SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



Chinese envoy calls for int'l efforts to ease Israel-Iran tensions

Xinhua, June 21, 2025

A Chinese envoy called for international efforts to promote talks to ease Israel-Iran tensions. As the Israel-Iran military conflict enters its eighth day, it is distressing to see the conflict has resulted in a large number of civilian casualties and damage to facilities on both sides, said Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations. If the conflict escalates further, not only will both sides suffer greater losses, but regional countries will also be severely affected, he warned.

https://english.news.cn/20250621/4c6d88a9b5d943a88e4a250e89c9f9a4/c.html

China downplayed nuclear-capable missile test, classified New Zealand gov't papers show

Hing King Free Press, June 22, 2025

China tried to mislead foreign governments in 2024 by playing down the importance of a nuclear-capable missile test over the Pacific Ocean, New Zealand diplomats privately warned in documents obtained by AFP. Beijing sent shivers through the South Pacific in September 2024, when its elite Rocket Force fired a dummy warhead into the high seas near French Polynesia. A tranche of classified government briefing notes obtained by AFP shows deep concern within the New Zealand government in the wake of the surprise launch, which China shrugged off as "routine".

https://hongkongfp.com/2025/06/22/china-downplayed-nuclear-capable-missile-test-classified-new-zealand-govt-papers-show/

China strongly condemns US attacks on Iran: FM spokesperson

Xinhua, June 22, 2025

China strongly condemns the U.S. attacks on Iran and bombing of nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said. The spokesperson made the remarks when asked to comment on U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement that the United States carried out strikes on three nuclear facilities in Iran. The actions of the United States seriously violated the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and have exacerbated tensions in the Middle East, the spokesperson said.

https://english.news.cn/20250622/232fd95ee5494b10b0ea788e14b8f983/c.html

Taiwan launches unity drive as China threat looms

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, June 22, 2025

Taiwan's president launched a drive for national unity in the face of aggression from China, in a move intended to overcome domestic partisan battles, which is likely to further raise cross-Strait tensions. Lai Ching-te asserted Taiwan's de facto independence in the first of 10 speeches planned for the coming weeks under the motto "Unite Taiwan". He highlighted the centuries during which Taiwan was separate from China and said that because it had its own territory, people, government and sovereignty, "of course Taiwan is a sovereign state!"

https://www.ft.com/content/cc7ddbe1-cd19-458f-b5e0-828593b03719

Chinese scientists build a laser weapon that can operate without cooling in Sahara Desert

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, June 22, 2025

Chinese researchers have developed a two-kilowatt (kW) fibre laser capable of operating without the protection of heating or cooling systems across Earth's most extreme climates – from temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Arctic to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Sahara Desert. The device, designed for quick and ultra-portable deployment for both defence and industrial purposes, starkly contrasts with counterparts with similar power output such as the European HELMA-P or India's IDDIS, which require truck transport with container-sized cooling units to achieve a 1km (0.62 miles) kill range on drones.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3315070/chinese-scientists-build-laser-weapon-can-operate-without-cooling-sahara-desert

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the China-Bangladesh-Pakistan Vice Foreign Minister/Foreign Secretary meeting

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 23, 2025

On June 19, the China-Bangladesh-Pakistan Vice Foreign Minister/Foreign Secretary meeting was held in Kunming, Yunnan. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, Bangladesh's Acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique, and Pakistan's Additional Foreign Secretary for Asia-Pacific Imran Ahmed Siddiqui attended the meeting, and Pakistani Foreign Secretary Amna

Baloch joined the first phase of the discussions via video link. Bangladesh and Pakistan are China's good neighbors, friends and partners. They are also China's important cooperation partners in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250623 11655211.html

Chinese taikonauts conduct space experiments related to microbiota and nutrient metabolism

Global Times, June 23, 2025

Chinese taikonauts have made steady progress in multiple experiments over the past week, including a vertical visual field study, and have also conducted research related to microbiota and nutrient metabolism, CCTV News reported. The crew also conducted microbiota and nutrient metabolism research using a Raman spectrometer. By analyzing metabolic components in urine samples, they further refined the indicator system and evaluation criteria for key metabolites. Downlinked samples will support multiple experiments, including studies on bone metabolism and regulatory interactions, according to CCTV News.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1336749.shtml

Is China preparing to unveil its new HQ-29 ballistic missile defence system?

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, June 23, 2025

Footage on social media of what appears to be the new Chinese HQ-29 ballistic missile defence system on the move has triggered speculation that it could make its debut at a military parade in Beijing in September. The system has yet to be officially acknowledged but is believed to be more advanced than known Chinese missile shields including the HQ-19, which has been likened to the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3315441/china-preparing-unveil-its-new-hq-29-ballistic-missile-defence-system

Chinese FM calls for actions from UN Security Council after US' strike on Iranian nuclear facilities

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 23, 2025

The U.S. attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities seriously violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and have exacerbated tensions in the Middle East. The Security Council cannot stand idly

by. China, Russia and Pakistan proposed a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, protection of civilians, respect for international law, and engagement in dialogue and negotiation. Together we sent out the message of justice, which reflected the strong call from the international community. We hope that Council members can jointly support the draft resolution and enable the Security Council to play its due role for the maintenance of international peace and security.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250623 11655211.html

China calls them fish farms. South Korea fears they have another use

Choe Sang-Hun

The New York Times, June 24, 2025

In recent years, China has towed a decommissioned offshore oil-drilling rig and two giant octagonal steel cages into the sea between China and South Korea, saying that the structures were used as deep-sea fish farms in shared waters. But South Koreans fear that they are more than that and could be used to expand China's military influence. South Korea's National Assembly formally took issue with the Chinese structures when its ocean and fisheries committee condemned them as "a threat to maritime safety," in a resolution adopted with bipartisan support. Those fears were bolstered by a report from the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies. "While available information suggests that the platforms are genuinely focused on aquaculture, concerns that the platforms may be dual-use are not unfounded, given China's track record in the South China Sea," said the report, which used satellite imagery and other data to track the installations.

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/world/asia/china-south-korea-sea-dispute.html

China to hold military parade Sept. 3 for 80th anniversary of the end of WWII

Kyodo News, June 24, 2025

China said it will hold a military parade in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on Sept. 3 to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, with President Xi Jinping set to deliver a speech on the occasion. The parade to commemorate what Beijing calls its victory in the 1937-1945 War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression will "display new-type combat capabilities such as unmanned intelligent systems, underwater combat units, cyber and electronic forces and hypersonic weapons," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

https://english.kyodonews.net/articles/-/56072?phrase=Abe&words=

China unveils eerie mosquito-sized drone designed for stealth military operations — nearly invisible to naked eye

Anna Young

New York Post, June 24, 2025

China unveiled a mosquito-sized drone designed for covert military operations and espionage — a development that's raising alarms over the potential consequence of the tech falling into the wrong hands. The miniature device, featuring two leaf-like wings, a black vertical body, and three hair-thin legs, was engineered to mimic the blood-sucking insect by scientists at the National University of Defence Technology in China's Hunan province.

https://nypost.com/2025/06/24/world-news/china-unveils-mosquito-sized-drone-designed-for-stealth-military-operations/

China has influence over ports across Latin America, US think-tank reports

Michael Stott

Financial Times, June 24, 2025

Chinese companies have built or operate 31 active ports in Latin America and the Caribbean, many more than previously thought, according to research by a Washington-based think-tank. The US has grown increasingly concerned about the implications for its national security of Beijing's leverage over critical infrastructure in Latin America as Chinese groups have bought up power companies, mines, telecoms networks and ports over the past two decades.

https://www.ft.com/content/600b8bdb-5b40-4d9e-a4c8-7c9053415aff

BRI's contributions to global energy development, transformation highlighted

Ma Jingjing

Global Times, June 24, 2025

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is particularly conducive to global energy development and transformation, as it provides a rare and valuable platform for high-quality global energy development while offering highly effective avenues for countries worldwide, especially developing nations, to address electricity access issues and advance their green energy transitions, a Chinese business executive said at the World Economic Forum's 16th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos, in Tianjin.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1336889.shtml

US allies challenge Beijing's claims in contested South China Sea

Newsweek, June 24, 2025

The British and Australian militaries have challenged China's claims over the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea with a "freedom of navigation" operation. British River-class offshore patrol vessel HMS Spey and Australian Hobart-class guided missile destroyer HMAS Sydney "conducted a freedom of navigation activity around the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, in accordance with UNCLOS," the United Kingdom's Permanent Joint Headquarters wrote on X. China had not publicly commented on the operation as of press time, but it frequently criticizes military activities by "outside countries."

https://www.newsweek.com/uk-australia-navies-challenge-beijing-south-china-sea-spratly-islands-2090178

China makes major progress in building world's highest solar observatory

Xinhua, June 24, 2025

County in southwest China's Sichuan Province, marking a significant step toward a new era of high-resolution solar observation. The 2.5-meter Wide-field and High-resolution Solar Telescope (WeHoST), a national research instrumentation project, is led by Nanjing University in collaboration with the Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics and Technology and the Yunnan Observatories, both under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The construction of the telescope officially began in 2022. Upon completion, it will be the world's largest axisymmetric solar telescope.

http://english.news.cn/20250624/8924886b26504d2d9c2c6dd271eeab50/c.html

Dialogue, negotiation the right way to solve problems, Chinese FM says in response to Israel-Iran 'complete and total' ceasefire announced by Trump

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 24, 2025

China is watching closely the developments in the Middle East. We do not want to see the spiraling up of tensions, and hope that a ceasefire can be realized as early as possible. Facts have proven that military means cannot bring peace, and the right way of solving issues is dialogue and negotiation. China calls on parties concerned to return to the right track of political settlement at an early date. We stand ready to work with the international community and make effort for peace and stability in the Middle East.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250624 11657977.html

China to display unmanned, intelligent, underwater, hypersonic equipment at upcoming military parade

China Military Online, June 24, 2025

China will hold a military parade on September 3, where the country will display new combat forces including unmanned, intelligent, underwater, cyber, electronic, and hypersonic equipment in addition to traditional weapons and equipment. The armored columns will focus on displaying the latest achievements in the construction of the military's equipment system. Through the combination of groups and teams and the synthesis of formations, it embodies the Chinese military's new mode of force utilization in joint command, joint action, and joint support, and reflects China's independent innovation capabilities in weapons and equipment.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/OPINIONS_209196/Opinions_209197/16393132.html#:~:text=China%20will%20hold%20a%20military,to%20traditional%20weapons%20and%20equipment

Shenzhou-20 crew set for second extravehicular activities

Global Times, June 25, 2025

The Shenzhou-20 crew members, who are currently on board China's space station, will conduct a second round of extravehicular activities within the next few days, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced. Since completing their first spacewalk on May 22, the crew has undertaken a series of tasks, including monitoring the station environment, conducting inspections and maintenance of the space station's equipment, and managing inventory and transfers.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1336960.shtml

China is tracking down its rare-earth experts—and taking away passports

Jon Emont

The Wall Street Journal, June 25, 2025

China has told companies in its rare-earth industry to give the government lists of employees with technical expertise, aiming to ensure they don't divulge trade secrets to foreigners. The queries point to the growing geopolitical significance of China's control over the materials, which are widely used in cars, electronics and weapons and stand at the centre of the U.S.-China trade war.

 $\underline{https://www.wsj.com/world/china-to-block-its-rare-earth-experts-from-spilling-their-secrets-8d69b75f}$

China's top security agency mocks CIA Chinese spy recruitment drive as 'farcical'

Yuanyue Dangi

South China Morning Post, June 25, 2025

China's top intelligence agency says a recent CIA campaign aimed at recruiting informants from China while hyping up the "China threat" is a sign the US spy agency is desperately looking for ways to survive Washington's budget cuts. "As resources shrink, the CIA has doubled down on hyping the 'China threat' as its lifeline, peddling fear to Congress and taxpayers to carve out a larger slice of the budget pie," the Ministry of State Security (MSS) said in an article published on its official WeChat account. The post, published in both Chinese and English, referred to a US Central Intelligence Agency effort to recruitChinese spies as "yet another farcical performance".

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3315782/peddling-fear-chinas-top-security-agency-mocks-cia-spy-recruitment-drive-farcical

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Japanese accusations of installing new structure in the East China Sea

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 25, 2025

China's oil and gas exploration activities in the East China Sea are conducted in undisputed waters under China's jurisdiction. The matter falls completely under China's sovereign rights and jurisdiction. China does not accept Japan's unwarranted remarks. China upholds and remains committed to the comprehensive and effective implementation of the principled consensus on the East China Sea issue. We hope Japan will work in the same direction with China and make an effort to resume the intergovernmental negotiation between the two countries at an early date.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250625 11658614.html

China's South Pacific foothold and how to prevent it

Henry Yep

The Interpreter, June 25, 2025

It's the mid-2030s, and China's growing network of dual-use ports and airfields has reshaped the South Pacific's security landscape. Ostensibly, civilian projects now dot the region – but behind

the guise of commerce, they threaten vital sea lanes, constrain US and allied military manoeuvrability, and tilt the balance of power towards Beijing. Any Pacific crisis in such a circumstance would find the United States and its allies at a severe disadvantage. This scenario mirrors a US Marine Corps War College wargame this past academic year, where China gained regional dual-use access before Washington could respond – posing serious challenges if war had erupted.

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/china-s-south-pacific-foothold-how-prevent-it

US strikes on Iran force China to reconsider Donald Trump's isolationism

Edward White and Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, June 26, 2025

Donald Trump's dramatic intervention in the Iran-Israel war has reverberated well beyond the Middle East, forcing rival China to reassess how the US president might wield American military power in the event of a conflict in Asia. Beijing strongly criticised Trump's decision to strike Iranian nuclear targets and voiced concerns over the threat that conflict in the Middle East poses to energy supply lines for the world's biggest oil buyer. But analysts and US and Taiwanese officials said the attack on Iran would prompt a sweeping rethink among Chinese President Xi Jinping's foreign policy advisers of how Trump might act on issues Beijing sees as vital to its national interest, such as Taiwan.

https://www.ft.com/content/6e896a85-510e-4081-8d00-617bf69de585

Chinese Foreign Ministry on NATO chief's statement that China has massively built up its military and is supporting the war effort in Ukraine

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 26, 2025

Relevant personnel in NATO, by playing up international and regional tensions and slandering China's normal military buildup, seeks nothing but excuses to allow NATO to drastically grow its military spending, arbitrarily reach beyond its geographical scope and mandate, and advance eastward into the Asia-Pacific. China acts as a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender for international order and a supplier of public good. On peace and security, China has the best track record among major countries.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250626_11659493.html

China is still choking exports of rare earths despite pact with U.S.

Jon Emont

The Wall Street Journal, June 26, 2025

Two weeks after China promised the U.S. it would ease the exports of rare-earth magnets, Chinese authorities are dragging out approval of Western companies' requests for the critical components, a situation that could reignite trade tensions between Washington and Beijing. Western companies say they are receiving barely enough magnets for their factories and have little visibility of future supplies. Firms are waiting weeks as Chinese authorities scrutinise their applications—only to be rejected in some cases. And applications for raw rare earths, which are used to make magnets, are rarely granted.

https://www.wsj.com/world/china/china-rare-earths-exports-2fd0dab4

Chinese team deploys new all-in-one research buoy in the South China Sea

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, June 27, 2025

Chinese scientists have deployed a buoy-based research platform in the South China Sea that can track both atmospheric and oceanic changes – even in typhoon-force winds. Anchored 3,500 metres (11,400 feet) below the surface, the system is designed for synchronised, multilayered observations spanning 10km (6.2 miles) into the atmosphere and 1km into the ocean, according to the Institute of Oceanology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Qingdao, which led the project. "This buoy system features an innovative design with a highly stable surface and mooring structure tailored for deep-sea, high-wave conditions," Liu Changhua, a senior engineer at the institute, told state broadcaster CCTV.

 $\underline{https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3316073/chinese-team-deploys-new-all-one-research-buoy-south-china-sea}$

China warns Philippines against 'self-inflicted destruction' by hosting US missile systems

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, June 27, 2025

China's defence ministry has warned the Philippines against "self-inflicted destruction" by hosting US missile systems and denounced Manila's plan to encourage fishermen to operate in disputed South China Sea waters. Meanwhile, the Chinese embassy in Manila dismissed drug-smuggling allegations by Philippine military officials as "baseless slander". The United States has reportedly

decided to deploy additional strategic Typhon missile systems in the Philippines after transporting the mid-range missile launcher to Luzon last year.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3316002/china-warns-philippines-against-self-inflicted-destruction-hosting-us-missile-systems

China expels PLA general, navy chief and nuclear scientist in sweeping anticorruption purge

Firstpost, June 27, 2025

China's crackdown on its defence and security establishment intensified with the expulsion of several top military figures, including a senior general, the navy's chief of staff, and a nuclear industry official from the national legislature. According to the South China Morning Post, General Miao Hua, Vice Admiral Li Hanjun, chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) and Liu Shipeng and deputy chief engineer at China National Nuclear Corporation were removed from the National People's Congress (NPC).

https://www.firstpost.com/world/china-expels-pla-general-navy-chief-and-nuclear-scientist-in-sweeping-anti-corruption-purge-13901103.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to the EU headquarters and the China-EU High-Level Strategic Dialogue

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 27, 2025

This year marks the 50th anniversary of China-EU diplomatic ties. Bilateral relations face important opportunities for development. During the visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi will exchange views with the EU side on China-EU relations and major international and regional issues, take stock of the experience in growing China-EU relations over the past 50 years, enhance understanding and mutual trust, continue to see the EU as a partner, build consensus for cooperation, properly handle disagreements and differences, and lay the political groundwork for the future interactions between Chinese and EU leaders.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250627_11660620.html

China conducts 'largest' military, civilian rescue drill in contested South China Sea

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, June 27, 2025

Chinese coastguard and military forces took part in a large land-air-sea emergency rescue exercise near the disputed Woody Island, as Beijing continues to assert its claims in the South China Sea.

More than 200 personnel, 15 vessels and two rescue helicopters carried out what was described by the government and state media as "the largest rescue drill in recent years". Woody Island, called Yongxing Island by China, is part of the Paracel Islands, a contested archipelago known as the Xisha Islands in Chinese.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3316154/china-conducts-largest-military-civilian-rescue-drill-contested-south-china-sea

Taiwan looks to new sea-drone tech to repel China

Joyu Wang

The Wall Street Journal, June 28, 2025

Taiwan is accelerating efforts to develop a high-tech fleet of naval drones that military planners see as a potential game-changer in the island's ability to fend off a possible Chinese invasion. Drones are transforming warfare and spurring military strategists to rethink long-held assumptions about defence. Both Ukraine and Israel have used drones to devastating effect in recent weeks.

https://www.wsj.com/world/asia/taiwan-looks-to-new-sea-drone-tech-to-repel-china-c1615d42

Mainland authorities severely punish diehard 'Taiwan independence' separatists in accordance with law: MSS

Global Times, June 28, 2025

Chinese authorities on June 21, 2024 issued a set of judicial guidelines on imposing criminal penalties on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists for conducting or inciting secession. Over the past year, the guidelines have provided a powerful legal tool for defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity, sending a clear and severe warning to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, and fully demonstrated the firm determination and powerful measures to safeguard national reunification in accordance with the law, the Ministry of State Security (MSS) said.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202506/1337173.shtml

China steals language and home life from Tibetan kids as young as 4

Josh Chin and Niharika Mandhana

The Wall Street Journal, June 28, 2025

China has for at least two decades directed children in Tibet to state-run boarding schools at everyounger ages, trying to gut Tibetan culture and blunt generations of opposition to Communist Party rule. It didn't work as well as Chinese leaders hoped. Authorities frustrated by continued resistance to Beijing are now prying children as young as four years old from their homes—before they have a chance to fully absorb the Tibetan language and way of life. Across Tibet, a mountainous region rich in natural resources where many people harbor dreams of independence, China is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build schools, recognizing how social identity forms early in life.

https://www.wsj.com/world/china/tibet-dalai-lama-china-schools-4733d519

The Iran-China-Russia axis crumbles when it matters

Leon Aron

The Atlantic, June 29, 2025

In calmer times, China, like Russia, is happy to use Iran as a battering ram against the U.S. and its allies. But when tensions turn into military confrontation and global stability is at risk, backing Iran looks like a far less sensible investment to Beijing than preserving its own economic and diplomatic relations with the West. China's mild reaction isn't just a blow to Iran; it may also suggest that the much ballyhooed "no limits" partnership between Xi and Russia's President Vladimir Putin might not be as sturdy as Moscow and Beijing advertise. China, for example, is Iran's lifeline. It buys about 90 percent of Iran's oil and supplies materials and technologies central to Iran's weapons development. Yet the trading relationship matters less to China, which gets only about 10 percent of its oil from Iran. Plus, China has an economy more than 40 times as large, and it does far more business with the U.S. and the European Union.

https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2025/06/iran-china-russia-axis-crumbles/683369/

Chinese Foreign Ministry on India-China Defence Minister's meeting

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, June 30, 2025

China and India have established the Special Representatives mechanism on the boundary question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question. The two sides have diplomatic and military communication mechanisms at various levels. China stands ready to maintain communication with India on issues including delimitation negotiation and border management, jointly keep the border areas peaceful and tranquil, and promote cross-border exchange and cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202506/t20250630_11661711.html

