

May 31, 2025

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



China expresses grave concern over US ‘Golden Dome’ missile defence system

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, May 21, 2025

Golden Dome” intends to create an unconstrained, global, multi-layer and multi-domain missile defence system. It plans to expand the U.S. arsenal of means for combat operations in outer space, including R&D and deployment of orbital interception systems. That gives the project a strong offensive nature and violates the principle of peaceful use in the Outer Space Treaty. The project will heighten the risk of turning the space into a war zone and creating a space arms race, and shake the international security and arms control system. This is yet another “America First” initiative that puts the U.S.’s absolute security above all else. It violates the principle of “undiminished security for all” and will hurt global strategic balance and stability. China is gravely concerned.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202505/t20250521_11630009.html

PLA researchers rank Cold War relic B-52 a bigger nuclear threat than F-35, B-2

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 21, 2025

A threat assessment by a Chinese research team into the US military’s capability of launching a tactical nuclear air strike on China has come up with some unexpected findings. According to the researchers, led by Wang Bingqie from the PLA Air Force Early Warning Academy in Wuhan, the 70-year-old B-52 Stratofortress bomber, a relic of the Cold War, emerged as the top threat across all combat phases – deployment, penetration, and strike.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3310877/pla-researchers-rank-cold-war-relic-b-52-bigger-nuclear-threat-f-35-b-2>

China to donate \$500 million to WHO, stepping into gap left by U.S.

Lily Kuo and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, May 21, 2025

China has pledged to give \$500 million to the World Health Organization as the country is set to replace the United States as the group’s top state donor, expanding Beijing’s global influence in the wake of Washington’s retreat from international cooperation. Chinese Vice Premier Liu

Guozhong told the World Health Assembly that his country is making the contribution to oppose “unilateralism,” a trait Beijing often ascribes to Washington as relations between the two powers deteriorate.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/05/21/china-who-donation-500-million/>

China launches commercial Lijian-1 Y7 carrier rocket

Xinhua, May 21, 2025

China, on May 21, launched the Lijian-1 Y7 carrier rocket with six satellites onboard. The rocket blasted off at 12:05 p.m. (Beijing Time) from a commercial aerospace innovation pilot zone in northwest China, and sent a group of satellites into the planned orbits. This launch marks the seventh flight mission of the Lijian-1 carrier rocket series.

<https://english.news.cn/20250521/95e551f69f0d472184a069c3923fcfae/c.html>

Chinese scientists prove US Air Force’s Mach 16 engine concept ‘feasible’

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 22, 2025

A state-backed Chinese research team has achieved a breakthrough in developing a hypersonic engine powered by ordinary jet fuel, reigniting global debates over the viability of a technology proposed by US military nearly 70 years ago. In a peer-reviewed paper published in the Chinese-language Journal of Aerospace Power, a team of scientists announced a successful ground test of an oblique detonation engine (ODE) chamber burning RP-3 aviation kerosene.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3311356/chinese-scientists-prove-us-air-forces-mach-16-engine-concept-feasible>

Philippines accuses China of aggressive tactics in South China Sea

DD News, May 22, 2025

The Philippines’ fisheries bureau said the lives of a civilian crew were put at risk when the Chinese Coast Guard fired water cannons and sideswiped one of its vessels while it conducted marine research around a disputed South China Sea reef. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources condemned what it said was the “aggressive interference” of the Chinese Coast Guard against the Datu Sanday and a second ship in the incident, saying its vessels had not previously

been subjected to water cannons in the area. The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday's statement by the bureau.

<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/philippines-accuses-china-of-aggressive-tactics-in-south-china-sea/>

China's first commercial reactor Carbon-14 isotope enters the market

China National Nuclear Corporation, May 22, 2025

On May 16, China's first batch of commercial reactor Carbon-14 isotope was officially dispatched from the Qinshan Nuclear Power Base, operated by China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). This marks the first mass production achievement under "He Fu No.1", China's first isotope production technology brand, and signifies the establishment of China's fully integrated industrial chain for Carbon-14 isotope development, from independent R&D and production to commercial supply.

https://en.cnn.com.cn/2025-05/22/c_1095188.htm

AI in China: A Sleeping giant awakens

Morgan Stanley, May 22, 2025

China is becoming a world leader in AI because of government support and its focus on computing efficiency. The country's AI industry and related sectors could grow into a market valued at \$1.4 trillion by 2030. China's AI investments may break even by 2028 and deliver a 52% return on invested capital by 2030. U.S. export controls could create barriers for AI development in China but won't stop its progress. AI is likely to boost China's GDP growth by powering investment in the next two to three years and improving productivity over the longer run.

<https://www.morganstanley.com/insights/articles/china-ai-becoming-global-leader#:~:text=China%20is%20becoming%20a%20world,on%20invested%20capital%20by%202030.>

Shenzhou-20 crew starts a series of experiments within month on orbit

Global Times, May 23, 2025

The Shenzhou-20 crew members, currently aboard China's space station, have completed a series of experiments within one month of their arrival on April 25, including starting China's first space-based regenerative biology research using flatworms. The crew installed a space debris

protection device on the radial hatch of the core module's node cabin, enhancing shielding against micrometeoroid impacts. In space life sciences, they initiated a pioneering experiment studying the effects and mechanisms of microgravity and radiation on planarian regeneration, marking China's first space-based regenerative biology research using flatworms.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1334710.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-Netherlands semiconductor partnership

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

On semiconductor export control, China has made clear its position on multiple occasions. Semiconductor is a highly globalized industry and its industrial and supply chains came into shape as a result of the choices of both the market and businesses. For some time, certain countries have been overstretching the concept of national security, slapping export control and long-arm jurisdiction, and severely threatening the stability of global industrial and supply chains. China and the Netherlands are highly complementary in the semiconductor sector and our cooperation is mutually beneficial. The two sides maintain close communication through existing channels. China stands ready to work with the Netherlands and the rest of the world to embrace open cooperation and jointly keep the global semiconductor industrial and supply chains stable.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202505/t20250523_11631403.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Philippines' allegations against the China Coast Guard vessel's activities in the South China Sea

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

The Philippines, despite China's dissuasion, has repeatedly sent people to illegally step on Tiexian Jiao, which is part of China's Nansha Qundao. That severely infringes on China's sovereignty, and violates the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. China's response is fully necessary, legitimate and lawful. The Philippines needs to immediately stop its infringement activities and provocations. Otherwise, China will make a resolute response. The U.S. should refrain from using the Philippines to create trouble in the South China Sea and stop undermining peace and tranquility in the South China Sea.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202505/t20250523_11631403.html

Taipei to Okinawa? China achieves 600km ‘error-free’ underwater communication with sound

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 24, 2025

A team of Chinese scientists has passed a milestone in underwater communication, enabling error-free acoustic data transmission across 600km (375 miles) of ocean – roughly the distance between Taipei and the US military base in Okinawa. The feat, detailed in a May study published in *Acta Acustica*, China’s premier acoustic journal, marks significant progress that could pave the way for the real-life use of long-range undersea messaging, a field with profound civilian and military applications.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3311463/taipei-okinawa-china-achieves-600km-error-free-underwater-communication-sound>

China's first electromagnetic catapults-equipped aircraft carrier holds intensive sea trials: official media

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, May 25, 2025

China's third aircraft carrier the Fujian is holding intensive sea trials, official media recently revealed, with a Chinese military affairs expert saying that the Fujian is expected to test its electromagnetic catapult technologies before its eventual commissioning. As China's first aircraft carrier equipped with electromagnetic catapults, the Fujian is ramping up its sea trials, China Central Television (CCTV) News reported. The report by CCTV News came after the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration on May 19 released an announcement of traffic control for large vessels in the Yangtze River estuary.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1334807.shtml>

PLA scientists reveal tech breakthrough behind world’s fastest coilgun

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 25, 2025

A Chinese electromagnetic coil gun capable of firing at 3,000 rounds per minute – a rate that obliterates traditional firearms and greatly surpasses US commercial models by orders of magnitude – has been captured on video. The footage, released by state-owned arms manufacturer

China South Industries Group (CSGC) on April 18, has raised eyebrows among military experts as the firing capacity greatly outstrips current weaponry and could redefine future combat.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3311305/pla-scientists-reveal-tech-breakthrough-behind-worlds-fastest-coilgun>

Xi Jinping's plan to overtake America in AI

The Economist, May 25, 2025

On May 21st J.D. Vance, America's vice-president, described the development of artificial intelligence as an "arms race" with China. If America paused because of concerns over AI safety, he said, it might find itself "enslaved to PRC-mediated ai". The idea of a superpower showdown that will culminate in a moment of triumph or defeat circulates relentlessly in Washington and beyond.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/05/25/xi-jinpings-plan-to-overtake-america-in-ai>

Chinese ambassador criticises plan to return Darwin Port to Australian ownership

Kirsty Needham

Reuters, May 26, 2025

China's ambassador to Canberra has criticised the Australian government's intention to return Darwin Port to local ownership, saying the Chinese company running the strategically located northern port should not be punished. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in April during the election campaign that his government was working on a plan to force the sale of Darwin Port from its Chinese owner on national interest grounds.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinese-ambassador-criticises-plan-return-darwin-port-australian-ownership-2025-05-26/>

China improves ability to launch sudden attack on Taiwan, officials say

Kathrin Hille and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, May 26, 2025

China has increased its ability to launch a sudden attack on Taiwan with faster-paced air and operations, new artillery systems and more alert amphibious and air assault units, according to Taiwanese and US officials and experts. One senior Taiwanese military official said Chinese air

force and missile units that would play a role in a Taiwan invasion had improved to a point where they could “switch from peacetime to war operations any time”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/c82eb38e-87cb-4468-b013-0f7fce0fc54b>

China successfully tests new-gen satellite-to-ground data transmission technology

Global Times, May 27, 2025

China has made a significant breakthrough in building a high-speed "data highway" between satellites and the ground. According to the Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a new-generation high-throughput satellite-to-ground data transmission system has been successfully tested, an official announcement showed. The experiment was jointly conducted by AIR and Beijing Rong Wei Tech at AIR's Lijiang Station. It simulated satellite data transmission on the ground using advanced communication protocols.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1334898.shtml>

China's super-quiet submarine tech halves engine noise detection range: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 27, 2025

A research team in Shanghai has unveiled a vibration-damping technology that could significantly improve the stealth of submarines during covert operations, according to a peer-reviewed study published in the Chinese journal Noise and Vibration Control. Zhang Zhiyi and his team of researchers, from Shanghai Jiao Tong University's State Key Laboratory of Mechanical Systems and Vibration, said their innovation could theoretically cut the detection range of hostile sonar systems by more than half.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3311772/chinas-super-quiet-submarine-tech-halves-engine-noise-detection-range-study>

Chinese premier calls for forging an example of openness, development cooperation with ASEAN, GCC

China Daily, May 27, 2025

Chinese Premier Li Qiang called on China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to jointly forge an example in openness,

development cooperation and cross-civilisation integration. He made the remarks when addressing the inaugural ASEAN-China-GCC Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. China, he said, is ready to deepen strategic alignment with the ASEAN and the GCC on the basis of mutual respect and equal treatment, enhance coordination of macroeconomic policies and strengthen collaboration in industrial specialisation.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202505/27/WS6835bb19a310a04af22c1d2b.html>

World's first self-propelled deep-sea aquaculture vessel launched in S. China's Guangdong to ensure Greater Bay Area 'fish freedom'

Global Times, May 27, 2025

World's first self-propelled deep-sea aquaculture vessel with a pollution-free seawater exchange system was successfully launched in Jiangmen, South China's Guangdong Province, marking the start of a new era of China's deep-sea aquaculture industry featuring the "technological ocean ranching" that integrates intelligent aquaculture practices with energy conservation, environmental protection, and a combination of fishery and tourism. Upon completion, the vessel is expected to produce 5,000 tons of fish annually, serving as a key contributor to ensuring "fish freedom" for local residents in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1334931.shtml>

China's most advanced bombers seen on disputed South China Sea island

Greg Torode

Reuters, May 28, 2025

Satellite imagery shows China landed two of its most advanced bombers in the disputed Paracel islands in the South China Sea this month - a gesture that some analysts described as Beijing's latest signalling of its growing military capabilities to rivals. The deployment marks the first time the long-range H-6 bombers have landed on Woody Island in the Paracels since 2020, and the movement of the now upgraded aircraft comes amid tensions with the Philippines, operations near Taiwan and ahead of the region's biggest defence forum this weekend.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defence/chinas-most-advanced-bombers-seen-disputed-south-china-sea-island-2025-05-28/>

Joint Statement of the Third China-Pacific Island Countries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, May 28, 2025

From May 28 to 29, 2025, the People's Republic of China and Pacific Island Countries having diplomatic relations with China (hereinafter referred to as "All parties") held the third China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi. Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Esala Nayasi attended the meeting upon invitation on behalf of the Secretary General. All parties had an in-depth exchange of views and reached broad consensus on China-Pacific Island Countries relations and issues of common interest.

https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202505/t20250528_11635595.html

CIA chief faces stiff test in bid to revitalize human spying

Lily Kuo and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, May 28, 2025

The CIA earlier this month unveiled a new gambit to persuade disgruntled Chinese officials to spy for the United States: a pair of Hollywood-quality videos that play on divisions within President Xi Jinping's government and offer instructions on how to anonymously contact the CIA. One video highlights the vast wealth disparities between working-class Chinese and Communist Party elites; another depicts how top party officials suddenly disappear — a real-life occurrence in Xi's anti-corruption purges. The videos, narrated in Mandarin and posted on social media, are part of a new CIA strategy for recruiting potential foreign agents from afar.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/05/28/cia-spy-china-russia-ratcliffe/>

China angling to elbow Russia out of Kazakh nuclear power station contract

Eurasianet, May 28, 2025

The race to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant appears to be tightening. The Russian nuclear entity Rosatom has long appeared to have the inside track on the construction contract, but the China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC) is coming up on the outside, hoping to win it at the wire. The head of China's National Nuclear Safety Administration Dong Baotong made a push to secure the deal for CNNC during talks in Astana with the head of the Kazakh Atomic

Energy Agency (KAEA) Almasadam Satkaliev. China is also making a strong pitch to handle the nuclear fuel cycle and “the strengthening of scientific and technical infrastructure,” according to the statement.

<https://eurasianet.org/china-angling-to-elbow-russia-out-of-kazakh-nuclear-power-station-contract>

U.S. pauses exports of airplane and semiconductor technology to China

Ana Swanson

The New York Times, May 28, 2025

The Trump administration has suspended some sales to China of critical U.S. technologies, including those related to jet engines, semiconductors and certain chemicals and machinery. The move is a response to China’s recent restrictions on exports of critical minerals to the United States, a decision by Beijing that has threatened to cripple U.S. company supply chains, according to two people familiar with the matter. In April, China suspended exports of a range of critical minerals and magnets, which are essential for automakers, aerospace manufacturers, semiconductor companies and military contractors around the world. The Chinese government said it had halted the shipments while drafting a new regulatory system.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/28/business/economy/jet-engine-chip-software-exports-to-china.html>

China’s domestically developed small modular reactor Linglong-1 to boost dual carbon goals

Global Times, May 29, 2025

The world's first commercial modular small nuclear reactor, Linglong-1 (ACP100) - hailed as a "nuclear power bank" - is expected to contribute significantly to China's dual carbon goals. In May, under the clear blue skies at the Hainan Nuclear Power Co.Ltd (HNPC) in South China's Hainan Province, Linglong-1 was operating in an orderly manner. As a flagship project of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for advanced nuclear reactor technology and the world's first land-based commercial modular small reactor to begin construction, Linglong-1 is now in its peak installation phase.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1335118.shtml>

China launches its first asteroid sampling mission

Zhao Lei

China Daily, May 29, 2025

China launched its first asteroid sampling mission, aiming to explore a near-Earth small asteroid and retrieve its samples for scientists. Carrying the Tianwen 2 robotic probe, a Long March 3B rocket blasted off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the middle of mountains in Sichuan province. The CNSA stated that the Tianwen 2 mission is expected to achieve multiple objectives through a single expedition, including sample collection from 2016 HO3 and flyby exploration of main-belt comet 311P. The administration said that mission planners aim to accomplish two major engineering goals through the Tianwen 2 project. The first is to develop and demonstrate key technologies needed for gathering sample from weak-gravity celestial bodies, conducting high-precision autonomous navigation and control, and other crucial maneuvers. The second is to obtain data and samples to facilitate studies on the origins and evolution of asteroids.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202505/29/WS6837591ba310a04af22c2138.html>

Pakistan's national space agency applauds China's successful launch of Tianwen-2 mission, hailing it a meaningful contribution to global scientific progress

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, May 29, 2025

Amjad Ali, deputy director general of SUPARCO, Pakistan's national space agency, in an exclusive interview with Global Times, hailed that we see Tianwen-2 not just as a national success for China, but as a meaningful contribution to global scientific progress. Space exploration is a shared human pursuit – one that thrives on collaboration and collective ambition. Ali applauded that Tianwen-2 promises to deliver invaluable scientific insights. Ali said that our ongoing cooperation with CNSA, including contributions to Chang'e-6 via the ICUBE-Q cubesat and the development of a lunar rover for Chang'e-8, highlights a shared commitment to peaceful space exploration and scientific discovery.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1335060.shtml>

US wins if DeepSeek runs on American AI chips, Nvidia CEO says

Yifan Yu

Nikkei Asia, May 29, 2025

Washington was "clearly wrong" to assume China cannot make AI chips, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said, adding it is critical for U.S. chips to be exported to the Chinese market and have Nvidia chips used to run open-source models like DeepSeek and Alibaba's Qwen. "The U.S. has based its policy on the assumption that China cannot make AI chips. That assumption was always questionable, and now it's clearly wrong," Huang said during a first quarter earnings call.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Tech/Semiconductors/US-wins-if-DeepSeek-runs-on-American-AI-chips-Nvidia-CEO-says>

China's private space company Sepoch recovers nation's first liquid methane-fueled stainless steel reusable rocket

Global Times, May 29, 2025

China's commercial space company Beijing Sepoch Technology Co (Sepoch) announced that the nation's first reusable rocket featuring liquid oxygen-methane propulsion, a full-scale stainless steel structure, and offshore soft landing recovery successfully completed its maiden sea-based flight and recovery test. The successful flight and recovery test, conducted at the Haiyang Oriental Aerospace Port in East China's Shandong Province, marks a major breakthrough in the development of reusable liquid-fueled rockets and serves as a significant milestone, according to the company's social media account.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202505/1335084.shtml>

New report details China's push to dominate artificial intelligence

Sandra Erwin

Space News, May 29, 2025

China's campaign to lead the world in artificial intelligence is being driven by a tightly coordinated effort between state and private sectors — and increasingly, that effort is reaching into space. A new report titled "China's AI Infrastructure Surge," released May 29 by the Special Competitive Studies Project and the intelligence firm Strider Technologies, describes a sweeping, state-led initiative to build out the physical backbone of AI dominance: massive data centres across the country, with plans that now stretch beyond Earth's atmosphere. The report says China has built or announced more than 250 AI-focused data centres nationwide.

<https://spacenews.com/new-report-details-chinas-push-to-dominate-artificial-intelligence/>

Chinese tech groups prepare for AI future without Nvidia

Zijing Wu and Ryan McMorro

Financial Times, May 30, 2025

China's biggest technology companies have begun the long and difficult process of switching their development of artificial intelligence to homegrown chips, as they contend with a dwindling stockpile of Nvidia processors and tightening US export controls. Alibaba, Tencent and Baidu are among those starting to test alternative semiconductors to meet surging AI-related internal demand and client needs, according to industry executives. Shen Dou, head of Baidu's AI cloud group, last week told analysts the company could choose from a range of chip options — especially for problem-solving inference processing — to replace Nvidia's.

<https://www.ft.com/content/bb1315e8-27df-4a93-a4dc-11e2883fdde3>

China unveils world's first AI nuke inspector

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, May 30, 2025

Chinese scientists have developed an artificial intelligence system that can distinguish real nuclear warheads from decoys, marking the world's first AI-driven solution for arms control verification. The technology, disclosed in a peer-reviewed paper published in April by researchers with the China Institute of Atomic Energy (CIAE), could bolster Beijing's stance in stalled international disarmament talks while fuelling debate on the role of AI in managing weapons of mass destruction.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3312270/china-unveils-worlds-first-ai-nuke-inspector>

Suspected boat arrivals from China discovered in Arnhem Land

Erin Parke and Andrew Greene

Australian Broadcasting Corporation, May 30, 2025

Up to eight people, believed to be from China, have been detained by border protection authorities after reaching a remote part of the Northern Territory coast by boat. It's unclear where the group has now been taken, but a source familiar with the interception says the men were believed to be Chinese and had reached the Australian mainland by sea before being detected. Last year the ABC

reported on several suspected people smuggling operations involving Chinese nationals, including a venture which was disrupted by Indonesian authorities 12 months ago.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-30/eight-believed-to-be-chinese-asylum-seekers-found-in-arnhem-land/105357224>

Donald Trump orders US chip software suppliers to stop selling to China

Demetri Sevastopulo, Zijing Wu and Michael Acton

Financial Times, May 30, 2025

The Trump administration has told US companies that offer software used to design semiconductors to stop selling their services to Chinese groups, in the latest attempt to make it harder for China to develop advanced chips. Several people familiar with the move said the US Department of Commerce had told so-called electronic design automation groups — which include Cadence, Synopsys and Siemens EDA — to stop supplying their technology to China.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2c0db765-03ac-4820-8a02-806469848bee>

China's Maritime Disputes

Council on Foreign Relations, May 31, 2025

Disputes between China and its neighbors, including the Philippines and Vietnam, in the South China Sea have intensified in recent decades, while the territorial row with Japan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea dates to the nineteenth century.

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/chinas-maritime-disputes>

China is building a constellation of AI supercomputers in space — and just launched the first pieces

Ben Turner

Live Science, May 31, 2025

China has launched its first cluster of satellites for a planned artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer constellation in space. The 12 satellites are the beginnings of a proposed 2,800-satellite fleet led by the company ADA Space and Zhejiang Lab that will one day form the Three-Body Computing Constellation, a satellite network that will directly process data in space. The

satellites, which launched on board a Long March 2D rocket from China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre May 14, are part of a plan to lower China's dependence on ground-based computers.

<https://www.livescience.com/technology/computing/china-is-building-a-constellation-of-ai-supercomputers-in-space-and-just-launched-the-first-pieces>

Students or spies? The young Chinese caught in Trump's crosshairs

Fan Wang and Abel U

BBC, May 31, 2025

Xiao Chen turned up at the US Consulate in Shanghai, hours after Washington announced that it would "aggressively" revoke the visas of Chinese students. The 22-year-old had a visa appointment: she was headed to Michigan in the autumn to study communications. After a "pleasant" conversation, she was told her application had been rejected. She was not given a reason. It has been a bleak week for international students in the US - and perhaps even harder for the 280,000 or so Chinese students who would have noticed that their country has been singled out. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem accused Harvard of "co-ordinating with the Chinese Communist Party". Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the move against Chinese students in the US would include "those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1dezr13z3o>

Chinese spying on Dutch industries 'intensifying': Dutch defence minister

Xinghui Kok

Reuters, May 31, 2025

Chinese efforts to spy on the Dutch are intensifying, with the focus on semiconductors, Dutch Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans said. "The semiconductor industry, which we are technologically leading, or technology advanced, of course, to get that intellectual property - that's interesting to China," Brekelmans said in an interview on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue security meeting in Singapore.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defence/chinese-spying-dutch-industries-intensifying-dutch-defence-minister-2025-05-31/>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak

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