



# CENTRE FOR AIR POWER STUDIES (CAPS)

Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

## INDO-PACIFIC NEWSLETTER



A Monthly Newsletter on Security and Strategic Issues on Indo-Pacific Region from  
Centre for Air Power Studies

### From the Editor's Desk

The visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan on 2nd August raised tensions in East Asia since China imposed a blockade through its military exercises around the island and around Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). China came up with its third White Paper on August 10, wherein, China reiterated the fact that Taiwan is part of China and demonstrated the resolve of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Taiwan Strait Crisis are significant for the entire Indo-Pacific region as the crisis hampers peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, India celebrated its maritime reach on its 75th independence anniversary, with eight ships deployed in seven ports.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar visited Thailand on August 18 and elaborated on India's vision of the Indo-Pacific and ASEAN Centrality. Japan appointed its new Defence Minister Yasuoka Hamada at a time when Japan is facing adversaries from its neighbours and contemplating revising its National Security policy by end of this year. India also bolstered its participation in defence exercises with its strategic partners such as the US-led 26-nation Exercise RIMPAC 2022 off Hawaii and the 17-nation, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) led biennial Air Force Exercise 'PITCH BLACK' at Darwin.

This month we present to you specially selected opinions and cherry-picks covering all this and more. Do check out our Social Media Corner for some engaging and insightful content, including debates, interviews and podcasts from eminent experts

Jai Hind

Vol II, No 04, 07 September 2022

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### PEEP-IN

*Why Super Power US Needs Allies & Partners To Counter Upcoming Super Power China In The Indo-Pacific*

Read on more about it at :-

<https://eurasianimes.com/us-needs-allies-counter-upcoming-super-power-china/>

### QUOTE

*"India envisages a free, open, inclusive and peaceful Indo-Pacific built on a rules-based order, sustainable and transparent infrastructure investment."*

– Dr S. Jaishankar

## Opinions/Review/Expert View

## Dire Straits: Taiwan crisis and the Indo-Pacific

Source: Akshobh Giridharadas, ORF

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/dire-straits-taiwan-crisis-and-the-indo-pacific/>, 16 Aug 2022.



This year, the National Zoo in Washington D.C., which is part of the Smithsonian family celebrated 50 years of the panda. It's no surprise the adorable bamboo-eating cherubic animals arrived in 1972, the same seminal year of former President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China, the start of the détente and thus the birth of the 'One China Policy'. It was called "the week that changed the world," according to Ambassador Nicholas Platt, who accompanied the President on that visit. The visit played a key part in the US emerging as the eventual victor of the Cold War with Beijing now in the Washington camp. However, things have changed with the escalation of the US-China rivalry.

### US, China, and Taiwan

At its core, the One China Policy cannot tolerate the fact that Taiwan is inherently a part of China. Beijing sees Taiwan as a renegade province and one whose reunification with the mainland is both inevitable and necessary for the completion of a fully unified China.

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US-China relations have ebbed and flowed through the years. From security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region the lack of transparency into the origins of the COVID-19 virus from Wuhan trade issues and devaluing of the Yuan currency to technology transfers and patent infringements. However, this time, it was Beijing who expressed umbrage.

Speaker Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan has thrown caution to the wind as relations between Washington and Beijing experienced another lull in the Xi Jinping era.

Bearing stark difference from the Deng Xiaoping era of "hide your strength, bide your time", under Xi, China has been flexing its economic and military clout in the region, through various coercive means, from wolf-warrior diplomacy to economic debt traps for fragile economies. The island of Taiwan has been front and centre on Xi Jinping's radar since 2016.

President Xi has spoken about the eventuality of the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland, while President Biden, in the backdrop of Russia's Ukraine invasion, was perhaps tempted to answer, "Yes" as a riposte to a reporter's question on whether Washington would "intervene militarily to defend Taiwan", should China invade.

President Biden, albeit far different from his predecessor and former election rival, President Donald Trump, is continuing Trump's policy of consolidating relations with Taiwan and thus making it a central pillar in the US-China brouhaha.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said “under the guise of democracy, the US is infringing on China’s sovereignty”, as Beijing is continuously irked by any measures that allude to Taiwan as an independent state. It’s not just the rhetoric that’s escalating, as People’s Liberation Army (PLA) military drills ramp up near the coast of Taiwan. Chinese fighter jets carried out simulated attacks as they flew close to Taiwan’s airspace, while Beijing’s warships came flirtingly close to Taiwan’s ports and rockets lit up the skies over the Strait.

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The concerns are multifold, on one hand, at a core security level, plenty of parallels have been drawn between Ukraine’s vulnerability and that of Taiwan, as they come in the crosshairs of revanchist aggressors.

Secondly, experts, also allude to economic strangulation in the form of a blockade.

Taiwan, as the world’s leading semiconductor manufacturer, is a key part of global supply chains that have been upended by the pandemic. For the Indo-Pacific Quad, two key factors have been supporting critical and emerging new technologies and helping to rebuild and recreate resilient supply chains.

Furthermore, the specter of military might on display will accentuate the role of AUKUS, a security trilateral between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the US, and increase military coordination among Indo-Pacific

Quad partners, as Japan and India see their vicinity in a precarious position.

## India-China Relations

The relations between India and China have been on tenterhooks since the Galwan Valley clash of 2020. A tense and contested border with loose demarcation and PLA jingoism has raised trepidations of another military skirmish.

However, Sana Hashmi, a post-doctoral fellow at Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation in Taipei states that though there might not be any direct impact on India-China relations, “what we might see is China extending an olive branch to India as how it did in 2017–18 as China doesn’t view India in the US camp entirely and wants to convince India and other regional countries that their interests and concerns are very different from that of the West.

However, New Delhi hasn’t minced its words on unresolved issues about its territorial integrity and Hashmi, therefore, says, “relations cannot be normalised fully. So, we won’t get to the repeat of Wuhan as of yet, but China trying to give concessions to India for sure.”

Reading the tea leaves, there is a bit of political manoeuvring for both Washington and Beijing, as the US heads to the midterms in November and China, its 20th party Congress in late 2022. Candidates in the American midterm will not want to be seen

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as pusillanimous on China and the CCP will want to speak in unison on the sacrosanctity of Taiwan and its reunification.

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## Quad to curb China's illegal fishing in Indo-Pacific

Source: The Print

<https://theprint.in/world/quad-to-curb-chinas-illegal-fishing-in-indo-pacific/1091356/> 20 Aug 2022.



Representative Image. (Photo Credit - Reuters)

Earlier Hong Kong, August 20 (ANI): Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) nations – the United States, Australia, Japan and India are planning to curb China's illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific using satellite tracking technology connecting surveillance centres in Singapore and India.

China is accused of being the biggest beneficiary of not-so-legal fishing, so much so that there is a risk of fish stock being depleted in the Pacific and the seas near the Chinese' coast, reported The HK Post.

**United States, Australia, Japan and India are planning to curb China's illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific using satellite tracking technology connecting surveillance centres in Singapore and India.**

As per a UK-based media, Quad maritime initiative will use satellite technology to create a tracking system for illegal fishing from the Indian Ocean to the South Pacific by connecting surveillance centers in Singapore and India".

It "will enable these countries to monitor illegal fishing even when the boats have turned

off the transponders which are typically used to track vessels".

China has been the worst offender in the 2021 illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) Fishing index, which maps illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in 152 coastal countries. Chinese ships can be found everywhere in the world. The Quad initiative comes in the wake of this menace in the Indo-Pacific, reported The HK Post.

The big vessels not only catch illegally, overexploit the marine resources but also leave a little for local boats by scooping up a major haul of fish. The problem of Chinese distant water overfishing has spread to the Pacific.

An armada of Chinese fishing vessels is encroaching territorial waters far away from China to find seafood, even Chinese experts are now beginning to admit that "global fish stocks are facing a crisis, with nearly all classified as either fully fully exploited, overexploited or significantly depleted".

China is the largest contributor to this problem as a world leader in both fishery exports and imports, according to a paper by Dr Hongzhou Zhang of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Genevieve Donnellon-May a master's candidate in Water Science.

It is "simultaneously responsible for 15 per cent of the global total of caught fish and one-third of fish consumption worldwide", they say.

Research suggests that Chinese fishing fleets have trespassed into the waters of over 90 countries and depleted stocks. With the increasing

geopolitical tension between the United States and China, “greater attention is being paid to IUU) fishing by Chinese fishing vessels in the Asia Pacific”.

China has always been a coastal fishing nation. Originally, it used to net what is called trash fish – smaller, cheaper coastal and bottom-dwelling fish species. In the last three decades, however, its tastes have improved.

The fishing activities, accordingly, evolved. It subsequently raised a Distant Water Fishing (DWF) fleet to cater to the ever-growing demand for wild-caught fish, reported The HK Post.

The fleet operates outside of a nation’s territorial waters of the exclusive economic zone. When caught, they deny having violated any rules. These fleets fly under flags of convenience and take advantage of several loopholes in the laws. (ANI)

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**On August 2, China’s battery giant CATL announced that it would delay building a multi-billion-dollar North American plant to supply Tesla and Ford, as a result of tensions over Taiwan.**

## The lesson of Pelosi’s Taiwan Visit: Win the Production battle, Win the War

Source: Emily de La Bruyère and Nathan Picarsic, FDD

[https://www.fdd.org/analysis/op\\_ed/2022/08/23/pelosi-taiwan-win-production-battle-win-war/](https://www.fdd.org/analysis/op_ed/2022/08/23/pelosi-taiwan-win-production-battle-win-war/) 23 Aug 2022

On August 2, in retaliation for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Taiwan visit, China announced “targeted” drills and missile tests around the island. Two days later, China’s People’s Liberation Army fired a series of missiles into the waters around Taiwan. On August 5, Beijing declared it would end cooperation with the United States on military talks – as well as the climate and anti-drug efforts. Between August 3 and August 7, 120 Chinese aircraft crossed the median line between Taiwan and China. A second US congressional delegation arrived in Taipei on August 15. Beijing promptly launched another round of escalatory adventurism.

All of this is plenty exciting. It has provided endless fodder for international media. It is also not the full story.

Here is a critical piece of the story, largely lost in the excitement of Chinese missile tests: On August 2, China’s battery giant CATL announced that, as a result of tensions over Taiwan, it would delay building a multi-billion-dollar North American plant to supply Tesla and Ford.

Ningbo-based and government-backed, CATL is the world's biggest lithium-ion battery manufacturer for electric vehicles. It controls about one third of the international market (in large part thanks to government subsidies – both direct ones that plump up CATL's balance sheet and a broader, more indirect system of State-backing that fuels China's EV ecosystem). CATL is a critical piece in Beijing's larger bid to dominate the EV value chain, as well as that of new energy systems more broadly. CATL is also a critical supplier for US car manufacturers ranging from Tesla to Ford – and, with them, not only the US automotive industry but also the S&P 500.

CATL pausing US production rings of economic coercion, of Beijing flexing its industrial strength. This would not be a new approach for the Chinese Communist Party: More than a decade ago, in 2010, Beijing cut off rare earth exports to Japan over a territorial dispute. In 2021, China imposed sanctions on Australian goods ranging from wine to beef after Canberra called for an inquiry into the origins of COVID-19. CATL's move also bears the fingerprint of Beijing's on-the-ground, subnational toolkit in the United States. This playbook leverages the economic development priorities of state and local leaders in America for China's benefit.

But while it might not be new, Beijing's

well developed and multi-pronged economic coercion toolkit is newly urgent. The Chinese Communist Party sees the commercial domain as a battlefield – as much as, if not more than, the Taiwan Strait. For decades, Beijing has cultivated US and international dependence so that it can claim an upper-hand in that battlefield, all while the US has espoused an economic orthodoxy of win-win globalization and offshoring to focus on high margins and immediate returns. Now, Beijing is pulling the strings. Now, the vulnerability of a production-lite US is making itself clear. The long-term cost of a hollowed out industrial base is presenting itself clearly.

**If the United States does not get serious about rebuilding its industrial foundation, yesterday, it will have no response to China's aggression tomorrow – no matter how many aircraft carriers Washington deploys to the Taiwan Strait. (After all, what percent of any given aircraft carrier was made in China?).**

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The sliver of good news is that there is still time. The US does have incumbent advantages, commercial and military. Moreover, today's indications of economic slowdown could provide the opportunity that the US private sector and capital markets need to reinvest, at scale, in industry and infrastructure at home and abroad; to shore up positioning in the domain that is poised

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to determine tomorrow's balance of power. Beijing's recent moves also point to the costs, for both international companies and international investors, of doing business in China – costs that should incentivize investment in more stable and trusted supply lines outside the grasp of China's "State led, Enterprise driven" mode of economic warfare.

But doing all of this will require them – companies and investors – to internalize as much; to come to terms with the reality that Beijing's spoiling behavior, and corresponding geopolitical tension, are not going away. Capital markets and firm-level decision makers need to accept the new reality that exposure to China comes at a tangible cost – one that outweighs any short-term savings redeemed from China-dependent supply chains.

Since Pelosi's Taiwan visit, Beijing has been in full retaliatory mode – manufacturing crisis to exact concessions from Washington, also to show off its rising influence on the global stage. US and international media have focused on the military flash-bangs of that retaliation, missile launches and naval deployments. Those are the obvious moves. But staring at the fireworks risks missing a far more significant, if subtler, element of Beijing's retaliatory barrage.

Positioning for the industrial competition at hand will require the US national security community to recognize that tomorrow's, or rather today's, geopolitical contest may not be fought with missiles – except, that is, as it applies to where those missiles are made. China is having fun launching those. The media is

having a field day covering the subject.

But this is a war to be won on the factory floor. If the US doesn't get building, it will lose. It may not even have time to realize that the war started long before Pelosi's Taiwan visit.

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## India @ 75: The growing influence of India's naval power in the Indo-Pacific

Source: Milind Kulshreshtha, Financial Express

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/india-75-the-growing-influence-of-indias-naval-power-in-the-indo-pacific/2630375/> 15 Aug 2022



The Naval war machinery is kept in a battle-ready state to maintain a credible defence posture and capability to safeguard the national aim and interests.

Indian Navy is a prominent naval power in the Indian subcontinent and continues to maintain its dominance in the region, and beyond. As

**As part of its Maritime Doctrine, India focuses on the use of naval power across the spectrum of conflict which includes peacetime operations, hostilities and war.**

part of its Maritime Doctrine, India focuses on the use of naval power across the spectrum of conflict which includes peacetime operations, hostilities and war. To keep its entire 7516 km coastline and EEZ involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories safe, Navy proficiently keeps a 24/7 vigil against hindrances like sea piracy etc. with optimum deployment of hundreds of operational seagoing assets like ships, submarines and aircrafts. The Naval war machinery is kept in a battle-ready state to maintain a credible defence posture and capability



to safeguard the national aim and interests. A peninsular India today is primarily dependent upon the secure and well-established sea lines of communication (SLOCs) for accomplishing its international trade and the Indian Navy keeps these sea routes open for a smooth sailing.

### Naval Indigenisation Initiatives

Indian Navy is unique as it designs its own warships, submarines and aircraft carriers, all tailor-made to deliver a highly capable war-fighting platform developed to fight a three dimensional war at sea, be it air, surface or subsurface. The installation and operations of these varied weapons and sensors onboard limited space of a sea going vessel is a design evolution which the Naval Design Bureau have mastered gradually and today, India has its own designed and indigenously built Aircraft Carrier launched for sea trials.

To maintain an effective war-fighting fleet, the purchase of expensive assets like warships, submarines and aircrafts form a part of the Government's Defence Capital budget. However, keeping these operational platforms in a

**The extensive ship repair network of Dockyards and Ship Repair Units on the eastern and western seaboard are fully capable of repairing an aircraft carrier to a submarine, be it Indian or from a friendly nation.**

fighting fit condition for operations in a harsh sea environment is an edifice successfully created by the Indian Navy through a well-trained crew and warship centric operational focus. The extensive ship repair network of Dockyards and Ship Repair Units on the eastern and western seaboard are fully capable of repairing an aircraft carrier to a submarine, be it Indian or from a friendly nation.

Indian Navy has been the proponent of indigenisation for more than five decades with the acquisition of major shipyards like MDL,

GRSE and Goa Shipyard (GSL). The keel for the first of the Leander Class warships (Nilgiri) was laid in the 1960s era. In the mid 80s-90s, two submarines under license from HDW, Germany were constructed at MDL, and were followed by six more modern submarines constructed in collaboration with French companies in recent times. Also, the ongoing nuclear submarine programme is of national prestige and BARC supplied indigenous nuclear power plant may be considered as first of the steps towards an indigenous nuclear powered submarine fleet in coming decades.

Keeping in mind the due importance of the Naval Aviation arm, India has been operating Aircraft Carriers with the commissioning of the first ex-UK Hercules carrier in the 1960s. Since then, two aircraft carriers have been inducted, one of which i.e. INS Vikramaditya (ex-Gorshkov) continues to be in service as the sole carrier with

the Navy. Meanwhile, the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) Vikrant is presently undergoing sea trials for commissioning. This carrier project shall be the cornerstone for modern naval aviation tactics in the Indo-Pacific, with follow-on aircraft carriers indigenously built. India has the ability to construct nuclear powered aircraft carriers, a capability already under an advanced deployment stage as part of the Indian Navy's nuclear submarine project. The warship production and submarine building programmes have also assisted in the growth of thousands of local engineering industries. This highlights the need for a strong bond between the Navy and the defence industry, including MSMEs. A robust footprint of private defence industries is the only



way ahead to build and maintain a strong fleet to counter potential larger adversaries like China.

### Changing Dimensions of Naval Skirmishes

The ongoing Ukraine war has highlighted the vagaries of unconventional warfare. Throughout this war, drones with an electro-optic/infrared (EO/IR) payload aboard assisted the much subdued Ukrainian forces to effectively conduct ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance) for force protection, offensive planning, battle damage assessment and use as kamikaze weapons. Meanwhile, Russia effectively used the sea control and sea denial tactics against Ukraine to support its land and air offensives. However, the sinking of the mighty guided missile cruiser Moskva during one of these patrolling missions has been a poser, with the attack methodology still shrouded in the fog of war. As per the modern naval warfare tactics, Moskva in the role of a flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet was one of the most well protected assets (in the hostile waters near Ukraine), with a suitable Air Defence screen, ASW screen and other fleet ships positioned to safeguard the warship. However, the guided missile cruiser faced a mortal blow onboard and sank along with some of Russia's quintessential prestige.

On the other hand, in the geopolitics of the South China Sea, an altogether new doctrine of naval warfare has come to the fore with non-military Chinese ships armed just with water cannons and grappling hooks have been busy establishing a Chinese dominance. This Chinese civilian fleet routinely patrols around disputed

Scarborough shoals that China disputes with the Philippines, or in waters off southern Vietnam oil exploration blocks which have been leased out by Hanoi. Furthermore, China is extending its influence beyond its shores and has been successful in making true its ambitions of operating a blue water navy. India being a sea-power in the Indian subcontinent too has been facing the growing influence of Chinese presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the context of asymmetric warfare, a submarine is a critical platform. With adversaries possessing stealth design and nuclear power, the submarine countermeasures shall remain as one of the primary focus areas for the Indian Navy. These ASW measures shall create deterrence to the Chinese submarines lurking around in the Indo-Pacific waters for espionage and ASW data

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collection. Here, the naval air arm shall also play a critical role with aircrafts like P-8Is and multi role helicopters (MRH). The warships detect underwater submarines using onboard sonars (fixed hull or towed array sonars). On the other hand, the ASW aircrafts like P-8I and helicopters (with dunking sonar) operate outside the ocean environment to effectively detect a hostile submarine. The aircraft's agility and speed assists in efficient ASW pickups. As an evolutionary process, the Unmanned systems like drones too are exploited as ASW tools for launching and recovering various acoustic sensors in the oceans.

### Technological Advancements

Naval technology upgrade is an ever-

evolving task at hand for the Navy. Navy's R&D organisations have been involved in integration of varied weapons and sensors procured as per Operational requirements onboard indigenous platforms. The Navy is at the forefront of Defence technology with development of niche technologies like Ship's Data-links, Software Defined Radio and in-house

Combat Management Systems. The experts in this field are well aware that such technologies can take decades to design and develop, before being considered fit for deployment on board a warship. As if these challenges were not enough,

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new threats in terms of Artificial Intelligence, cyber security, space-based surveillance and hypersonic missiles are already in possession of our adversaries. Futuristic technologies like the risks from Quantum computation and Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology are a reality today and necessary counter measures are to be rapidly deployed by the Indian forces.

The unmanned systems in naval operations are in prominence globally over the last two decades. This portfolio includes unmanned underwater rovers and unmanned ships, which are already under consideration for induction by the Indian Navy too. The Naval UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) or NUAS and Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) are part of the future unmanned systems planned to be deployed by India.

## Conclusion

For India, China is the most potent emerging threat in the Indo-Pacific and all measures to prevent China from its malevolent behaviour are required to be in place. The rules-based order in

the Indo-Pacific is already under test in various forms and features. China definitely is showcasing a greater regional aggression in the Indo-Pacific and India is not much beyond its reach. The Galwan skirmish was a show of new aggressive China out to establish its world dominance. The Indian Navy needs an effective presence and

posture to prevent or counter any of such challenges coming in the way while establishing its dominance in the Indian subcontinent. To be successful in the near future, it's critical that the Indian Navy stays ahead of technology in every possible way and indigenously

build the best warships, submarines and aircraft carriers as the way forward.

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## To prevent China ascendancy, the U.S. needs to preserve its global system of rules, not rulers

Source: Santana F. King, Cleveland.com

<https://www.cleveland.com/opinion/2022/08/to-prevent-china-ascendancy-us-needs-to-preserve-its-global-system-of-rules-not-rulers-santana-f-king.html> 21 July 2022



In this photo released by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, the United Kingdom's carrier strike group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth (R 08), and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces led by (JMSDF) Hyuga-class helicopter destroyer JS Ise (DDH 182) joined with U.S. Navy carrier strike groups led by flagships USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) to conduct multiple carrier strike group operations in the Philippine Sea, Oct. 3, 2021. A spate of Chinese military flights off Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own, and naval maneuvers by the United States and its allies to reinforce maritime routes challenged by China are fueling increasing tensions in a region already on edge. (Gray Gibson/U.S. Navy via AP)AP

NORTH ROYALTON, Ohio -- There is an intense contest brewing between liberal democratic nations and the illiberal, autocratic China. The future will be one of immense geopolitical conflict filled with increasingly complex alliance systems, front-end public diplomacy, and back-end technical arms races (conventional and cyber). Leaders will have to engage without miscalculation.

**U.S. is officially focused on competition with China, it has no choice but to devote effort and resources to supporting Ukraine for the time being. Japan needs to play a more significant role in this context.**

China seeks to achieve the same continental dominance in Asia that the early United States did in the Americas. To gain global pre-eminence,

a state must first gain regional dominance; It cannot dictate world affairs if it has a dangerous neighbor in its periphery with the constant specter of conflict.

Since the Asian Indo-Pacific region hosts more than half of all international trade and production, China would only have to be the dominant actor in this region to achieve global pre-eminence. By achieving Asian dominance, China would only need to cut vital global supply chains to coerce other states into capitulation. As 2021-22 has highlighted, the world is hyper-connected, and even the smallest disruption in our global supply chains can cause enormous stress to national economies.

Furthermore, the Chinese Communist Party aims to eclipse the United States as the global power to transform the current international system and create one in its own image.

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States and its allies formed a liberal world order predicated on rule of law, liberal economic intercourse, democratic governance, and individual rights and freedoms. This is a world order that doesn't align with the Chinese Communist Party's governing ideology. The CCP aims to create a world order that emulates

the current Chinese state (i.e., one of restricted markets, repression and supervision, and a state-centered economic model) to preserve the power, legitimacy, and the longevity of the CCP.

A liberal Chinese political system is what the Chinese Communist Party fears most, and the party has aggressively endeavored to maintain and promulgate its national power

and influence, to prevent just that. In the past decade, the CCP has become more aggressive in their military presence in the Indo-Pacific by rapidly growing their national navy, investing in military capabilities (e.g., hypersonic ballistic missiles and a GPS alternative, BeiDou) and contesting disputed territories. Moreover, they are also diplomatically maneuvering in the region by both building alliances and attempting to torpedo outstanding U.S. bilateral partnerships/alliances. They are attempting this by offering neighboring nations attractive economic trade and investment partnerships.

This is the most challenging facet of this geopolitical contest between the United States and China. The Chinese hold closer proximity to the Indo-Pacific than its competitor, the United States, and it can observe and relate to vulnerable Indo-Pacific states more easily. China can more seamlessly provide services and investment — even in a hyper-connected world, it is still easier to trade with those closest and provide/receive vital investments.

That is alarming when considering the advantages regional proximity gives China in the global technology/cyber competition. China is in a position to gain a large footprint in the tech economies of the region's states. From this growing footprint, the Chinese can ascertain and influence any cyber/tech advances of regional states, like 5G, quantum computing, and IoT (Internet of Things) systems. They can move forward on their goal of creating a state-controlled alternative cyberspace to the internet (Splinternet); and they can create a robust coalition to set new international standards for current and emerging technologies.

This is a challenging hurdle for the United

States, since even the global hegemon cannot shift tectonic plates. That is why the United States' regional partners (i.e., the quasi-alliance among the U.S., Australia, Japan, and India: The Quad) are critical to help contain Chinese ascendancy and help maintain a world based on rules, not rulers.

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### **Cherry-Picks of the Month**

1. ASEAN at 55: From a dynamic past to new beginnings - <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/asean-at-55-from-a-dynamic-past-to-new-beginnings/>
2. The Japan-US Alliance Embraces the Economic - <https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/the-japan-us-alliance-embraces-the-economic/>
3. India taunts China on Indo-Pacific in Thailand, says Quad is 'most prominent' platforms - <https://theprint.in/diplomacy/india-taunts-china-on-indo-pacific-in-thailand-says-quad-is-most-prominent-platform/1088485/>
4. Beyond Pelosi's Taiwan Visit: Uncertainties about Cross-Strait Stability - <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/08/22/beyond-pelosis-taiwan-visit-uncertainties-about-cross-strait-stability/>
5. The USAir Force is looking for new aerial targets to 'replicate' threats from Russia's and China's best fighter jets - <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/the-us-air-force-is-looking-for-new-aerial-targets-to-replicate-threats-from-russias-and-chinas-best-fighter-jets/articleshow/93697248.cms>
6. INS Vikrant to be commissioned on September 2, will ensure peace, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region - <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/ins-vikrant-to-be-commissioned-on-september-2-will-ensure-peace-stability-in-indo-pacific-region/cid/1882372>

### **CAPS Experts In Focus**

1. An Analysis of Japan's Defence White Paper 2022 - <https://capsindia.org/an-analysis-of-japans-defence-white-paper-2022/>
2. The Significance of Taiwan to the World - <https://capsindia.org/the-significance-of-taiwan-to-the-world/>



3. China's White Paper on Taiwan - <https://capsindia.org/chinas-white-paper-on-taiwan/>
4. Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan Visit: Will the US Challenge Deter China's Objectives in Taiwan? - <https://capsindia.org/nancy-pelosis-taiwan-visit-will-the-us-challenge-deter-chinas-objectives-in-taiwan/>
5. How Japan's Rare Earth Industry Flourished under Shinzo Abe - <https://capsindia.org/how-japans-rare-earth-industry-flourished-under-shinzo-abe/>

## Debates/Panel Discussions

1. The Implications of Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan: Hudson Asia-Pacific Security Chair Dr Patrick M. Cronin joins former National Security Advisor and Hudson Japan Chair Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and Hudson Senior Fellow Rebecca Heinrichs to assess the implications of the speaker's visit, China's likely actions, and recommendations for US policy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMsEcFfhqWO>

2. INS Vikrant: Indian PM Modi commissions India's First Indigenous carrier, unveils new naval ensign - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyp0zpTxq40>

## Podcasts

1. Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan: Comments from International Crisis Group's China Analyst - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijadgyHuHHQ>



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### **Centre for Air Power Studies**

P-284 Arjan Path, Subroto Park, New Delhi - 110010  
Tel.: +91 - 11 - 25699131/32 Fax: +91 - 11 - 25682533  
Email: capsnetdroff@gmail.com  
Website: www.capsindia.org

Editorial Team: Air Commodore SP Singh, VSM (Retd), Dr Joshy Paul, Dr Poonam Mann,  
Ms Mahima Duggal, Ms Neha Mishra and Ms Simran Walia

Composed and Formatted by: Mr Rohit Singh, CAPS  
Contact: +91 9716511091  
Email: rohit\_singh.1990@hotmail.com

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