

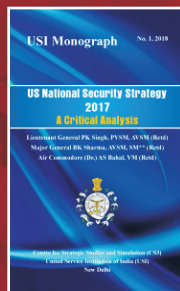
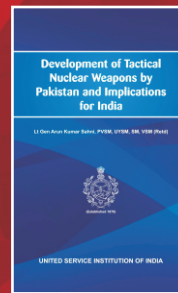
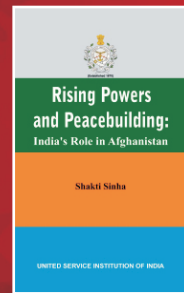


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USI Monograph

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PLA Reforms of XI JINGPING in an Era of Assertive Diplomacy Implications For India

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About the Monograph

The sword arm of the Communist Party of China (CCP), the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) has been at the forefront in extending the Peoples Republic of China (PRC)'s geo-political and geo-strategic reach around the periphery of the Han Heartland. It has formed a very essential part of CCP's strategy. The one constant that has stayed this entire course since 1949, and been the basis for successive strategic guidelines, has been the concept of Active Defence, as enunciated by Mao Tse Tung -a strategic defensive posture, but using offensive means to achieve decisive ends – essentially an Offensive Defence strategy.

In its march towards a full spectrum domination of Asia, China needs to secure its heartland and its core interests in the region from land, sea, air, space, cyber, diplomatic, economical and commercial threats. The PLA would play a major role in this and in supporting Xi's push to achieve an 'integration or the CNP of the neighbourhood with itself' – an umbilical connect that would not be easily disrupted, thereby enabling Xi to establish 'Great Power Diplomacy' with Chinese Characteristics, with USA and the West.

This has a direct bearing on India, as China views it as its main competitor for space in the region. As it becomes more strong, both militarily and economically, China will not countenance India's strategic autonomy and be more aggressive to contain India. In this it already has a willing ally in Pakistan, which it would prefer to utilise covertly in the near to medium term, if needed – the period it needs to strengthen its 'shi'. The current flux caused due to the restructuring and reorganisation of the PLA at all levels provides India with some elbow room for the modernisation and restructuring of its own Armed Forces to successfully prosecute the future wars.

This monograph assesses the PLA restructuring since the 1980s that set the platform for converting it into a modern force and the current ongoing far-reaching reforms under Xi Jinping. In the light of growing geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political assertiveness by China in the Indo-Pacific Region and its implications for India and provide recommendations for the Indian military, to include the Higher Defence Organisation and Armed Forces restructuring.

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