

## 05.02-Thunder out of China

### Banyan

#### Thunder out of China

Around China's **periphery**, the heat keeps rising  
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##### Vocab

1. **periphery** n. 边缘；周围；外围 If something is on the **periphery** of an area, place, or thing, it is on the edge of it.

e.g. Geographically, the UK is on the **periphery** of Europe, while Paris is at the heart of the continent...从地理位置上讲，英国处于欧洲边缘，而巴黎却位于欧洲大陆的中心位置。

FOR an **emerging** power that makes much of the **peacefulness** of its rise, China is engaged in what looks **suspiciously** like **aggression** on an alarming number of **fronts**. India says Chinese soldiers have set up camp 19km (12 miles) on its side of the “line of actual control” (LAC) that separates Ladakh in its state of Jammu & Kashmir from China, in the **absence** of an agreed border. Japan reports that Chinese **maritime surveillance** vessels are every day circling the disputed Senkaku or Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea. And on April 26th China demanded that the Philippines “withdraw all its nationals and facilities” from a number of islands and **reefs** in the South China Sea, where they have been, in some cases, for decades. In all these cases China can with some **justification** claim it is responding to **provocation**. That, however, is scant comfort to its increasingly anxious neighbours.

##### Vocab

1. **emerge** v. (事实或结果) 显露，显现，暴露 If a fact or result **emerges** from a period of thought, discussion, or investigation, it becomes known as a result of it.

e.g. It soon **emerged** that neither the July nor August mortgage repayment had been collected...很快就发现，原来7月和8月的抵押还款都没有偿还。

2. **peacefulness** n. 平静；温和

3. **suspiciously** adv. 非常，相当(相似) If you say that one thing looks or sounds **suspiciously** like another thing, you mean that it probably is that thing, or something very similar to it, although it may be intended to seem different.

e.g. The tan-coloured dog looks **suspiciously** like an American pit bull terrier...这只棕黄色的狗看上去非常像美国比特犬。

4. **aggression** n. 侵略；侵犯 **Aggression** is violent and attacking behaviour.

5. **front** n. a particular area of activity 活动领域；阵线

e.g. Progress has been made **on all fronts**.各方面都取得了进展。

6. **absence** n. 缺乏；不存在 The **absence** of something from a place is the fact that it is not there or does not exist.

e.g. The presence or **absence** of clouds can have an important impact on heat transfer...有无云层对热量的传递会产生重要的影响。

7. **maritime** n. connected with the sea or ships 海的；海事的；海运的；船舶的

e.g. a maritime museum 海洋博物馆

8. **surveillance** n. (尤指来自警方、军队等组织的)监视, 监察 **Surveillance** is the careful watching of someone, especially by an organization such as the police or the army.

e.g. He was arrested after being kept under constant **surveillance**...在被连续监视了一段时间后, 他被逮捕了。

9. **reef** n. a long line of rocks or sand near the surface of the sea 礁; 礁脉

e.g. a coral reef 珊瑚礁

10. **justification** n. a good reason why sth exists or is done 正当理由

e.g. He was getting angry—and **with some justification**.他生气了——而且不是没有道理的。

11. **provocation** n. the act of doing or saying sth deliberately in order to make sb angry or upset; something that is done or said to cause this 挑衅; 刺激; 激怒

e.g. He reacted violently only **under provocation**.只因为被激怒, 他才暴力相向。

Of the three **territorial** disputes it is the **rekindling** of the one with India that comes most as a surprise. Two long sectors of the border are **contested**. In the east, China **briefly** occupied part of what is now the state of Arunachal Pradesh, south of Tibet, in a **bloody punitive** war in 1962. In the west, the Aksai Chin, a high plateau the size of Switzerland, is occupied by China but claimed by India as part of Ladakh. In both sectors, **patrols** from each side often **stray** into what the other sees as its territory. They do not, however, pitch tents, as China's soldiers have in this **incursion**. It is the most serious **confrontation** on either end of the border since 1986. After that **stand-off**, the two countries agreed to set the **quarrel** to one side, in an endless negotiation on the **demarcation** of the LAC, as they **concentrated** on building trade and other ties. A drive a decade ago to reach a political settlement soon ran into the sand. But neither side has an interest in **forcing the issue**.

### Vocab

1. **territorial** adj. connected with the land or sea that is owned by a particular country 领土的

e.g. territorial disputes 领土争端

2. **rekindle** v. 再次引起, 再次引发(使人不悦的状况) If something **rekindles** an unpleasant situation, it makes the unpleasant situation happen again.

e.g. There are fears that the series could **rekindle** animosity between the two countries...有人担忧这一系列事件会再次引发两国之间的敌对。

3. **contest** v. engage in competition to attain (a position of power) 竞争, 争夺 (权位)

4. **briefly** adv. for a short time 短暂地; 暂时地

e.g. He had spoken to Emma **only briefly**.他和埃玛只讲了短短的几句话。

5. **bloody** adj. 血腥的; 暴力的 If you describe a situation or event as **bloody**, you mean that it is very violent and a lot of people are killed.

e.g. Forty-three demonstrators were killed in **bloody** clashes...43名示威者在流血冲突中丧生。

6. **punitive** adj. 处罚的; 惩罚性的 **Punitive** actions are intended to punish people.

e.g. ...a **punitive** bombing raid...惩罚性空袭

7. **patrol** n. to go around an area or a building at regular times to check that it is safe and that there is no trouble 巡逻; 巡查

e.g. Troops patrolled the border day and night. 军队日夜在边境地区巡逻。

8. **stray** n. • [诗/文] 漫步, 徘徊, 游荡 [no obj., with adverbial of direction] (poetic/literary) wander or roam in a specified direction

- e.g. »over these mounds the Kurdish shepherd strays. 库尔德牧羊人游荡在这些土岗上。
9. **incursion** n. a sudden attack on a place by foreign armies, etc. 突然入侵；突然侵犯；袭击
10. **confrontation** n. a situation in which there is an angry disagreement between people or groups who have different opinions 对抗；对峙；冲突  
e.g. She wanted to avoid another confrontation with her father. 她想避免和父亲再次发生冲突。
11. **stand-off** n. =**deadlock** a situation in which no agreement can be reached (双方) 僵持局面
12. **quarrel** n. an angry argument or disagreement between people, often about a personal matter 口角；争吵；拌嘴  
e.g. Were you at any time aware of a quarrel between the two of them? 你什么时候注意到他俩拌过嘴吗？
13. **demarcation** n. a border or line that separates two things, such as types of work, groups of people or areas of land (工种、人、土地等的) 划分，区分，界线  
e.g. It was hard to draw clear lines of demarcation between work and leisure. 在工作和闲暇之间很难划出明确的界限。
14. **concentrated** adj. if sth exists or happens in a **concentrated** way, there is a lot of it in one place or at one time 密集的；集中的  
e.g. concentrated gunfire 密集的炮火
15. **force the issue** **IDM** 'force the issue to do sth to make people take a decision quickly 迫使从速决定

Now above all, when China is **embroiled** in the other disputes, and the region is tense because of North Korea's **erratic bellicosity**, it seems **incomprehensible** that China should want to **resurrect** yet another **squabble**. China of course denies it has done anything of the kind, insisting its soldiers are on its side of the LAC. It may, however, feel **provoked**. Ajai Shukla, an Indian defence analyst, has pointed out that the Indian army has been undertaking what he calls its “third surge towards the Sino-Indian border”. The previous two were in the late 1950s—leading to the 1962 war—and in 1986, leading to the present **stalemate**. Now, once again, says Mr Shukla, India has been “**thickening**” its presence in Arunachal Pradesh and in Aksai Chin, with more soldiers, **weaponry** and infrastructure.

### Vocab

1. **embroiled** adj. 陷入的；卷入的 If you become **embroiled in** a fight or argument, you become deeply involved in it.  
e.g. The Government insisted that troops would not become **embroiled** in battles in Bosnia. 政府坚称军队不会卷入波斯尼亚的冲突。
2. **erratic** adj. not happening at regular times; not following any plan or regular pattern; that you cannot rely on 不规则的；不确定的；不稳定的；不可靠的  
e.g. The electricity supply here is quite erratic. 这里的电力供应相当不稳定。
3. **bellicosity** n. 好斗；好战
4. **incomprehensible** adj. 不能理解的；晦涩难懂的；费解的 Something that is **incomprehensible** is impossible to understand.  
e.g. Her speech was almost **incomprehensible**. 她的演讲几乎无人能懂。
5. **resurrect** v. 使复兴；恢复；使重新出现 If you **resurrect** something, you cause it to exist again after it had disappeared or ended.

e.g. Attempts to **resurrect** the ceasefire have already failed once...为再次停火作出的努力已经失败了一次。

6. **squabble** v. (为琐事)争吵, 起争执 When people **squabble**, they quarrel about something that is not really important.

e.g. Mother is devoted to Dad although they **squabble** all the time...母亲很爱父亲, 尽管他们总是为琐事拌嘴。

7. **provoke** v. =**goad** ~ sb (into sth/into doing sth) to say or do sth that you know will annoy sb so that they react in an angry way 挑衅; 激怒; 刺激

e.g. Be careful what you say—he's easily provoked. 说话要小心, 他这个人一惹就火儿。

8. **stalemate** n. 僵局; 僵持 **Stalemate** is a situation in which neither side in an argument or contest can win or in which no progress is possible.

e.g. President Bush has ended the **stalemate** over moves to cut the country's budget deficit...布什总统已结束了在削减国家预算赤字的措施上形成的僵局。

9. **thickening** n. the process or result of becoming broader, deeper, or denser • 增厚 (或粗、密、浓等)

10. **weaponry** n. (群体或国家拥有的)所有武器 **Weaponry** is all the weapons that a group or country has or that are available to it.

e.g. ...rich nations, armed with superior **weaponry**. 用尖端武器装备起来的富国

### Sentence

The previous two were in the late 1950s—leading to the 1962 war—and in 1986, leading to the present stalemate.

主干: The previous two were in the late 1950s and in 1986 这里省略了动词, happened —leading to the 1962 war 插入成分, 说明 1950s 这次导致了什么, 即导致了1962年的战争 leading to the present stalemate 同样的, 1986年这次导致了现在的紧张局势

So China may feel India is exploiting both the **inexperience** of its new leaders who took over last November, and the pressure China is under on other fronts. It may **harbour** similar suspicions about Japan and its “**provocations**” over what China calls the Diaoyu islands. Its patrols near the islands were prompted by Japan's ignoring its warnings not to “nationalise” three of the islands by buying them from their private owner last September.

### Vocab

1. **inexperience** n. lack of knowledge and experience 缺乏经验; 经验不足

e.g. His mistake was due to youth and inexperience. 他的失误原因是年轻没有经验。

2. **harbour** v. to keep feelings or thoughts, especially negative ones, in your mind for a long time 怀有, 心怀 (尤指反面感情或想法)

e.g. The arsonist may **harbour a grudge** against the company. 纵火犯可能对公司怀恨在心。

3. **provocation** n. the act of doing or saying sth deliberately in order to make sb angry or upset; something that is done or said to cause this 挑衅; 刺激; 激怒

e.g. The terrorists can strike at any time **without provocation**. 恐怖分子可能无缘无故地随时攻击。

### Sentence

Its patrols near the islands were prompted by Japan's ignoring its warnings not to “nationalise” three of the islands by buying them from their private owner last September.

主干: Its patrols near the islands were prompted

by Japan's ignoring its warnings 巡逻被提升是由于日本忽视其警告, 这里 by 起原因的意思

not to “nationalise” three of the islands 这里既是警告的内容，即不要“国有化”三个岛屿  
by buying them from their private owner last September. 这里的 by 是通过，即通过去年9月从他们的私人拥有者手上购买

More recently—in late April—ten Japanese boats carrying about 80 right-wing activists sailed towards the islands. And members of the **cabinet** of Japan’s prime minister, Shinzo Abe, angered China by visiting the Yasukuni **shrine**—where **high-ranking** war **criminals** are among the **enshrined** war-dead. Part of China’s response was to **reiterate** that the Diaoyus are one of its “core interests”—the issues, like Taiwan and Tibet, over which it might go to war. In a joint **communiqué** signed by Barack Obama in 2009, America and China promised to respect each other’s core interests.

### Vocab

- cabinet** n. (usually **the Cabinet**) [C + sing./pl. v.] a group of chosen members of a government, which is responsible for advising and deciding on government policy 内阁  
e.g. (BrE) a cabinet minister 内阁阁员
- shrine** n. ~ (to sb/ sth) | ~ (of sb/ sth) a place where people come to worship because it is connected with a holy person or event 圣地；圣祠；神庙；神龛  
e.g. to visit the shrine of Mecca 前往圣地麦加朝拜
- high-ranking** adj. 级别（或地位）高的；高级的；显要的 A **high-ranking** person has an important position in a particular organization.  
e.g. ...a **high-ranking** officer in the medical corps. 医疗队里的高级军官
- criminal** adj. connected with or involving crime 犯罪的；犯法的；涉及犯罪的  
e.g. **criminal offences/ behaviour** 刑事犯罪；犯罪行为
- enshrine** v. 视...为神圣；珍藏；使...神圣不可侵犯 If something such as an idea or a right is **enshrined** in something such as a constitution or law, it is protected by it.  
e.g. His new relationship with Germany is **enshrined** in a new non-aggression treaty...他与德国的新关系受新的互不侵犯条约的保护。
- reiterate** v. to repeat sth that you have already said, especially to emphasize it 反复地说；重申  
e.g. to reiterate an argument/a demand/an offer 重申论点；重复一项要求/建议
- communiqué** n. = **communique** 公报 an official announcement or statement, especially one made to the media

The demand directed at the Philippines, that it withdraw from disputed islands, was also a reaction—to the Philippines’ taking its dispute with China to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea. China **rightly** points out that, although the law of the sea sets rules about the waters and exclusive economic zones around islands, it says nothing about **sovereignty** over them.

### Vocab

- tribunal** n. (审理特定案件的)特别法庭，审理委员会 A **tribunal** is a special court or committee that is appointed to deal with particular problems.  
e.g. His case comes before an industrial **tribunal** in March. 他的讼案将于3月在劳资法庭受审。
- rightly** adv. for a good reason 正当的；理由充分地  
e.g. **Quite rightly**, the environment is of great concern. 当然，环境问题非常重要。
- sovereignty** n. ~ (over sth) complete power to govern a country 主权；最高统治权；最高

## 权威

e.g. The country claimed sovereignty over the island. 那个国家声称对该岛拥有主权。

### Sentence

The demand directed at the Philippines, that it withdraw from disputed islands, was also a reaction—to the Philippines' taking its dispute with China to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea.

主干: The demand was also a reaction 主谓间距很远 directed at the Philippines, that it withdraw from disputed islands, 这些都是对 the demand 的解释, 所以导致了主谓间隔过远 —to the Philippines'.... 后面都是对这个 reaction 的说明, 即反应的内容

On that question, China seems **intent on imposing** its own view. In addition to **verbal** attacks on the Philippines, it this week started tourist **cruises** around the Paracel archipelago (Xisha in Chinese). This is still claimed by Vietnam, which was **evicted** by China from the islands in 1974. China's rows with the Philippines and Vietnam have been the most active of its many disputes in the sea. But in late March it also **antagonised** Brunei and Malaysia, by sending a **naval flotilla** where those two nations have claims, at the southern tip of China's expansive "nine-dashed line", a **vague cartographic** claim dating from the 1930s.

### Vocab

1. **intent** ~ **on/ upon sth giving all your attention to sth** 专心; 专注

e.g. I was so intent on my work that I didn't notice the time. 我专心工作, 以致忘了时间。

2. **impose** v. **把(看法、信仰)强加(于...)** If you **impose** your opinions or beliefs **on** other people, you try and make people accept them as a rule or as a model to copy.

e.g. **Parents of either sex should beware of imposing their own tastes on their children.** 父母双方都应切记不要把自己的喜好强加给孩子。

3. **verbal** adj. **relating to words** 文字的; 言语的; 词语的

e.g. The job applicant must have good verbal skills. 应聘这份工作的人必须具有良好的语言表达技能。

4. **cruise** n. **a journey by sea, visiting different places, especially as a holiday/ vacation** 乘船游览; 航行

e.g. I'd love to go on a round-the-world cruise. 我很想乘船周游世界。

5. **evict** v. **to force sb to leave a house or land, especially when you have the legal right to do so** (尤指依法从房屋或土地上) 驱逐, 赶出, 逐出

e.g. A number of tenants have been evicted for not paying the rent. 许多房客因不付房租被赶了出来。

6. **antagonize** v. **惹恼; 引起...的敌意(或反感)** If you **antagonize** someone, you make them feel angry or hostile towards you.

e.g. **He didn't want to antagonize her.** 他不想引起她的反感。

7. **naval** adj. **connected with the navy of a country** 海军的

e.g. a naval base/ officer/ battle 海军基地/军官; 海战

8. **flotilla** n. **a group of boats or small ships sailing together** 船队; 小型舰队

9. **vague** adj. **not clear in a person's mind (思想上) 不清楚的, 含糊的, 不明确的, 模糊的**

e.g. to have a **vague impression/ memory/ recollection** of sth 对某事印象/记忆模糊

10. **cartographic** adj. 地图的; 制图的

Individually, China's actions can be seen as **pragmatic** reactions to different pressures. But, taken together, they bring two dangers. First, they make China seem

**embarked on** a concerted campaign to establish new “facts on the ground” (or water) to strengthen its position in future negotiations or conflicts. More likely, they show almost the opposite: that China’s foreign-policy chiefs lack the **clout** to impose a co-ordinated, **calibrated** response to **coincidental** provocations. Rather than picking off its **adversaries** one by one, China is taking them all on at once. The impression of an aggressive rising power is hard to **shake off**.

### Vocab

- pragmatic** *adj.* solving problems in a practical and sensible way rather than by having fixed ideas or theories 实用的；讲求实效的；务实的  
e.g. a pragmatic approach to management problems 对管理问题采取的务实做法
- embark on** **PHR V** **em'bark on/ upon sth** to start to do sth new or difficult 从事，着手，开始（新的或艰难的事情）  
e.g. She is about to embark on a diplomatic career. 她即将开始外交生涯。
- clout** *n.* 影响力；权势 A person or institution that has **clout** has influence and power.  
e.g. Mr Sutherland may have the **clout** needed to push the two trading giants into a deal... 萨瑟兰先生也许有能力促使两大贸易巨头达成协议。
- calibrate** *v.* 精确测量；准确估量 If you **calibrate** something, you measure it accurately.  
e.g. ...a way of calibrating the shift of opinion within the Labour Party... 准确衡量工党内部观点转变的方法
- coincidental** *adj.* happening by chance; not planned 巧合；碰巧；非计划之中  
e.g. It's **purely coincidental** that we both chose to call our daughters Emma. 我们俩都给自己的女儿取名叫埃玛，这完全是巧合。
- adversary** *n.* 敌手；对手 Your **adversary** is someone you are competing with, or arguing or fighting against.  
e.g. His political adversaries were creating a certain amount of trouble for him. 他的政敌正在给他制造一些麻烦。
- shake off** **PHRASAL VERB** 短语动词 治好(疾病)，摆脱(坏习惯等) If you **shake off** something that you do not want such as an illness or a bad habit, you manage to recover from it or get rid of it.  
e.g. Businessmen are trying to **shake off** habits learned under six decades of a protected economy... 商人们正努力改掉60年来在保护主义经济下所养成的那些习惯。

### Sentence

Rather than picking off its adversaries one by one, China is taking them all on at once.  
主句在后面，从句在前面，中国要一起拿下他们，而不是将对手各个击破

Accidents do happen

The second danger is of **accidental** conflict. Neither China nor any of the other countries involved wants these arguments to lead to violence. But there is always the risk of a **miscalculation** by a local commander leading to unpredictable **escalation**. In the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands especially, American officials worry about whether **overstretched** and tense ship captains and fighter pilots can avoid mistakes. America has a treaty obligation to defend Japan, and has repeatedly said that, although it takes no position on who has sovereignty over the Senkakus, its guarantee covers them. It would just take one **firebrand** pilot, sacrificing himself to defend the motherland’s sacred territory, to test that **commitment**, with entirely unforeseeable consequences.

## Vocab

1. **accidental** *adj.* happening by chance; not planned 意外的；偶然的

e.g. a verdict of accidental death 意外死亡的裁决

2. **miscalculation** *n.* 算错；误算

**miscalculation** *noun* [搭配] ADJ.

**grave, serious, terrible**

严重的错误估计

**financial, political**

财政上的错误估计；政治上的错误判断

[搭配] VERB + MISCALCULATION

**make**

失算；估计错误

3. **escalation** *n.* 增加；扩大；逐步上升

4. **overstretch** *v.* (使) 超出承受能力；(使) 超负荷运行 If you **overstretch** something or someone or if they **overstretch**, you force them to do something they are not really capable of, and they may be harmed as a result.

e.g. Dr Boutros Ghali said the operation would **overstretch** resources...布特罗斯·加利博士说这一行动没有足够的资源支持。

5. **firebrand** *n.* a person who is always encouraging other people to take strong political action, often causing trouble 挑动政治争端者；煽动动乱者

e.g. ...his reputation as a young **firebrand**. 他作为一名年轻的政治煽动者的名声

6. **commitment** *n.* a promise to do sth or to behave in a particular way; a promise to support sb/ sth; the fact of committing yourself 承诺；许诺；允诺承担；保证

e.g. She doesn't want to **make** a big emotional **commitment** to Steve at the moment. 她不想在此刻对史蒂夫在感情上作出重大的承诺。

[Economist.com/blogs/banyan](http://Economist.com/blogs/banyan)

From the print edition: China

## Banyan Thunder out of China

### 菩提树：中国惊雷

注：菩提（Banyan）是《经济学人》于2009年4月新推出的亚洲事务专栏，选择菩提

（Banyan）作为专栏名，是因为《经济学人》认为菩提最能代表泛亚形象。一则菩提树与佛教渊源颇深，佛祖释迦牟尼在菩提树下静坐7个日夜后，大彻大悟；再则由于印度西部古吉拉特商人往往在菩提树树荫下买卖交易，菩提树也因此而得名，所以《经济学人》认为菩提树是亚洲精神文明和物质文明的双重象征。在亚洲，菩提还与公共事务有着千丝万缕的联系，也是他们选择的理由之一。

Around China's periphery, the heat keeps rising.

中国边境，领土争端持续升级。

FOR an emerging power that makes much of the peacefulness of its rise, China is engaged in what looks suspiciously like aggression on an alarming number of fronts. India says Chinese soldiers have set up camp 19km (12 miles) on its side of the "line of actual control" (LAC) that separates Ladakh in its state of Jammu & Kashmir from China, in the absence of an agreed border. Japan reports that Chinese maritime surveillance vessels

are every day circling the disputed Senkaku or Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea. And on April 26th China demanded that the Philippines "withdraw all its nationals and facilities" from a number of islands and reefs in the South China Sea, where they have been, in some cases, for decades. In all these cases China can with some justification claim it is responding to provocation. That, however, is scant comfort to its increasingly anxious neighbours.

中国作为一个正在崛起的大国，依仗其平稳发展趋势，在多方面都颇具侵略性。印度声称，中国军队在未商定边界的情况下，在距离实际控制线（简称LAC，此线将查谟和克什米尔邦境内的拉达克与中国隔开）19千米（约合12英里）处扎营。日媒报道称，中国海监船每日在位于中国东海的尖阁诸岛（即钓鱼岛）周边巡逻，此岛目前备受争议。菲律宾人已经在中国东海的诸多岛礁上安居了几十年，而在4月26日，中国却要求菲律宾将所有侨民及设施撤出。针对上述事件，中国有理由声称这是在回应挑衅而已。然而这并不能抚慰忧心忡忡的邻国们。

Of the three territorial disputes it is the rekindling of the one with India that comes most as a surprise. Two long sectors of the border are contested. In the east, China briefly occupied part of what is now the state of Arunachal Pradesh, south of Tibet, in a bloody punitive war in 1962. In the west, the Aksai Chin, a high plateau the size of Switzerland, is occupied by China but claimed by India as part of Ladakh. In both sectors, patrols from each side often stray into what the other sees as its territory. They do not, however, pitch tents, as China's soldiers have in this incursion. It is the most serious confrontation on either end of the border since 1986. After that stand-off, the two countries agreed to set the quarrel to one side, in an endless negotiation on the demarcation of the LAC, as they concentrated on building trade and other ties. A drive a decade ago to reach a political settlement soon ran into the sand. But neither side has an interest in forcing the issue.

这三个领土争端中，对印度的再次挑衅最为出人意料。有两段边界线原本就存在争议。在东段，中国曾在1962年中印之战中一度占领现在的阿鲁纳恰尔邦，即藏南地区。西段的阿克赛钦是个高原，面积同瑞士相同，隶属于中国，而印度却声称这是拉达克区的一部分。在这两段，双方巡逻队都会出没在被对方视作领土的地方。不过，他们都没有像中国士兵在这次入侵时那样安营扎寨。这是1986年那次对峙以来最为激烈边界之争。在那次对峙之后，双方欲与对方建立贸易及其他关系，因此一致同意将此事搁置一边，从而导致现在对实际控制线界定争论不休。十多年前达成政治和解后又马上陷入困境，不过双方都无意解决这个问题。

Now above all, when China is embroiled in the other disputes, and the region is tense because of North Korea's erratic bellicosity, it seems incomprehensible that China should want to resurrect yet another squabble. China of course denies it has done anything of the kind, insisting its soldiers are on its side of the LAC. It may, however, feel provoked. Ajai Shukla, an Indian defence analyst, has pointed out that the Indian army has been undertaking what he calls its "third surge towards the Sino-Indian border". The previous two were in the late 1950s—leading to the 1962 war—and in 1986, leading to the present stalemate. Now, once again, says Mr Shukla, India has been "thickening" its presence in Arunachal Pradesh and in Aksai Chin, with more soldiers, weaponry and infrastructure.

除此之外，中国目前还深陷其他争端，同时朝鲜正蠢蠢欲动，导致地区气氛紧张。中国恐怕不希望再起争端了。中国矢口否认，坚称它的军队并未越过实际控制线，反倒可能觉得是自己被挑衅了。印度防务分析家阿贾伊·苏克拉指出，印度军队已经开始向“中印边界第三次大

规模增兵”。而前两次增兵，一次是在在二十世纪五十年代末期——导致了1962年的中印之战，另一次在1986年，导致了现在的僵局。Shukla表示，现在印度再一次在阿鲁纳恰尔邦和阿克赛钦地区内进驻了更多的军队，武器和设施。

So China may feel India is exploiting both the inexperience of its new leaders who took over last November, and the pressure China is under on other fronts. It may harbour similar suspicions about Japan and its "provocations" over what China calls the Diaoyu islands. Its patrols near the islands were prompted by Japan's ignoring its warnings not to "nationalise" three of the islands by buying them from their private owner last September.

中国去年12月刚上任的新领导人经验不足，并且现在中国正面临各方压力，因此中国可能认为印度是在趁机挑衅。面对日本挑起的钓鱼岛之争，中国可能也是这种想法。中国在钓鱼岛周边派驻巡逻队，因为去年九月日本无视中国警告，执意从私人拥有者手上购买其中的三个岛屿，欲将其收归国有。

More recently—in late April—ten Japanese boats carrying about 80 right-wing activists sailed towards the islands. And members of the cabinet of Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, angered China by visiting the Yasukuni shrine—where high-ranking war criminals are among the enshrined war-dead. Part of China's response was to reiterate that the Diaoyu are one of its "core interests"—the issues, like Taiwan and Tibet, over which it might go to war. In a joint communiqué signed by Barack Obama in 2009, America and China promised to respect each other's core interests.

更近段时间，四月底，十艘日本船只载着八十名右翼激进份子驶往钓鱼岛。同时，日本内阁成员以及首相安倍晋三，参拜供奉着死于战争的甲级战犯的靖国神社，此事也激怒了中国。中国对此的回应包含重申钓鱼岛是国家核心利益之一——跟台湾和西藏问题一样，如有侵犯将付诸战争。奥巴马曾在2009年签署过一份联合公报，中美双方承诺将尊重彼此核心利益。

The demand directed at the Philippines, that it withdraw from disputed islands, was also a reaction—to the Philippines' taking its dispute with China to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea. China rightly points out that, although the law of the sea sets rules about the waters and exclusive economic zones around islands, it says nothing about sovereignty over them.

中国要求菲律宾撤出争议岛屿，也是对菲律宾利用海洋法向国际仲裁庭提请针对中国仲裁的反击。中国明确指出，海洋法规定了领海及岛周专属经济区，但并没有指明主权属于谁。

On that question, China seems intent on imposing its own view. In addition to verbal attacks on the Philippines, it this week started tourist cruises around the Paracel archipelago (Xisha in Chinese). This is still claimed by Vietnam, which was evicted by China from the islands in 1974. China's rows with the Philippines and Vietnam have been the most active of its many disputes in the sea. But in late March it also antagonised Brunei and Malaysia, by sending a naval flotilla where those two nations have claims, at the southern tip of China's expansive "nine-dashed line", a vague cartographic claim dating from the 1930s.

在这个问题上，中国似乎意欲坚持己见。除了对菲律宾进行言论攻击，本周开始，中国还在帕拉塞尔群岛（中方称西沙群岛）周围巡航。越南至今声称西沙群岛属于自己，但中国于1974年将其收回。中国面临的诸多领土争端中，尤以菲律宾和越南最为激烈。而在三月末，中国又同文莱和马来西亚敌对起来，将一支海军舰队开到这两个国家宣称的领土内，即

中国广阔的南海九段线（1930年制定的模糊的边界）的南端。

Individually, China's actions can be seen as pragmatic reactions to different pressures. But, taken together, they bring two dangers. First, they make China seem embarked on a concerted campaign to establish new "facts on the ground" (or water) to strengthen its position in future negotiations or conflicts. More likely, they show almost the opposite: that China's foreign-policy chiefs lack the clout to impose a co-ordinated, calibrated response to coincidental provocations. Rather than picking off its adversaries one by one, China is taking them all on at once. The impression of an aggressive rising power is hard to shake off.

单独来看（这些争端），中国的行为可以被认为是各方压力下的正常反应。但是，合起来看，这些行为产生两个风险。首先，它们让中国看起来像是要努力着手确立新的“既成领土”（或领海），为他日谈判和冲突加一份筹码；更有可能，情况完全相反：针对这些偶发的挑衅行为，中国的外交部长缺乏魄力来做出协调一致的回应。中国想要一网打尽，而不是将对手各个击破。中国这咄咄逼人的强权的印象恐怕难以抹去了。

The second danger is of accidental conflict. Neither China nor any of the other countries involved wants these arguments to lead to violence. But there is always the risk of a miscalculation by a local commander leading to unpredictable escalation. In the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands especially, American officials worry about whether overstretched and tense ship captains and fighter pilots can avoid mistakes. America has a treaty obligation to defend Japan, and has repeatedly said that, although it takes no position on who has sovereignty over the Senkakus, its guarantee covers them. It would just take one firebrand pilot, sacrificing himself to defend the motherland's sacred territory, to test that commitment, with entirely unforeseeable consequences.

第二个风险来自于意外冲突。无论是中国还是其他国家，都不希望争端最后诉诸武力。但是决策者的一个错误决定很可能就会导致难以预料的争端升级。尤其是钓鱼岛争端，美国摸不准这些横行的船长和战斗机飞行员能否避免错误。美国同日本签署了防卫条约，美方再三表示，即便对于钓鱼岛主权问题没有发言权，但是会保护日本。要验证这个承诺，只需一人出头，自我牺牲，保卫祖国的神圣领土，当然结果是完全无法预料的。