



## US National Security Challenge(r)s



IRAN  
NORTH KOREA  
RUSSIA  
CHINA



# IRAN



With Israel, considered to be the top military power in the Middle East, and committed opponent of the United States and Israel since 1979.

Considered to be on the verge of developing nuclear weapons with cyber capabilities but Israel has dramatically weakened IRAN'S proxy militia forces Hamas (in Israel), Hezbollah (Lebanon) and its ally Assad's Syria has collapsed.

Israel, with the United States and Arab partners, defeated Iran's drone and missile attacks on Israel; Iran, on the other hand, LOST NEARLY ALL ITS AIR DEFENSES IN THE ISRAEL COUNTERATTACK USING US-SUPPLIED F-35 STEALTH FIGHTERS.

These defenses take years to replace – IRAN IS VULNERABLE.



# North Korea



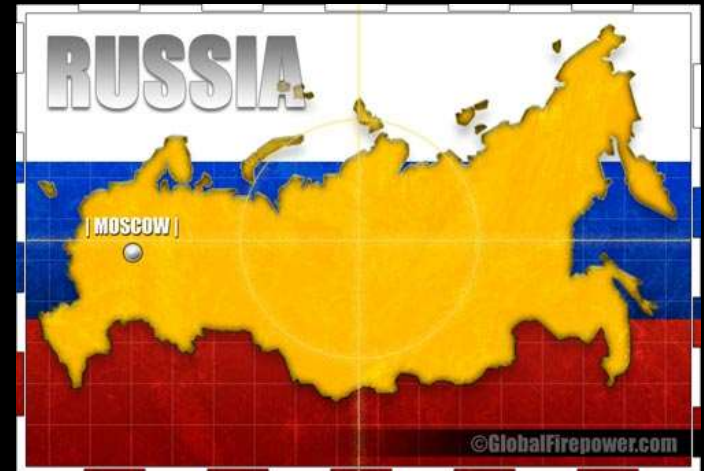
North Korea is China's only formal ally, renewed by treaty in 1981, 2001 and 2021.

North Korea's is a nuclear and cyber power, with nearly 1.3M active personnel in one of the most militarized societies in history. It is thought to have nearly 7000 cyber warriors, and 6000 long range artillery pieces aimed at Seoul – capable of killing 10,000 civilians in an hour.

North Korea has deployed 10,000-12,000 “elite” soldiers to Ukraine for Russia, along with an unspecified number of artillery and armor systems. Are being used in WWII – era human wave tactics.



# RUSSIA



RUSSIA with 140M people, is the largest nation on earth geographically, maintain the world's largest force of nuclear weapons, and over 1M active duty military personnel.

Its authoritarian leader Vladimir Putin called the United States “an enemy” in June 2024. In February 2022, China and Russia announced a “no limits” partnership on political, economic and military cooperation against the West.

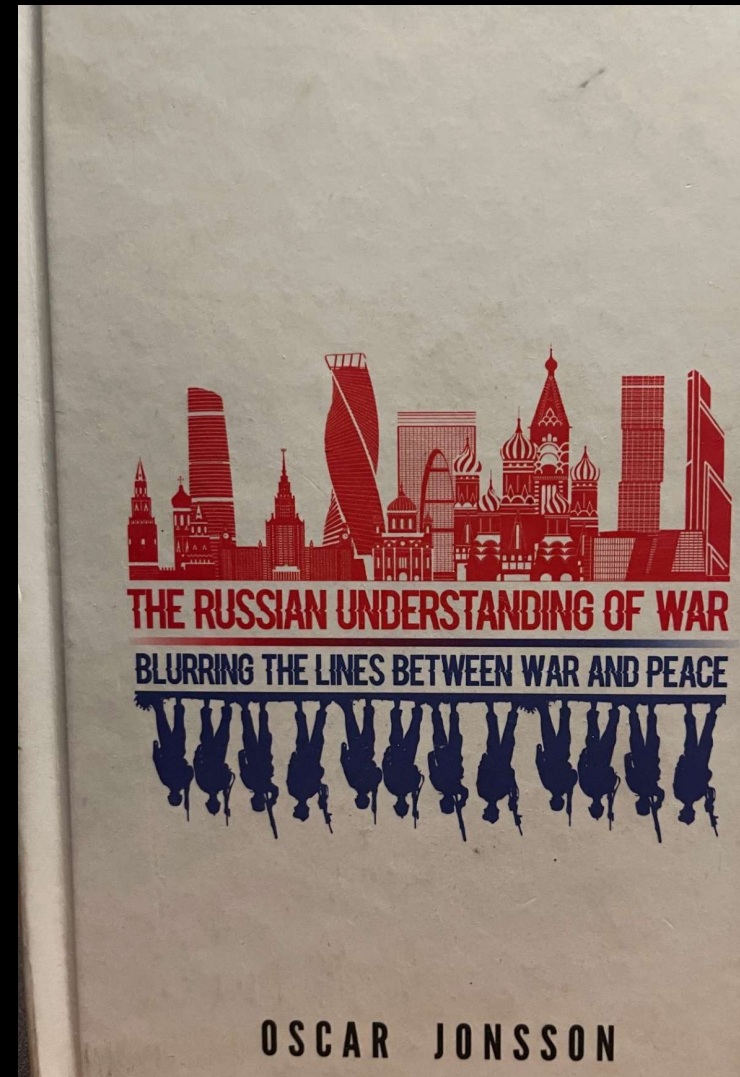
Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine threatens NATO's eastern and northern European allies and has cost Russia more than 1,000,000 casualties – *The Economist* estimates that @2% of ALL Russian men may have been killed or serious wounded in Ukraine.

Russia's way of war now includes an explicit “grey war” or “grey zone” doctrine



## RUSSIA

“... war was going through a fundamental transformation because non-military means were so effective they should be considered violent. The boundary of war and peace was blurring, non-military means were becoming four times as important as military means, representing their own form of warfare, and the effectiveness of non-military means constituted a cardinal change in the concept of war”  
*GERASIMOV 2014*







# CHINA



CHINA – it is consensus in Washington that the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) now represents the largest national security threat to the United States. With over 2M in arms, a growing nuclear arsenal, the world's largest navy and the world's second largest force of stealth aircraft, China is pursuing the largest arms buildup since German in WWII.

China planned for their economy to surpass that of the United States, perhaps as early as 2030, and President Xi Jinping noted after the events of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, and then the storming of the US Capitol in 2021, “time and momentum are now on our side”.

However, Chinese economic growth has foundered on a real-estate crisis magnitudes larger than America's 2008 great recession. Further, demographic population aging represents an unprecedented challenge to Chinese goals.



# The Hundred-Year Marathon

CHINA'S SECRET  
STRATEGY TO REPLACE  
AMERICA AS THE  
GLOBAL SUPERPOWER



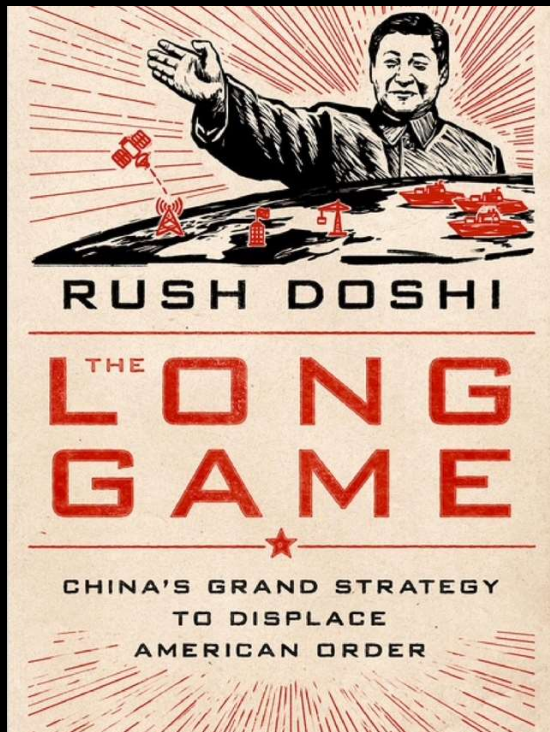
Michael Pillsbury

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD



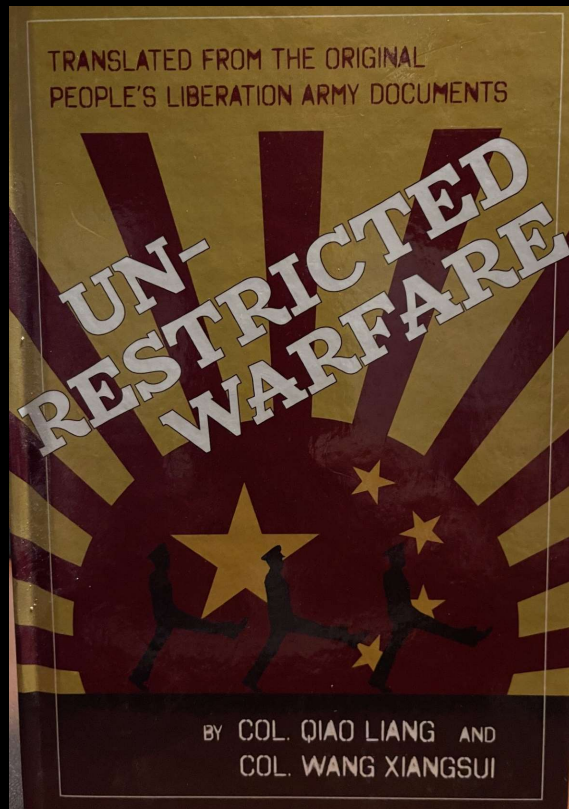
“The Chinese Communist Party is realizing its long-term goal of restoring China to its PROPER place in the world...revealing the most systematic, significant, and dangerous intelligence failure in American history”.





The “struggle for mastery”, once confined to Asia, is now over the global order and its future . Already discernible in Xi’s speeches – Beijing would project global political, military and economic leadership - **with the US declining into a “deindustrialized, English-speaking version of a Latin-American republic specializing in commodities and tourism”.**

“Based on extensive original Chinese documents and CCP publishings



“The first rule of unrestricted warfare is that there are no rules, with NOTHING forbidden”. Colonels Liang and Xiangsui 1999



# TAIWAN



Taiwan is the world's most dangerous potential trigger for major power war.

President Xi Jinping has ordered the Peoples Liberation Army to be ready to conquer Taiwan by 2027, and analysts believe 2027-2030 will be particularly dangerous.

Xi has made reunification with Taiwan his legacy issue.





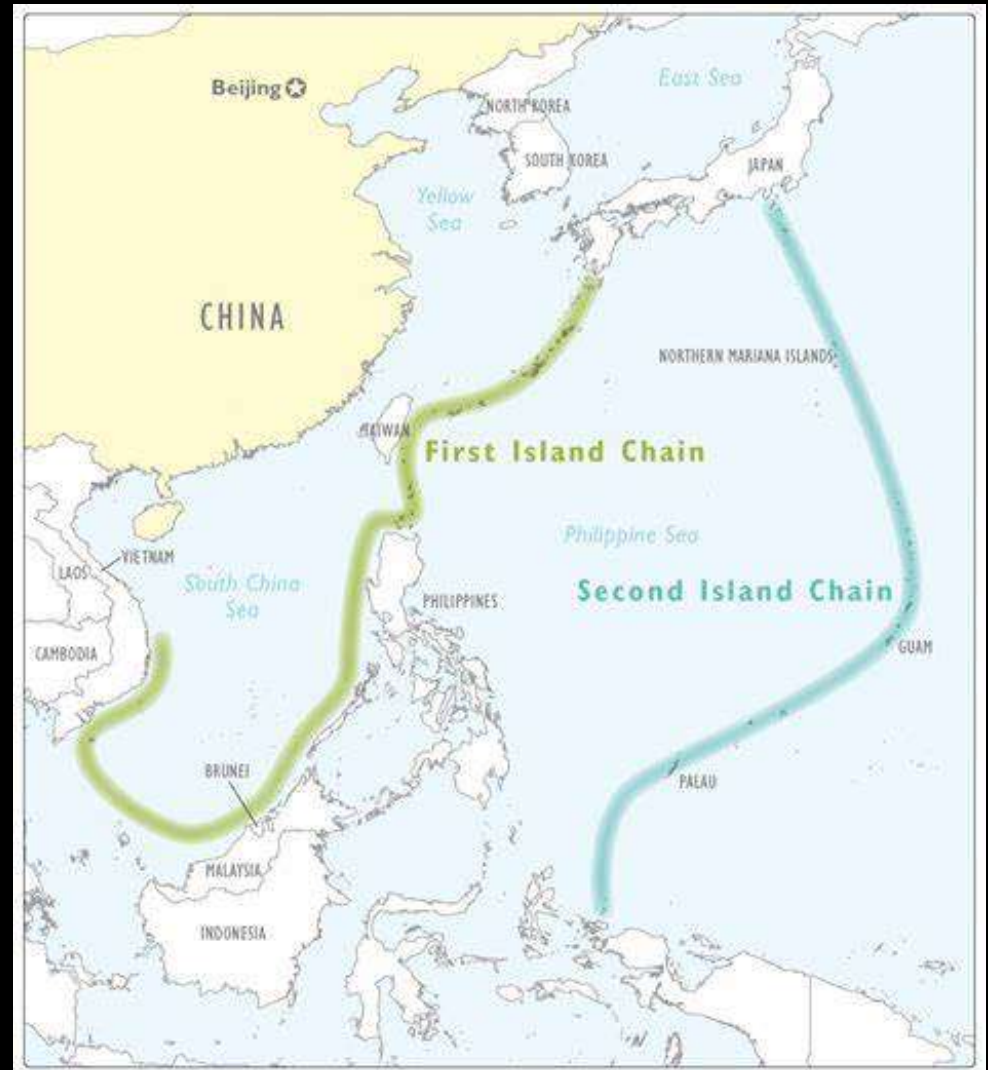
# TAIWAN

For the US, Taiwan is globally strategic:

23 million living in a dynamic, democratic society

Strategic sea lane control

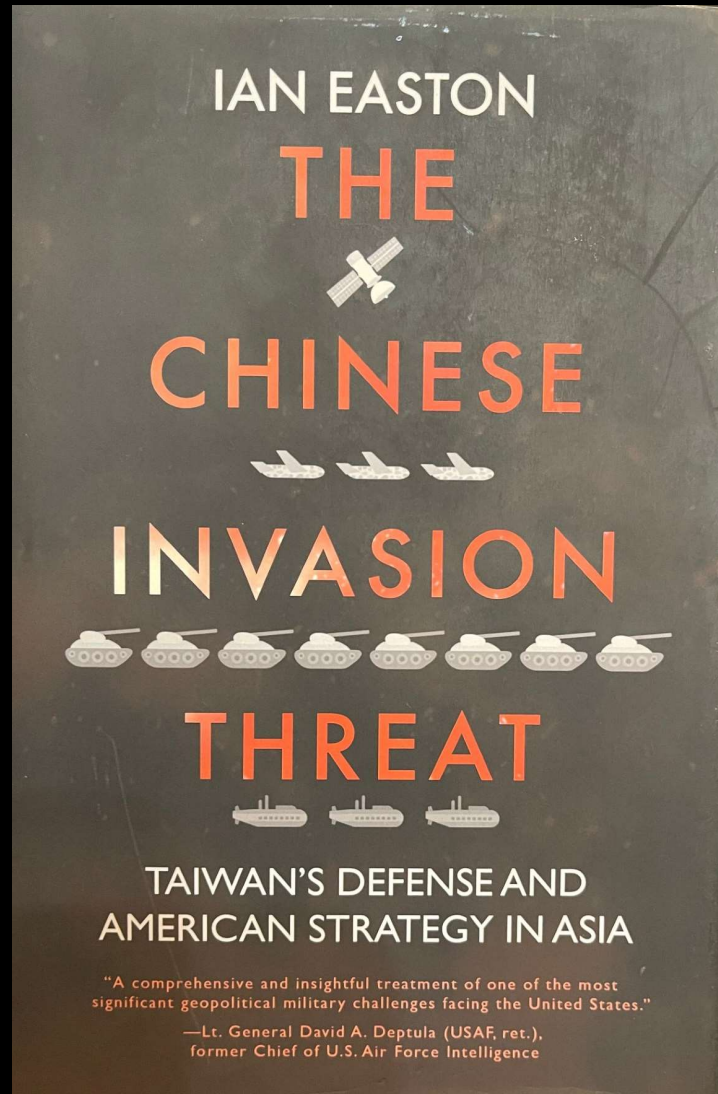
Manufactures 95% of the world's advanced semiconductors





- 14 possible landing beaches, heavily defended
- 100 miles of dangerous fast water – “sea demons”
- US airbase Kadena Japan – 450 miles
- May be US Special Ops / Marines on island

2019







But theres something worse than these threats individually...

**Nearly 30 years ago, former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brezinski issued a prophetic warning.**

***“Potentially, the most dangerous scenario would be a grand coalition of China, Russia, and perhaps Iran, an anti-hegemonic coalition united not by ideology but by complementary grievances. It would be reminiscent in scale and scope of the challenge once posed by the Sino-Soviet bloc, although this time China would likely be the leader and Russia the follower.”***

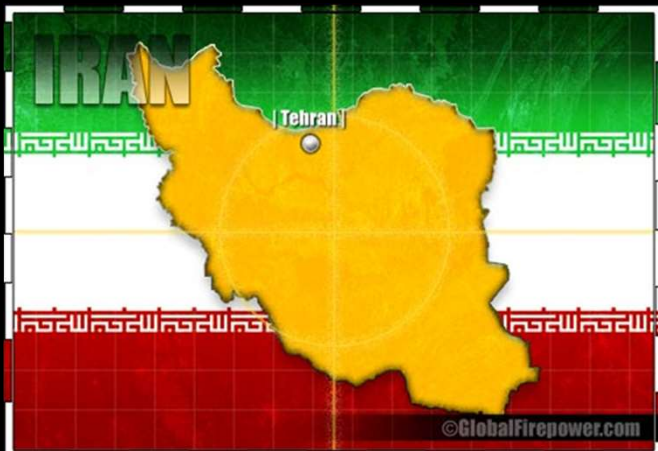
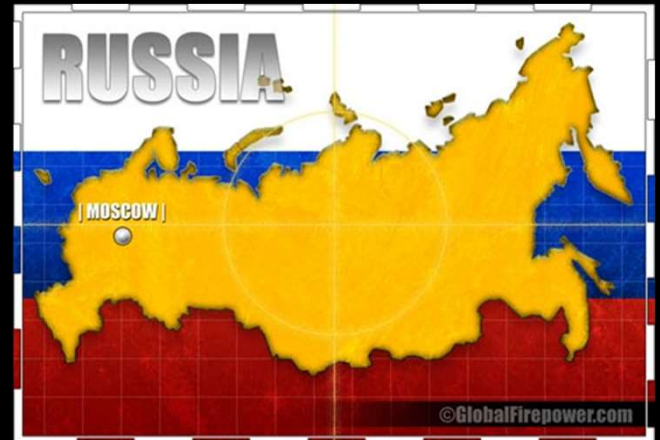


# The Axis of Upheaval

*How America's Adversaries Are Uniting  
to Overturn the Global Order*

ANDREA KENDALL-TAYLOR AND RICHARD FONTAINE

## Axis of Upheaval





**Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping via videoconference** at Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside of Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. (Gavriil Grigorov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)  
ASSOCIATED PRESS





## Russia's invasion of Ukraine has laid bare these interconnections:

- **Russia has deployed 3700 Iranian drones** in Ukraine, and produces at least 330 of the design per month in Russia – in exchange for advanced Russian fighter jets
- **North Korea has sent troops, ballistic missiles, and 2.5 million rounds of ammunition and artillery shells** – in exchange for Russian space launch assistance.
- **China has ramped up its purchase of billions of dollars in Russian oil** and delivered computer chips and drones





## What does this mean for American policy?

- can't treat them solely as individual actors
- **beware of coordinated actions:**
  - Russian expansion of the war in Europe with a Chinese blockade of Taiwan, or North Korean action against South Korea
- strengthen regional alliances: NATO, Japan, South Korea and more



***World War III has already begun,' Jamie Dimon CEO of JP MORGAN warns — says his company is preparing for serious conflict with China, Russia and others.***



**DEPRESSED YET? DON'T COUNT US OUT**