

August 10, 2024

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

**Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues**

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



## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on Germany's accusations of China conducting a cyberattack on the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, August 1, 2024

During the past few months, some Western politicians and media have been spreading unverified and even deliberately fabricated disinformation to spread the fear for so-called "Chinese cyber threat." Their motive is clearly not about cybersecurity. China firmly opposes such political manipulation that clearly was preorchestrated and played up to attack China. China's Embassy in Germany has voiced strong opposition and lodged a protest to the German side. Ensuring cybersecurity is a global challenge. China is a major victim of cyberattacks. China and Germany have open lines of communication on cybersecurity. The two sides need to jointly address threats and challenges through dialogue and cooperation, rather than resort to megaphone diplomacy, smear and attack one another and spread disinformation about so-called Chinese hacking operations.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240801\\_11464855.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240801_11464855.html)

## **China launches new high-orbit internet-services satellite**

Xinhua, August 1, 2024

China sent a new high-orbit internet-services satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The satellite was launched at 2114hrs (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered its preset orbit successfully. The launch marks the 529th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://english.news.cn/20240801/1831b4fbfc764cdfbdf8a84d90441f9f/c.html>

## **PLA a key force contributing to world peace and stability**

China Daily, August 2, 2024

The Chinese People's Liberation Army celebrated the 97th anniversary of its founding. Chinese troops have fought their way through battles and wars and made huge sacrifices to achieve one brilliant victory after another. They have made immense contributions to realizing China's national independence and people's liberation, safeguarding State sovereignty, security and development interests, supporting the country's economic and social construction and protecting people's lives. Keeping pace with the development of the country, China's military has become more modern, with ever-enhanced deterrence and defense capabilities.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/02/WS66ac2d95a3104e74fddb8166.html>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-East Timor relations**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, August 2, 2024

President of Timor-Leste José Ramos-Horta concluded his state visit to China. During the visit, President Xi Jinping had talks with him. Premier Li Qiang and Chairman Zhao Leji met with him respectively. The two sides reached broad important consensus and issued the joint statement on strengthening comprehensive strategic partnership. Both China and Timor-Leste will carry forward the fine tradition of mutual trust and win-win cooperation, and strive for a general direction of building the China-Timor-Leste Community with a shared future. The two countries agreed to jointly uphold regional peace, development and prosperity, oppose cobbling together any exclusive groupings in the region, promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240802\\_11465724.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240802_11465724.html)

## **China pushes nuclear ‘no first use’ while expanding its atomic arsenal**

Kathrin Hille and Max Seddon

Financial Times, August 2, 2024

China has launched a diplomatic offensive against the US nuclear weapons posture as it rapidly strengthens its own nuclear capabilities. Beijing, the only one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council that has committed to not using nuclear weapons first, has called in Geneva for the others to match that pledge and has also denounced Washington's arrangements for deterring attacks on its allies. In its formal proposal, China said a nuclear “no first use” policy was “increasingly becoming an important consensus and priority” in international arms control. But officials of the US and allied nations and analysts said Beijing's proposal and censure of the US and its allies were an attempt to blunt western criticism of its own nuclear arms build-up.

<https://www.ft.com/content/c23e896d-8fbd-4a9d-a7a3-ea0973d838cf>

## **The US deployment of intermediate-range missiles abroad turns back the wheel of history**

Zou Zhibo

China Daily, August 2, 2024

Recently, the United States has accelerated its plans to deploy intermediate-range missiles in allied countries. In April 2024, amid joint military drills with the Philippines, the US deployed the

"Typhon" intermediate-range missile system on Luzon Island. This was the first deployment of intermediate-range missiles system by the US after its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty). The deployment of intermediate-range missiles system by the US in allied countries is a harmful move that stimulates an arms race, triggers geopolitical crises, and threatens world peace and stability. By deploying such missiles in allied countries, the US aims to establish a deep strike capability into Chinese and Russian territories, while geographic constraints prevent China and Russia from obtaining a similar capability against the US homeland.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/02/WS66ac3589a3104e74fddb81c6.html>

## **Understanding China's approach to nuclear deterrence**

Alex Alfirraz Scheers

The Diplomat, August 2, 2024

The case for U.S. nuclear superiority made by several high-profile nuclear policy experts in the United States has tacitly increased tensions between Washington and Beijing. Any decision to pursue the recommendations outlined in the U.S. Strategic Posture Review to respond to China's alleged efforts to achieve nuclear parity with the United States will only create a more uncertain and dangerous international threat environment. Hence, it has never been more crucial to understand China's approach to deterrence, in order to bring a much-needed sense of perspective to Sino-American nuclear dynamics. More importantly, cultivating a sense of understanding is critical to attaining and maintaining peace.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/08/understanding-chinas-approach-to-nuclear-deterrence/>

## **Taiwan is readying citizens for a Chinese invasion. It's not going well**

Christian Shepherd and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, August 3, 2024

In the imagined blockade of "Zero Day," a Taiwanese television drama that will be released next year but is already causing a stir, the Chinese military has encircled Taiwan, cutting it off from the world and plunging the island democracy of 23 million into crisis. In a 17-minute trailer released last week, the public responds to China's blockade with a mixture of terror and resignation. Young couples ride bikes past tank convoys on empty streets. Criminal gangs stir up chaos on behalf of Beijing and its territorial claims over Taiwan.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/08/03/taiwan-china-war-invasion-military-preparedness/>

## **China on edge over prolonged U.S. missile deployment in Asia**

Ken Moriyasu

Nikkei Asia, August 3, 2024

China has growing concerns about a land-based U.S. missile launcher in the Philippines that was used in recent military drills, a move Beijing worries could significantly alter the balance of power if deployed on a permanent basis. China's envoys in Washington have been reaching out to sources for further details on the Typhon missile launcher that was deployed to the northern island of Luzon in the Philippines four months ago as part of a military drill.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Indo-Pacific/China-on-edge-over-prolonged-U.S.-missile-deployment-in-Asia>

## **Takeaways from our investigation into banned A.I. chips in China**

Ana Swanson

The New York Times, August 4, 2024

The United States has tried, with some success, to halt China's progress with artificial intelligence amid concerns that the technology is helping modernize the Chinese military. U.S. officials have set up one of the most extensive tech blockades ever attempted, banning the export to China of advanced A.I. chips, which are primarily made by Nvidia, a Silicon Valley firm that is one of the world's most valuable companies.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/04/technology/china-ai-microchips-takeaways.html>

## **World's biggest lithium producer urges state help to compete with China**

Harry Dempsey

Financial Times, August 4, 2024

The world's largest lithium producer, Albemarle, has urged governments to intervene to loosen Chinese dominance of the market for the minerals that power electric cars. Kent Masters, chief executive of the US-based group, wants more help from countries and car manufacturers to fight Chinese competition after the collapse in the market for lithium, a key component of batteries used in electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. "China is going to control these supply chains or we're going to build western supply chains to compete." He added: "I'm not sure it's clear that the west is building those supply chains out right now."

<https://www.ft.com/content/d20a42be-c5f8-4bcb-a93a-8272df4b56d0>

## **‘War of currents’: how Chinese engineers bring Thomas Edison’s DC dream to life on warship**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 5, 2024

When there is a serious mishap on a modern warship’s power grid, such as a short circuit or equipment damage, it is sometimes necessary to reconstruct the entire power grid to isolate the fault and restore power to the rest of the ship. Grid reconstruction like this requires fine-tuning the speed of generator operation, and the pace of these huge machines must be strictly consistent. Even the most advanced Western warships would take at least several minutes to complete these adjustments. But a new Chinese warship can complete the job within a few milliseconds, according to a senior scientist with the Chinese navy.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3273252/war-currents-how-chinese-engineers-bring-thomas-edisons-dc-dream-life-warship>

## **‘Milestone event’: China launches first batch of satellites to establish ‘Chinese Starlink’**

Fan Anqi

Global Times, August 6, 2024

China successfully sent 18 Qianfan satellites into preset orbits via a Long March-6 carrier rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province. These are the first batch of satellites that will be used to establish the nation's "own version of Starlink," marking a "milestone event" for the country in the global satellite internet industry. The Qianfan megaconstellation project, or G60, was launched in 2023 with the aim of providing more extensive and high-quality communication services for domestic users. It is expected to establish a network of over 15,000 low earth orbit (LEO) wide-screen multimedia satellites in the long run, according to media report.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317507.shtml>

## **Chinese American scholar convicted of spying on dissidents for Beijing**

Cate Cadell

The Washington Post, August 6, 2024

A scholar with deep roots in New York’s dissident Chinese community was convicted Tuesday of acting as a foreign agent and faces up to 25 years in prison after he was found guilty of

working on behalf of Beijing's national intelligence agency to gather information on U.S.-based activists. Shujun Wang, a 75-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen of Chinese descent, was arrested in 2022 as part of a Justice Department initiative to crack down on efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to surveil and harass its critics abroad.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/08/06/shujun-wang-china-spying/>

## **China's 'no first use' nuclear policy rings hollow for many**

Brad Glosserman

The Japan Times, August 6, 2024

Nearly 60 years ago, on Oct. 16, 1964, China exploded its first nuclear device. That very same day, Beijing announced that it would “never at any time or under any circumstances be the first to use nuclear weapons.” Nor, the Chinese government later declared, would it ever use or threaten the use of nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states. This “no first use” (NFU) pledge has since become an unwavering, immutable component of China's nuclear policy and posture. Maj. Gen. Pan Zhenqiang (retired) spoke for the entire Chinese strategic establishment when he called it a “cornerstone of China's nuclear strategy.”

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2024/08/06/japan/china-nuclear-first-use/>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the issue of readjusting Pakistan's energy debt**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, August 6, 2024

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners who always support each other and share weal and woe together. China has supported Pakistan in growing the economy, improving people's livelihood and maintaining financial stability. China-Pakistan energy cooperation is carried out under the principles of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, and follows the law of market and commercial rules. Energy projects completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor greatly eased Pakistan's energy supply shortages, lowered electricity cost and boosted Pakistan's socioeconomic development. We believe that with the joint effort of both sides, China-Pakistan energy cooperation will continue to be a success, and deliver more to our two peoples.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240806\\_11467082.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240806_11467082.html)

## **Why China is doubling down on nuclear weapons—experts weigh in**

Micah McCartney

Newsweek, August 6, 2024

Experts have shared what they believe are the factors driving China's rapid nuclear weapons buildup under President Xi Jinping, a trend that has Washington worried. A recent bipartisan commission's report to Congress highlighted concerns over China's establishment of a "full-fledged nuclear triad," alongside nuclear threats posed by Russia and North Korea. In light of these developments, the commission said that it is essential for the U.S. to continue modernizing its nuclear capabilities at a comparable pace. Under President Xi Jinping, Beijing has rapidly expanded and modernized its nuclear arsenal. While China currently possesses fewer nuclear weapons than the U.S. or Russia, the Pentagon and the independent Stockholm International Peace Institute say the East Asian country could double its stockpile of an estimated 500 warheads to 1,000 by the end of the decade.

<https://www.newsweek.com/why-china-doubling-down-nuclear-weapons-1934624>

## **Nuclear plants open to public, demonstrating China's industrial rise**

Chu Daye

Global Times, August 7, 2024

Members of the public can now book visits to the country's nuclear power plants in nine cities, China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) announced. Industry insiders said that professionally organized tours to nuclear facilities will have high educational value, and such tours can also boost rural tourism in areas where these facilities are located, according to a press release CGN sent to the Global Times. Nuclear power plants show the achievements of China's modern industrialization and are a vital platform for sci-tech education in China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317561.shtml>

## **China restricts Fentanyl chemicals after years of U.S. pressure**

Brian Spegele

The Wall Street Journal, August 7, 2024

China is imposing new restrictions on chemicals used in the production of fentanyl, a move long sought by the U.S. that signals Beijing's desire to keep open an important diplomatic channel with Washington ahead of November's presidential election. The status of the chemicals has proven a diplomatic sticking point for the past two and half years, and the latest move marks a small step



forward in the Biden administration's strategy of seeking cooperation with China on counternarcotics even as the countries' relationship is increasingly defined by competition.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china/china-restricts-fentanyl-chemicals-after-years-of-u-s-pressure-b53da4d9>

## **China-India relations easing, navigating new realities**

Zhang Jiadong

Global Times, August 8, 2024

Lately, there have been signs that tensions between India and China are easing. The foreign ministers of both countries have indicated willingness to push for resolving border disputes and improving overall China-India relations. There are also speculations that the Indian government is considering relaxing restrictions on Chinese investment. These developments have raised hopes for a positive trajectory in the relationship between the two countries. Despite facing high tensions in the border area over the past years, China-India economic and trade relations continue to develop.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317638.shtml>

## **China built a nuclear power plant that technically can't melt down**

Caroline Delbert

Popular Mechanics, August 8, 2024

Scientists in China have now designed and tested a nuclear fission power plant that can keep itself cool even during a power outage—meaning it completely avoids the runaway heating and disaster known as nuclear meltdown. This is not a design that can be retrofitted to existing nuclear fission plants, however, because it involves a new paradigm called a pebble bed reactor. The team's findings appear now in the peer-reviewed journal *Joule*.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a61815284/china-nuclear-power-plant-cant-melt-down/>

## **US military report hypes tactics of China, Russia to 'seek financial support from Congress'**

Global Times, August 8, 2024

A recent study conducted by the US military hyped that countries such as China and Russia are gearing up for unprecedented hybrid warfare tactics targeting the US homeland. Chinese observers

believe that the US is exaggerating the so-called threat from China and Russia in order to garner more support from Congress for the development of cutting-edge military weapons systems as part of its strategy to contain China and bolster its waning hegemony. According to media reports, the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) warned in a report that China, Russia, and others are heavily investing "in hybrid and irregular capabilities, such as information and cyber operations, to attack soft targets and systems within the territory of the US and its Allies."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1317686.shtml>

## **China's new hypersonic glider can power-jump to the other side of the Earth: scientists**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 9, 2024

China's hypersonic weapons are poised for a significant upgrade, according to scientists involved in a project to develop a new type of hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV). Using a trajectory similar to a skipping stone, the hypersonic glide vehicle can dive into and jump out of the atmosphere repeatedly at speeds exceeding Mach 15, thanks to a new solid-fuel booster capable of multiple ignitions. A hypersonic glide vehicle is a type of warhead that can manoeuvre and glide at hypersonic speed to control a missile's trajectory after launch.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3273658/chinas-new-hypersonic-glider-can-power-jump-other-side-earth-scientists>

## **US 'Ill-Equipped' to Handle Nuclear Escalation with China: Experts**

Lee Harpley

Air and Space Forces, August 9, 2024

The U.S. is currently "ill-equipped" to manage nuclear escalation scenarios in the Indo-Pacific with China, both in the current security environment and in a potential conflict, experts argue in a new report. Andrew Metrick, Philip Sheers, and Stacie Pettyjohn from the Center for a New American Study authored the research report, funded by the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Tensions in the region remain high—China is building up its nuclear arsenal at a rapid rate and continues to claim it will take Taiwan by force if necessary. In the event of conflict, especially a protracted one, Metrick, Sheers, and Pettyjohn warn that conditions could be such that "nonstrategic nuclear weapons use is both appealing to the PRC and difficult to manage for the United States."

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/us-nuclear-escalation-china-experts/>

## **Vietnam accelerates island building to challenge China's maritime claims**

Rebecca Tan and Laris Karklis

The Washington Post, August 9, 2024

Vietnam has dramatically accelerated its effort to expand islands and reclaim land in the contested South China Sea since the start of the year to challenge rising Chinese assertiveness, according to satellite imagery and interviews with Vietnamese officials, security analysts and diplomats. Not since China carried out its own island-building campaign there a decade ago, turning semi-submerged reefs into sophisticated military bases, has the landscape of the archipelago been so transformed. In just three years, Vietnam has increased its amount of land in the Spratlys tenfold.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2024/vietnam-south-china-sea-islands-growth/>

## **Chinese scientists drilled holes in a plane wing to reduce sonic booms. It worked**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 10, 2024

Scientists in northwest China wanted to find a way to reduce the shock waves and sonic booms created when an aircraft flies at supersonic speeds – so they drilled holes into a plane wing. It was an unorthodox approach, but the holes facilitated airflow from beneath the wing to its upper surface. And that effectively mitigated the shock wave vibrations that cause sonic booms, according to the team from Northwestern Polytechnical University, who used wind tunnel data and computer simulations to carry out the study.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3273941/chinese-scientists-drilled-holes-plane-wing-reduce-sonic-booms-it-worked>

## **China's SMIC vows to avoid chip price war**

The Manila Times, August 10, 2024

China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. (SMIC) said it will steer clear of a price war in the industry and forecast current quarter sequential revenue growth of up to 15 percent. Co-Chief Executive Officer Zhao Haijun, who had warned about the price war in May, said: "We have indeed encountered a situation where some of our peers with excess capacity are using low prices to attract customers. "SMIC will not take the initiative to cut prices," Zhao added in an earnings conference call.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/10/business/foreign-business/chinas-smic-vows-to-avoid-chip-price-war/1963017#:~:text=BEIJING%20%E2%80%94%20China's%20Semiconductor%20Manufacturing%20International,of%20up%20to%2015%20percent>

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

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