Michael Fabey List of Main Points

* Although the Chinese are known to long-term strategic thinkers, there are indications that some in the military ranks are getting impatient
  + That impatience is part of the Little Emperor Syndrome -- and it's likely to accelerate. There is a growing "Bruce Lee" syndrome.
* The Chinese military – PLAN in particular is learning how to develop assets and CONOPS to adapt to China’s expanding role.
  + That impatience will drive China to take even more risks, in unexpected ways.
* The Chinese "people" are really no different than Americans in many ways -- they want, and are getting -- the good life. They are worried about many of the same things Americans are – but they feel they are being held back by America and the rest of the Western World.
* Xi may not have the iconic hold that Mao had, but he does have the domestic power and an international influence Mao did not.
* Chinese military personnel are in many ways driven by the same kind of aspirations as those wearing the uniform in in the US But here is an even greater divide between the officer corps and general populace in China than there is in the US
  + But whereas Americans, in and out of uniform, often are guided by American democratic principles, Chinese are driven by a visceral nationalism -- everything goes as long as it's for the motherland.
* The Chinese have a very inflated sense of themselves now. And have a huge collective national chip on their collective shoulders. But the reverse is true, as well. US leadership now feels it is setting the agenda in the Asia Pacific, but the growing feeling in the region is that Washington is being played by Beijing.
* The Chinese are farther along in naval development that most think, but they are not prepared yet to truly take on US forces (even if they don't realize it).
* China will likely continue to test American fortitude in WESTPAC, especially in the South China Sea, where Hainan Island is located. Taiwan is looking more like a potential problem.
* Traditionally there have been two schools of thought in dealing with China –hugging pandas or slaying dragons. Recent events suggest the latter are more effective.
* With China everything is not only a negotiation, but also a renegotiation (why more -- and more aggressive -- FONOPS are needed – as are more patrols of ships of every size and capability, even Coast Guard ones, and greater USMC presence as well). Chinese military leaders consider themselves to be at war with the US, whether their American counterparts want to acknowledge that or not.