

## Glossary: China's foreign policy

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):** An organization of 10 countries located in Southeast Asia that promotes economic growth and regional stability. Since 1997, ASEAN has also hosted a forum known as ASEAN Plus Three (APT), which has included China, Japan and South Korea.

**Asian Financial Crisis (1997–98):** Triggered by the collapse of the Thai baht, the crisis threatened to lead to global economic meltdown, but was ultimately limited to Southeast Asia. China was spared from the most devastating effects in part because most of its foreign investment was in the form of physical factories resistant to rapid capital flight.

**Chinese Communist Party (CCP):** Founding and ruling political party of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It is constitutionally recognized as the “vanguard” of state and society and counts over 80 million members.

**Deng Xiaoping:** Reformist leader of China from 1978 to 1992 and successor to Mao Zedong. Deng Xiaoping was responsible for redirecting China toward a market economy and turning away from certain hardline Maoist principles.

**East China Sea:** The East China Sea is a part of the Pacific Ocean that occupies the area between mainland Asia and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan, bounded in the north by the Yellow sea and in the south by the Taiwan Strait. It is home to the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands.

**Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands:** Known by both their Japanese name, the Senkaku, and by their Chinese name, the Diaoyu, these uninhabited islands are located in the East China Sea and are controlled by Japan. Both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan dispute Japan's claim to these islands and the potential oil reserves located there.

**Hu Jintao:** Hu Jintao was paramount leader of China between 2004 and 2012 and successor to Jiang Zemin. Hu presided over a period of steady domestic economic growth and expanding political influence in abroad.

**Jiang Zemin:** Paramount leader of China between 1992 and 2004.

Jiang continued in the spirit of Deng Xiaoping's reforms and oversaw a generally prosperous period in Chinese history.

**Mao Zedong:** Communist revolutionary who founded the PRC and ruled it as paramount leader until his death. Mao solidified single-party rule and initiated a number of controversial policies like the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

**NATO bombing of Chinese embassy in Belgrade:** During NATO's military operation against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia during the Kosovo War, five U.S. bombs hit the Chinese embassy, killing three Chinese reporters. The U.S. government subsequently apologized and explained that its forces had accidentally misidentified coordinates for a Yugoslav military target.

**People's Liberation Army (PLA):** The military arm of the Communist Party of China and the de facto armed forces of the PRC. It is headed by the Central Military Commission.

**Politburo Standing Committee:** A committee within the broader Politburo that consists of between five and eleven of the top members of the Communist Party of China. As China's most powerful decision-making body, it has historically reached its decisions through consensus.

**Qian Qichen:** Foreign Minister of the PRC from 1988 to 1998. During his term, China expanded its influence in Asia by cooperating with ASEAN.

**Andrew Scobell:** Senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation and former associate professor of international affairs at the George H. W. Bush School of Government.

**South China Sea:** The South China Sea is a part of the Pacific Ocean that occupies the area between mainland Asia and the Philippines, bounded in the north by the Taiwan Strait and in the south by Indonesia. Although it is home to numerous territorial disputes, the most well-known is between the PRC and Taiwan, both of which claim almost the entire sea as their own.

**Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED):** An initiative established by President Obama and former Chinese President Hu in

2009 to discuss major issues like cybersecurity and economic policy.

**Taiwan:** Also known as the Republic of China (ROC). In 1949, after the end of the Chinese Civil War between the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, and the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, the Communists founded the People's Republic of China on the mainland and the ROC government reestablished itself on the island of Taiwan. The mainland Communist government of the PRC denies the ROC's sovereign status.

**Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP):** The TPP is a free-trade agreement among Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore. Since 2010, eight other countries, including the U.S., have entered negotiations to join this agreement.

**Union Oil Company of California (UNOCAL):** A major petroleum explorer and marketer until 2005 when, after a failed offer by the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation, it merged with the Chevron Corporation.

**World Trade Organization (WTO):** An international organization founded in 1995 to provide conciliation mechanisms to resolve trade conflicts between members and, if necessary, adjudicate disputes. The WTO provides a forum for ongoing negotiations in pursuit of further lowering and/or elimination of tariffs and other trade barriers.

**Xi Jinping:** Secretary General of the Communist Party of China since November 2012 and President of the PRC since March 2013. As paramount leader of China, Xi has publically campaigned against corruption, continued market reform, and promoted the "Chinese Dream," a call for national rejuvenation.

**Xinjiang:** Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is a northwest region of China and home to a large population of ethnic Uighurs, a majority of whom adhere to Islam. A Muslim separatist movement has long opposed China's central government.

**Zhu Rongji:** Premier of the PRC from 1998 and 2003. Zhu was known as a tough administrator. During his term China's economy experienced double-digit growth.