

1776 American Empowered China Alert

China - Then and Now



Flag of Chinese Empire (Chang Dynasty 1564-1949)

People's Republic of China = PRC Chinese Communist Party = CCP People's Liberation Army = PLA Military-Civil Fusion = MCF

The Department of Defense has been monitoring the Chinese military government for a long time. In the year 2000, the DOD assessed the PRC and the armed forces that work with them and reported their findings to Congress. They reported that the Chinese Communist Party's goal was to transform China into a *moderately* prosperous society by 2021.

The DOD's assessment was that the Chinese military was poorly suited to their long-term ambitions; however, they knew that the CCP's objective was to become strong and modernized. At that time, they did not believe wholeheartedly that the Chinese could reach their goals within the timeframe that they projected.

That was then - This is now

Now, two decades later, the PLA's objective to become a world-class military by the end of 2049 is very, very close to being realized by 2022.

In the 2020 report by the DOD, they stated, "The PRC has marshaled the resources, technology and political will, over the past two decades, to strengthen and modernize the PLA in nearly every respect.

Here is a part of the DOD report which illustrates that China is actually ahead of the United States in many of the military areas.

> Shipbuilding: The PRC has the largest navy in the world, with an overall battle force of approximately 350 ships and submarines including over 130 major surface combatants.



In comparison, the U.S. Navy's battle force is approximately 293 ships as of early 2020.

> **Integrated air defense systems**: The PRC has one of the world's largest forces of advanced longrange surface-to-air systems—including Russianbuilt S-400s, S-300s, and domestically produced systems—that constitute part of its robust and redundant integrated air defense system architecture.



> Land-based conventional ballistic and cruise missiles: The PRC has more than 1,250 groundlaunched ballistic missiles (GLBMs) and groundlaunched cruise missiles (GLCMs) with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

The United States currently fields one type of conventional GLBM with a range of 70 to 300 kilometers and no GLCMs.

The accelerated pace of the PRC's nuclear expansion may enable the PRC to have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027. The PRC likely intends to have at least 1,000 warheads by 2030, exceeding the pace and size the DOD projected in 2020.



> In 2019, the PRC recognized that its armed forces should take a more active role in advancing its foreign policy, highlighting the increasingly global character that Beijing ascribes to its military power. China realized that part of their issues would require an economic policy change. To develop this new and better military, they had to come up with money. They decided that they would set up a variety of methods to fund their military goals.



Methods that China is now using to increase their military funding - according to the DOD report

> China's economic development supports its military modernization not only by providing the means for larger defense budgets, but through deliberate Party-led initiatives such as **OBOR and Made in China 2025**, as well as the systemic benefits of China's growing national, industrial, and technological base.

Military - Civil Fusion Development Strategy

> The PRC pursues its MCF Development Strategy to "fuse" its economic and social development strategies with its security strategies to build an integrated national strategic system and capabilities in support of China's national rejuvenation goals.





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and the Made in China 2025, (the Made in China 2025 Plan is a ten-year, comprehensive industrial policy designed to transform China into an advanced global manufacturing leader). * Courtesy of the Center for Strategic & International Studies in a report given to the Senate.

It was initiated in 2015 to reduce **China's** scienti dependence on foreign technology and promote People Chinese technological manufacturers in the global forms. marketplace.

*Courtesy of Investopedia

Given the continuity in the PRC's strategic objectives, the past 20 years offer a harbinger for the future course of the PRC's national strategy and military aspirations.

As of 2020, the PLA has funded multiple AI (Artificial Intelligence) projects that focus on applications which includes machine learning for strategic and tactical recommendations, AI-enabled wargaming for training, and social media analysis.

The PRC uses imports, foreign investments, commercial joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and industrial and technical espionage to help achieve its military modernization goals.

The PRC is investing in and seeking to acquire technologies that will be foundational for future commercial and military innovations including AI, robotics, autonomous vehicles, quantum information sciences, augmented and virtual reality, financial technology, and biotechnology. These technologies blur the line demarcating commercial versus military use.

According to The Australia Strategic Policy Institute, (a Canberra-based think tank), the People's Liberation Army had sent thousands of militarytrained scientists to foreign universities in order to study matters of strategic significance. Many of these scientists were later found to have concealed their People's Liberation Army affiliation on application forms.

So what should we take away from all this information? Should we throw up our hands and say, "We don't have to worry about it. We can't do anything about it anyway.

Or should we tell our legislators to connect with our strategic and military leadership to ensure that we have all our 'ducks in a row' so to speak. We must be prepared for a military showdown with China as Taiwan swings in the balance. If we allow China to take over Taiwan, the micro chip and other specialty items will no longer be available or at the very least, secure.



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