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## CHINA'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION

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Chinas military modernisation began long before Xi Jinping became chairman of the Central Military Commission in November 2012. But the pace and scope of that effort has greatly accelerated under him. Key changes include the introduction of advanced weapons and equipment, structural reforms to make the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) a more effective force and a campaign to root out corruption and improve Xis control.

The PLA was once a poorly outfitted force that aimed to win land battles through guerrilla tactics and attrition. Chairman Deng Xiaoping, focused on reviving the economy, famously relegated the military to the last of the four modernisations. Beginning with Jiang Zemin (1989 江泽民) the PLA pivoted towards deterrence and preparations for local wars against regional opponents. This implied a need for more capable air and naval forces as well as expanded conventional missile forces, accompanied by changes in training, doctrine, recruitment and education.

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