

August 10, 2025

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



Chinese Embassy refutes Philippine defence chief's remarks on the South China Sea

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of the Philippines, August 1, 2025

China's position and claims on the South China Sea issue are clear and consistent, as reflected in a series of government statements, white papers, and documents. Formed in the long historic course, China's sovereignty and relevant rights in the South China Sea have solid historic and legal basis, and are in line with international law and international practice, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Anyone who carefully reads China's position papers will not arrive at absurd claims such as "China claims indisputable sovereignty and territorial integrity over all waters in the nine-dash line."

http://ph.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgfyrbt/202508/t20250801_11681057.htm

Chinese scientists double artillery gun lifespan with 2,000-year-old chromium tech upgrade

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 1, 2025

Scientists in northwest China have doubled the service life of high-temperature, high-pressure artillery barrels by refining a chromium plating technique first used by the Chinese military before 200BC. Bronze swords buried with the Terracotta Army of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, remained sharp and untarnished after more than 2,000 years underground. Microscopic analysis revealed a thin layer of chromium salts – just 10 to 15 micrometres thick – on their surfaces, protected by an underlying oxide film that had all but halted corrosion, seen as evidence of a sophisticated surface treatment technique mastered by ancient Chinese metallurgists.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3320219/chinese-scientists-double-artillery-gun-lifespan-2000-year-old-chromium-tech-upgrade>

China's growing nuclear arsenal aims to break US alliances and dominate Asia, report warns

Morgan Phillips

Fox News, August 1, 2025

China is no longer building nuclear weapons solely for deterrence — it's using them to fuel its ambitions as a dominant power in Asia, seeking to intimidate U.S. allies and undermine American influence across the region, according to a new report. The Hudson Institute warns that by the mid-2030s, China is expected to become a nuclear peer of the United States in both quantity and quality,

fielding a modern, survivable and diverse arsenal that includes over 1,000 warheads, a fully developed nuclear triad and tactical nuclear capabilities.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/chinas-growing-nuclear-arsenal-aims-break-us-alliances-dominate-asia-report-warns>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on alleged cyberattacks against China by the US

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, August 1, 2025

It is the latest evidence of the U.S. government's malicious cyberattacks on China, once again shows that the U.S. is the top cyber threat faced by China and exposes the U.S.'s hypocrisy on the issue of cybersecurity—claiming itself to be the victim while it's the other way around. China will continue to do what is necessary to safeguard its cybersecurity. The U.S. used its allies in Europe and in China's neighboring region to launch the cyberattacks. China always believes that cybersecurity is a common challenge faced by all countries and requires joint response through dialogue and cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202508/t20250801_11681319.html

Will Chinese Z-10ME attack helicopters now power Pakistan air force?

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, August 2, 2025

Images circulating online suggest Pakistan's military has received a shipment of Chinese-made advanced attack helicopters, a version of which has been deployed by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) near China's mountainous border with India. In the past week, photos and videos of the Z-10ME, the export version of the Chinese multirole attack helicopter, have appeared on Pakistani social media accounts. On Tuesday, a social media user believed to be an active-duty member of the Pakistan Army uploaded a video clearly showing the helicopter airborne, apparently conducting field airport support missions from a military base.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3320541/will-chinese-z-10me-attack-helicopters-now-power-pakistan-air-force?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Classified military operations disclosed

Zhao Lei

China Daily, August 2, 2025

China has declassified some of its top-secret military operations via a five-episode documentary that began broadcasting, which marked the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's

Liberation Army. In the TV series, Gong Jian, or Forging Ahead, clips are shown of officers and technicians of the PLA Rocket Force taking part in a full-range test launch of a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, on Sept 25, with the video coverage having been made public for the first time, unveiling some details of the historical moment in the history of the PLA and maneuvers of one of the military's most sensitive strategic forces. The clips show that the missile launch test was conducted in accordance with its original schedule despite the location of the operation having just been hit by a strong storm.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202508/02/WS688d5126a310c0209d01aa37.html>

Chinese scientists say they can create a ‘storm eye’ for PLA forces in electronic warfare

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 3, 2025

Chinese scientists have developed an advanced electronic warfare technique that can create a zone of electromagnetic calm, similar to the eye of a storm at the heart of an intense signal jamming environment. This groundbreaking innovation could allow Chinese military forces to disable enemy communications and navigation systems while protecting their own troops and allied networks from collateral disruption. The technology, still at an early stage with feasibility verified in computer simulations, relies on coordinated unstaffed aerial platforms that emit precisely-tuned radio frequency (RF) interference.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3320354/chinese-scientists-say-they-can-create-storm-eye-pla-forces-electronic-warfare>

China is choking the supply of critical minerals to Western defence companies

Jon Emont, Heather Somerville and Alistair MacDonald

The Wall Street Journal, August 3, 2025

China is limiting the flow of critical minerals to Western defence manufacturers, delaying production and forcing companies to scour the world for stockpiles of the minerals needed to make everything from bullets to jet fighters. Earlier this year, as U.S.-China trade tensions soared, Beijing tightened the controls it places on the export of rare earths. While Beijing allowed them to start flowing after the Trump administration agreed in June to a series of trade concessions, China has maintained a lock on critical minerals for defence purposes. China supplies around 90% of the world's rare earths and dominates the production of many other critical minerals.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/asia/china-western-defence-industry-critical-minerals-3971ec51>

Chinese university students told to spy on classmates, report says

Nathan Standley

BBC, August 4, 2025

Chinese students at UK universities are being pressured to spy on their classmates in an attempt to suppress the discussion of issues that are sensitive to the Chinese government, a new report suggests. The UK-China Transparency (UKCT) think tank says its survey of academics in China studies also highlighted reports of Chinese government officials warning lecturers to avoid discussing certain topics in their classes. It comes days after a new law came into force placing more responsibility on universities to uphold academic freedom and free speech. The Chinese embassy in London called the report "groundless and absurd", adding that China respects freedom of speech in the UK and elsewhere.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyvn308789go>

PLA conducts patrol in South China Sea, on high alert for destabilizing activities

CGTN, August 4, 2025

Chinese military conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea from August 3 to August 4, said a spokesperson. China took the the action in response to the moves by the Philippines to enlist countries outside the region for so-called joint patrols and undermined peace and stability in the region, said Tian Junli, spokesperson for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command. The forces under the Southern Theater Command will remain on high alert and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and maritime interests, Tian said, adding "All military activities that seek to stir up trouble or create flashpoints in the region are under full control."

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-08-04/PLA-patrols-South-China-Sea-stays-alert-for-destabilizing-activities-1Fzb4plx1iU/p.html>

Navy expands amphibious assault fleet

Zhao Lei

China Daily, August 4, 2025

The People's Liberation Army Navy has commissioned its fourth Type 075 amphibious assault ship, naming it after Central China's Hubei province. Designed by the Marine Design and Research Institute of China, a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp and a major developer of the nation's amphibious warships and landing craft, the Type 075 is China's first class of amphibious

assault ships and is much bigger than all previous models of amphibious warfare ships in the country.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202508/04/WS689004d3a310c0209d01ac58.html>

Chinese scientists draw on Ukraine war lessons and propose an upgrade for PLA drones

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 4, 2025

In Ukraine, about nine in 10 Russian drones have been shot down by advanced air defences, according to various estimates. Ukrainian air force data suggested that about 15 per cent of drones had penetrated its defences between April and June – rising from just 5 per cent previously. But a group of Chinese aerospace engineers and defence researchers have now proposed a radical technological enhancement for combat drones that may dramatically increase their ability to survive to nearly 90 per cent. At the heart of the proposal was an innovative concept: fitting compact, side-mounted rocket boosters to small or medium-sized drones so they can perform instantaneous, high-G manoeuvres in the final seconds before a missile impact.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3320573/chinese-scientists-draw-ukraine-war-lessons-and-propose-upgrade-pla-drones>

Kazakhstan holds negotiations with China on nuclear power plant construction

The Astana Times, August 4, 2025

Negotiations are underway with potential suppliers including China National Nuclear Corporation for the construction of the third nuclear power plant, reported the Kazakh Atomic Energy Agency on July 31. The discussions also include the development of high-power nuclear reactors and small modular reactors. The China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has been listed to build the second nuclear plant. The agency is working on sites for proposed nuclear power plants.

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/08/kazakhstan-holds-negotiations-with-china-on-nuclear-power-plant-construction/>

China approves new lunar sample applications from research institutions

Xinhua, August 4, 2025

China's space agency has released the approved list for the ninth batch of lunar sample research applications, allowing successful applicants to borrow samples returned by the Chang'e-5 and

Chang'e-6 missions. A total of 30,881.8 milligrams of lunar samples will be lent to 32 research groups from 25 research institutions, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center under the China National Space Administration. The list includes universities such as Macao University of Science and Technology in south China, Chengdu University of Technology in southwest China, east China's Donghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology in northeast China, south China's University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, among others.

<https://english.news.cn/20250804/677b7ca5b81f440699bce26d0e4ca739/c.html#:~:text=China%20approves%20new%20lunar%20sample%20applications%20from%20research%20institutions,-Source%3A%20Xinhua&text=BEIJING%2C%20Aug.,Chang'e%2D6%20missions.>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the Australian government charging a Chinese citizen under the “foreign interference” law

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, August 5, 2025

China develops relations with other countries, including Australia, on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. We never interfere in other countries’ internal affairs, and in the meanwhile, firmly oppose any disruption to the normal people-to-people interactions, exchanges and cooperation between China and relevant country under the pretext of foreign interference. China will follow this case closely and protect the lawful rights and interests of Chinese nationals.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202508/t20250805_11683128.html

Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site achieves new record with two launches in five days

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, August 5, 2025

China's first spaceport dedicated to facilitating commercial operations, the Hainan International Commercial Aerospace Launch Center located in South China's tropical island province of Hainan, has pulled off two successful launches in just five days. The latest carrier rocket, the Long March-12, took off from the launch site's No.2 pad and placed the seventh group of low-orbit internet satellites into preset orbit on Monday evening. Prior to that, the Long March-8A carrier rocket launched with success the sixth group of satellites for the internet constellation on July 30, from the Hainan commercial launch site's No.1 pad.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340157.shtml>

Philippines condemns China's rocket launch after suspected debris sparked alarm

Associated Press, August 5, 2025

A top Philippine security official condemned China's latest rocket launch, which caused suspected debris to fall near a western Philippine province. Authorities said the incident sparked alarm and posed a danger to people, ships, and aircraft. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the suspected Chinese rocket debris that fell near Palawan province, National Security Adviser Eduardo Año said. However, he added that these posed "a clear danger and risk to land areas and to ships, aircraft, fishing boats and other vessels" near the expected drop zones.

<https://apnews.com/article/china-long-march-12-rocket-launch-debris-philippines-f12f8bcff5f89c7332397bf5d710aa3a>

Chinese expert responds to foreign media hype on alleged new type of Chinese stealth jet

Liu Xuanzun and Liang Rui

Global Times, August 5, 2025

Some foreign media outlets claimed recently that China is now test-flying another tailless stealthy combat jet, one that is different from the two types of alleged sixth-generation fighter jets that were first spotted in December last year. Foreign media speculated that this new aircraft could be a crewed fighter or a loyal wingman-type drone. If confirmed, the aircraft, whether a manned fighter or drone, would be another manifestation of China's high technological level in terms of military aviation, a Chinese expert said. US media outlet the War Zone published a report titled "New Chinese Stealth Tactical Jet Breaks Cover". China has not announced the development of the reported new aircraft, nor has it officially acknowledged the existence of the two alleged sixth-generation fighter jets that emerged previously.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340169.shtml>

Is China changing its nuclear launch strategy?

Tong Zhao

Foreign Policy, August 5, 2025

During his visit to Moscow in May, Chinese President Xi Jinping released a joint statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin that emphasized nuclear-weapon states' special responsibility to

“reject Cold War mentality” and “refrain from actions that generate strategic risks.” For decades, China charted a somewhat different path from the world’s two nuclear superpowers, maintaining a relaxed nuclear posture in comparison to the United States and the Soviet Union. It kept nuclear weapons on low alert in peacetime and remains the only country to pledge never to use nuclear weapons first under any conditions. However, certain behaviours suggest it may be preparing to adopt one of the Cold War’s most dangerous policies.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/08/05/china-nuclear-weapons-launch-policy-strategy/>

China turns to A.I. in information warfare

Julian E. Barnes

The New York Times, August 6, 2025

The Chinese government is using companies with expertise in artificial intelligence to monitor and manipulate public opinion, giving it a new weapon in information warfare, according to current and former U.S. officials and documents unearthed by researchers. One company’s internal documents show how it has undertaken influence campaigns in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and collected data on members of Congress and other influential Americans. While the firm has not mounted a campaign in the United States, American spy agencies have monitored its activity for signs that it might try to influence American elections or political debates, former U.S. officials said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/06/us/politics/china-artificial-intelligence-information-warfare.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Brazil’s growing diplomatic presence in Beijing

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, August 6, 2025

Under the strategic guidance of the two presidents, the building of the China-Brazil community with a shared future for a more just world and a more sustainable planet has yielded fruitful outcomes. The mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation between China and Brazil has benefited the two peoples, promoted the modernization process of each country, and become a model of major developing countries working together for solidarity and cooperation. China is willing to work with Brazil to continually deepen cooperation in various fields and add more strategic dimensions to the China-Brazil community with a shared future.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202508/t20250806_11683690.html

Debris of Long March-12 rocket falls into predesignated drop zones in international waters, sources say, refuting Philippine official's claims

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, August 6, 2025

The debris from China's recently launched Long March-12 rocket had fallen into predesignated drop zones in international waters, which aligns with the mission designs, safety notices to surrounding countries and is in accordance with international practice. Sources familiar with the rocket launch mission dismissed claims by Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Año, who alleged that suspected debris from a Chinese carrier rocket posed a clear danger near expected drop zones, as reported by AP. They refuted the claims as reflecting an unfriendly stance and efforts by the current Philippine government to undermine China's image.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340211.shtml>

How big will China's nuclear arsenal get?

Jacob Stokes

Defence One, August 6, 2025

Since 2020, China is believed to have tripled its nuclear arsenal to 600 warheads—enough to begin to shift the strategic balance, if still well short of the thousands held by the United States and Russia. “China’s trying to catch up because, you know, they’re, they’re very substantially behind, but within five or six years they’ll be even,” President Trump said in February. But will they? Perhaps the biggest unknown of this new nuclear age is how many weapons Beijing will ultimately hold. Its buildup has a few logical endpoints, and by examining each possibility, observers can better understand what China is seeking. The best place to start to game out where China’s nuclear program is going is to look back at where it has been.

<https://www.defenceone.com/ideas/2025/08/how-big-will-chinas-nuclear-arsenal-get/407230/>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on charges that the two Chinese nationals were sending advanced AI chips made by Nvidia Corp. to China in violation of U.S. export restrictions

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

China opposes the U.S. politicizing tech and trade issues and using them as weapons to maliciously blockade and go after China. The U.S. should earnestly protect the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese nationals.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202508/t20250807_11686497.html

Lanyue lander successfully completes comprehensive landing and takeoff test, marking critical milestone for China's manned lunar exploration: CMSA

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, August 7, 2025

China's Lanyue lander successfully completed a comprehensive landing and takeoff verification test at the extraterrestrial landing test site in Huailai county, North China's Hebei Province, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). This test, the CMSA said, marks China's first landing and takeoff experiment for a manned spacecraft on an extraterrestrial body. With complex test conditions, a lengthy cycle, and high technical difficulty, it represents a critical milestone in the development of China's manned lunar exploration program, the agency said in a statement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340327.shtml>

China welcomes Modi to China for SCO Tianjin summit: FM spokesperson

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, August 8, 2025

China will host the SCO Summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1 this year. Leaders of over 20 countries including all member states of the SCO and heads of 10 international organizations will attend relevant events. The SCO Tianjin Summit will be the largest summit in scale since the establishment of the SCO. China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit. We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productiveness.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202508/t20250808_11687110.html

Chinese FM and Embassy lodge serious protests over Philippine President's comment on Taiwan

Global Times, August 8, 2025

In response to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's recent comment on Taiwan in an interview during his visit to India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that China firmly opposes this. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and Embassy in the Philippines have lodged serious protests with the Philippine side. The spokesperson from the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a

statement that there is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The Taiwan question is China's internal affair which is at the very core of China's core interests. How to settle it is a matter for the Chinese ourselves, which brooks no interference.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340401.shtml>

China launches new satellites from sea

Global Times, August 9, 2025

A Smart Dragon-3 (SD-3) rocket lifted off from east China's Shandong Province, sending the Geely-04 constellation of 11 satellites into planned orbit. The rocket blasted off from sea at 0031 hrs (Beijing Time) near the city of Rizhao. The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center conducted the offshore launch mission. It was the 6th flight mission to use an SD-3 rocket, according to the launch center. With a total length of 31 meters and a weight of 140 tonnes, the SD-3 is part of China's Dragon rocket family. Unlike the Long March rockets, which form the backbone of the country's space-launch vehicles, the Dragon series has been developed specifically to meet the growing market demand for launches of small commercial low-orbit satellites and satellite networks.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1340472.shtml>

Xi looks to tighten grip after scandals shake China's military elite

Chris Buckley

The New York Times, August 10, 2025

Outwardly, China's military has never been stronger. Its naval ships venture farther across the oceans. Its nuclear force grows by about 100 warheads every year. Its military flights around Taiwan are increasingly frequent and intimidating. Every few months, China unveils new weapons, like a prototype stealth fighter or newfangled landing barges. Internally, though, China's military is experiencing its most serious leadership disarray in years. Three of the seven seats on the Central Military Commission — the Communist Party council that controls the armed forces — appear to be vacant after members were arrested or simply disappeared.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/10/world/asia/china-military-corruption.html>

China detains senior diplomat who aided U.S. relations

Chun Han Wong and Lingling Wei

The Wall Street Journal, August 10, 2025

Liu Jianchao, a senior Chinese diplomat widely seen as a potential foreign minister, has been taken away by authorities for questioning, according to people familiar with the matter. A veteran of China's foreign service who also fought corruption as a Communist Party graftbuster, Liu has most recently been serving as head of the party's International Department, which oversees relations with foreign political parties and socialist states.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china/china-detains-senior-diplomat-who-aided-u-s-relations-ca110bfc>

China wants US to relax export controls on chips as part of trade deal

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, August 10, 2025

China wants the US to ease export controls on a critical component for artificial intelligence chips as part of a trade deal ahead of a possible summit between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping. Chinese officials have told experts in Washington that Beijing wants the Trump administration to relax export restrictions on high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips, according to several people familiar with the matter. US Treasury secretary Scott Bessent has led three rounds of trade negotiations with China over the past three months. One person said the Chinese team, headed by vice-premier He Lifeng, had raised the HBM issue in some of those negotiations. The US Treasury declined to comment.

<https://www.ft.com/content/19442dba-c724-4825-9388-26219a12cb8a>

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