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CHINA INSIDER

China Has Military Programs to Warp Foreign Perceptions, Says Pentagon Report 2



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NATIONAL SECURITY

PENTAGON REPORT **WARNS OF CHINESE AMBITION IN ARCTIC AHEAD OF POMPEO'S EUROPE VISIT**

FRANK FANG

n an annual report to Congress on China's military, the Pentagon identified one particular region that the Chinese regime is keenly nterested to dominate—the Arctic.

Since it gained observer status in the Arctic Council in 2013, China has increased activity and engagement in the region, according to the Pentagon report.

The Council consists of eight countries: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States, which holds sovereignty over the lands within the Arctic Circle. Meanwhile, being an observer grants China permiswell as to projects.

Pentagon Paper

China has sent research icebreaker vessels through the Arctic and has proposed a satellite ground station in Greenland.

If America is not engaged [in the Arctic], if we pull back, folks will fill the vacuum, and the Russians and the Chinese [will] see that and use every opportunity they can.

Mike Pompeo, *U.S.* secretary of state

But the Pentagon warned of Beijing's intentions with what are seemingly civilian projects. "Civilian research could support a strengthened Chinese Department. include deploying submarines to the region as a deterrent against nuclear attacks.'

Arctic nations, including Denmark, have "raised concerns about China's expanding capabilities and interest in the region," the report added.

Beijing's ambitions in the Arctic officially were laid out in a white paper, titled "China's Arctic Policy," released in January 2018, where it claimed that it was a "Near Arctic State," and would be able to participate in the governance of the region.

Additionally, Beijing has openly spoken of its desire to create a trade route through the Arcticcalled the "Northern Sea Route" by Beijing-as part of its foreign policy project, "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR, also known as Belt and Road). The route would reduce the time and cost of shipping goods

from Chinese ports to Europe, compared to traditional routes through the Suez Canal.

At the same time, Beijing is quickly building up its submarine fleet. According to the Pentagon report, Beijing currently operates four nuclear-powered ballistic missiles submarines, six nuclear-powered attack submarines, and 50 conventionally powered

By 2020, the fleet could grow to 65 to 70 submarines, the report predicted. Additionally, China is to build a new advanced guided-missile nuclear attack submarine (Type 093B), a variant of its existing SHANG-class (Type 093), that could enhance the Chinese navy's "anti-surface warfare capability sion to attend meetings hosted by the council, as and could provide a more clandestine land-attack

> tagon report, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Randall G. Schriver explained that the United States "will watch very closely" China's Arctic interests, including the possibility of it hosting ballistic-missile-carrying submarines in the area.

Pompeo's Upcoming Visit

the Arctic

states to claim a role in this process," the official Pompeo is scheduled to arrive in Rovaniemi, a

military presence in the Arctic Ocean, which could The Secretary of State is scheduled to deliver a speech on U.S. Arctic policy. After traveling to Berlin and London, Pompeo will visit Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, on May 9, when he's to meet with Greenland's premier and foreign minister, as well as the Danish foreign minister, to discuss "shared

Greenland is an autonomous constituent country

in an interview with the Icelandic National Broad-

"If America is not engaged [in the Arctic], if we pull back, folks will fill the vacuum, and the Russians and the Chinese see that and use every opportunity

While speaking at a press briefing on the Pen-

Ahead of an upcoming trip to Europe by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, department officials expressed concerns about China's increased involvement in

"Observers have interests, but we know for ex-

ample that China sometimes refers to itself as a 'near-Arctic state' and there is no such definition in the council's lexicon," an unnamed official said during a May 2 State Department briefing on Pompeo's trip.

"The eight Arctic states conduct governance of the Arctic region and we reject attempts by non-Arctic

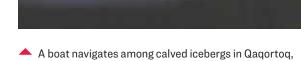
city in northern Finland's Lapland Province on May 6, where he will take part in the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, according to the State

priorities in the Arctic.'

within the Kingdom of Denmark.

Previously, in February, Pompeo had raised concerns about the geopolitical situation in the Arctic,

they can, and we think that presents risk to freedom-



Greenland, on July 21, 2013.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting at the State Department in Washington on April 4, 2019.



loving nations like Iceland and freedom-loving nations like America.'

China's Agenda in the Arctic

China's claim of being a "near Arctic state" also was challenged by U.S. Navy Captain Tuan N. Pham, who is also the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence and Information Operations to the Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Japan.

In a March 2019 paper published by Marylandbased nonprofit military association The United States Naval Institute, Pham stated that Beijing's claims to join the Arctic dialogue, on grounds such as geographic proximity and the effect of climate change on China due to the melting Arctic ice sheets, are "tenuous and flimsy.

Pham also questioned the white paper's claim that China would use Arctic resources in a "lawful and rational matter." He explained that Beijing was "quite explicit and emphatic" in the white paper about intending to use these resources "to pursue its own national interests much as it does in the East China Sea and the South China Sea.'

China has invested heavily in Arctic countries over the years. According to a 2017 report by Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit research and analysis organization CNA. China was estimated to have invested over \$1.4 trillion in the Arctic nations, including Finland and Sweden, from 2005 to 2017.

"One of the reasons China managed to secure observer status is by strengthening bilateral ties with members of the Council, especially smaller countries like Iceland," stated a 2013 article by South Korea-based news magazine International Policy Digest. Countries seeking observer status apply to the Council, which then decides whether to accept. In 2013, Iceland became the first country in Europe

to sign a free trade agreement with China. In Greenland, Chinese interests last year in funding local airport projects received pushback from Denmark, According to a March 2019 article by English-language weekly newspaper The Copenhagen Post, the Danish government has agreed to become co-owners of two new international airports in Nuuk and Ilulissat

"We don't want a communist dictatorship in our own backyard," said Michael Aastrup Jensen, the foreign policy spokesperson for the main Venstre party in the Danish coalition government, during an interview with the BBC in December last year.

FORMER CIA OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO SPYING FOR CHINA



This picture taken on October 13, 2017, shows a man (R, wearing blue tie) identified by local Hong Kong media as former CIA agent Jerry Chun Shing Lee standing in front of a member of security at the Christie's showroom in Hong Kong.

CATHY HE

A former CIA officer pleaded guilty May 1 to conspiring to deliver classified information to the Chinese communist regime, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said.

Jerry Chun Shing Lee, 53, accepted a plea deal with prosecutors, which was approved by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III in the federal court for the Eastern District of Virginia, according to the DOJ statement.

In May 2018, Lee was indicted by a federal grand jury in Virginia on charges of retaining documents relating to national defense, and conspiracy to gather and deliver that information to aid a foreign Lee's work for Chinese intelligence

coincided with the breakdown of CIA spying operations in China from 2010 to 2012, during which more than a dozen CIA informants in the country were killed or imprisoned, The New York Times reported. Lee is suspected to be the source of the breach, according to the report.

The former CIA officer was arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City in January 2018.

Fluent in Chinese, Lee is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Hawaii.

Lee worked at the CIA from 1994 to 2007. According to the indictment, he worked as a case officer, with the primary role of resources"-that is, recruiting people to spy for the United States

In his role, Lee had access to the identities of CIA spies and informants; details of intelligence operations; and methods the CIA uses to avoid detection by foreign spy agencies, the indictment said.

After leaving the CIA in 2007, the indictment said, he moved to Hong Kong and began working for an international tobacco company, which fired him in 2009. In June 2010, he started a tobacco business in Hong Kong with an associate.

In April 2010, Lee was approached by two Chinese intelligence officers who offered to pay him \$100,000 for information, the

indictment said. They also said they would take care of him for life. A month later, Lee reported the meeting to the CIA, but didn't mention the offer for payment.

Prosecutors said that from May 2010, the Chinese intelligence agents started giving Lee a series of written tasks. The tasks largely involved divulging sensitive CIA information, including national defense information, the indictment said. Until 2011, the agents requested at least 21 pieces of information from Lee.

In April 2010, Lee was approached by two Chinese intelligence officers who offered to pay him \$100,000 for information, the indictment said. They also said they would take care of him for life.

Lee prepared documents in response to the tasks, including a sketch of the floor plan of an overseas CIA facility. He also allegedly made numerous unexplained cash deposits into his personal bank account totaling hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars.

Prosecutors also accused Lee of repeatedly lying to CIA officers about his visits cruiting "clandestine human intelligence" to China and other actions in the country. In 2012, Lee and his family traveled to the United States to return to living in Virginia. During his trip back, FBI agents searched Lee's hotel rooms in Hawaii and Virginia, and discovered that he had notebooks containing operational notes from meetings with informants; locations for these meetings and covert CIA facilities; and true names and phone numbers of spy recruits and covert CIA employees, the indictment said.

> Lee is due to be sentenced on Aug. 23 and faces a maximum of life imprisonment. However, actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than maximum penalties, according to the DOJ statement.

CHINA INFLUENCE

CHINA HAS MILITARY PROGRAMS TO WARP FOREIGN PERCEPTIONS, SAYS PENTAGON REPORT

新华通讯社

XINHUR

JOSHUA PHILIPP

The Chinese regime is using influence operations in the United States to warp public perceptions and alter decisions on business and politics. According to a new Pentagon report, China does this to "achieve outcomes favorable to its security and military strategy objectives."

The 2019 annual report to Congress from the Department of Defense, released on May 2, has a special section on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) influence operations. It gives a general overview of the types of operations the CCP is running to alter public perception and explains how government and military agencies are involved.

The short section begins with a brief overview of the CCP's Three Warfares strategy, which has been in military operation since at least 2003. The Three Warfares are psychological warfare, to alter the way a target interprets information; public opinion warfare, also referred to as "media warfare," to control information released to the public; and legal warfare, to manipulate interna-

tional and domestic law. According to the report, the CCP uses

the strategy alongside its cyber and military operations. It says the Chinese military "likely seeks to use online influence activities" to support its Three Warfares strategy and

"to undermine an adversary's resolve in a contingency or conflict." Alongside the strategy for its military, the CCP has programs to influence news outlets, businesses, academics,

political policy in the United States. The report states, "China conducts influence operations against cultural institutions, media organizations, and the business, academic, and policy communities of the United States, other countries, and inthe purpose of these programs is to "achieve outcomes favor-

"The CCP seeks to condition

and circles that make

An electronic billboard leased by Xinhua, the news agency ternational institutions." It says operated by the Chinese regime, in New York's Times Square able to its security and military on Aug. 1, strategy objectives."

domestic, foreign, and multilateral political establishments and public opinion to accept China's narrative surrounding its priorities," it states, noting examples such as the

> CCP's territory grab in the South China Sea and its "One Belt, One Road" international devel opment initiative. The report mentions the CCP's infamous United Front

Department, which received little public attention until recently: "Chinese influence operations are coordinated at a high level and executed by a range of actors, such as the United Front Work Department, the Propaganda Ministry, and the

Ministry of State Security." The United Front Department works to extend the CCP's political power into foreign countries, by establishing a "united front" of Chinese living abroad. The CCP branch works through Chinese con-

The CCP seeks to condition domestic, foreign, and multilateral politi cal establish ments and public opinion to accept China's nar-

Department of Defense report

rative.

sociations), the "triads" (Chinese mafia organizations that operate under some tongs), the Chinese Student and Scholar Associations (CSSAs), and Confucius Institutes. The CCP uses this network to control overseas Chinese communities and to subvert foreign societies. "China also sometimes uses coercion or blackmail to manipulate overseas

sulates, which in turn manage "tongs"

(Chinese fraternal and hometown as-

Chinese citizens to conduct influence operations on behalf of China, such as threatening ethnic Uighurs living in the United States with imprisonment of their family members," it says. "Chinese intelligence services often facilitate these operations."

It notes that under programs such as the Thousand Talents Programs, the CCP uses this network for economic theft. Through this, the regime "prioritizes recruiting people of Chinese descent or recent Chinese emigrants whose recruitment the Chinese government views as necessary to China's scientific and technical modernization, especially with regard to defense technology.'

tions, think tanks, and state-run media to advance its soft power campaign in support of China's security interests." As examples, the report notes that "Chinese students abroad and academic organizations are used to spread the

Party's narrative on Tibet and the Dalai

Lama." It says the CSSAs and Confucius

Institutes "organize events to support

China's sovereignty claims and lodge

The CCP also uses this network to "har-

nesses academia and educational institu-

request to have its U.S. staff register as foreign agents under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. As the report properly assesses, "China's leaders probably consider open democracies as susceptible to influence operations, including the United States."

complaints and organize protests against

academic institutions that conduct activ-

ities which differ from China's policies."

CCP's main state-run news agency. Xin-

hua, has ignored a Department of Justice

As The Epoch Times has reported pre-

viously, the strategy at play is the CCP

slogan to "strangle you with your own

institutions," using the idea that the open

In addition, it notes that as of 2018, the

nature of Western societies makes them easy to manipulate. The CCP's influence operations are mainly focused on "establishing and maintaining power brokers within a foreign government," the report states. It uses this to "promote policies that China believes will facilitate China's rise, despite China's stated position of not interfering in foreign countries' in-

ternal affairs.

In order to accomplish this, it notes, the CCP directs its operations on diplomacy to build "personal rapport with influential people," to provide "assistance," and to offer programs on trade and diplomacy under the guise of "win-win" deals. The report says, "This approach allows China to offer expedited, small-scale accomplishments for partners abroad, often in exchange for seemingly symbolic gestures that support China's long-term strategic goals.

The Confucius Institute building on the campus of Troy University in Alabama on March 16, 2018.



THE DEBT TRAP OF ONE BELT ONE ROAD: THE PRICE OF FOLLOWING CHINA

HE QINGLIAN

Countries that abandoned Beijing after the initial "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) summit in 2017 have re-congregated under the Chinese flag in mutual support of ts second summit event. This includes new member Switzer-

land, as well as Malaysia and Myanmar, which previously complained to the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that investing in China caused them to fall into a "debt trap."

Countries Submit Their Allegiance

Compared with the first summit in May 2017, the second summit has several points of attraction. First, countries have adjusted their expectations of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Although there is a general expectation for large amounts of CCP funding, the estimates are far more realistic than the 2017 target.

But these countries understand the geostrategic significance of OBOR: the purpose is to establish a system with China as the core, causing countries to, in the process of cooperation with China, establish a high dependence on Beijing.

During the first summit in 2017, China's foreign exchange reserves were falling sharply, and on May 4, Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, published an article in a Chinese financial magazine.

The main points were: investment and financial cooperation for OBOR isn't unilateral financial support, but requires all parties to jointly build a common-interest community to share the expenditures, risks, and benefits. At the same time, emphasis must be placed on market-based financing and active use of the Chinese yuan to generate more in local savings and international capital.

To put it bluntly, China said that future investment should make the Chinese yuan the main source of capital and OBOR partners should make joint investments. That was disappointing to countries that came with hopes of seeking the support of the U.S. dollar. That sparked a 2017 international incident: OBOR countries called for an end to the Chinese a problem. They bring money, and are greatly welproject, claimed to the IMF that China had increased their debts, demanded that the IMF provide assistance, and finally, convinced the United States to support a narrative that OBOR created a "debt trap" for participating countries.

With these experiences, the expectations of participating countries for the second summit weren't as high as the first, with many countries just testing the waters. The attitude of Italy is typical: as long as China has money, it's fine.

The second summit also included a number of important new members. Two European countries, Italy and Switzerland, attended. Italy is the first G-7 member country to participate in the OBOR program, and the symbolism is self-evident.

Switzerland's participation is even more important. An article published by the BBC a day before the summit has a clear understanding of this. First, Switzerland has the most prestigious financial services industry in the world; secondly, Switzerland is home to numerous international organizations. For China, Switzerland's unique "neutral" political status is of paramount importance to OBOR. While Germany is dissatisfied with that, its problem with Italy isn't so much in its participation. Rather, Germany insists on maintaining a position as a European leader, controlling the EU's collective bargaining power.

Third, the Chinese government has been very tactical in placing its focus on economic cooperation, and has promised to be in line with international regulations. These statements have given participating countries very good reasons to cooperate.

China launched the "One Belt, One Road" initiative in 2013. According to Lufite, the total value of the project is \$3.7 trillion, spanning dozens of countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and South America. At the first OBOR summit, China had a sense of expansion, propagating the Chinese model, and espousing that China will become the new leader of globalization. That raised alarm in some countries.

During the trade war, the United States raised various criticisms questioning China's "red expansion,"

which also caused some OBOR countries to waver. During the second summit, Beijing softened its tone and shifted its focus to resolving the doubts in various countries. For example, it proposed to

conduct a joint study with the World Bank on environmental and social standards of OBOR, "Building a framework for debt sustainability analysis to prevent debt risk" was its explanation for concerns regarding OBOR's transparency and ideology export.

The draft communiqué also clearly stated that the 37 global leaders attending the April 25-27 summit would reach an agreement on project financing issues, comply with global debt targets, and promote sustainable development.

countries accused China of leading them into a "debt trap," a criticism the United States shares. On Oct. 3, 2018, the U.S. Senate approved the Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (BUILD) by a vote of 93-6. Under the measure, the original Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and other development aid agencies will be integrated to form

The new agency, which is to receive \$60 billion in funding, is responsible for providing assistance loans to developing countries for infrastructure projects, such as energy, ports, and water supply.

Therefore, U.S. investment is only part of a plan, but China has actually put in real money. Countries

For example, while Italy's employment rate is now at its lowest in seven years, its youth unemployment rate at the end of 2018 was as high as almost 31 percent. The youth unemployment rate in Greece in January 2019 also remained at nearly 40 percent. To each country's respective leader, what's important isn't helping rid the world of tyrannical rule, but

Amid opposition from the EU's major powers, Italy

For Vado Ligure, a town with a population of 8,000, Chinese investment has brought about 400 jobs, which has pleased both the local government and its residents. The mayor told Deutsche Welle that a of Europe and Asia closer is beneficial to deepening strong investment partner is able to bring new opportunities and new capital.

treaties, contracts, and regulations, there is no need to worry that Chinese capital will cause issues of debt or labor rights violations. "The Chinese are not comed," the mayor said. It's the same principle for Croatia, Nigeria, and other countries. Money is the most important link for China in maintaining relations with countries.

repay Chinese loans related to the construction of the port of Hambantota, leased the entire port to China for a period of 99 years. This incident has been criticized as a classic case of the OBOR debt trap, and it appears that countries seem to have forgotten the market principle of debt repayment. Actually digging

placed a priority on value systems. The importance of the economy, and especially the role of the United States in the world economy has always been a little underemphasized. However, after Democrats won the majority in the House of Representatives in the 2018 midterm elections, socialist policies have become the preference of the Democratic Party, moving

I thus wish to use this opportunity to remind leftwing politicians around the world that only by "playing economics" can they win voters. In fact, this truth applies not only to the politics of all countries in the world, but also the reason why countries are rushing into China's OBOR debt trap. Because only by obtaining China's money can they have the capital to play economics at home and attract voters.

Originally, economic development was a country's

Since October 2018, Malaysia and several other

a new U.S. International Development Finance Corp.

democratic countries are a lot more restricted and far less efficient than authoritarian states such China power." Other countries also take

all over the world are now facing a common problem;

solving its own employment problems.

At the same time, under the control of a series of

back, this kind of thinking has its roots.

Western media is left-leaning and has always farther from the main topic of concern for U.S. voters.

Concerned, Western media often unconsciously cite a famous quote that Bill Clinton used to defeat incumbent President George H.W. Bush in the 1992 campaign: "It's the economy, stupid!"

personal matter. But after World War II, the state of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union caused other countries to become accustomed to a "following" approach: in addition to ideological reasons, each country (especially countries without very strong ideologies) could choose a side and receive financial assistance of a major economy. Many small- and medium-sized countries have no methods for developing their economies, but made



stand on whichever side

gave more benefits. The

United States, since World

War II, has assumed the pub-

However, when it comes to using state resources, (efficiency that's due to a disregard for people's live-

domestic unemployment.

chose to cooperate with China unilaterally, an attitude based on realistic considerations: "From the windowsill of one's home, this (China's construction in the Italian port of Vado Ligure) is certainly not beautiful scenery, but it can bring jobs. So it is

Two years ago, Sri Lanka, due to an inability to



During the second OBOR summit, China did a lot

of explanatory work to quell doubts of the outside

world. Countries have accepted China's explanations.

believing that Beijing's use of comprehensive trans-

portation and infrastructure to bring the continents

But these countries understand the geostrategic

significance of OBOR: the purpose is to establish a

system with China as the core, causing countries to,

in the process of cooperation with China, establish

a high dependence on Beijing. Through the imple-

mentation of OBOR. China would have the right to

formulate rules and regulations, and reshape the

Countries also understand that the United States

has long expressed dissatisfaction with that plan. The

U.S. strategic community generally believes that the

CCP's continued promotion of OBOR construction

mustn't be ignored. It not only has the potential to

change the geo-economic and geopolitical balance

of Eurasia, but also poses a real threat to the United

States in fields such as technological standards, mili-

It even undermines the foundation of the global he

gemony established by the United States since World

War II. Therefore, the United States definitely won't

tolerate China's strong challenges in this regard. The

power struggle between the two superpowers will

inevitably bring opportunities to many countries in

As for the countries vying to jump into China's

"debt trap," they are merely making a slight change to

the new thinking of "depend on China for economic

interests, depend on the United States for political

security" formed by Asian countries post-Cold War,

making a return to the Cold War-era seesaw model.

when countries such as Malaysia cried out to the

IMF and the United States, will inevitably reoc-

cur, because complaining is also a way to sell the

He Qinglian is a prominent Chinese author

and economist. Currently based in the United

States, she authored "China's Pitfalls," which

concerns corruption in China's economic reform

of the 1990s, and "The Fog of Censorship: Media

Control in China," which addresses the manipu-

lation and restriction of the press. She regularly

writes on contemporary Chinese social and

Views expressed in this article are the opinions

of the author and do not necessarily reflect the

economic issues.

Situations such as that of mid-October 2018,

the world seeking financial support.

tary security, and international development.

trade and human contact.

global structure.

Chinese workers help to build a new train station in Beliatta, Sri Lanka which is Chinese managed and designed on Nov. 18, 2018.

NEWS ANALYSIS

CHINA IS BRANDING ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS AS 'SCAVENGER SATELLITES'

JOSHUA PHILIPP

Rumors have been circulating for years that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has developed small satellites with robotic arms that could be used as antisatellite weapons. A recently declassified Chinese report details these systems but brands them as research tools.

Since 2008, the CCP has been developing the weapons, which have dual uses for both military and scientific purposes. The weapons also include artificial intelligence, according to South China Morning Post.

It notes some of the smaller satellites are lighter than 22 pounds, yet have a triple-eye sensor to gauge the shapes of targets and can adjust their speed and rotation, allowing them to grab objects within a distance of six inches, using a single robotic arm.

"The scavenger satellite then fires up thrusters and steers the junk so that it can burn up while plunging through the atmosphere," it states. "In military scenarios, they could remain attached to debris to avoid being tracked from the ground."

It refers to the anti-satellite weapons as "scavenger satellites" and says the CCP has launched at least 10 of them over the past 10 years.

Given the CCP's track record of using disinformation, the public numbers the fact that the regime is acknowledging the existence of such controversial weapons is significant.

should be taken with a grain of salt, but

It's possible that the CCP is releasing

information on these weapons at a time

when the United States under President

Donald Trump is beginning to take space warfare more seriously and is weighing the launch of a new Space Force as a new military branch.

Releasing the information allows the CCP to frame the perceptions around it-and so far, the reporting shows the regime is trying to brand its space weapons program as having peaceful intentions and as being similar to those of other

These modern Trump Card and Assassin's Mace weapons will permit China's lowtechnology forces to prevail over U.S. hightechnology forces in a localized conflict.

Report by National Ground Intelligence Center

The existence of the CCP's anti-satellite "scavenger satellite" weapons was confirmed by Chinese researchers last month, notes South China Morning Post. It attributes the confirmation to Luo Jianjun, deputy director of the National Laboratory of Space Flight Dynamics Technology at Northwestern Polytechnical University in Xian, Shaanxi Province. It adds that while the CCP partly declassified the program recently, "most details remained secret because of the technology's potential military applications." It quotes Luo stating, "We prefer not to talk about it publicly."

Assassin's Mace

A Long March 2F

the country's first

space laboratory

lifts off from the

Jiuquan Satellite

Launch Center in

Province, China, on

Sept. 29, 2011.

Jiuquan, Gansu

module Tiangong-1

rocket carrying

The CCP has been testing anti-satellite weapons since at least 2005, yet made headlines in 2007 when, without warning, it destroyed its Feng Yun I-C weather satellite with a missile. The action sent more than 3,000 pieces of debris barreling through low-earth orbit. The CCP was then barred from working with NASA. The details in the new report suggest the CCP began working on more subtle anti-satellite weapons after its controversial 2007 test. Rather than destroy satellites in orbit and create debris that can damage other assets in orbit, it created systems with robotic arms that can

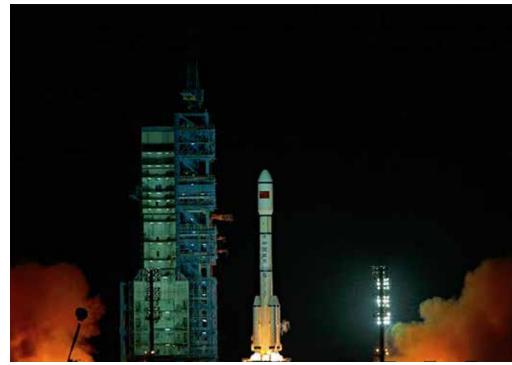
latch onto and destroy targeted satellites. For the CCP, space weapons like these play a major role in its military strategies against the United States. They're part of its socalled "Assassin's Mace," or "Trump Card," program, which is designed to destroy the systems at the backbone of the U.S. military. such as satellites for GPS, communications

"These modern Trump Card and Assassin's Mace weapons will permit China's low-technology forces to prevail over U.S. high-technology forces in a localized conflict," states a 2011 report from the National Ground Intelligence Center.

systems, and weapons targeting.

In addition to these systems, the CCP has operated secret military bases for anti-satellite weapons and electromagnetic pulse systems. Retired Indian Army Col. Vinayak Bhat, who specializes in satellite image analysis focused on China, recently published his discovery of satellite images showing several of these

LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES



EXPERTS CALL SCRUTINY OF CHINESE LOANS AHEAD OF MALAWI ELECTION

CHARLES PENSULO

ALAWI-On a cool morning, Moses Sitima sits on a vooden chair on the veranda of his two-bedroom house listening to the radio. He turns the dial until he reaches his favorite station-the country's public broadcaster. In no time, the station plays an advert for a rally for the ruling party's election candidate before ending with a song.

The impact of the [Chinese] loans and the relationship is that it is going to take us ages to recover the resources.

Ernerst Thindwa, political analyst, University of Malawi's Chancellor College

"Lozani zanu," the song goes, which literally translates as "point at yours." Sitima nods in agreement; he lives in Mulanje, a district neighboring the incumbent president's home district of

Thyolo and a darling of the ruling party. The campaign song commissioned by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) details development projects completed under the current government: stadiums, a five-star hotel, roads, a parliament building, and others.

All these projects were constructed with grants and loans from the Chinese

In the lead-up to Malawi's general election on May 21, the DPP promises to continue projects currently in the works that are supported by China, as well as start many more if reelected. Most notably, President Peter Mutharika recently promised to build two more stadiums

But Ernerst Thindwa, a political analyst at the University of Malawi's Chancellor College, said African countries have to be very careful when it comes to Chinese aid

"There has to be a win-win situation, hence the need to scrutinize where and what the Chinese are investing in," he said in an interview

Thindwa cited the example of Malawi's Chikangawa Forest, which he claims has been depleted due to Chinese influence. "China has a great appetite for resources," he said, adding that Beijing is looking at anything from Africa that it

"The impact of the loans and the relationship is that it is going to take us ages to recover the resources," he said. "We need proper investments and legal instruments to manage the loans."

can plunder and use.

Limited Benefit for Poor, Economy

While many African countries have turned to China for aid in recent years, it is unclear whether the projects built with Chinese money will benefit ordinary people instead of merely garnering political and personal gain for politicians.

According to barrister and governance specialist Z. Allan Ntata, other than the roads and the university, most projects built in Malawi with Chinese loans have not brought much improvement to the

lives of ordinary people.

"Most of the loans benefit the elite of the society and not the poor," he said by email from England where he is currently based. "[And] these projects cannot mprove a country's economy."

Ntata faulted Africa leaders who seem to prioritize the wrong projects when obtaining the loans, saying a shift in

"If, for example, Malawi asked for loans from the Chinese to improve electricity production or improve the airports and bring them to world-class level, the economy would improve," he said.

However, Malawi's Minister of Information, Henry Mussa, argues that the country overall stands to benefit from the relationship with China, and it is wrong to say ordinary people will not

"We have an influx of Chinese investors like those working in ICT (Information and Communication Technology)," he said in a phone interview. "The fivestar hotels will bring in foreign exchange and the tarmac roads will help farmers to access the market."

When Chinese officials met with African leaders in 2018 to strike a \$60 billion deal in grants and loans during the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation, it left a big smile on the leaders' faces. A group photo of Chinese Communist Party head Xi Jinping with African leaders has been widely used in the media to depict the relationship between Africa and China. Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, is slated to receive around \$100 million of that aid.

Chikondi Masamba, a 50-year-old farmer in Phalombe District, southern Malawi, said he sees no direct benefit from the projects funded by Chinese money. The father of four who depends

A Malawian through his maize field destroyed by dry spells at Lunzu in Blantyre, Southern Malawi. on February 14,

on selling pigeon peas and maize to feed his family, said life is getting increasingly harder. None of his children have been able to attend college or university.

"We're struggling more now than before, yet we hear government is getting loans to improve our standard of living," he said. "I am not saying the universities or the hotels are bad, but I need my children to benefit from that as well. The harvests have been getting low and the prices of the crops have gone down. How can I support my family?'

Debt-Trap Diplomacy

Since China launched its One Belt, One Road initiative to connect not only Africa but also other parts of Asia and Europe through the construction of a network of railways and roads, there has been widespread criticism, not least because of concerns about transparency and human rights raised by various organizations.

In Africa particularly, NGOs are concerned about the "no strings attached" approach—a complete opposite from Western aid, which puts a strong emphasis on respect for human rights, accountability, and transparency.

In Malawi, Chinese funding paid for the construction of a \$41 million parliament building, a five-star hotel, and a university, with a \$100 million business park and a football stadium currently being built, among other projects.

Due to limited data made available by the government, it isn't clear how much the country owes China, nor the terms

and conditions of the loans. The quality of the infrastructure proj ects has also been called into question. For example, part of the new parliament building's roof collapsed eight years after

"There are issues regarding the Chinese aid and loans. In some projects like the parliament building, it's the Chinese who know the value of the infrastructure," Ben Kalua, an economics professor at Malawi's Chancellor College, told The Epoch Times. "The fact that it's China that sets the

conditions for the loans is also a problem. We've seen countries going into trouble because of failure to pay back the heavy loans," he said.

Kalua was referring to countries such as Sri Lanka, which formally handed over a strategic port on a 99-year lease sovereignty," Tillerson said, as reported to China after struggling to pay back its by Reuters.

debt. In Zambia, there was outcry after it emerged that the country, which was already struggling with repaying loans. negotiated another loan from China with the country's power supplier as a guarantee. There were fears that rising debt would lead to Chinese control of the

The relationship between Africa and Asia with China has been described as "debt-trap diplomacy." On a visit to Africa in March 2018, former U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned the continent not to forfeit its sovereignty when accepting loans from China.

power supplier.

"It is important that African countries carefully consider the terms of those agreements and not forfeit their

> Chinese leader Xi Jinping (front C) poses vith African leaders including Malawi's President Arthur Peter Mutharika (2nd row, 1st R), during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing on Sept. 3, 2018.

HUMAN RIGHTS

AMOS GUMULIRA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

POLICE SURVEILLANCE APP IN XINJIANG TARGETS 36 TYPES OF 'PROBLEMATIC' PEOPLE, REPORT SAYS

NICOLE HAO

A surveillance app used by Chinese authorities in the northwestern province of Xinjiang designates 36 types of people who may be tagged for investigation and sent to internment camps as part of the regime's suppression of Turkic Muslims in the region, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

In a report published May 1, Human Rights Watch analyzed a mobile app used by Xinjiang authorities to collect personal information from Uyghur Muslims and other Muslim minorities, file reports on activities they find suspicious, and carry out investigations on people the system flags as problematic.

The app is linked to the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP), one of the main systems the regime uses for mass surveillance in the region. According to the report, the IJOP system surveils and collects data on the millions of Xinjiang residents through CCTV cameras, some of which have facial recognition or night-vision capabilities, a vast network of checkpoints, and through "Wi-Fi sniffers," which collect unique identifying addresses of computers, and smartphones.

With data mined in this system, the IJOP can then identify "problematic" people for investigation and detention in the region's sprawling network of internment camps, the report said.

The U.S. State Department and rights groups estimate that more than 1 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are being detained in such camps, where criteria, and then they are forced to undergo political indoctrination and renounce their faith. Former detainees have recounted torture, abuse, and rape in the facilities. The Chinese regime has justified the detention and mass surveillance using

the pretext of combating terrorism.

The rights organization said it was able to reverse-engineer the IJOP app to allow it to examine the type of personal information it collects, and identify the kinds of behavior and people the authorities target.

The app collects a wide range of personal information, including a person's blood type, height "down to the precise centimeter," and the color and make of went off. The police escorted him to the their car, the report said. The informalocal police station right away. "The potion then is fed into the IJOP system and lice told me: 'Just don't go to any public linked to the person's national identification card number.

The report also found that the app identifies 36 types of people considered "suspicious." These include seemingly innocuous behavior such as "returned from abroad," "does not socialize with neighbors," "seldom uses front door," "collected money or materials for mosques with enthusiasm," or "household uses an abnormal amount of electricity."

The app also alerts authorities to carry out "investigative missions" into people flagged as problematic, which involves gathering even more personal infor-

During one such mission, an official may be required, for example, to check the person's phone and log whether they use any of the 51 "suspicious" internet tools, including Virtual Private Networks, and foreign messaging apps

such as Viber, WhatsApp, and Telegram. "In Xinjiang, authorities have created a system that considers individuals suspicious based on broad and dubious criteria, and then generates lists of people to be evaluated by officials for detention,"

Human Rights Watch interviewed several Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities who shared their experience being monitored by the IJOP platform.

A former detainee identified only as Ehmet was released in 2017, but soon found out that he was banned from leaving his local area. "When I tried going out of the region, my ID would [make a sound] at police checkpoints....I was

Authorities have

created a system that considers individuals suspicious based on broad and dubious generates lists of people to be evaluated by officials for detention.

Human Rights Watch report

Alim was released from a police detention center after spending several weeks there on charges of "disturbing social order." Alim told Human Rights Watch that while visiting a mall, a nearby alarm

For Nur, his status as a foreign national upon fleeing Xinjiang means his family members back home are also implicated: "[My family] said their ID cards have been making noise when going through the checkpoints ever since I was taken away [by police]."

The IJOP platform is itself against the Chinese constitution and laws. The constitution guarantees people's "privacy of correspondence," while laws stipulate that only criminal investigators can collect suspects' DNA samples and phone numbers upon obtaining a "search warrant."

used in the Middle East by the ISIS terror-

ist group and the Syrian regime. The Type

56 rifles are "common on international

arms markets and often bought up by

nations looking to arm groups with some

Norinco is also in the mining business

through its subsidiary Wanbao Mining.

Zimbabwe politicians have arranged lu-

crative mining contracts to Chinese com-

level of deniability," the report added.



A Malawian woman carrying her child shows the few fish she bought from local fishermen on the shores of Lake Malawi near the Makawa Fishing Village in eastern Malawi in this file

delivered between 2013 and 2015. Chinese state-run media reported in 2013 about its first delivery of the VN-4s to

Then, in November 2015, Venezuela's state-run newspaper Correo del Orinoco, reported comments made by Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López, about the arrival of 560 VN-4 vehicles that were donated by Beijing.

In June 2017, Spanish-language daily El Nuevo Herald, which is published in Florida, reported that more than 150 vehicles, including VN-4s, were delivered from Norinco to Venezuela.

Given the timing, it is likely the armored vehicles deployed to suppress past protests were also VN-4s.

El Nuevo Herald reported comments by Henrique Capriles, pro-democracy leader and then-governor of Miranda State, who expressed outrage at both the Venezuelan government and Beijing for the purchases, saying the vehicles would be used to suppress people.

tory, China sells equipment to suppress

Norinco

Norinco was founded in 1980 with approval from the State Council and China's Central Military Commission-the highest military governing body within the Chinese Communist Party.

tion explains that, for the past 40 years, the company has consistently "listened to the party, and followed the party." It



boasts that "party-building" within the company has powered its development to become a global competitor.

The company has explicitly stated its support for China's foreign policy project, One Belt, One Road (OBOR, also known as Belt and Road), an initiative launched in 2013 to build up geopolitical influence via investments across Southeast Asia, African, Europe, and Latin America. Norinco also is known to have armed unethical governments and criminal organizations, while being accused of human rights abuses

In 2014, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released the results of an investigation into whether the Syrian regime had used chemical weapons in an attack on three towns in northern Syria in April 2014. HRW found strong evidence to the affirmative, noting that there were can-

is the chemical symbol for chlorine gas, and "NORINCO," which "indicates that the cylinders were manufactured in China by the state-owned company NORINCO," the report said. In August 2015, a U.N. report called

to the Associated Press.

The South Sudan government was condemned for war crimes committed during the civil war of 2013 that pitted forces loyal to South Sudanese President Salva Kiir against those who rebelled under former deputy Riek Machar. According to Reuters, South Sudanese soldiers have been accused of raping children, burning people alive, and razing villages. Norinco also manufactures guns and

rifles, one of them being the Type 56 rifle, a variant of the Soviet-designed AK-47. Amnesty International, in a 2009 report, stated that "Chinese-made Norinco guns are frequently used by criminal gangs in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, and South Africa."

In February, U.S. magazine The National Interest identified several models of Norinco guns that are being widely near the mine.

panies, including Norinco, in exchange for arms. Wanbao holds several mineral rights in the African country, according to a 2013 article by Zimbabwean radio station Nehanda Radio. Also, in February 2017, Amnesty International called on Burmese authorities

to shut down a copper mine operated by Wanbao due to human rights abuses, including forced evictions of locals living



FRANK FANG

against the ruling regime in Venezuela, captured on camera by international media outlets, sparked public outrage. The military armor vehicle that ran over protestors was manufactured by a Chinese state-run defense company, highlighting China's role in supporting the current dictatorship.

The recent violent suppression of protests

CHINESE INFLUENCE

MILITARY SUPPLIES

In the morning hours on April 30, unarmed protestors backing Juan Guaidó, the opposition leader and head of Venezuela's National Assembly who declared himself acting president in January, took to the streets of Caracas.

They assembled after Guaidó called on supporters to gather on the streets to begin the "final phase" of his plan to oust Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro.

The peaceful protest turned ugly outside a military base in Caracas, when a Venezuelan National Guard vehicle ran over protestors, according to accounts and footage filmed by Reuters. Other protestors could be seen rushing to the aid of those who were hit by the vehicle.

It isn't known how many were injured or if there were any fatalities.

VENEZUELA'S VIOLENT SUPPRESSION

OF PROTESTERS AIDED BY CHINESE

Venezolana de Televisión, Venezuela's state-run broadcaster, briefly mentioned the morning hour protest in a report published May 1. While calling Guaidó a "coup deputy," the article mentioned that eight VN-4 vehicles were present at the protest site. These vehicles later withdrew and returned to their military

units, according to the report. Several Spanish-language media also identified the vehicle that plowed into protestors as a VN-4 vehicle, including Argentinian news website Infobae, Barcelona-based newspaper La Vanguardia, and Mexico-based media Cultura Colectiva. They pointed out that VN-4 vehicles are nicknamed the "Rhinoceros."

Indeed, the VN-4 are from China. They are light, tactical-armored vehicles manufactured by China North Industries Group Corporation (Norinco), which is owned by China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, an agency under the cabinetlike State Council

Chinese media reports indicate that

the VN-4 was ready for export since at least 2009. It was first unveiled to the Chinese media public at a police equipment exhibition in Beijing that year. It has since been exported to Venezuela, Kenya, Sudan, Cambodia, among others.

Venezuela's use of these vehicles has not been for normal peacekeeping purposes. In testimony before a U.S. congressional hearing in September 2017, Evan Ellis, senior associate at the Washingtonbased think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies, stated that "the VN-4 armored cars and VN-16 light tanks sold by the P.R.C. [People's Republic of China] to Venezuela, and designed for riot control, have arguably contributed to efforts by Venezuela's current regime to suppress democratic protests."

Venezuela has built up its stock of VN-4

According to an October 2018 report on

China's engagement with Latin America

and the Caribbean by the U.S.-China

Economic Security Review Commis-

sion. Venezuela ordered 121 VN-4 ve-

hicles from China in 2012, which were

over the years, some being donations

that the VN-4 was ready for export since at least 2009. It was first unveiled to the public at a police equipment exhibition in Beijing that year. It has since been exported to Venezuela, Kenya, Sudan, Cambodia, among others.

reports indicate

"It is unacceptable that in the most serious food and medicine crisis in histhe people with hunger," Capriles said.

On its website, the company descrip-

isters with the markings "Cl2," which

out Norinco for selling the South Sudan government 100 anti-tank guided missile launchers, 1,200 missiles, about 2,400 grenade launchers, nearly 10,000 automatic rifles, and 24 million rounds of various types of ammunition, according

Demonstrators clash with soldiers loyal to Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro after troops joined leader Juan Guaidó in his campaign to oust Maduro's government, in the surroundings of La Carlota military base in Caracas or April 30, 2019.

Pro-Guaidó demonstrator holds a flag of Venezuela near La Carlota military base in Caracas on Apri

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

A NEWSPAPER GEORGE WASHINGTON WOULD READ

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