

## 10th International symposium on the Czech Foreign Policy: Rethinking the Future

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Panel: Global Perspectives on Defence Policy Challenges, 20 September 2018

Chaired by Dr Lukas Dycka

**Chinese Defence Policy:** current state of affairs, prospects, and one “lesson learned” applicable for the Czech or wider regional defence policies

By Dr Rosita Dellios

*Currently:* Chinese defence policy is predicated on defence of the socialist political system. This makes the People’s Liberation Army (PLA - inclusive of army, navy, air and rocket, and strategic support forces) a guarantor of CCP rule. But it must also be competent in modern warfare, capable of protecting China’s expanding interests abroad; and a contributor to global stability through non-war missions like peacekeeping. The challenge for others is that China can be offensive in pursuit of territorial claims (South and East China Seas). The benefit is its desire to contribute to world peace by engaging in military-operations-other-than-war.

*Prospects:* Power projection capabilities – especially naval and inclusive of bases – to protect China’s expanding interests. AI technology advances. Space and cyber capabilities are now overseen by the new Strategic Support Force and are to be used as support for integrated joint operations. Counter-terrorism will become increasingly important as China’s Belt & Road infrastructure projects become targets.

*Lesson:* Focus on cooperation for common security benefits. This is what Australia does. It has a strategic partnership with China and engages in joint military exercises to build transparency and trust. China should be involved in as many cooperative arrangements as possible so as to build understandings between European and Chinese security interests.

### Bio

Dr Rosita Dellios is Associate Professor of International Relations at Bond University in Queensland, Australia. She lectures and writes on the themes of China’s defence policy and strategic philosophy, Asian political history, and future trends in global politics. She has published widely in these areas. Her more recent works include two co-authored books: *China’s Quest for Global Order* (published in 2013) and *The Politics and Philosophy of Chinese Power: The Timeless and the Timely* (published in 2017). Her earlier book *Modern Chinese Defence Strategy* was reissued as an e-book in 2017. This year she has written several security articles, including a book chapter on China and terrorism, and is currently working on the Chinese contribution to theorising international relations.