

**Review at the closed Facebook group 'Aviation Enthusiast Book Club'
by Todd Shugart, published on 12 August 2019**

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Modern Chinese Warplanes (Chinese Army Aviation - Aircraft and Units)

Publisher: Harpia Publishing

Author: Andreas Rupprecht

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Chinese Army Aviation is a subject that not many people are familiar with. This can be explained by the lack of information released by China itself, the lack of any major publishing work on this elusive subject, and its relatively short history having only been approved in 1986 and formally established in 1988. Andreas Rupprecht has previously published volumes on the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) and the People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force (PLANAF) and this is the third volume of what is truly the most comprehensive and easy to understand study of all things military aviation related when it comes to the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Andreas acknowledges early on the challenge when researching Chinese military subjects. And yet the information presented is detailed and rich with authenticity. But what is even more helpful for the reader is how he has organised the research and presented it in a flow that makes it very easy to read and also quick to reference when needed. There is a helpful guide to abbreviations and then a primer on the history of Chinese Army Aviation. This is followed by a breakdown of aircraft markings and how the aircraft serial numbering system works. Then he dives right in discussing the fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The next chapter deals with various armament and stores carried. And for a great comparison he then explains how PLA aviators are trained and how long each part of the syllabus can take. This particular section is very interesting when compared to other worldwide Army Aviation organisations. Next up is what every intelligence officer wants; that is the PLA Army Aviation Order of Battle. This is a breakdown by theater commands and individual brigades. There is a plethora of information that is extremely useful to many organisations and interesting to the enthusiast. Lastly, as if this challenging subject could not be topped, Andreas then describes the Chinese People's Armed Police Force and its aerial units along with the Border Defence Corp's aviation assets. Comprehensive doesn't even begin to describe what Andreas has done with such a secretive and unexplored subject.

This third volume on Chinese military aviation follows a similar format of being easy to read, lavishly filled with well chosen and recent images, useful maps and graphs, and other relevant symbols as they relate to PLA Army Aviation. The usual Harpia standard of publishing is evident in the glossy and well ordered pages, softback cover, and affordable price. This is a book for anyone with an interest in Chinese Army Aviation, any military institution or unit, and lastly anyone who enjoys studying the lesser known subjects in worldwide military aviation. And I highly recommend this book.