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14. ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to survey the historical roles and mission of ships called "cruisers" in preparation for a Navy study of future class of cruisers. The current generation of ships of that name are assigned an aircraft carrier escort mission and are specifically optimized for that role. However, the first role assigned to cruisers was as foreign station ships, independently deployed, looking out for national interests around the world. Other cruisers has been designed as sea denial ships, as counter-raider merchant ship escorts, as a substitutes for battleships in a battleline, command ships, and as reconnaissance platforms (either directly or via launched smaller vehicles). There have been several proposals for cruiser-aircraft carriers hybrids and one Japanese class was constructed to that concept.

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