

November 10, 2023

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)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

Japan urged to establish effective international monitoring arrangements with participation of neighbouring countries: Chinese FM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, November 1, 2023

We urge Japan to respond to international concerns with all seriousness, dispose of the nuclear-contaminated water in a responsible way, and offer full cooperation in setting up an effective international monitoring arrangement that has the full and substantive participation of Japan's neighboring countries and other stakeholders. The IAEA should also play a constructive role, step up to its responsibility of providing rigorous supervision on Japan's ocean discharge and prevent the ocean discharge from causing long-term damage to the marine environment and people's health.

http://us.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/fyrth/202311/t20231101_11171773.htm

China is getting away with cultural genocide in Tibet

Josh Rogin

The Washington Post, November 1, 2023

Since China invaded Tibet in 1950 (and later annexed it), Tibetan refugees have worked to defend human rights and national culture in their homeland. Led by the Dalai Lama, the movement is committed to nonviolence — to the extent that Tibetans would sooner self-immolate (159 times since 2009) than inflict harm on others. Last week, the Central Tibetan Administration (the government in exile) and the Tibet Bureau in Geneva convened Tibetan leaders, activists and outside experts in Switzerland to confront a troubling reality: Their cause has lost visibility in a world rife with crises.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/11/01/china-tibet-identity-cultural-genocide/>

Chinese research team proposes "Future" chip: computing power up to 3,000 times higher than current high-performance commercial chips

Fan Wei

Global Times, November 1, 2023

The ultra-high-performance optoelectronic chip proposed by the research team at Tsinghua University adopts a new architecture of optoelectronic fusion, which is disruptive to existing chip technologies, the team told the Global Times. The technology not only opens up a new path for this future technology to become part of daily life, but also provides inspiration for the integration of other future high-performance technologies such as quantum computing and in-memory computing with current electronic information systems.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301015.shtml>

China's 40th Antarctic expedition sets sail to build new base by February 2024

People's Daily Online, November 2, 2023

The 40th Chinese Antarctic research expedition set sail on November 1. With a scientific research journey scheduled to last for more than five months, the expedition's key task is building a new Antarctic station near the Ross Sea, which will be China's first research station dedicated to the Pacific sector and is planned to be finished by February 2024. The expedition team is comprised of more than 460 researchers from over 80 domestic institutions and is being led by three ships, including two icebreakers Xuelong and Xuelong-2 which set off from Shanghai with tasks of conducting scientific research, carrying researchers and delivering basic supplies, in addition to cargo ship Tianhui, which left from the city of Zhangjiagang in East China's Jiangsu Province which will transport construction materials for the new research station.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1102/c90000-20092111.html>

Communication with US to prevent miscalculation is critical, while China reserves the right to build a strong nuclear arsenal

Hu Xijin

Global Times, November 2, 2023

Washington has been trying to bring China into US-Russia nuclear arms control negotiations to limit China's nuclear arsenal. Beijing has not agreed, for the simple reason that the amount of China's nuclear weapons is only equivalent to a fraction of the quantity possessed by the US and Russia, and nuclear arms control is a special responsibility of the US and Russia. The Donald Trump administration suspended the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, citing China's unconstrained arsenal as one of the reasons.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301081.shtml>

China is working on a weapon the US decided was too dangerous to exist

David Axe

The Telegraph, November 2, 2023

The US Defense Department believes the Chinese People's Liberation Army is developing a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. That is, a heavy, multi-stage missile that leaves the Earth's atmosphere and travels around the world at huge velocities before re-entering and descending toward its target at 20 times the speed of sound. Such missiles normally have a nuclear warhead: but this one, uniquely, would be armed with conventional explosives.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/02/china-us-non-nuclear-icbm-ballistic-missile-defence-taiwan/>

China and US reportedly agree to rare nuclear arms control talks

The Guardian, November 2, 2023

China and the United States will reportedly discuss nuclear arms control next week, the first such talks since the Obama administration. The talks would be led on Monday by Mallory Stewart, a senior state department official, and Sun Xiaobo, the head of the arms control department at China's foreign ministry, the Wall Street Journal reported. On Monday, China's foreign ministry said the two countries would hold "consultations on arms control and non-proliferation" in the coming days, as well as separate talks on maritime affairs and other issues. It follows a visit to Washington by the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/02/china-and-us-reportedly-agree-to-rare-nuclear-arms-control-talks>

China supported sanctions on North Korea's nuclear program. It's also behind their failure

Voice of America, November 3, 2023

Chinese middlemen launder the proceeds of North Korean hackers' cyber heists while Chinese ships deliver sanctioned North Korean goods to Chinese ports. Chinese companies help North Koreans workers — from cheap laborers to well-paid IT specialists — find work abroad. A Beijing art gallery even boasts of North Korean artists working 12-hour days in its heavily surveilled compound, churning out paintings of idyllic visions of life under communism that each sell for thousands of dollars. China has had a complicated relationship with Pyongyang since the 1950-53 Korean War. Though uneasy with a nuclear menace at its doorstep, China doesn't want its neighbor's government to collapse, experts say. China views North Korea as a buffer against the U.S., which maintains a significant troop presence in South Korea.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-supported-sanctions-on-north-korea-s-nuclear-program-it-s-also-behind-their-failure/7340051.html>

China's spy agency slams those who 'stir chaos' in financial markets

William Langley

Financial Times, November 3, 2023

China's top spy agency has taken aim at "naysayers" in the country's markets, as it promised to prevent financial risks from endangering national security. "There are those with unfathomable intentions who futilely attempt to incite trouble [and] stir chaos for profit," the Ministry of State Security said in a post on its recently established WeChat account. "There are not only 'bears' and

‘short sellers’, but also ‘naysayers’ and ‘undercutters’ who attempt to shake international investment confidence in China and trigger domestic financial turmoil.”

<https://www.ft.com/content/8b053937-053f-4b21-b77a-8d82368e3590#post-36fccd95-e606-4641-bf5e-7cf036d1e8b8>

Deep-Earth blobs hint at collision that formed the moon

China Daily, November 3, 2023

An international team of scientists from China and the United States has made a remarkable discovery, suggesting that two massive objects buried in the Earth's deep mantle could be relics from the moon's formation about 4.5 billion years ago. Scientists have long suspected the origin of the moon may be different from other moons in the solar system, as the size of the moon compared to the Earth is significantly larger than most other planets' moons compared with the planets they revolve around.

<http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/03/WS65445296a31090682a5ec3ea.html>

As Australian leader heads to China, a critical (minerals) issue looms

Michael E. Miller

The Washington Post, November 3, 2023

When Anthony Albanese sits down with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing, the meeting will mark an achievement for the Australian prime minister, who has managed to mend once-fractured relations with his nation’s biggest trading partner without making concessions. Looming over the event, however, will be Albanese’s previous overseas trip. A week earlier, Albanese was in Washington, engaging in a not-so-subtle attempt to reduce his country’s reliance on China when it comes to critical minerals. Albanese and American officials announced a raft of measures to steer Australia’s vast store of critical minerals — metallic elements and minerals crucial for clean energy technologies and some advanced weapons systems — away from being processed in China and instead sent to new plants in their own nations.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/11/03/australia-china-albanese-visit-rare-earths/>

Xi meets Scholz via video link

Xinhua, November 4, 2023

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz via video link. Noting China-Germany relations have entered the second 50 years, Xi said that China and

Germany, as all-round strategic partners, had worked together in the spirit of mutual benefit and grown together in the spirit of mutual learning and exchange. "This is the valuable experience of the smooth development of China-Germany relations over the past decades, which should be cherished and passed on by both sides," Xi said, describing China-Germany cooperation as open and pragmatic, which has been continuously enriched and developed.

<https://english.news.cn/20231104/5a7386ce61c8409fa003379f263d3a76/c.html>

Nuclear talks with China are essential and long overdue

The New York Times, November 4, 2023

After months of troubled relations, and then some tentative steps to bridge the gap between the United States and China, there is one glaring omission: American and Chinese military leaders still don't communicate with one another directly. That's important because those lines of communication are the best way to avoid the kind of misunderstandings or overreactions that can lead to actual conflict. The danger of the Chinese expansion is that the United States and Russia may each feel that they then need to expand their own arsenals to match the combined total of the other two powers.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/04/opinion/sunday/china-nuclear-weapons-russia.html>

China to accelerate AI research and support local governments in pilot applications

China Daily, November 4, 2023

China's top industry regulator said that it will step up their research on future-oriented technologies such as artificial intelligence as well as introduce industrial policies to support local governments to take the lead in piloting its applications. Jin Zhuanglong, minister of industry and information technology, said in an interview with CCTV that technologies such as AI can empower China's new industrialization push, and its application within industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, humanoid robots and the metaverse. These technologies will be an important symbol of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/04/WS6545b333a31090682a5ec69d.html>

Chinese scientists work on powerful new 'submarine killer' with eye on US far into South China Sea

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, November 4, 2023

A rocket artillery system can fire a number of rocket-propelled projectiles in quick succession. Some rudimentary versions, such as those used by Hamas against Israel, are designed to randomly

rain down over a large area. More advanced models, including the M142 HIMARS in the Ukraine war, can hit precise targets with guided munitions. China is believed to have deployed a large number of long-range rocket launchers along its coastline. Some are mounted on warships. These rockets only go after surface targets, according to openly available information.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3240039/chinese-scientists-work-powerful-new-submarine-killer-eye-us-far-south-china-sea>

Huawei and Tencent spearhead China's hold on cybersecurity patents

Akinobu Iwasawa

The Nikkei Asia, November 5, 2023

China's presence is growing in cybersecurity technology, with companies such as Huawei and Tencent accounting for six of the top 10 global patent holdings in the sector as of August. Chinese companies have made headway in technological fields that affect economic security, according to industry insiders, as they focus on fostering their own tech amid the growing standoff between the U.S. and China. The rankings, compiled by Nikkei in cooperation with U.S. information services provider LexisNexis, are based on patents registered in 95 countries and regions, including Japan, the U.S., China and the European Union.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Huawei-and-Tencent-spearhead-China-s-hold-on-cybersecurity-patents>

China has acquired a global network of strategically vital ports

Liz Sly and Júlia Ledur

The Washington Post, November 6, 2023

But China has already secured a significant stake in a network of global ports that are central to world trade and freedom of navigation. Although the stated goal of the investments was commercial, the United States and its allies have grown increasingly concerned about the potential military implications. Xi has frequently talked of his ambition to turn China into a “maritime superpower.” The port network offers a glimpse into the reach of those ambitions.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2023/china-ports-trade-military-navy/>

Janet Yellen to meet China's vice-premier ahead of Biden-Xi summit

Demetri Sevastopulo and Joe Leahy

Financial Times, November 6, 2023

US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen is set to meet her Chinese counterpart in San Francisco this week as the countries prepare for a summit between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping at the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation forum. The Treasury department said Yellen would host vice-premier He Lifeng on Thursday and Friday for talks on issues ranging from US concerns about unfair Chinese economic practices to potential areas for co-operation such as climate change and debt relief for low-income countries.

<https://www.ft.com/content/644875ac-754c-4a97-9b1c-603ee6a7bd8b>

China's nuclear program skirts Western machine tool sanctions

Nikkei Asia, November 7, 2023

Machine tools are used to shape parts made of metal or other materials by cutting, shearing, grinding and other processes. The most sophisticated five-axis machine tools seamlessly shape complex shapes. From turbine blades in generators to aircraft impellers and automobile engine parts, the most advanced machine tools are indispensable to every industry, and are referred to as "mother machines." Manufacturers around the globe look to Japan and Germany as the two countries on the cutting edge of five-axis machining. One of these advanced machine tools at the very heart of modern manufacturing has, however, been found somewhere it should not be -- inside China's nuclear development program.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/China-s-nuclear-program-skirts-Western-machine-tool-sanctions>

Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart's meeting with the People's Republic of China's (PRC) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo

U.S. Department of State, November 7, 2023

Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC) Mallory Stewart met with PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo on November 6 in Washington, D.C. The U.S. delegation included senior officials from the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy, and the National Security Council. The two sides held a candid and in-depth discussion on issues related to arms control and nonproliferation as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship.

<https://www.state.gov/assistant-secretary-mallory-stewarts-meeting-with-the-peoples-republic-of-chinas-prc-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-director-general-of-arms-control-sun-xiaobo/>

Chinese cyberspies have widely penetrated networks of ally Cambodia

Ellen Nakashima and David DiMolfetta

The Washington Post, November 8, 2023

China has deeply penetrated Cambodia's government networks, compromising more than 20 agencies including its national defense ministry, according to new research by cyberthreat analysts at Palo Alto Networks. The intrusions are fresh, dating to September and October, and are linked to China's Ministry of State Security — its foreign spy service — as well as a government contractor named Chengdu 404 Network Technology, according to the cyber firm's Unit 42 threat intelligence group. Unit 42 identified Chinese hacking "infrastructure masquerading as cloud backup services," it said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/11/08/cambodia-has-chinese-hacker-problem/>

US chip curbs drive China's acceptance of domestic tech

Global Times, November 8, 2023

While the US move to block Chinese companies from accessing high-performance artificial intelligence (AI) chips produced by American companies or using American technology is causing trouble for China's technology sector, the pursuit of alternatives is opening up new opportunities for domestic chips and related applications. The US has been tightening restrictions on exports of chips and chip tools to China, including those of Nvidia. But the only result of those US curbs, which are aimed at safeguarding US technology hegemony and violating the principle of fair competition, is to cut American chip giants out of the Chinese market while facilitating Chinese tech companies' shift to local supplies.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301472.shtml>

China and the United States hold consultations on Arms Control and Non-proliferation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, November 8, 2023

Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Sun Xiaobo and Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance at the Department of State of the United States Mallory Stewart held consultations on arms control and non-proliferation in Washington D.C. The two sides had an in-depth, candid and constructive exchange of views on a wide range of issues, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, cooperation among five nuclear-weapon states, nuclear security, non-proliferation and export control, compliance with the Biological Weapons

Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and outer space security and regular arms control. The two sides emphasized that they should maintain communication and exchanges, to increase mutual trust, pool more consensus, manage differences, and explore cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202311/t20231109_11176580.html

Nuclear arms control consultation helps stabilize ties

China Military Online, November 8, 2023

The China-US consultations on nuclear arms control and nonproliferation are a timely manifestation of reason in these troubled times. They come when there are widespread and growing fears of a renewed nuclear arms race amid the repeated mention of nuclear weapons in relation to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and with the fate of the nuclear arms control pact between Russia and the United States hanging in the balance. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the two governments' department-level officials will discuss "the implementation of international arms control treaties and proliferation prevention", among other things, with talks on maritime affairs and other issues to be held in parallel.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/OPINIONS_209196/Opinions_209197/16265404.html

China, Australia agree to further stabilize, develop relations

Xu Wei

China Daily, November 8, 2023

Beijing and Canberra have agreed to keep building up engagement in political dialogue, trade, response to climate change and people-to-people exchanges as both sides pledged to continue stabilizing and developing bilateral ties, according to a joint statement released. The two nations released the statement following a meeting in Beijing between Premier Li Qiang and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who wrapped up a four-day official visit to China. The two sides "agreed that both nations could grow the bilateral relationship and uphold their respective national interests if they navigated their differences wisely", the statement said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/08/WS654ac821a31090682a5ecf6c.html>

Expert shares details of China's telescopes for deep-space missions

CGTN, November 9, 2023

China has started the construction of two 40-meter-aperture radio telescopes in Shigatse, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, and Changbai Mountain, northeast China's Jilin Province,

respectively. The two telescopes, developed by Shanghai Astronomical Observatory (SHAO) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, are expected to offer technical support for the country's lunar and deep-space probes in the future. Zheng Weimin, a researcher at SHAO, said that the two telescopes will further enhance the observation capability of the very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) network in China.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-11-09/Expert-shares-details-of-China-s-telescopes-for-deep-space-missions-1oAgZ8IHII2/index.html>

Foreign minister pledges to upgrade maritime connectivity with all parties

Zhang Yunbi

China Daily, November 9, 2023

China underlined the need to resolutely resist bloc-based confrontation and zero-sum games in the world's oceans and resolve disputes through dialogue, and it vowed to upgrade maritime connectivity with all parties. These pledges were made by Foreign Minister Wang Yi in his address to the opening of the fourth Symposium on Global Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance in Sanya, Hainan province. In a prerecorded video speech, Wang said that disputes over maritime territories, rights and interests left over by history "should be resolved through friendly consultation between parties directly concerned".

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/09/WS654c252ba31090682a5ed352.html>

China's biggest chipmaker warns geopolitics is stoking global glut

Qianer Liu

Financial Times, November 10, 2023

China's largest chipmaker is boosting spending on plants and equipment this year while warning that geopolitical tensions and supply chain adjustments are stoking a global glut in semiconductors. Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation on Friday raised its capital expenditure budget for 2023 by 18 per cent to \$7.5bn, citing the need for production expansion and new plants. SMIC said it had authorised equipment providers to ship in advance in order to secure supplies for its new factories in the face of "increasingly complex" geopolitical tensions.

<https://www.ft.com/content/30e61fb3-ac48-4ece-94fb-af0c3763d99c>

Near-Earth asteroid discovered by Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory assumed as the closest one yet to Earth

Global Times, November 10, 2023

The Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently discovered a second near-Earth asteroid, which astronomers said is possibly the closest near-Earth asteroid to the Earth discovered by China. The Nanshan One-meter Wide field Telescope at the Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory has recently discovered a second near-Earth asteroid and received the temporary designation for the near-Earth asteroid, 2023 VB2, from the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301584.shtml>

China's Misunderstood Nuclear Expansion

M. Taylor Fravel, Henrik Stålhane Hiim, and Magnus Langset Trøan

Foreign Affairs, November 10, 2023

Among the many issues surrounding China's ongoing military modernization, perhaps none has been more dramatic than its nuclear weapons program. For decades, the Chinese government was content to maintain a comparatively small nuclear force. As recently as 2020, China's arsenal was little changed from previous decades and amounted to some 220 weapons, around five to six percent of either the U.S. or Russian stockpiles of deployed and reserve warheads. Since then, however, China has been rapidly expanding and modernizing its arsenal. In 2020, it began constructing three silo fields to house more than 300 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-misunderstood-nuclear-expansion>

Top US military official doubts China wants to invade Taiwan

Kathrin Hille and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, November 10, 2023

The top US military official has expressed doubt that China wants to invade Taiwan, toning down rhetoric about the risk of war that has unsettled investors and other countries in the region. "I do think that [Chinese president] Xi Jinping doesn't actually want to take Taiwan by force. He will try to use other ways to do this," General Charles Brown, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, told reporters in Tokyo.

<https://www.ft.com/content/64c5862f-b4a8-465c-813f-585d0207ab8d>

Xi, Biden to meet amid international anticipation

Zhang Han, Liu Xin, Chen Qingqing and Bai Yunyi

Global Times, November 10, 2023

At the invitation of US President Joe Biden, President Xi Jinping will be in San Francisco from November 14 to 17 for a China-US summit meeting and the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying announced. The two Presidents will have in-depth communication on issues of strategic, overarching and fundamental importance in shaping China-US relations and major issues concerning world peace and development, said a spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry in a separate release.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301631.shtml>

NSA officials call out Chinese hackers' stealthy and off-limits hacks

Tim Starks and David DiMolfetta

The Washington Post, November 10, 2023

Chinese hackers are increasingly implanting sophisticated, disruptive malware in U.S. critical infrastructure that's difficult to uncover, top National Security Agency officials said. Simultaneously, the NSA says it's seeing a rise in China's use of previously unknown or "zero-day" vulnerabilities, a trend that researchers said Thursday coincides with a Chinese law that requires swift disclosure of newly-discovered software vulnerabilities to the Chinese government. It all points to China's long-term ambitions toward the United States, which includes putting themselves in place to be able to harm U.S. capabilities to take action in a crisis, said Morgan Adamski, director of the NSA's Cybersecurity Collaboration Center.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/11/10/nsa-officials-call-out-chinese-hackers-stealthy-off-limits-hacks/>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak
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**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA
And
Indian Pugwash Society**