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# Chinese Military Modernization And The Future Of Taiwan

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Chinese Military Modernization and Force Development  
A History of the Modern Chinese Army  
Assessing the Weaknesses of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)  
China's Military Reforms and Modernization  
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**DYER DORSEY**

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*Chinese Military Modernization and Force  
Development* Alpha Edition

"In a RAND study that I led which is currently under review, my colleagues Mark Burles, Michael Chase, and Kevin Pollpeter analyzed Chinese military doctrinal writings that discuss how to defeat a militarily superior adversary such as the United States, and found in them at least eight strategic principles that have implications for U.S. force posture in the Pacific theater. The first such principle is seizing the initiative early in a conflict. For example, Chinese military analysts note that, by not seizing the initiative in the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq allowed the United States to build up its forces until it had overwhelming superiority. If China is to be victorious in a conflict with a militarily superior power, therefore, China must go on the offensive from the very beginning. In the context of a conflict between the United States and China, this means that U.S. force posture in Pacific theater will be critical, as China is likely to go on the offensive before additional forces can be brought into the theater. A second and related strategic principle for defeating a militarily superior adversary is the importance of surprise. Surprise is valuable not only for the immediate tactical advantage it conveys, but also because surprise is an important way of seizing the initiative in a conflict. Achieving surprise against an adversary will put

the adversary in the position of reacting to China's moves, making it relatively easy to maintain the initiative thereafter. In the context of a conflict between the United States and China, this means that the ability of U.S. forces in the Pacific theater to avoid and survive surprise attacks will be critical."--P. 1.

Rowman & Littlefield

These essays support the argument that strong and effective presidential leadership is the most important prerequisite for South Korea to sustain and project its influence abroad. That leadership should be attentive to the need for public consensus and should operate within established legislative mechanisms that ensure public accountability. The underlying structures sustaining South Korea's foreign policy formation are generally sound; the bigger challenge is to manage domestic politics in ways that promote public confidence about the direction and accountability of presidential leadership in foreign policy.

**A History of the Modern Chinese  
Army** Praeger

The consequences of the modernisation of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) military forces over the last three decades have created challenges for the Asia-Pacific. Chinese forces have experienced cumulative improvements in their capabilities. Modernisation begins with doctrinal and strategic changes and continues with organisational transformation and, simultaneously, equipment acquisitions. China has pursued all these elements simultaneously, albeit unevenly. For decades, the People's Liberation Army

(PLA) was wedded to a 'People's War', which emphasised "active defence", as originally conceived by Mao Tse-tung. The PLA has since moved away from "active defence" to an emphasis on "military art" and "operations" [campaigns]. China's military modernisation also focuses on sustaining operations beyond the country. One example is its Djibouti military base. It is also likely to create additional bases in friendly countries such as Pakistan. Its air force, army and navy are being developed for offensive and long-distance operations. China clearly complicates U.S. defense planning in Asia, says CFR's Senior Fellow for China Studies, Adam Segal. The Pentagon's 2008 report to Congress states: "Current trends in China's military capabilities are a major factor in changing East Asian military balances, and could provide China with a force capable of prosecuting a range of military operations in Asia-well beyond Taiwan." Most countries in the region have some degree of caution in their relationship with China, says James Mulvenon, director of Washington-based Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis. However, none of them, he adds, want to engage in any form of containment policy with the United States. Meanwhile, though China is wary of U.S. military presence close to its border, its troubles with Uighurs has led it to support U.S. military actions inside Afghanistan, say experts. Although China faces both internal and outside constraints on its rise to global eminence, it cannot be denied that China's government is pursuing a far-reaching strategic schedule.

*Assessing the Weaknesses of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)* Council on Foreign Relations

A detailed analysis of the latest developments of the Chinese armed forces.

### **China's Military Reforms and Modernization**

Rand Corporation  
Examining Chinese intentions and the means they have to achieve those intentions, this volume begins with Roger Ames's essay analyzing the Chinese military through from the earliest times

### **A Comparative Analysis**

Manas Publications  
This book provides a comprehensive assessment of China's military capabilities in 2000 and 2010, with projections for 2020. Recognizing that military power encompasses more than weaponry, it develops an original empirical framework for measuring militaries that also includes doctrine, training, and organizational structure.  
*Chinese Military Modernization*  
Cambridge University Press  
This book explores the question of how the United States should respond to China's military modernization effort, including its naval modernisation effort, which has emerged as a key issue in U.S. defence planning. China's naval modernisation effort, which began in the 1990s, encompasses a broad array of weapon acquisition programs, including anti-ship ballistic missiles, submarines, and surface ships. Observers believe that the near-term focus of China's military modernisation effort has been to develop military options for addressing the situation with Taiwan. Potential oversight issues for Congress include whether the U.S. Navy in coming years will be large enough to adequately counter improve Chinese maritime anti-access forces while also adequately performing other missions of interest to U.S. policy-makers around the world; the

Navy's ability to counter Chinese anti-ship ballistic missiles and submarines; and whether the Navy, in response to China's maritime anti-access capabilities, should shift over time to a more distributed fleet architecture.

*Domestic Constraints on South Korean Foreign Policy* Greenwood Publishing Group

With its fanatic national fervour, China is all set to achieve its legitimate place - the Middle Kingdom syndrome - in the emerging multi polar world order by 2050 AD. The most effective tool to achieve this is the Chinese Armed Forces - the PLA. The centrality of the PLA in China's internal and external policies has always remained unquestioned. China has recently embarked on a massive systematic programme for the modernisation of its Defence Services. Its short and long term objectives are yet to be assessed. The question now is, will a modernised professional military dance to the tune of the Chinese Communist Party? The impact of China's Defence modernisation on India's national security would be profound and direct. Are India & China natural rivals? What threats China poses for India? How should India respond to these challenges? This extensively researched book from a highly experienced soldier comprehensively examines all these & other related issues which should be of great interest for the China watchers. International Implications CreateSpace

The Chinese Army Today is a completely unique and comprehensive study of all elements of the Chinese military, focusing on its ground forces to a degree not found in any other contemporary works. In 1999, the military modernization program of the Chinese People's Liberation Army that had been underway for twenty years increased in

intensity and achieved a focus not seen in the previous two decades. Based primarily on actual Chinese sources, this book details the changes implemented since 1999 and puts them in the context of the many traditions that still remain. Written by a retired professional military officer who has served in China, this book presents the reader with the key developments since 1999. Its discussion on training and doctrine provides a level of detail not found in other works, but is essential to understanding the progress made in China's military modernization and the obstacles yet to be overcome. The author uses first-hand observation of the Chinese military and three decades of military experience to weave many disparate threads from official Chinese statements, documents, and media reports into an integrated whole. This text defines exactly what forces make up the People's Liberation Army and examines in detail ground force organization and structure, personnel policies, doctrine and training, new equipment entering the force, and missions routinely undertaken in support of society. This is an essential book for all students and scholars of China and Asia, political science and international relations and of contemporary military affairs and strategic studies.

**Modernizing China's Military** Springer

The People's Liberation Army (PLA), the collective term for The People's Republic of China's (PRC's) armed, air, naval and strategic rocket forces, is making significant strides toward modernizing its conventional armed forces and creating a credible power projection capability. There have been gradual improvements in the PLA as a result of dramatic shifts in leadership and growing professionalism of the PLA, changes in operational doctrine and concepts,

reduction and restructuring of forces and military regions, and improvement efforts aimed at command and control. With the virtual removal of the threat of invasion on the Sino-Soviet border after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the belief that the near term will hold no major and/or nuclear wars, China feels it can afford to pursue a slow, but steady, pace of improvements in the PLA. It is China's hope that by the middle of the 21st century the PRC's defense capabilities will be nearer to advanced world standards. To achieve this aim, it hopes to develop a distinctly "Chinese-style" doctrine expected to match the U.S. "Air Land Baffle" despite the United State's superior technology. If Beijing continues to enjoy economic success, it will be translated into improvements in the military sphere and, short of major political and economic reversals, the Chinese will play an increasingly significant role in the interplay of regional and international politics. Although it is believed China has limited potential to become a peer competitor of the United States within the next couple of decades, its relative power in Asia and globally will grow sharply during this period. Already it has developed a modest power projection capability and is intent upon expanding it. Success even if only partial, in pursuing advanced military technology and organizing concepts could enhance the speed and impact of China's rise in power.

*Impact of China's Military Modernization in the Pacific Region : Report to*

*Congressional Committees* Routledge

Since the fall of 1976, China's military leadership has initiated the first sustained reappraisal of its military force structure and defense strategies and policies in close to twenty years. This

essay will briefly assess these recent policy changes and their potential consequences. There are four objectives: to identify the political, military, strategic, and economic context of these changes; to explore the areas of particular concern to the military leadership; to evaluate how far-reaching the possibilities for policy change might actually be; and to consider the potential implications of these changes for China's overall political and military role in East Asia during the 1980s.

### **Chinese Military Modernization: Transitioning from People's War to Limited War** Allen & Unwin

China's emergence as a global economic superpower, and as a major regional military power in Asia and the Pacific, has had a major impact on its relations with the United States and its neighbors. China was the driving factor in the new strategy the United States announced in 2012 that called for a "rebalance" of U.S. forces to the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, China's actions on its borders, in the East China Sea, and in the South China Sea have shown that it is steadily expanding its geopolitical role in the Pacific and having a steadily increasing impact on the strategy and military developments in other Asian powers.

### **China's Military Modernization, Japan's Normalization and the South China Sea Territorial Disputes**

Rowman & Littlefield

China's rise to global economic and strategic eminence, with the potential for achieving pre-eminence in the greater-Asian region, is one of the defining characteristics of the post-Cold War period. For students contemplating a broad range of business, social science, journalist, or military science curricula, it is critical to possess a basic

understanding of the military-strategic basis and trajectory of a Rising China. This work is intended to be attractive to a range of courses that require a volume that can provide background and outline current and future issues concerning China's rise in strategic-military influence.

Force Development and Strategic Capabilities Chinese Military Modernization

A RAND study analyzed Chinese and U.S. military capabilities in two scenarios (Taiwan and the Spratly Islands) from 1996 to 2017, finding that trends in most, but not all, areas run strongly against the United States. While U.S. aggregate power remains greater than China's, distance and geography affect outcomes. China is capable of challenging U.S. military dominance on its immediate periphery—and its reach is likely to grow in the years ahead.

**China's Military Modernization and Cyber Activities** CreateSpace

This is an important report compilation of testimony at a 2018 hearing which provided insight into how China's ongoing military reform efforts and President Xi's vision for achieving the "China Dream" are shaping the People's Liberation Army's long-term defense planning, weapons development, and acquisition programs. The hearing specifically assessed the political and security drivers shaping China's military modernization efforts; the reformed Central Military Commission's role in coordinating modernization priorities with the military services; the development of forces capable of conducting joint operations; and implications for the United States. Panel I: National-Level Military Modernization Priorities and Force Enablers \* 1. Cortez Cooper, Senior International/Defense

Researcher, RAND Corporation \* 2. John Costello, Cybersecurity Policy Fellow, New America Foundation \* 3. Kevin McCauley, Independent Analyst \* Panel II: Service-Level Military Modernization Priorities \* 4. Ben Lowsen, China Advisor, U.S. Air Force \* 5. James Holmes, Ph.D., J.C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy, U.S. Naval War College \* 6. Brendan Mulvaney, Ph.D., Director, China Aerospace Studies Institute \* 7. Michael S. Chase, Ph.D., Senior Political Scientist, RAND Corporation \* Panel III: PLA Modernization and Implications for the United States and Beyond \* 8. Tate Nurkin, Executive Director, Strategic Assessments, Jane's by IHS Markit \* 9. Jacqueline N. Deal, Ph.D., President and CEO, Long Term Strategy Group \* 10. Kathleen Hicks, Ph.D. Senior Vice President, Henry A. Kissinger Chair, and Director of the International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies The Chinese Communist Party believes that a strong military is essential to maintaining its hold on power in an increasingly competitive geostrategic environment. Since becoming General Secretary of the CCP, Xi Jinping has conveyed his vision for achieving the "China Dream" through the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." President Xi as chairman of the Central Military Commission, China's top military decision-making body, has emphasized that a strong military is necessary to reach this goal. At the CCP's recent 19th Party Congress, President Xi revised the milestones set out for the military's development strategy. He announced an interim goal for the PLA to achieve modernization by 2035 and modified the long-term objective to become a world-class military by 2049. China's efforts to reach its military development goals will

depend on the PLA's ability to implement its most sweeping reform and reorganization since the 1950s, which began in 2016 and will last through 2020. The reform effort centralizes President Xi's control over the military and seeks to improve the PLA's capability to fight regional conflicts at greater distances from China. Therefore, to better understand the challenges the U.S. and its allies and partners may face in the Indo-Pacific concerning Chinese military modernization, this hearing will examine Beijing's national-level modernization priorities, drivers behind the modernization, force enablers, and how the PLA is coordinating these priorities from the national level down among the military services. At the CCP's recent 19th Party Congress, President Xi revised the milestones set out for the military's development strategy. He announced an interim goal for the PLA to achieve modernization by 2035 and modified the long-term objective to become a world-class military by 2049. China's efforts to reach its military development goals will depend on the PLA's ability to implement its most sweeping reform and reorganization since the 1950s, which began in 2016 and will last through 2020.

**Implications for U.S. - People's Liberation Army's Long-Term Defense Planning, PLA Weapons Development, and Acquisition Programs, President Xi's Vision** Univ of California Press

The potential military capabilities of the People's Republic of China (PRC) carry tremendous implications for the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan. The PRC's military modernization efforts are quickly eroding the ROC's qualitative military advantage. As the PRC modernizes, the possibility for a peaceful reunification

diminishes. However, if it chooses an aggressive solution for reunification, the PRC recognizes that it may have to contend with the United States coming to Taiwan's aid. This thesis addresses the PRC's efforts to modernize its armed forces. Since 1985, Beijing has initiated a dedicated process of preparing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to fight future wars. Through detailed analysis of U.S. military campaigns in the Middle East and the Balkans, the PRC has implemented new doctrine and equipment to help transform the PLA into a superior fighting force. As it modernizes, the PRC is developing strategies to force Taiwan's reunification with the mainland. Also, the PRC is developing asymmetric methods to defeat the possible presence of U.S. forces in the Taiwan Strait. The modernization of the PLA is dedicated towards achieving both of these goals. *Building for Regional and Global Reach* Nova Science Pub Incorporated

China is experiencing extremely rapid changes in every element of its national power; economic, political, and military. Its economy is booming, producing double digit gains each year since the mid-1980s. This explosive growth raises the prospect of China emerging as a major global power. To help protect this potential new status, Beijing decided to modernize its military to gain respect in the world community and become militarily competitive with other global powers. This resulted in a nation possessing one of the fastest growing economies in the world combined with one of the largest military machines; that is slowly gaining an offensive force-projection capability. These factors may upset the balance of power in the Asian region, in addition to posing a threat to U.S. interests. This paper examines the

implications for U.S. and regional security posed by the economic reforms and the military modernization taking place in China, focusing on Chinese acquisition and indigenous production of high-technology weapons to produce an offensive force projection capability. After surveying the lack of resources available to the Chinese defense industries, it analyzes China's military equipment modernization program and impediments to that program. By assessing the impact of the impediments, it concludes that the economic reform in the People's Republic of China (PRC) has actually slowed military modernization efforts and hindered indigenous defense production. This has reduced the military's possibilities of developing limited or sustained force projection for 15 to 25 years. Thus the U.S. and regional nations have an opportunity to engage China and bring it fully into the world community before it becomes a regional threat.

The Armed Forces of China Routledge Annotation The most thorough overview of the Chinese defense programs and Sino-American military relations by a leading authority.

*China's Military Modernization and Search for Power* Routledge

This paper attempts to analyze the roots of current Chinese military modernization in the context of China's transformation to a market economy. The specific focus of the analysis is the relationship between the economy, the military and security in East Asia, specifically, how far can the economy drive modernization?, how will China's modern forces be employed?, and what are the security implications for U.S. interests in the Pacific. To answer these questions, the paper looks at the

Chinese leaderships developing grand strategy, changing military doctrine, and planned force structure modernization. The paper focuses on several factors which will limit continuous expansion of the Chinese economy, which in turn will constrain military spending and ambitions. Specific aspects of security in the South China Sea region are addressed.

*China's Military Modernization Trends and Implications* CSIS

Since the establishment of the Red Army in 1927, China's military has responded to profound changes in Chinese society, particularly its domestic politics, shifting economy, and evolving threat perceptions. Recently tensions between China and Taiwan and other east Asian nations have aroused great interest in the extraordinary transformation and new capabilities of the Chinese army. In *A History of the Modern Chinese Army*, Xiaobing Li, a former member of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), provides a comprehensive examination of the PLA from the Cold War to the beginning of the twenty-first century that highlights the military's central function in modern Chinese society. In the 1940s, the Chinese army was in its infancy, and many soldiers were rural conscripts and volunteers who had received little formal schooling. The Chinese military rapidly increased its mobility and weapon strength, and the Korean War and Cold War offered intense combat experience that not only allowed soldiers to hone their fighting techniques but also helped China to develop military tactics tailored to the surrounding countries whose armies posed the most immediate threats. Yet even in the 1970s, the completion of a middle school education (nine years) was considered above-average, and only 4 percent of the 224



top Chinese generals had any college credit hours. However, in 1995 the high command began to institute massive reforms to transform the PLA from a labor-intensive force into a technology-intensive army. Continually seeking more urban conscripts and emphasizing higher education, the PLA Reserve Officer Training and Selection program recruited students from across the nation. These reservists would become commissioned officers upon graduation, and they majored in atomic physics, computer science, and electrical engineering. Grounding the text in

previously unreleased official Chinese government and military records as well as the personal testimonies of more than two hundred PLA soldiers, Li charts the development of China's armed forces against the backdrop of Chinese society, cultural traditions, political history, and recent technological advancements. A History of the Modern Chinese Army links China's military modernization to the country's growing international and economic power and provides a unique perspective on China's establishment and maintenance of one of the world's most advanced military forces.

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