

PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

About this initiative : Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.

PSIR
Optional by
Amit Pratap
Singh
| ForumIAS |



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China and America are courting Nuclear catastrophe: Foreign affairs

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An economic model for securing Hormuz : project syndicate

Article - 3

Changing geopolitical dynamics in the Gulf Region : ICWA

Article - 1 : China and America are courting Nuclear catastrophe

China and America Are ...

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LOG IN MENU

China and America Are Courting Nuclear Catastrophe

The Consequences of Beijing's Weapons Buildup

TONG ZHAO

May 1, 2026



Displaying nuclear missiles during a military parade in Beijing,

TONG ZHAO is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

[More by Tong Zhao →](#)

Context

China's rapid nuclear expansion and America's counter-response are creating a nuclear competition marked by mistrust, opacity and fear of first use.

Facts

China tripled its nuclear warhead stockpile since 2019.

China's DF-26 missile carries conventional or nuclear payloads across much of Asia-Pacific.

Analytical Crux

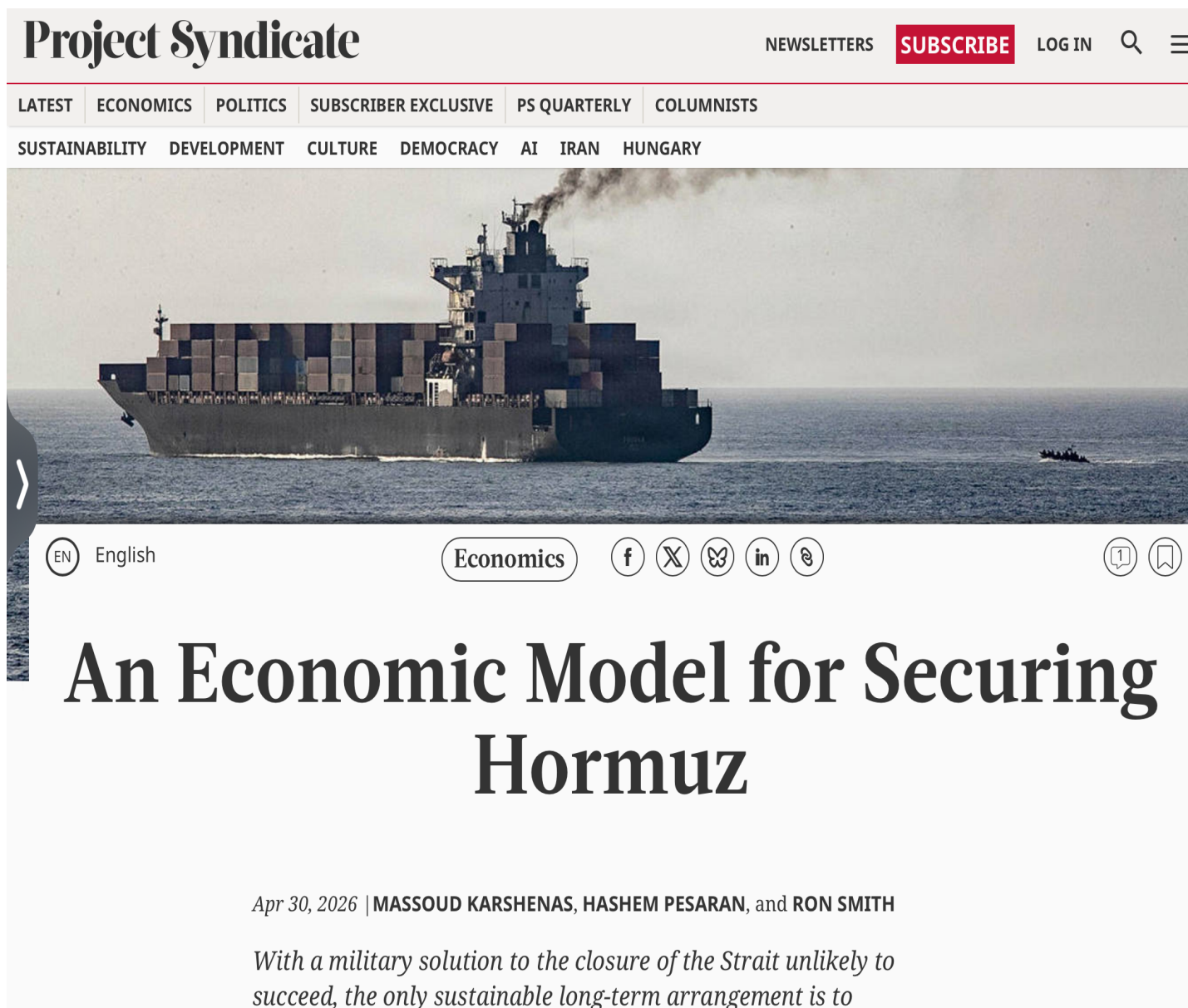
Nuclear danger between China and the U.S. is driven as much by perception as by actual weapons. China's buildup is meant to create deterrence, but its opacity makes Washington anxious and pushes the U.S. towards counter-buildup. No-first-use pledges are weak if both sides do not trust each other's force posture and deployment plans. The solution is not a grand treaty, but transparency on short-range nuclear systems and restraint below the nuclear threshold.

Verbatim Quotes

"Over the past decade, China has been steadily reshaping the global nuclear order." -Tong Zhao

"Washington has to prove that it can protect its interests without resorting to greater nuclear threats." -Tong Zhao

Article - 2: An economic model for securing Hormuz



Context Strait of Hormuz can be kept open sustainably through a regional toll-based security arrangement rather than U.S.-led military protection.

Facts

■ One-quarter of the world's seaborne oil passes through Hormuz.

■ Toll of \$0.58 per barrel could generate \$4.3 billion annually.

■ U.S. operational security in Gulf costs \$10-30 billion per year.

Analytical Crux

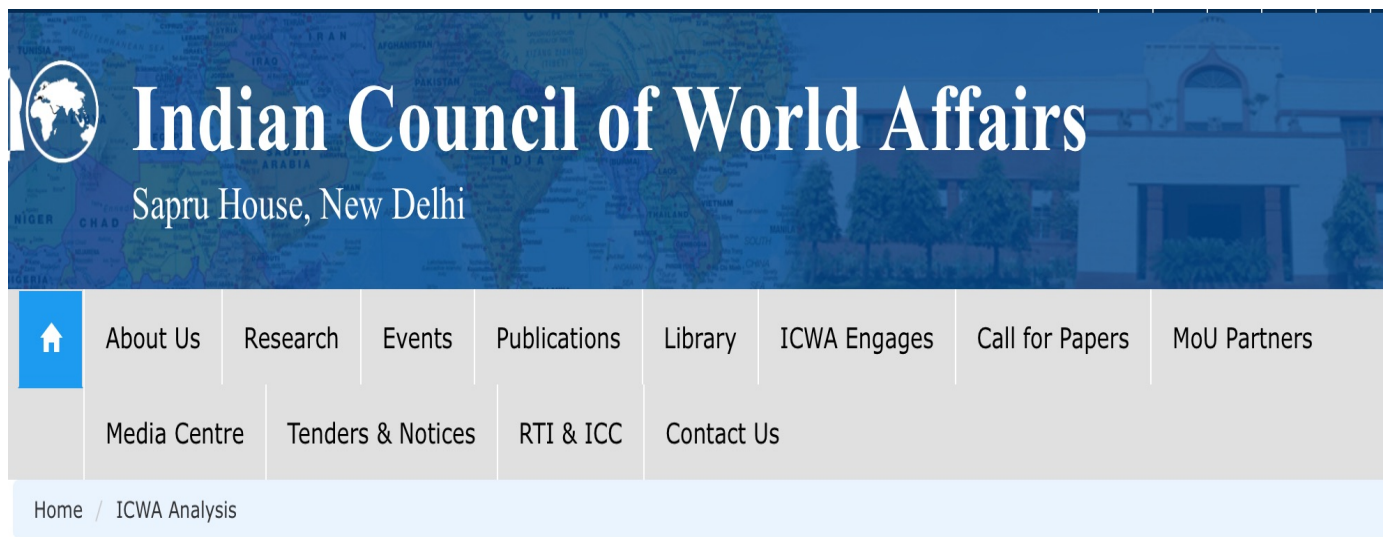
Horzum not only as a military choke point, but as a problem of incentives. The old model depends too much on U.S. military protection, which creates high costs & allows others to free-ride. A toll-based regional system can give Iran a direct economic interest in keeping the Strait open. The energy security cannot be built only through coercion; it also needs economic design, burden-sharing and regional cooperation.

Verbatim Quotes

"The goal is not to replace one form of dominance with another, but to build a more balanced and resilient security framework.

- Massoud Karshenas, Hashem Pesaran & Ron Smith

Article - 3 : Changing geopolitical dynamics in the Gulf Region



Changing Geopolitical Dynamics in the Gulf Region: An Assessment

Dr. Arshad | 30 April 2026

Recently, the Gulf region has been undergoing a profound geopolitical transformation driven by conflicts, strategic competition and new alliances, leading to fragmentation of the regional order. Hamas 'terrorist' attacks of October 7 and Israel's subsequent counter response accelerated these changes, making the Gulf deeply embedded in the regional arc of geopolitical instability spanning from the Levant region to the Indian Ocean. Amid this intensifying turbulence, the region is shifting from a relatively stable US-backed security arrangement to a more volatile and unpredictable order, undermining its political, energy and economic security.

To counter the emerging challenges, the Gulf States are increasingly diversifying their strategies through security cooperation with external actors. The UAE and Israel relations are deepening, reflecting new geopolitical alignments that have emerged following the Abraham Accords. The alignment has also expanded into the Horn of Africa,

Context Gulf is moving from a U.S.-backed security order to a fragmented and insecure regional system shaped by new alignments, the Iran War, Saudi-UAE rivalry & weakened "oil for security" arrangements.

Facts

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed Mutual Defence Pact on 17 September 2025.

Gulf unity is tactical, not structural and Gulf actors as intermediaries rather than independent strategic agents.

Analytical Crux

The old Gulf security bargain has collapsed. U.S. bases no longer guarantee safety; they make Gulf states direct targets in Iran-US conflict. New alignments like UAE-Israel and Saudi-Pakistan show that Gulf states are searching for security, but have not yet built a collective defence doctrine. Their wealth and military purchases have not become real strategic autonomy.

Verbatim Quotes

“The region is shifting from a stable US-backed security arrangement to more volatile and unpredictable order.”

- Dr. Arshad

“The Gulf has transitioned from a U.S. backed security order into an uncertain, fragmented political system which is no longer insulated from conflict and external threats.”

- Dr. Arshad

PSIR & GS2 Daily Brief

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