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## CHINA'S SECURITY CONCEPT OF ANTI-ACCESS /AREA-DENIAL – AA/AD

### *Abstract*

Military security in East Asia and the Pacific region is of growing interest worldwide as the region has a significant influence on the global economy and politics. Stability there, is important not only for each individual nation but also globally. Currently, China is still continuing its economic development, although at a slower, but still impressive rate of progress. The country also systematically develops the capabilities of the People's Liberation Army in order to guarantee their territorial integrity and security. That development is connected with the protection of the Pacific coast line within the Anti-Access /Area-Denial concept coupled with the 'Two Island Chain Strategy. It is paralleled by a widely discussed US AirSea Battle doctrine developed towards the Western Pacific Theatre of Operations. Both are recognized as possible threats to security, as the Asian nations perceive them, especially AA/AD, as tools to increase the big nations' military capabilities which could lead to a conflict.

**Keywords:** Anti-Access /Area-Denial; East Asia – Pacific, international relations, security.

### **Introduction**

The ongoing modernization of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is one of widely observed processes and under general and special attention as it is represented by all the countries of the East Asia. It includes not only Asian nations but is also of interest and cause of special attention and concerns to the US and other non-Asian countries such as Australia and some European nations which are concerned about such developments. There are many reasons for that and particularly the security dimension causes concern developing a tendency of smaller nations and crucial actors to strengthen bilateral relations looking for strategic partners to enhance national security. Similarly, alongside political relations, all the major actors are investing in military capabilities looking to enhance the military domain of their security. Currently, the main security focus is on observing developments in the East Asia – Pacific area as this is an arena of maritime disputes with growing potential for unexpected confrontation between countries involved in them. It is related to a widely discussed concept called Anti-Access /Area-Denial or AA/AD, part of China's strategy to protect its east coastline, which is the hub of their economy and the main driver of development for the country through the last decades. China wants to get rid of the potential threats to their coastal waters by developing the required force projection

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<sup>1</sup> Opinions expressed by the author are his own views and they do not reflect in any way the official policy or position of the Baltic Defence College, or the governments of Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania.