U.S.-China Deterrence

Conventional deterrence

- Immediate deterrence: only China
- Extended deterrence
  - Deterrence by punishment (No)
  - Deterrence by denial
- Extended deterrence in action
  - Taiwan
  - Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands
  - South China Sea
U.S.-China Deterrence: Taiwan

- U.S. extended deterrence since 1950
- Status quo changing since 1995
  - Change in Taiwan
  - Change in China
  - Change in the U.S.
- Final arbiter: military power
U.S.-China Deterrence: Japan

- China continues “gray-zone” operations
- No clear “end game”
U.S.-China Deterrence: South China Sea

- What to deter?
  - China aggression/expansion
- How to deter?
  - Support disputants (RAND)
  - U.S. direct involvement
    - Block China access (Tillerson)
    - Roll back China holdings (Krepinevich/Ratner/Babbage)
    - U.S. troops in SCS
    - Sanctions
- Right thing to do?
What Game?