



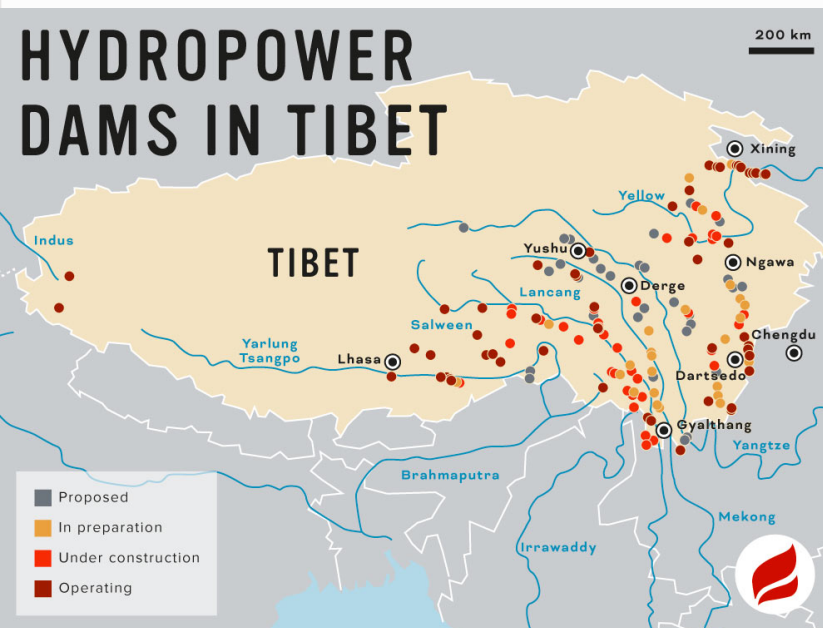
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

China's Control of Tibet: Clear and Present Danger

SUMMARY

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is increasingly prioritizing securitization in action and rhetoric. In this context, the PRC regime utilizes its occupation of Tibet to advance its goal of regional hegemony. Weaponization of water is a particularly potent tool used to coax, threaten, or punish downstream countries. China also is expanding military capacity within Tibet and across contested borders, including dual-use installations. Combined, these tactics fuel regional instability, the likelihood of water conflict, and strain with US-India relations. The US must increase investment on this crucial front to constrain PRC's malign influence and secure long-term US strategic interests.

WEAPONIZATION OF WATER



- Tibet is Asia's high ground and source of the entire region's major rivers. 1.8 billion people downstream depend on these rivers for food, clean water, and economic development, including India, Pakistan, and Vietnam.
- China is pursuing a massive build out of hundreds of hydropower dams, disregarding its neighbor's needs and constraining their independent decision making. These dams are highly risky in an active tectonic zone, creating the possibility of massive unnatural disasters if they fail during earthquakes.
- Water scarcity is rapidly increasing, exacerbating existing tensions and the risk of water conflict.
- Ignored, China's weaponization of water will grant it even more leverage to manipulate the region by controlling the tap.

BORDER CONFLICTS AND MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Overall, the PRC is expanding troop deployment and dual-use military grade infrastructure throughout Tibet;
- Supporting infrastructure for hydropower, such as road systems, are easily converted into military access routes;
- Similarly, reports show numerous new airports that can double as military use;
- The PRC continues to make incursions across India's border. Evidence shows it also is building settlements to try and cement territorial claims.

PROTECTING DEMOCRATIC ALLIES

- India is particularly vulnerable to both hydropower construction and military expansion;
- Recently the PRC has instigated multiple incursions across the Indian border and is actively building infrastructure across disputed borders to solidify its control;
- **India is our largest democratic-- and nuclear armed--regional power. The United States cannot allow China to hold India hostage and muscle it into its sphere of influence.**

CONCLUSION

US policy and investment in Tibet is a critical facet of an overall regional strategy to confront China's political and military expansion across the region. The United States must enhance and focus its engagement or risk allowing China to achieve its goal, weakening the US interest. Tibetans have stood on the frontlines of resisting CCP repression for decades, and relatively small funding amounts are crucial to enabling this resistance.

"Within its western regions of Tibet and Xinjiang, China is constructing and upgrading dozens of airports and heliports—a large majority of which are military or dual-use facilities. China is supplementing its airpower expansion with new roads, rail, and other infrastructure that are upgrading the PLA's logistics capabilities and enabling more rapid movement of troops, weaponry, and equipment."

— ChinaPower Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies

