

CHINA'S MILITARY POWER

ASSESSING CURRENT AND FUTURE CAPABILITIES



ROGER CLIFF

"Roger Cliff's analysis, and especially the metrics he offers for gauging the PLA, could not be timelier. As this important volume goes to print, the Chinese People's Liberation Army is poised to undergo another period of re-energized reform and modernization as a result of decisions made at the Third Plenum of the Eighteenth Central Committee. Cliff has brought a degree of rigor to the analysis of the Chinese armed forces that deserves the serious attention of all who are engaged in studying this evolving military establishment."

Dr. David M. Finkelstein, Vice President, CNA Corporation, and Director, CNA China Studies

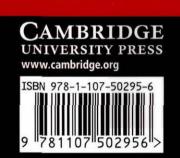
Once termed the "world's largest military museum," the Chinese military has made enormous progress over the past twenty years. With skyrocketing military budgets and new technology, China's tanks, aircraft, destroyers, and missile capabilities are becoming comparable to those of the United States. If these trends continue, how powerful will the Chinese military be in the future? Will its capabilities soon rival or surpass those of the United States?

The most comprehensive study of its kind, this book provides a detailed assessment of China's military capabilities in 2000 and 2010 with projections for 2020. It is the first to outline a rigorous, theoretically- and empirically-grounded framework for assessing military capability based on not just weaponry but also doctrine, training, equipment, and organizational structure. This framework provides not only the most accurate assessment of China's military to date but an important new tool in the study of military affairs.

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Cover caption: Chinese self-propelled artillery file past Tiananmen Square in Beijing during a parade to celebrate the country's national day October 1, 1999. Credit: Bobby Yip/REUTERS

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Contents

List of Figures		page ix	
List	List of Tables		
Ackn	Acknowledgments		
Abbr	Abbreviations		
1	Introduction	1	
	Previous Studies of China's Military	3	
	Assessing Military Capability	4	
	A Brief History of the People's Liberation Army	9	
	The Organizational Structure of the People's Liberation Army	13	
	Overview of the Rest of the Book	16	
2	Doctrine	17	
	Assessing the Quality of Doctrine	18	
	Chinese Military Doctrine	19	
	The Chinese Military's Doctrine in 2000	20	
	Assessment	24	
	The Chinese Military's Doctrine in 2010	29	
	Assessment	32	
	The Chinese Military's Doctrine in 2020	34	
3	Organizational Structure	37	
•	Types of Organizational Structure	37	
	Implications for Military Organizations	40	
	The Organizational Structure of China's Military in 2000	43	
	Vertical Differentiation	44	
	Centralization	46	
	Standardization	47	
	Horizontal Integration	47	

vi Contents

	The Organizational Structure of China's Military in 2010	50
	Vertical Differentiation	50
	Centralization	52
	Standardization	53
	Horizontal Integration	53
	The Organizational Structure of China's Military in 2020	55
	Centralization	55
	Standardization	56
	Horizontal Integration	57
	Conclusion	58
4	Weaponry	60
	The Chinese Military's Weaponry in 2000	61
	The Chinese Military's Weaponry in 2010	72
	The Chinese Military's Weaponry in 2020	88
5	Personnel	104
	Chinese Military Personnel Quality in 2000	106
	Education Level	107
	Experience	109
	Chinese Military Personnel Quality in 2010	111
	Education Level	115
	Experience	117
	Chinese Military Personnel Quality in 2020	117
6	Training	120
	Chinese Military Training Quality in 2000	123
	Responsibility of Unit Commanders for Training	123
	Intensity of Training	124
	Degree to Which Training Corresponded to Doctrine	125
	Focus of Training on Priority Skills	125
	Progressiveness of Training	126
	Realism of Training	127
	Standards-Based Training	128
	Operational Experience	129
	Chinese Military Training Quality in 2010	129
	Responsibility of Unit Commanders for Training	130
	Intensity of Training	130
	Degree to Which Training Corresponded to Doctrine	131
	Focus of Training on Priority Skills	121

Contents	v	ii

	Progressiveness of Training	133
	Realism of Training	134
	Standards-Based Training	134
	Operational Experience	135
	Chinese Military Training Quality in 2020	136
7	Logistics	139
	Chinese Military Logistics Capabilities in 2000	141
	Supply	142
	Repair and Maintenance	145
	Mobility	146
	Engineering	147
	Health Services	147
	Chinese Military Logistics Capabilities in 2010	148
	Supply	151
	Repair and Maintenance	154
	Mobility	155
	Engineering	158
	Health Services	158
	Chinese Military Logistics Capabilities in 2020	158
8	Organizational Culture	162
	Assessing the Organizational Culture of Military Organizations	163
	Military-Specific Values	164
	Data Collection	173
	Chinese Military Culture in 2000	174
	Chinese Military Culture in 2010	176
	Chinese Military Culture in 2020	178
9	Scenario Analysis	180
	Chinese Invasion of Taiwan	182
	Political-Military Context	182
	Combatant Capabilities	184
	Order of Battle	19:
	China's Objectives and Overall Campaign Plan	202
	Assessment	204
	Conclusions	22
	War in the South China Sea	22
	Political-Military Context	224
	Combatant Capabilities	225

viii Contents

	Order of Battle China's Objectives and Overall Campaign Plan	225 231
	Assessment	233
	Conclusions	241
10	Conclusion	24 4
	Implications for the United States	246
	Implications for China	250
	Implications for the Study of Military Power	251
Notes		255
Wo	325 355	
Ind		