

Comment by Michael C H Jones
29th November 2015

And so the event is happening, something Chamber has been anticipating for a number of years - even pre-President Xi. Great Powers protect their interests, and only the dimensions of that protection changes. Within a decade, and most likely by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in 2021, not only will the Djibouti naval base be a substantial military installation servicing the entire West Asian/Northeast Africa region but will be joined by strategic facilities elsewhere.

Australia is increasingly a target, and if it cannot be won for China against the US incumbent, measures will be taken to neutralise the great continental aircraft carrier that dominates the Western Pacific and Eastern Indian Oceans not to mention the Southern Ocean to Antarctica. Darwin is a vital key to "policing" the South China Sea providing Indonesian over-flights are not restricted either directly by that country's government or countered by Chinese installations in Australia's proximity? Of course Australia might just prefer to sell its harbours, farms and real estate.

This Black Listed News link is particularly interesting as it attempts an analysis of the varying Chinese dots across the world from a non-American re New York Times/Wall Street Journal perspective. Djibouti is one of the poorest country's in the world as is East Timor, which given Australia's spying travesty must be thinking deeply about upgrading it's patrol boat capacities in the international waters along that extensive North Western coastline of Australia.

Moreover there seems to be dispute as to exactly how many islands are in Indonesia and the sum total of infrastructure investment required to link them. A trainline from Kunming in Yunnan Province, Southwest China, to Singapore and a sea route from Singapore to the Chinese leased port of Darwin are costly, hence the investor would demand benefits and guarantees. Broom might be a suitable venue for logistical facilities. This would mirror the US and PRC intallations in Djibouti!!!