

Dr. Andrew S. Erickson is [Professor of Strategy](#) (tenured full professor) in the [U.S. Naval War College](#) (NWC)'s [China Maritime Studies Institute](#) (CMSI). A core founding member, he [helped establish CMSI and stand it up officially in 2006](#), and has played an integral role in its development; from 2021–23 he served as Research Director. Erickson is currently a [Visiting Scholar](#) at [Harvard University](#)'s [John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies](#), where he has been an Associate in Research since 2008. He is also a member of the [Council on Foreign Relations](#), the Institute of Maritime Policy & Strategy's International Advisory Committee, and the Japan-America Society of Southern New England and Japan-America Navy Friendship Association (JANAFSA)-Newport's Board of Directors. Erickson serves on the editorial boards of [Naval War College Review](#) and [Asia Policy](#) and is a [Contributing Editor](#) at [19FortyFive](#).

Erickson helped initiate, and was part of, the original 'China Maritime Studies Group' that approached NWC's Provost in fall 2004 with the idea of creating CMSI. Following the NWC President's approval, the Provost established CMSI within the [Center for Naval Warfare Studies](#)' Strategic Research Department on 1 October 2004. Erickson helped draft the above-core issue paper for NWC's submission to [Program Objective Memorandum \(POM\)08](#) that secured the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)'s personal approval to inaugurate CMSI formally and sufficient funding to hire four additional faculty during FY 2008. On 1 October 2006, CMSI was launched in accordance with POM08 decisions by the CNO as the Department of Defense (DoD)'s first service-specific China center. In April 2008, Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Robert Gates [invoked CMSI as a model for the Minerva Research Initiative](#). By December 2008, CMSI held four influential conferences, with [edited volumes](#) following for each. These included CMSI's leadoff cornerstone event, "[China's Future Nuclear Submarine Force](#)" (26–27 October 2005). Among CMSI's early publications, [Chinese Mine Warfare](#) pioneered the [validation](#) of [open-source](#) methodology, and remains a formative study in the field. CMSI inspired the creation of other analytical organizations, which Erickson has [advised and supported](#), including China centers for all other DoD military services; he is a [China Aerospace Studies Institute](#) (CASI) Associate.

[In 2024 Erickson was awarded the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal](#). In 2017 he [received NWC's inaugural Civilian Faculty Research Excellence Award](#). In 2012 the National Bureau of Asian Research awarded Erickson the inaugural [Ellis Joffe Prize for PLA Studies](#); he subsequently served on the selection committee. His publications have [won various awards](#), including the NWC Foundation's Hugh G. Nott Prize ([first](#) & [second](#) place), the [U.S. Naval Institute General Prize Essay Contest](#) (third prize), and repeated recognition by the [Center for International Maritime Security \(CIMSEC\)](#) and [War on the Rocks](#). Erickson's latest coedited volume, [Chinese Amphibious Warfare: Prospects for a Cross-Strait Invasion](#)—among NWC's [most popular publications](#) with over 9,500 downloads and counting—has been named the Samuel B. Griffith Foundation's [2025 Publication of the Year](#) and selected for the [Commandant of the Marine Corps Professional Reading Program's 2025 Reading List](#).

Erickson has taught courses at NWC and [Yonsei University](#). He provides flag officer tailored education for NWC, both on and off campus; including in [Honolulu](#), [Taipei](#), Kaohsiung, and [Naples](#). He advises and evaluates a wide range of student research, theses, and professional development at NWC, Harvard, and other institutions. Erickson contributes curricular instruction, inputs, and guidance to NWC, across the [Naval University System](#), and beyond;

particularly in support of SECDEF's guidance for professional military education regarding China. In 2013, while deployed in the Pacific as a [Naval Postgraduate School](#) Regional Security Education Program scholar aboard the flagship aircraft carrier [USS Nimitz](#), Erickson delivered twenty-five hours of lectures. He has also accompanied an allied military air patrol in East Asia. Erickson is coauthor of the [Oxford Bibliography](#) (Oxford University Press) on "[The People's Liberation Army \(PLA\)](#)."

For two decades, Erickson has supported NWC's scholarly research relationship with Japanese counterparts. In 2014 he helped to [escort the Commander of China's Navy and his delegation on a visit to Harvard](#). He subsequently helped to establish, escort the first iteration of, and further assist NWC's first bilateral naval officer exchange program and field studies class in China. Erickson was a scholar escort on a five-member congressional trip to China in 2011. He participates in a range of Track 1, 1.5, and 2 discussions, including as a delegate at the [Shangri-La Dialogue](#); and has joined [delegations sponsored by Japan and Taiwan's ministries of foreign affairs](#).

From 2022–24 Erickson was a [Visiting Professor](#) in Harvard's [Department of Government](#), within the [Faculty of Arts and Sciences](#). During 2019–22 he was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard's Fairbank Center. From 2012–17 Erickson was an expert contributor to the *Wall Street Journal's* [China Real Time Report](#) (中国实时报), for which he authored/coauthored thirty-eight articles. Erickson was the 2010–11 [Princeton \(Columbia\)-Harvard China and the World Program Fellow in residence](#) at Harvard's [Center for Government and International Studies](#). From 2008–11 he was a Fellow in the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations' [Public Intellectuals Program](#). In 2005–06, he was a Research Fellow sponsored by the late longtime [director of the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment, Andrew Marshall](#).

Erickson [presents](#) at academic, private sector, and government institutions throughout the United States and Asia. He has broadened his knowledge by attending four Zhuhai Airshows, presenting papers in [International Academy of Astronautics](#) (IAA) [History Symposia](#) at [seven International Astronautical Congresses](#), editing newsletters for a hedge fund, and speaking at the [Aspen Ideas Festival](#). Erickson has briefed a broad array of senior U.S. and foreign policy-makers and principals. Within the U.S. Navy: the CNO and Executive Panel, the [Secretary of the Navy](#), and leaders throughout the Indo-Pacific. Elsewhere in government: Deputy Assistants to the President, the National Security Council's Deputy National Security Advisor, Senior Director for Asia, China/Taiwan Directors, and Chief of Staff; Ambassador to China and other Executive Branch officials; SECDEF; Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Air Force Chief of Staff; Marine Corps and Coast Guard Commandants; other agency heads; and many Members of Congress. Internationally: numerous high-level officials, including future and former heads of state, former Defense Ministers, and heads of multiple foreign navies and other government organizations. Additionally: the National Academies' [Naval Studies Board](#).

Erickson testifies before such congressional bodies as the House [Foreign Affairs](#) and [Armed Services](#) Committees and U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. He has provided inputs for, and reviews of, multifarious government programs, wargaming/simulations, and reports; including in support of the [National Intelligence Council's Global Trends](#) study and DoD's [Annual Report to Congress on China's Military Power](#). Erickson's research, presentations,

and recommendations are [consumed widely by key principals](#) and have [influenced specific aspects of U.S.](#) and allied government [military doctrine](#) as well as civilian, [military](#), and interagency [assessments, policy, messaging guidance, statements, and actions](#).

Erickson received his Ph.D. and M.A. in politics from [Princeton University](#) (concentrations: China/comparative politics, international relations) and graduated *magna cum laude* from [Amherst College](#) (majors: history, political science; international relations certificate). He took many courses at [The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs](#) (SPIA); studied Mandarin in the [Princeton in Beijing](#) program at Beijing Normal University's College of Chinese Language and Culture; and studied Japanese language, politics, and economics in the year-long [Associated Kyoto Program](#) at Doshisha University.

Erickson previously worked for [Science Applications International Corporation \(SAIC\)](#) as a Chinese translator and technical analyst. He gained early experience interning at the [U.S. Embassy in Beijing](#), Consulate in Hong Kong, Peace Corps Headquarters, Senate, and White House. Beijing internship experiences included delivering documents for [Colin Powell](#) and climbing the Great Wall with [Joe Biden](#). Erickson has traveled across the Indo-Pacific, from key features, waters, and airspace to China's Zhongnanhai leadership compound, multiple nations' military bases near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, and remote hinterlands of [Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province](#). He enjoys exploring strategic islands, e.g., Kinmen and Matsu's Beigan and Nangan. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and conversant in Japanese, he has lived and performed academic work in China, Japan, and Korea.

Erickson's research focuses on Indo-Asia-Pacific defense, international relations, technology, and resource issues. He has envisioned, developed, and led a pathbreaking decade-plus project to uncover China's critically important but insufficiently understood [Maritime Militia](#); his coauthored [China Maritime Report No. 1—China's Third Sea Force](#) inaugurated a series of papers exploring topics of emergent interest, including [44](#) and [47](#). Erickson's coauthored *CMSI Note 1*—"Admiral Hu to the Helm" initiated a series of timely analyses of recent PRC maritime events, including [2](#), [5](#), and [11](#). He is lead author of the "Quick Look" summaries of the last three CMSI biennial conferences: "[The People of China's Navy and Other Maritime Forces](#)," "[Chinese Undersea Warfare: Development, Capabilities, Trends](#)," and "[Large-Scale Amphibious Warfare in Chinese Military Strategy](#)." Erickson has published chapters in numerous English- and Chinese-language edited volumes, [including](#) the two-part Fairbank Center "[China Questions](#)" series ([Harvard University Press, 2018](#); and [The China Questions 2: Critical Insights into U.S.-China Relations, 2022/paperback forthcoming](#) 1 July 2025).

Erickson's work has been published in such peer-reviewed journals as [International Security](#), [Journal of Strategic Studies](#), [Orbis](#), [Frontiers in Political Science](#), [Technology in Society](#), [Acta Astronautica](#), [Asian Security](#), [Asia Policy](#), [China Quarterly](#), [Journal of Contemporary China](#), [The China Journal](#), [Journal of Chinese Political Science](#), and [Naval War College Review](#). It has also appeared in [Foreign Affairs](#), [The Washington Quarterly](#), [The National Interest](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Joint Force Quarterly](#), [Proceedings](#), [War on the Rocks](#), *H-Diplo* (forthcoming), [World Politics Review](#), [CIMSEC](#), [The Diplomat](#), [IHS Jane's](#), [China Brief](#), [Geopolitics of Energy](#), [Global Health Governance](#), [RSIS Commentary](#), [IISS Strategic Dossier](#), [Marine & Oceans Magazine](#) (forthcoming), [Harvard Asia Quarterly](#), and Peking

University's *China International Strategy Review* and *International & Strategic Studies Report*. Erickson has published [annotated translations](#) of several Chinese articles on maritime strategy.

Erickson's coauthored *Foreign Affairs* print article, "[Competition with China Can Save the Planet](#)," has been read widely in U.S. and Asian policy circles. His *National Interest* article "[Breaking Down the Pentagon's 2020 China Military Power Report](#)" received over 150,000 page views in its first 24 hours online. "[China Reveals Two 'Carrier-Killer' Missiles](#)" garnered 65,000 page views within the first day of its publication in *The National Interest*. Erickson's *RealClearDefense* piece "[What Sort of Navy America Needs](#)" registered 60,000 page views in its first day of posting.

Erickson is the author of the book [Chinese Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Development](#) (Jamestown Foundation/Brookings Institution Press, 2013). He is coauthor of two other books: [Gulf of Aden Anti-Piracy and China's Maritime Commons Presence](#) (Jamestown/Brookings, 2015) and [Assessing China's Cruise Missile Ambitions](#) (National Defense University Press, 2014). He has coauthored four additional volumes: [Charting China's International Security Activism](#) (Center for a New American Security, 2015), the CMSI monographs [Chinese Antipiracy Operations in the Gulf of Aden](#) (2013) and [Chinese Mine Warfare](#) (2009), and the CASI monograph [The PLAAF's Campaign for a Bigger Maritime Role](#) (2019). Erickson is the editor of, and a contributor to, three volumes: [Maritime Gray Zone Operations](#) (Routledge [Cass Series: Naval Policy & History](#), 2022/paperback 2024), [Chinese Naval Shipbuilding](#) (Naval Institute Press/NIP, 2016/paperback 2023), and [Proceedings of the 47th History Symposium of the IAA](#) (Univelt, 2015). He is coeditor of, and a contributor to, thirteen volumes. This includes nine (in addition to *Chinese Naval Shipbuilding*) of the ten "[Studies in Chinese Maritime Development](#)" [books to date](#), for which he is the series editor; comprising the NIP volumes [China's Maritime Gray Zone Operations](#) (2019/[Japanese translation 2020/paperback 2023/Taiwan Defense Ministry translation 2023](#)), [Chinese Aerospace Power](#) (2011), [China, the U.S., and 21st Century Sea Power](#) (2010/[China Ocean Press translation 2014](#)), [China Goes to Sea](#) (2009/[China Ocean Press translation 2015/paperback 2021](#)), [China's Energy Strategy](#) (2008/[China Ocean Press translation 2015](#)), and [China's Future Nuclear Submarine Force](#) (2007/[China Ocean Press translation 2015](#)); and [The People of China's Navy and Other Maritime Forces](#) (forthcoming); as well as the NWC Press books [Chinese Amphibious Warfare](#) (2024) and [Chinese Undersea Warfare: Narrowing the Gaps](#) (forthcoming 2025). It also includes [Basing and Forward Presence in the Asia-Pacific](#) (NIP, 2014/paperback 2024), the CMSI volume [China's Near Seas Combat Capabilities](#) (2014), and the NWC Newport Paper [China's Nuclear Force Modernization](#) (2005).

Erickson's work has been cited widely in scholarly publications and reports from the U.S. government and think tanks such as CSIS and RAND, and [featured in a broad range of print, wire service, television, radio, and Internet media](#). He has been interviewed and quoted extensively in numerous newspapers, magazines, and online sources. He tweets via [@AndrewSErickson](#) and is listed among [The China Studies Twitterati 50](#). Erickson is co-founder of *China SignPost*TM 洞察中国 <www.chinasignpost.com>, an analytic portal covering key PRC-related developments; particularly natural resource, technology, industry, and trade issues; he has coauthored 94 reports. Analyses have anticipated policy options regarding

Beijing's coercive envelopment of Hong Kong (#102), limitations in the implementation and efficacy of Xi-era reforms (#81), China's 2015 stock market slump (#89), and a long-run S-curved slowdown in China's economic growth rate and overall development trajectory (#44). Links to these, and Erickson's other publications, can be found at *China Analysis from Original Sources* 以第一手资料研究中国 <www.andrewerickson.com>, a website that posts and curates findings—many based on Chinese-language sources not previously assessed by foreign observers—offering insights into China and its impact on the world.

Specialties

- China's armed forces
- Chinese national security and foreign policy
- China's maritime and aerospace activities
- PRC defense science, technology, and industry
- Japan/Indo-Asia-Pacific security and international relations
- Maritime and aerospace technology development: history and current status
- Energy, resources, and geostrategy
- Military basing and power projection
- National mega-projects and other major programs
- Biographical studies of military and technological figures
- Sino-American relations and contemporary policy issues
- Open source information acquisition, curation, analysis, and dissemination
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