

Instability in China and the Threat of War with India

October 29, 2023

October 24, 2023: Beijing, China: China's state broadcaster CCTV reported that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, had approved the removal of **General Li Shangfu** and **Qin Gang**, the former Ministers of China as State Councillors.



General Li Shangfu: Minister of National Defense from March 12, 2023 to Oct 24, 2023



Qin Gang: Minister of Foreign Affairs of China from Dec 30, 2022 to July 25, 2023

The 7-member State Council is the cabinet of China, the 2nd Super-power of the world. When for months, some State Councillors are not able to perform their duties and then they are removed, it shows that Xi Jinping's government is internally weak and unstable.

WARS -a MANIFESTATION of INTERNAL ISSUES: The German historian **Fritz Fischer** said that Germany's entry into the First World War was the result of the country's dysfunctional domestic politics. He said that to understand the war, one had to appreciate the **Primat der Innenpolitik** (primacy of domestic politics) and the role it played in the making of foreign policy. Fischer's thesis postulates that a state's aggressive international behavior may be rooted deep within its internal political dynamics.

Eliot Pence in a Blog dated October 8, 2020 "**To Understand China's Aggressive Foreign Policy, Look at Its Domestic Politics**" said that the Chinese government spends more on "stability maintenance"—including police, internal security, and Uyghur "training centers" in Xinjiang—than it officially spends on national

defense. Xi Jinping has become powerful through his **Anti-corruption drive** and **military reforms.** These may have made CCP and PLA stronger. But they have displaced a million or more from their positions of power. To ensure that the disgruntled elements are ground down completely, a **Rectification campaign** (similar to the Mao's cultural revolution) has been started.

Insecurities are engendered in the hearts of strong -looking powerful leaders due to such internal weaknesses. "Because they cannot afford to appear weak or indecisive at home, they may feel compelled to act strongly and forcefully abroad, especially given the popular nationalism the party-state has fostered since 1989."
(Reference: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/understand-chinas-aggressive-foreign-policy-look-its-domestic-politics>)

CHINA'S AGGRESIVE ACTIONS: China's larger neighbours today are either client states like Pakistan and North Korea or it is involved in disputes with them. Each of these disputes can change into a full-scale war in no time. For instance, it has **clashed with India in the Himalayas,** stepped up **patrols around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands,** has had **55 incidents between the Naval vessels of China and Philippines** during 2023 and has sent **warplanes across the median line in the Taiwan Strait.**



*October 22, 2023: South China Sea:
A Philippine Boat being BLOCKED by a China Coast Guard vessel*

With Vietnam, China had a full-scale **war from February 17 to March 16, 1979**. Chinese troops temporarily occupied Vietnamese territory along the China-Vietnam border before withdrawing. The Vietnamese authorities increased their expulsions of overseas Chinese from Vietnam after the war. Border clashes between China and Vietnam continued until 1991. Today, Vietnam's defence preparedness is for facing any future attacks from China.

China has also been involved in a dispute with Australia over its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and with Canada over its interference in Canada's internal affairs.

China is also said to have sent 6 naval ships to the Mediterranean to show to Hamas and Iran, its support. China knows that in any conflict, its ships stand no chance whatsoever against the **USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group** and the **USS Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier strike group**. On Tuesday, the Pentagon said it was sending the **USS Bataan amphibious ready group**, which consists of three ships carrying thousands of Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, into the region

Why WILL CHINA ATTACK INDIA?: China has been warned by USA against any adventure against Taiwan. Winning a war against Philippines is not going to strengthen President Xi Jinping's internal situation. Hence, to shore up his falling reputation in China, Xi Jinping requires to have a victory over India. This would not only make Xi Jinping look stronger, it can destroy India's reputation as a regional power for at least a decade or two. **The attack can be deterred if Xi Jinping feels that a quick victory against India may not be possible.**

CHINA's PREPARATIONS for an ATTACK on INDIA:

Alexander Ward and **Matt Berg** on 29th November 2022 used the satellite pictures, obtained by the **Center for Strategic and International Studies' China Power project** to find that the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** was building a second and a stronger bridge across the Pangong Tso lake. It had also constructed a headquarters and garrison to house troops near the remote lake, that stretches across the Line of Actual Control between the two countries.

Ward and Berg think that the new structures are meant for a forward-command post — a position that could allow China to more easily involve its military in the region. The Division HQ has been constructed during the last two years after the

last skirmish between Indian and Chinese armies in the **Galwan valley**, on **June 15, 2020**, in which India lost 20 soldiers. The incident was one of the deadliest confrontations between the armies of the two nations in the past few decades.



Pangong Yso Bridge

shows 'First bridge deck' and the 'Second bridge deck under construction' upper left side shows 'New Access roads under construction'

In the following photograph is shown a **Radome**. A radome is a protective enclosure that houses a radar antenna.

Near the Pangong Tso lake, which straddles the Line of Actual Control between India and China, the Radome facility is located at **Sirjap** peak (height of 4250 m) near the lake. Due to its height, the radar at Sirjap can also look at areas slightly north of **Chushul town**. (In the rugged hilly terrain, normally, a radar can provide any surveillance up to about 25 km only.)

In their article, Ward and Berg quote extensively from a Blog by **Matthew P. Funaiole, Brian Hart, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., and Jennifer Jun** titled "**China Is Deepening Its Military Foothold along the Indian Border at Pangong Tso**". **Matthew Funaiole**, a senior fellow with the China Power Project and a co-author of the blog post, says that a posture of overwhelming strength would also help China more ably enforce its crackdowns on Xinjiang and Tibet, Funaiole said. "A

more robust military presence in the region can help shore up both the internal and external situation.”



Pangong Tso Bridge

*shows PLA Division level Headquarters (upper left of bridge) and
‘New Radome facility’ (upper left of bridge and on a peak)*

BACKGROUND on CHINA’S STATE COUNCIL: As of October 2023, China has five State Counsellors:

1. **Wang Xiaohong:** He is also the **Secretary-General of the State Council.**



2. **Wu Zhenglong**: He is also the **Governor of Jiangsu Province**.
3. **Shen Yiqin**: She is also the Vice-Chairperson of the National People's Congress Environment and Resources Protection Committee.
4. **Ding Xuexiang**: He is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and **Director of the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee**.
5. **Yang Jiechi**: He is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and **Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs**.

A BACKGROUNDER on the STATE COUNCIL of CHINA: The State Council of the People's Republic of China is the **Chief Administrative Authority** and the **National Cabinet of China**. It is constitutionally the executive organ of the **National People's Congress**, the highest organ of state power, and the highest administrative organ of the country. The State Council is responsible for carrying out the principles and policies of the Communist Party of China as well as the regulations and laws adopted by the National People's Congress.

The State Council is composed of several members, including the Premier, several Vice Premiers, several State Councillors, Ministers of Ministries, Directors of Committees, the Auditor General, and the Secretary-General.

Not every Minister is a State Councillor.

Note: Please read "China Threat: Sends Navy Ships and Fighter Jets towards Taiwan" dated August 11, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/china-threat-sends-navy-fighter-jets-towards-taiwan/>.
