Taiwan as a Catalyst for a Sino-American Conflict by John F Copper

Taiwan has just held a critical election won by the Democratic Progressive Party that stands for Taiwan's independence. China is undergoing profound changes in its economy and politics. The United States is seriously at odds with China on a number of issues. All of this adds up, arguably, to a China-US confrontation or worse.

China's “Militarisation” in the South China Sea: Three Target Audiences by KUIK Cheng-Chwee

If “militarisation” is defined as an act of deploying military assets to pursue wider strategic ends, then all players of the South China Sea disputes have engaged in some forms of militarisation. China's militarisation reflect three layers of target audiences: the United States (the main target), regional countries (the secondary target) and its domestic audience.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and China's Role in Regional Economic Governance by XING Yuqing

China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will challenge the dominance of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank in financing regional infrastructure projects, transforming US-led unipolar to multipolar global economic governance. China aims to achieve its diplomatic, economic and political objectives through the AIIB.

The US-China Evolving Relationship: Implications of China's One Belt, One Road Initiative by LEE Sun-Jin and LYE Liang Fook

China's aspiration to become a maritime power, campaign to strengthen ties with other major powers, efforts to secure a presence in Central Asia, an ambitious economic and industrial outreach and One Belt, One Road initiative are reasons for the United States’ unease. They conjure an image of a China bent on challenging the United States on the world stage.
The United States and the Lower Mekong Initiative by LE Van My

The US Lower Mekong Initiative is a part of the “US Pivot to Southeast Asia” strategy to rebalance the influence and strategic competition among big countries in the subregion, especially between the United States and China. It is also a mechanism to support the Mekong countries in their struggle against hunger and poverty.

Bilaterals, Trilaterals and G2: Pragmatic Hedging Between Great Powers and the Role of the Middle Powers and Small States in Northeast Asia by LIM Tai Wei

Trilateral diplomacy provides Northeast Asian leaders with the opportunity to talk in a business-like manner, rather than having the region risk skirmishes between maritime coastguards and fishermen, helicopter landings by politicians on disputed islands, etc. In such conversations, the United States remains the most acceptable common denominator for other large states and middle powers in the international community.

Xi Jinping Overhauls the People’s Liberation Army by Lance L P Gore

The People’s Liberation Army will move from Soviet-style command and control structures towards the American model after the overhaul initiated by Xi. The shift is believed to be more adapted to the new security environment and facilitates long distance power projection to protect China’s far-flung national interest abroad.

China’s “Two Centenary Goals”: Progress and Challenge by LU Ding

The Chinese Communist Party’s is aiming to achieve the “Liang Ge Yibai Nian (Two Centenary) Goals” by years 2021 and 2049. These ambitious goals are achievable only if the country sustains sufficiently high annual economic growth rates in the coming years and decades. This endeavour however faces serious challenges.

China’s Stock Market Turmoil: Lessons and Implications by WAN Jing

China’s market crash in 2015 was due to a variety of reasons. One was the use of leverage trading. This includes both official margin trading as well as trading through various unofficial channels. The other was the introduction of the stock index future.

China’s Ethnic Policy Since 2009 by LIANG Yongjia

In September 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping laid out his ethnic policy, including insistence on the Ethnic Regional Autonomy, a multi-culturalist outlook, equal access to public services, stronger local governance, rule of law and nurturing of new ethnic elites. Many follow-up policies have been publicised, but challenges remain.