

China celebrates years of the People's Republic



Led by a KJ-2000 AEW&C aircraft, are eight J-10 fighters

On 1 October 2019, the Chinese Government celebrated 70 years of Communist party rule and its rise to global superpower status with a massive military parade showcasing the country's prowess and a statement from President Xi Jinping that "no force can shake the status of this great nation".



President Xi Jinping reviews the troops lined up before marching down Tiananmen Square

Xi announced this as he stood at the Tiananmen Square gate where Mao Zedong had declared the *People's Republic of China* in October 1949, 70 years earlier.

China's leadership, past and present, had gathered to watch the military parade of some 15,000 troops and various weaponry including new hypersonic drones and intercontinental ballistic missiles. The People's Liberation Army displayed its newest hardware, including the DF-41 nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile and the DF-17 launcher for a hypersonic glider.

Some 160 aircraft took part in the flypast, which was sobered by overcast skies. Fighters including the J-20 fifth generation fighter, barely seen through the smog-choked skies, plus other types including several AEW&C aircraft. This was followed by a civilian parade, featuring tributes to national icons from founding leader Mao Zedong and the bicycles that China was known for before it became an economic juggernaut, to the cities that have sprung up since the reforms of the 1980s.

Hewing to tradition, Xi wore a grey Mao suit and watched the parade from the same place where Mao had stood to announce establishment of the People's Republic of China on 1 October, 1949.