

Political Warfare

...the use of a wide range of the instruments of national power in efforts to persuade, intimidate, coerce, undermine, and weaken adversaries, and achieve desired political goals.

Political Warfare in the Indo-Pacific

- Information campaign
- Geo-strategic action
- Economic means
- Military/Para-military operations
- Legal or para-legal means

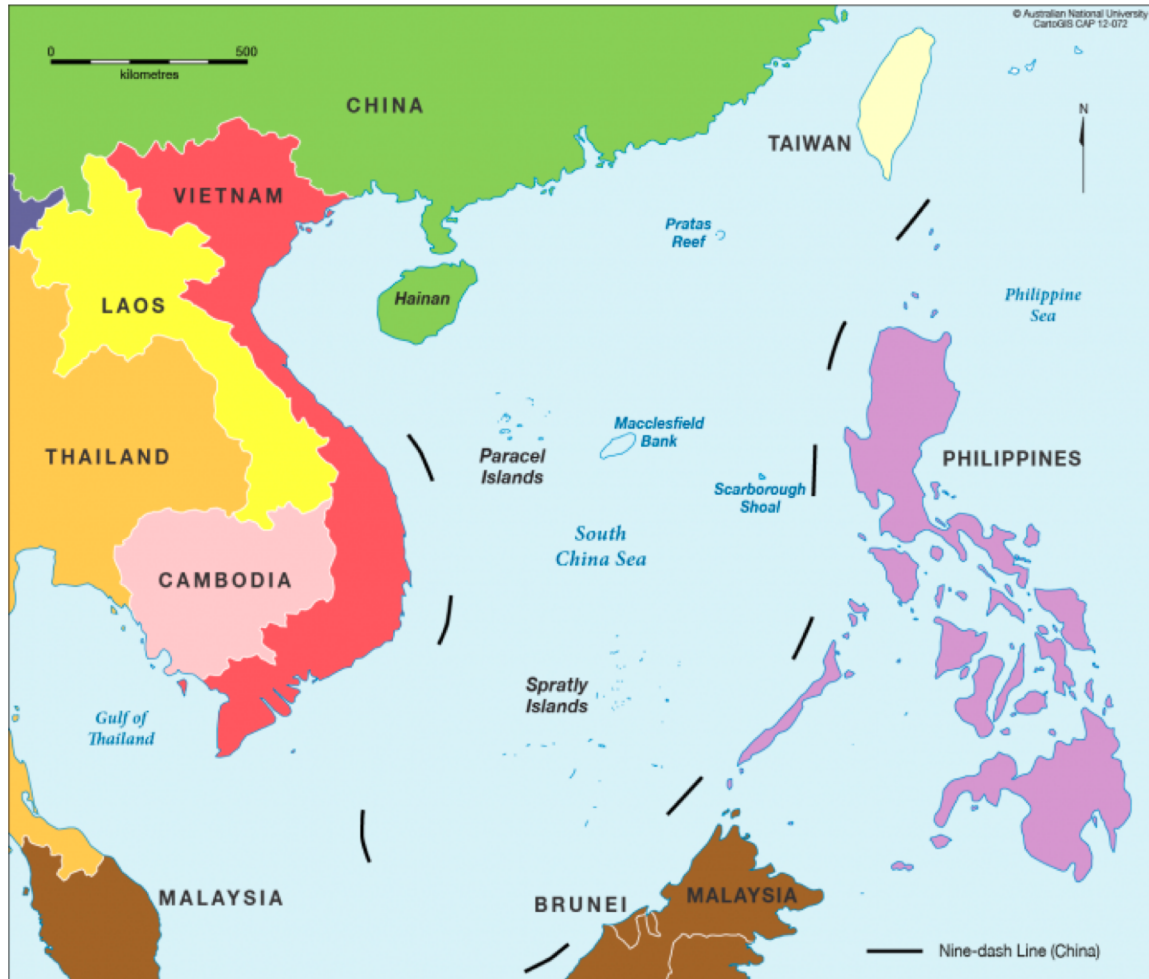
Information Campaign

- Cyber operations
- Manipulation of all forms of media
- Deliberate dissemination of misinformation and disinformation
- Propaganda to justify actions
- Mobilisation and demonstration by nationals living or studying abroad
- Espionage

Geo-Strategic Action

- Occupation and militarisation of disputed territory
- Incursions into exclusive economic zones
- Overflight of sensitive areas or assets
- Harassment of fishing fleets
- Coercion by paramilitary forces

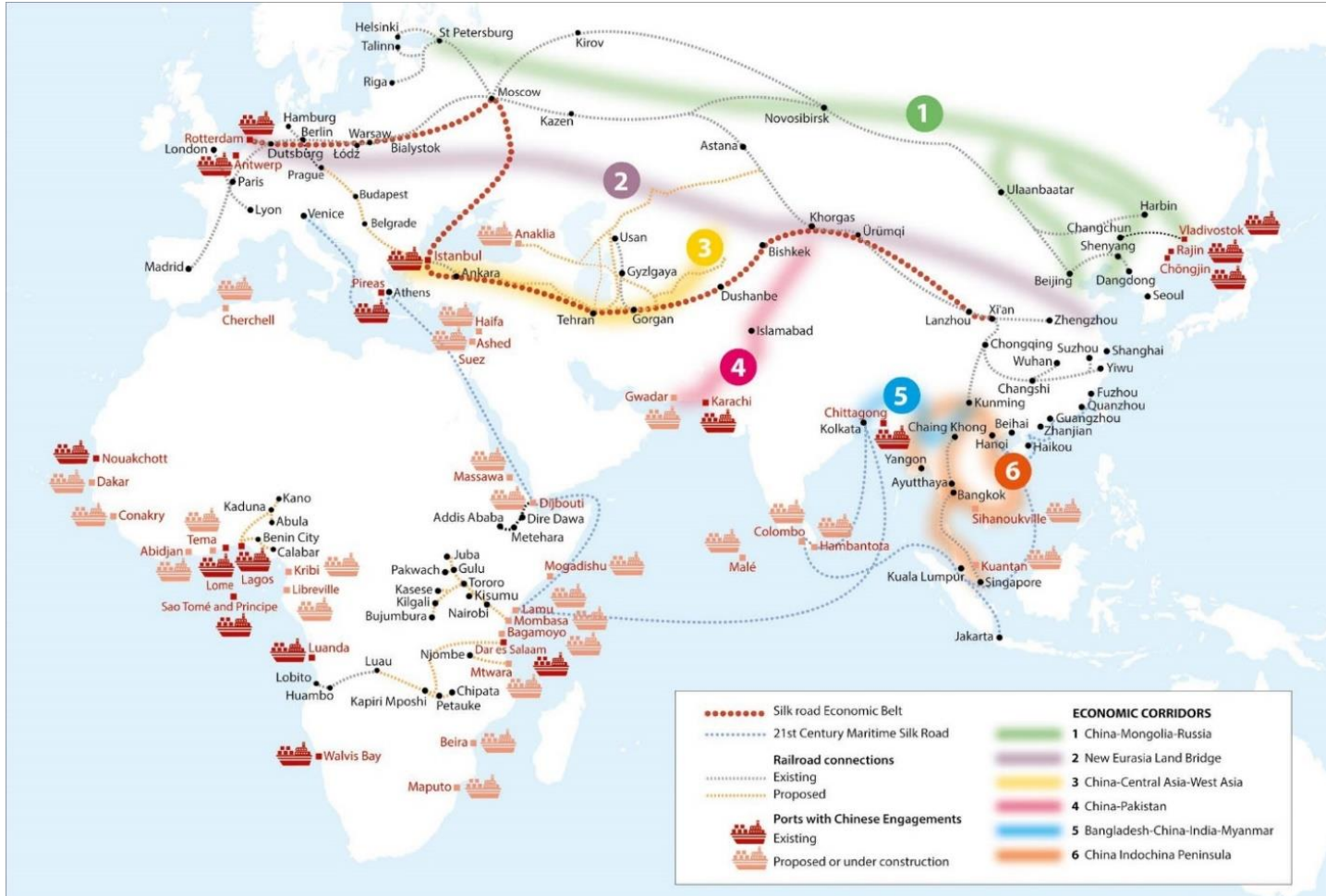
South China Sea



Economic Means

- Financial inducements
- Non-commercial financing
- Corruption of foreign political leaders and officials
- Theft of technology and Intellectual Property
- Artificial trade barriers and embargoes

One (land) belt one (maritime) road



Source: OECD research from multiple sources, including: HKTDC, MERICS, Belt and Road Center, Foreign Policy, The Diplomat, Silk Routes, State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, WWF Hong Kong (China).

Military & Para-Military Operations

- Demonstrating capability in or close to sensitive and disputed areas
- Testing offensive weapons
- Training exercises in proximity to sensitive areas or deployed forces
- 'Buzzing' military assets in international waters or airspace

Legal & Para-Legal Means

- Rewriting history
- Disputing or ignoring international law
- Unwarranted claims for international rights
- False claims to territory

The Nine-Dash Line



Interference and Influence Operations

- Democratic political processes
 - Subversion and corruption of political parties, politicians and political candidates
 - Social media campaigns
 - Dissemination of misinformation and disinformation
- Freedom of speech and association
 - United Front Works Department
 - Donations to universities
 - Mobilisation of students
 - Confucius Institutes and Classrooms

Reasons for China's Behaviour

- Ideology
 - Authoritarian state with tight political control
 - Socialism with Chinese characteristics
 - Xi Jinping thought
- Nationalism
 - Hundred years of humiliation
 - Rejuvenation of the Chinese nation
 - Sino-centric domination of the Indo-Pacific
- Economic Development and Performance
 - Social contract with the Chinese people
 - Legitimacy and survival of the regime

Geo-Economic Environment

- Rules-Based Order *versus* State Capitalism and Mercantilism
- Problems for the Chinese Economy
 - Slowing growth and structural weakness
 - Internal debt and foreign currency reserves
 - Adverse demographics
- Possible responses
 - Artificial stimulation of the economy
 - Reduce the pension burden
- Danger of bi-furcation of global economic systems

Conclusions

- Recognise the threat of political warfare against our nations
- We can deal with most of the perturbations in the regional security landscape
- Interference operations pose the greatest threat
- Decline in China's economy will slow its military build-up
- China will be less inclined to directly confront the US and will revert to political warfare
- We must win this struggle