

ASPI MASTERCLASS:



CHINA'S EMERGING MILITARY & STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES

THURSDAY 28 APRIL
QT CANBERRA

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This ASPI Masterclass will assess the challenges to Australia's strategic interest in the face of a rapid build-up of Chinese military and strategic capability across all fields while evaluating the need to deepen practical cooperation with our allies and partners.

0830 – 0900

Registration, tea & coffee

Welcome remarks

0900 – 0910

Fergus Hanson, Director, International Cyber Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Session 1: PRC – US relations: Defence and security dimensions

The US relationship with the PRC is now one of open competition with a hard security edge. Prospects for deep bilateral cooperation on even pressing challenges like climate change, arms control and the current and future pandemics are dim, while US alliances and partnerships look re-energised. What are the dimensions of US-PRC defence and security interaction and how is this affected by both Putin's war in Ukraine and the strategic partnership between Moscow and Beijing?

0910 – 1000

- **Dr Gorana Grgic**, Senior Lecturer in US Politics and Foreign Policy, United States Studies Centre

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Watson, Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute Washington DC Office – <i>virtual</i> • Dr John Lee, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute <p>Moderator: Michael Shoebridge, Director, Defence, Strategy and National Security, Australian Strategic Policy Institute</p>
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Session 2: China disinformation, propaganda and information warfare

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to pursue a broad-spectrum approach to disinformation, propaganda and information warfare. Multiple arms of the Party-state are engaged, as well as a wider global network of individuals, groups and platforms. This panel explores how CCP tactics are evolving, the goals of these efforts and the challenges and opportunities for Australia and its partners.

1000 – 1050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jacob Wallis, Head, Information Operations and Disinformation, International Cyber Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute • Professor Anne-Marie Brady, University of Canterbury; Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute – <i>virtual</i> • Albert Zhang, Researcher, International Cyber Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute <p>Moderator: Fergus Hanson, Director, International Cyber Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute</p>
1050 – 1120	Morning Tea

Session 3: The PRC's military developments and Taiwan

Chinese military modernisation has primarily focused on building 'informationisation' of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and developing a range of counter-intervention capabilities to deter or defeat US intervention in a Taiwan scenario. Under Xi, this modernisation process has accelerated, and the PLA are now seen as the 'pacing threat' for the US military.

In a crisis over Taiwan, when would the PLA be able to undertake a range of joint military campaigns, including ultimately an amphibious invasion? How do key military developments for counter-intervention contribute to the success of these joint campaigns? Where is the PLA deficient in undertaking the joint campaigns, and how are they addressing these deficiencies?

1120 – 1210	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chen-wei Lin, Chief Executive Officer, Institute for National Defense and Security Research, Taiwan – <i>virtual</i> • Dr Bonny Lin, Director, China Power Project and Senior Fellow, Asian Security, Center for Strategic and International Studies – <i>virtual</i> • Dr Andrew Davies, Senior Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute <p>Moderator: Dr Malcolm Davis, Senior Analyst, Defence, Strategy & National Security, Australian Strategic Policy Institute</p>
Session 4: Implications for Australia – defence, the alliance and relations with China	
<p><i>Australia's strategic outlook is deteriorating as a rising China challenges a free and open Indo-Pacific and US strategic primacy in the region. Australia and its partners and allies need to coordinate our responses to Chinese power and coercion. That includes developing military capabilities that can deter and respond, potentially fundamentally different capabilities to ones we currently have in our force structure; but we all need to find ways to accelerate the development of those capabilities.</i></p>	
1210 – 1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Shoebridge, Director, Defence, Strategy and National Security Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute • Dr Marcus Hellyer, Senior Analyst, Defence, Strategy and National Security Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute • Amanda Holt, Chief Executive Officer, SYPAQ <p>Moderator: Dr Malcolm Davis, Senior Analyst, Australian Strategic Policy Institute</p>
1300 – 1340	Lunch

Session 5: The evolving China/Russia relationship: Challenges for Japan, Europe and Australia

China and Russia declared a new 'no limits' partnership in February this year. Then Russia invaded Ukraine. What does this tell us about direction of China and Russia's strategic partnership and what are the strategic and economic implications for Japan, Europe and Australia?

1340 - 1440

- **H.E. Mr Shingo Yamagami**, Ambassador of Japan, Embassy of Japan in Australia
- **H.E. Ms Pernille Kardel**, Ambassador of Denmark, Royal Danish Embassy, Australia
- **Professor Paul Dibb AM**, Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University

Moderator: Anastasia Kapetas, National Security Editor, *The Strategist*, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Session 6: In conversation with the Hon Kevin Rudd MP

In this session, Peter Jennings speaks to The Hon Kevin Rudd, 26th Prime Minister of Australia, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Society and the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York. Mr Rudd is the author of 'The Avoidable War: The Dangers of a Catastrophic Conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China' (Hachette) released in March 2022.

1440 – 1530

- **The Hon Kevin Rudd AC**, 26th Prime Minister of Australia; Global President and Chief Executive Officer, Asia Society and Asia Society Policy Institute

Chair: Peter Jennings PSM, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

1530 – 1600

Afternoon tea

Session 7: Strategic competition in the South Pacific

In this session, panellists will discuss strategic competition in the South Pacific in light of the recent security pact between China and Solomon Islands. They will consider how US-China competition is playing out in the region and how Australia can work with its allies and partners to counter China's growing influence.

1600 – 1650

- **Dr Anna Powles**, Senior Lecturer in Security Studies, Massey University
- **Cameron Stewart**, Associate Editor, The Australian

Chair: Peter Jennings PSM, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Closing remarks

1650 – 1700

Peter Jennings PSM, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute