

In August 2025, China demonstrated its military prowess by launching an intercontinental ballistic missile from a nuclear-powered submarine—capable of striking Washington, D.C., and carrying 10 nuclear warheads. Timed to mark the 98th anniversary of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), it was a clear message of aggression aimed at the United States and regional actors, particularly over Taiwan.

Beijing’s show of force underscores Xi Jinping’s push toward realizing what he calls the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.” China’s Defense Minister Dong Jun reiterated that the PLA “is always ready for the complete reunification of the motherland,” a direct reference to Taiwan.

However, beneath China’s muscular posturing lies a nation facing deep structural instability, internal contradictions, and moral bankruptcy under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The reality of China’s future, if left unchecked, is not one of strength—but of growing fragility and international danger.

Xi has eliminated over 20 high-ranking generals in recent years and consolidating his grip through purges, propaganda, and surveillance. Following the sudden deaths of key figures like Gen. Xu Qiliang under questionable circumstances, these internal convulsions suggest leadership more concerned with loyalty and control than with competence or stability.

Despite being the world’s second-largest economy, the CCP presides over a society riddled with inequality. Over 20% of its population lives below the poverty line, nearly 85 million Chinese remain illiterate. Xi’s infrastructure projects, like the debt-laden subway expansions and the “rolling railway” initiative, have driven up local government debt to unsustainable levels. Municipalities are now facing a combined burden of over \$1.4 trillion in infrastructure debt. Human rights abuse persists at every level. China’s illegal organ trade, reportedly worth over \$1 billion annually, underscores the regime’s disregard for human dignity. Meanwhile, the CCP wages an internal war against its own people—surveilling, censoring, and silencing any dissent.

Since the 1990s, many in the West mistakenly viewed China as a “peaceful rise” a nation integrating into the global system. But foundational texts like *Unrestricted Warfare* (1999), written by two Chinese military officers, laid out the true strategy: defeat adversaries using all available means—economic manipulation, cyberattacks, legal warfare, and psychological operations. This philosophy evolved into the “Three Warfares” strategy, which China now employs aggressively worldwide.

Chinese influence operations have been caught interfering in elections (as in the Philippines), launching cyber espionage campaigns, and spreading propaganda through online troll farms. Domestically, China is one of the world’s most heavily surveilled societies, with over 700 million CCTV cameras, and a police state that rivals the PLA in budget and power.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative, once hailed as a new Silk Road, has become a tool for global economic coercion. While it has built roads and railways across Africa and Asia, it has also left many nations drowning in debt, with critical infrastructure effectively owned by Beijing. The African Union’s headquarters, “gifted” by China, was later revealed to be under 24/7 surveillance—wired directly to servers in China.

The CCP's global behavior mirrors that of a predatory state, not a cooperative superpower. It rewrites history through projects like the "Northeast Project," which falsely claims Korean and Mongolian cultural heritage as Chinese. Confucius Institutes, once pitched as educational centers, have been exposed as tools of soft power and espionage, leading to their closure in multiple Western countries. In science and technology, Chinese students and workers are often pressured or incentivized to steal research and intellectual property from host nations. This state-directed espionage undermines trust in Chinese nationals abroad and deepens diplomatic divides.

Religious freedom, too, is under siege. Christian missionaries have been expelled, churches destroyed, and online religious content scrubbed. Professors and intellectuals who criticize Xi Jinping or the Party often vanish or are publicly humiliated. The CCP does not tolerate dissent because it cannot survive it.

Looking ahead, several grim trends are accelerating: **Economic Decline** – China's growth model is collapsing under the weight of debt, declining exports, **Increased Militarism** – With Xi setting 2027 as a deadline for Taiwan "reunification," 2026 may become a staging year for further military escalation, **Internal Discontent** – Ethnic minorities, rural poor, and disillusioned youth are all growing restless. If the CCP weakens, these groups could erupt into protest or defiance, **Global Isolation** – China's aggressive behavior is pushing nations into stronger alliances—AUKUS, the Quad, and NATO's increased Indo-Pacific focus all point to China's fading diplomatic charm, and **Information Warfare** – Censorship and propaganda are intensifying, including targeting foreign citizens on Western social media.

There is speculation that Xi may step down or be replaced amid growing discontent. If true, it could unleash a power vacuum, internal strife, or even a military-led leadership transition. But regardless of who leads, the CCP system remains the core problem—undemocratic, opaque, and expansionist. China under the CCP is not a misunderstood giant—it is an increasingly dangerous regime driven by authoritarianism and deception. The global community must move beyond wishful engagement and prepare for a sustained confrontation—diplomatic, economic, and ideological.

2026 may well be the tipping point. If the world fails to contain the CCP's ambitions now, the cost of inaction will grow exponentially. The time for complacency has ended. The time for strategic resistance has come.