# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)





### China escalates tech battle with review of US chipmaker Micron

Thomas Hale

Financial Times, April 1, 2023

China launched a review into US chip manufacturer Micron Technology on "national security" grounds, as Beijing retaliates against Washington's increasing curbs on Chinese access to semiconductor technology. In a statement released late on Friday, the Cyberspace Administration of China said it would review imports of Micron's products in order to maintain national security, ensure the security of its information infrastructure and prevent risks caused by product problems.

https://www.ft.com/content/79ddb4bb-cbfc-4e4f-bca8-ef52ea0157c1

# Spanish PM visits China amid positive trend; EU's strategic independence stressed for mutually beneficial relations

Fan Anqi

Global Times, April 1, 2023

On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Spain, leaders of the two countries met in Beijing, agreeing to take the opportunity to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation. While meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that Europe should maintain strategic independence when dealing with relations with China.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288382.shtml

# China presses Japan to change course on chip export curbs

Thomas Hale and Leo Lewis

Financial Times, April 2, 2023

China has attempted to dissuade Japan from imposing big curbs on exports of semiconductor manufacturing equipment, as part of a fast-evolving geopolitical battle over access to the world's most advanced chips. The move by Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang came during a visit to Beijing by his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi — the first such trip to China's capital by a top Japanese diplomat in more than three years.

https://www.ft.com/content/c932027c-a865-48f2-abac-3baba2b21f88

#### Biden Needs to Broaden Semiconductor Sanctions on China

Ben Noon

Foreign Policy April 3, 2023

In recent years, Washington has made historic strides in its semiconductor policy by recognizing that chips are perhaps the most important part of the United States' techno-economic rivalry with China. These efforts culminated in October 2022's export control rules, which have been widely and correctly praised for their effort to constrain China's production of the world's most advanced chips whose military uses and commercial significance are impossible to overstate. But the United States would benefit from going further.

https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/04/03/chips-biden-xi-china-sanctions-semiconductors/

# Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning's Regular Press Conference on April 3, 2023: About a cyber security review of products sold in the country by US chip manufacturer Micron Technology

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, April 3, 2023

Relevant Chinese authorities conduct cyber security review over cyber products that have impacted or may impact national security in accordance with laws and regulations. This is a normal regulation measure for safeguarding national security. All Chinese companies and foreign companies in China must abide by China's laws and regulations and must not harm China's national security.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\_eng/xwfw\_665399/s2510\_665401/202304/t20230403\_11053729.html

# China opens advanced nuclear research reactor to worldwide scientists

CGTN, April 3 2023

The China Advanced Research Reactor (CARR), a 12-year-old sophisticated and versatile light water tank type unit with heavy water reflector, is welcoming global scientists and worldwide cooperation, according to the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). So far, the institute has received over 40 international applications for CARR projects, covering aerospace, materials, petroleum and other cutting-edge industries.

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-04-03/China-opens-advanced-nuclear-research-reactor-to-worldwide-scientists-1iHdYDfOiIg/index.html

### China aims to pair J-20 stealth fighter with 'loyal wingman' battle drone

Dan Robinson

The Register, April 3, 2023

China may be aiming to match US efforts to operate pilotless aircraft alongside crewed fighter jets, by creating a so-called "loyal wingman" drone to fly with the nation's J-20 supersonic stealth fighter. According to reports in The South China Morning Post, Beijing is developing a cutting-edge combat drone called the FH-97A to complement the J-20 – aka the "Mighty Dragon".

https://www.theregister.com/2023/04/03/china loyal wingman drone plan/

# North Korea opens up to Chinese envoy while Beijing seeks better 'understanding and trust' with neighbour

Zhao Ziwen

South China Morning Post, April 4, 2023

China's new ambassador to North Korea vowed to enhance "mutual understanding and trust" between Beijing and Pyongyang amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Korean peninsula. "We are willing to work together with our DPRK [North Korean] comrades ... and enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two parties and peoples, and continuously carry forward the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK," envoy Wang Yajun said in a statement by the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3215937/north-korea-opens-chinese-envoy-while-beijing-seeks-better-understanding-and-trust-neighbour

# India rejects China's renaming of places along disputed border

Voice of America, April 4, 2023

India rejected the renaming by China of places in what India regards as its eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of its territory. China and India fought a war along parts of their poorly demarcated 3,800-kilometer frontier in 1962 and clashes in mountainous regions in recent years have seriously strained relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

 $\underline{https://www.voanews.com/a/india-rejects-china-s-renaming-of-places-along-disputed-border-/7035340.html}$ 

# Macron's visit an important engine to restart China-France relations, to create new pattern for bilateral ties: Chinese Ambassador to France

Global Times, April 4, 2023

In the face of profound international changes, the stalemate in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and an uneven global economic recovery after the pandemic, the upcoming visit of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to China has drawn worldwide attention. In an interview with the Nouvelles d'Europe, Chinese Ambassador to France Lu Shaye noted that this visit sent out "a positive signal to the outside world that the two countries are closely cooperating in various fields and jointly responding to global crises, injecting new impetus into the development of China-France and China-EU comprehensive strategic partnerships in the new era."

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288527.shtml

### China floating nuclear power plants in South China Sea

Pankaj Jha

Modern Diplomacy, April 4, 2023

China has been toying with the idea of developing floating nuclear power plants for its islands in East Sea and South China Sea. This idea germinated after it was felt that in order to sustain better radar and signals interception facility in the islands controlled by China, given the fact that power consumption is critical issue in many of these islands. The power is also required for military installations and quarters of the military person are located in those islands but the idea which took shape in late 2016 was primarily aimed at looking for alternative power supply. The prototype of two nuclear power reactors are already ready and are available for deployment.

https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/04/04/china-floating-nuclear-power-plants-in-south-china-sea/

# China's new laser space weapons alarms the US

Anil Kumar Lal

Times of India, April 4, 2023

China is the only country in the world, whose space department is functioning directly under the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Obviously, this has always ensured that Space assets give military spin-offs at the very inception stage of any project. China's space programme, like its' nuclear programme, expanded from military to civil uses. China built up its space launch capabilities on the foundations of Its Intercontinental

Ballistic Missiles (ICBMS) and the technology to improve their performance from the United States. Similarly, China's manned space flight, therefore, must be seen in the context of integrated civil-military benefits.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/rakshakindia/chinas-new-laser-space-weapons-alarms-the-us/

### **US Chip Controls Threaten China's Technology Ambitions**

Voice of America, April 4, 2023

Furious at U.S. efforts that cut off access to technology to make advanced computer chips, China's leaders appear to be struggling to figure out how to retaliate without hurting their own ambitions in telecoms, artificial intelligence and other industries. Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government sees the chips — which are used in everything from phones to kitchen appliances to fighter jets — as crucial assets in its strategic rivalry with Washington and efforts to gain wealth and global influence.

https://www.voanews.com/a/us-chip-controls-threaten-china-s-technology-ambitions/7036754.html

### China sails carrier off Taiwan coast ahead of Tsai-McCarthy meeting

Nikkei Asia, April 5, 2023

Taiwan's defence ministry said a Chinese aircraft carrier group was in the waters off the island's southeast coast, the same day President Tsai Ing-wen was due to meet U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has warned of unspecified retaliation if the meeting goes ahead. China staged war games around Taiwan last August following the visit to Taipei of then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

 $\underline{https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/China-sails-carrier-off-Taiwan-coast-ahead-of-Tsai-McCarthy-meeting}$ 

# Western media uses modals in a feeding frenzy to construct anti-China narrative

Jerry Grey

Global Times, April 5, 2023

The entire construct of the current anti-China narrative in Western media is based on these cleverly used words. What the Iraq War, leading to the deaths of millions, achieved was to open the world to an entirely

new method of reporting, something Chinese media never does but Western media thrives on. It can't be described as reporting news, but makes suggestive headlines which have a tendency to create news.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288560.shtml

### China tests a Stirling engine in orbit

Matt Williams

Universe Today, April 5, 2023

The China National Space Agency (CNSA) has made considerable progress in recent years with the development of its Long March 5 (CZ-5) rocket and the completion of its Tiangong-3 space station. The agency also turned heads when it announced plans in June 2021 to create an International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) that would rival the Artemis Program. On top of all that, China upped the ante when it announced later that month that it also had plans to send crewed missions to Mars by 2033, concurrent with NASA's plans.

https://www.universetoday.com/160816/china-tests-a-stirling-engine-in-orbit/

# Macron's visit signals enhanced China-France economic cooperation instead of 'decoupling'

Global Times, April 5, 2023

China and France are expected to eye further economic cooperation in fields such as aviation, nuclear power and new energy, and will inject more certainty into global economic recovery through enhancing the China-EU relationship, experts said amid the ongoing visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to China. Macron started his first visit to China since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic on Wednesday, with a commercial delegation composed of about 60 executives from the energy, transportation and aviation sectors. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, is also visiting China.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288562.shtml

# Biden's accounting of China's Spy Flights is partisanship at the expense of defence

Roger Wicker

Fox News, April 5, 2023

We are now learning the Chinese surveillance balloon – which traversed the United States uncontested in February – collected signals intelligence floating above American military installations. In this, the most

dangerous period since World War II, the Biden administration should have been more forthcoming about the threat China's incursion posed to our homeland. Transparency builds trust, especially during a geopolitical crisis. But during a critical moment with Beijing, President Biden and his national security team chose to mislead the public about the steps they took to counter an adversarial asset over our homeland.

https://www.wicker.senate.gov/2023/4/what-we-know-now-about-china-s-spy-flights-is-worse-than-anyone-imagined

### Tsai Ing-wen's US trip: the deepening political divide in Taiwan

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, April 5, 2023

Over the course of a long foreign trip that has seen her visit the US twice, Taiwanese president Tsai Ingwen has delivered a consistent and blunt message. In the face of Chinese threats to annex the country, Taiwan needs to have the US at its back. "Taiwan stands on the front lines of democracy," she said last week in New York. "We will work hand in hand with our democratic partners." She will drive home this point when she meets US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and 17 other members of Congress on Wednesday in California.

https://www.ft.com/content/b625d080-5d48-4374-b1d7-9d668530eb3a

# China carries out successful rocket vertical landing at sea

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, April 5, 2023

China carried out a successful rocket vertical landing test at sea, with developers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) saying that the technology would lay the foundation for future applications including a recyclable near-space experiment platform as well as the development of space travel. CAS Space, a commercial spaceflight firm that is partly owned by CAS, revealed that it successfully carried out the launching-from-land and landing-at-sea flight trial in Haiyang, East China's Shandong Province, which verified the rocket stage recovery at sea, communication and spacecraft tracking and measuring technology under the impact of sea clutters.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288569.shtml

#### China intensifies nuclear strike threat in South China Sea

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, April 5, 2023

China's nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) are now prowling the South China Sea round-the-clock, ensuring a second-strike capability against US and allied forces in the event of a Taiwan contingency. Reuters reported that China is now keeping at least one nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) at sea at all times, potentially stretching US defenses, putting more targets at risk, and pressuring the US and its allies to develop new capabilities to counter the threat.

https://asiatimes.com/2023/04/china-intensifies-nuclear-strike-threat-in-south-china-sea/

# Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-wen warns democracy is 'under threat' after US talks

Kathrin Hille and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, April 6, 2023

Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-wen urged continued support for her country and warned that its democracy was "under threat" following a high-profile meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. Speaking at the Ronald Reagan library in Simi Valley after discussions with McCarthy, the most prominent official to meet a Taiwanese president in the US, Tsai invoked the late president's role in fortifying US-Taiwan relations.

 $\underline{https://www.ft.com/content/f44648a9-fa7e-4fe0-b56f-245fdf5a23fe}$ 

# Remarks by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tsai Ing-wen's 'transit' trip through US

Global Times, April 6, 2023

Spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered remarks regarding Taiwan leader Tsai Ingwen's "transit" trip through the United States. The following is the full text of the remarks: Over recent days, in disrespect of the stern representations and repeated warnings lodged by China, the United States has obstinately allowed Tsai Ing-wen's "transit" trip through the United States and the high-profile meeting between Tsai and U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the third highest-ranking official of the U.S. government.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288593.shtml

# In the dark depths of the Pacific, US submarines patrol with an eye fixed firmly on China

Eric Cheung, Will Ripley and John Mees

CNN, April 6, 2023

Hundreds of feet below the surface of the Pacific Ocean, cocooned within one of the US Navy's most technologically advanced pieces of equipment, Rear Adm. Jeff Jablon is clear-eyed about the two biggest challenges his team faces. "In today's world, we are facing two nuclear peer adversaries where we've never had that before," he explains on board the USS Mississippi, a nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine belonging to the US Pacific Fleet.

https://edition.cnn.com/2023/04/05/us/us-navy-submarine-pacific-china-intl-hnk-ml/index.html

### China weighs export ban for rare-earth magnet tech

Shunsuke Tabeta

Nikkei Asia, April 6, 2023

China is considering prohibiting exports of certain rare-earth magnet technology in a move that would counter the U.S.'s advantage in the high-tech arena. Officials are planning amendments to a technology export restriction list, which was last updated in 2020. The revisions would either ban or restrict exports of technology to process and refine rare-earth elements. There are also proposed provisions that would prohibit or limit exports of alloy tech for making high-performance magnets derived from rare earths.

https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/China-weighs-export-ban-for-rare-earth-magnet-tech

# Xi holds talk with French president

Global Times, April 6, 2023

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Beijing. President Xi welcomed President Macron's visit to China. He noted the profound historic transformation taking place in the world, and pointed out that China and France, as permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, major countries with a tradition of independence, and firm advocates for a multi-polar world and for greater democracy in international relations, have the ability and responsibility to rise above differences and obstacles, keep to the overall direction of a comprehensive strategic partnership that is stable, mutually beneficial, enterprising and dynamic, and practice true multilateralism for global peace, stability and prosperity.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288614.shtml

### The U.S.-China chip race heats up

Junhua Zhang

GIS, April 6, 2023

Semiconductor chips are virtually ubiquitous. They form the basis of all advanced technologies, from artificial intelligence and quantum computing to cloud systems and big data. Advanced chips, meanwhile, are of specific military significance. A series of measures was implemented by the United States last year aimed to curb China's rapid growth in various areas of the semiconductor space, especially military technology. The success or failure of these measures will have a profound effect on the U.S.-China competition going forward.

https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/us-china-chip-race/

# China, France sign cooperation agreements, sending strong message against economic decoupling

Global Times, April 6, 2023

China and France signed a series of important cooperation agreements during a state visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to China. The expanded cooperation between China and France sent a message that instead of decoupling, increasing trade relations with China is an important priority for a major European economy like France, experts said, expecting Macron's visit to have a positive impact on China-France trade ties and send positive signals to EU countries.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288667.shtml

# China's Sri Lanka radar plan likely to threaten India's strategic assets

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

The Economic Times, April 7, 2023

China is considering setting up a radar base in Sri Lanka to monitor India's presence in the Indian Ocean Region and the activities of the Indian Navy, besides strategic assets in the Southern part of the country, including Kudankulam and Kalpakkam nuclear power plants. The proposed radar will also be able to track US military activities in Diego Garcia. The Aerospace Information Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences could be involved in this project in the jungles near Dondra Bay of Sri Lanka.

 $\underline{\text{https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinas-sri-lanka-radar-plan-likely-to-threaten-indias-strategic-}$ 

assets/articleshow/99305829.cms?utm\_source=contentofinterest&utm\_medium=text&utm\_campaign=cppst

# Mainland China sanctions US and Taiwanese institutes and individuals in retaliation for Tsai Ing-wen's visit

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, April 7, 2023

Mainland China has retaliated with sanctions against two US bodies and their senior executives who hosted Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen during her stay in the United States, with Beijing claiming the Americans provided platforms and facilities for "Taiwan independence". Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's representative in the United States, was also sanctioned for her role in Tsai's meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3216281/mainland-china-sanctions-us-and-taiwanese-institutes-and-individuals-retaliation-tsai-ing-wens-visit

#### China launches commercial carrier rocket

Global Times, April 7, 2023

China successfully launched SQX-1 solid commercial carrier rocket into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 12:00 p.m. (Beijing Time) on April 7. The flight will verify the overall program of the rocket and obtain flight data. It was the 5th flight mission of the SQX-1 commercial carrier rocket.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288683.shtml

# China and France make peace pledge on Ukraine as Macron caps trip with Xi meeting

Hayley Wong and Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 7, 2023

China and France jointly pledged to push for peace in Ukraine and strengthen high-level dialogues, as French President Emmanuel Macron wrapped up his three-day visit in China. France also agreed to handle 5G licences for Chinese companies in a "fair manner" on the basis of national security, according to a joint declaration. The document said the two countries would resume high-level strategic, economic and cultural talks this year while increasing cooperation to deal with global challenges including the Ukraine crisis.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3216350/macrons-visit-guangzhou-university-lesson-past-cooperation-and-push-future-academic-ties-china

### China, France sign documents to deepen nuclear energy cooperation

Zheng Yibing

CGTN, April 8, 2023

Chinese and French companies signed cooperative documents in Beijing, witnessed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, to deepen ties in nuclear energy science and technology. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the China National Nuclear Corporation and Electricite De France (EDF) on a joint prospective study for technology development and market trends, as well as a bluebook to show the countries' common ground in addressing climate change and energy issues.

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-04-08/China-France-sign-documents-to-deepen-nuclear-energy-cooperation--1iPn7ke5o8U/index.html

# China holds second day of military drills after Taiwan president Tsai Ing-wen's US trip

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, April 9, 2023

China held a second day of military manoeuvres around Taiwan in retaliation against President Tsai Ingwen's meeting with senior US lawmakers including House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. The People's Liberation Army said units simulated precision strikes on key targets in Taiwan and the waters around it. An animated video released by the Eastern Theatre Command, which is leading the drills, showed mocked-up images of missiles being launched from the ground, ships and aircraft. The video also depicted what appeared to be the capital, Taipei, and Kaohsiung, the country's third-largest city, exploding in flames.

https://www.ft.com/content/e25807de-16ed-4548-a457-00664d49c366

# Macron trip, hailed as success, still raises questions about EU-China relations

Shi Jiangtao and Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 9, 2023

French President Emmanuel Macron has wrapped up his three-day state visit to China, marked by pomp, pageantry and lucrative deals, as both Beijing and Europe try to strike a new balance on how to manage their strained ties amid the Ukraine crisis. Accompanied by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen,

Macron has sought a non-confrontational approach to "de-risk" Europe's relations with China, while Beijing has shown enthusiasm towards France's strategic autonomy in the midst of the deepening US-China feud.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3216451/macron-trip-hailed-success-still-raises-guestions-about-eu-china-relations

# Shandong aircraft carrier group hosts J-15 fighter sorties on final day of PLA drills encircling Taiwan island, forming blockade

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, April 10, 2023

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command has successfully wrapped up all missions in the combat alert patrols and "Joint Sword" exercises encircling the island of Taiwan from April 8 to April 10, and a comprehensive testing of the integrated joint operational capabilities of multiple military services and branches under realistic combat scenarios, said Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesperson at the PLA Eastern Theater Command, in a statement.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288803.shtml

# Chinese forces simulate 'sealing off' Taiwan on final day of military drills

France 24, April 10, 2023

China's military carried out aerial and naval blockade drills around Taiwan, its last scheduled day of exercises, as the US Navy said it sailed a guided-missile destroyer through waters claimed by Beijing. The war games follow a meeting last week between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy outside Los Angeles, an encounter Beijing had warned would provoke a furious response.

https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20230410-china-conducts-simulated-strikes-near-taiwan-on-third-day-of-military-drills

# Chinese Vice FM to visit Australia, Fiji amid signs of warming ties

Zhang Changyue

Global Times, April 10, 2023

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu will visit Australia and Fiji this week at their invitation, the Chinese foreign ministry confirmed at a regular press briefing, saying Ma will hold the new round of political consultation between the officials of the foreign ministries of China and Australia. Experts said Ma's visit to Australia, following talks between the two countries' foreign, defense and commerce ministries, showed that China and Australia are resuming communication channels in different areas and levels.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288828.shtml

### Beijing simulates attack, Japan urges peace in Taiwan Strait

Reuters, April 10, 2023

Japan stressed the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait during a meeting of senior Japanese and Chinese officials after Beijing held three days of war games around the island. The talks, focusing on concerns over disputed waters in the East China Sea, came as China was ending simulated strikes in reaction to a visit by Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen to the United States, where she met House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-china-meet-discuss-maritime-concerns-beijing-simulates-attack-taiwan-2023-04-10/

