

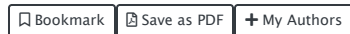


Derek J. Grossman

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12 hours ago, 15 tweets, 3 min read



THREAD on Vietnam's latest defense white paper. Before I offer some thoughts, please keep in mind this DWP, while "published," is only hardcopy at the moment. I'm lucky to have a scanned English copy available. I'm told the digital version might be posted by next week. [↪](#)

This is first Vietnamese DWP in a decade, so a very big deal for Vietnam defense policy watchers. Naturally the first thing I did was to count the times "China" appeared in 2019 vs 2009. In 2019, by my count (again, this is scanned copy so I could be off), there are 8 instances. [↪](#)

In 2009, there were only 4 instances. I should note that I'm just counting the narrative, not Appendices. The 2009 DWP exclusively talked about "China" in a cooperative context. However, this DWP in 4 of 8 occurrences characterizes China as an adversary in the SCS. [↪](#)

Been a fair amount of chatter about Vietnam adding a 4th "No" to "Three No's" defense policy--no alliances, no basing on its territory, & no aligning with a second country against a third. New "No" is "no using force or threatening to use force in international relations." [↪](#)

Interestingly, the term "Indo-Pacific" is mentioned. In speaking with knowledgeable Vietnamese interlocutors, this is significant in that it clearly signals, to China, that Hanoi is ready to underwrite Washington's strategy, if needed. No Quad necessarily, just supportive overall. [↪](#)


"Indo-Pacific" is placed in category of "regional defense & security mechanisms." As I & others have written, Vietnam is feeling increasingly threatened by China in the SCS, so this signal makes sense. [↪](#)


But hold on. According to DWP, "strategic rivalries btw major powers have become increasingly acute, sometimes turning the East Sea into a 'flash point,' potentially leading to conflict." In other words, US could be part of the problem. This should dampen US expectations a bit. [↪](#)


DWP: "Depending on circumstances & specific conditions, Vietnam will consider developing necessary, appropriate defense & military relations with other countries..." Apparently a HUGE deal. Basically tacit nod to raising US-Vietnam ties to a strategic partnership. May happen. [↪](#)


Finally, for now, new data of interest. Vietnam has 16 strategic & 11 comprehensive partnerships. Special strategic relationships with Laos & Cambodia. Hanoi has defense ties with over 80 countries/orgs, 37 defense attache offices abroad, & 49 nations have attaches in Vietnam. [↪](#)





Vietnam's defense budget in 2018 was 2.36 percent of GDP, according to the DWP. It has hovered between 2.23 and 2.88 percent from 2010 to 2018. By 2030, Vietnam seeks "to build the VPA into a modern military." I welcome any thoughts/comments on this thread. Thanks! 

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 **The Columbia Bugle**
@ColumbiaBugle
Jul 28th 2019


#Thread America First Patriot & Former White House Speechwriter @DarrenJBeattie giving one hell of a speech @WeBuildtheWall Event this weekend. In this 1st clip Darren explains how Trump was able to lead a populist movement against the establishment & what "Conservatism" is. 1/

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 **Adam Ni**
@adam_ni
Jul 23rd 2019

Thread on China's new defense white paper, China's National Defense in the New Era. This WP has just been released by the @chinascio. Press conference is happening now. Thanks to you know who you are. #China #PLA


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 **Amy Berger**
@TuitNutrition
Jul 19th 2019

THREAD 1/ Been listening to some podcasts lately and seeing things on Twitter WRT macros, protein-to-energy ratio, eating fat first before anything else, etc. And everyone insists they're right. That they have *THE* answer—for themselves and everyone else.

2/ Can we stop doing this, please?


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 **Lincoln Michel**
@TheLincoln
Dec 7th 2018

If you're under age of 35 you've spent your whole life in an era when LOTR wins Oscars, every MCU movie gets glittering RT scores, and you're a pariah if you don't like Harry Potter. "Geek" culture isn't a scrappy rebel force at the gates of the empire. It is the empire.

which is fine! I like a lot of that stuff!

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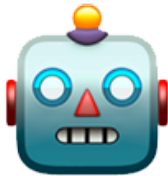
 **Joe Murgia**
@UfoJoe11
Oct 27th 2018

Thread: Italian UFO Conference with Luis Elizondo and Tom DeLonge. Lue: The topic of UAPs is an emotional topic for many. And Tom, I and our colleagues are not here to change your mind or position. Just here to provide facts and data and let you decide.

He will split it into two parts.

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