The Chinese Rare Earths Monopoly Saga Continues

written by Jack Lifton | September 12, 2023

The blather in the media suggesting that China could or already be weaponizing the export of their “rare earths” to the rest of the world is so one-sided that it must make the Chinese wonder if non-Chinese “analysts” and “experts” ever bother to see the world from the perspective of “others.” For more than a decade China has been aggressively acquiring outright or buying the output of non-Chinese rare earth sources. At this point in time, China is the overwhelming buyer, worldwide, for example of the mineral monazite, which is produced primarily as a byproduct of the processing of heavy mineral sands, which are the source of zircon and ilmenite, source minerals for, respectively, zirconium and titanium.