



'Siphon effect' wrong on China's regional devt

This view about 'siphon effect' deviates from the underlying logic of China's economic and social development and fails to explain the realities across China **5**

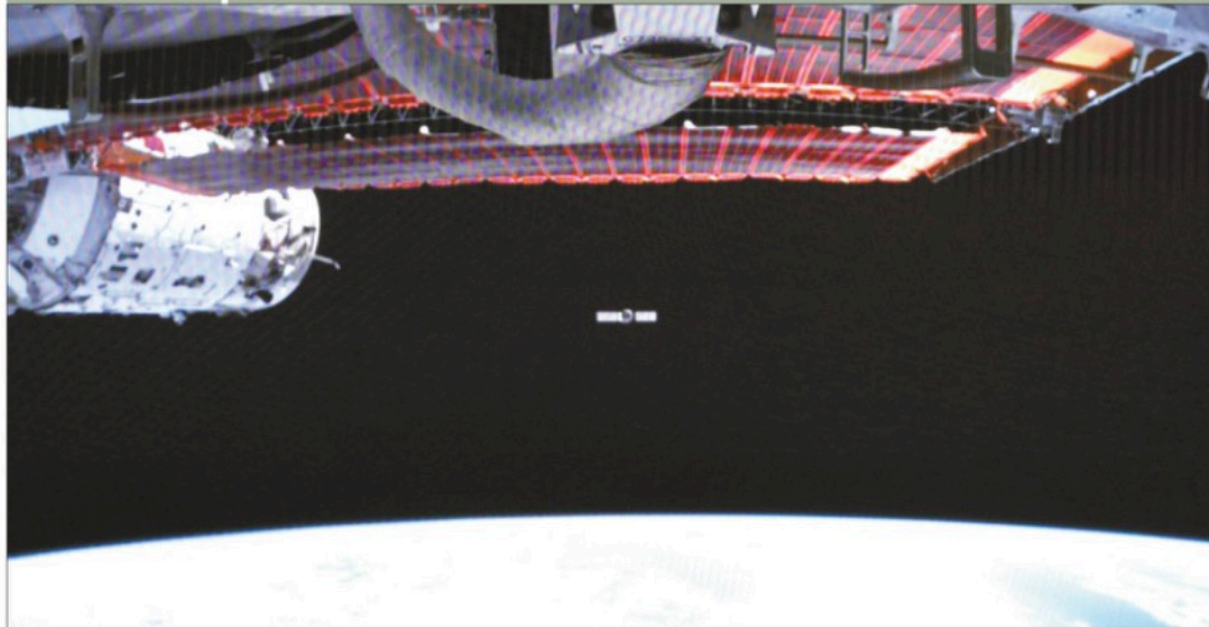
GT investigates: Visiting anti-smuggling frontline

China Coast Guard officers in the Beibu Gulf keep upgrading patrols, smart monitoring systems and public tip-off networks to tighten anti-smuggling efforts **8-9**

Banshan residents mark Lixia solar term with ICH traditions

Passed down through generations, Banshan Lixia customs embody the practical knowledge and wisdom developed to harmonize local rhythms of production and daily life **16**

Return from space



This image captured at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center on May 6, 2026 shows China's Tianzhou-9 cargo craft undocking from the station combination. The Tianzhou-9 cargo craft, tasked with carrying supplies for China's space station, will re-enter the atmosphere in a controlled manner at an appropriate time, the China Manned Space Agency said. Photo: CNS Photo

▶ Beijing supports Tehran in safeguarding sovereignty amid Iranian FM's visit

China reaffirms to help restart talks, de-escalate Mideast crisis

By Zhang Wanshi

Amid lingering tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and with no peace agreement between Tehran and Washington finalized yet, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has arrived in Beijing on Wednesday, as the Chinese side stressed that China will remain committed to deescalating tensions and ending hostilities, and continue to provide support for initiating peace talks, playing a greater

role in restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East.

Chinese experts noted that as the conflict stands at a crossroads in its future direction, between peace talks and prolonged confrontation over the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian Foreign Minister's visit to China carries significance as China plays an important role in mediating peace dialogue and averting the likelihood of sliding back into renewed escalation of military conflict.

The current situation has reached a critical juncture over whether the conflict can be brought to an end, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday during his meeting with Araghchi. China supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security, and appreciates Iran's willingness to seek a political resolution through diplomatic channels, Wang said.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Com-

munist Party of China Central Committee, said that the international community shares common concerns over restoring normal and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, urging relevant parties to respond to global calls as soon as possible.

During the meeting, Araghchi briefed Wang on the latest developments in Iran-US negotiations and Iran's considerations for the next steps. He

China slams Japan's first post-WWII offensive missile launch overseas

By Wang Qi

With deafening sound and thick smoke, missiles roared off from a dark green missile launcher parked on an open ground... This 29-second video clip released by Philippine media on social media is not a random military drill footage, but an extremely dangerous signal - Japan, participating in the 2026 US-Philippines Balikatan joint military exercise, fired Type 88 surface-to-ship missiles on Wednesday, which the China Media Group said to be Japan's first overseas launch of offensive missiles since the end of World War II.

Hours after the launch, China's Foreign Ministry commented that "This is yet another example of the Japanese right-wing forces' push for accelerated remilitarization of Japan. They have repeatedly breached Japan's exclusively defense-oriented policy and relevant rules in international and domestic laws. Some of their policies and moves have gone far beyond the scope of self-defense."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a press conference on Wednesday, that the serious lack of education on true history, the fundamentally wrong historical views, compounded by strategies for military rearmament and preparation for war, have led to the malevolent emergence of neo-militarism in Japan and put regional peace and stability under threat.

Chinese analysts viewed Japan's move as a major and dangerous gamble, warning that it blatantly violates Japan's post-war military constraints, is an abandonment of its

► Cruise outbreak



Cruise ship *MV Hondius*, aboard which three passengers have died on suspicion of hantavirus infections, is stationary off the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, on May 6, 2026. Photo: VCG

Visit underscores China's role in facilitating peace dialogues: expert

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said that Iran will firmly safeguard national sovereignty and dignity, while continuing to build consensus through peaceful negotiations in pursuit of a comprehensive and permanent solution.

Mediation efforts

Since the outbreak of the war on February 28, Wang and Araghchi have held several phone conversations in March and April, with the Chinese side repeatedly supporting Iran in safeguarding its own sovereignty and advocating peace talks to de-escalate tensions.

AP News reported that it was the first time since the start of the war that Araghchi has traveled to China, whose close economic and political ties to Tehran "give it a unique position of influence."

The conflict stands at a critical crossroads. Despite military stand-offs and clashes have largely eased, sending out tentative positive signals, substantial progress toward peace negotiations is still lacking. Therefore, the international community including Pakistan and China is working to advance a peaceful settlement, said Ding Long, professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

"This visit on Wednesday not only reflects Iran's expectation for China to play a greater role, but also underscores China's important part in facilitating peace talks and preventing the situation from relapsing into fresh escalation of military conflict," the expert added.

Araghchi's visit to Beijing follows his trip to Russia, an earlier meeting with Omani officials in Muscat, and a previous stop in Islamabad of Paki-

stan, according to media reports.

The Chinese foreign minister said during the meeting on Wednesday that China maintains that Gulf and Middle East countries should take their own future and destiny into their own hands.

"China encourages Iran and more Gulf nations to engage in dialogue and foster good-neighborly relations, and supports regional countries in building a peace and security architecture based on broad participation, safeguarding shared interests, and achieving common development," Wang said.

Ahead of the diplomatic meeting, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent reportedly urged China to support the US-led military operation in the Strait of Hormuz and also accused China of obstructing UN initiatives, to which Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday that he hope relevant parties will act prudently, avoid further escalation, resolve disputes through dialogue, and restore peace and tranquility in the strait soon.

In response to another question that the US government has reportedly also been asking China to put more pressure on Iran to not only end the war but open the Strait of Hormuz, Lin said only through early and full ceasefire can there be necessary conditions for a deescalation.

Uncertain US-Iran backdrop

While Washington and Tehran continue their negotiations, the Strait of Hormuz also stands as a key sticking point.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued a new warning to Iran, saying if they don't come to an agreement, the "bombing starts" and it will be at "higher level and intensity

than it was before," per CNN.

The president did leave open the door to an agreement, which he said would end the US military operation against the country but added it is possibly a "big assumption" the two sides can come to an agreement.

Later on Wednesday, CNN cited Iranian media that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz is possible under "new procedures" following the pausing of a short-lived US military operation in the waterway, the Revolutionary Guards' Navy said on Wednesday.

What happens next is unclear, BBC said, noting that the US administration had stressed that Project Freedom was a "separate and distinct" campaign from the blockade, which is meant to pressure Iran economically.

Zhu Yongbiao, a Middle East affairs expert with Lanzhou University, told the Global Times on Wednesday that challenges of the current situation persist, as the US continues to pursue a pressure approach toward Iran, seeking to gain more leverage at the negotiating table.

However, it's noticeable that the two sides have basically formed a tacit understanding since their initial contact – neither party wishes the conflict to escalate or persist and both seek to contain costs in military, political and time dimensions, the expert noted.

CNN also noted that when exchanges of fire between US and Iranian forces in the strait on Monday did not reignite the war, it signaled that neither side wanted full-scale fighting to resume.

Zhu added that while the risk of intense conflict cannot be entirely ruled out, a tilt toward negotiations between the two sides seems to be taking shape.

Tokyo's surging neo-militarism 'threatens regional peace, stability'

► China, from Page 1

long-standing exclusively defense-oriented policy, and represents a major step toward exercising the right of collective self-defense.

Unlike Philippine media, Global Times reporters found that Japan's mainstream media had barely covered this offensive missile launch in the first instance on Wednesday morning. In a report on Wednesday afternoon, the Japan Times described the firing of the Type 88 missile as breaking another "postwar taboo" and also mentioned that China's Taiwan region "sits just about 400 kilometers north of where Wednesday's exercises took place."

According to the Philippine Star, this year's Balikatan drill is the largest edition since the 1990s. Media reports noted that the drill marks the first time Japan has deployed combat forces to Philippine soil since World War II.

Chinese military affairs expert Song Zhongping told the Global Times on Wednesday that the Type 88 shore-based anti-ship missile was developed based on the US Harpoon missile, yet its technology is relatively outdated and its actual combat capability is limited. Lacking hypersonic speed and stealth design, the missile has very limited penetration capability.

Despite the missile's outdated performance, Japan's first overseas launch of such missiles in the Philippines after WWII signifies a major and dangerous move, Song said. "It indicates Japan has broken through the long-standing restriction on exercising military force overseas, substantially hollowing out its exclusive defense policy and blatantly shifting toward the exercise of collective self-defense," the expert said.

Deepening collusion

Behind the offensive missile firing lies rapid advancements in Japan-Philippines defense ties.

Citing the Philippines' president office, Reuters reported that Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Philippine National Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. witnessed the live missile firing on the ground on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the two defense chiefs agreed to set up a new bilateral working group to promote defense equipment-related and technological cooperation, according to Jiji Press.

However, Song noted that other than the Type 88 surface-to-ship missiles, Japan has held back its more advanced Type 12 and Type 17 surface-to-ship missiles from the Balikatan drills.

"Japan's hidden calculation is to use joint military exercises in the Philippines as a weapon exhibition platform to promote its obsolete military equipment to Southeast Asian nations, while equipping its own Self-Defense Forces with the most advanced missile and naval systems," the expert said, "It seems Japan believes such outdated and inferior weapons are enough to satisfy the Philippine military."

According to Xiang Haoyu, a distinguished research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, once tensions flare up, Japan can use the Philippines as a springboard to integrate geopolitical flashpoints in the East China Sea, the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea through military linkages, and build a cross-regional containment architecture targeting China.

What deserves high vigilance is that the Japan-Philippines military collusion may evolve further toward greater alliance-like, combat-oriented, and normalized development, Xiang said.

