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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**



## **How capable are China's spies? US report highlights sophisticated espionage capabilities of Beijing**

The Week, December 21, 2024

China appears to have a sophisticated, persistent cyber-enabled espionage system in place, seeking to procure and export controlled military items from the USA to Beijing. The '2024 Report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China' released by the US Defence Department, listed a few instances of arrests that happened in the past one year to highlight China's efforts to acquire sensitive, dual-use, or military-grade equipment from the US. These included aviation technologies, radiation-hardened power amplifiers and supervisory circuits, radiation-hardened integrated circuits, monolithic microwave integrated circuits, accelerometers, gyroscopes, naval and marine technologies, signals decoders, syntactic foam trade secrets, space communications, military communication jamming equipment, and dynamic random access memory.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2024/12/21/how-capable-are-chinas-spies-us-report-highlights-sophisticated-espionage-capabilities-of-beijing.html>

## **China's espionage has changed the game – and the West is struggling to keep up**

Ben Wright and Rosa Silverman

The Telegraph, December 21, 2024

The revelation that a suspected Chinese spy may have used his relationship with Prince Andrew to try and get close to British authorities could hardly have come at a worse time for the UK government. Sir Keir Starmer has been busily attempting to defrost relations with Beijing. The discovery of an alleged China-backed agent at the heart of the British establishment has inevitably resulted in calls for heightened vigilance from China hawks.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/12/21/chinese-espionage-conquered-west-yang-tengbo-prince-andrew/>

## **How the US can overcome China's gallium ban**

Financial Times, December 22, 2024

China produces 98 per cent of the world's supply of gallium and 60 per cent of germanium, according to the US Geological Survey. It dominates a host of other so-called rare earth minerals

— they are not so much rare as a hassle to extract — used in everything from F-35 fighter jets to night goggles to electric vehicles. Beijing's ban, reckon researchers at the USGS, could shave £3.4bn off economic output. That is hardly enough to set Americans quaking; the country generates that in an hour or so; even the modelled worst-case is \$9bn. But it may also understate the case. Unlike China, which has accelerated a self-sufficiency drive on chips, corporate America has done little to wean itself off China's critical minerals.

<https://www.ft.com/content/85c875f7-f7c7-41d6-b635-fd7a51074a34>

## **2024 Yearender: China's space sector soars to new heights, setting new goals**

Fan Anqi and Liang Rui

Global Times, December 22, 2024

In 2024, driven by the "dual engine" of its "national team" and the booming commercial space sector, China has excelled in the number of rocket launches, satellite networking, technological innovation, commercial space development and international cooperation, Tan Yonghua, a senior expert of China's Academy of Aerospace Liquid Propulsion Technology, told the Global Times. On December 18, the Chinese Academy of Engineering released the "Global Engineering Frontiers 2024" report. Among them, the Chang'e-6 mission and China's progress in its low Earth orbit communication satellite constellation were selected as two of the "Top Ten Global Engineering Achievements in 2024" in the aerospace field.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325567.shtml>

## **US nuclear expansion unlikely to deter China, finds CSIS-MIT study**

Business Standard, December 22, 2024

A recent unclassified war game conducted by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has revealed that increasing US nuclear capabilities would not deter China from employing atomic weapons in a conflict over Taiwan, Taipei Times reported. According to the report, the US's nuclear capabilities, beyond ongoing modernisation efforts, had minimal impact on Beijing's willingness to deploy nuclear arms. Instead, the exercise highlighted the conditions under which either side might face pressure to resort to nuclear strikes, rather than the likelihood of such weapons being used.

[https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-nuclear-expansion-unlikely-to-deter-china-finds-csis-mit-study-124122200040\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-nuclear-expansion-unlikely-to-deter-china-finds-csis-mit-study-124122200040_1.html)

## **China builds large commercial radar satellite constellation**

Xinhua, December 23, 2024

The large-scale application of a Chinese commercial radar remote sensing constellation composed of 12 satellites began on December 23, according to PIESAT, a Beijing-based satellite firm. The announcement came after four PIESAT-2 satellites, which were launched into a 528-kilometer sun-synchronous orbit last week, were calibrated and successfully transmitted high-resolution images and data back to Earth. The latest satellites joined another eight satellites that were previously deployed to space, creating China's largest commercial radar remote sensing constellation: Nuwa, which is named after the Chinese goddess known as a creator of humanity.

<https://english.news.cn/20241223/647c0de482fe4dda9cf61402ee1ea210/c.html>

## **China's state security authority warns about foreign spy agencies using social media comments to steal national secrets**

Global Times, December 23, 2024

China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) warned on Monday about foreign spy agencies using internet users' comments on Chinese social media to steal national secrets. The country's state security departments have discovered that some foreign espionage and intelligence agencies have exploited social media comment sections to steal national state secrets in recent years, disrupt cyberspace order, and pose a threat to China's state security. Comment sections on social media platforms have increasingly become a primary venue for public social interaction, as they allow real-time discussions on diverse topics.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325590.shtml>

## **Philippines' introduction of US Typhon mid-range missile system a provocative and dangerous move: Chinese FM**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 23, 2024

China firmly opposes US deployment of Mid-Range Capability missile system in the Philippines. We have made clear this opposition more than once. Let me stress again that the Philippines, by bringing in this strategic offensive weapon, is enabling a country outside the region to fuel tensions and antagonism in this region, and incite geopolitical confrontation and arms race. Such a move is

provocative and dangerous, and it is an extremely irresponsible choice to its own people and people of all Southeast Asian countries, to history, and to regional security. What the region needs is peace and prosperity, not the missile system or confrontation.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241223\\_11515858.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241223_11515858.html)

## **Key Strategic Forces Takeaways from the 2024 China Military Power Report**

Rebecca L. Heinrichs

Hudson Institute, December 23, 2024

The Department of Defence has released its annual report to Congress on Chinese military developments. The report confirms that China is accelerating its strategic nuclear breakout. China now has over 600 fully operational nuclear warheads in its arsenal, up from the estimate of 500 in last year's report. This supports the DoD's assessment that China is on track to have 1,000 fully operational nuclear warheads by 2030. Official assessments expect China to complete its buildup and modernization efforts by 2035. However, Xi Jinping's aim to replace the United States as the preeminent geopolitical power—and his attendant ambitions to undermine US security alliances—raises doubts that China will be satisfied with peer nuclear status rather than nuclear superiority.

<https://www.hudson.org/missile-defence/key-strategic-nuclear-forces-takeaways-2024-china-military-power-report-rebecca-heinrichs>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US' National Defence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 24, 2024

The US determined to sign into law the “National Defence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025” containing negative content on China, playing up the “China threat” narrative year after year. It has kept trumpeting for military support to Taiwan, abusing state power to go after Chinese sci-tech and economic development, limiting trade, economic and people-to-people exchanges between China and the US, undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests and disrupting efforts of the two sides in stabilizing bilateral relations. China strongly deplores and firmly opposes this and has lodged serious protests to the US.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241224\\_11517236.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241224_11517236.html)

## **US launches probe into Chinese semiconductor industry**

Tim Bradshaw, Jonathan Wheatley, Edward White and Nian Liu

Financial Times, December 24, 2024

The US has launched a probe into alleged anti-competitive measures by China to support its semiconductor industry, just weeks before the Biden administration hands over to president-elect Donald Trump. The US Trade Representative's office said it was investigating "China's acts, policies and practices related to targeting of the semiconductor industry for dominance". The probe will be conducted under Section 301 of the US Trade Act and initially target what the USTR called "foundational" semiconductors, including those used by the automotive, healthcare, infrastructure, aerospace and defence industries.

<https://www.ft.com/content/072d391c-93af-40c6-b020-a4a36d31d4c8>

## **PLA Southern Theater Command reveals amphibious landing drill in South China Sea**

Global Times, December 24, 2024

Equipped with helicopters, hovercraft, and amphibious vehicles, a group of amphibious landing ships of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently conducted a combat exercise in the South China Sea, the PLA Southern Theater Command revealed in an official WeChat report, highlighting the commissioning of new warships in recent years as part of its progress toward far seas operations. A detachment of warships from the PLA Southern Theater Command conducted a multi-course combat drill in an undisclosed location in the South China Sea, according to a report published by the PLA Southern Theater Command's official WeChat account.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325680.shtml>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on Hong Kong dissenters bothering China**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 25, 2024

Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs and there is no place for foreign interference. Relevant countries need to respect China's sovereignty and Hong Kong's rule of law and stop emboldening anti-China rioters. Spreading pessimistic or slanderous rhetoric against Hong Kong will end up nowhere and any attempt to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs under the pretext of human rights and freedom is doomed to fail.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241225\\_11518367.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241225_11518367.html)

## **US suppression unlikely to stall growth**

Zhong Nan

China Daily, December 25, 2024

The United States' suppressive measures will not succeed in hindering the growth of China's semiconductor industry, but will instead empower it to navigate challenges more effectively, market watchers said. They noted that even though suppression actions by the US will create short-term obstacles in areas such as advanced chips, the growing use of domestic chips will fuel the development of the industry in China. The Office of the US Trade Representative announced the initiation of an investigation regarding "China's acts, policies and practices related to targeting of the semiconductor industry for dominance". The investigation will be conducted under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, according to a news release.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/25/WS676b3d22a310f1265a1d4b1c.html>

## **China and Japan agree to talks on security issues as they seek to mend ties**

Ken Moritsugu and Mari Yamaguchi

The Washington Post, December 25, 2024

China and Japan agreed to set up talks on often contentious security issues as they seek to improve a relationship riven in recent years by a range of issues, from territorial disputes to the discharge of water from Japan's tsunami-wrecked nuclear power plant. Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, on his first trip to China since assuming the post in October, sounded positive after meetings with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, saying the talks were "very candid" and wide-ranging.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/12/25/japan-visit-china-foreign-minister-improve-ties/91180e04-c29a-11ef-a1ab-d6b7af7c1978\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/12/25/japan-visit-china-foreign-minister-improve-ties/91180e04-c29a-11ef-a1ab-d6b7af7c1978_story.html)

## **China wants its people to watch for spies. Here's what it's asked them to beware of this year, from online dating to suspicious dragonflies**

Matthew Loh

Business Insider, December 25, 2024

Xi told officials in June 2023 that the country's national security issues had risen significantly, and that they should adopt "worst-case-scenario thinking" to prepare for potential "perilous, stormy

seas" ahead. Spy gadgets aren't just a movie concept, the State Security Ministry said in August. "In real life, some inconspicuous daily necessities around us may also contain mysteries," it wrote in a post about "hidden gadgets." It told the story of an unnamed businessman bidding on an overseas project who discovered microphones in a box of napkins.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-national-security-spies-dragonflies-rock-music-dating-deliveries-students-2024-12>

## **Worst enemy of the US is itself: Defence Spokesperson**

Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China, December 26, 2024

"The US NDAA played up the alleged 'China military threat' as an excuse to increase the US military spending and maintain its hegemony. This grossly interferes with China's internal affairs and undermines world peace and stability. We deplore and firmly oppose to it," said Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, at a press conference. It is reported that US President Joe Biden signed the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defence Authorization Act (FY25 NDAA) into law, which announced a defence budget of up to 895.2 billion US dollars for the next fiscal year and identified China as one of the major challenges to the US national security. Some analysts suggest that the introduction of this Act reflects the deep anxiety of the US about its own strengths.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News\\_213114/TopStories/16361211.html](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News_213114/TopStories/16361211.html)

## **China unveils new futuristic fighter jets in surprise flyby**

Cate Cadell

The Washington Post, December 26, 2024

Images of advanced aircraft cruising at low altitudes in China have surprised analysts, who say they could mark the maiden flights of sixth-generation fighter jets, representing a major breakthrough for the country's military. Photos and videos originating on Chinese social media platforms and reposted to X show large triangular aircraft making sweeping slow turns at a very low altitude. The images appear to show two different aircraft, one smaller than the other — both featuring a tailless, stealthy design suggesting they rely on advanced computational technology to be piloted.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/12/27/china-sixth-generation-fighter-jet-flight/>



## **China pushes ahead with huge — and controversial — dam in Tibet**

Christian Shepherd

The Washington Post, December 26, 2024

Chinese authorities are pressing ahead with plans to build a series of enormous hydropower dams across a gorge in the Himalayas that is three times as deep as the Grand Canyon, despite concerns raised by Tibetan human rights groups and New Delhi. Beijing has approved plans to dam the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River, which flows from Tibet into India and Bangladesh, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The building spree, if it goes ahead, threatens to rekindle a border dispute with India, which was only recently eased. In India, the Yarlung Tsangpo is known as the Brahmaputra and flows through the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/12/26/china-tibet-hydropower-dam/>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the countermeasures against seven US defence corporations and related senior executives**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 27, 2024

The US has, once again, provided China's Taiwan region with huge military aid and arms sales and its "National Defence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025" contains negative articles on China. Such acts seriously violate the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, seriously interfere in China's internal affairs, and seriously undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the provisions in the Law of the People's Republic of China on Countering Foreign Sanctions, China decided to take countermeasures against seven US defence corporations and related senior executives.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241227\\_11521820.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241227_11521820.html)

## **China Maritime Security: PLA Navy launches new-generation amphibious assault ship**

CGTN, December 27, 2024

China has launched its new-generation amphibious assault ship, adding to its growing navy. The first Type 076 vessel, named the Sichuan, was put into the water on Friday in Shanghai. The

Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy says the ship has a full-load displacement of more than 40 thousand metric tons of water and features a dual-island superstructure along with a full-length flight deck. It's capable of carrying fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and amphibious landing craft. The Navy says the independently developed vessel plays a key role in enhancing China's combat capabilities at sea.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-27/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDgyNTM4/index.html>

## **China accuses the U.S. of hacking back as cyber conflict grows**

Cyble, December 27, 2024

U.S. national security and cybersecurity agencies have leveled cyber espionage accusations against the People's Republic of China (PRC) for much of 2024, accusing the PRC of infiltrating U.S. critical infrastructure and telecom networks – possibly in preparation for a potential cyber war between the two global powers. China has pushed back, calling such charges misinformation and accusing the U.S. of its own espionage campaigns. While the PRC's claims merit skepticism – most notably that alleged Volt Typhoon activities have been U.S. misinformation or “false flag” operations – new claims by China that two recent sophisticated cyberattacks were carried out by the U.S. are worth examining if only for the details and security insights they provide.

<https://cyble.com/blog/china-us-cyber-espionage/>

## **Space Station keeps dodging debris from China's 2007 satellite weapon test**

Aaron Gregg

The Washington Post, December 27, 2024

The International Space Station had to fire thrusters from a docked spacecraft last month to avoid a piece of debris that has been circling the globe for the nearly 18 years since the Chinese government blasted apart one of its own satellites in a weapons test. The evasive maneuver was the second in just six days for the space station, which has four NASA astronauts and three Russian cosmonauts aboard. That is the shortest interval ever between such actions, illustrating the slowly worsening problem of space junk in orbit.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/23/iss-space-junk-satellite-china-us/>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the approval of the world's largest dam at ecologically sensitive Himalaya region close to Indian LAC**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 27, 2024

China has always been responsible for the development of cross-border rivers. China's hydropower development in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River aims to speed up developing clean energy, and respond to climate change and extreme hydrological disasters. The hydropower development there has been studied in an in-depth way for decades, and safeguard measures have been taken for the security of the project and ecological environment protection. The project has no negative impact on the lower reaches. China will continue to maintain communication with countries at the lower reaches through existing channels, and step up cooperation on disaster prevention and relief for the benefit of the people by the river.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241227\\_11521820.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241227_11521820.html)

## **A 9th telecoms firm has been hit by a massive Chinese espionage campaign, the White House says**

Eric Tucker

Associated Press, December 28, 2024

A ninth U.S. telecoms firm has been confirmed to have been hacked as part of a sprawling Chinese espionage campaign that gave officials in Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans, a top White House official said. Biden administration officials said this month that at least eight telecommunications companies, as well as dozens of nations, had been affected by the Chinese hacking blitz known as Salt Typhoon. But deputy national security adviser Anne Neuberger told reporters Friday that a ninth victim had been identified after the administration released guidance to companies about how to hunt for Chinese culprits in their networks.

<https://apnews.com/article/united-states-china-hacking-espionage-c5351ef7c2207785b76c8c62cde6c513>

## **China conducts combat readiness patrols in territorial waters and airspace of Huangyan Dao**

China Military Online, December 29, 2024

The Chinese PLA Southern Theater Command organized its naval and air force troops to conduct combat readiness patrols in the territorial waters and airspace of China's Huangyan Dao and

surrounding areas, according to a written statement released by the theater command. Since December, 2024, the PLA Southern Theater Command has organized its naval and air force troops to continuously strengthen maritime and airspace patrols around China's territorial waters of Huangyan Dao, and further strengthen the control over relevant waters and airspace, in a bid to resolutely safeguard China's national sovereignty and security, and maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16361632.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16361632.html)

## **China's comprehensive scientific research ship commissioned, marking expansion of country's manned deep-diving capabilities to entire ocean**

Global Times, December 29, 2024

China's first comprehensive scientific research ship designed for global deep-sea exploration, Tan Suo San Hao, or Exploration No. 3, was commissioned in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province, signaling an expansion of China's manned deep-diving capabilities to the entire ocean, with currently a total of 1,433 dives conducted by China's manned submersibles to date. The ship, measuring about 104 meters in length with a discharge volume of 10,000 tons, was delivered and launched from Nansha in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province. It features dual-directional icebreaking capabilities at its bow and stern, with a range of 15,000 nautical miles and a capacity to accommodate 80 personnel, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325953.shtml>

## **Chinese Salt Typhoon cyberespionage targets AT&T and Verizon**

Nikkei Asia, December 29, 2024

The Chinese-linked Salt Typhoon cyberespionage operation targeted AT&T and Verizon's systems, but the wireless carriers' U.S. networks are now secure as they work with law enforcement and government officials, the companies said on Saturday in their first acknowledgment of the attacks. "We detect no activity by nation-state actors in our networks at this time. Based on our current investigation of this attack, the People's Republic of China targeted a small number of individuals of foreign intelligence interest," an AT&T spokesperson said.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Cybersecurity/Chinese-Salt-Typhoon-cyberespionage-targets-AT-T-and-Verizon>

## **Seizing trends, shouldering responsibilities, and pursuing the greater good: President Xi Jinping leads major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics into a new stage of greater achievements**

Guo Jiping

Global Times, December 30, 2024

Over the past year, the profound meaning behind "much more can be accomplished" has been clearly demonstrated to the world. President Xi Jinping attended three major diplomatic events, made four important overseas visits, and held over 100 in-depth discussions with leaders from across the five continents. The agenda of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics reflects visionary foresight, a pattern of win-win cooperation, and a global mind-set that seeks benefits for all.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325996.shtml>

## **China releases first report on scientific research in space station**

Xinhua, December 30, 2024

China has released its first report detailing the progress made in scientific research and applications related to the country's space station over the past two years. The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), which compiled the report to "mark the two-year anniversary of the space station's full establishment," said that the report will be released annually based on the progress of ongoing space missions. The report focuses on areas such as space life and human research, microgravity physical sciences, and new space technologies and applications.

<https://english.news.cn/20241230/9d6a666e99eb4e37bef09e3a10fcbe18/c.html>

## **Pakistan will build another Chinese-designed nuclear power unit**

Aaron Larson

Power, December 30, 2024

The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) issued a construction license to Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) for Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5), on December 26. C-5 will be an advanced third-generation pressurized water reactor (PWR) of Chinese Hualong One design (HPR1000). The unit will have active and passive safety features including a double-shell containment and reactor filtered venting system. It will have a 60-year design life.

<https://www.powermag.com/pakistan-will-build-another-chinese-designed-nuclear-power-unit/>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the 75th anniversary of the China-DPRK diplomatic relations**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 30, 2024

China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors and always enjoy a traditional friendship and cooperative ties. China stands ready to work with the DPRK to follow the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries and to maintain, consolidate and develop our bilateral relations.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241230\\_11523876.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241230_11523876.html)

## **Why China is building a thorium molten-salt reactor**

Emily Waltz and Yu-Tzu Chiu

IEEE Spectrum, December 30, 2024

China's efforts put it at the forefront of both thorium-based fuel breeding and molten-salt reactors. Several companies elsewhere in the world are developing plans for this kind of fuel or reactor, but none has yet operated one. Prior to China's pilot project, the last operating molten-salt reactor was Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Molten Salt Reactor Experiment, which ran on uranium. It shut down in 1969. Thorium is a waste product of China's huge rare earth mining industry. Harnessing it would provide a practically inexhaustible supply of fuel. Already, China's Gansu province has maritime and aerospace applications in mind for this future energy supply, according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/chinas-thorium-molten-salt-reactor>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and burgeoning China-Africa relations**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 31, 2024

In 2024, China-Africa relations have continued to produce fruitful results despite an international landscape featuring transformation and instability. We've witnessed the grand friendly gathering of the big China-Africa family. Nearly 6,000 guests from both at home and abroad, including leaders of all the 53 African countries having diplomatic ties with China, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and UN Secretary-General, came to Beijing to attend the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241231\\_11524824.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241231_11524824.html)

## **Top Republican demands 'costs' for China after it hacked Treasury Dept in year marked by CCP espionage**

Morgan Phillips

Fox News, December 31, 2024

China was behind a "major" hack of the Treasury Department, the Biden administration said Monday, gaining access to unclassified documents and the workstations of government employees. After a year fraught with hacking across all government agencies, China experts say it's time to get serious about thwarting adversarial espionage. "The latest intrusion should not come as a surprise. For too long, the CCP has paid no real price for its increasingly aggressive intrusions into our homeland and networks," Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich., chairman of the House China Select Committee, told Fox News Digital.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/top-republican-demands-costs-china-after-hacked-treasury-dept-year-marked-ccp-espionage>

## **US Treasury says Chinese state-backed actor hacked its computers**

Colby Smith

Financial Times, December 31, 2024

A Chinese state-sponsored actor hacked the US Treasury department through a third-party service provider in a "major cyber security incident", the agency said. In a letter to the Senate banking committee seen by the Financial Times, the Treasury department said it had been informed on December 8 by software company BeyondTrust that a hacker had breached several remote government workstations by obtaining a security key and had in turn gained access to unclassified documents on them.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ecfae287-adfe-4f5c-9c7b-7ec1c8b601a7>

## **'All frequencies': China releases sixth-generation stealth fighter standard**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, December 31, 2024

China's new-generation fighter jet programme is pushing the boundaries of stealth material technology against multi-angle radar illumination across all frequency bands, according to

scientists involved in the project. To put the stealth coatings to the test the project team said they came up with far more stringent evaluation criteria than the military currently uses. The new testing standard includes several criteria once thought to be unattainable. Stealth materials must now be both lightweight and thin, while also being able to absorb high-frequency electromagnetic waves from advanced military radars and effectively absorb the low-frequency detection signals used by anti-stealth radars.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3292875/all-frequencies-china-releases-sixth-generation-stealth-fighter-standard>



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

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA**