

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [China's Shipyards Are Ready for a Protracted War. America's Aren't](#)

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Tweet: China dominates global shipbuilding, producing over half of all commercial ships relative to 5% for Europe and “next to nothing” in the US. China's prowess could tip naval conflicts in its favor, with rapid production and repair capabilities. @WSJ

Summary: More than half of the world's commercial shipbuilding output came from China last year—making it the top global shipmaker by a wide margin. The once-prolific shipyards of the West that helped forge empires, expand trade, and win wars have shriveled. Europe accounts for just 5% of the world's output, while the U.S. contributes next to nothing. Most of what China doesn't build comes from South Korea and Japan. “The scale [of China's shipbuilding] is just almost hard to fathom,” said Thomas Shugart, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security whose research focuses on maritime competition. “The degree to which it dwarfs American shipbuilding is just unbelievable.” In a protracted conflict, China's shipyards would give its navy a significant upper hand. Sized to build at wartime rates, they would be able to quickly accelerate production, replace lost ships, and repair damaged ones. That is a capability U.S. shipyards brought to the fight during World War II, building Allied vessels faster than German U-boats could sink them. Related: Why Xi Can No Longer Brag About the Chinese Economy and Nearly 40% of US Attack Submarines Are Out of Commission for Repairs and U.S. Weapons Industry Unprepared for a China Conflict, Report Says

Primary Topic: China

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