

# Chinese Military Modernization And Force Development A Western Perspective Csis Reports

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## SWANSON SULLIVAN

*China's Modernizing Military* Rand Corporation  
 "Four essays ... analyze broad trends in Chinese military modernization. While they treat strategic capabilities ... the essays analyze considerably more. They look at the whole pattern of Chinese military modernization-- strategy, doctrine, information warfare, ground, naval and air forces. The essays come to ... much the same conclusion: that while the PLA ... is acquiring "pockets" of modern capabilities through a variety of legal and illegal endeavors, these selective acquisitions do not offset the overall obsolescence of most of China's armed forces."  
[China's Military Modernization and the Cross-strait Balance](#) Rand Corporation  
 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.  
*Tradition and Transformation for the 21st Century* Greenwood Publishing Group  
 In *Strategic Asia 2012-13: China's Military Challenge*, leading experts assess and forecast the impact of China's growing military capabilities. What are China's strategic aims? What are the challenges and opportunities facing the United States? How is the region responding to China's military power and to the U.S. policy of "strategic rebalancing"?  
[Chinese and Outside Perspectives](#) Rowman & Littlefield  
 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.  
[Problems of Modernization](#) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute  
 This report from the CSIS Burke Chair in Strategy examines trends in Chinese strategy, military spending, and military forces based

on Chinese defense white papers and other official Chinese sources; US reporting by the Department of Defense and other defense agencies; and other government sources, including Japanese and Korean defense white papers and the International Monetary Fund.

### **Forces, Geography, and the Evolving Balance of Power, 1996-2017** Peterson Institute

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.

*China's Military Power* Routledge

China is building a modern and regionally powerful military with a modest but growing capability for conducting operations away from China's immediate periphery. The question of how the United States should respond to China's military modernisation effort is a central issue in U.S. defense planning and foreign policy. Congress decisions on this issue could affect U.S. defense strategy, budgets, plans, and programs, and the U.S. defense industrial base. This book provides a brief overview of the Chinese military. It provides background information and issues for Congress on China's naval modernisation effort and its implications for U.S. Navy capabilities.

*The Chinese Army Today* Univ of California Press

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 States' 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.

**A Comparative Analysis** Routledge

For 20 years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has provided

Congress with an annual report on military and security developments involving the People's Republic of China (PRC). These reports have assessed the contours of China's national strategy, its approach to security and military affairs, and potential changes in the PRC's armed forces over the next 20 years, among other matters. 2020 marks an important year for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) as it works to achieve important modernization milestones ahead of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) broader goal to transform China into a "moderately prosperous society" by the CCP's centenary in 2021. As the United States continues to respond to the growing strategic challenges posed by the PRC, 2020 offers a unique opportunity to assess both the continuity and changes that have taken place in the PRC's strategy and armed forces over the past two decades.

*Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2020 Annual Report to Congress* DIANE Publishing

To many in the United States, China looms large and threatening. This monograph attempts to answer, through an analysis of China's defense establishment under the leadership of Jiang Zemin, questions such as: What are the national security and national military goals of China's leaders? What strategies are Chinese leaders considering in pursuit of these goals? What is the likelihood that these goals will be attained? It assesses the political and economic determinants of China's effort to modernize its armed forces. Four possible strategies are outlined: (1) playing the superpower game," (2) playing to its strengths," (3) changing the rules of the game," or (4) don't play that game." The factors that will determine the selection of a strategy are examined. The most likely strategy is identified and its outcome of evaluated. Lastly, the implications of the study for the U.S. defense community are addressed.

*Report of an Independent Task Force Sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations* Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies Cambridge University 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.

*China's Military Modernization, Policy, and Strategy* CSIS

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.

**Chinese Military Reform in the Age of Xi Jinping: Drivers, Challenges, and Implications** Nova Science Pub Incorporated  
China has emerged as an economic powerhouse with an increasing role on the world stage. China's Rise will help the United States comprehend the facts and dynamics underpinning China's rise—an understanding that becomes more important with each passing day. Filled with facts for policymakers, this much-anticipated book's accessible style will also appeal to the general reader through its relevant discussion of China's foreign policy, military modernization, economic growth, and energy and the environment.

**National Security** Chinese Military Modernization Force Development and Strategic Capabilities  
Chinese Military Modernization Force Development and Strategic Capabilities CSIS

**Chinese Army Building in the Era of Jiang Zemin** Praeger  
China's reform policies during the past decade have resulted in the reorganization of economic and political structures and have led to a dramatic reorientation of the nation's foreign policy. These reforms have especially influenced China's military establishment, which is now in a period of major transition. What new paradigm is replacing the old Maoist model of People's War, however, is not clear. This book examines what China's military modernization means for the global and regional balance of power and for China's internal political-economic system. Specific chapters focus on changes in Chinese strategy and doctrine, developments in defense industries and military procurements, China's acquisition of foreign technology, its military education system, and its nuclear weapons program.

*Chinese Military Modernization and Force Development* University Press of Kentucky

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

**Assessing the Weaknesses of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)** NBR

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.

*Chinese Military Power* Allen & Unwin

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

*Strategic Asia 2012-13: China's Military Challenge* Rowman & Littlefield

Through extensive primary source analysis and independent analysis, this report seeks to answer a number of important questions regarding the state of China's armed forces. The authors found that the PLA is keenly aware of its many weaknesses and is vigorously striving to correct them. Although it is only natural to focus on the PLA's growing capabilities, understanding the PLA's weaknesses—and its self-assessments—is no less important.

*Impact of China's Military Modernization in the Pacific Region : Report to Congressional Committees* Rand Corporation

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.

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