

The Trump Administration's Disturbing US Anti-China Saber Rattling

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, January 25, 2017

Saber rattling by Trump administration officials on China give pause for concern, continuing Obama's hostile approach, risking direct confrontation if not curbed.

At his Senate confirmation hearing, Secretary of State designee Rex Tillerson recklessly said "(w)e are going to have to send China a clear signal that, first, the island-building stops and second, your access to those islands also is not going to be allowed."

He belligerently accused China of "declaring control of territories...not rightfully" its own. Secretary of Defense James ("mad dog") Mattis defiantly said Beijing's activities in the South China Sea threaten the global order..."under the biggest attack since world war two..."

On Wednesday, China's Global Times published a Xinhua commentary "urg(ing) (the) US to watch how it talks about the South China Sea issue," its islands and territorial waters.

Beijing was angered by White House press secretary Sean Spicer, saying "it's a question of if those islands are in fact in international waters and not part of China property, then yeah, we're going to make sure that we defend international territories from being taken over by one country."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said Beijing is committed to defend its islands, adjacent waters, maritime rights and sovereignty while pursuing regional peace and stability.

On Monday, acting South Korea President and Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn confirmed US plans to install provocative Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile systems on its territory - aimed at China and Russia, a nonexistent North Korea threat cited as pretext.

Beijing responded to US provocations initiated by Obama, continuing under Trump, by deploying advanced DF-41 ICBMs in Heilongjiang province bordering Russia - able to strike America with multiple thermonuclear warheads, perhaps additional deployments to follow elsewhere in the country.

China's Global Times suggested the deployment coincided with Trump's inauguration, "respond(ing) to (his) provocative remarks on trade, its currency and offshored US jobs.

"Beijing will ready itself for pressures imposed by the new US government," said GT. "China bears the heavy task of safeguarding (its) national security."

"(H)ow can China be content with its current nuclear strength when it is viewed by the US as its biggest potential opponent?"

“China’s nuclear capability should be so strong that no country would dare launch a military showdown with China under any circumstance, and such that China can strike back against those militarily provoking it. A military clash with the US is the last thing China wants, but China’s nuclear arsenal must be able to deter the US.”

Responding to Beijing’s deployment, Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said “(w)e do not regard China’s efforts to develop its armed forces as a threat, and even if...information (about deploying ICBMs near Russia’s border) is true, we see no risks for our country.”

“China is our strategic ally and our partner in political, trading and economic term. We appreciate our relations,” Peskov stressed.

Trump has been in office less than a week. His policy agenda toward China hasn’t been revealed so far by specific actions.

If hostile rhetoric by him and key administration officials is indicative of things to come, it will adversely affect US relations with China, Russia and perhaps other countries.

World peace remains threatened as long as US geopolitics remains confrontational. Brinksmanship between thermonuclear powers is a potential doomsday scenario if pursued.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled “Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III.” <http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2017

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." <http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at

1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca