A satellite-style map of Asia and surrounding regions, including parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. The map is overlaid with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is centered over the map, containing the title and author information.

# Nuclear Weapons in China's National Strategy: *The Two Faces of Janus*

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## *The Two Faces of Janus*

### **China: Power & the Security of the State** *What makes an Interest Vital?*

- Vital Interests distinct from lesser imperatives
- Linkages between Survival of State, Survival of Dispensation, Military Action and Vital Security Interests
- Post- Deng and Tiananmen
- Military Action resorted to when:
  - Threat to Dispensation
  - Interest involved is survival threatening
  - All other less than war avenues exhausted

## Masters of *Shi*\*

- Domination of Political, Psychological and Military Posture to Rewrite the Rule Book
- Statecraft: means of “Combative Coexistence”
- Nuclear alliance partners: Pakistan and North Korea viewing them at first as one; and then as separate
- “Harmonious Rise” as a self defined perspective
- Grand Strategy: Importance of alliances in achieving goals related to both security and development

\*In Chinese strategic parlance ‘*shi*’ is an all encompassing concept that sees in any strategic contest the relevance of every factor and every event and their correlation to the context within which they occur.

## **Philosophical and Strategic Underpinnings of Chinese Nuclear Policy**

*The Guidelines for the Development of Nuclear Weapons (1959)* offered seven crucial tenets to the nuclear doctrine stemming from Mao's 'paper tiger' and minimalist appraisal of the nuclear question:

- No First Use
- Minimal N-Forces without Compromising Credibility
- Centralized Command and Control
- Assured Retaliation
- Modernization and Survivability
- The Value of Demonstration
- Doctrinal Dynamism

## Road to China's Strategic Objectives

- Form and Nature of the Taiwan & South China Sea Imbroglios
- Chinese technology adaptation strategy
- Larger effect of globalization and China's growth on account of it
- Multilateral nature of the nuclear cauldron of the day

# The Silk Road & Belt

Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road in the making



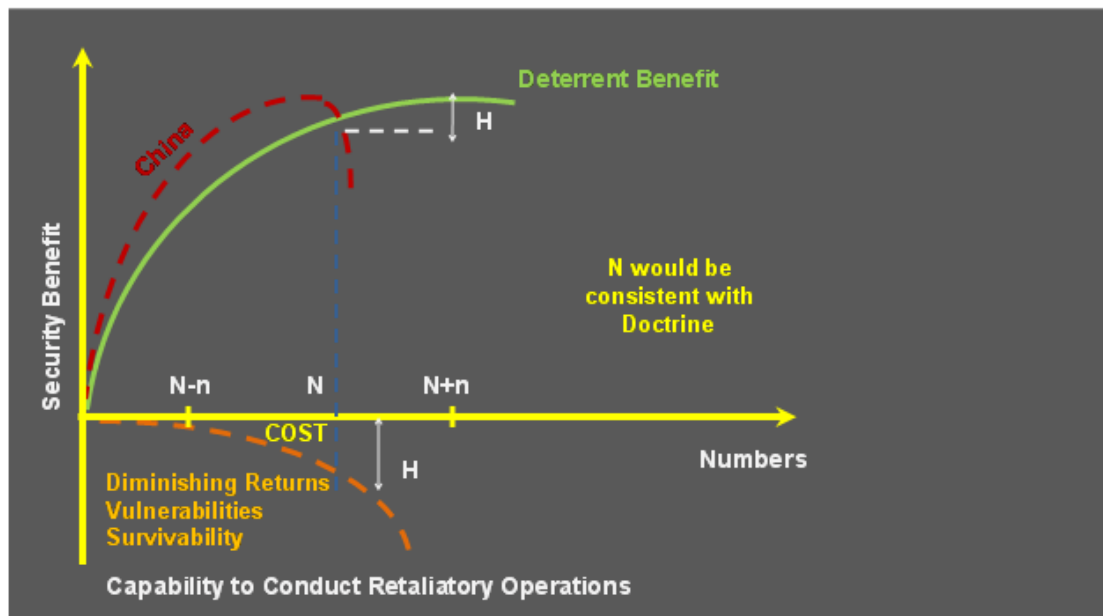
Source: xinhuanet.com, and Barclays Research

# Logic for Size of Arsenal

Source: Minimum Means of Reprisal, Lewis J MIT, 2007, pp. 5-11.

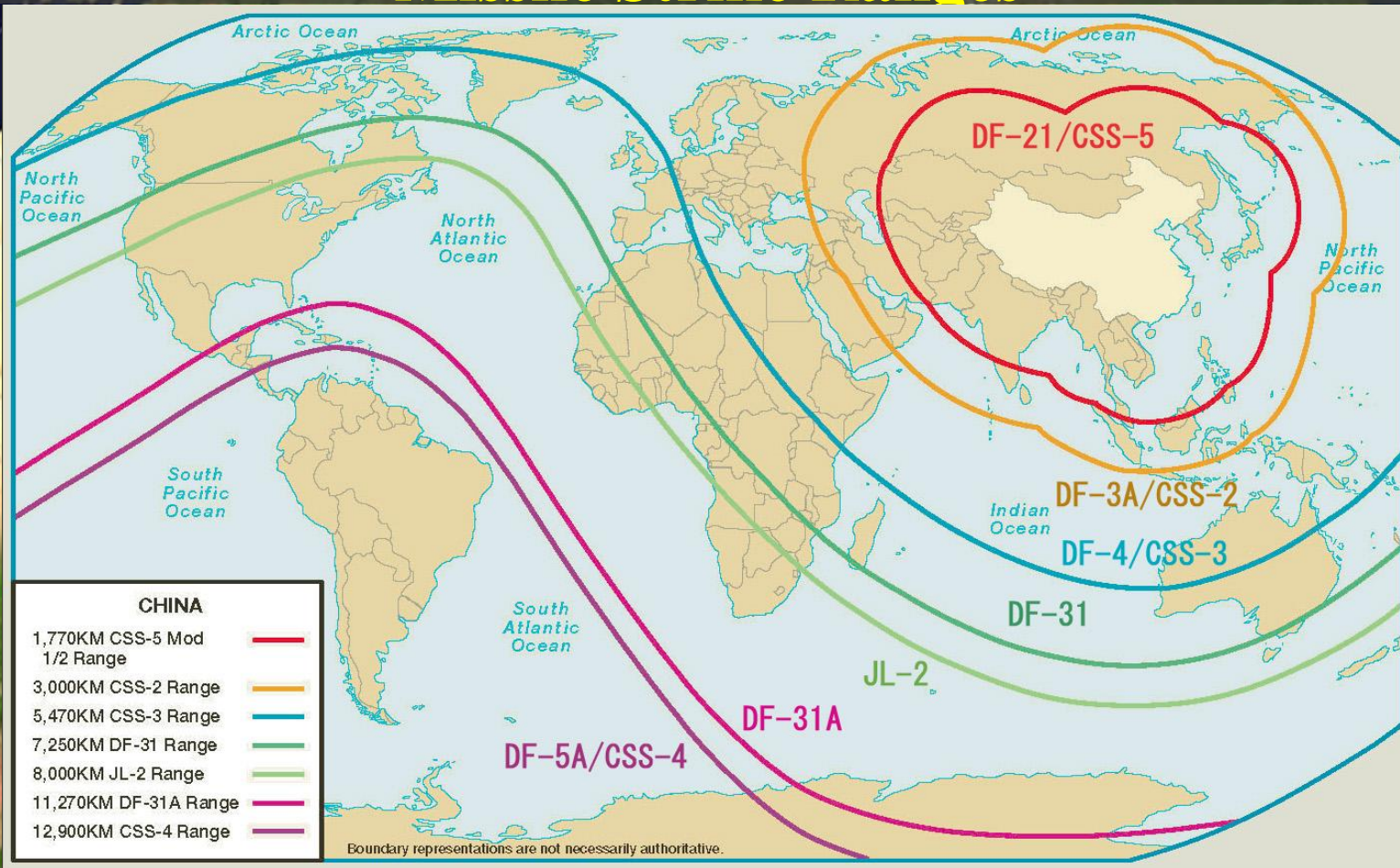
## How much is enough?

Security Benefit of Nuclear Weapons – China's perspective



*The Two Faces of Janus*

# China's Medium and Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Strike Ranges

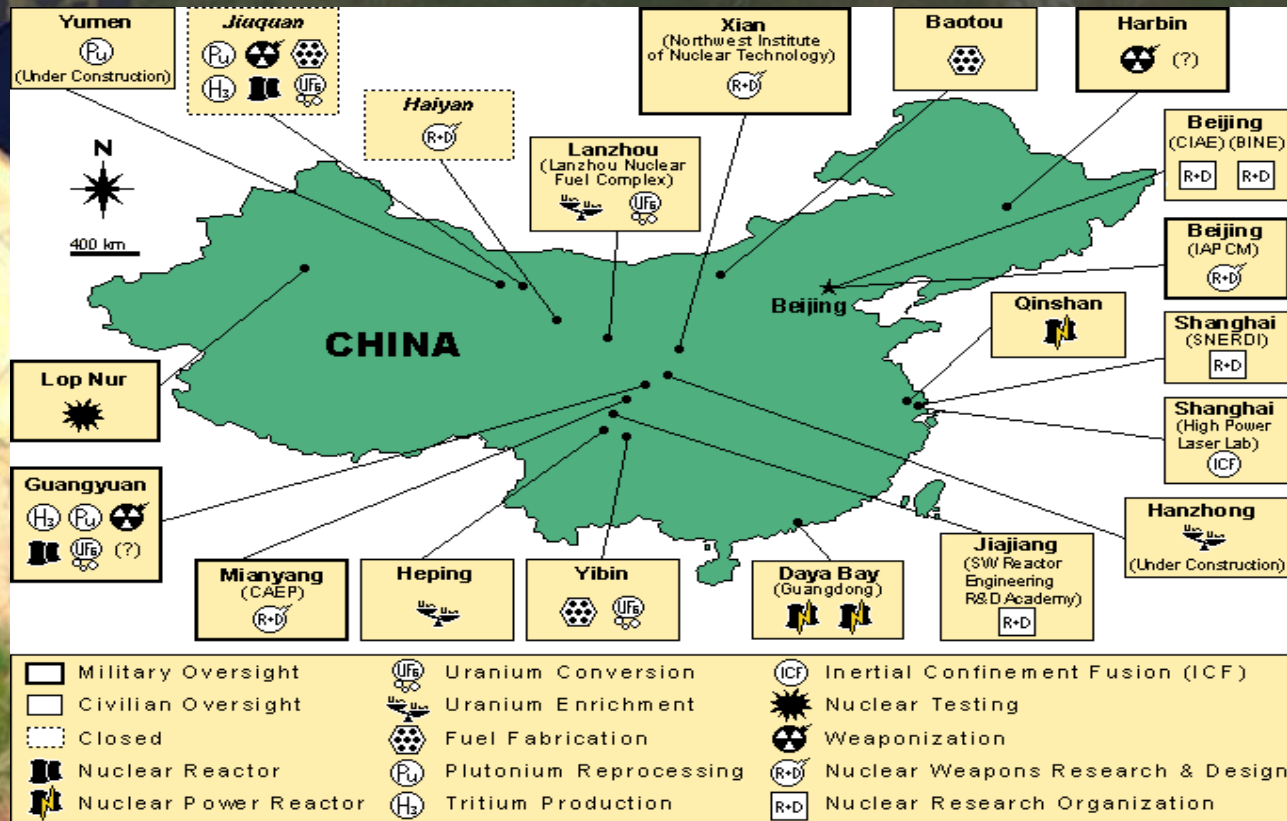




# Stockpiles and Potential

- China stopped production of fissile material in 1990.
- When accounting the Chinese stockpiles, fissile material for nuclear mines deployed along borders with the erstwhile USSR, have since been dismantled, but **cores available**.
- Current estimates:
  - a) Highly Enriched Uranium: 20-40 Tonnes
  - b) Plutonium: 3.5 Tonnes

## The Two Faces Of Janus China Nuclear Sites



- *maturity of all round development*
- *HRD kept pace with tech changes*
- *training, research, enrichment and physics package—a composite activity.*
- *Number of sites under direct military oversight.*

## *The Two Faces Of Janus*

# Prognosis

- China's Nuclear Arsenal small, credible and survivable, numbers operationalized: less than 200 warheads
- US deployment of BMD in the South China littorals and Japan
- If Taiwan and the South China Sea Islands problem are resolved, China's 'aspirations – capabilities' gap reduce; if not, gap will increase.
- Technologies Induction.
- Hazards of Strategic Narcissism & “*Shi*” Concept
- Unleashing of Japan
- Emerging Triple Entente

# Prognosis contd.

- Emphasis on SSBNs
- Combative co-existence.
- Stability, growth, social development will retain primacy.
- Strategic orientation will include nurturing a first nuclear strike capability in Pakistan, providing doctrinal dynamism when relating with India and a nuclear weapons capability in North Korea to keep the USA and Japan in state of strategic imbalance.
- Impact of threat to Belt & Road Strategy