

Border Security: Vulnerability and Emerging Global Security Threats

Robert Girod

ABSTRACT

National sovereignty and global alliances face new challenges due to evolving and emerging security threats, ranging from pandemic “vaccine nationalism” to viral cyber-attacks. While pandemics and cyber-attacks are global threats that cross international borders, border sovereignty is still and increasingly a threat to national security and homeland security that takes the form of espionage, terrorism, narcotics and dangerous drugs trafficking, human trafficking, weapons and other contraband smuggling, counterfeiting and intellectual property theft, economic crimes, and a plethora of other threats. Not only are criminals, terrorists, and agent provocateurs a threat to borders, but nation-state opponents are threats to border sovereignty and the subject of international disputes that verge on the edge of war.

Keywords: Border Security; vulnerabilities; Ukraine War; National Sovereignty

Seguridad fronteriza: Vulnerabilidad y amenazas emergentes a la seguridad global

RESUMEN

La soberanía nacional y las alianzas globales enfrentan nuevos desafíos debido a las amenazas a la seguridad emergentes y en evolución, que van desde el “nacionalismo de las vacunas” pandémico hasta los ciberataques virales. Si bien las pandemias y los ataques cibernéticos son amenazas globales que cruzan fronteras internacionales, la soberanía fronteriza sigue siendo, y cada vez más, una amenaza a la seguridad nacional y a la seguridad nacional que toma la forma de espionaje, terrorismo, tráfico de narcóticos y drogas peligrosas, trata de personas, armas y otros tipos de contrabando. contrabando, falsificación y robo de propiedad intelectual, delitos económicos y una gran cantidad de otras amenazas. Los criminales, los terroristas y los agentes provocadores no sólo son una amenaza para las fronteras, sino que los oponentes de los Estados-nación son amenazas a la soberanía fronteriza y son objeto de disputas internacionales que

rozan el borde de la guerra.

Palabras clave: Seguridad de frontera; vulnerabilidades; Guerra de Ucrania; Soberanía nacional

边境安全：脆弱性与新兴的全球安全威胁

摘要

由于不断变化和新兴的安全威胁（从大流行“疫苗民族主义”到病毒式网络攻击），国家主权和全球联盟面临着新的挑战。尽管大流行和网络攻击是跨越国界的全球性威胁，但边境主权仍然对国家安全和国土安全构成越来越大的威胁，其形式包括间谍活动、恐怖主义、麻醉品和危险毒品贩运、人口贩运、武器和其他违禁品走私、伪造和知识产权盗窃、经济犯罪、以及大量其他威胁。对边境构成威胁的不仅有犯罪分子、恐怖分子和诱导者，而且民族国家的反对者也对边境主权造成威胁，他们也是濒临战争边缘的国际争端的主题。

关键词：边境安全，脆弱性，乌克兰战争，国家主权

Introduction

The United States is not the only country with border security issues. The United States and Canada have maintained friendly relations for more than a century, but border disputes between these two allied countries still exist. The United States and Canada have at least five current and ongoing border disputes, each involving maritime claims. Many territories around the globe are claimed by more than one country, often leading to tensions and conflict between sovereign

countries, sometimes resulting in war. Globally, there are (at this time) more than 150 territorial disputes between nation-states. China has the largest number of neighbors (fourteen) sharing its 22,000 km land borders: North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam and is engaged in territorial disputes with all fourteen of these countries.

The worldwide press and media have been reporting on many border issues that have led to global insecurity.

ty and conflicts. Illegal immigration, COVID and similar pandemics, arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking and other criminal activity, territorial disputes, and cyber-attacks are only a few of the issues affecting border security and the resulting vulnerabilities and emerging global threats to national and multi-national security interests.

Border security is an essential element of both national security and homeland security, in that “border security” secures a nation-state from threats to national defense and from foreign intelligence activities and homelands from public safety and law enforcement threats. The former includes potential espionage, sabotage, and terrorism, while the latter includes acts of human trafficking, narcotics and dangerous drug offenses, the smuggling of weapons and other contraband, and counterfeit or prohibited items. Borders also include boundaries created in cyberspace by malware, viruses, and hacking. Cyber viruses are not the only viruses of concern to border security; pandemic viruses and biological warfare are also homeland and national security issues of concern.

Global Alliances Face New Challenges

Border disputes is only one of the threats faced by nation-states alliances. The Five Eyes (FVEY) alliance is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US). These countries

are parties to the multilateral **UKUSA Agreement**, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence and, more informally, the group of intelligence agencies represented by these countries. Other alliances, such as NATO and SEATO, face numerous mutual defense and security challenges. But such intelligence, defense, and security alliances are not the only global interests.

The world-wide pandemic has brought new challenges to a variety of organizations, affecting not only world health issues, but border security, sovereignty legal issues, and threats to national security. The World Health Organization (WHO), for example, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (U.N.) responsible for international public health. The WHO is the U.N. agency that “connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable.” (World Health Organization, 2022)

WHO’s Global Health Estimates (GHE) provide the latest available data on death and disability globally, providing insight to support informed decision-making on health policy and resource allocation. Public health surveillance is the continuous, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data. Humanitarian emergencies increase the risk of transmission of infectious diseases and an effective disease surveillance system is essential to detecting disease outbreaks quickly before they spread, cost lives and become out of control. (World Health Organization, 2022)

National Sovereignty and the Nature of Border Security and Barriers

National Sovereignty is, in part, defined by its borders, its citizens, and its laws. Professors James R. Phelps, Jeffrey Dailey, and Monica Koenigsberg concisely observe that, “How effectively border integrity and security are provided directly affects all citizens, legal residents, and those who want to profit from violating internationally accepted rules on national sovereignty.” (Phelps, pp. 3-4) Borders, boundaries, and barriers are more than lines on a map. They reinforce these political demarcations and require an understanding of a wide variety issues that affect the human condition around the world. Borders are the edge or periphery used to delineate national and political boundaries. Boundaries are anything that indicates or fixes political, economic. Legal, physical, or even mental limits. Barriers are any material—natural or manufactured—that blocks, prevents or hinders passage across borders or boundaries.

The most common barriers are walls. The most iconic and probably oldest barrier wall is the Great Wall of China—a series of fortifications and a wall made of stone, brick, tamped earth, wood, and other materials—which runs east and west through the entire northern part of China. The Great Wall was built between 220 and 206 B.C.E. by Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor, to prevent intrusions and military incur-

sions by nomads from Mongolia and Siberia. Now a tourist attraction that can be seen from space, the Great Wall was a means of border control, checkpoints, and customs collection centers. (Phelps, p. 26)

The Maginot Line was a defensive line built between France and Germany (3-6 miles back from the German frontier) consisting of pillboxes or fortified houses, minefields and anti-tank traps. (Phelps, p. 53) Meanwhile, the Germans also built the Siegfried Line to defend against attacks from its eastern borders. (Phelps, p. 55) Following World War II, “The Iron Curtain” was a physical fence built to keep people in and separating Eastern and Western Europe. “The Berlin Wall” represented this “Iron Curtain” along the international borders between Warsaw Pact and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries. (Phelps, pp. 57-58) (Phelps, pp. 3-4) Again, this series of walls and fences differed from others, in that it was designed to keep people in—to prevent them from fleeing Soviet-dominated tyranny.

Land borders are not the only concern in the protection of national borders. Maritime borders are just as vulnerable, if not more so, because of their permeable nature. The *coast* is determined by a “smoothed” line running across inlets, bays, channels, harbors, etc. The “shore” is an actual point where land meets ocean saltwater. The difference is merely a matter of measurement—the United States has 12,380.2 miles of “coastline” but 95,000 miles of “shoreline.” (Phelps, p. 151)

The major concern with ocean borders is the safety and security of maritime commerce, which may be threatened by vulnerability of the supply chain, human error, corruption, and compromise. (Phelps, p. 190)

Transnational Threats to Cyber Security

Cyber threats have evolved from lone hacker crimes to transnational terrorism and espionage threats. Rising ransomware attacks against critical infrastructure have shown that threats have crossed digital and physical borders. The decentralization of the workplace makes endpoint security even more critical than ever. New tactics used by malicious actors require focus on different tools and solutions. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have released standards to help organizations protect their data and systems from risks associated with the advancement of quantum computing technology. While quantum computing promises unprecedented speed and power in computing, it also poses new risks. As this technology advances, it is expected to break encryption methods that are widely used to protect customer data, complete business transactions, and secure communications. New guidelines will help organizations prepare for the transition to post-quantum cryptography by identifying, prioritizing, and protecting potentially vulnerable data, algorithms, protocols, and

systems. (Department of Homeland Security, 2022)

Cyberspace and its underlying infrastructure are vulnerable to a wide range of risks stemming from both cyber and physical threats. Sophisticated cyber actors and nation-states exploit vulnerabilities to steal information and money and are developing capabilities to disrupt, destroy, or threaten the delivery of essential services. Cyberspace is particularly difficult to secure due to a number of factors: 1) the ability of malicious actors to operate from anywhere in the world, 2) the linkages between cyberspace and physical systems, and 3) the difficulty of reducing vulnerabilities and consequences in complex cyber networks. Of growing concern is the cyber threat to critical infrastructure and cyber intrusions. As information technology becomes increasingly integrated with physical infrastructure operations, there is increased risk of disruption of services. (Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency, 2022)

Cyber threats are simultaneously a national security and homeland security threat and a counterintelligence problem. State- and non-state actors use digital technologies to achieve economic and military advantage, instigate instability, increase control over content in cyberspace and achieve other strategic goals—often faster than our ability to understand the security implications and neutralize the threat. (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 2022) Some examples of cyber-attacks include:

- In Estonia, in 2007, during a period of political tensions between the

Russian Federation and Estonia, there were a series of denial-of-service (DOS) cyberattacks against many Estonian websites, including those run by the Estonian Parliament, government ministries, banks, newspapers and television stations. Though Russia was blamed for these attacks based on circumstantial evidence, the Russian Government never admitted its involvement. An ethnic Russian living in Tallinn, who was upset by Estonia's actions and who had been acting alone, was convicted in an Estonian court for his part in these attacks.

- In Dharamsala, India, in 2009, security researchers discovered a sophisticated surveillance system in the Dalai Lama's computer network, called *GhostNet*. The same network had infiltrated political, economic and media targets in 103 countries. China was the suspected origin of this GhostNet, based only upon circumstantial evidence. It was also unknown whether this network was run by a government organization or by Chinese nationals for either profit or nationalist reasons.
- In Iran, in 2010, the *Stuxnet* computer worm severely damaged, and possibly destroyed, centrifuge machines in the Natanz uranium enrichment facility, in an effort to set back the Iranian nuclear program. Analysis of the worm indicated that it was a well-designed and well-executed cyber-weapon, which required an engineering effort that

implied a nation-state sponsor. Investigative reporting suggested that the United States and Israel were the designers and deployers of the worm, although neither country has officially taken credit for it.

(UN Chronicles, 2022)

IP Theft and Propaganda

CNN reports that the CIA is re-vamping how it trains and manages its operatives as part of a "broader effort to transition" away from 20 years of counterterrorism wars and focus more closely on adversaries like China and Russia. After two decades of paramilitary operations against Islamist terror groups, some former intelligence officers say the CIA needs to get back to "traditional, quiet tradecraft" to collect intelligence on complex nation-states, such as China, which senior officials say presents the agency with its biggest challenge. (CNN Politics, 2021)

John Lenczowski, PhD, former NSC Staff Expert, and currently Chancellor of the Institute of World Politics, says that while the psychological disarmament of the decision-making elites in the U.S. and Western allies has led to the global theft of intellectual property, the Chinese use the media, academic institutions, think tanks, business community, politicians, and the entertainment industry as a tool for their massive propaganda operations. Many academicians, universities, research enterprises have taken large grants from China, or done joint projects with Chinese front organizations. As a result, an

enormous amount of the reports which emanate from these enterprises are skewed to follow Chinese talking points on major issues. (AFIO, 2022)

The Washington Post reported on January 17, 2022, that the Chinese Olympic organizing committee have warned that foreign athletes may face punishment for speech that violates Chinese law at the 2022 Winter Games. (Eva Dou, Washington Post, 2022)

COVID Pandemic as a Transnational Security Threat

COVID-19 is a nontraditional threat which proliferates with or without intention, bargaining or goals. This nontraditional threat has affected U.S. national security in both direct and indirect ways. This is both a domestic issue and an international issue. Whether pandemic viruses are weaponized WMDs or not, such public health crises are clearly threats to both national security and homeland security. Different countries have their own entry and exit requirements and the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends checking each country's requirements before planning international travel.

Migration at the Polish-Belarusian Border

National Geographic reported on January 31, 2022, that the once peaceful countryside border between Poland and Belarus of forests, rolling hills, river valleys,

and wetlands, has become a militarized zone. Concerns about an influx of primarily Middle Eastern migrants from Belarus, have prompted the Polish government to construct a massive wall across its eastern border. (Douglas Main, National Geographic, 2022) The Belarusian-Polish border is the state border between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Belarus. It is between 248 miles (398.6 km) and 260 miles (418 km) long, beginning at the triple junction of the borders with Lithuania in the north and stretching to the triple junction borders with Ukraine to the south.

Aljazeera also reported on the Polish border wall, saying, "Poland branded the crisis a 'hybrid' attack from Belarus and its main ally Russia, referring to a type of warfare using non-military tactics. Belarus has denied this and has, in turn, accused Poland of "inhumane treatment of the refugees." Belarus has since repatriated thousands of people to Iraq, the primary origin of the refugees. At the height of the crisis, Poland sent thousands of troops and police officers to the border to reinforce border guard patrols. (Aljazeera. 2022)

On 02 September 2021, Poland's government announced a state of emergency along its border with Belarus as a result of the ongoing migration and security crisis and established an exclusion zone along the frontier that has barred journalists, relief groups, and nonresidents from accessing the area. But new regulations were implemented on 01 December 2021 and the Polish Border Guard has begun granting jour-

nalists limited access to the border zone as part of supervised tours. *Although* soldiers keep the peace, fences damaged by Belarusian guards to allow groups of migrants to cross the border, creating security challenges that Belarus has presented to Poland's sovereignty.

National Sovereignty, Global Alliances, and the Russian-Ukraine War

Russia has history of resisting Ukraine's move towards European institutions and the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* (NATO), a defensive alliance of 30 countries¹ (an intergovernmental military alliance between 27 European countries, 2 North American countries, and 1 Eurasian country). Russia's demand is for the West to guarantee Ukraine will not join NATO. Ukraine shares borders with both the *European Union* (EU) (a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe) and Russia. But as a former Soviet republic Ukraine has deep social and cultural ties with Russia and Russian is widely spoken there.

The threat is being taken seriously because Russia has invaded Ukraine before. When Ukrainians deposed their pro-Russian president in early 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's southern Crimean peninsula and backed separatists who captured large areas of

eastern Ukraine. The rebels have fought the Ukrainian military ever since in a conflict that has claimed more than 14,000 lives. The BBC reports conflicting opinions and rhetoric on the situations: "Russia says it has no plans to attack Ukraine: and armed forces chief Valery Gerasimov even denounced reports of an impending invasion as a lie." And while NATO's Secretary General warns that the risk of conflict is real, "U.S. officials" have stressed "they do not believe Russia has decided on an invasion, and it is not imminent." Meanwhile, Ukraine's president has appealed to the West not to spread "panic." And still, Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened "appropriate retaliatory military-technical measures" if what he calls "the West's aggressive approach" continues. (Paul Kirby, BBC News, 2022)

Unidentified U.S. sources report that Russia has offered no explanation for the troops posted close to Ukraine and that thousands of Russian troops have headed to Belarus, close to Ukraine's northern border, for "exercises." But Russia's deputy foreign minister compared the situation to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the U.S. and Soviet Union came close to nuclear conflict. Western intelligence opine a Russian incursion or invasion could happen sometime in early 2022. Why is Russia insistent that Ukraine not join NATO? What is its security in-

1 Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

terest? Russia has spoken of a “moment of truth” in its relationship with NATO. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said, “For us it’s absolutely mandatory to ensure Ukraine never, ever becomes a member of NATO.” And President Putin explained that if Ukraine joined NATO, the alliance might try to recapture Crimea. Moscow accuses NATO countries of “pumping” Ukraine with weapons and the U.S. of stoking tensions to contain Russia’s development. (Paul Kirby, BBC News, 2022)

In short, Russia would like NATO’s borders to return to pre-1997 boundaries. It demands no more eastward expansion and an end to NATO military activity in Eastern Europe. That would mean combat units being pulled out of Poland and the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and no missiles deployed in countries such as Poland and Romania. Russia has also proposed a treaty with the U.S. barring nuclear weapons from being deployed beyond their national territories. This would have immense strategic implications for U.S. deterrent capabilities. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has accused Russia of preparing a so-called false-flag operation, with operatives ready to carry out acts of sabotage against Russian-backed rebels, to provide a pretext for invasion. Russia, of course, has denied this.

***Armed Forces of the Russian Federation:*²**

- Ground Troops (Sukhoputnyye Voyskia, SV)
- Navy (Voyenno-Morskoy Flot, VMF)
- Aerospace Forces (Vozdushno-Kosmicheskiye Sily, VKS)
- Airborne Troops (Vozdushno-Desantnyye Voyska, VDV)
- Missile Troops of Strategic Purpose (Raketnyye Voyska Strategicheskogo Naznacheniya, RVSN) referred to commonly as Strategic Rocket Forces (independent “combat arms,” not subordinate to any of the three branches)
- Federal National Guard Troops Service of the Russian Federation (National Guard (FSVNG), Russian Guard, or Rosgvardiya): created in 2016 as an independent agency for internal/regime security, combating terrorism and narcotics trafficking, protecting important state facilities and government personnel, and supporting border security; forces under the National Guard include the Special Purpose Mobile Units (OMON), Special Rapid Response Detachment (SOBR), and Interior Troops (VV); these troops were originally under the command of the Interior Ministry (MVD)

(CIA World Factbook, 2022)

2 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

Federal Security Services Border Troops (includes land and maritime forces) (2021)³

The Air Force and Aerospace Defense Forces were merged into the VKS in 2015; VKS responsibilities also include launching military and dual-use satellites, maintaining military satellites, and monitoring and defending against space threats.⁴ (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

Information varies; there are approximately 850,000 total active duty troops.⁵

- 375,000 Ground Troops, including about 40,000 Airborne Troops;
- 150,000 Navy;
- 160,000 Aerospace Forces;
- 70,000 Strategic Rocket Forces;
- 90,000 other uniformed personnel (approximately 20,000 special operations forces, plus command and control, cyber, support, logistics, security, etc.); and
- 200,000-250,000 Federal National Guard Troops (2021).

(CIA World Factbook, 2022)

The Russian Federation's military and paramilitary services are equipped with domestically-produced weapons

systems, although since 2010 Russia has imported limited amounts of military hardware from several countries, including Czechia (The Czech Republic), France, Israel, Italy, Turkey, and Ukraine. Yet the Russian defense industry is capable of designing, developing, and producing a full range of advanced air, land, missile, and naval systems; Russia is the world's second largest exporter of military hardware (2021).⁶ (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

Human Trafficking: Russia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking, although labor trafficking is the predominant problem; people from Russia and other countries in Europe, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and Asia, including Vietnam and North Korea, are subjected to conditions of forced labor in Russia's construction, manufacturing, agriculture, repair shop, and domestic services industries, as well as forced begging and narcotics cultivation; North Koreans contracted under bilateral government arrangements to work in the timber industry in the Russian Far East reportedly are subjected to forced labor; Russian women and children were reported to be victims of sex trafficking in Russia, Northeast Asia, Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East, while women from European, African, and Central Asian countries were reportedly forced into prostitution in

3 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

4 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

5 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

6 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

Russia.⁷ (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

Guard (2021).¹¹

Armed Forces of Ukraine (Zbroyni Syly Ukrainy, ZSU):⁸

(CIA World Factbook, 2022)

- Ground Forces (Sukhoputni Viys'ka),
- Naval Forces (Viys'kovo-Mors'ki Syly, VMS),
- Air Forces (Povitryani Syly, PS),
- Air Assault Forces (Desantno-shturmovi Viyska, DShV),
- Ukrainian Special Operations Forces (UASOF),
- Territorial Defense Forces (Reserves).

Ministry of Internal Affairs:

National Guard of Ukraine, State

Border Guard Service of Ukraine

(includes Maritime Border Guard) (2021)⁹ (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

Information varies; there are approximately 200,000 active troops:¹⁰

- 150,000 Army, including Airborne/Air Assault Forces;
- 12,000 Navy;
- 40,000 Air Force; and
- approximately 50,000 National

A Recap of Chinese-Taiwan History and Conflict

Taiwan, officially the Republic of China (ROC), in East Asia, shares maritime borders (a conceptual division of the Earth's water surface areas using physiographic or geopolitical criteria) with the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the northwest, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south. The main island of Taiwan, formerly known as *Formosa*, has an area of 35,808 square kilometers (13,826 square miles), with mountain ranges dominating the eastern two-thirds and plains in the western third. The capital is Taipei, which, along with New Taipei City and Keelung, makes up the largest metropolitan area of Taiwan.

It is believed that Taiwan was settled by farmers, most likely from what is now southeast China, around 6,000 years ago. Han Chinese fishermen began settling in the Penghu islands in the 13th century. The Dutch East India Company attempted to establish a trading outpost on the Penghu Islands (Pescadores) in 1622, but was driven off by Ming forces. In 1626, the Spanish Empire landed on and occupied northern

7 CIA World Factbook (Russia)

8 CIA World Factbook (Ukraine)

9 CIA World Factbook (Ukraine)

10 CIA World Factbook (Ukraine)

11 CIA World Factbook (Ukraine)

Taiwan as a trading base, first at Keelung and in 1628 building Fort San Domingo. This colony lasted 16 years until 1642, when the last Spanish fortress fell to Dutch forces. After being ousted from Taiwan, the Dutch allied with the new Qing dynasty in China against the Zheng regime in Taiwan. In 1683, the Qing dynasty formally annexed Taiwan. Following Qing's defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895), a conflict between the Qing Dynasty of China and the Empire of Japan, Taiwan, its associated islands, and the Penghu archipelago were ceded to the Empire of Japan by the Treaty of Shimonoseki.

The Japanese ruled for the next fifty years, from 1895-1945. While Taiwan was still under Japanese rule, the Republic of China (ROC) was founded on the mainland on 1 January 1912, following the Xin Hai Revolution. In September 1945 following the Japanese surrender in World War II, ROC forces, assisted by small American teams, prepared an amphibious lift into Taiwan to accept the surrender of the Japanese military forces there and take over the administration of Taiwan.

After the end of World War II, the Chinese Civil War resumed between the Chinese Nationalists (Kuomintang), led by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by CCP Chairman Mao Zedong. On 7 December 1949, Chiang evacuated the Nationalist government to Taiwan and made Taipei the temporary ROC “wartime capital.” Approximately 2 million people, mainly of soldiers, members of the

ruling Kuomintang and intellectual and business elites, were evacuated from mainland China to Taiwan, adding to the earlier population of approximately six million. Since losing control of mainland China in 1949, the Kuomintang continued to claim sovereignty over “all of China,” which it defined as mainland China (including Tibet), Taiwan (including Penghu), Outer Mongolia, and other minor areas. The People's Republic of China (PRC) claims that Taiwan is Chinese territory and that it replaced the ROC government in 1949, becoming the sole legal government of China. Though it was a founding member of the United Nations, the Republic of China (ROC) now has neither official membership nor observer status in the organization.

China and Taiwan Border Issues

The Taiwan military has approximately 170,000 active duty troops (90,000 Army; 40,000 Navy, including approximately 10,000 marines; 40,000 Air Force) (2021). The Taiwan military is armed mostly with second-hand weapons and equipment provided by the US; Taiwan also has a domestic defense industry capable of building and upgrading a range of weapons systems, including surface naval craft and submarines (2021). The **U.S. Taiwan Relations Act** of April 1979 states that the US shall provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character and shall maintain the capacity of the US to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or social or economic system,

of the people of Taiwan (2021).¹²

(CIA World Factbook, 2022)

The **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** consists of Ground Forces, Navy (PLAN, includes marines and naval aviation), Air Force (PLAAF, includes airborne forces), Rocket Force (strategic missile force), and Strategic Support Force (information, electronic, and cyber warfare, as well as space forces). The Strategic Support Force includes the Space Systems Department, which is responsible for nearly all PLA space operations, including space launch and support, space surveillance, space information support, space telemetry, tracking, and control, and space warfare.¹³ (CIA World Factbook)

The **People's Armed Police (PAP)** includes Coast Guard, Border Defense Force, and Internal Security Forces. Forces also include the PLA Reserve Force (2021). The PAP is a paramilitary police component of China's armed forces that is under the command of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and charged with internal security, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and maritime rights protection. In 2018, the Coast Guard was moved from the State Oceanic Administration to the PAP; in 2013, China merged four of its five major maritime law enforcement agencies—the China Marine Surveillance (CMS), Maritime Police, Fishery Law Enforcement (FLE), and Anti-Smuggling Police – into a unified coast guard. (CIA World Factbook)

Information varies, but approximately 2 million total active duty troops (approximately 1 million Ground; 250,000 Navy/Marines; 350-400,000 Air Force; 120,000 Rocket Forces; 150,000-175,000 Strategic Support Forces) make up the PLA and there are an additional estimated 600,000-650,000 People's Armed Police (2021). The PLA is outfitted primarily with a wide mix of older and modern domestically-produced systems heavily influenced by technology derived from other countries. Russia is the top supplier of foreign military equipment since 2010. The Chinese defense-industrial sector is large and capable of producing advanced weapons systems across all military domains; it is the world's second largest arms producer (2021). The PLA is in the midst of a decades-long modernization effort. In 2017, President XI set three developmental goals for the force: becoming 1) a mechanized force with increased information and strategic capabilities by 2020, 2) a fully modernized force by 2035, and 3) a worldwide first-class military by mid-century. (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

The **Mainland Affairs Council (MAC)** of Taiwan (ROC) is responsible for relations with the PRC, while the **Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO)** of the PRC is responsible for relations with Taiwan. Exchanges are conducted through two corresponding private organizations founded in 1991:

12 CIA World Factbook – Taiwan

13 CIA World Factbook – China

- The **Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF)**, a semiofficial organization of the Republic of China (ROC or Taiwan) to handle technical and/or business matters with the PRC. Technically a private organization, SEF is funded by the government and under the supervision of the Mainland Affairs Council, essentially functioning as the *de facto* embassy to the PRC, as a means of avoiding acknowledgement of the PRC's statehood status.
- The **Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS)** is an organization set up by the People's Republic of China (PRC) for handling technical or business matters with Taiwan (ROC). Negotiations with SEF ceased in 1999.

The Republic of China (ROC or Taiwan) and the United States signed the **Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty** in 1954 (effective from 1955 to 1980), and established the United States Taiwan Defense Command. About 30,000 US troops were stationed in Taiwan, until the United States established diplomatic relations with the PRC in 1979.

National Public Radio (NPR) reported on January 28, 2022, that China's ambassador to the United States issued a warning that the U.S. could face "military conflict" with China over the future status of Taiwan. Qin Gang accused Taiwan of "walking down the road toward independence," and added, "If the Taiwanese authorities, emboldened by the United States, keep going

down the road for independence, it most likely will involve China and the United States, the two big countries, in a military conflict." With American eyes focused on a threatened war in Ukraine, U.S. officials and analysts have concerns about Taiwan's ability to defend itself, following 39 Chinese military aircraft flying near Taiwan recently. (National Public Radio, 2022)

The New York Times reported that "25 Chinese fighter jets, bombers and other warplanes flew in menacing formations off the southern end of Taiwan" in a show of military force on China's National Day, on October 1, 2021. The incursions continued into the night and the days that followed and surged to the highest numbers ever on Monday, when 56 warplanes tested Taiwan's beleaguered air defenses. Taiwan's jets scrambled to keep up, while the United States warned China that its "provocative military activity" undermined "regional peace and stability." China did not cower. When a Taiwanese combat air traffic controller radioed one Chinese aircraft, the pilot dismissed the challenge with an obscenity involving the officer's mother. The *Times* report said, "As such confrontations intensify, the balance of power around Taiwan is fundamentally shifting, pushing a decades-long impasse over its future into a dangerous new phase." (The New York Times, 2022)

The BBC reported that in 2021, China ramped up pressure on Taiwan by sending military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defence Zone, a self-declared area where foreign aircraft are identi-

fied, monitored, and controlled in the interests of national security. Taiwan began making data on plane incursions public in 2020 and the numbers of aircraft reported peaked in October 2021, with 56 incursions in a single day. (BBC News, 2022)

Why does this matter? Why is Taiwan important or an international security interest? Much of the world's everyday electronic equipment - from phones to laptops, watches and games consoles - is powered by computer chips made in Taiwan. Taiwan dominates the global production of computer chips, responsible for 65% of chip production. A Chinese takeover in Taiwan could give Beijing some control over one of the world's most important industries.

United States Border Security Issues

While the rest of the world has its border issues, which may result in transnational security threats, the United States shares some of these concerns but also has unique issues involving homeland security and national sovereignty. The Pew Research Center reports that, "Immigrants with past criminal convictions accounted for 74% of all arrests made by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in fiscal 2017." The remainder were classified as "non-criminal" arrestees, including 16% with pending criminal charges and 11% with no known criminal convictions or charges. (Pew Research Center, Kristen Bialek, 2022)

The Heritage Foundation reported that while non-citizens constitute only about 7% of the U.S. population, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics notes that non-citizens accounted for a staggering 64% (nearly two-thirds) of all federal arrests in 2018. These arrests aren't just for immigration crimes. Non-citizens accounted for 24% of all federal drug arrests, 25% of all federal property arrests, and 28% of all federal fraud arrests. (The Heritage Foundation, [Hans A. von Spakovsky](#), 2019)

In 2018, a quarter of all federal drug arrests took place in the five judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border, reflecting the ongoing activities of Mexican drug cartels. More Mexicans than U.S. citizens were arrested on charges of committing federal crimes in 2018. Migrants from Central American countries are also accounting for a larger share of federal arrests, rising from only 1% of arrests in 1998 to 20%. A recent report from the Texas Department of Public Safety revealed that 297,000 non-citizens had been "booked into local Texas jails between June 1, 2011 and July 31, 2019." So these are non-citizens who allegedly committed local crimes, not immigration violations. The report noted that a little more than two-thirds (202,000) of those booked in Texas jails were later confirmed as illegal immigrants by the federal government. According to the Texas report, over the course of their criminal careers those illegal immigrants were charged with committing 494,000 criminal offenses. (The Heritage Foundation, [Hans A. von Spakovsky](#), 2019)

Convictions represent:

- 500 homicides,
- 23,954 assaults
- 3,122 sexual assaults,
- 3,840 sexual offenses,
- 297 kidnappings,
- 2,026 robberies,
- 3,158 weapon charges,
- 8,070 burglaries,
- 14,178 thefts, and
- tens of thousands of drug and obstruction charges.

(The Heritage Foundation, [Hans A. von Spakovsky](#), 2019)

These statistics reveal the very real danger created by illegal border crossings and sanctuary policies. In nine self-declared sanctuary States and numerous sanctuary cities and counties, officials refuse to hand over criminals who are known to be in this country illegally after they have served their state or local sentences. This refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials suggests that State and local officials supporting the sanctuary movement believe it's better to let these criminals return to their communities rather than being removed from this country. The Texas report is careful to note that it is not claiming "foreign nationals" commit "more crimes than other groups." The Heritage Foundation reports says the Texas report "identifies thousands of crimes that should not have occurred


and thousands of victims that should not have been victimized because the perpetrators should not be here." (The Heritage Foundation, [Hans A. von Spakovsky](#), 2019)

Conclusion

A number of targeted operations and exercises are carried out against specific crimes, including:

- People smuggling
- Human trafficking
- Stolen/lost travel documents, counterfeit documents, and altered documents
- Foreign terrorist fighters
- Drugs, firearms, illicit goods, stolen motor vehicles and stolen vessels
- Smuggling of chemical, explosive, nuclear, biological, and radiological materials.

Land, sea and air borders are essential to maintaining the security of any sovereign nation. Because protecting borders is one of the key functions of government, unsecured borders undermine a public's trust in their government and the rule of law. The three major components of immigration control—deterrence, apprehension and removal—need to be strengthened by Congress and the Executive Branch to restore confidence in government and leadership and to ensure national security and homeland security. (FAIR, 2022)

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services		I-797, Notice of Action
		
RECEIPT NUMBER [REDACTED]	CASE TYPE: I821 /I-821D	
RECEIPT DATE August 29, 2012	FREQUENCY DATE [REDACTED]	AFFILIANT [REDACTED]
NOTICE DATE October 12, 2012	PAGE 1 of 1	
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		Notice Type: Approval Notice Valid From 10/12/2012 to 10/11/2014
Notice of Deferred Action: This notice is to inform you regarding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's (USCIS) decision on your Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.		
USCIS, in the exercise of its prosecutorial discretion, has decided to defer action in your case. Deferred action is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion by USCIS not to pursue the removal of an individual from the United States for a specific period. Deferred action does not confer or alter any immigration status.		
Unless terminated, this decision to defer removal action will remain in effect for 2 years from the date of this notice. This form does not constitute employment authorization. If you wish to use it in place of an Employment Authorization Document, if granted, you will receive your Employment Authorization Document separately by mail. Subsequent criminal activity after your case has been deferred is likely to result in revocation of your deferred action. This notice does not provide permission to travel outside of the United States.		
You are required to notify USCIS if you change your address. You may use the Alien's Change of Address Card, Form 50-11, to report a new address. That form may be found at www.uscis.gov . There is no fee for this change of address form.		
NOTICE: USCIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reserve the right to verify the information submitted in this request and/or supporting documentation to ensure compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and other directives. Methods used for verifying information may include, but are not limited to, the review of public information and records, contact by correspondence, the internet, or telephone, and site inspections of businesses and residences. Information obtained during the course of the verification will be used in determining whether termination of deferred action and/or removal proceedings are appropriate if, for example, the reasonable suspicion exists or circumstances exist in light of new evidence for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, or engaged in subsequent criminal activity following the submission of this request. Individuals for whom removal action is deferred under deferred action for childhood arrivals may, in the sole discretion of USCIS and DHS, be provided an opportunity to address derogatory information in case deferred action is requested and/or removal proceedings are initiated.		
Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.		
IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE TEXAS SERVICE CENTER P O BOX 851488 - DEPT A MESQUITE TX 75188-1488 Customer Service Telephone: (800) 375-5283		
Form I-797 (Rev. 05/31/05) N		

Form I-797 to communicate with applicants/petitioners or convey an immigration benefit.

References

Phelps, James R., Jeffrey Daily, and Monica Koenigsberg. *Border Security* (Second Edition). Carolina Academic Press; Durham, NC: 2018.

World Health Organization, 2022. About WHO. <https://www.who.int/about>

World Health Organization, 2022. Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Department of Homeland Security, 2022. Post-Quantum Cryptography. <https://www.dhs.gov/quantum>

Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency, 2022. Cyber Security. <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity>

Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 2022). Cyber Security. <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-what-we-do/ncsc-cyber-security>

UN Chronicles, 2022. Cyber Conflicts and National Security. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/cyberconflicts-and-national-security>

CNN Politics, 2021. After 20 years of anti-terror work, CIA gets back to spycraft basics in shift to China. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/10/politics/cia-shift-china-train-manage-spies/index.html>)

AFIO, 2022. John Lenczowski PhD, Former NSC Staffer/Expert, on Chinese Influence Operations in the U.S. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3-8YsvrCEU>

Eva Dou, Washington Post, 2022. China warns foreign Olympic athletes against speaking out on politics at Winter Games. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/olympics/2022/01/19/china-winter-olympics-politics-speech/>

Douglas Main, National Geographic, 2022. Poland's border wall to cut through Europe's last old-growth forest. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/polish-belarusian-border-wall-environmental-disaster>)

Aljazeera. 2022. Poland begins work on \$400m Belarus border wall against refugees. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/25/poland-begins-work-on-400m-belarus-border-wall-against-migrants>)

Paul Kirby, BBC News, 2022) Why did Russia invade Ukraine and has Putin's war failed? <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>

CIA World Factbook, 2022. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/taiwan/>

National Public Radio, Steve Inskeep, 2022. China's ambassador to the U.S. warns of 'military conflict' over Taiwan. <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/28/1076246311/chinas-ambassador-to-the-u-s-warns-of-military-conflict-over-taiwan>

The New York Times. 'Starting a Fire': U.S. and China Enter Dangerous Territory Over Taiwan, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/09/world/asia/united-states-china-taiwan.html>

BBC News, 2022. China and Taiwan: A really simple guide. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59900139>

Pew Research Center, Kristen Bialek, 2022. Most immigrants arrested by ICE have prior criminal convictions, a big change from 2009. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/02/15/most-immigrants-arrested-by-ice-have-prior-criminal-convictions-a-big-change-from-2009/>

The Heritage Foundation, Hans A. von Spakovsky, 2019. Crimes by Illegal Immigrants Widespread Across U.S.—Sanctuaries Shouldn't Shield Them. <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/crimes-illegal-immigrants-wide-spread-across-us-sanctuaries-shouldnt>

FAIR, 2022. <https://www.fairus.org/issues/illegal-immigration>