China's Naval Modernization: Cause for Storm Warnings?

A symposium hosted by

– – The Institute for National Strategic Studies – –
National Defense University

Related Reference Articles, Projects and Events

This is not intended to represent a comprehensive listing of national security publications, but to offer a sampling of the many, often conflicting points of view on the subject.

China's Naval Nationalism, by Robert S. Ross
International Security, Volume 34, Number 2, Fall 2009, pp. 46-81 (Article)
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international_security/summary/v034/34.2.ross.html
Abstract: Recent developments in Chinese politics and defense policy indicate that China will soon embark on an ambitious maritime policy that will include construction of a power-projection navy centered on an aircraft carrier. But just as nationalism and the pursuit of status encouraged past land powers to seek great power maritime capabilities, widespread nationalism, growing social instability, and the leadership's concern for its political legitimacy drive China's naval ambition. China's maritime power, however, will be limited by the constraints experienced by all land powers: enduring challenges to Chinese territorial security and a corresponding commitment to a large ground force capability will constrain China's naval capabilities and its potential challenge to U.S. maritime security. Nonetheless, China's naval nationalism will challenge U.S.-China cooperation. It will likely elicit increased U.S. naval spending and deployments, as well as politicization of China policy in the United States, challenging the United States to develop policy to manage U.S.-China naval competition to allow for continued political cooperation.

China Sets Sail, by Andrew Erickson, Lyle Goldstein, and Carnes Lord
The American Interest - May/June 2010
http://www.the-american-interest.com/article-bd.cfm?piece=806
Abstract: The People's Republic of China is in the process of an astonishing, multifaceted transformation. If the explosive growth of China's industrial economy over the past several decades is the most obvious component of that transformation, no less remarkable is China's turn to the sea. With its stunning advance in global shipbuilding markets, its vast and expanding merchant marine, the wide reach of its offshore energy and minerals exploration, its growing fishing fleet, and not least, its rapidly modernizing navy, China is fast becoming an outward-looking maritime state.

The Geography of Chinese Power: How Far Can Beijing Reach on Land and at Sea?, by Robert D. Kaplan
Foreign Affairs May/June 2010
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66205/robert-d-kaplan/the-geography-of-chinese-power
Abstract: "Thanks to the country's favorable location on the map, China's influence is expanding on land and at sea, from Central Asia to the South China Sea and from the Russian Far East to the Indian Ocean."

AirSea Battle: A Point-of-Departure Operational Concept, by Jan van Tol with Mark Gunzinger, Andrew Krepinevich, and Jim Thomas
Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 2010
http://www.csbaonline.org/4Publications/PubLibrary/R.20100518.Air_Sea_Battle__A_/R.20100518.Air_Sea_Battle__A_.pdf
The US military today faces an emerging major operational challenge, particularly in the Western Pacific Theater of Operations (WPTO). The Chinese People'sLiberation Army's (PLA) ongoing efforts to field robust anti-access/area-denial(A2/AD) capabilities are threatening to make US power projection increasingly risky and, in some cases and contexts, prohibitively costly. If this occurs, the United States will find itself effectively locked out of a region that has been declared a vital security interest by every administration in the last sixty years. It will also leave longstanding US allies and partners vulnerable to aggression or, more likely, subtle forms of coercion. Consequently, the United States confronts a strategic choice: either accept this ongoing negative shift in the military balance, or explore options for offsetting it.

Chinese Military Seeks to Extend Its Naval Power, by Edward Wong
The New York Times, April 23, 2010
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/24/world/asia/24navy.html?ref=asia
Abstract: "The Chinese military is seeking to project naval power well beyond the Chinese coast, from the oil ports of the Middle East to the shipping lanes of the Pacific, where the United States Navy has long reigned as the dominant force, military officials and analysts say." "The naval expansion will not make China a serious rival to American naval hegemony in the near future, and there are few indications that China has aggressive intentions toward the United States or other countries. But China, now the world's leading exporter and a giant buyer of oil and other natural resources, is also no longer content to trust the security of sea lanes to the Americans, and its definition of its own core interests has expanded along with its economic clout."

An Undersea Deterrent? by Andrew S. Erickson,
U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, June 2009 Vol. 135/6/1,276
http://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/story.asp?STORY_ID=1907
Abstract: The article focuses on the China's efforts of achieving a credible nuclear deterrent based on a survivable second-strike capability, with its second generation of nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarines (SSBNs), the Type 094, or/in-class. The U.S. Navy Office of Naval Intelligence assesses that although China built only a single Xia SSBN, it will build a "fleet of probably five Type 094 SSBNs, to provide more redundancy and capacity for a near-continuous at-sea presence.

Recent Trends in PLA Navy Training and Education, Testimony of Frederic Vellucci, Testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
http://www.uscc.gov/hearings/2009hearings/written_testimonies/09_06_11_wrts/09_06_11_vellucci_statement.pdf
Abstract: Mr. Vellucci's testimony addresses three factors the PLA assesses as crucial for transforming modern hardware into an effective naval force: first, the PLA Navy's ability to conduct standardized training focused on the requirements of naval warfare; second, the PLA Navy's ability to attract and train an educated and capable officer corps; and finally, its ability to perform an expanded array of nontraditional security missions.

Peoples Liberation Army After Next, by Eliot Cohen, edited by Susan Puska,
Army War College Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) monograph, August 2000
http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB67.pdf
Abstract: There are roughly two schools of thought about China's People's Liberation Army. One sees a vast, corrupt, cumbersome organization equipped with antiquated hardware, hopelessly if not permanently outclassed by the United States. The other sees a military on the way up, aware of its weaknesses, committed to developing its professional officers, and increasingly adroit in its selection of technology and its development of operational concepts. The authors of these essays tend toward the latter view. Several sections stand out. Mark Stokes's discussion of Chinese military space and missile development as it affects Taiwan is particularly thorough; other subjects covered include the PLA air force and maritime forces, logistics and information warfare, and China's reaction to the Kosovo war. A good review, albeit with a relatively short shelf life, but not to be disregarded.

Chinese Strategic Thinking: People's War in the 21st Century, by Dennis J. Blasko, Jamestown Foundation
http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/cb_010_28.pdf
Abstract: This author examines China's Strategy as it makes it way into the 21st Century. He discusses how The People's Liberation Army (PLA) modernizes through the processes of mechanization and informationization with focuses on strengthening their defenses.

China's Growing Military Power, edited by Scobell, Andrew, Wortzel, Larry M., Wortzel
Army War College (U.S.). Strategic Studies Institute. Monograph, September 2002
http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB59.pdf
Abstract: The nine compiled articles in this volume, all written by leading experts, cover a diverse set of important topics: East Asian perspectives on China's security ambitions, the status of the Chinese ballistic missile program and regional reactions to U.S. missile defense initiatives, and China's ever-improving conventional military capabilities.

China's Foreign Military Relations, by Kenneth W. Allen & Eric A. McVadon, edited by Ranjeet K Singh
The Henry L. Stimson Center report, October 1999
http://www.stimson.org/china/pdf/chinmil.pdf
Abstract: This project gives the reader an overview of The People's Liberation Army (PLA) and how it influences the People's Republic of China's (PRC) foreign policies. Over the past two decades, the PLA's role has increased considerably, and is likely to become even more important in the future as China develops its military capabilities and casts a broader international shadow. It also outlines and explains the five goals of the PLA's foreign relations program.

House Committee on Foreign Affairs Testimony
http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/she091009.pdf
Abstract: On September 10th, 2009, Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Shear testifies to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment. He will discuss Strategic and Economic Dialogue, which creates framework on U.S.-China relations on the global challenges such as, the economic crisis and security.

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission Testimony
http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/she091009.pdf
Abstract: On June 11th, 2009, Naval Specialist Ronald O'Rourke testified before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on the implications of China's naval modernization. He discussed elements of China's naval modernization efforts, limitations, weaknesses, and reason for the modernization effort.

Maritime Geostrategy and the Development of the Chinese Navy in the early 21st Century, by Xu Qi, translated by Andrew S. Erickson and Lyle J. Goldstein
http://andrewserickson.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/maritime_geostrategy_and_the_development_of_the_chinese_navy1.pdf
Abstract: The author reviewed a number of aspects of China's maritime development, ranging from expanding commerce to new construction projects in the Indian Ocean. Senior Captain Xu's rationale for an expanded PLA Navy rests on his contention that China's "long period of prosperity [as well as] the Chinese nation's existence, development, and great resurgence [all] increasingly rely on the sea." 1 He also is frank in his concern about "a concentration of strategic power in the Asia-Pacific region on [China's] maritime flank."

Chinese Strategic Thinking: People's War in the 21st Century, by Dennis J. Blasko, Jamestown Foundation
http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/cb_010_28.pdf
Abstract: This author examines China's Strategy as it makes it way into the 21st Century. He discusses how The People's Liberation Army (PLA) modernizes through the processes of mechanization and informationization with focuses on strengthening their defenses.

Beyond the Strait, by Roy Kamphausen, David Lai, and Andrew Scobell, Strategic Studies Institute
http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB910.pdf
Abstract: These collective articles address continued examination of China's security policy is essential in order to anticipate and understand future Chinese military missions within China and on its borders, across the Taiwan Strait, and around the region. On September 26, 2008, over 70 leading experts from academia, government, the military, and policy think tanks assembled at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, for that very purpose, to look beyond the PLA's primary focus on Taiwan and to the evolving new roles of the PLA.