STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is the Chinese VT4 Tank?

International Relations

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What is the Chinese VT4 Tank?

The VT4 (export version of China's Type 99/Type 96 lineage) is a 3rd-generation main battle tank developed by NORINCO for the international market. It is one of the most modern and powerful tanks China offers globally, competing with tanks like the T-90, Leopard 2A4, and M1 Abrams (export variants).

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Key Features of the VT4

Modern Firepower : Equipped with a 125 mm smoothbore cannon . Capable of firing:

- APFSDS (armor-piercing rounds)
- HEAT rounds
- HE shells
- Anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM) through the barrel
- Autoloader allows firing 6–8 rounds per minute

Strong Armor & Protection

- Modular composite armor
- FY-4 Explosive Reactive Armor (ERA)
- Advanced laser warning systems
- Smoke grenade launchers
- Optional active protection system (APS) similar to Russian Arena

Mobility

- Uses a 1300+ horsepower turbocharged diesel engine
- Speed: 70 km/h on road
- Very strong power-to-weight ratio for rough terrains

- Improved suspension for fast maneuvering

Advanced Fire Control & Electronics

- Hunter-killer capability (commander can independently track targets)
- Thermal imaging for night combat
- Laser rangefinder
- Ballistic computer
- Modern battlefield management system

Countries Using VT4

The VT4 has become popular among Asian and African militaries.

- Major users include:
- Pakistan Army (as the Haider tank variant)
- Thailand Army
- Nigeria
- Several other countries have shown interest.
- Pakistan purchased VT4 as a counter to India’s T-90 and Arjun MBT capabilities.

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