

February 28, 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

Chinese city pours \$29 bn to build chips as India, US eye semiconductor dominance

ET Telecom, February 21, 2023

As India and the US double down on local semiconductor manufacturing, the municipal government of Guangzhou in China has invested 200 billion yuan (\$29 billion) to establish funds that will help spur activities involving semiconductors, the media reported. Guangzhou's Industry Investment Fund of Funds (FoF) will focus on activities involving semiconductors, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, reports the South China Morning Post.

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/chinese-city-pours-29-bn-to-build-chips-as-india-us-eye-semiconductor-dominance/98118734>

China issues Global Security Initiative (GSI) Concept Paper, calling to resolve disputes through dialogue and rejecting power politics

Chen Qingqing and Bai Yunyi

Global Times, February 21, 2023

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, China announced in the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper it released amid growing risks and challenges that the world faces today, particularly in light of the Ukraine crisis, with the aim of eliminating the root causes of international conflicts and improving global security. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told a forum in Beijing that China had officially released the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, fully elaborating ideas and principles, clarifying cooperation mechanisms and underscoring China's responsibilities and firm determination to safeguard world peace by listing 20 major cooperation directions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285892.shtml>

China, Japan, South Korea face radiation risks from North Korean nuclear tests: report

South China Morning Post, February 21, 2023

Tens of thousands of North Koreans and people in South Korea, Japan and China could be exposed to radioactive materials spread through groundwater from an underground nuclear test site, a Seoul-based human rights group said in a report. The study by the Transitional Justice Working Group said radioactive materials could have spread across eight cities and counties near the site, where more than 1 million North Koreans live, and where groundwater is used in everyday lives including drinking. It also said that neighbouring South Korea, China and Japan might be at risk due partly to agricultural and fisheries products smuggled from the North.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3210910/china-japan-south-korea-face-radiation-risks-north-korean-nuclear-tests-report>

China, Japan security dialogue mired by Tokyo's close links to US' anti-China strategy

Global Times, February 21, 2023

Chinese analysts said that the bilateral security dialogue between China and Japan, could be mired by Tokyo's recent provocations and deeds over the balloon row and the Taiwan question as the country has been blindly following US' anti-China Indo-Pacific strategy. According to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong will hold the 17th China-Japan security dialogue and the 29th regular diplomatic consultation with Japanese Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Shigeo Yamada. Issues of common concern are expected addressed during the meeting - a once-regular fixture which has not been held since 2019.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285959.shtml>

China, Japan voice concerns during first security talks in 4 years

Hayley Wong

South China Morning Post, February 22, 2023

China and Japan are holding security talks for the first time in four years in a bid to ease tensions, with Tokyo raising the issue of suspected Chinese spy balloons in its airspace and Beijing taking aim at the new Japanese defence policy. At the start of the two-day dialogue in Tokyo on Wednesday, Sun Weidong, China's foreign vice-minister, expressed concern over "Japan's release of its new defence and security documents" in December.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3211137/china-japan-voice-concerns-during-first-security-talks-4-years>

China's Xi preparing to visit Moscow for summit with Putin

The Korea Times, February 22, 2023

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is preparing to visit Moscow for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the coming months, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the plan. Xi's meeting with Putin will be part of a push for multi-party talks on peace in Ukraine and allow China to reiterate its calls that nuclear weapons not be used, the report added. Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/world/2023/03/683_345882.html

China's Nuclear Arsenal More Survivable in Taiwan Conflict

Christopher Prawdzik

Air and Space Forces, February 22, 2023

China's diverse nuclear arsenal makes it more survivable and would provide China with more coercive options in a conflict with the United States over Taiwan. The findings were the result of two summer 2022 tabletop wargame exercises conducted by the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) that each pitted China (Red) against the U.S. (Blue). "A larger, more diverse nuclear arsenal not only increased the survivability of China's second-strike capability but also gave the Red teams the ability to threaten or employ nuclear weapons in a limited fashion," according to "Avoiding the Brink," a CNAS report released in February.

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/wargame-report-chinas-nuclear-arsenal-more-survivable-in-taiwan-conflict/>

China tops nuclear fusion patent ranking, beating U.S.

Rimi Inomata

Nikkei Asia, February 22, 2023

China has raced ahead of the pack in filing patents in nuclear fusion technology, pointing to its ambition to master the science and take the lead in the development of an alternative to fossil fuels. China came first in a nuclear fusion patent ranking compiled by Tokyo-based research company astamuse -- partly owned by Nikkei -- ahead of second-placed U.S., which was followed by the U.K. and Japan. The research company ranked 30 countries and regions by studying the 1,133 patents filed between 2011 and September 2022. Each country's score was calculated by using the number of patents filed, the feasibility of each innovation, and the remaining period of exclusivity, among others.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Science/China-tops-nuclear-fusion-patent-ranking-beating-U.S>

United States–China semiconductor standoff: A supply chain under stress

Jeremy Mark and Dexter Tiff Roberts

Atlantic Council, February 23, 2023

In August 2022, the US Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act, a law that approves subsidies and tax breaks to help jump-start the renewed production on American soil of advanced semiconductors. Just two months later, the Joe Biden administration issued wide-ranging restrictions on the export to China of chips

and chip-making technology to undercut that country's ability to manufacture the same class of integrated circuits. Taken together with a steady stream of Biden administration prohibitions on technology sales to key Chinese companies, the US initiatives represent a profound turn toward competition with China in the high-tech realm.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/united-states-china-semiconductor-standoff-a-supply-chain-under-stress/>

US Navy chief 'crying for funds' by hyping China's rapid shipbuilding capability

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 23, 2023

A top US Navy official recently claimed that the US is trailing China in building warships and accused the country of using "slave labor," in a publicity stunt that Chinese experts said was aimed at hyping the "Chinese threat" theory to gain more funding. The US Navy fleet still leads the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy by far in terms of actual capabilities, which are reflected more by total displacement rather than number of ships, they said. US Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said at the National Press Club in Washington that China's navy "has significant advantages over its US rival, including a bigger fleet and greater shipbuilding capacity," CNN reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286111.shtml>

U.S. hyping up 'China nuclear threat' for own hegemony: Chinese Defense Ministry

CGTN, February 23, 2023

The United States has been hyping up the "China nuclear threat" to find an excuse to maintain its own military hegemony, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense said. Tan Kefei made the remarks when responding to questions on a report submitted by the U.S. Strategic Command to Congress, which claims that China currently has more land-based launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles than the U.S. He also rejected some Japanese media reports which said that the nuclear warheads held by China are likely to see an enormous increase before 2027 and that once China achieves its goal of military modernization, it would probably give up the commitment to no first use of nuclear weapons.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-02-23/U-S-hyping-up-China-nuclear-threat-for-own-hegemony-1hEXee0r624/index.html>

Constrained by China agenda, India and Australia lose diplomatic flexibility

Xu Shanpin

Global Times, February 23, 2023

Amid the complex strategic considerations behind the intensive engagement between India and Australia, the ultimate purpose is to counterbalance China through expanding cooperation. India and Australia's relationships with China have been at a low ebb. The deepening of China-Australia economic and social ties has intensified Australia's strategic suspicion of China. Meanwhile, although China-India relations thawed in the early days of the Modi administration, anti-China sentiment has been aroused in India in the wake of the border disputes, India's vain attempt to become a member of the UN Security Council, China's veto of India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as well as the failure of Modi's "Issue-by-Issue" diplomacy with China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286096.shtml>

In the Tech War with China, the U.S. Is Finding Friends

Gregory Allen

Time, February 23, 2023

Whether the topic of the day is Chinese spy balloons or American AI breakthroughs, Washington and Beijing are increasingly seeing world events through the lens of a "tech war." This ever intensifying rivalry is usually framed as "America vs. China," but that misses a key point: America is not alone. America's greatest competitive advantage over China is not wealth or weapons, but the fact that America has a lot of close friends, and China has none. In fact, The only country that has signed a treaty to support China in the event of a war is North Korea, an impoverished pariah state that deliberately schedules nuclear tests and missile launches to embarrass China during high-profile diplomatic summits. Treaty or no, few would describe China and North Korea as friends.

<https://time.com/6257857/us-china-tech-war-semiconductor/>

Kidnapped by domestic politics and serving anti-China policy': Chinese FM questions credibility of US 'balloon incident' probe

Global Times, February 24, 2023

The Chinese Foreign Ministry questioned the credibility of a US probe into the "balloon incident," as the upcoming "investigation report" is likely to have already been prepared, and the US position on the incident

is hijacked by its domestic politics to serve its strategy of containing China. "All collection and analysis of the debris of the downed airship has so far been done by the US by itself behind closed doors... Like many others, China cannot but seriously question the independence, openness and transparency of the so-called investigation. What gives such investigation credibility anyway?" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during a press briefing.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286181.shtml>

China aims to launch nearly 13,000 satellites to ‘suppress’ Elon Musk’s Starlink, researchers say

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 24, 2023

Researchers say China plans to build a huge satellite network in near-Earth orbit to provide internet services to users around the world – and to stifle Elon Musk’s Starlink. The project has the code name “GW”, according to a team led by associate professor Xu Can with the People’s Liberation Army’s (PLA) Space Engineering University in Beijing. But what these letters stand for is unclear. The GW constellation will include 12,992 satellites owned by the newly established China Satellite Network Group Company.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3211438/china-aims-launch-nearly-13000-satellites-suppress-elon-musks-starlink-researchers-say>

Distrust grows toward Washington amid revelation of US’ ‘destruction of Taiwan’ plan

Global Times, February 24, 2023

Along with reports of enhanced interactions between the US and the island of Taiwan, the US was also reported to have been considering plans to destroy the island in the event of a military conflict between the island and the Chinese mainland. Related reports have seriously damaged the belief that the US can "defend the island," and demonstrated that the US is just using it as a pawn. US radio talk show host Garland Nixon last week wrote on Twitter that White House insiders said that US President Joe Biden had warned about the "destruction of Taiwan," when asked if there could be any greater disaster than the Ukraine crisis.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286179.shtml>

Great Leap Nowhere: The Challenges of China's Semiconductor Industry

Elliot Ji

War on the Rocks, February 24, 2023

China is struggling in the battle for advanced semiconductor technology. With President Joe Biden's most recent round of export controls on semiconductors, China is now facing an increasingly urgent challenge as it seeks to ramp up its domestic innovative capacity for high-end chips. Yet at the turn of the new year, Bloomberg reported that China is pausing its investment in its domestic semiconductor industry, most likely due to financial strain from COVID-19, ineffective subsidies, and corruption. This came only two weeks after the news that Beijing is preparing a one-trillion yuan (\$145.61 billion) incentive package to beef up the competitiveness of its indigenous chip industry.

<https://warontherocks.com/2023/02/great-leap-nowhere-the-challenges-of-chinas-semiconductor-industry/>

China launches new remote sensing satellite

Global Times, February 25, 2023

China successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The remote sensing satellite was launched at 12:01 p.m. (Beijing Time) by a Long March-2C carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully. The launch was the 464th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286187.shtml>

China to train 5,000 security personnel from developing countries over next 5 years

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, February 25, 2023

China plans to train 5,000 security personnel from developing countries over the next five years in a move that is expected to boost Beijing's global security influence. The announcement, which appeared in a paper on Beijing's Global Security Initiative (GSI) published comes as China's overseas security footprint has worried its rivals. The initiative, seen as an alternative to the Western-led security order, was first proposed by President Xi Jinping during the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference last April.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3211450/china-plans-train-5000-security-personnel-developing-countries-over-next-5-years>

US joins EU in rejecting Beijing's peace proposal, sanctions more Chinese firms

Robert Delaney, Orange Wang and Khushboo Razdan

South China Morning Post, February 25, 2023

The US-China confrontation over Russia's war on Ukraine ratcheted up on several fronts at the one-year anniversary of the invasion's start, as Washington and its allies largely rejected a peace plan by Beijing and the US announced new sanctions on Chinese companies it charged were helping to fuel the conflict. The debate over China's peace proposal also carried over to a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3211510/us-joins-eu-rejecting-beijings-peace-proposal-sanctions-more-chinese-firms>

Joe Biden says he does not think China will send weapons to Russia

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, February 25, 2023

Joe Biden has said he does not think China will send weapons to Russia to help its military campaign in Ukraine, in comments that appear to undercut claims from his top officials that Beijing is considering the idea. In an interview with ABC News aired on the evening of the anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Friday, the US president suggested he was less concerned about assertions — which have come from secretary of state Antony Blinken and other senior officials — that China was considering providing arms to bolster Russia's military.

<https://www.ft.com/content/5a9ae6c5-7619-4a4e-b2d7-e8c1d89a56d1>

China launches new remote sensing satellite

Global Times, February 25, 2023

China successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The remote sensing satellite was launched at 1201hrs. (Beijing Time) by a Long March-2C carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully. The launch was the 464th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286187.shtml>

China's economy is looking at a new wave of Japanification

Leo Lewis

Financial Times, February 26, 2023

The next few months put Japan in line for a series of anniversaries it would probably prefer to forget. But these are dates which the leadership in China may be wise to mark: the detonation of time bombs with counters set ticking by a property bubble. For these are, some would argue, distinctly echoey times. New research suggests that, if it is not careful, China may be on track for a new wave of Japanification. Japan and China also financed their growth in a similar way. Japan's bubble era was fuelled by indirect financing provided by commercial banks, which were nudged by the authorities into funnelling soft loans towards favoured industrial sectors.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ee9ef5bd-2e7d-4618-8f8f-952f721167a2>

US nuclear-powered submarine arrives in South Korea amid North provocations

The Korean Times, February 26, 2023

South Korea and the United States have stepped up deterrence efforts against North Korea's mounting threats, recently stoked by its launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), with their latest warning coming over the weekend — the arrival of a US nuclear-powered submarine in Busan. The allies conducted a table-top exercise on responding to possible North Korean nuclear attacks. A US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is also expected to participate in the allies' springtime combined exercise, scheduled to begin next month.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3211587/us-nuclear-powered-submarine-arrives-south-korea-amid-north-provocations>

Congress to examine operations of US companies in China

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, February 27, 2023

The US congressional panel created to focus on threats from Beijing plans to look at the role of private equity, venture capital and Wall Street firms in China as it prepares to launch hearings. Mike Gallagher, a Wisconsin lawmaker who chairs the House committee on the Chinese Communist party, said it would "engage with prominent CEOs and industry representatives" to get an understanding of how companies invest and operate in China.

<https://www.ft.com/content/b8cd01bd-69c2-439c-a946-81bb06628978>

China unveils blueprint for propelling digital development through 2035

Shen Weiduo

Global Times, February 27, 2023

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council unveiled guidelines for digital development in the world's second-largest economy, unfolding the blueprint and timeline for construction of a "digital China" through strengthening 5G and computing. Industry observers said "the development design from the top" is both comprehensive and timely, while giving a clear direction for the nation's digital transformation in the years to come - a grand mission that will be embedded into all walks of life in the country.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286328.shtml>

US-led semiconductor alliance setting up 'early warning system' to protect supply chains, Taiwan says

Ralph Jennings

South China Morning Post, February 27, 2023

A Washington-led semiconductor alliance including Taiwan, Japan and South Korea will set up an early warning system to prevent disruptions to the supply of tech hardware components that have become the centrepiece of the US-China tech war. The warning system between the "Chip 4" dialogue partners would help ensure the supply of semiconductor chips for cars and could cover chip making raw materials and manufacturing equipment, Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs said.

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/global-economy/article/3211701/us-led-semiconductor-alliance-setting-early-warning-system-protect-supply-chains-taiwan-says>

Chinese AI simulates hypersonic air battle, offering surprising tactic for winning Mach 11 dogfight

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 28, 2023

Researchers in China say their AI is the first to simulate an aerial battle involving a hypersonic aircraft flying at Mach 11, or 11 times the speed of sound, and the technology came up with a surprising tactic for

defeating an enemy. In the computer simulation, a hypersonic aircraft encountered an enemy fighter jet flying at Mach 1.3, close to the top speed of an F-35. The hypersonic plane's pilot was then given an order to kill. Instinct, along with the results of earlier simulations, should have directed the pilot to head straight towards the target.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3211730/chinese-ai-simulates-hypersonic-air-battle-offering-surprising-tactic-winning-mach-11-dogfight>

US, Japan, South Korea Launch Forum to Cut Off Chips to China

Patsy Widakuswara

Voice of America, February 28, 2023

In a bid to outcompete China technologically, the Biden administration on Tuesday launched a new dialogue forum with Japan and South Korea on friend-shoring semiconductors as it invites companies to compete for a share of the \$50 billion already approved to revitalize the U.S. chip industry. The inaugural meeting of the Economic Security Dialogue among the United States, Japan and South Korea was launched in Honolulu. Japan and South Korea are home to two of the world's strongest semiconductor industries, and the forum aims to address issues related to critical and emerging technologies, supply chain resilience of semiconductors, batteries and critical minerals, as well as data transparency amid the U.S.-China tech war.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-japan-south-korea-launch-forum-to-cut-off-chips-to-china-/6984483.html>

Chipmakers receiving US federal funds barred from expanding in China for 10 years

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, February 28, 2023

Chipmakers must agree not to expand capacity in China for a decade if they are to receive money from a \$39bn US federal fund designed to build a leading-edge US semiconductor industry, according to new commerce department rules. The department called for applications for funds from the Chips Act passed by Congress last year, as it launched a landmark industrial policy programme designed to counter China.

<https://www.ft.com/content/9f4f9684-088c-45eb-b6bf-962061bfea7b>

Taiwan's unofficial diplomacy gains as democracies sour on China

Chris Horton

Nikkei Asia, February 28, 2023

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and other top Biden administration officials just across the Potomac river from the American capital to discuss Taiwan's security. The same week, it was widely reported that Washington would increase the number of troops stationed in Taiwan, and Taipei would send a battalion of its own to the U.S.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/Taiwan-s-unofficial-diplomacy-gains-as-democracies-sour-on-China>

20th CPC Central Committee issues communiqué after its 2nd plenary session

Yang Sheng, Zhang Changyue and Xu Yelu

Global Times, February 28, 2023

The 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee issued a communiqué at the end of its second plenary session. The communiqué said the plenary session adopted a plan for the reform of Party and state institutions. Analysts said the reform will reflect the demands of the new development stage and the profound changes of the international situation. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made an important speech at the three-day session, which was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1286378.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak
with inputs from Mr. Kushal Agrawal*

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA
And
Indian Pugwash Society**