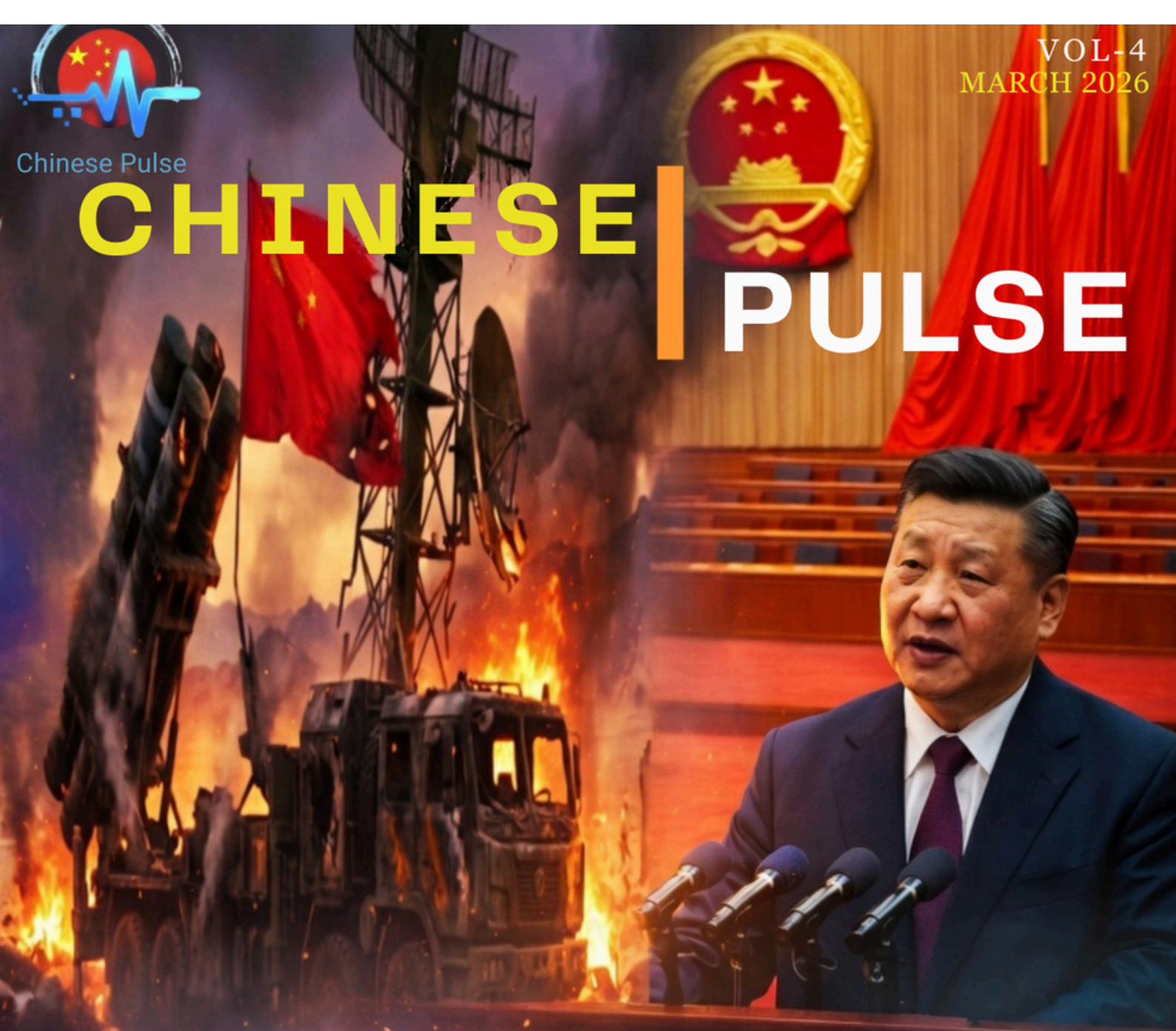


Chinese Pulse

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CHINESE | PULSE



CHINA'S NPC: PAGEANTRY

Defensive Failures, Strategic Vulnerabilities Exposed

Tibet's Struggle: Wounded but Unbroken

CPPCC Purges Military Leaders

China's Illusions: Empty Homes, Empty Hearts

Anti-Secession Law: Peace Threatened

Purges, Crisis, PLA's Decline



FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

The 2026 NPC revealed Xi Jinping's cautious leadership, defined by modest growth goals, military purges, and ethnic control, underscoring central authority and stability over reform or genuine confidence.



Rahul Mahajan

When a parliament becomes a stage, applause becomes the mask of power.

On 5 March 2026, China's National People's Congress projected unity and confidence through a tightly choreographed display in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. Yet behind the applause and ceremony, the session underscored a deeper reality: the NPC remains less a forum for genuine debate than a mechanism for endorsing decisions already shaped by Party leadership, reflecting a system focused more on preserving control than demonstrating accountable governance.

History also teaches that regimes which rely too heavily on spectacle often do so to conceal deeper weakness. Grand assemblies, choreographed applause, and carefully scripted unity may project confidence, but they cannot erase economic strain, institutional distrust, or political insecurity. China's 2026 National People's Congress appeared designed to demonstrate strength under Xi Jinping's leadership, yet it revealed something far less reassuring. Behind the polished proceedings stood a system preoccupied not with reform, but with preserving control.

The session revealed clear warning signs. China's modest 4.5–5 percent growth target reflected economic caution amid slowing demand, property troubles, and demographic strain. At the same time, a 7 percent defence increase, despite ongoing PLA purges, exposed a regime projecting strength abroad while grappling with distrust and instability within.

The new Ethnic Unity law, framed as national cohesion, is widely seen as a tool for tighter assimilation and greater pressure on Uyghurs, Tibetans, and other minorities, prioritising control over accommodation.

For the region and the wider world, the lesson is clear: a system built on centralization, coercion, and political theatre often reveals its own insecurity. China's 2026 NPC showcased authority, but also exposed underlying anxieties. Spectacle may preserve power temporarily, yet it cannot heal the deeper fractures threatening long-term stability.

Rahul Mahajan

Rahul Mahajan

CONTENTS

China Update

China International News

PLA Military Update

PLA Military News

Caricatures Stand

China's News with Caricatures

TIBET

Digital Tibet, Restricted Freedom

Tibetan Uprising: Wound and Unbroken Resolve

PLA

China's Anti-Graft Purge Hits Commanders

Xi's Military Dreams Crumble Fast

Digital Smear Against Tibetan Leadership

CCP

Power Over People: NPC 2026



Chinese Social Media

Trending on Weibo & TikTok

Global Affairs

China's Military Struggles in the Middle East

Taiwan

Beijing's Anti-Secession Law and Regional Stability

X Corner

Trending on X

CHINA UPDATE

MAR 2026

www.chinascop.org

Chinese Pulse

Iran Gets Russia-China Arms Boost

Iran's FM Abbas Araghchi confirmed ongoing military aid from Russia and China amid US-Israel tensions. Tehran restricts Strait of Hormuz to hostile ships, driving oil prices over \$100/barrel. Ties deepened via drones to Russia and a 25-year China deal. Zelensky claims Russia supplied Iran drones/intel for Middle East strikes.



Taiwan Coast Guard Modernizes to Counter China's Blockade Drills Around Island

Taiwan's coast guard is modernizing with new vessels, radars, drones, and military drills to counter China's blockade rehearsals and gray-zone tactics around the island. Deputy Minister Sung vows to prevent encirclement, enhance U.S./Japan/Philippines ties, and reassure citizens while avoiding escalation.



CHINA UPDATE

Mar 2026

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Chinese Pulse

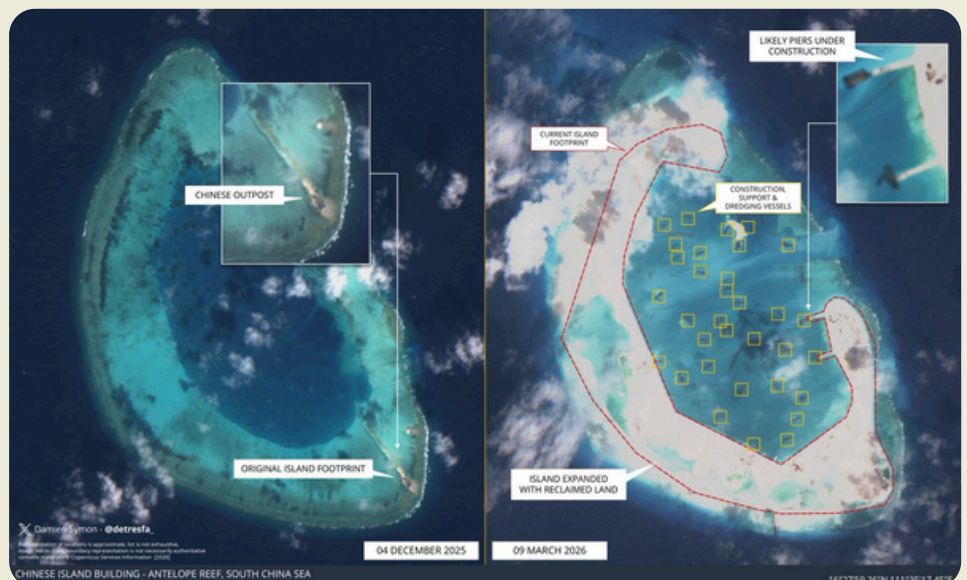
Revival of Beijing-Pyongyang Rail Link

The K27 train, resuming service from Beijing to Pyongyang on March 12, 2026, marks a pivotal moment in China-North Korea relations, six years after COVID-19 halted cross-border travel. Flag-waving crowds cheered the journey, symbolizing renewed ties and commercial opportunities as tensions ease.



China seems poised to militarize yet another reef in the South China Sea.

Satellite imagery shows China reclaiming land on Antelope Reef in the Paracel Islands for a potential new military base. Simultaneously, hundreds of Chinese fishing vessels formed massive “floating barriers” near Taiwan, showcasing coordinated maritime militia tactics that enhance China’s ability to enforce territorial claims and support future combat operations.



CHINA UPDATE

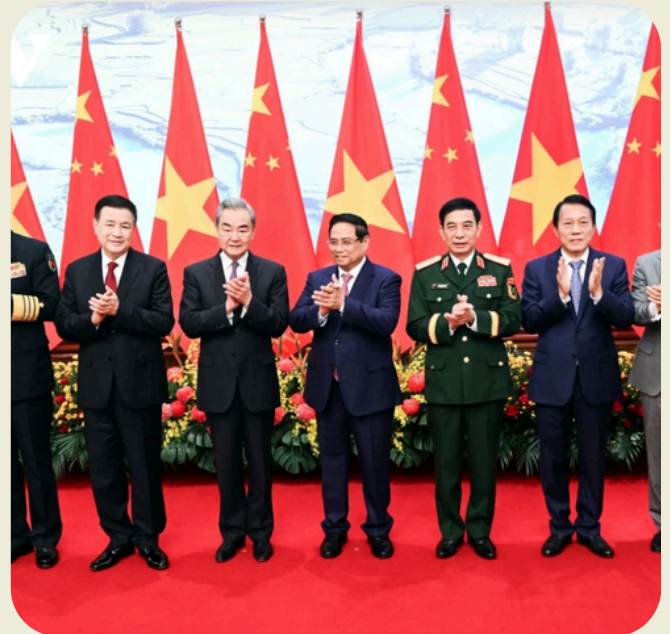
MAR 2026

www.chinascop.org

Chinese Pulse

PM Backs Stronger Vietnam–China Ties

Vietnam and China deepened comprehensive strategic cooperation through their first ministerial 3+3 dialogue in Hanoi, advancing coordination in diplomacy, defence, security, trade, infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges, while emphasizing border management and stability at sea.



Uyghurs Slam China's Islamophobia Message

China's mission to the UN triggered fierce backlash after posting support for combating Islamophobia, with Uyghur activists calling the message deeply hypocritical. They accused Beijing of destroying mosques, restricting Islamic practices, detaining millions of Uyghur Muslims, and imprisoning critics' relatives, while using global messaging to deflect attention from alleged repression, crimes against humanity and cultural erasure.



CHINA UPDATE

MAR 2026

www.chinascoop.org

Chinese Pulse

Ex-lawmaker Denies China Crime Links

Former Hong Kong lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan denied aiding mainland criminal activity during his national security trial, saying he only supported dissidents exercising basic rights. Prosecutors argued his pro-democracy advocacy and calls to end one-party rule amounted to inciting subversion. Co-defendant Chow Hang-tung is due to testify next.



China Dangles Energy for Unification

Amid Middle East supply disruptions, China offered Taiwan stable energy security if it accepted reunification under Beijing's rule. Taiwan rejected the pitch, insisting only its people can decide their future. President Lai Ching-te said supplies for March and April are secure, imports are diversified, and additional U.S. gas will arrive from June, underscoring Taipei's effort to reduce vulnerability to Chinese pressure during the ongoing crisis.





CHINA'S NPC CHARADE: POWER OVER PEOPLE

A Display of Control Amid Growing Strains

On 5 March 2026, Beijing's Great Hall of the People hosted the fourth session of China's 14th National People's Congress (NPC), a grand theater of 3,000 delegates applauding in lockstep. Far from democratic deliberation, this "Two Sessions" ritual merely endorses CCP edicts under Xi Jinping's iron grip, spotlighting economic fragility, military purges, and ethnic oppression. As Premier Li Qiang unveils tepid targets and assimilation laws crush Uyghur and Tibetan identities, the world sees through the facade: a regime clinging to control amid cracks of decline and dissent. True power lies not in pageantry, but accountability long denied



Military Boost Amid Purges

Defense spending climbs 7% to about \$270 billion, fuelling assertiveness in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait despite corruption scandals. Ahead of the session, nine military officers, including five generals, lost NPC seats in Xi Jinping's anti-graft drive really a loyalty purge. This follows 2025's nine senior expulsions, showing rot in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) even as budgets swell.

Such hikes prioritize threats over people, with no transparency on how funds fuel aggression while domestic needs fester.

Ethnic Law Entrenches Repression

PC delegates reviewed and passed the "Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress," a tool to force assimilation on Uyghurs, Tibetans, and others. Critics call it a "death nail" in autonomy promises, legalizing Han dominance, forced relocations, and cultural erasure. In Xinjiang, it backs mass detention sterilization, and mosque destruction; Tibet faces "high-pressure" on "separatists."

UN High Commissioner Volker Türk slammed China's inaction on Uyghur and Tibetan rights, urging probes into crimes against humanity. Rights groups decry the law's penalties up to 10 years for "inciting hatred" as pretexts to jail dissenters.

he NPC remains a CCP echo chamber: delegates praise rule while real opposition vanishes. Tibet delegates vowed crackdowns on "separatists," ignoring self-immolations and forced boarding schools. Human rights? Absent from agendas, with environmental and budget reviews mere formalities

Premier Li's report touts poverty wins and urbanization to 67.9%, but hides coerced labor and surveillance states. Foreign investment gets lip service easing some service sectors but national security laws deter trust.





GLOBAL FACADE CRUMBLES

Beijing cloaks the NPC sessions as beacons of stability, rubber-stamping budgets and plans in silence. Yet faltering growth forecasts (4.7-4.8% probable), military purges, and draconian ethnic laws scream fragility echoing the economic anemia, PLA rot, and assimilation horrors detailed above. Xi's "ethnic unity" crusade turbocharges genocide in Xinjiang and cultural annihilation in Tibet, provoking UN fury that exposes the facade.

China dreams of doubling 2035 per-capita GDP, but aging demographics and global isolation fuelled by belligerence mock the ambition. Investors spy green tech glimmers amid policy roulette and geopolitical storms. This NPC? No governance pure control. Purges, puny targets, and minority-crushing edicts prove leaders hoard power over prosperity. The world eyes a regime hardening into tyranny, deaf to its fissures. Lasting progress cries for accountability, not this hollow spectacle.



GENERALS FALL, SYSTEMIC ROT REMAINS



The CPPCC crackdown exposes how systemic rot survives every high-profile military purge

In a stunning blow to its military elite, China has ousted three top generals Han Weiguo, Gao Jin, and Liu Lei from the influential CPPCC advisory body.

This purge spotlights rampant corruption eroding the People's Liberation Army's core, masking political score-settling as anti-graft zeal under Xi Jinping's iron grip. Beijing stages unity ahead of key gatherings, but a one-party fortress crumbles within loyalty over law, transparency the ultimate victim.

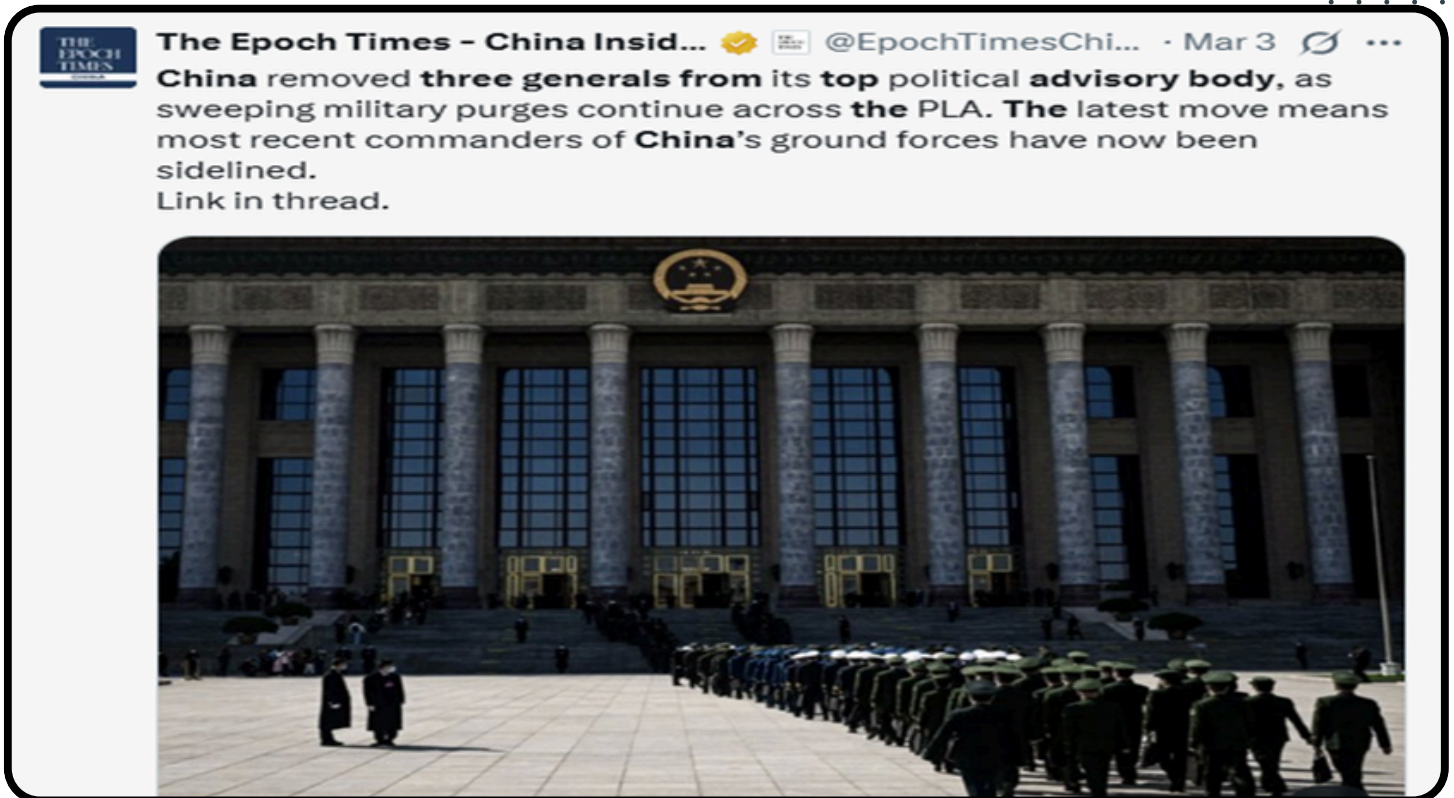
According to SCMP, China's CPPCC abruptly expelled retired generals Han Weiguo, Gao Jin, and Liu Lei from elite posts.

In Beijing's opaque system, such erasures often signal investigations, disgrace, or failed loyalty. Han, founding commander of the Central Theatre Command, later led the PLA Ground Forces and staged Xi's 2017 Zhurihe military spectacle. Gao built the now-dissolved Strategic Support Force for cyber and space warfare, while Liu Lei served as ground forces political chief. Their downfall exposes widening turmoil across the PLA.

Wider PLA Bloodletting

Far beyond these three, Beijing's recent scythe harvested at least nine senior military commanders alongside key defense industry operatives.

Xi orchestrates with surgical precision. These blows drop precisely before the grand



Even Zhang Youxia a paramount general plummeted previously amid "serious violations of discipline and law," the regime's veiled shorthand for embezzlement or treachery. Xi orchestrates with surgical precision. These blows drop precisely before the grand "Two Sessions" the NPC and CPPCC extravaganzas meticulously scripted to broadcast monolithic harmony. Such calculated pre-emptive slaughter burnishes a docile PLA image, stifling potential malcontents while subterranean factional tempests brew in the regime's veiled corridors.

"Two Sessions" the NPC and CPPCC extravaganzas meticulously scripted to broadcast monolithic harmony. Beijing hawks "nobody above law," yet delivers shadows without substance. No charges aired, no trials held, no defenses permitted Party insiders seal verdicts, NPC-CPPCC merely salute. Discipline enforcers warehouse suspects in hidden cells for months, lawyers banned, families severed. Self-policing rot-factory lacks watchdogs or public voice.



"CLEAN-UP" SHAM EXPOSED

Han and Gao's vanishing acts shatter Beijing's polished image of ironclad control. A Central Theatre Command creator and Strategic Support Force architect erased overnight? That lays bare elite infighting as a deadly snake pit where stars and medals crumble before Xi's swinging blade.

Corruption isn't random chaos; it's engineered in this one-party stranglehold, fusing power, profit and promotions into one toxic knot. Mega defense budgets vanish into black-hole secrecy, with no free press to expose the bribes, rigged arms deals and kickback rivers greasing the machine.

Zero media, opposition, or courts lets Beijing peddle feel-good "clean-up wins," burying rot's true horror. Guanxi naked cronyism awards rank over real merit, condemning the PLA to endless cycles of scandal and collapse.

RISKS TO MILITARY AND REGIONAL STABILITY

China's endless purges might muzzle rivals eyeing Xi's crown for now, yet they fail to mask the PLA's gutted leadership or the ravenous one-party monster consuming itself from within. As loyalty pledges eclipse combat training and clandestine kangaroo courts eclipse true justice, Beijing's vaunted war machine dissolves into hollow theatre prompting wary neighbours from Taipei to New Delhi to scrutinize China's widening cracks with heightened vigilance. This vicious loop of domination devoid of remedy ensures escalating scandals, deepening turmoil, and a bastion that shackles its own guardians. Only piercing sunlight through the shadows can halt this decay; absent that, Xi's proclaimed triumphs merely cultivate China's gathering doom. As Xi's purge deepens, the question remains: can a military run on fear sustain its fighting spirit?

Ghost Cities, Empty Homes, Human Ruin

EMPTY APARTMENTS, BROKEN
LIVES: THE HUMAN COST OF
CHINA'S FAKE PROSPERITY



Homelessness in China is rising at a shocking pace, as a deepening economic slowdown pushes millions out of work and out of their homes. According to visiontimes.com, over the last five years, reports indicate that China's homeless population has increased more than fivefold, from a few million to well over 20 million people visibly on the streets and in unstable shelter, with some estimates putting the broader housing insecure population at up to 50 million. More than 60 percent of those identified in one recent investigation are under 33, including former white collar workers, migrant workers, and younger people who now sleep in bus stations, under bridges, and in fast food corners in major cities like Shenzhen, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

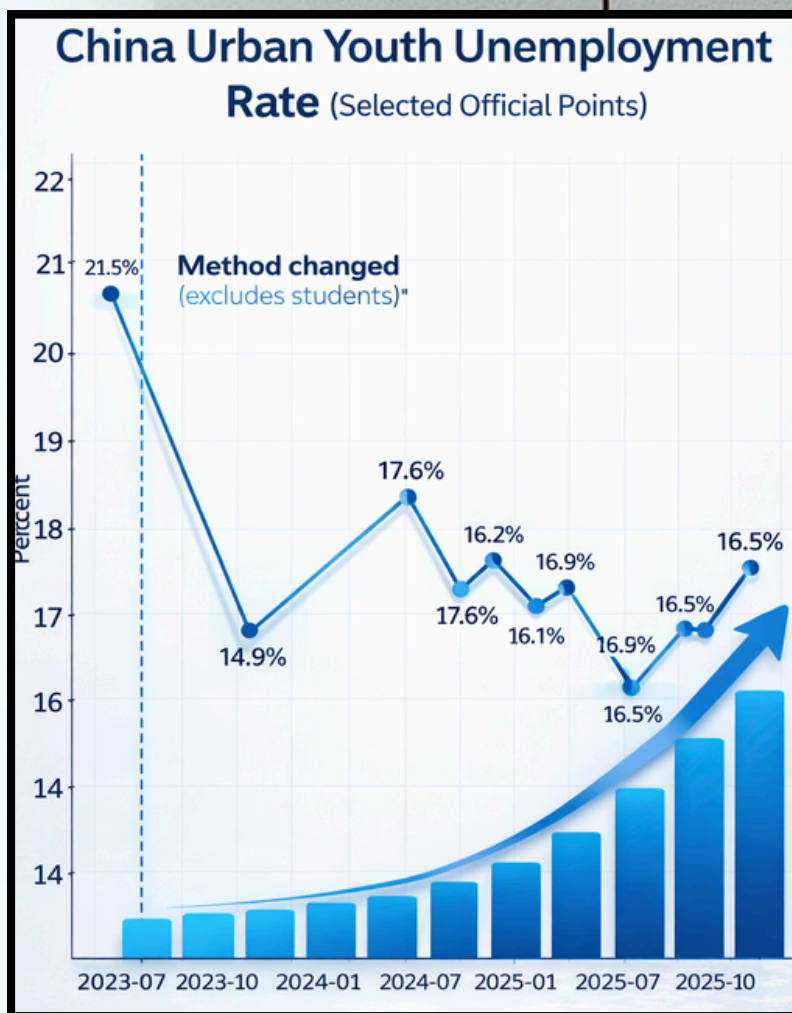


**CHINA'S ANTI-POVERTY FACADE
HIDES GROWING POVERTY**



Brutality Against Homeless

Instead of building shelters and social housing, local governments often send urban management officers and police to chase homeless people away from train stations, sidewalks, and underpasses, sometimes using violence. Before major political meetings or visits by foreign leaders, entire groups of homeless people are removed from city centers so they do not appear in photos and TV footage, turning human beings into garbage to be swept aside.



The Chinese Communist Party pours colossal resources into surveillance, propaganda, vanity infrastructure, and overseas showpieces, yet withholds serious investment in affordable housing and basic social protection for those at the bottom. At the same time, estimates suggest roughly 65 million apartments sit empty across the country entire ghost cities of unused concrete while millions of people sleep rough or live one missed rent payment away from the street.

This obscene gap between vacant homes and desperate human need exposes “common prosperity” and “poverty elimination” as slogans crafted for television, not principles guiding policy. Any regime that tolerates 20 to 50 million people without secure shelter while bragging about glittering skylines and headline GDP growth is not merely incompetent; it is inhuman.

A state that buries data, censors reality, and fears honest statistics more than mass suffering makes its priorities painfully clear: power and prestige come before people. China’s mounting homelessness crisis is no market accident but the predictable result of deliberate choices of exclusionary systems like hukou and a cold political calculus that treats the basic dignity of its most vulnerable citizens as expendable.

Officially, the government pretends none of this is happening. It continues to announce “stable” unemployment figures and refuses to release full, credible data on homelessness or joblessness, even suspending the publication of youth unemployment statistics after they hit record highs. Instead of allowing open discussion, authorities censor social media posts, pressure academics and journalists, and clean the streets before big events so foreign visitors and domestic TV audiences see a sanitized, fake version of urban life.

This humanitarian crisis is the direct result of the regime’s reckless economic model. For years, the CCP relied on a property bubble, overbuilding and debt fuelled projects to pump up GDP, while ignoring how ordinary people would actually live. As the real estate sector collapsed, construction suddenly froze, developers defaulted, millions of workers lost their jobs, and yet tens of millions of apartments now stand empty or unfinished while people are sleeping outside. defaulting, millions of workers lost their jobs, and yet tens of millions of apartments now stand empty or unfinished while people are sleeping outside.

At the same time, youth unemployment in cities has hovered around 20 percent or more, with some periods reaching above 21 percent, leaving millions of young people unable to find work or afford rent. Analysts in

Beijing now say the homeless and housing insecure population may have grown more than fivefold since 2020, driven largely by this youth job crisis and mass layoffs in both factories and offices.

China’s household registration system, the hukou, turns poverty into a life sentence. Rural migrants who move to cities to work are denied equal access to public housing, unemployment benefits, schools and healthcare where they actually live. When they lose their jobs, they can be evicted overnight from cramped, unsafe rooms, with no legal protection and nowhere to go, because the system treats them as outsiders even after years of labor.

The 2017 fire in a crowded migrant neighbourhood in Beijing exposed this cruelty. After 19 people died, 17 of them migrants, authorities responded not with safer housing but with a 40 day “clean up” campaign. Tens of thousands of low income residents were forcibly evicted with only days of notice. Many were branded the “low end population” and pushed into the cold with their belongings, creating homelessness in the name of urban management and political control.



CHINA UPDATE

MAR 2026

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US Hypocrisy on China Mocked

US Southern Command warned Congress that Chinese ports and space projects in Latin America could serve military purposes. Chinese analysts dismissed the claims as hypocritical, arguing Washington routinely frames China's regional cooperation as a threat while pursuing interventionist policies, strategic dominance, and renewed sphere-of-influence politics across the Western Hemisphere.



China Makes Energy Security 'Reunification' Offer to Taiwan Amid Middle East War

China said Taiwan would gain stable energy supplies under “peaceful reunification,” presenting Beijing’s rule as a solution amid Middle East war-driven energy disruptions. Taiwan rejected China’s sovereignty claims, said alternative LNG supplies are secured, and reaffirmed a diversified import strategy. The offer fits Beijing’s broader campaign to sell reunification as beneficial, despite strong political opposition in Taiwan.





PURGING POWER UNDER POLITICAL THEATRE

While the official reason given by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) usually involves vague terms like “disciplinary violations” or “loss of qualification,” the reality suggests something much deeper: a calculated political purge designed to consolidate President Xi Jinping’s absolute authority.

In the lead-up to China’s major annual political gathering the “Two Sessions” a quiet but significant seismic shift occurred within the country’s leadership. China’s legislature recently removed 19 lawmakers from its ranks. Notably, nine of these individuals were high-ranking military officers, including five full generals. While the official reason given by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) usually involves vague terms like “disciplinary violations” or “loss of qualification,” the reality suggests something much deeper: a calculated political purge designed to consolidate President Xi Jinping’s absolute authority

According to outlets such as The Independent, NBC News and the South China Morning Post, the removal of these officers was not the result of a public trial with presented evidence. Instead, it follows a familiar pattern in modern China, high-ranking officials from the Rocket Force to the Navy simply vanish from the public eye, only for their “resignations” or “removals” to be announced months later. By using the National People’s Congress (NPC) to formally strip these men of their positions, the Party provides a thin veneer of legality to what is essentially an internal execution of political will. The lack of transparency means the outside world does not know whether these men were actually corrupt, or whether they simply disagreed with the current direction of the military or lost Xi’s personal trust.





Power, Purges and Paranoia

Since taking power over a decade ago, Xi Jinping has framed corruption as the “existential threat” to the Party. On the surface, cleaning up a military plagued by kickbacks in construction and equipment procurement seems like a positive move for professionalization. However, the “anti-corruption” banner serves two purposes. First, it works as public-relations theatre, it paints Xi as a moral reformer to the Chinese public, someone cleaning out rotten elements and restoring discipline. Second, it functions as a political weapon. It allows the administration to remove anyone who belongs to a rival faction, who possesses independent networks of influence, or who shows a lack of personal loyalty to Xi himself.

When the “anti-corruption” stick is swung, it does not just hit the “bad guys” it hits anyone standing in the way of total centralisation. This is especially dangerous in the military, where professionalism and independent judgment are crucial for national security. Since 2022, over a hundred senior generals have been sacked or disappeared. This includes the high-profile removal of the former Defense Minister and leaders of the Rocket Force, which oversees China’s nuclear arsenal. The impact on military readiness is twofold. This includes the high-profile removal of the former Defense Minister and leaders of the Rocket Force, which oversees China’s nuclear arsenal. The impact on military readiness is twofold.

The timing of these dismissals just before the “Two Sessions” (the annual meetings of the legislature and the political consultative body) is no accident. These meetings are meant to project an image of a unified, stable, and prosperous China to the world. By removing “problematic” elements weeks before the cameras start rolling, the CCP ensures that the event is a seamless “rubber-stamp” affair. There will be no dissenting voices, no awkward questions about missing generals, and no challenge to the budget or the Party’s strategic goals. It is a carefully curated display of absolute control, where any visible dissent or instability has already been scrubbed away behind the scenes.

For the rest of the world, and particularly for neighbours such as India, Japan, and the Philippines, these purges make China a “black box.” When a military leadership is in a constant state of flux and high-level officers are disappearing, it becomes harder to predict how Beijing will react in a crisis. A military led by people chosen for their loyalty to one man, rather than their professional judgment, is more prone to miscalculation. In high-tension areas like the South China Sea or along the Himalayan border, a misunderstanding could escalate quickly if commanders are too afraid to communicate honestly with their superiors. External actors cannot rely on stable chains of command or predictable decision-making, because those structures are being reshaped around



Ultimately, the latest wave of dismissals confirms that, for the CCP, the survival of the Party and the dominance of Xi Jinping come before everything else. These are not the actions of a confident, transparent system undergoing “genuine reform.” They are the actions of a regime that relies on fear, secrecy, and the constant pruning of its own ranks to maintain its grip on power. As China continues to project power externally, its internal instability and political fragility remain its most guarded secret.

TIBET'S COURAGE STILL DEFIES CHINA'S OPPRESSION



More than six decades after the Lhasa Uprising, Tibet's resistance lives on in exile, memory and quiet acts of defiance



Every year on 10 March, Tibetans across the world honour Tibetan National Uprising Day that stands as both a wound and a declaration of courage. It marks the 1959 Lhasa Uprising, when thousands of Tibetans rose to defend their nation's freedom against the tightening grip of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). What began as a collective act of faith in their right to self-determination was met with brutal force, scattering a people but not their hope.

More than sixty years on, the memory of that defiance remains the heartbeat of Tibet's unbroken struggle alive in every exile, every monastery and every quiet act of resistance within Tibet itself.

THE UPRISING THAT SHOOK A NATION

According to tibetrighcollective, In the 1950s, Tibet still maintained its own governance and spiritual traditions despite China's growing influence after its invasion in 1950. By 1959, however, tensions had reached a breaking point.

Rumours spread that Chinese officials planned to abduct the 14th Dalai Lama, Tibet's revered spiritual leader. In fear and outrage, tens of thousands of Tibetans surrounded his palace in Lhasa on March 10, 1959, to protect him. The massive gathering soon turned into a full-scale uprising as Tibetans from across the three provinces U-Tsang, Kham, and Amdo joined hands in solidarity. Ordinary men and women took to the streets, declaring their loyalty to Tibet's sovereignty and rejecting foreign rule. The Chinese army responded with overwhelming force. Lhasa was bombarded, leading to thousands of deaths and the eventual flight of the Dalai Lama into exile in India, where he later established the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in Dharamshala.

THE LEGACY OF SUPPRESSION

Beijing portrayed the uprising as a "rebellion" that needed to be crushed, and its aftermath marked the beginning of a deeply repressive era for Tibet. Monasteries were destroyed, religious practices were restricted, and countless Tibetans were imprisoned for expressing even a hint of dissent. Over the decades, China's control over Tibet has only intensified through surveillance, forced assimilation, and propaganda that seeks to erase Tibetan identity.

Even today, Human Rights Watch and other international organizations continue to report arbitrary detentions, restrictions on movement, and suppression of cultural and religious expression. Tibetan monks, writers, and environmental defenders have been persecuted for simply preserving their way of life. The Chinese government's policies aim to transform Tibet into a compliant region stripped of its unique heritage.

THE UNBROKEN SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE

Despite decades of oppression, Tibetans have refused to surrender their identity. Across the world, Tibetan communities in exile nurture their culture, language, and spirituality with remarkable resilience. The CTA continues to act as the legitimate voice of the Tibetan people, keeping the movement for autonomy and human rights alive through peaceful means. Inside Tibet, acts of defiance take quiet but powerful forms. From secret prayers and songs to handwritten pamphlets and environmental protests, these small gestures demonstrate the enduring strength of a nation that refuses to be silenced. Self-immolations by Tibetans in recent years tragic but deeply symbolic reflect the desperation and determination to be heard by a world that often turns away.

The Tibetan struggle is not just a local issue it is a moral test for the global community. Governments, activists and citizens everywhere bear a responsibility to stand with the Tibetan people and call out China's human rights violations. Silence encourages the oppressor; international attention and solidarity give courage to those resisting in the shadows.

Countries have often hesitated to take strong stands against Beijing for fear of economic retaliation. Yet human dignity should never be traded for profit or convenience. Tibet's fight for freedom, like that of other oppressed peoples, reminds the world that justice and truth can survive even the harshest repression.

As we mark 10 March 2026, we honour not only the suffering of 1959 but the extraordinary courage of those who faced Chinese tyranny with empty hands and unshakable faith in freedom. Tibetans today still carry that unbroken resolve, proving that guns, prisons, and propaganda can never crush a people's longing to live free, as generations inside Tibet and in exile keep their culture, faith, and identity alive.

A CALL TO REMEMBER AND RENEW COMMITMENT

The world has a moral duty to stand with Tibet by defending freedom of belief and the right of all peoples to preserve their culture and heritage. Tibet's struggle lives on in every commemoration, every march, and every call for justice that refuses silence. From the Himalayan plateau to refugee camps and city streets across the world, Tibet's call for freedom still echoes, and as long as that call is answered with solidarity, truth, and action, the dream of a free Tibet will remain alive, unbroken, and impossible to erase.



satire



"SILENCING CULTURE, CRUSHING IDENTITY"

"MANDARIN ONLY, DIVERSITY JUST A DREAM"

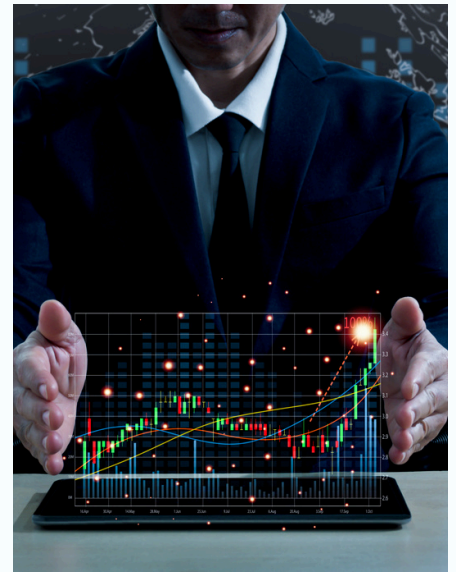


IDEAS SNATCHED, THEN PROUDLY PRESENTED

DIGITAL OPPRESSION IN TIBET

China's digital infrastructure expands surveillance and censorship in Tibet.

China's construction and protection of communications infrastructure in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) faces strong criticism. Many say it helps repression more than real growth. Critics believe it mainly helps Beijing control Tibetan culture and freedom. Projects like 5G towers, fiber optic cables, and data centers look like progress. . But they often serve state firms like Huawei to build a system of watchfulness, erase culture, and boost military power. This turns Tibet into a locked digital space.



SURVEILLANCE ENABLEMENT

China's 5G and fiber optic networks in Tibet enable extensive surveillance of Tibetans, tracking those who oppose the government. Using Huawei's tools, authorities monitor all online activities through facial recognition, AI checks, and mandatory app sign-ups. Privacy is lost as officials access personal messages, social posts, and any discussions deemed "separatist"—a term used for pro-independence views. This digital control forces loyalty, suppresses freedom of expression, and pressures Tibetans to self-censor, ensuring compliance with government policies.



**Weaponising
Big Data:
Decoding China's
digital surveillance
in Tibet**

Cultural Suppression

China's digital censorship in Tibet suppresses cultural expression and erases heritage. The Great Firewall blocks access to sites like Google and YouTube, while platforms like TikTok remove Tibetan content. Chinese language rules push Tibetan youth away from their roots, and monasteries struggle against state-filtered content. This digital control forces Tibetans to adopt Chinese narratives, undermining their culture and identity. Tibet's online space becomes a battleground for survival, with the government using technology to assimilate, isolate, and suppress Tibetan freedom.



Military Dual-Use

Fiber lines link army bases to Lhasa and Beijing. They speed up army moves and supplies near India's border. This changes power in the area by force. High bases in Ngari and Rutog get live data for drones and fast troops key after 2020 India-China fights. These lines skip normal power and resist attacks.

They also act as a switch to control people in trouble. In 2023 Lhoka protests, net cuts stopped talkers but troops stayed linked. Nearby dams and towers make it worse: locals lose power, but bases do not. India groups like USI warn it targets Arunachal Pradesh. "Growth" becomes a war tool.



Regional Coercion

China sells digital gear to nearby places like Nepal. It watches Tibetan exiles there and shapes their nets. Huawei sets in Kathmandu follow escape groups via Belt and Road deals. Data shares back. This top control hurts lower areas on water and links like China's Mekong dams.

It spreads harsh rule as "help." Bhutan and Myanmar get same "gifts" with spy doors. Tibet's net becomes a center, sending data to Xinjiang camps and more. Exiles in Dharamsala note jammed signals on trips a scary reach outside borders.



WIDER EFFECTS

These builds push people out and hurt thin lands. Cable digs ruin grass, force herders to city watch zones. Costs top \$10 billion by 2025, taken from health or schools where TAR falls behind China proper. UN in 2023 noted forced moves for "smart cities."

China says it fights poverty, but anger grows: self-burnings go on, online pushback brews. India border spots build matching towers, raising fights. Real growth lifts up; this chokes down.

Tibet's net traps more than joins. The world needs to watch hit Huawei with rules, guard exiles, build India teams. No fight, and China's way quiets from Lhasa to Laos.

PLA MILITARY UPDATE

PLA

PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY



YAOGAN-50

China successfully launched the Yaogan-50 02 satellite from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, aiding land surveys, crop yield estimation, and disaster relief, marking Long March-6's 633rd mission.

TYPE 055 GUIDED MISSILE

China's PLA Navy has officially commissioned two new Type 055 guided-missile destroyers, Dongguan and Anqing, increasing the fleet to 10, assigned to the Eastern Theater Command.



MARCH-8A ROCKET

China launched a Long March-8A rocket from Hainan, deploying the 20th group of low-orbit internet satellites into space, enhancing global communication and connectivity.



CM-400AKG

Serbia purchases Chinese CM-400AKG missiles, enhancing its MiG-29 jets' strike capabilities, marking a significant defense upgrade with minimal modifications.

NAVAL MANEUVERS

A PLA Navy submarine assigned to a flotilla under the Chinese PLA Northern Theater Command heads toward a designated training area during a maritime exercise on March 4, 2026. Official Chinese military coverage provided no further operational details, including the vessel type or precise sea area.



TRAINING

The 48th Escort Task Group of the Chinese PLAN conducted a series of training exercises, effectively enhancing the operational capabilities and readiness of its warships.



XI'S ARMY IN FREEFALL : YOUTH RESISTS



MILITARY FRAGILITY

**CHINA BOASTS A MIGHTY ARMY
AS A RISING SUPERPOWER, BUT
ITS CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM IS
COLLAPSING**

Young people shun the PLA, refusing to join amid brutal policies, Xi's endless purges of top generals, and raw fear of war and death. Empty barracks expose a weak military, not a strong one. Harsh draft threats, demographic collapse from one-child limits, vanishing leaders like He Weidong, unfit recruits, low pay, and morale killing scandals reveal the truth this panicked regime can't force its youth to fight.

DEMOGRAPHIC DISASTER HITS HARD

China's biggest problem is too few young people. Years of the one-child policy mean fewer babies. Now, the number of men aged 18 to 24 is dropping fast. By 2030, it could shrink by millions. Families have just one son to care for aging parents and grandparents. No parent wants their only child to die in battle. The PLA needs fresh recruits every year. But with low birth rates, there aren't enough. Reports show recruitment targets miss by wide margins. College students, the best hope, pick safe jobs over soldier life.

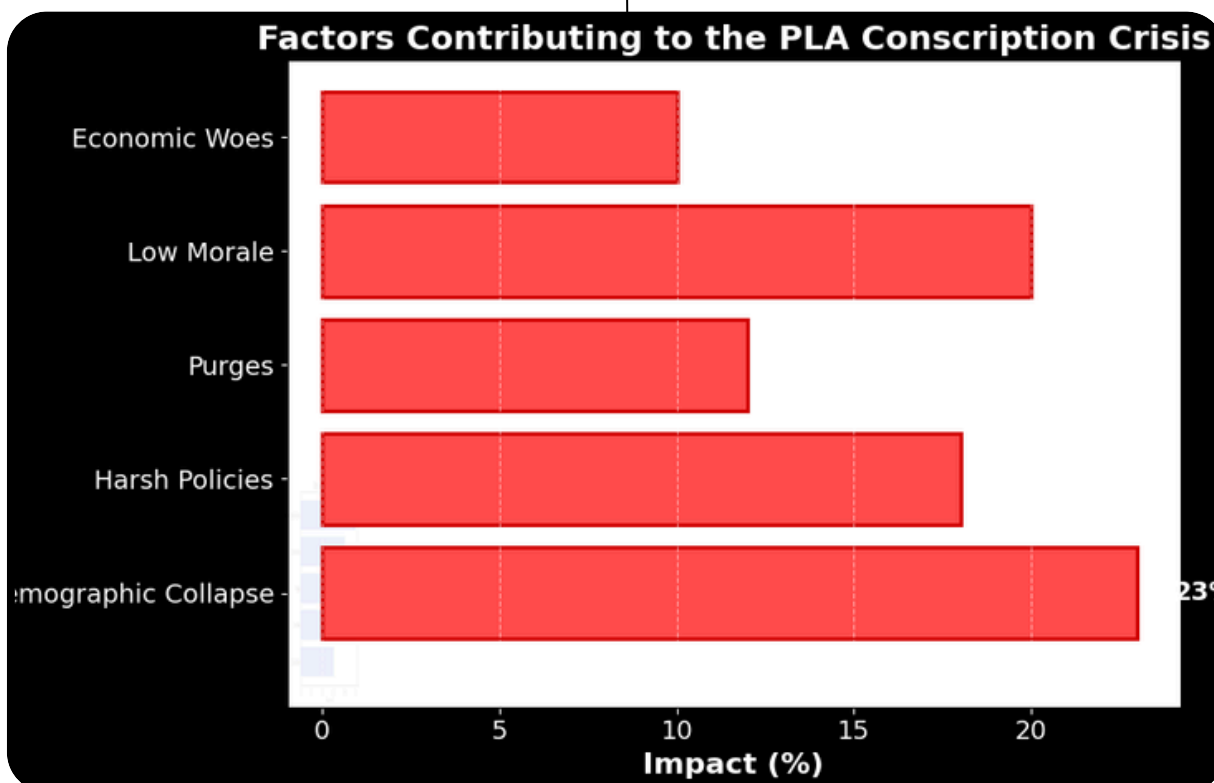
HARSH POLICIES SCARE YOUTH AWAY

China's conscription rules are tough and unfair. All males over 18 must register for the draft. Skip it, and you lose college spots, jobs, or bank loans. In 2025, police cracked down hard. They checked phones and IDs in cities. Youth fought back online, calling it slavery.

The PLA is increasingly targeting educated youth, particularly college graduates in STEM fields, to serve in the military. However, the appeal of military service is weak due to low pay, harsh training, and a two-year separation from family. Many try to avoid service by faking health issues or paying bribes. New rules extend service to up to five years, effectively binding youth into long, restrictive service, turning them into prisoners, not heroes.

PURGES CREATE FEAR FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign appears principled, but it's a savage bid for total control. Since 2023, the PLA has endured its worst purge since Mao, with over 20 elite generals including trusted allies Zhang Youxia, He Weidong, and Admiral Miao Hua abruptly vanishing. Zhang Youxia, Xi's veteran No. 2 on the CMC and long deemed untouchable at 75, faced investigation in January 2026 for resisting Xi's reckless 2027 Taiwan push, which analysts say crippled readiness. Rocket Force bosses got sacked for bad missiles filled with water. Even Xi's close allies, like He Weidong, faced probes. The Central Military Commission shrank from seven to four loyalists.



LOW MORALE AND POOR TRAINING

New soldiers arrive unfit. Many lack basic fitness from desk jobs and gaming. PLA camps push brutal drills, but desertions rise. Corruption means officers steal food and gear. Troops get bad equipment. Talk of Taiwan war terrifies them real bullets, not parades. Youth see the PLA as a trap. Social media buzzes with escape tales. One viral post: "Join PLA, lose your future." Parents block enlistment. In cities like Shanghai, quotas fail yearly. Rural areas send the poor, but they lack skills for modern war.

ECONOMIC WOES SEAL THE DEAL

China's economy stumbles badly. Factories shutter across provinces, youth joblessness soars past 20% official data hides the true pain. Why gamble life for CCP dreams when private gigs in tech or e-commerce pay triple? PLA salaries hover at a measly \$200 monthly, barely covering city rents. Bonuses don't tempt risk-takers. Beijing tries tricks: tie draft to visas, free college for vets. But scandals hurt trust. They want stability, not Xi's wars.

ECONOMIC WOES SEAL THE DEAL

This mess weakens China everywhere. Taiwan watches and arms up. Neighbours like India and Japan boost defenses. US reports say PLA can't fight now purges broke command chains. Xi dreams of 2027 super-army. Reality: a scared, small force.

Conscription fails because policies bully, purges terrify, and fear spreads. China's youth see the truth: the PLA serves Xi, not the nation. Numbers drop, quality falls. Beijing's threats can't fix empty barracks. A superpower without soldiers is no superpower at all. Beijing's dragon is a paper tiger toothless, exposed, done.



Threatening Taiwan's Democracy and Stability

CHINA'S AGGRESSIVE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

China's Anti-Secession Law, enacted on 14 March 2005, is no olive branch it's a declaration of war masked as law.

This decree from Beijing's National People's Congress brazenly claims Taiwan as inseparable Chinese territory, authorizing military force against any independence moves or perceived threats to "peaceful reunification." Vague triggers like "major incidents" give China carte blanche for invasion, exposing its hypocrisy: preaching peace while codifying aggression. Far from stabilizing Asia, this aggressive "red line" escalates tensions, threatens Taiwan's vibrant democracy, and endangers global security for 23 million people. The world must reject this blueprint for conflict.

ORIGINS AMID RISING TENSIONS



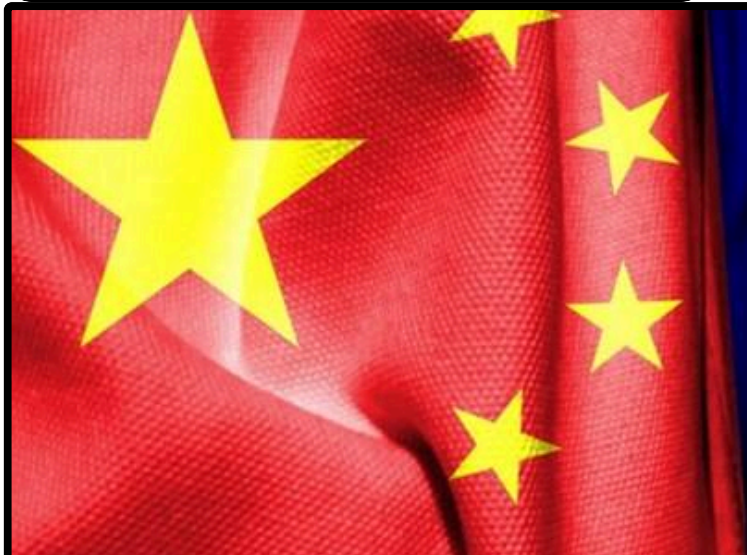
According to csis.org, The law emerged in response to Taiwan's 2004 elections, where pro-independence President Chen Shui-bian won re-election, sparking fears in Beijing of growing Taiwanese identity separate from China. Chinese leaders, alarmed by perceived independence momentum, drafted the legislation to counter what they saw as separatist threats. Passed unanimously with 2,896 votes in favour and zero against, it took effect immediately under President Hu Jintao.

This timing was no coincidence. Beijing viewed Taiwan's democratic shifts as a direct challenge to its sovereignty claims, rooted in the Chinese Civil War's unresolved legacy. Instead of dialogue, China chose legal aggression to formalize threats, ignoring Taiwan's distinct history and self-governance since 1949.



Key Provisions: Peace Masking Coercion

Article 1 asserts "one China" with Taiwan as part of it, calling sovereignty indivisible. Articles 5-7 superficially promote peaceful exchanges, economic ties, and negotiations, promising Taiwan "high autonomy" post-reunification. Yet Article 8 reveals the truth: China may use force if Taiwan "secedes," a "major incident" occurs, or peaceful reunification seems impossible vague triggers open to Beijing's interpretation. Article 9 claims to protect civilians during such actions, but this rings hollow given China's human rights record. The law empowers the State Council and Central Military Commission to act first and report later, bypassing oversight. Critics see it as "lawfare," weaponizing law to justify invasion.



TAIWAN'S STRONG REJECTION



Taiwan's leaders from both major coalitions Pan-Green and Pan-Blue condemned the law as a sovereignty violation. President Chen Shui-bian warned it threatened regional peace and stability. Polls showed 80% of Taiwanese opposed it, viewing it as coercive rather than unifying. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council rejected the "secession" framing, insisting the cross-strait relationship is between two equal entities, not a civil war remnant. Proposals for a Taiwanese "anti-annexation law" followed, though not passed, highlighting unified resistance to Beijing's bullying. The law fuelled anti-China sentiment, strengthening Taiwan's resolve for self-determination.



Global Backlash and Concerns

The U.S. called the law "unfortunate" and unnecessary, reaffirming opposition to force while supporting the status quo. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the House of Representatives criticized it for enabling military action. The EU urged restraint, opposing unilateral changes or violence. Australia echoed calls for negotiation over force.

In 2024, China escalated with "22 Articles" under the law, threatening death penalties for independence advocates even abroad via trials in absentia. This extends coercion globally, chilling free speech and ties with Taiwan.

Lasting Dangers to Stability

Over 20 years, the law has not fostered unity but intensified militarization, with China deploying missiles opposite Taiwan. It serves as a propaganda tool, invoked recently to deter foreign support for Taipei. Beijing's rigid stance ignores Taiwan's thriving democracy, where 23 million people reject forced unification. This legislation exposes China's hypocrisy: preaching peace while legalizing aggression.



WHY IT FAILS CHINA'S OWN GOALS




By codifying military threats, the Anti-Secession Law drives a wedge between Taiwan and China, fortifying alliances like U.S.-Taiwan defense pacts and isolating Beijing diplomatically. Tactics such as trade blockades and hybrid warfare only rally global opposition, exposing China's ethical voids from Tibet's cultural erasure to Xinjiang's mass detentions that shatter any pretense of legitimacy over Taipei.

In truth, this law wields aggression as policy, fuelling endless strife and risking catastrophe for millions under one-party rule. The international community must unite to dismantle this dangerous pretext for conquest.

X CORNER



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PLA Surge: 26 Aircraft, 7 Vessels Near Taiwan

Taiwan's defense ministry reported a sharp surge: 26 PLA aircraft, 16 entering ADIZ, plus 7 naval vessels near Taiwan, following weeks of minimal activity, signaling renewed large-scale pressure operations.

 Focus Taiwan (CNA English News)
@Focus_Taiwan



Taiwan simulates coastal combat, drone defense in Kinmen drills

China Daily 
@ChinaDaily



Japan Amplifies China Budget

PLA spokesman accused Japanese politicians of overstating China's defense budget to justify Japan's concealed military expansion, highlighting intensifying regional tensions and dueling security narratives.

Taiwan Stages Taiwu Drills Near China Coast

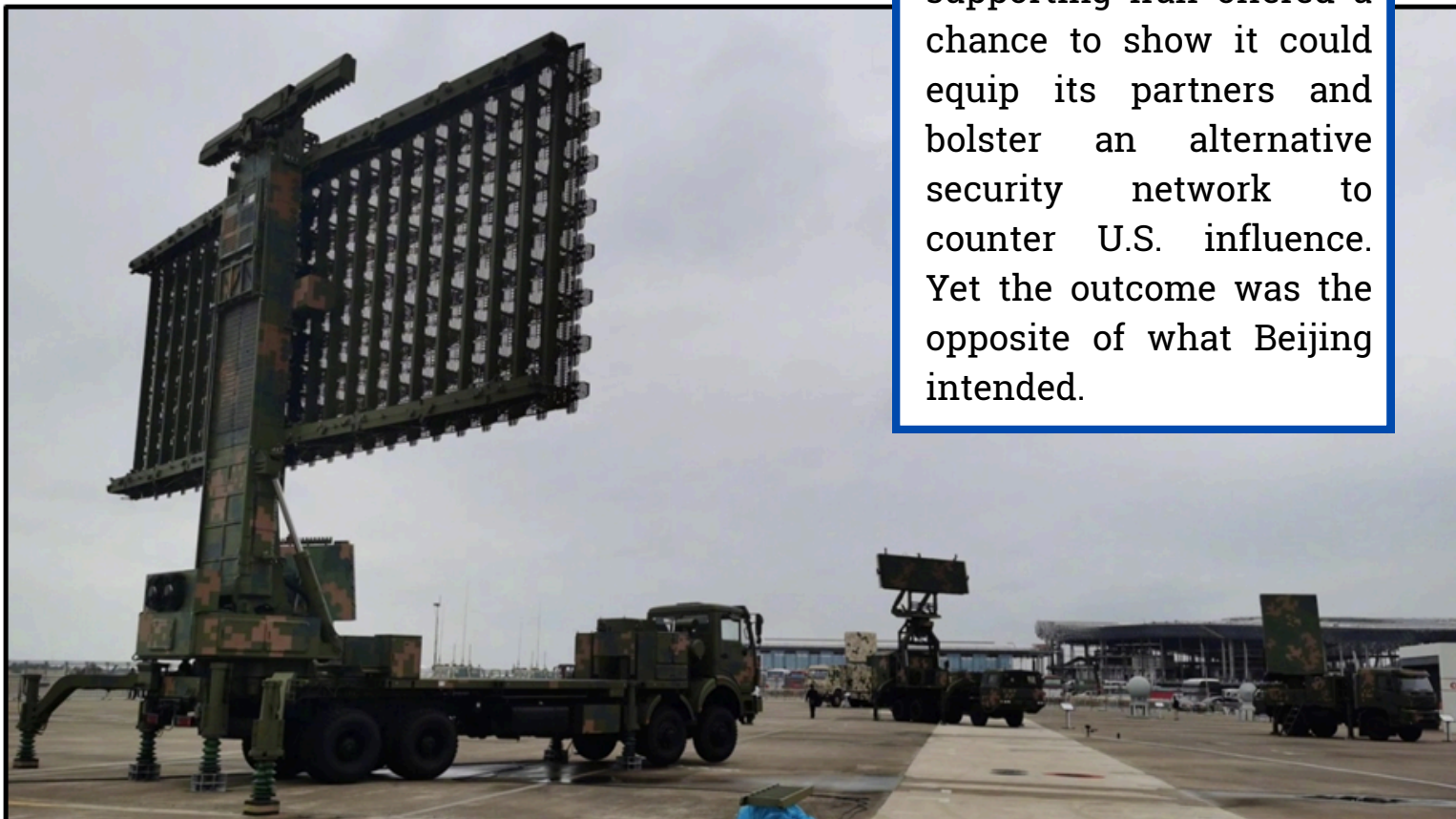
Taiwan's Kinmen Defense Command conducted "Taiwu" live-fire drills on a frontline island near China, testing readiness for coastal combat and unmanned aerial systems, underscoring preparedness amid rising cross-strait tensions and PLA pressure activities.

Chinese Weapons Face Battlefield Scrutiny

TESTED IN CONFLICT HOW CHINESE WEAPONS PERFORM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Beijing's effort to prove its military technology through Iran appears to have backfired. Reports suggest that weapons supplied to Tehran under a secret defense deal worth about \$5 billion performed far below expectations during recent confrontations. Instead of demonstrating China's growing defense strength, the episode has raised questions about the quality and reliability of its exported arms

According to Global Defense, Beijing quietly delivered a large shipment of advanced equipment to Iran including 50 CM-302 anti-ship missiles, six HQ-16B surface-to-air systems, more than a thousand FN-6 shoulder-launched rockets, 300 Sunflower 200 drones, three HQ-9B anti-ballistic systems, and multiple HQ-9 anti-satellite missiles. Beyond commercial value, the deal carried symbolic weight. For China, supporting Iran offered a chance to show it could equip its partners and bolster an alternative security network to counter U.S. influence. Yet the outcome was the opposite of what Beijing intended.



Missiles That Missed the Mark

When Iran reportedly deployed Chinese-made CM-302 missiles against U.S. naval targets, none reached their mark. U.S. Central Command confirmed that most were intercepted by SM-3 and SM-6 Standard Missiles systems designed to neutralize high-speed threats. In several cases, the Chinese missiles reportedly malfunctioned mid-flight, suffering from guidance or propulsion errors before crashing into the sea.

These failures point to more than bad luck. They highlight persistent challenges within China's defense industry particularly in precision electronics, software calibration, and engine reliability, areas where Western and Japanese technology still hold a clear edge. A weapon that cannot perform under real combat stress quickly loses credibility, both with allies and potential buyers.

Propaganda vs. Performance

China's leading arms producers, such as NORINCO and CPMIEC, frequently promote their products as competitive with American or Russian systems. The CM-302 has even been showcased as a "carrier killer," capable of deterring large Western fleets. But this latest experience has made such promotional claims difficult to sustain.

For years, Chinese state media have used military exports to demonstrate technological confidence and to position Beijing as a defender of the so-called "Global South." That narrative depends heavily on performance which, in this case, fell short. The Middle East, once seen as the perfect arena to prove Chinese capability, instead revealed its limitations.

DID CHINA'S HQ-9B

FAIL IRAN IN WARTIME?



Strategic and Symbolic Consequences

Beyond technical issues, the incident carries strategic implications. China has built much of its diplomatic momentum on offering cost-effective weapons to partners excluded from Western markets. However, military credibility depends not only on price competitiveness but also on reliability under pressure. If battlefield results consistently disappoint, client states may reconsider large-scale procurement or shift back toward Russian or Western-licensed systems.

For Beijing, this misstep is particularly inconvenient as it seeks to broaden partnerships with countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Türkiye states that evaluate weapons with an eye toward performance rather than propaganda. The episode gives them reason to exercise caution.

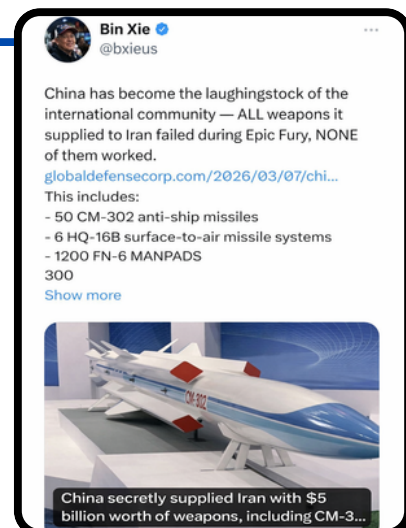


**CHINESE HQ-9B AGAIN IN SPOTLIGHT
AFTER REPORTS OF FAILURE OF
IRANIAN AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM AND
US-ISRAEL STRIKES**

A Lesson in Military Reality



The Middle East has long exposed the strengths and weaknesses of major powers' weapons. The U.S. refined precision strikes there, while Russia showcased missiles and drones in Syria. China appeared to seek a similar proving ground, hoping to project technological power beyond Asia. Instead, the episode highlighted persistent doubts about its advanced systems, combat reliability, and integration. Whatever Beijing's internal assessment, the wider perception is clear: Chinese arms looked less formidable than advertised, turning a planned display of strength into a visible setback.



WEAPONISING THE EPSTEIN FILES NARRATIVE

China's Information Warfare and the "Epstein Files" Smear



Strategy Meets Results

In the high-stakes world of international diplomacy and information warfare, few figures draw the ire of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) like the 14th Dalai Lama. For decades, the spiritual leader has been the face of Tibetan identity and the struggle for autonomy a status Beijing has consistently sought to undermine. In early 2026, a new and unexpected weapon emerged in this long-standing conflict, the so-called "Epstein Files." The intersection of a revered Nobel Peace Prize laureate and the archives of a disgraced American financier may seem like an impossible Venn diagram. However, through a calculated campaign of digital manipulation, state-run media narratives and social media amplification, Beijing has attempted to bridge that gap, turning a massive data dump into a tool for character assassination.

At first glance, 169 mentions of the Dalai Lama in the Epstein files suggest a close tie, but forensic analysis reveals a banal reality. These references divide into three innocuous categories. First, third-party emails among Epstein's associates discuss public events featuring the Dalai Lama, like one where a sender skips a meeting to attend his nearby speech. Second, aspirational lists show Epstein name-dropping moral icons like the Dalai Lama to elevate his image, with no actual contact. Third, trivial scans, such as a Massage for Dummies index referencing his teachings, inflate the count.

Fact-checkers AFP and the Tibet Rights Collective confirm zero evidence of meetings, correspondence, or funds. et, this fabricated "fact" powers a viral disinformation campaign, amplified by state media to smear the spiritual leader. It exemplifies how a kernel of data, stripped of context, fuels propaganda turning mundane mentions into perceived guilt.





Epstein Smear Amid Succession Tensions

Beijing's orchestration was impeccably timed, synchronizing with dual flashpoints. Just weeks later, in February 2026, the Dalai Lama clinched a Grammy for his audiobook *Meditations*, a cultural coup that amplified his global voice on peace and mindfulness. China branded it "anti-China meddling," but the Epstein narrative hit like a precision strike, muddying his victory with tabloid slime. Deeper still, it pierced the succession saga. At 90, the Dalai Lama's reincarnation process looms large, Tibetan tradition dictates a successor chosen spiritually, not politically. By tainting the 14th's legacy, the CCP erodes that lineage's credibility, priming the ground for a state-sanctioned rival echoing their "Panchen Lama" playbook from the 1990s.

A Pattern of Transnational Repression

Beijing's attacks on the Dalai Lama show a clear pattern of weaponising moral panic through digital manipulation. From the distorted 2023 child-interaction video to the 2026 Epstein-files smear, the CCP has used edited content, bots, and decontextualised claims to erode his credibility. The strategy is simple: overwhelm audiences, exploit outrage, and replace evidence with exhaustion-driven disinformation.

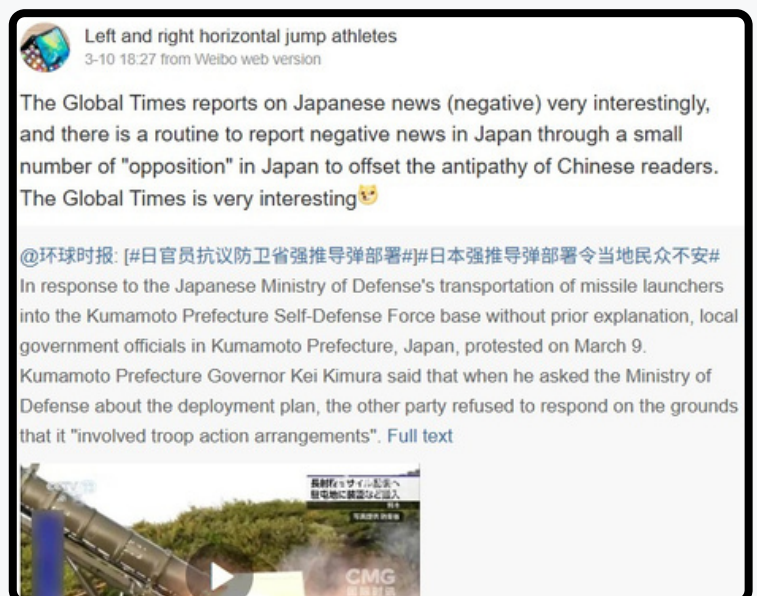
CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

TRENDING ON WEIBO



Taiwan Affairs Office Vows Crush Independence Forces

China's navy will soon commission two Type 055 destroyers. At a press conference, the Taiwan Affairs Office vowed zero tolerance for "Taiwan independence," pledging to crush separatist plots and foreign interference.



Kumamoto Protests Missile Deployment

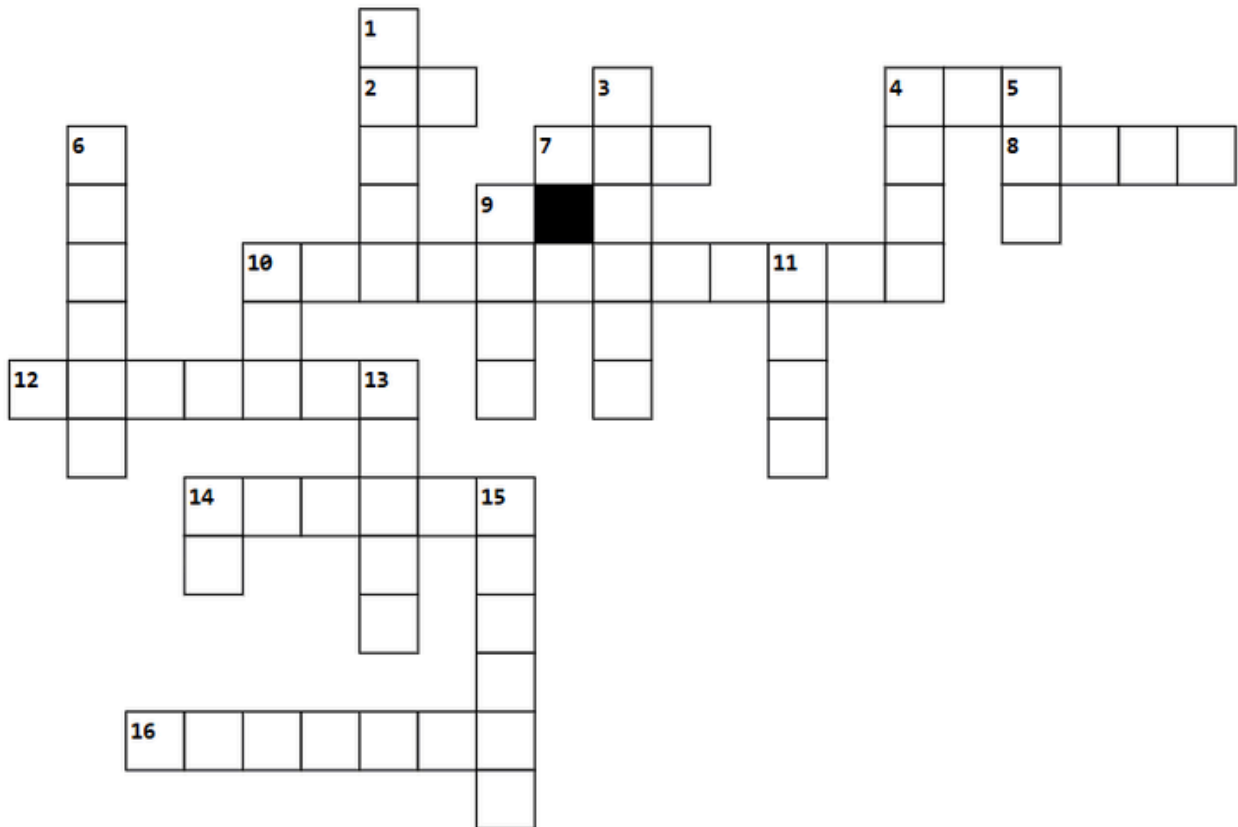
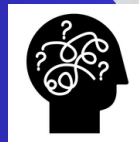
Local officials in Kumamoto Prefecture protested Japan's Defense Ministry's unannounced missile launcher deployment, criticizing secrecy and lack of transparency in troop arrangements.

TRENDING ON TIKTOK TIKTOK



China's Taiwan Move Debate

The TikTok video from Capital Growth claims China secretly moved on Taiwan while global focus was elsewhere. It frames PLA activity as hidden escalation, sparking debate in comments—some dismissing it as fake, others linking volatility to trading opportunities, while nationalist voices assert Taiwan belongs to China. The post blends sensational claims with speculation, fueling polarized reactions and uncertainty.



Across

- 2.** Organization where China positions itself as stabilizer
- 4.** Annual political gathering setting GDP target range
- 7.** Armed forces acronym central to purge narrative
- 8.** Core weakness: property sector ____
- 10.** Industrial issue behind Western pushback (one word)
- 12.** Economic imbalance Beijing promised to “rebalance”
- 14.** Region tied to India-China tensions
- 16.** Strategic shift toward “high-quality” growth (one word shorthand)

Down

- 1.** Governance tightening via military clean-up campaign
- 3.** Digital ecosystem giant (payments + fintech dominance)
- 4.** Maritime force relevant in Taiwan + Indo-Pacific context
- 5.** Policy forum where Beijing reassured global CEOs amid FDI decline
- 6.** Chokepoint nearly shut in Iran crisis, threatening Chinese imports
- 9.** Surveillance architecture symbol (abbr.)
- 10.** Fossil dependency exposed by Middle East war
- 11.** Country central to Hormuz crisis affecting China
- 13.** System China promotes globally vs Western liberalism
- 14.** Chinese premier driving economic messaging in March
- 15.** Domestic tech champion benefiting from chip-cost asymmetry

SNAP TRIVIA !

LEVEL 1 – EASY

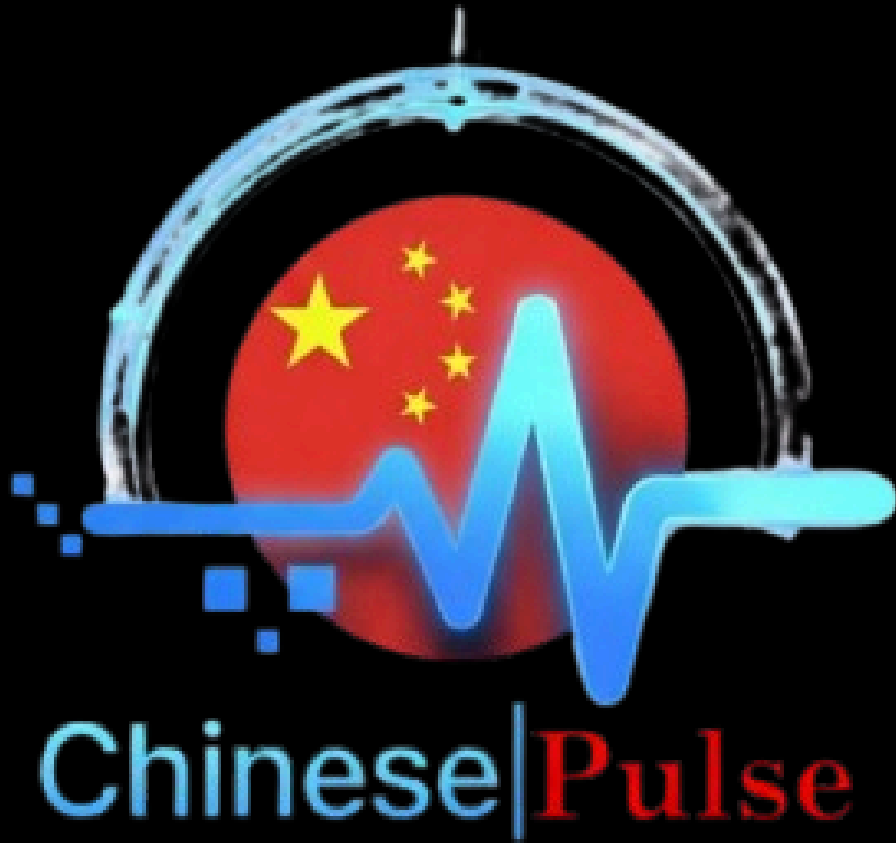
1. Which war caused the delay in the US–China summit?
2. Which sea is China expanding its influence in?
3. What law promotes Mandarin and cultural integration?
4. What strategy involves silent expansion without escalation?
5. Which island faces continuous Chinese military pressure?

LEVEL 2 – MODERATE

1. What percentage did China increase its 2026 defence budget by?
2. Which island remains the main focus of China's recent military pressure operations?
3. Which China-linked hacking group did Google say it disrupted?
4. What type of missile was Iran reported to be nearing a deal to buy from China?
5. Which technology field is China placing at the center of its future military-industrial strategy?

LEVEL 3 – HARD

1. Which zone did 16 Chinese military aircraft enter near Taiwan in mid-March 2026?
2. Which rocket system was part of Taiwan's newly authorized U.S. arms deals in March 2026?
3. Which top military body was linked to the wider anti-corruption purge affecting readiness?
4. Which Chinese body passed the Anti-Secession Law?
5. Which event marked the beginning of Tibet's unbroken struggle against Chinese repression?



CHINA'S NPC: SCRIPTED PAGEANTRY SHOW

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