

## Conclusion

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It is not the purpose, nor intention of this study to be alarmist in nature. To the contrary, at its most basic level, this work is simply seeking to link the current literature on the subject of China's successful ASAT test and counter-space weapons developments to provide the reader with a multi-faceted lens with which to view the issue and form his or her own opinion. However, there are several potentially troubling implications inherent in this subject. For indeed, whether viewed through the more abstract, academic prisms of offensive realism, party-military relations, bureaucratic momentum or interpersonal relationships, or through the more tangible prisms of actions, technical capabilities, space-related assets, infrastructures and budgets; there is a revisionist trend apparent in the PRC's military modernization program, and the PLA's strategic development of counter-space weapons, and this trend speaks to the problems inherent in the historic power shift occurring as China rises as a future superpower in both the air and space mediums.

Admittedly, China's militarization of space is a difficult subject to research, not only because of the multiplicity of competing factors at play (as hopefully well illustrated in this work), but also because of the high level of opacity that exists in military space. It is this high level of opacity that forces the researcher to search for insights in a variety of subject-areas, giving one the opportunity to explore a number of factors, while at the same time retarding one's ability to weight the relative importance of each factor to any significant degree. What we are left

with then is educated speculation---and the need to continue researching and following the open-source developments of China's militarization of space. It is an elusive topic to be sure, but one of such critical importance that it will demand continued attention in the years, and decades, ahead.