

ANNUAL THREAT ASSESSMENT
OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

§ *Intelligence Authorization Act*

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

STATE ACTORS

PREFACE

The PRC combines its economic heft with its growing military power and its diplomatic and technological dominance for a coordinated approach to strengthen CCP rule, secure what it views as its sovereign territory and regional preeminence, and pursue global power.

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Beijing is balancing the level of its support to Moscow to maintain the relationship without incurring risk to its own economic and diplomatic interests.

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Economics

During the next few years, China will slow its economic growth due to its unwillingness to take aggressive stimulus measures to boost economic growth.

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Military

Beijing will focus on building a fully modernized national defense and military force by 2035 and for the PLA to become a world-class military by 2049.

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Space

China remains committed to becoming a world-class space leader and continues to demonstrate its growing prowess by deploying increasingly capable space systems and working towards ambitious scientific feats.

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Counterspace operations will be integral to potential PLA military campaigns, and China has counterspace-weapons capabilities intended to target U.S. and allied satellites. China already has fielded ground-based counterspace capabilities including electronic warfare (EW) systems, directed energy weapons, and antisatellite (ASAT) missiles intended to disrupt, damage, and destroy target satellites.

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Cyber

China remains the most active and persistent cyber threat to U.S. Government, private-sector, and critical infrastructure

Malign Influence Operations

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RUSSIA

Regional and Global Activities

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in enormous damage at home and abroad, but Russia remains a resilient and capable adversary across a wide range of domains and seeks to project and defend its interests globally and to undermine the United States and the West.

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Moscow will continue to employ all applicable sources of national power to advance its interests and try to undermine the United States and its allies, but it faces a number of challenges, such as severance from Western markets and technology and flight of human capital, in doing so.

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Conflict in Ukraine

Russia's so-called special military operation against Ukraine has incurred major, lasting costs for Russia, failed to attain the complete subjugation of Ukraine that Putin initially sought, and rallied the West to defend against Russian aggression.

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WMD

Russia will continue to modernize its nuclear weapons capabilities and maintains the largest and most diverse nuclear weapons stockpile.

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Russia will continue to pose a CBW threat.

Cyber

Russia will pose an enduring global cyber threat even as it prioritizes cyber operations for the Ukrainian war.

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Malign Influence Operations

Russia will remain a serious foreign influence threat because of its wide-ranging efforts to try to divide Western alliances, undermine U.S. global standing, and sow domestic discord, including among voters inside the United States and U.S. partners around the world.

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Space

Russia will remain a key space competitor despite facing difficulties from the effects of additional international sanctions and export controls, domestic space-sector problems, and increasingly strained competition for program resources within Russia.

IRAN

Regional and Global Activities

Iran will continue to threaten U.S. interests, allies, and influence in the Middle East and intends to entrench its emergent status as a regional power while minimizing threats to the regime and the risk of direct military conflict.

Cyber and Malign Influence Operations

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NORTH KOREA

Regional and Global Activities

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will continue to pursue nuclear and conventional military capabilities that threaten the United States and its allies, which will enable periodic aggressive actions as he tries to reshape the regional security environment in his favor.

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WMD

Kim Jong Un's nuclear strategy is centered on the development of a nuclear warhead, which serves as the centerpiece of his national security structure.

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Military

Ncfh K cFYUg a]`jHfmk]` dcgY U gYf]ci ghFYUhtc hYU b]hX SHhYg UbX]hgU`]Yg Vmits investment in niche capabilities designed to provide Kim with options to deter outside intervention, offset enduring XYZVWbVWg]b hYVci bYfmjgVcbj Yoh]cbU` ZcfWg UbX Uxj UbW \]gdc`]hW cV`Ym]j Yghfci [\ WYfV]cb.

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CONFLICTS AND FRAGILITY

Preface

The potential for interstate conflict and domestic turmoil in other countries around the world also continues to pose challenges for U.S. national security, both directly and as threats to our allies and partners.

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In regard to Gaza, Jerusalem remains focused on destroying HAMAS, which its population broadly supports.

Potential Intrastate Turmoil

Intrastate turmoil whether grounded in domestic unrest, economic discontent, or governance challenges can fuel cycles of violence, insurgencies, and internal conflict.



Sudan

Prolonged conflict \Y[\hlogh\Yf]g_gcZVbz]MgdFYUX]b[WmcbX Si XUbñ VcfXYfg Yl hYfbU' UMfcg ^c]b[the fray, and civilians facing death and displacement.

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

PREFACE

CONTESTED SPACES

Disruptive Technology

New technologies—particularly in the fields of AI and biotechnology—are being developed and are proliferating at a rate that makes it challenging for companies and governments to shape norms regarding civil liberties, privacy, and ethics. The convergence of these emerging technologies is likely to create breakthroughs, which could lead to the rapid development of asymmetric threats—such as advanced UAVs—to U.S. interests and probably will help shape U.S. economic prosperity.

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Digital Authoritarianism and Transnational Repression

Foreign states are advancing digital and physical means to repress individual critics and diaspora communities abroad, including in the United States, to limit their influence over domestic publics. States are also growing more sophisticated in digital influence operations that

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WMD

Nuclear Weapons

The expansion of nuclear weapons stockpiles and their delivery systems, coupled with increasing regional conflicts involving nuclear weapons states, pose a significant challenge to global efforts to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons.

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Chemical Weapons

The use of chemical weapons, particularly in situations other than state-on-state military operations, could increase in the near future.

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Biological Weapons

SHARED DOMAINS

Environmental Change and Extreme Weather

The risks to U.S. national security interests are increasing as the physical effects of climate and environmental change intersect with geopolitical tension and vulnerabilities of some global systems.



Migration

Conflict, violence, political instability, poor economic conditions, and natural disasters will continue to displace growing numbers of people within their own national borders and internationally, straining the capacity to absorb new arrivals and causing domestic public discontent.

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NON-STATE ACTOR ISSUES

Transnational Organized Crime

Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) threaten U.S. and allied public health systems, exploit the

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Cyber Crime

Transnational organized criminals involved in ransomware operations are improving their attacks,

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Global Terrorism

U.S. persons and interests at home and abroad will face an ideologically diverse threat from terrorism. This threat is mostly likely to manifest in small cells or individuals inspired by foreign terrorist organizations and violent extremist ideologies to conduct attacks.

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ISIS

ISIS will remain a centralized global organization even as it has been forced to rely on regional branches in response to successive leadership losses during the past few years.

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Private Military and Security Companies

PMSCs are a growing presence in the international environment, and a handful of these firms associated with U.S. rivals, such as Russia, threaten global security in many countries and regions through their ability to potentially foment violence and escalate instability in already fragile regions

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