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# CHINA INSIDER

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## COLD AMBITIONS

CHINA EYES ARCTIC AS NEW FRONTIER

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ANALYSIS

# Cold Ambition

## China Eyes Arctic as New Frontier



The icebreaker Tor at the port of Sabetta in the Kara Sea shore line on the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic circle on April 16, 2015. The Yamal LNG (liquefied natural gas) project aiming to extract and liquefy gas from the Yuzhno-Tambayskoye gas field is scheduled to start production in 2017. Russia's Novatek holds a 60 percent stake in the venture. France's Total and China's CNPC hold 20 percent each.

ANDREW THORNEBROOKE

They cut through the water like giant steel sharks, cold ocean spray misting off their gray hulls. Four Chinese warships, bristling with missiles, tear their path through the frigid waters of the Bering Strait, less than 50 miles from American shores. Their intentions are unknown.

For many Americans, this scenario is an unsettling prospect. It is, however, a reality, and may soon become the norm in Sino-American relations.

The United States Coast Guard discovered as much when they unexpectedly bumped into a Peoples Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) flotilla, a mere 46 miles from U.S. territory on Aug. 31 of this year. It was the closest that the PLAN had come to American soil since 2015, when it first ventured into the Arctic.

On that occasion, the ships ultimately traveled just 12 miles from American soil.

These incidents, as alarming as they may seem, are wholly legal. The United States' territorial waters end just 12 miles from the shore and, though the U.S. retains exclusive undersea economic rights out to the 200-mile mark, all international sea traffic is permitted on the surface.

It is this legal framework that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) currently seeks to exploit before the world stage. The recent traversal of the Bering Strait, a narrow chokepoint between Russia and Alaska, was not some idle threat, but a painstakingly crafted strategic message: You reached out to our shores, now we can reach out to yours.

But how did the wintry Arctic become the hotbed for international competition and conflict between the United States and China? And what does the Chinese Communist Party hope to achieve there?

### An Old Frontier, New Again

To answer these questions, one need look no further than the global crunch for strategic resources and the rich stores of natural wealth that have been sequestered away in the Arctic until recently.

"It doesn't matter where you look around the world, resources are becoming more scarce," said Ryan Burke, an associate professor in the Department of Military & Strategic Studies at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

According to Burke, who also serves as co-director of the Arctic-focused Project 6633 at West Point's Modern War Institute, the drive for resources in an in-

creasingly populated and interconnected world is driving new diplomatic and economic ventures as nations around the world feel the pressure to acquire resources necessary to sustain themselves and their growth.

Such is true for China more than most, and Burke believes that China's push into the frigid northern waters is driven by an almost-panicked need to satiate the consumption of the Chinese mainland.

"Much of it is spurred by the drive for resources," Burke said. "In China's particular interest spectrum, I don't believe that China is anywhere near as powerful as many claim it to be. But I think that's also why we need to be worried about China and be mindful of China's interest and intent."

Burke explained that, despite popular conceptions, he believes most power indicators demonstrate China to be lagging behind the other great powers due to a tight crunch for resources.

He pointed to the tendency of analysts to consider only China's gross production capacities rather than measuring those capacities against the nation's consumption and population.

"They are so voracious in their con-

sumption and their need to continue to satisfy the consumption rates of their people, that that makes them threatening for a number of reasons," Burke said.

"They know they need resources. They know they need to expand into other regions of the world in order to quench that thirst."

The Arctic harbors an immense array of natural resources vital to a state in such a situation. Oil, natural gas, rare earth metals, diamonds, and pristine fishing grounds are all found in the region, and it is these resources with which China now seeks to satiate its appetite.

This is why it has thrown itself into the new Arctic melting pot, though such a venture would have been unthinkable only decades ago.

Historically, the Arctic presented humankind with something of an impassable hazard. The Northwest Passage, leading through the Arctic from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was first navigated in the early 20th century, and was traversed by only a handful of ships every year until very recently.

In the 21st century, however, climate change has contributed to increasing ice thaw during the warmer months of the year. This, combined with improved ice-breaking technologies, has allowed the flow of commercial, scientific, and military vessels into the region to increase, altering a geographic and strategic reality in place for as long as humanity itself.

Thus, it is into the old frontier that China is seeking its latest venture, and where it hopes to secure its vision of a future global hegemony.

It is also here that Burke believes international cooperation will inevitably transform to competition, and that competition to conflict.

"This is a region of evolving strategic competition," Burke said.

"Conflict is an inevitability in the Arctic, and China is going to be at the center of this conflict in the future."

### A Contested Domain

There are other contested commons beyond the Arctic, those regions including airspace, the high seas, and outer space, all of which are either ungoverned or hold no territorial claims, where nations can openly compete for resources and primacy.

"That's why [China] is extending itself out into places like the Arctic," Burke said. "These are strategic, contested commons that have not yet been claimed and they may never be claimed given the realities of the environment. Nevertheless, there are resources there in the environment and there are exploitation

opportunities that come with that."

Perhaps the most notable such common is the Indo-Pacific, where the United States and its allies have formed dialogues and security agreements aplenty, all aimed at maintaining a "free and open" region, guaranteeing access to international waters and trade within the common space.

Most people are now aware of the growing military standoff between China and the rest of the world in the Indo-Pacific and its associated dangers. But Burke believes that the risk of unmitigated conflict may actually be greater in the Arctic.

This is because, unlike the Indo-Pacific or other major commercial regions, there are few nations with strong ties to the Arctic.

Indeed, only five nations' coastlines border the Arctic Ocean, and only three more hold territories within the Arctic Circle. The littoral Arctic states are Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States, colloquially known as the Arctic Five. The others are Finland, Iceland, and Sweden.

This means that there are fewer international roadblocks to potential escalations in tensions, as fewer eyes and interests result in fewer checks and balances between the countries engaged in the region.

Importantly, the fact that most nations with ties to the Arctic are comparatively weaker states also means that the region is ripe for exploitation through soft power initiatives, be they diplomatic, economic, or scientific.

As it so happens, China is investing heavily in such initiatives in its attempts to break into the Arctic. The nation has built several research stations throughout the region, and continues to invest in major infrastructure projects in Canada and elsewhere, providing itself with potential levers of future influence.

Some have called the push to develop ties in the Arctic a "charm offensive," aimed at enabling China to develop lasting ties in a region they have no claim to. Others have pointed out that the Chinese civilian presence could strengthen future military capabilities in the region due to China's so-called "dual use" policy, whereby all scientific and economic ventures are intended to also improve upon state or military projects.

To this end, China appears to be everywhere in the Arctic, or at least wants to be seen as such. But there remains one critical flaw with this approach: China is not now, nor has never been, an Arctic state.

### The Arctic State That Wasn't

To increase the success of its attempts to access the Arctic and leverage its soft power, China declared itself a "near-Arctic state" back in 2012. It was a ploy for influence, to be sure, but one that worked well enough in opening diplomatic channels with several actual Arctic states.

"From a territoriality standpoint, China is not an Arctic state," Burke said. "They created this quasi-label of legitimacy and they self-proclaimed 'near-Arctic state.' That's not a real term. That's a self-identified term. It's a completely irrelevant and made-up term. It's identity diplomacy at its finest."

"The fact that they labeled themselves a near-Arctic state speaks volumes about their broader strategic interests and what they ultimately want to do in the region."

Alex Gray, a senior fellow in national security affairs at the American Foreign Policy Council and former deputy assistant to the president and chief of staff at the National Security Council, said that China's investments and civilian research did indeed point to a greater ambition in the Arctic, as well as a potential danger.

"There's the question of whether there's a dual-use component, because so much of what China has done economically around the world has been a facilitator for military activity," Gray said.

"We have to be very cognizant that anything that the Chinese do on the scientific side will very likely have an economic component, and anything on the economic side very likely has a military and diplomatic component," Gray added. "They really do see these things as linked."

As a potential warning of what is to come, Gray described how China previously worked to expand its military influence directly into European waters through economic investments in the Greek port of Piraeus.

After acquiring a majority stake in the port, the PLAN began making port calls at the terminals operated by Chinese managers, effectively establishing a naval presence in the heart of the Mediterranean, and further enlisted Huawei Technologies to establish new communications systems there.



The construction site at the port of Sabetta in the Arctic circle on May 5, 2016.



Chinese paramilitary police border guards train in the snow at Mohe County in China's northeast Heilongjiang Province, on the border with Russia, on Dec. 12, 2016.

Mohe is the northernmost point in China, with a subarctic climate where border guards operate in temperatures as low as -33 degrees Fahrenheit.

**They created this quasi-label of legitimacy and they self-proclaimed 'near-Arctic state.' That's not a real term. That's a self-identified term. It's a completely irrelevant and made-up term. It's identity diplomacy at its finest.**

Ryan Burke, associate professor, department of military and strategic studies at the U.S. Air Force Academy

"If you look at China's behavior globally through One Belt One Road, and they now have this polar silk road, based on the track record they've shown globally, that's very predatory behavior," Gray said.

"You have to ask yourself, how have the Chinese behaved themselves in the Pacific islands? How have they behaved in Africa? In South America? In the Caribbean? When we have that kind of holistic view, we can make determinations about how we should approach them [in the Arctic]."

The threat posed by Chinese involvement in the Arctic appears similar to that in Greece. What is a port of call for commercial ships one day could be a naval base the next. What is a scientific relay station one week, the next, a missile communications site.

To this end, Burke warned that the United States would not curb the rise of China's influence in the region through tough talk alone.

"China has already shown the world that they don't cower to finger-wagging in other places in the world," Burke said. "They're not going to cower to finger-wagging in the Arctic."

"China sees a vacuum in the Arctic," Burke added. "They see an opportunity in the Arctic. They see a region of what is largely believed to be an exceptional zone of peace by the international community, an ungoverned space that is frankly, ripe for the taking. Ripe for extraction, for presence, and for influence."

"China is pursuing that to their own end."

### A Free and Open Arctic?

It is that power vacuum that has resulted in Chinese military craft sailing off the coast of American shores, raising concerns that an unforeseen act of aggression or, more likely, a tragic misunderstanding, could trigger something catastrophic.

To prevent that from happening, the United States is focusing on a policy near and dear to its heart: a free and open world.

Much of the American public is aware of the nation's growing commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific," but that impulse, that policy platform, is not limited to the scope of any one region. Indeed, strategy documents released by the U.S. Army earlier this year indicated a similar impulse to preserving a "free and open Arctic," aimed at thus preventing CCP influence from corrupting the region into a launching point for China's unbridled ambition for resource dominance.

There will be many hurdles along the way toward realizing that dream. Not the least of which will be establishing inter-

national forums with which to examine China's already extant partnerships in the region. Namely those with Norway, including the research station in Svalbard, an archipelago between Norway and the North Pole, and an evolving port deal north of the Arctic Circle, of which next to nothing is known.

"There's no multilateral forum to compel any sort of compliance with larger international norms in the Arctic," Gray said. "So, we really have no idea, and we have no mechanism to find out what China is doing in a place like Svalbard."

"As far as I know, no one outside of the Chinese scientific and governmental community has ever been there."

Yet another is the United States' own need to develop its alliances and invest in renewed partnerships with other Arctic states like Canada and Denmark, whose militaries retain an unmatched cold-weather culture that would be vital to winning any allied conflict in the Arctic.

"We need to be more engaged with our Arctic partners and allies," Burke said. "The United States does not have the Arctic expertise that other states like Norway and Canada do. They have the Arctic ingrained in their culture. They are cold weather through and through."

Ultimately, however, future conflict in the Arctic may come down to just how desperately starved for resources the Chinese mainland becomes, and how willing or unwilling it is to compromise in order to reach a diplomatic solution.

"[China] is a country that should absolutely be the biggest and most powerful or most productive economy on the planet, given its resource pool and potential ability to produce with the masses of population that it has," Burke said. "And the fact that it's not number one, the fact that a country that's a quarter of the size by way of population, the U.S., is number one, that's something that China hates." "They hate the fact that they are second to the United States, yet they're bigger than the United States."

The ambition to change that status quo is perhaps the one thing China has in spades.

"It's just endless," Gray said. "Instead of looking at it in isolated and separate theaters, people really need to understand that China's ambitions are global. They're global on a scale that we have not encountered at least since the Cold War."

"This is just one example of how aggressive and ambitious they are, and how expansive those ambitions are."

Alex Gray, senior fellow in national security affairs, American Foreign Policy Council



The Chinese research vessel and ice-breaker Xuelong which will depart for the Arctic, arrives in Xiamen, south China's Fujian Province on June 27, 2010. The Arctic is a region much coveted by energy-hungry Beijing for its as-yet untapped supplies of oil and natural gas.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

# China's Gestapo-Like Office Sought to 'Eradicate' Falun Gong Spiritual Group Worldwide, Report Says

FRANK FANG

For nearly two decades, a secretive agency has worked to carry out orders from the top leadership of the Chinese Communist Party to "eradicate" a group of spiritual believers deemed to be a threat to the atheist regime.

Known as the "610 Office," the group was set up in 1999 as an "extra-legal" body to specifically target adherents of Falun Gong. While very little public information is available about the office, including its chain of command, what is clear is that its activities aren't confined to China's borders, according to a French military think tank.

The 610 Office had about 15,000 people in China and abroad tasked with suppressing Falun Gong adherents, according to a recently released 650-page report by the Institute for Strategic Studies of Military Schools—a think tank funded by the French military—that details the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) expansive global influence activities.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and moral teachings based on truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The group's popularity surged in China during the 1990s, with estimates putting the number of adherents at about 70 million to 100 million by the end of the decade.

Although the 610 Office is not a major player in Chinese influence operations, its activities in countries with large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners constitute real interference.

Institute for Strategic Studies of Military Schools

Jiang Zemin, the CCP leader at the time, was concerned about the faith group's growing popularity, according to the report.

"Jiang Zemin saw this as a threat to the survival of the Party, which could not tolerate the existence of a social structure beyond its control," the report reads.

As a result, Jiang set up the 610 Office on June 10, 1999—its name being drawn from the date of its founding. The office would function in a manner akin to Nazi Germany's Gestapo, with powers overriding China's courts and police.

The office, together with the CCP's judicial, public security, and legal bodies, has carried out a far-reaching persecution campaign that continues to this day. According to the Falun Dafa Information Center, millions of Falun Gong adherents in China have been detained inside prisons, labor camps, and other facilities in China, with hundreds of thousands of them being tortured while incarcerated.

Internal documents obtained by The Epoch Times show that the 610 Office was disbanded between 2018



SAMIRA BOUADU/THE EPOCH TIMES

and 2019, and its functions were merged into other CCP organs, including the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, as well as the Chinese police force.

Despite the organizational change, there's no sign that the CCP is moving away from its campaign of repression. During the first six months of 2021, at least 674 Falun Gong adherents were illegally sentenced, with the longest sentence being 14 years, according to Minghui.org, a U.S.-based website that tracks the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

### Persecution Abroad

The office also has agents stationed overseas to execute a range of actions designed to repress and malign Falun Gong communities worldwide.

"There is a member of the 610 Office in every Chinese diplomatic mission, whose mission is to detect, file, and persecute Falun Gong practitioners, while conducting propaganda activities aimed at foreign governments to dissuade them from having relations with them," the report reads.

"Although the 610 Office is not a major player in Chinese influence operations, its activities in countries with large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners constitute real interference."

The report pointed to remarks made by Chen Yonglin, a former Chinese diplomat who defected to Australia more than a decade ago, during a U.S. House congressional hearing in 2005. Before his defection, he was the former consul for political affairs in the Chinese Consulate in Sydney and was in charge of implementing Beijing's policies on Falun Gong.

"The consulate had a 'special group' headed by the consulate general to 'monitor and persecute' Falun Gong adherents in Australia, according to Chen. The group was 'part of the 610 Office system.'"

"To my knowledge, similar groups have been established in the Chinese missions in the United States and other countries where the Falun Gong is active," he said.

New York's Flushing neighborhood was the site of sustained violence against Falun Gong adherents that lasted several months in 2008. Mobs of Chinese nationals physically assaulted, verbally harassed, and threw rocks at Falun Gong adherents.

The months-long campaign of violence turned out to be connected to the Chinese Consulate in New York. Peng Keyu, then-New York consul general, admitted during an undercover phone call to having instigated

pro-CCP groups to launch a series of assaults on Falun Gong adherents in Flushing.

In Australia, the local 610 Office-affiliated group was supported by a large Chinese intelligence-gathering unit in the country, according to Chen.

"I am aware there are over 1,000 Chinese secret agents and informants in Australia who have played a role in persecuting the Falun Gong, and the number in the United States should be higher," he said in his prepared statement during the 2005 hearing.

Complementing the work of this local network of spies, Chinese diplomats also would put pressure on Australian politicians to accept the Party's position on Falun Gong. This was done by offering local officials political and economic benefits, according to Chen. The consulate was "successful" in reducing the number of politicians willing to meet with local Falun Gong adherents or issue public letters of support, he said.

There have been similar incidents involving Chinese consulates in the United States. According to a 2002 congressional hearing, the then-mayors of several U.S. cities, including Baltimore, Westland, Houston,

San Francisco, Saratoga, and Seattle—were pressured by the consulate in their regions to either not issue proclamations in support of Falun Gong or rescind those that had already been issued. Some mayors rescinded such proclamations.

A more recent incident occurred in August 2017, when the judiciary committee of California's state Senate unanimously approved a resolution condemning the CCP for persecuting Falun Gong. However, within a few days, the lawmakers held another vote to return the measure to the rules committee, preventing the resolution from being put to a floor vote.

The turnout was connected to a threatening letter that the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco had sent to every member of California's state Senate. In the letter, the consulate claimed that the resolution may "deeply damage the cooperative relations between the state of California and China" in areas such as trade and tourism.

Ultimately, the Falun Gong resolution never made it to the Senate floor for a vote.

### Tactics

A similar network of Chinese agents targeting the Falun Gong community operated in Canada, the report states, citing previous comments made by Hao Fengjun, a former official with the 610 Office, who fled China in 2005 and sought political asylum in Australia.

Hao said at the time that there were more than 1,000 spies in Canada tasked with surveilling local Falun Gong adherents. Among the spies were Chinese Canadians, businessmen, and students, and their activities concentrated mainly in Vancouver and Toronto, according

to the report.

Also in Canada, the CCP was known for deploying another tactic to slander Falun Gong: having people impersonate adherents of the practice and send insulting and sometimes threatening emails to government officials, according to the report.

Amnesty International Canada and the Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China addressed that tactic in their 2020 report, calling it a hallmark of the CCP's overseas campaign against Falun Gong adherents designed to "undermine their reputation" and to "hurt their relationship with recipients."

The 2020 report named two Canadian politicians—Judy Sgro and Peter Julian—as having received these fake emails.

"Government officials at all levels in many countries have been repeatedly and systematically targeted by fraudulent emails from people claiming to be Falun Gong practitioners. The sender is often ob-

sessive, irrational, and rude, giving legitimacy to the Chinese regime's claims that Falun Gong is a threat to society," the report reads, citing an unnamed member of the Canadian Falun Gong Association.

In Argentina, CCP agents instituted another tactic aimed at tarnishing Falun Gong's reputation: enticing media outlets to carry content defaming the practice.

The report cited a 2020 incident when a broker, allegedly with ties to the CCP, offered 20,000 pesos (about \$310) to an editor of a small-sized media outlet in exchange for publishing an article defaming Falun Gong. The same broker also tried to get larger local media outlets, including Infobae, El Cronista Comercial, and Diario Popular, to publish the same article.



ANN WANG/REUTERS

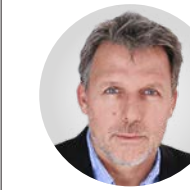
Soldiers march to position during an anti-invasion drill on the beach during the annual Han Kuang military drill in Tainan, Taiwan, on Sept. 14, 2021.

### OPINION

## Which War Is Beijing Preparing For?

Will China trigger an Asia-Pacific war over Taiwan—or is there another, more strategic plan afoot?

JAMES GORRIE



It's no secret that Beijing is preparing for war. One of the main reasons is China's cratering economy. The recent collapse of the Evergrande real estate development firm is only the latest in a series of dire symptoms that are fueling rising domestic discontent. The \$8 trillion debt crisis in the shadow economy—more than half of its gross domestic product (GDP)—is also looming large in China's ability to keep its financial system afloat. An aging, less productive population, higher production costs, and fleeing foreign investment all result in falling GDP.

### China's Power Has Peaked

The reality is that China's economic power is already declining.

Sure, the statistics can be adjusted, but it doesn't change reality. What's more, this across-the-board economic decline is driving the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to impose even more extreme, oppressive measures against its people and businesses. The CCP's response only worsens economic performance and civil unrest.

Concurrently, the regime in Beijing has been adjusting its internal arrangements for several years. For example, its National Defense Transportation Law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. The law restructured its legal framework, putting all commercial shipping under the direct authority of the CCP.

Externally, China's deepening isolation from the world is clearly evident and underscores its ongoing decoupling from the global economy and the international norms of trade and diplomacy. This trend may well make a Taiwan invasion likely sooner than later, if only to divert attention from China's domestic problems.

Military and naval experts conclude that Beijing plans to use commercial transport ships to help transport up to 2 million soldiers in a Taiwan invasion.

Recent news reports seem to confirm such a conclusion. China's official press, the Global Times, all but acknowledges the inevitable, if not imminent, invasion of Taiwan.

"China is prepared for the worst-case scenario—the US and its allies, including Japan, launch (ing) an all-out military intervention to interrupt China's national reunification."

Clearly, war or the threat of war is on the horizon, and all the nations in the Asia-Pacific region know it.

In response to China's increasingly aggressive posture, including the commercial shipping arrangement, Taiwan and other nations are adding more long-range anti-ship missiles. Japan, which for decades has maintained a pacifist foreign policy, also has made a massive shift in its thinking, linking Taiwan's security to its own.

The impact of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan wouldn't be limited to just Taiwan. Should it occur, like Japan, it will be perceived by the United States and other nations as a strategic threat to their own national security.

This is partly because Taiwan provides more than 50 percent of the world's semiconductors necessary for advanced data processing, automobiles, artificial intelligence, and other high technology. But an invasion would also threaten democratic nations in the region, as well as trade and international legal norms.

### More Trigger Points

But Taiwan isn't the only trigger point. China is also threatening the uninhabited Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which Japan considers its territory. They're also claimed

by China and Taiwan, and could become a flashpoint for war. The Biden administration has recently assured Japan's new prime minister, Fumio Kishida, that the United States would defend the Senkaku Islands if China should attack.

And as noted in an earlier article, the CCP has already put Australia on notice. Should Canberra acquire nuclear-powered submarines from the United States under the recent AUKUS military alliance, China would add Australia as a legitimate target for nuclear attack.

South Korea has expressed clear opposition to Beijing's ambitions in Taiwan. In a joint statement with the United States, and for the first time, both nations committed to defending international rules and norms in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. The unusual directness of the message is an acknowledgment of the imminent threat that China poses to Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region.

Further afield, China's recent military skirmish with India in the Himalayan heights of the Galwan Valley has alerted New Delhi to the reality that China is seeking unambiguous hegemony over its neighbors, of which India is one. This has driven India to strategically align itself with the U.S.-led AUKUS alliance. Its recent participation in the Malabar joint naval exercises off the U.S. territory of Guam on Aug. 26-29 sent a clear message to Beijing.

The linchpin to all of these arrangements is, of course, the United States. While it still maintains a significant naval advantage over China, what is less certain is the political will of the Biden administration to follow through on its military commitments. With the United States' retreat from Afghanistan, the Biden administration is perceived as weak and more concerned with domestic economic and social issues than projecting U.S. power to protect the international order. Around the world, confidence in U.S. leadership is at an ebb.

Beijing is certainly aware of these facts, and it may be influencing its strategy with respect to Taiwan and the region as a whole. Chinese leadership may have concluded that the Biden administration's weakness poses a unique opportunity to test the U.S. resolve in the region.

Such perceptions would help explain the new and greater threats to the United States that are coming out of Beijing. But Xi Jinping's personal leadership and ownership of the CCP, coupled with China's mounting domestic failures, are most certainly also contributing factors.

China would prefer to avoid war—at least until it can match U.S. military might in the region. But one area that it does lead the United States is in hypersonic anti-ship missile technology. Rather than clashing with its neighbors, could the CCP be planning a strike on U.S. naval forces to drive the United States from the region?

If so, how would the United States react? How would the region react?

Anything less than a full response by the United States to a Chinese attack would mean that the U.S.-led Asia-Pacific security alliance would immediately cease to exist. It would then likely be up to each nation to make their separate peace with Beijing—if that were even an option.

That would suit the CCP just fine.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

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DAVIN CHEN/THE EPOCH TIMES



CHEN-MIN CHUNG/AP PHOTO

(Left) Edmond Erh, a resident of the Flushing neighborhood in Queens, was assaulted by a pro-CCP mob while supporting a booth for quitting the Chinese Communist Party, in New York in 2008.

(Right) Two Chinese police officers detain a Falun Gong practitioner in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Jan. 10, 2000.





TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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