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China Is Accelerating Its Nuclear Buildup Over Rising Fears of U.S. Conflict

Beijing believes U.S. could turn to nuclear weapons in a war; Ukraine invasion underscores the value of a robust arsenal

Chinese leaders see a stronger nuclear arsenal as a way to deter the U.S. from getting directly involved in a potential conflict over Taiwan; A 2019 military parade in Beijing. MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS



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 PRINT  TEXT

China has accelerated an expansion of its nuclear arsenal because of a change in its assessment of the threat posed by the U.S., people with knowledge of the Chinese leadership's thinking say, shedding new light on a buildup that is raising tension between the two countries.

The Chinese nuclear effort long predates [Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#), but the

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