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David M. Finkelstein is a Vice President at CNA, an independent research institute which operates the Center for Naval Analyses and the Institute for Public Research. At CNA, he also serves as the Director of CNA's China & Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Division.

Finkelstein received a Ph.D. in Chinese and Japanese history from Princeton University and studied Mandarin at Nankai University in Tianjin, China. He is a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). He regularly leads seminars at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute and the U.S. Army War College. He currently serves on the editorial board of *Parameters*, the professional journal of the U.S. Army War College.

A retired US Army officer, Finkelstein is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, the US Army Command & General Staff College, the Army War College, the US Army Foreign Area Officer Course at the JFK Center for Military Assistance and Unconventional Warfare, and the US Army Airborne School.

He is author of "[Breaking the Paradigm: Drivers behind China's Current Period of Reform](#)" (2019), co-editor of [Civil-Military Relations in Today's China: Swimming in a New Sea](#) (2006), [Chinese Warfighting: The PLA Experience Since 1949](#) (2003), and [China's Leadership in the 21st Century: The Rise of the Fourth Generation](#) (2002).

He testified before the Commission in its 2016 hearing on "[Developments in China's Military Force Projection and Expeditionary Capabilities,](#)" and its 2004 hearing on "[China's Military Modernization and the Cross-Strait Balance.](#)"