

## Macro Roundup Article

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

**Article Link:** [https://www.wsj.com/world/china/chinas-shipyards-are-ready-for-a-protracted-war-americas-arent-d6f004dd?mod=hp\\_lead\\_pos7](https://www.wsj.com/world/china/chinas-shipyards-are-ready-for-a-protracted-war-americas-arent-d6f004dd?mod=hp_lead_pos7)

Author(s)	Niharika Mandhana
Publication	Wall Street Journal
Publication Date	February 13, 2024

**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 Articles:** 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

**Topics:** China, News article, Security

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/china-dominates-global-shipbuilding-producing-over-half-of-all-commercial-ships-relative-to-5-for-europe-and-next-to-nothing-in-the-us-chinas-prowess-could-tip-naval-conflicts-in?view=detail>

### Featured Image

**Link:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Shipbuilding.png>