

# **CHINA'S NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE NEW ERA: AN ANALYSIS**

## **Introduction**

On May 12, 2025, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China released a white paper titled 'China's National Security in the New Era'. This document continues a longstanding tradition of the Chinese government issuing strategic white papers to outline what are going to be its policies, principles of governance, and foreign policy initiatives. The paper has been divided into 6 sections and outlines the policy and stances of the government in the 'New Era', largely considered to be the time since President Xi Jinping has taken office. This paper is different from its 2019 predecessor in the light that instead of focusing wholly on the defence sector, it broadens its scope and encompasses 'Security' across all sectors, in line with the aim of Chinese Rejuvenation.

## **CHINA'S STANCE ON THE WORLD**

China views the world as turbulent with certain major powers playing a zero-sum game by withdrawing from international agreements and imposing unfair economic tariffs. This is a direct call out to the United States (US) pulling out of World Health Organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Paris Agreement, as well as enhancing tariffs for all countries around the world. Thus, it portrays the US and largely the West as a driving force for instability, while it perceives a stabilising role for itself, in both the world as well as its immediate Asia-Pacific region. While admitting the need for peace and cooperation in the region, it also will not budge from protection of its interests and goals both from regional as well as western disruption. China puts forward a modernisation based on Chinese characteristics, indicating the heightened nationalism trend which is sweeping across the globe as well as an attempt at building an alternate system to the western liberal order.

## **THE OVERALL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPT**

The Chinese security in the new era is based upon the comprehensive national security concept proposed by Xi Jinping in 2014, which is rooted in a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The paper states 'Peoples Security as Purpose; Political Security as Foundation; Economic Security as Basis and Military, Science and Technology; Culture and Social Security as Guarantee' yet there is an extreme emphasis on the protection of the leadership and nature of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) which is also indicative of anxiety around the stability of the regime. The entire paper seems to be centered around increasing the stability and the popularity of the party. Regime security is tied to the stability of the country and the party, people and

country are seen as a single entity. This leadership-centered thinking will further degenerate institutional autonomy by establishing that the party is the only mechanism for welfare and push into the basket of authoritarianism.

## **AREAS OF FOCUS UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY**

The paper puts forward the concept of 'Big Security' or 'Holistic Security', which encompasses all areas - military, economic, social, cyber, etc. Such a broad view of security poses concern over blurred lines between legitimate threats and routine governance issues. Political security has been put forward as paramount promising stringent actions against any form of secessionist or disruptive protests, especially in the areas of Tibet and Xinjiang. It accepts that economic growth brings its own vulnerabilities, showcasing a risk-conscious, balanced development. An increased effort in the research and development of indigenous technology is plausible as China pushes for innovation. China emphasizes resilience in supply chains of food and energy so as to prevent overdependence on the west. It gives due focus to emerging areas of nuclear, biosafety, data, and Artificial Intelligence. But the enhanced security measures and laws it proposes as a solution represent a kind of Great Firewall situation, infringing further on the people's privacy and controlling the narrative it wants to show the world.

## **INTERPLAY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

China propagates that high level development must be intertwined with high level security; effectively postulating that the more developmental activities it undertakes, the deeper its security will be, especially in the face of a hostile external environment. It will undertake development in the line of Chinese characteristics. China also calls for increased security to ensure social stability, which is under risk of the 'Western Disruptive Forces'. China may crack down on any display of protest of the ideals of the CCP. While it has advocated that China will embrace openness; under Xi Jinping, China has only become more closed. It remains to be seen how credible China's words will be. China has reasserted its 'One China' principle and 1992 consensus. The stance is that any and all means will be used to achieve this reunification and its maritime interests, thus increasing the possibility of maritime coercion, conflict escalation, infringement on sovereignty, etc., which is a direct violation of the common security narrative it's trying to build.

## **IMPLEMENTING GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE**

China pushes forward a Global Security Initiative system based on Chinese wisdom, which is common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable. It advocates security for all, repositioning itself again as the stabilizing force in the face of hostility and as a mediator in all ongoing crises across the globe: Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Palestine,

Myanmar and Korean peninsula. But this is contradictory to its actions in the regions - whilst it has positioned itself as a peace advocate, it has not condemned Russian actions, continued its trade with Russia, continuing with its strategic alignment; in the Middle-East also it has no significant role in brokering peace. As for its neighbours, it has stated that it has talked about a peaceful shared future with 17 countries posing as a benevolent leader. It also calls for peaceful use of the South China Sea yet has been increasingly militarizing the area. Thus, its stance appears to be a global security benefit Chinese interests as opposed to global interests.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN INTERESTS**

China's 2025 White Paper on National Security makes it clear that it's committed to reunification under the One China Principle—even stating it will use 'Any and All Means' to achieve that goal. While this mainly refers to Taiwan, the strong and uncompromising tone reflects a wider shift in China's regional approach, one that India cannot afford to ignore. China has long laid claim to parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, and its renewed focus on defending political and territorial integrity raises serious concerns. For India, this could mean increased tensions and fresh pressure along the northern borders, especially as China becomes more assertive about what it sees as non-negotiable interests. Thus, we may again see ourselves in confrontation with them over the Indo-China border. The growing assertive stance of China in the Indo-Pacific, the white paper presents a strategic threat to India's maritime space and long-term interests. Economically also the huge trade deficit that India has in relation to China is worrying. India should try to diversify its trade routes more and also increase the cybersecurity capacity to prevent any attempt of espionage or misinformation. While pushing for more cordial relations with China, India should not let its sovereignty be compromised in the face of any power.

## **CONCLUSION**

An analysis of the paper suggests that in the garb of promoting increased development and security, China wants to ensure the longevity of the central leadership and regime. Its portrayal of such a broad range of aspects as security issues may lead to the leadership taking decisions either domestically or internationally, deemed to be in the common good but not being so and justifying it under the pretext of national security. It appears to be an evolving strategy which can come to life in the near future as enhanced security reforms, structures and laws.

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