

CHINA'S MILITARY  
MODERNISATION  
AND THE  
SOUTH CHINA SEA:

HOW THIS PRESENTS  
AUSTRALIA  
WITH SIGNIFICANT  
GEO-STRATEGIC  
CHALLENGES

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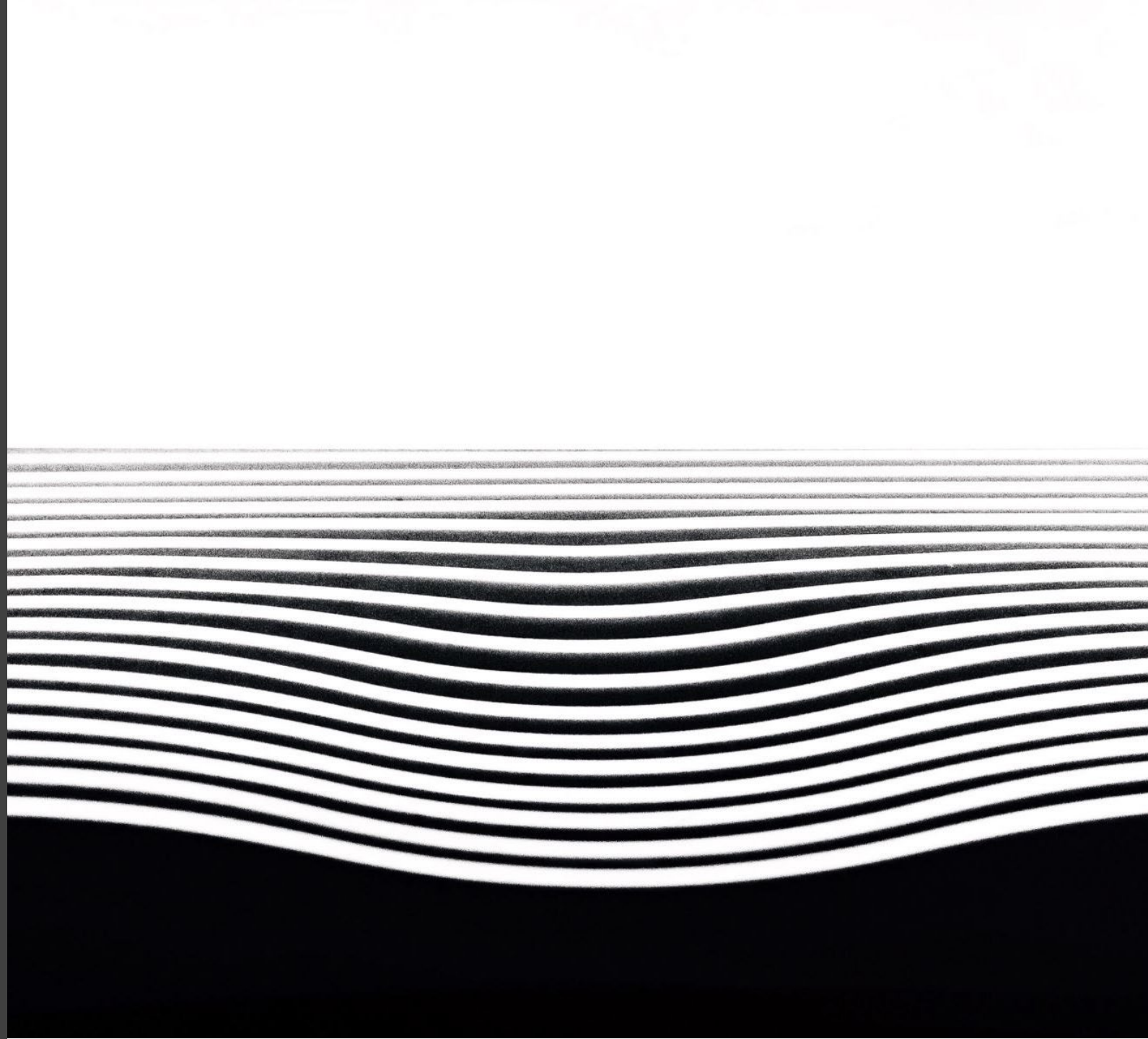
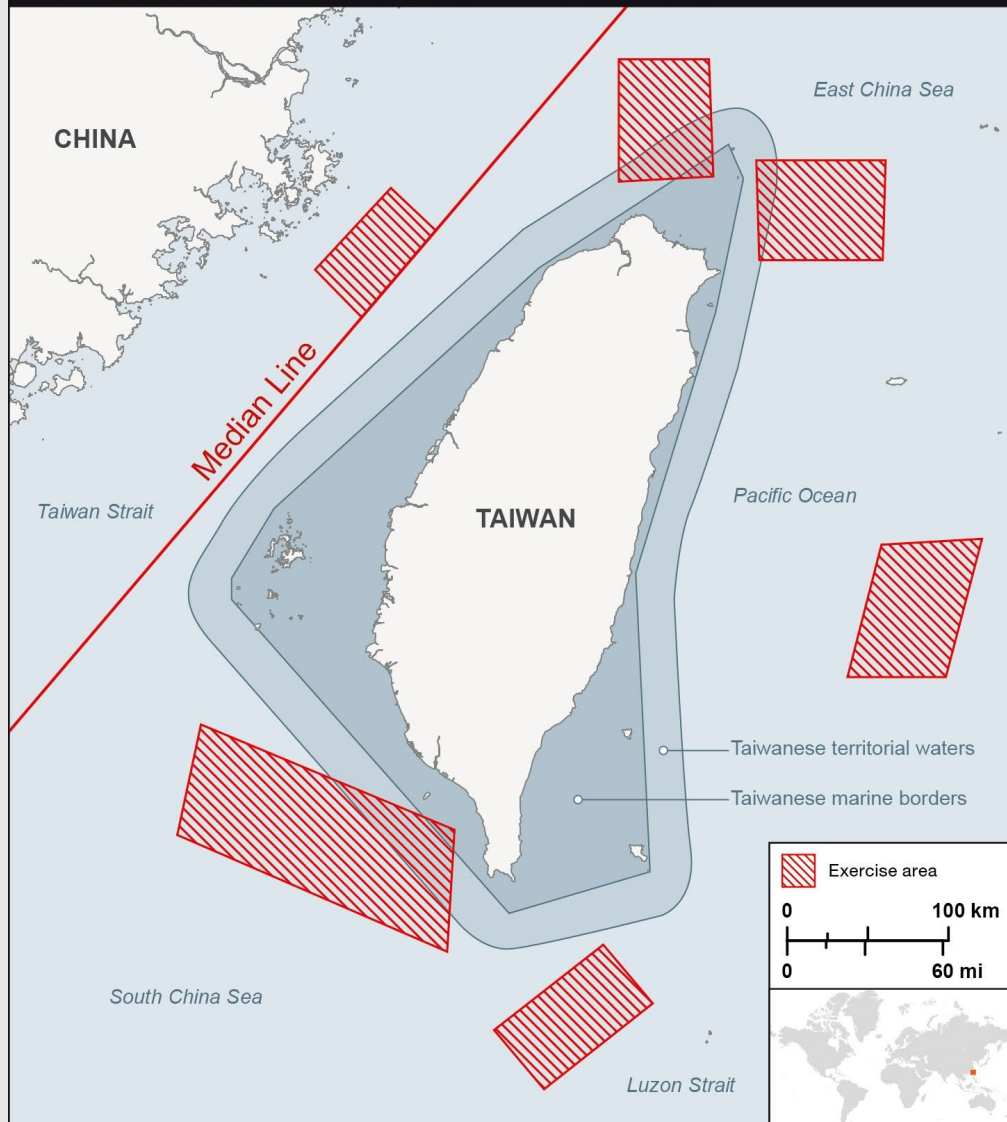




Image: Foreign Affairs.com/

### Chinese military drills around Taiwan 4-7 August 2022



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Source: Janes: 2021162

# Risk of Cross-Strait Conflict 04-07 August 2022



A woman uses her mobile phone as she walks in front of a large screen showing a news broadcast about China's military exercises encircling Taiwan, in Beijing on August 4, 2022. Photo by Noel Celis / AFP via Getty Images.



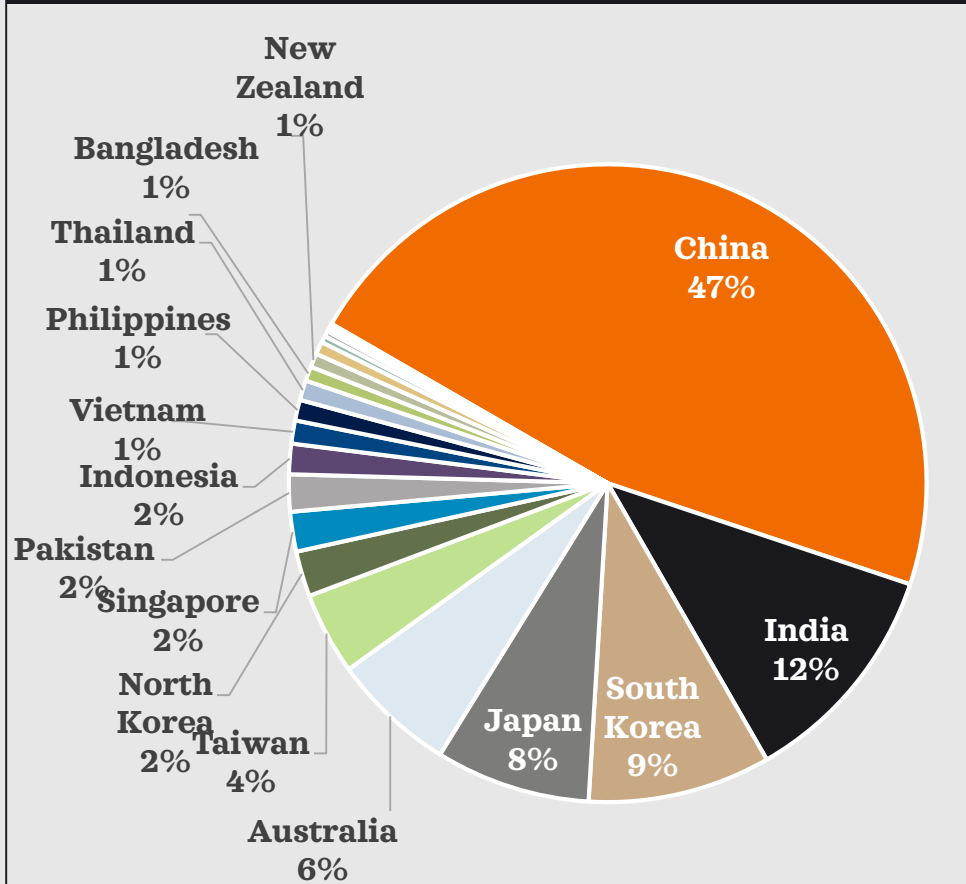
# **US Navy Warships Transit Taiwan Strait**

- **28 Aug 22 - Two USN guided missile cruisers from the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet sailed through Taiwan Strait in an area outside of both Beijing's or Taipei's coastal waters.**
  
- **28 Aug 22 - In response to that USN Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOP), China went on 'high alert'. The PLA stated it was "ready to thwart any provocation."**

Image: Janes IHS, 2022.

# Asia-Pacific: Defence budgets 2022

Share of Asia-Pacific defence spend, 2022



Source: Janes

ASPAC defence budgets 2022, USD billion



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# China's Military & Strategic Approaches

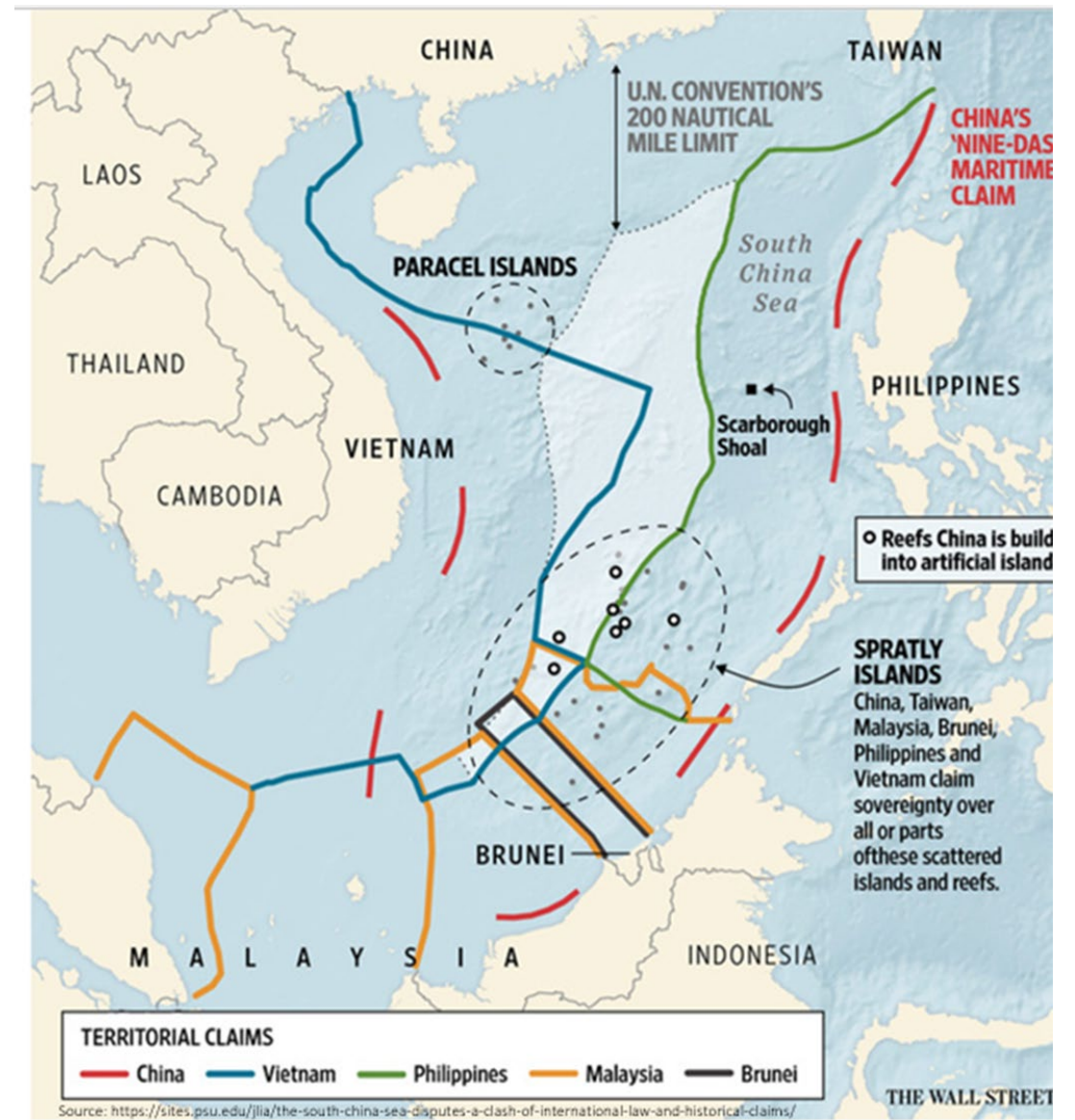
The Communist  
Party Central  
Military  
Commission &  
PLA Armed Forces

White Paper on  
Taiwan  
(August 2022)

Maritime and  
Territorial disputes:  
Militarisation of  
South China Sea

Moving beyond  
First Island Chain

String of Pearls  
Naval Strategy

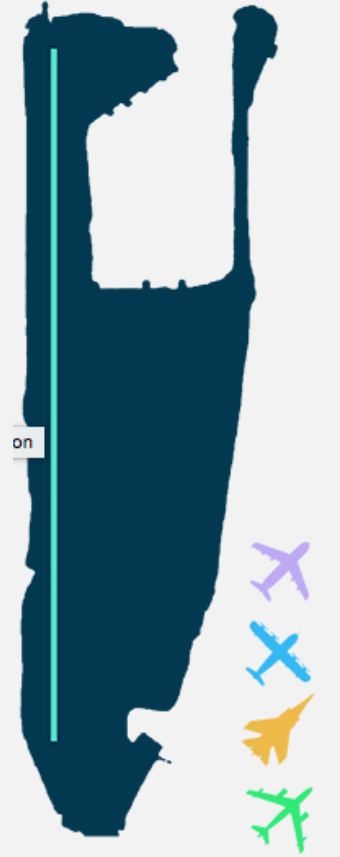




CSIS/AMTI

DigitalGlobe

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FIERY CROSS  
REEF  
*China*

Source: [Fiery Cross Reef](https://www.csis.org) | Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative ([csis.org](https://www.csis.org))



# China's Military & Strategic Approaches

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)  
The Maritime Silk Road Strategy

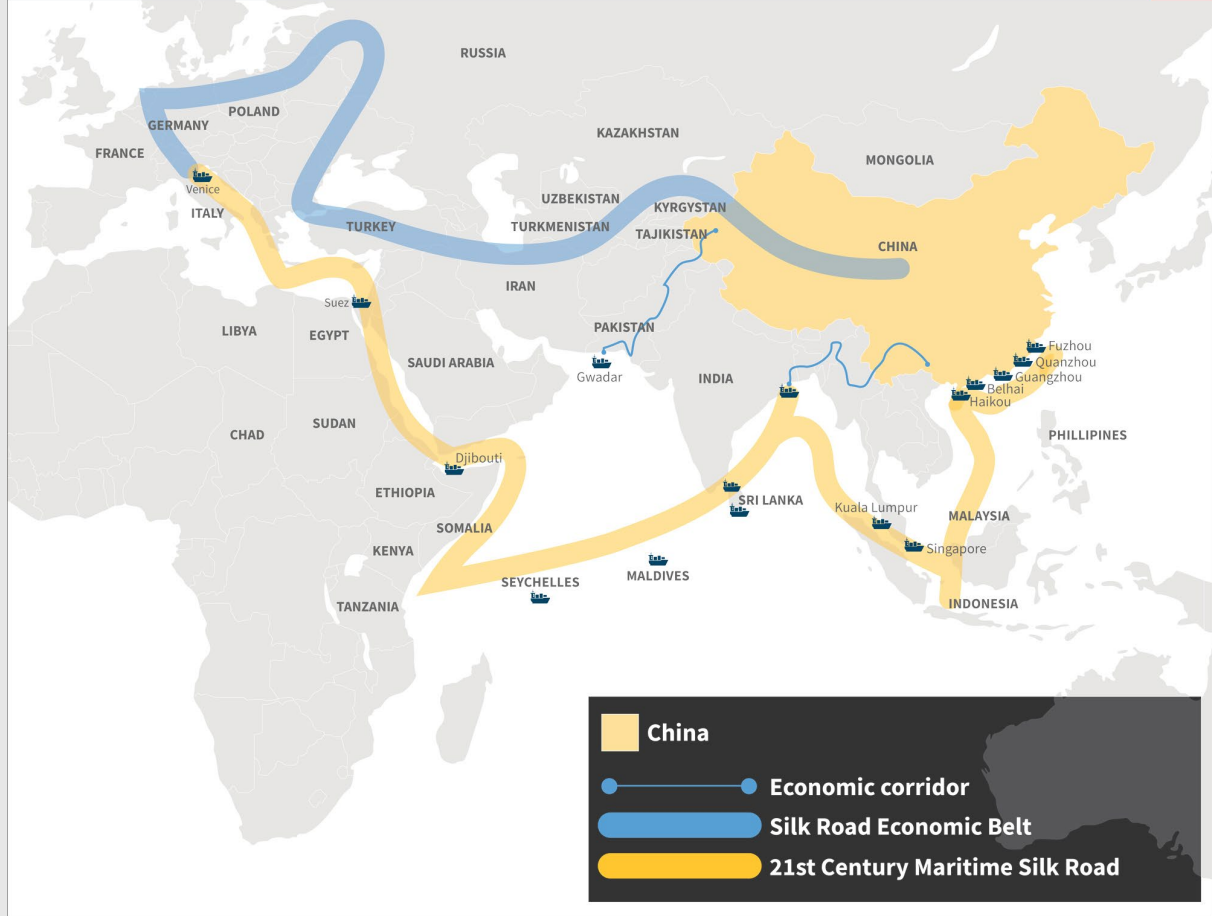
Quantitative and qualitative increase in military capabilities

Advances across all domains of warfare:  
AI, Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Weapons and Space-based assets

Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW)

Three Strategies of Warfare - public opinion, psychological warfare and legal warfare

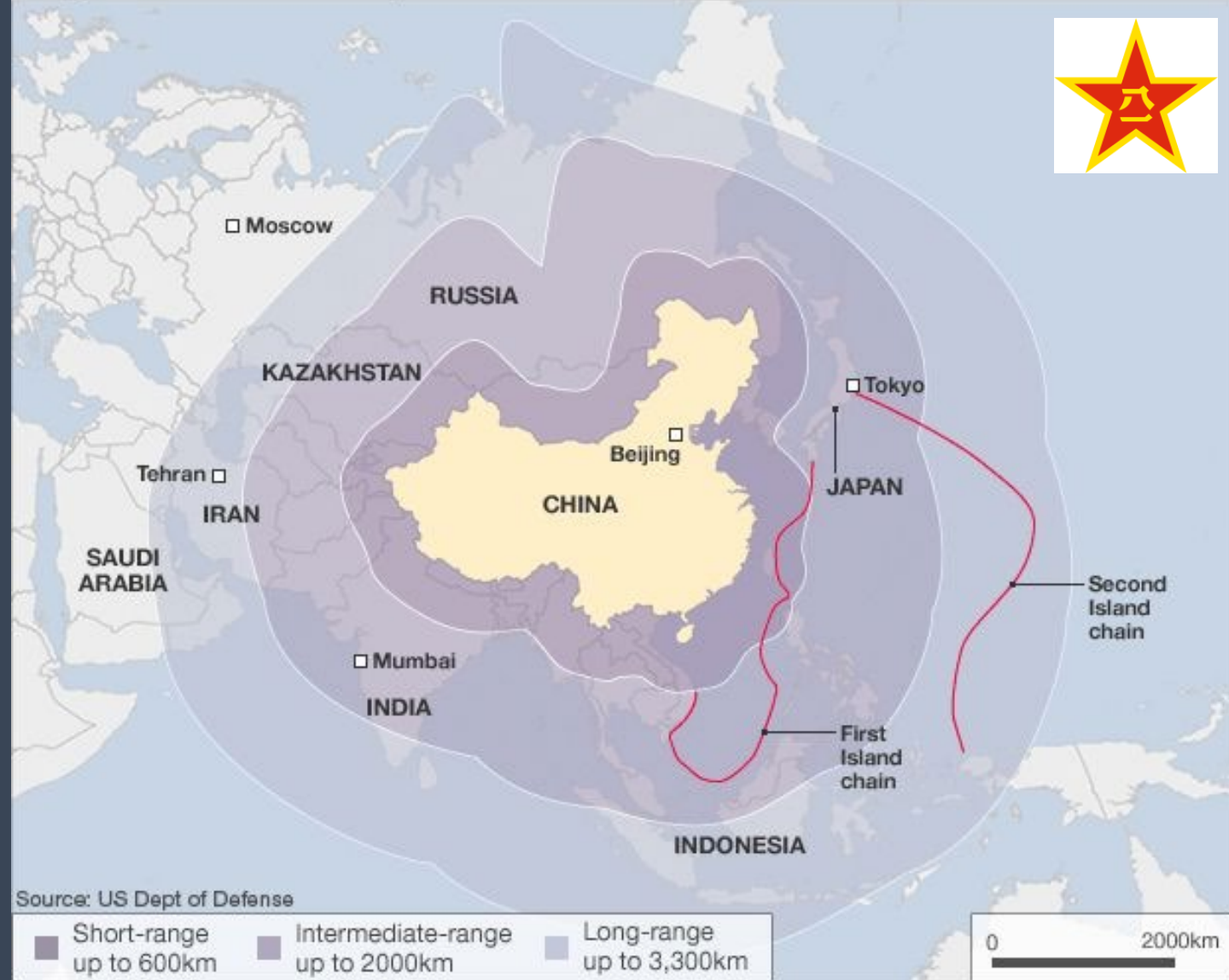
# One Belt, One Road

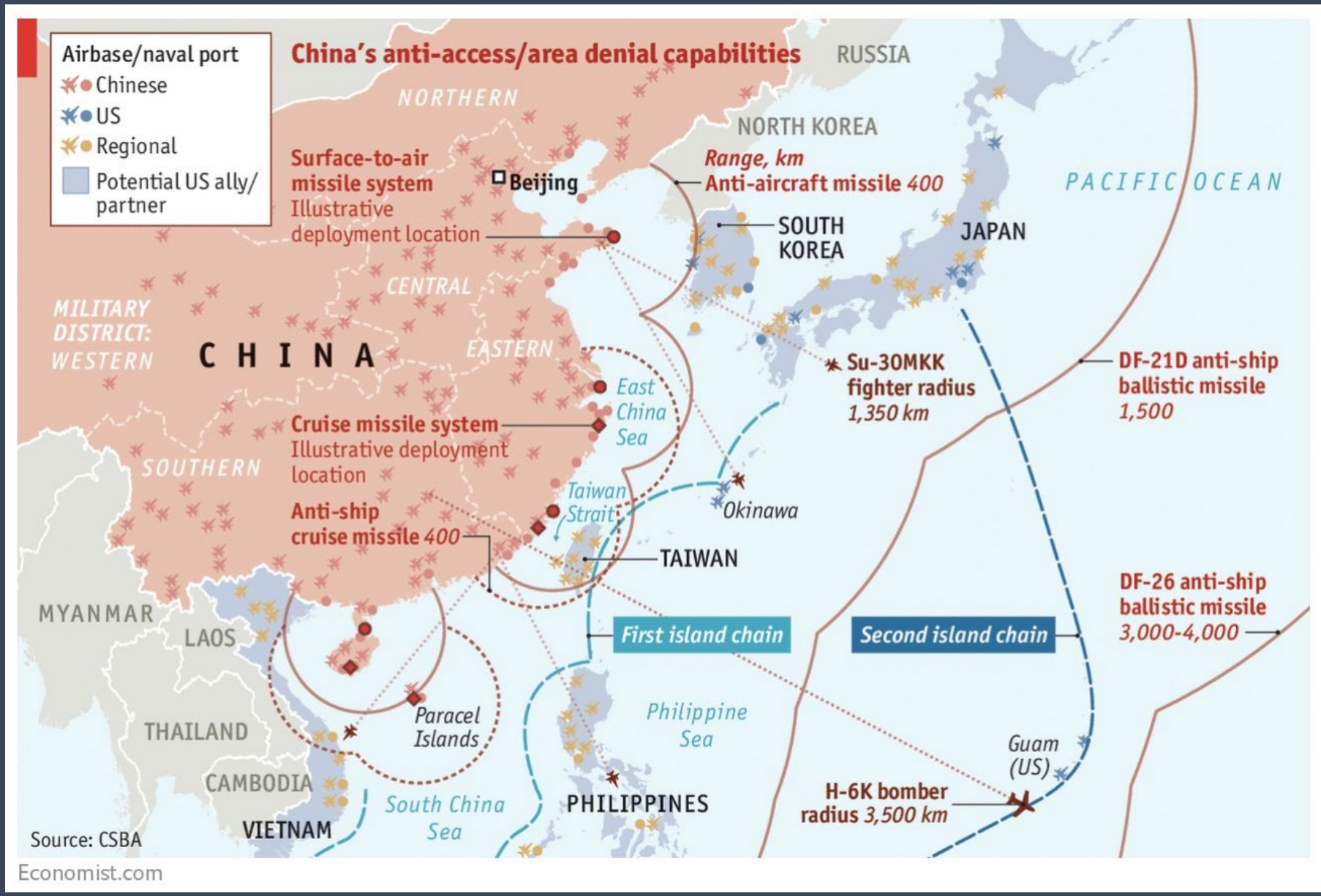


<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/understanding-belt-and-road-initiative>



### Range of China's anti-ship ballistic missiles





Source: CSBA  
 Economist.com



# **Impacts on Australia from War in the South China Sea**

Strategic - Alliance management (AUKUS, ANZUS); ADF contribution and involvement; escalation beyond region and across multiple domains of warfare; complementary action alongside Russia's ambitions.

Geo-political – some states may remain neutral; out of region force projection; extreme limitation of Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs).

Economic – reduced FDI, loss of access to export markets, supply shortages (such as energy), adverse effect on regional trading partners: China, Japan and South Korea, ASEAN states, and global economy.

Questions?