to pinpoint exactly how a policy slowly influences the development of a specific technological breakthrough. The chain of causality is complex, but one thing is certain: policies play a pivotal role in creating an environment that nurtures innovation. China is placing greater emphasis on integrating fundamental innovation with the market. The rise of DeepSeek, for instance, is no coincidence.

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-02-09/Catalyst-DeepSeek-How-China-is-building-global-tech-competitors-1ARec7CkiR2/index.html

Chinese Embassy in Seoul says opposes 'rashly' linking China to Korea's domestic affairs

The Korea Times, February 9, 2025

The Chinese Embassy in Seoul has said it opposes attempts to "rashly" link China to Korea's domestic affairs in response to claims of Beijing intervening in Korean elections. The remarks came as some supporters of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol have accused China of intervening in the country's elections despite the claims being rejected by Korea's election watchdog. "(We) oppose rashly linking Korea's domestic affairs to China," the embassy said in a statement to Yonhap News Agency. "We believe that the Korean people will recognize the situation accurately and make the right judgement."

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2025/02/113_391819.html

Anti-ship missiles are key to defence

Chen Yu-fu and William Hetherington

Taipei Times, February 10, 2025

The military should deploy a large number of anti-ship missiles to counter China's landing vessels and aircraft carriers in the event of an attempted invasion of Taiwan, a defence researcher said. Drones could also be launched from patrol vessels to conduct reconnaissance and speed up

responses whenever the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) makes air or sea incursions around Taiwan, National Defence University distinguished adjunct lecturer Holmes Liao (廖宏祥) said. China engages in such incursions with great regularity, and its construction of new landing vessels should be seen as a warning sign that the PLA is preparing to annex Taiwan, said Liao, who once served as a representative in Taiwan for non-defunct US military contractor McDonnell Douglas Corp.

https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2025/02/10/2003831628

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-Cook Islands relationship

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, February 10, 2025

The Cook Islands is an important partner of China in the South Pacific. Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1997, our two countries have respected each other, treated each other as equals, and sought common development, achieving fruitful outcomes in exchanges and cooperation in various areas. China stands ready to work with the Cook Islands for new progress in bilateral relations. As for the visit you mentioned, we will release information in due course. On the special relationship between the Cook Islands and New Zealand, China believes that both New Zealand and the Cook Islands are important cooperation partners of China. China stands ready to grow ties and carry out cooperation with Pacific Island countries, including the Cook Islands. The relationship between China and the Cook Islands does not target any third party, and should not be disrupted or restrained by any third party.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202502/t20250210 11552122.html

Type 094 nuclear submarine is China's 'King of the South China Sea' in bid for deterrence

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, February 10, 2025

The presence of the Type 094 nuclear ballistic missile submarine marked a significant milestone, with the US defence department describing it as China's "first credible sea-based nuclear deterrent". Beijing operates six of the submarines that are capable of firing JL-2 missiles, and possibly the more sophisticated JL-3 missiles that could strike US territory from Chinese shores.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3298032/type-094-nuclear-submarine-chinas-king-south-china-sea-bid-deterrence?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Chinese, Thai firms ink deals on low-orbit satellite technology, fostering closer digital connectivity under BRI

Chu Daye

Global Times, February 10, 2025

Chinese satellite internet solution provider and private satellite maker GalaxySpace and Thai telecom operator True Corporation inked a deal to carry out in-depth cooperation in low-orbit satellite communication technology, space-to-ground integrated network solutions, and mobile phone direct satellite communication technology to jointly promote the research and development (R&D) and verification of related technologies. The two companies will expand satellite application use cases, and work together to build future-oriented digital infrastructure, according to a statement sent to the Global Times by GalaxySpace. It noted that the cooperation will expand innovative applications of satellite internet in Thailand and ASEAN at large, in areas including maritime, agriculture, education, Internet of Vehicles (IoV).

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202502/1328184.shtml

