Title: Chinese Diplomacy and the Use of Force in Peacetime: from Peacekeeping to Salami Slicing

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Abstract
In recent years, the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has become an increasingly important foreign policy tool for the Chinese government, both at the regional and global level. How can we interpret this phenomenon? What has been driving this process so far? This paper looks at the concept of Military Operations Other Than War in Chinese military doctrine and argues that certain events have determined the securitization of Chinese foreign policy both in regard to traditional and, especially, non-traditional security issues. In particular, the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan and the evacuation of some 36000 Chinese citizens from Libya plaid a key role. The paper builds on a number of sources, from military textbooks to the military academic journals and newspapers.