China's Push for Key Military Innovations Heats Up as Tensions Rise

OE Watch Commentary: China has been feeling the heat of competition in military technologies, prompting a recent push to master transformative technologies. Transformative technologies include 5G, big data, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. According to *South China Morning Post*, an official journal of the People's Liberation Army was urging China to speed up innovation so that it can become self-reliant in key technologies. The article seems to attribute the new push in innovation to rising confrontation between the United States and China, especially over the disputed South China Sea. It quoted the PLA news source as stating that "only the innovators can win military confrontations."

According to Song Zhongping, a Hong Kong–based military commentator, while China has poured money into technological development, it continues to lag behind other major countries in a number of ways. For example, in the semiconductor industry, China "cannot produce good quality chips and can only rely on imported ones." This reportedly has created a bottleneck in China's development of more sophisticated military technologies. Song went on to explain that China has no other choice but to build a more advanced military because if a country is not strong enough, it cannot be self-reliant and this puts national security at risk. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

> **"*Faced with rivals, China has no other choice but to build a more advanced military.*"**

Source: "China Must Become Self Reliant in Key Technology to Be Secure, Says Military Newspaper," *South China Morning Post*, 6 October 2020.
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3104367/china-must-become-self-reliant-key-technology-be-secure-says

An official Chinese military newspaper has urged the country to speed up innovation and become self-reliant in key technology.
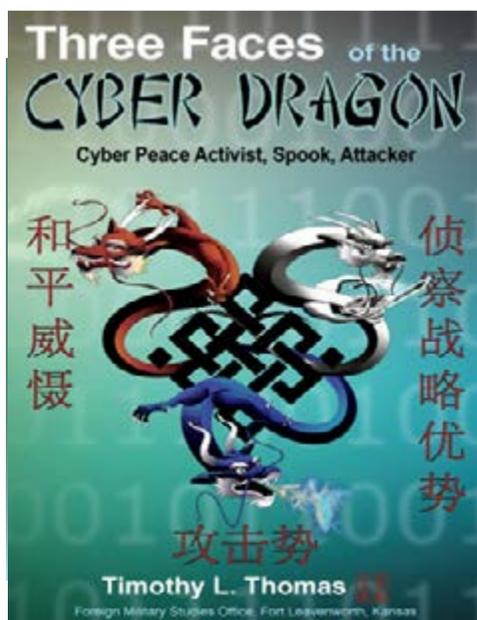
The article, headlined "Gain superiority with innovation" and published by the PLA's China National Defence News, said China should speed up the development of strategic, forward-looking and transformative technologies.

The article named 5G, big data, blockchain, artificial intelligence and quantum computing as examples of key technologies to master and said "no matter how difficult it is, we must face the hurdles, try to surpass other nations, and level up the contribution of technological innovation to the military and combat capabilities build-up".

"A new round of scientific and technological revolution is speeding up around the world, new technologies continue to make breakthroughs … and have profoundly changed the development and evolution of military and war patterns," it said, adding "only the innovators can win military confrontations".

"Despite China having made impressive progressive in hi-tech weapons like hypersonic drones, China's technological foundation is still relatively weak. Take the semiconductor industry for example, China cannot produce good-quality chips and can only rely on imported ones. This is also a bottleneck for China to develop more sophisticated military technologies," said Song.

"If a nation's military is not strong enough and cannot be self-reliant, the country's national security and developmental interests would be put at risk. Faced with rivals, China has no other choice but to build a more advanced military," said Song.

China's cyber policy appears to have three vectors —peace activist, espionage activist, and attack planner— that dominate China's cyber policy. Some are always hidden from view while others are demonstrated daily. Three Faces of the Cyber Dragon is divided into sections that coincide with these vectors.

https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/195610/download