

# China's Evolving Military Strategy: A Comprehensive Analysis by Joe McReynolds



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## : The Rise of China's Military

China's military has undergone a rapid and extensive modernization in recent decades, transforming from a relatively weak force into one that is now among the most powerful in the world. This transformation has been driven by a number of factors, including China's growing economic power, its expanding territorial ambitions, and its desire to play a more assertive role in international affairs.

China's military modernization has been accompanied by a significant shift in its military strategy. In the past, China's military was primarily focused on defending its borders and suppressing internal dissent. However, in recent years, China has begun to develop a more offensive military strategy, one that is designed to project power beyond its borders and deter potential adversaries.

## **The Historical Roots of China's Military Strategy**

China's military strategy has been shaped by a number of historical factors, including the country's geography, its culture, and its political system.

**Geography:** China is a vast country with a long and complex border. This has led China to develop a military strategy that is focused on defending its borders and controlling its territorial waters. China's military has also been shaped by the fact that it is surrounded by a number of potential adversaries, including Russia, India, Japan, and the United States.

**Culture:** China has a long and rich military history. Chinese military thought has been influenced by a number of philosophers, including Sun Tzu, who wrote the classic work on military strategy, *The Art of War*. Sun Tzu's teachings emphasize the importance of deception, surprise, and indirect approaches to warfare. These principles continue to influence China's military strategy today.

**Political System:** China is a one-party state ruled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP has a strong influence on the military, and its policies have shaped the development of China's military strategy. The CCP's goal is to maintain its control over China and to protect its interests abroad. This has led China to develop a military strategy that is focused on deterring potential adversaries and maintaining internal stability.

## **The Key Principles of China's Military Strategy**

China's military strategy is based on a number of key principles, including:

- **Active Defense:** China's military strategy is based on the concept of "active defense." This means that China will not wait for an enemy to

attack before taking action. Instead, China will take preemptive measures to deter potential adversaries and protect its interests.

- **Integrated Joint Operations:** China's military is increasingly focused on conducting integrated joint operations. This means that different branches of the military will work together to achieve common objectives. China is also developing new technologies to improve its kemampuan in this area.
- **Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD):** China is developing a range of A2/AD capabilities to deter potential adversaries from operating in the Asia-Pacific region. These capabilities include anti-ship missiles, air defense systems, and electronic warfare systems.
- **Counter-Intervention:** China is also developing counter-intervention capabilities to deter potential adversaries from intervening in China's internal affairs. These capabilities include long-range missiles, special operations forces, and cyber warfare capabilities.

## **The Implications of China's Military Strategy**

China's evolving military strategy has a number of implications for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

**Regional Security:** China's military modernization and its shift to a more offensive military strategy have raised concerns among its neighbors.

These countries are worried that China is becoming more assertive and that it may use its military power to coerce them.

**U.S.-China Relations:** China's military strategy is also a major challenge for the United States. The United States is the dominant military power in the Asia-Pacific region, and it has traditionally viewed China as a potential

adversary. As China's military power grows, the United States will need to adjust its own military strategy to maintain its dominance in the region.

**Global Security:** China's military strategy also has implications for global security. China is becoming a major player on the world stage, and its military power is growing rapidly. This is raising concerns among some countries that China may use its military power to challenge the existing global order.

### **: The Future of China's Military Strategy**

China's military strategy is evolving rapidly. The country is modernizing its military, developing new technologies, and shifting its focus to a more offensive strategy. This is a major challenge for China's neighbors, the United States, and global security.

It is unclear how China's military strategy will continue to evolve in the future. However, it is clear that China is determined to become a major military power, and that its military strategy will continue to play a major role in shaping the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

### **About the Author**

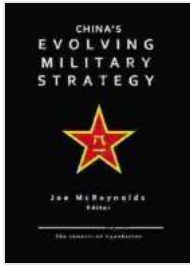
**Joe McReynolds** is a retired U.S. Army officer and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of several books on China's military, including *The People's Liberation Army: A Comparative Assessment* and *China's Evolving Military Strategy*.

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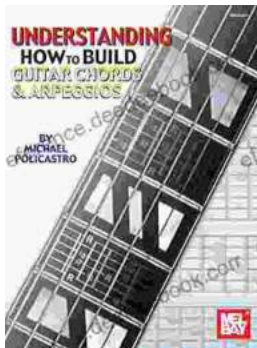
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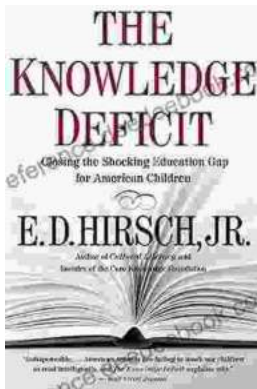


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