

SECURITY COUNCIL: THE TAIWAN QUESTION AND HOW IT IMPACTS THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER



**THE TAIWAN QUESTION AND HOW IT IMPACTS THE INTERNATIONAL
ORDER**

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Abstract: The Security Council from UN has the goal of maintaining peace and security, therefore the issue of Taiwan is extremely important to be analyzed, because the island's geopolitical and strategic relevance is growing. Mostly is due to its role as a technological hub and because of its centrality in Chinese security concerns regarding its territorial integrity – for which the use of force is not discarded. Nowadays, China's pressure tactics, combined with military maneuvers in the Taiwan Strait, endangers the stability in the Indo-Pacific. At the moment, the island international relevance is rising due to increasing support for Taiwanese anti-China stances and politicians, mostly by the United States and the European Union. These movements are representing a provocation and creating instability for China, which states that Taiwan is part of the Chinese territory, and as a response, it is increasing military exercises through the island combined with expansion interests towards the South China Sea. In the possibility of armed conflict, it could present world range impact. For a better image, some countries, like the United States, Japan, Australia and others, have already adopted a non-neutral posture in case the territory of Taiwan is violated by an invasion. Many other countries will have to assure its positions (directly or indirectly), because of alliances, like NATO and CSTO. Besides that, China will also have supporters if the conflict becomes violent, such as North Korea, Russia and Myanmar. The main concern regarding the issue of Taiwan nowadays is how China will respond to eventual provocations by Taiwan and the West. Furthermore, how the military exercises made by China can affect the already tense international order, as well as encourage other countries to do similar violent gestures, in other words, it could inflame border disputes among South Korea, North Korea, Russia and Ukraine.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCP - Chinese Communist Party

CFR - Council on Foreign Relations

CSIS - Center for Strategic and International Studies

CSTO - Collective Security Treaty Organization

DPRK - Democratic People's Republic of Korea

EU - European Union

KMT - Kuomintang

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization

PLA - People's Liberation Army

PRC - People's Republic of China

ROC - Republic of China

U.S. - United States

UN - United Nations



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TOPICS OF DEBATE

- A – Military drills and escalating tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.
- B – The use of artificial islands to expand marine borders.
- C – Impacts on the global economy referring to the tensions in the region.
- D – Impacts on Asian society to the referring tensions in the region.

1. HISTORY OF CONTINENTAL CHINA AND TAIWAN

(After 1945 – Japanese occupation)

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, is an island separated from continental China by the Taiwan Strait. It has been governed independently of mainland China, officially the People's Republic of China. For a better image, in 1949, when the political party Kuomintang lost the civil war, it fled to Taiwan and outlying islands along the Chinese coast. The proximity between the two territories can be seen in the map below:

Figure 1 – Geographic representation of China and Taiwan



Source: BBC. China and Taiwan: A really simple guide, 2024. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59900139>. Accessed on: 28 mar. 2024.

The Chinese Communist Party immediately established itself as the People's Republic of China, but they never had the power to finish the war, conquer the outlying islands, get over to Taiwan, invade, and fully dispel and defeat the Kuomintang. The



Chinese military attempted to invade one of the external islands, Kinmen, but was repelled quickly and decisively in October 1949, largely due to superior weapons supplied by the United States. When the Kuomintang lost the war, they were able to control Taiwan with the additional protection and support of the U.S.

The PRC views the island as a renegade province and vows to eventually “unify” Taiwan with the mainland. In Taiwan, which has its own democratically elected government and is home to twenty-three million people, political leaders have differing views on the island’s status and relations with the mainland, although Taiwan does not officially recognize the People’s Republic, and its constitution still asserts sovereignty over mainland China.

Around this time, China created the ‘One China’ principle, which was approved and recognized by the Resolution N° 2758 of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1971, and, since then, it has been a consensus to the international community. This policy is central to the People’s Republic of China’s approach to Taiwan, it states that mainland China and Taiwan are one and sovereignty cannot be divided.

In 1979, China’s leadership shifted its Taiwan policy away from ‘armed liberation’, proposing a new era of ‘peaceful coexistence’, and stepping back from regular military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. However, the People’s Republic of China never renounced the use of force if necessary to achieve reunification.

These elements are formalized in China’s 2005 Anti-Secession Law. The law commits Beijing to “do its utmost with maximum security to achieve a peaceful unification” with Taiwan. It states, however, that in the case of Taiwan’s “secession” from China, or if the People’s Republic concludes that possibilities for peaceful unification have been exhausted, “the state shall employ non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity”.

Cross-strait tensions have escalated since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016. Tsai has refused to accept a formula that her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, endorsed to allow for increased cross-strait ties. Meanwhile, Beijing has taken increasingly aggressive actions, including flying fighter jets near the island. Some analysts fear a Chinese attack on Taiwan has the potential to draw the United States into a war with China.

In 2022, China developed its military power. It is now challenging Taiwan politically, economically, and militarily, while trying to prove that the U.S. will not come to Taiwan’s defense or will no longer be enough for Taiwan to maintain its



sovereignty, Thomas J. Shattuck –Researcher of cross-Strait relations, Taiwanese and Chinese domestic and foreign affairs– says: “China’s goal is to force a peaceful reunification, so that way China doesn’t have to fight a war to gain control over Taiwan.”

2. MILITARY EXERCISES FROM CONTINENTAL CHINA CLOSE TO THE BORDERS OF TAIWAN

The military exercises that are occurring around Taiwan, are composed of launching joint air and sea patrols. The occurrence of these events can also be affected by international leaders visiting Taiwan, mostly by the United States, Japan, between others, because the PRC can interpret it as a provocation made by Taiwan or by other external forces.

For a better understanding of the military drills, during a conference at Camp David, on 19/08/2023, with leaders of the United States, South Korea and Japan aimed at shoring up their alliances. These countries agreed to deepen military and economic cooperation and condemned Beijing’s dangerous and aggressive behavior in the South China Sea.

As a response, China launched military maneuvers to assert its position of Taiwan being a part of China. Besides that, Shi Yi – spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command of the PLA- stated that ‘The patrols and exercises are meant to train the coordination of military vessels and airplanes and their ability to seize control of air and sea spaces’ and ‘The patrols and exercises serve as a stern warning to the collusion of “Taiwan independence” separatists with foreign elements and their provocations’.

The statement of Taiwan related to the drills made by China is of condemning Beijing’s behavior for being irrational and provocative; it also asserted Taipei’s position of defending the freedom of democracy and the sovereignty of Taiwan. The Ministry of Defense, also, stated that ‘Launching a military exercise under such pretext not only doesn’t help the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait, but also highlights China’s militaristic mentality and reinstates the domineering nature of military expansion’.

Another example of the military's drills is related to the Taiwan Crisis of 1996 and those that occurred nowadays, when Lee Teng-hui, then president of the Republic of China, visited Cornell University in the state of New York. Though US officials



insisted that Lee's visit was a private and unofficial trip for a class reunion at his alma mater, it nonetheless caused dissatisfaction in CCP headquarters, leading to military exercises intended to intimidate Taiwan. Nevertheless, both the United States and PRC considered resolving the crisis to be in their long-term interests. Furthermore, the balance of power largely favored the United States; China did not have the capability to impose its will.

To solve the crisis, the Clinton administration-reaffirmed Washington's "one China policy," while Chinese President Jiang Zemin underlined gradual peaceful reunification, while not renouncing the possibility of using force to achieve this goal. Both sides also agreed to engage in bilateral interactions through regular high-level dialogues. Jiang and Clinton subsequently paid state visits to Washington and China in 1997 and 1998, respectively.

This time, the crisis has received international attention due to intensifying threats from Beijing, which now seeks to displace the United States as the leader of both the regional and international orders. The balance of power across the Taiwan Strait increasingly tilts toward China, whose growth in military power is the "largest and fastest" in history—completely outclassing its smaller neighbor in aircraft carriers, ballistic missile submarines, fighter aircraft, etc. Furthermore, Xi Jinping pledges to "smash" any attempts at official independence from Taiwan.

Unlike after the 1996 crisis, there is no sign of rapprochement between Washington and Beijing—Chinese representatives and the US did not hold dialogues at August's ASEAN ministerial meeting. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Beijing's military exercises surrounding Taiwan and said the PRC "should not use the visit as a pretext for war, escalation, for provocative actions." On August 6 of 2022, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi justified Beijing's actions by saying they aimed at sending a warning to the "Taiwan independence" forces and denounced the US for "using Taiwan to contain China." One day before Wang's speech, the PRC halted bilateral cooperation with the United States on military dialogues, maritime safety, anti-drug efforts, transnational crime, illegal immigration, and climate change.

Besides that, other worries are urging related to this topic, like an accidental clash as expressed by Taiwan's Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng. He stated that "The risks of activities involving aircraft, ships, and weapons will increase, and both sides must pay attention," It related that mostly, warships from China's southern and eastern



theater commands have been operating together off Taiwan's east coast, the minister said, in apparent combat drills.

3. STABILITY OF INDO-PACIFIC REGION

The balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region is shifting due to China's political and economic ascent poses a challenge to the established powers. The US is increasingly moving its strategic focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific region. Arms spending in this region rose more quickly than anywhere else in the world over the last decade, and now makes up just under 30 percent of global spending. At the same time, the region lacks effective structures for cooperative security and mechanisms to contain conflict.

Geopolitical rivalries, border disputes and simmering domestic and cross-border conflicts put the region at risk of instability. This is exacerbated by refugee flows and regional and international terrorist networks.

Regional countries are also worried about the escalated tension among the Taiwan Strait, because if a Chinese takeover of the island happens, it would have a chilling effect throughout Southeast Asia, specifically for countries with maritime disputes with the PRC, like the Philippines. At some point in future disputes, it has been speculated that the PRC may "seek a relatively controlled conflict" to settle maritime disputes in its favor rather than invade Southeast Asian countries, as a manufactured crisis could make regional smaller states into according to China's interests. If the PRC is willing to launch an invasion to retake Taiwan, there can be little doubt of their intentions to settle maritime disputes forcefully.

The stability of the Indo-Pacific region was a subject in 2022 at Chatham House Rule within the analysts and policymakers of India, United States and Australia. They discussed their respective country views of changing regional security dynamics and the role for emerging technologies to affect -positively or negatively- strategic stability.

Their major concerns related to the growing strategic convergence on China's increasingly aggressive behavior as a primary driver of concerns over regional stability. However, despite seeing China as a main driver of concern, the United States, Australia, and India are concerned about China's action in different geographic areas. For a better image, the Australian and American representatives were more worried about the



Taiwan situation, while Indian representatives were more worried about its northern border.

In resume that representatives agreed that the major problems related to the harmony of the Indo-Pacific region are:

1. China's conventional military modernization.
2. China's non-transparent conventional and nuclear force changes.
3. China's demonstrated willingness to use force—such as at India's border with China—to assert its claims.
4. Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A potential war in the Taiwan Strait may also mean war for North Korea and South Korea, according to CSIS (2023); South Korea stands a very real risk of being dragged into a war in Taiwan regardless of its intentions. While for North Korea, that has been indicating its full support for China's position on the Taiwan issue, and its Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance with China includes provisions that would automatically trigger its involvement.

About the Korean peninsula crisis and how it relates to the harmony of the region, an article produced by Tung-chieh Tsai in 2020 –Distinguished Professor, Graduate Institute of International Politics, National Chung Hsing University– about North Korea's role and its impact on Indo-Pacific regional security. It said that Pyongyang has made efforts to establish a balance between nuclear policy and economic development by emphasizing the so-called “Byongjin Policy” (double-track) of jointly pushing forward economic development and nuclear armament. The author also pointed out that the crisis in the Korean Peninsula may seem to revolve around North Korea's nuclear weapon intention, but perhaps the real reason of the peninsula crisis are the continued tensions among the great powers, especially US and China.

Although, recently, North Korea has made statements that it no longer seeks reunification with South Korea. Kim Jong Un, president of DPRK, stated that:

“It's time to acknowledge and clarify our relationship with the South, I believe that it is a mistake that we must no longer make to deal with the people who declare us as the main enemy and seek only opportunities for our regime to collapse and unification by absorption by collaborating for reconciliation and unification.”

This happened months after the Inter-Korean Military Pact broke down, which has been generating debates on which the two countries made the deal collapse, South



Korea by one side after North Korea launched a spy satellite, announced a partial suspension of the accord. As a response to this announcement, North Korea established to immediately restore all military measures and vowed to deploy more powerful armed forces and new-type military hardware.

Regarding Europe's vision towards the Taiwan issue and how it affects the stability in the Indo-Pacific, it can no longer avoid the issue strategically and politically. As a self-proclaimed global upholder of democracy, human rights and self-determination, the EU has an obligation to protect Taiwan's status as a mature democracy of over 23 million people. A failure to act in the event of a Taiwan-Strait conflict would damage Europe's credibility to defend and uphold democratic values. As the 2021 'EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific' acknowledges, the 'display of force... in the Taiwan Strait may have a direct impact on European security and prosperity'.

A conflict would cause enormous disruptions to global supply chains, particularly in the information and communications technology and semiconductor sectors. Taiwan's high-tech industrial base is an integral part of the global supply chain, and it is the market leader in advanced three- and five-nanometer semiconductor chips. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company alone accounts for over 50% of global production and is thus critical to European technology and economic advancement, a fact recognized by EU senior representatives. A conflict would also halt EU-Taiwan foreign direct investment flows, which have the potential to support Europe from further falling behind in the innovation and development of emerging technologies.

Furthermore, if the United States fails to deter Beijing from an invasion of Taiwan and its offshore territories, US defense planners would likely shift more resources from the North Atlantic towards the Indo-Pacific to address the changed military balance. In such a scenario, a military conflict would draw in Australia, Japan, the US and other regional partners, and it would not remain local and limited. Washington D.C, as well as Tokyo, Canberra and others, would look towards its European allies for direct political, economic and even military support.

4. GROWING INDEPENDENCE ASPIRATIONS IN TAIWAN



For a better understanding of the independence feeling growing in Taiwan, it's important to remember the government that came to Taiwan in 1949. Back then, the military and civilians collaborated to build the nation while defending against the armed threats of the Chinese Communist Party.

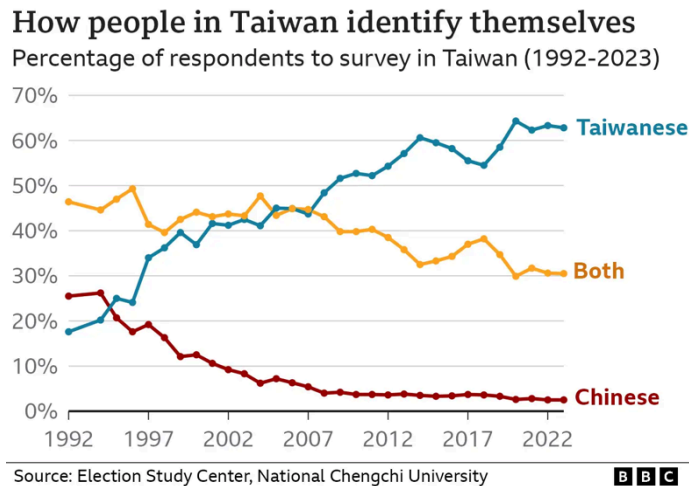
Later, to confront the difficulties of survival experienced by nations that withdrew from the UN and terminated diplomatic relations with Taiwan and the US, individuals from different walks of life ultimately completed a non-violent democratic transition. This was achieved through the rallying cry of community life, which enabled the voicing of diverse viewpoints and implementing them on a democratic stage.

Opposition to an extradition law in Hong Kong, which began in the middle of 2019, resulted in most Taiwanese recognizing that democracy and liberty are critical. As a result, significant skepticism was generated regarding a possible Taiwanese version of the Chinese Communist Party's "one country, two systems" policy, although the Chinese Communist Party repeatedly emphasized the "one China" principle and remained clearly distinct from the Taiwanese government during this period.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson declared in April 2021 that the "Republic of China and its Constitution" had ceased to exist in 1949. In February of 2022, the Chinese Communist Party's official media publicly named KMT legislators and criticized them for promoting Taiwan's diplomatic space, by saying: "secret independence that is more harmful to cross-strait relations".

The growing independence aspirations among the Taiwanese people can be exemplified by the survey below:

Figure 2 – Graphic on how Taiwanese people identify themselves



Source: BBC. China and Taiwan: A really simple guide, 2024. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59900139>. Accessed on: 28 mar. 2024.

In terms of external factors, Taiwanese perceive US-China competition and its probable consequences. If Chinese President Xi Jinping’s administration had not erroneously assessed the “rise of the East and decline of the West” and underestimated the Western democratic alliance, the CCP could have stayed competitive with the US.

However, the Chinese Communist Party in March 2018 responded robustly to former US president Donald Trump’s trade dispute, leading political elites to consolidate in the US under the anti-China banner and to increase their support for Taiwan.

Due to the US-China rivalry, the so-called “1992 consensus,” which had been facilitated by the “uncertain stage of the US-China strategy,” lost its obscurity in articulating “one China” and was exchanged for a crucial selection that Taiwan must decide. The “1992 consensus” — a term that former Mainland Affairs Council chairman Su Chi in 2006 admitted making up in 2000 — refers to a tacit understanding between the KMT and the Chinese Communist Party that both sides of the Taiwan Strait acknowledge that there is “one China,” with each side having its own interpretation of what “China” means.

The friendship that has been established between Taiwan and the US is profound. The US has been an essential ally for a long time, providing aid and joint military defense during the Cold War and playing a crucial role in the development of Taiwan’s government.



Washington has been an indispensable partner. Taiwan and the US are “spiritually compatible” in their collaboration of democratic values and concepts, which Beijing, using verbal attacks and military threats, cannot substitute.

The evaluation made by Taiwanese concerning cross-strait relations demonstrates their confidence in the US eventually triumphing in its rivalry with China. Furthermore, they believe that Taiwan’s policy of upholding sovereign independence would receive greater backing.



5. CHINESE NATIONAL SECURITY

In the beginning of Xi Jinping's term, he brought a new point of view in security, defining it as “the security of the people as compass, political security as its roots, economic security as its pillar, military security, cultural security, and cultural security as its protections, and that relies on the promotion of international security.” Creating the Commission of National Security that has in focus the domestic security and international security.

In 2022 in the Boao Forum for Asia, the Chinese president proposed the idea of a Global Security that identifies six commissions: comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable security, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

Abiding by the purpose and principles of the UN Charter, taking the security concerns of all countries seriously, peacefully resolving disputes between countries through dialogue and maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional fields.

Armed forces called PLA, have PLA Navy and PLA Air Force. The Commission has two to three vice chairmen, each of whom is a general in the PLA ground forces, and seven other members representing other various branches of the PLA. Since 2005, China has announced 200,000 troops in order to optimize the force, having 2.3 million.

China has a Defense Budget that has been lower and higher depending on the year and situation in international politics. The report submitted in March 2006 at the Fourth Session of the 10th National People's Congress contained a request for a budget increase to strengthen China's defensive capability and ability to respond to emergencies and to raise officer and enlisted pay levels.

5.1. CHINA EXPANDING FOR THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The conflict, which began in the 19th century in the South China Sea, was about maritime delimitation, with effects on navigation rights and sovereignty, and intensified when a Filipino oil refining company found reserves in the South China Sea. It would be a struggle for domination of this archipelago with China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and Brunei, all of which have established troops on the islands around the archipelago.

They would have the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 as a peaceful solution or also work cooperatively in the disputed areas, where China



was against negotiations, the aim of this division was to prevent many countries from not ratifying the Convention because they did not agree with points on a specific issue.

The law of the sea, like international law, began with Hugo Grotius in the 17th century. In 1633, Grotius wrote a booklet called *Mare Liberum* (Free Sea), in which he formulated the principle that the sea should be considered an international territory and free for all nations to navigate.

For China there is no dispute, and it is the most ambitious, because historically all the islands, islets, and rocks to the south of its country belong to China, classified as "China's Historic Exclusive Zone" with the same status as the Exclusive Economic Zones in the Convention. China treats Scarborough Reef, also claimed by the Philippines, as a dry part of Macclesfield Bank. Even though China claims the territory of the archipelago and the sea for historical reasons, there have been many changes in the reality of Asia, after some conflicts, where even China lost territories to Japan.

China defends its expansion interests due to historical reasons, although subjectively it can be named with other explanations, such as territorial integrity, security, regional stability, energy security, oil reserves, and regional influence. Emphasizing the integrity of the Chinese territory as a matter of principle, due that China has been invaded several times throughout its history by the Tartars, the Tibetans, Vietnam (1075), the Manchus (1644), the French (1856 and 1901), the British (1856 and 1901), the United States, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy in 1901 and Japan (1895, 1931 and 1937).

The country has invested huge resources in its navy in recent years, such as the purchase of missiles, trading obsolete equipment, submarines, aircraft carriers and the People's Liberation Army. The Chinese aim to set up a structure strong enough to deny access to their semi-enclosed maritime territory. Keeping the South China Sea under Chinese sovereignty allows the country to create maritime isolation from the United States and other nations, thus maintaining its economic, strategic and technological security.

The territorial conflict in the South China Sea regarding Taiwan, lasts in the issue of self-determination with China, which Taiwan proclaims historical sovereignty of the islands in the sea, as Taipei occupies most of the Spratly archipelago. Which is known to have built communication structures and



planned spaces for air movements, where the Chinese country has built lighthouses on the occupied islands of Taiwan but there have been no military reactions from Taipei.

In general, Taipei's policy on the territorial dispute can be classified as follows: insisting on Taiwan's sovereignty over Spratly, supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict, opposing any provocative action in the region, jointly exploiting natural resources, and actively participating in all conferences seeking the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the South China Sea.



6. RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

It's important to understand that the relations between China and Taiwan have a disturbed history. Since the end of the 1940 decade, the relationship between the two has gone through moments of deep tension. In 1949, Taiwan began to be governed by an independent government, soon after a civil war. China, however, still considers the island as part of its territory. For most countries in the world, Taiwan is not considered a country and therefore, has become more and more diplomatic isolated.

In a more recent story between the two agents, in 2000 Taiwan elected Chen Shui-Bian as president, who supports sovereignty and the formal independence of Taiwan. In reaction to this, China approves a law anti-independence, which made the succession of Taiwan to be considered illegal. In 2008, another election happened and Ma Ying-jeou took office. He defended a policy with closer ties with China and calmed conflicts between the two territories. Currently the president is Tsai Ing-Wen, who took office in 2016 with the aim of confronting China. In June 2016, Beijing suspended official communications with the island. 2022 presented another big change in the events of this conflict, with the visit of the president of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi. Soon afterwards, Joe Biden, president of the United States of America, declares that he would defend Taiwan in case of a Chinese invasion. In reaction, China's Foreign Ministry evaluated Pelosi's trip as a provocation that would cause "severe impacts." Along with, Chinese ministry representative Hua Chunying said that the visit violated China's territorial sovereignty and "severely harmed the peace and stability" of the Taiwan region.

The relation between Taiwan and China goes beyond the two of them and incorporates other States in the conflict. President Biden said on more than one occasion that the USA was willing to intervene in case of an invasion. In addition, he admits respecting the American position of agreement with the vision of 'One China', however he condones the use of strength on China's side to take the island. This proximity between the USA and Taiwan lead to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Relation, Wang Yi, to alert other nations to not intervene in the claim of China over the island, because it would lead to severe consequences.












It is important to reiterate that the increasing tensions in the Taiwan Strait region represent serious hazardous for Taiwan in case the conflict escalates to a physical one. Although, this statement is being made by considering the hypothesis of Taiwan not



receiving foreign aid in case of a military engagement occurs. The relations of military forces between China and Taiwan can be represented in this graphic:

Figure 3 – Military comparison between China and Taiwan

How Chinese and Taiwanese forces compare

	 China	 Taiwan
Total active forces	2,035,000	169,000
Ground forces 	965,000	94,000
Navy 	260,000	40,000
Air force 	395,000	35,000
Reserves 	510,000	1,657,000
Tanks 	4,800	750
Aircraft 	3,438+	531+
Submarines 	59	4
Naval ships* 	92	26
Artillery 	9,752+	2,093

*Only includes ships classified as principal surface combatants, such as aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates

Source: The Military Balance 2023, IISS



Source: BBC. China and Taiwan: A really simple guide, 2024. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-59900139>. Accessed on: 28 mar. 2024.

7. DELEGATIONS

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

North Korea's approach to the tensions of the Taiwan Strait is prominent of approximation with Beijing, also indicating their shared goal of deepening economic and political cooperation to counter the influence of the U.S.-led global network. North Korea’s dependency on China for foreign trade hit its highest level in 2022 and their trade partnership is anticipated to expand even stronger this year. Moreover, China has consistently maintained its position of obstructing any substantial UN actions regarding North Korea’s military activities.

Recent commitments by Pyongyang to China demonstrate its effort to elevate its ties with China to a new and higher level. Kim Jong Un has appointed Choe Ryong-hae, the first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People’s Assembly, as the DPRK Ambassador to China. In



June, North Korea held a ceremony to mark the completion of a remodeling project for the China-DPRK Friendship Tower in Pyongyang. The tower was initially built in 1959 to commemorate the ‘martyrs’ of the Chinese People’s Volunteers who sacrificed their lives during the Korean War. As the U.S. deepens its military cooperation with allies and partners in Asia to counter Beijing and Pyongyang, there is also a possibility that North Korea may agree to increase its military cooperation, such as engaging in joint exercises with China.

Federative Republic of Brazil

According to the joint communiqué between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the People’s Republic of China on the deepening of their global strategic partnership, happened in Beijing – 14/04/2023. The Brazilian approach towards the Taiwan Strait, reiterated its firm support to the One China Principle, the government of the People’s Republic of China being the sole legitimate government of the whole China, and Taiwan being an inseparable part of the Chinese territory.

Still reaffirming the principle of territorial integrity of states, Brazil supported the peaceful development of relations between both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The Chinese side expressed great appreciation of it.

Although, when observing through the economical side, Brazil is enhancing the bilateral relationship with Taiwan, by creating more business opportunities for the private sectors of both sides, the Bureau of Foreign Trade and the Taipei Computer Association co-hosted the ‘Taiwan-Brazil Smart Industry Supply Chain Seminar’ on 29/03/2023 in Taipei.

When it comes to the Security Council, Brazil is a rotating member.

French Republic

French President Emmanuel Macron said that France supports the preservation of the status quo in Taiwan and follows the “one China” policy. As it can be understood from Macron’s interrelated statements, France sees Taiwan as China’s internal issue and does not want to be part of possible tension between the U.S. and China. In other words, France does not intend to act together with the U.S. against China on the Taiwan issue, contrary to Washington’s expectations. France’s priority here is based on the goal of getting rid of foreign policy decisions that serve only American hegemony and acting in



the most appropriate way in accordance with the national interests in line with the doctrine of strategic autonomy.

There are three important reasons behind France's policy of neutrality on the Taiwan issue. Firstly, France has always been disturbed by U.S. attempts to shape European politics and dominate Europe since the time of President Charles de Gaulle. Both de Gaulle and many French presidents who came to power after him have openly expressed this discomfort. In this respect, France has always kept its relations with the U.S. at a distance and tried to act independently in accordance with its own interests on global issues, unlike the United Kingdom, which it perceives as Washington's arm in Europe. The best example of this may be the instance of de Gaulle's recognition of the communist regime in China with a surprise decision in 1964 as a reaction to pressures from the U.S. Accordingly, Macron's defiance of Pax Americana on the Taiwan issue on his way back from China should not be seen as a situation unique to him and today.

When it comes to the Security Council, France has been a permanent member since its creation in 1946 and it has the power to veto resolutions.

Gabonese Republic

In the year of 2022, Gabon firmly adhered to the one-China principle, reaffirmed by the Gabonese president, who stressed that there is, one China and Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China.

China and Gabon share a traditional friendship and growing mutual trust and China-Gabonese cooperation has brought advances in various fields. Besides that, the two sides maintain close coordination in regional and international affairs, and China is willing to work together with Gabon to lift their comprehensive cooperative partnership to a new level.

President Xi Jinping held talks with the Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba, who was on a state visit to China, on April 19 of 2023. The two heads of state reached extensive and important consensus and decided to upgrade the China-Gabon comprehensive cooperative partnership to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

China and Gabon enjoy a rock-solid friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have consistently and steadfastly supported each



other in preserving common interests of the two countries and international fairness and justice. The mil-to-mil cooperation is an important part of bilateral ties. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, the relationship between Chinese and Gabonese militaries has seen substantial progress. The cooperation between the two sides in personnel training, equipment and technology, medical service, and other areas has yielded remarkable results. The Chinese military stands ready to work with the Gabonese side to earnestly fulfill the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, intensify high-level exchanges, and actively carry out all-round pragmatic cooperation, so as to uplift both the level and quality of mil-to-mil relations and make positive contributions to international and regional peace and stability.

When it comes to the Security Council, Gabon is a rotating member.

Japan

In 2021, Japan's deputy defense minister, Yasuhide Nakayama, made allegations that if Taiwan was attacked, Japan would be militarily involved in defending the island, with the words 'We have to protect Taiwan, as a democratic country'.

Although the Japanese Constitution rejects using force to resolve international disputes, after the reforms of 2015, Japanese law allows the military to use force when an attack on a foreign country threatens Japan's survival. This law would let Japan deploy its forces to provide logical support to foreign militaries ensuring Japan's security.

However, nowadays, Japan's position is much more ambiguous in case of a Chinese attack into Taiwan; but still, Japan's policies carry immense significance for both Taiwan and the United States. The U.S. government maintains a "robust unofficial relationship" with Taipei and under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act considers "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern.". In recent months, U.S. officials and scholars alike have voiced growing concern that Beijing may use its military to force unification with democratic Taiwan.

Though Japan's officially ambiguous position on Taiwan's status resembles the U.S. approach, Tokyo has traditionally been far more reluctant than Washington to openly criticize Beijing has attempted coercion of Taipei. The Japanese government has prioritized emphasizing its "hope" for the two sides to resolve the issues between them peacefully.



The growing worries about a potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait, in Japan, will also have implications for the territorial dispute between China and Japan in the East China Sea. The PRC views the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands as a part of “Taiwan province” and may seek to take the islands during a conflict. If the PLA Navy were to occupy Taiwan, the Council on Foreign Relations’ David Sacks argues that Japan would struggle to defend its westernmost islands, as well as the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, and even Okinawa.

During its August 2022 military exercise aimed at Taiwan, China launched ballistic missiles over Taiwan that landed in Japan’s exclusive economic zone, to warn Japan not to get involved during a Taiwan conflict. The late Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo stated that Japan and the United States could not stand by if China invaded Taiwan. Current Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio has pledged to double Japan’s defense spending in response to the tense security climate. Taiwan’s and Japan’s islands form a crucial link in the so-called first island chain; if China were to take these islands, it would constrain U.S. naval movements and its ability to contain China in potential future conflicts.

Today, while various U.S. officials regularly criticize China’s “aggressive actions” toward Taiwan, in official settings, Japan’s top government leaders generally avoid publicly blaming Beijing for the post-2016 deterioration of cross-strait relations.

Japan also eschews military cooperation with Taiwan. In addition, whereas Washington sells Taipei defensive arms to bolster deterrence, Japan does not. Furthermore, Japan also has no domestic law like the U.S. Taiwan Relations Act, which commits the U.S. government to provide various support for Taiwan.

When it comes to the Security Council, Japan is a rotating member.

People’s Republic of China

As it says, Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, Deputy Director General of the Information Office of the Ministry of National Defense in a regular press conference of the Ministry of National Defense on 27/04/2023:

‘We have noticed relevant reports and are seriously concerned about this. The Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair, which brooks no foreign interference. These American military-industrial complexes have always been zealous to peddle weapons and export conflicts and chaos around the world to reap staggering profits. The Democratic Progressive Party's act of inviting wolves into the house is rather contemptible, which would only bring untold disaster to the Taiwan compatriots.’



‘What needs to be emphasized is that no individual or force can shake our determination and will to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, nor can they hold back the historical and inevitable trend of China's reunification. We strongly urge the US to fully recognize the high sensitivity of the Taiwan question as well as the complexity and severity of the current situation across the Taiwan Strait, adhere to the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiqués, prudently and properly handle Taiwan-related issues, stop interfering in the Taiwan question, stop arms sales to the Taiwan region as well as its military contact with the island.’

The PLA troops always closely follow the situation across the Taiwan Strait, staying on high alert all the time, and will take necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely counter any form of "Taiwan independence" separatist activities as well as external interference, and firmly safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

When it comes to the Security Council, China has been a permanent member since 1971 and it has the power to veto resolutions.

Republic of Albania

In a sign that Taiwan is becoming Albania's diplomatic pawn, the founder of the Association of Friendship between Albania and Taiwan has called on members to avoid any "political functions" in the organization.

Neritan Ceka, the founder and honorary president of the Albania-Taiwan association, announced his resignation from his post, citing a shift in China's position toward Albania as the reason for his decision.

Beijing has "expressed the desire to become a serious economic partner with Albania," he said. Ceka, who is also a parliamentarian, called on other legislators and members of the association to withdraw their membership, saying the organization should be stripped of its political functions.

"This association can remain in the business of establishing trade relations with Taiwan, but free of any political stripes," he said. Albania, meanwhile, appears to be playing Taiwan against China in order to gain economic concessions from Beijing.

Albania's defense minister, Luan Hajdaraga, was in China when speculation about the cash-for-ties deal first broke in the news.



Meidani departed for China over the weekend, saying he hopes to increase economic cooperation between Albania and China through Beijing's assistance in the economic restructuring of his nation, Xinhua reported.

When it comes to the Security Council, Albania is a rotating member.

Republic of Belarus

Belarus' approach towards the Taiwan issue is of concern regarding the increase in tension provoked by the irresponsible persistence with which the United States has been organizing a visit of the U.S. House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to the island of Taiwan and it condemns the activities aimed at escalating tensions around Taiwan. Belarus has always followed the One-China principle, calling for a peaceful solution and strongly opposing foreign interference in China's internal affairs.

According to him, Minsk has been and will continue supporting Beijing on all sensitive issues, including "Xinjiang, the South China Sea, Hong Kong and Taiwan."

The Belarusian leader also noted:

'We highly appreciate close strategic cooperation with your country on the international stage. Our countries have always supported each other on key issues on the global agenda.'

The Republic of Belarus fully shares the concern of its strategic partner, the People's Republic of China, regarding Washington's destructive actions aimed at interfering in China's internal affairs and escalating the situation.

Belarus supports the peaceful development of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait based on the "one-China" principle and the consistent measures taken by China to reunify the country.

Belarus is convinced that the Chinese leadership and the Taiwan administration, despite provocations from outside, will be able to show restraint and political wisdom to divert the situation from a critically dangerous line, which may be followed by a large-scale escalation.

Republic of China

In a 2022 white paper, the PRC said the resolution of the Taiwan question is "indispensable for the realization of China's rejuvenation" and a "historic mission" of the Chinese Communist Party. The PRC has a stated preference for seeking reunification through peaceful means but reserves the right to use force to achieve its aims.



Military activities near Taiwan have grown significantly in recent years. China is developing the military capabilities of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)—the U.S. Department of Defense's 2021 Military Power Report highlighted China's prioritization of "joint long-range precision strikes across domains, increasingly sophisticated space, counterspace, and cyber capabilities, and accelerating the large-scale expansion of its nuclear forces."

Moreover, China has integrated emerging technology into its military strategy through an approach known as "smart" warfare. The Department of Defense's report notes China seeks to dominate technologies associated with the "Fourth Industrial Revolution," such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. The PRC increasingly sends aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone as a show of force, and in 2020, Taiwan reported a Chinese cyberattack on ten government agencies to steal information. As the military balance in the Taiwan Strait has deteriorated, competition between the United States and China has intensified, and the prospect of China using force against Taiwan has risen.

Republic of Ecuador

Ecuador, officially the Republic of Ecuador, is a country in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The country is a representative democratic republic. It is considered a developing country, and its economy is based on the exports of commodities, that being petroleum and agricultural products. Ecuador is a member of the United Nations and a member of many regional institutions such as the Latin American Economic System and the Latin American Integration Association.

Ecuador maintains economic and diplomatic relations with China. In the most recent events, Ecuador signed a free trade agreement, among the products covered by the agreement, agricultural and agro-industrial ones stand out. Besides that, the country does not recognize the sovereignty of Taiwan.

When it comes to the Security Council, Ecuador is a rotating member.

Republic of Ghana

Ghana is also integrated in international affairs. The country is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, African Union and a member of the Group of 24. Ghana has many natural resources and agriculture accounts for nearly one-quarter of



GDP and employs more than half of the workforce, mainly small landholders. Ghana started diplomatic relations with the Popular Republic of China in the 1960s. Since then, China has provided material support for Ghana's development; also, Ghana has a strong relationship with the USA based on the commitment to freedom and democratic values. The country does not maintain any kind of diplomatic relations with Taiwan and does not recognize it, although there are suspicions that Taiwan has been courting Ghana to establish diplomatic relations.

Ghana has experienced some diplomatic friction with China over the years and is reportedly seeking international aid in settling or restructuring Accra's debts to Beijing. Some recent reports suggest that there is public dissatisfaction among the Ghanaian public regarding China's economic activity in the region, and its exploitation of Ghana's natural resources.

In 2023, U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris visited Ghana, where she met with political leaders and pledged security and economic assistance to Ghana and Central Africa. Harris' trip is reportedly intended to balance U.S. power vis-a-vis China, as the two countries compete for economic and diplomatic influence across the mineral-rich continent.

When it comes to the Security Council, Ghana is a rotating member.

Republic of India

The issue of Taiwan, regarding India, presents itself in three factors that have begun to drive important changes in India's policy towards Taiwan. The first was the steady deterioration in India's relations with China, despite Modi's strong commitment to advancing bilateral relations with Beijing. The military crises on the China border during Modi's tenure – 2014, 2017 and 2020 – created the grounds for fresh thinking on China and related issues.

Modi successfully defused the 2014 crisis that occurred during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India. However, the 2017 and 2020 crises made it clear to New Delhi that it had a serious China challenge. The gravity of the Galwan confrontation in 2020, which saw the first deadly clashes between the Indian army and the People's Liberation Army in decades, was a clear tipping point in India's relations with China.

New Delhi took several steps after 2020 against Beijing, including restrictions on Chinese investments and the banning of digital applications. One of these steps was



to also raise the level of engagement cautiously with Taiwan. The results of that shift are slowly coming into view.

A second factor was the changing triangular dynamic between New Delhi, Washington and Beijing. The deterioration of India-China relations coincided with the growing tensions between Washington and Beijing. In 2018 (soon after the 2017 crisis in Doklam), Modi embraced the Indo-Pacific framework in the teeth of opposition from China.

India and the United States (US) moved rapidly towards the revival of the moribund Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) that brings together Australia, India, Japan and the US. India and the US also intensified their bilateral political, economic and military cooperation under the Joe Biden administration and elevated the Quad to the summit level.

Even as India warmed up to the US to balance China in the Indo-Pacific, New Delhi seemed hesitant to be drawn into the main flashpoint of the region – Taiwan. As China rattled the sabre against Taiwan and the US stepped up its support for Taipei, New Delhi seemed quite detached. There was widespread criticism and resignation in Washington that New Delhi will not contribute to securing Taiwan against China.

The definitive conclusion on India turning its back on Taiwan is being tested by recent Indian discourse in Taiwan. Sections of the Indian establishment have called for a new look at the Taiwan issue. There is also a growing awareness of the profound structural changes that could unfold in Asian geopolitics if Taiwan falls to China's aggression. There is also a realization that if Beijing triumphs over Taipei, its full military attention might turn to redeeming Beijing's historic territorial claims against New Delhi in the high Himalayas.

As a sign of new thinking, the Chief of Indian Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, has ordered a study of the implications of a military conflict in the Taiwan Strait. In an interesting development, August 2023 also saw three former chiefs of the Indian armed forces – General M M Naravane (Army), Admiral Karambir Singh (Navy), and Air Chief Marshall R K S Dhanua (Air Force) – travel to Taiwan to attend a forum on Indo-Pacific security. These steps suggest an intensifying internal debate on India's options in a conflict involving China, Taiwan and the US.

Finally, as India embarks on a more determined policy to promote manufacturing in India, Taiwan is emerging as an important partner. Meanwhile, Taiwan is trying to



reduce its economic exposure in China and explore new possibilities elsewhere. The Taiwanese company, Foxconn, is ramping up its manufacturing activity in India.

As Taiwanese manufacturing in India grows, New Delhi has acceded to a long-standing Taipei request to open a new mission in Mumbai. Until now, Taiwan had its main representation in New Delhi and another trade office in Chennai. Together, new trends in geopolitics and geoeconomics are laying the foundation for the long-overdue expansion of India's relations with Taiwan.

Republic of Korea

South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is a country located in East Asia. Its capital is the city of Seoul, and the country's territory borders North Korea. The state's economy is the fourth largest on the Asian continent.

After the end of the Second World War, People's Republic of China began to follow Maoism, which is a current of communism that is based on the teachings of Mao Tse Tung. On the other hand, South Korea wanted to improve its relations with the United States during the Korean War. During this conflict, China aided the North Korean army, which weakened its diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, considers South Korea to be the legitimate representative of the Korean Peninsula and on January 4 of 1949, Taiwan opened its embassy in Seoul. In the year of 1992, the Republic of Korea reduced relations with Taiwan and expanded its diplomatic dialogue with China as part of its "Nordpolitik".

In the year of 2023, the president of the United States of America reunited with the leaders of Japan and South Korea "which sought to overcome generations of friction between the two Asians powers and forge a trilateral agreement against North Korea and China's growing influence".

Joe Biden (president of the United States of America), Fumio Kishida (Prime Minister of Japan) and Yoon Suk Yeol (president of South Korea) made a statement together:

"We strongly oppose any unilateral attempt to change the status quo in Indo-Pacific waters. [...] We reiterate the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait as an indispensable element of security and prosperity in the international community. There is no change in our basic positions on Taiwan and we ask for a peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues".



Republic of Malta

The Republic of Malta is an archipelago located in the central part of the Mediterranean, between Sicily and the north part of Africa. It is known historically as a local succession of governantes of the Roman Empire and the Mouros. It has a big number of fortresses, temples and Hal Saflieni hypogeum, an underground complex of corridors and funeral chambers dating from 4,000 BC.

Malta is a non-territorial sovereign unity, for years it claims and controls no territory, is not a state of itself, and does not consider itself as sovereign. Malta does not have full diplomatic relations with either Taiwan or Republic of China. Only having diplomatic relations, supporting Taiwan in the UN-affiliated World Health Assembly during the Pandemic of Covid.

In 2022, Malta and The Republic of China celebrated their 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations and ties. Malta was also able to build a breakwater and factories for glass, textile, etc. with Chinese assistance, which helped grow the economy and generate jobs. Back in those days, despite difficulties in long-distance travel and communication, over a thousand Chinese engineers and technicians set out on a journey for a foreign land thousands of miles away to help it thrive.

The bilateral relationship has moved steadily forward no matter how the international landscape changed and served as a shining example of relations between countries different in size, social system, history, and culture.

When it comes to the Security Council, Malta is a rotating member.

Republic of Mozambique

The Republic of Mozambique is a nation of South Africa. Known for its beaches that permeate the Indian Ocean. It is rich in natural resources, the economy is based on the agricultural sector, but the industrial sector is growing day by day, because of the fabrication of food, drinks and chemicals and petroleum products.

Mozambique is positive on China, Sino-Mozambican ties are “harmonious” and “based on equality and respect” to say that relations with China have given the country benefits and new opportunities that were never provided by western nations. But with the pandemic of Covid. The bilateral cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has deepened, stabilizing Mozambique’s economic situation, strengthening Mozambique’s economic resilience and boosting market confidence.



Since 2007, Mozambique has been opposed to the independence of Taiwan, since they had a big friendship with China, in economic ways. In the China Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you can see their whole contract.

The two sides pledged to support each other on matters concerning their sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Chinese side appreciated the Mozambique Government's support for China's noble cause of peaceful reunification. The Mozambique Government reiterated its commitment to the one China policy, its opposition to "Taiwan independence" in any form, including "de jure Taiwan independence", and its opposition to Taiwan's attempt to join any international or regional organization consisting only of sovereign states.

When it comes to the Security Council, Mozambique is a rotating member.

Republic of Paraguay

The Republic of Paraguay is based in South America, it is on the Human development Index, ranking on 105th place, is member of Mercosur, UNO and the Non-Aligned Movement. The political system is representative of a democratic republic.

The Paraguayan foreign policy is about maintaining relations in good terms with its South American neighbors, cooperating regionally, and having a long term relationship with international financial institutions, like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Paraguay is the only country in South America that conforms to the One-China policy and is one of the 13 countries in the world that recognized the ROC as the sole legitimate government of "China".

The new government of Paraguay remains loyal to Taiwan, says the article of EAST ASIA FORUM, the president said that he will return to the democracy of 1989 where Paraguay and Taiwan have had a bilateral relation since the signing of the Agreement for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relation, because it represents Taiwan last diplomatic link in South America.

Paraguay is the only country in South America that recognizes the independence of Taiwan as a country, which means it is an important geopolitical ally for Taiwan.

Republic of the Philippines

The Republic of the Philippines is an Archipelagic country in Asia, it consists of more than 7 thousand islands. Bordered by the China Sea and Philippine Sea, shares maritime borders with Taiwan, Japan, Palau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China.



Philippines international relations, member of ONU, has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council, participating in peacekeeping missions. It's member of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), East Asia Summit and Non-Aligned Movement.

In 1946 with Philippines independence, the country established diplomatic relations with the Nationalist Government of China and continued after it lost the mainland to the Chinese communist which declared the founding of the People Republic of China in 1949. Over the 34 years, China–Philippines relations in general have attained a smooth development, and remarkable achievements in all areas of bilateral cooperation.

Nowadays, The Philippines are suffering with the expansion of China into the South China Sea, which they have complained that such actions infringe on their sovereignty and violate maritime law. Because of that, the United States has been regularly sending its Navy destroyers on freedom of navigation operations close to contested islands, leading to fears that the South China Sea could become a flashpoint between the two superpowers.

Furthermore, in 2016, an international tribunal in The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines in a landmark maritime dispute, which concluded that China has no legal basis to claim historic rights to the bulk of the South China Sea. However, China has ignored the ruling: Manila says Beijing continues to send its maritime militia to Mischief Reef and Scarborough Shoal in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. Also, Jay Batongbacal, a maritime expert at the University of the Philippines commented:

‘These recent incidents in the past year shows that China has become increasingly aggressive and confident in its actions against smaller countries like the Philippines. They’re beginning to cross certain lines’.

The Philippine Coast Guard says it remains “committed to upholding international law, safeguarding the welfare of Filipino fisherfolk, and protecting the rights of the Philippines in its territorial waters.”. As a response, China’s Foreign Ministry has defended the behavior of its vessels in the waterway and said Beijing will “firmly safeguard” what it views as its territorial sovereignty.



Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a country in southern Asia, it was colonized by the United Kingdom, the independence was in 1948 and the new country was named Union of Burma. The political system is now a military regime.

Myanmar foreign relations is particularly combined with the Western Nations and was improved by reforms with 2010 elections after years of isolation diplomacy and military sanctions. The European Union has placed sanctions on Myanmar, including an arms embargo, cessation of trade preferences, and suspension of all aid except for humanitarian aid. In 2013 Myanmar went to their first World Economic forum on East Asia 2013.

Has an important relation with China because the country is the most important supplier of military aid and maintains extensive military cooperations, since 1989. In other words, if the conflict over the issue of Taiwan escalates, Myanmar will actively help China to conquer its territory. Of course, Myanmar has no official relations with Taiwan.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is a country that stretches over a vast expanse of eastern Europe and northern Asia. It is the world's largest country, and the capital is the city of Moscow. Currently, the president is Vladimir Putin, and the prime minister is Mikhail Mishustin.

After the Russian invasion in Ukraine, many countries stopped the cooperation with the country. However, China maintains diplomatic relations and wants to have cooperation against the common threat of the United States of America. One of the goals that the president Xi Jinping wants to achieve is the "One China" policy and because of this, Chinese and Russian forces have been active around Taiwan.

In the year of 2023, the Chinese president Xi Jinping had a diplomatic meeting with the Russian president Vladimir Putin. They made a joint statement in which it was said that Russia "recognize Taiwan as an inalienable part of China's territory". The statement also says that "the Russian Federation firmly supports the measures China takes to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity".

It is important to emphasize that in previous speeches Russia also opposed Taiwan's independence and stated support for the principle of "One China".



In the year of 2022, the Russian Federation made a list of hostile countries for having approved sanctions against the Kremlin after the invasion of Ukraine; and one of the countries included on the list was Taiwan.

When it comes to the Security Council, Russia has been a permanent member since 1991 and has the power to veto resolutions. During 1946-1989, the Soviet Union occupied its position.

Commonwealth of Australia

Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country that lies between the Pacific and Indian oceans, it is in the Oceania continent, and is the largest island in the world.

Australia's defense minister said that it was "inconceivable" that his nation would not support the US in a campaign to defend Taiwan from China, amid rising concerns about Beijing's increasingly assertive military activity.

In an interview with The Australian newspaper, Peter Dutton said that Chinese leaders had been "very clear about their intent to go into Taiwan" and that Canberra had to improve its ability to deter Beijing and be ready to join the US military if it acted.

Gerald Brown, an Asia security expert, welcomed Dutton's statement, saying one of the most important factors in deterring Chinese military action against Taiwan was "creating a multilateral front".

"Australia's willingness to assist in the event of an unprovoked attack against Taiwan substantially raises the costs for the [People's Republic of China] to engage in hostilities," Brown said. "A multilateral front of multiple states willing to step in, and support continues to raise these costs and is a prudent move towards deterring PRC aggression."

Swiss Confederation

Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a country located in central Europe. It is one of the most developed places in the world. The country has political neutrality, which ensured its stability.

Switzerland uses unofficial communication channels to maintain relations with Taiwan but does not officially recognize it as an independent State. In the year of 1950,



the Swiss Confederation recognized the People's Republic of China as a State. Nowadays, Switzerland supports the policy of "One China".

The Swiss Confederation has refused to sign a bilateral agreement to cooperate with Taiwan in the technological and scientific areas. China remains the best Asian economic and business partner of Switzerland. Therefore, "any political rapprochement with Taiwan will have to take this into account".

"So far, the Swiss federal government appears willing to sacrifice cooperation with Taiwan, including on the scientific front, in favor of maintaining preferential economic treatment. But this comes at the expense of Taiwanese dominated areas of research that are crucial to the high-tech industry, such as development of computer chips and semiconductors from which they are made."

When it comes to the Security Council, Switzerland is a rotating member.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is comprised for four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Island. It is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.

The United Kingdom does not recognize Taiwan as a state and does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with the island. However, the U.K. maintains commercial relations with Taiwan and has a diplomatic presence on the island called "British Office Taipei".

The U.K. government says the dispute between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China should be resolved through dialogue, in line with the views of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. [...] The U.K. does support Taiwan's participation in international organizations as an observer. (De Witte, 2022)

However, in august of 2023, the influential foreign affairs committee of The House of Communs has made a statement: "Taiwan is already an independent country, under the name of Republic of China. Taiwan possesses all the qualifications for statehood, including a permanent population, a defined territory, government, and the capacity to enter relations with other states." In response to the report Chinese Foreign Ministry said: "China urges the British parliament to adhere to the "One China" principle... and stop sending the wrong signals to pro-independence Taiwanese secessionist forces". The Taiwanese Foreign Minister said: "We are grateful for the British parliament's support for Taiwan's status and international participation."



On the same day that the report was published, the U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly was in China to strengthen channels of communication.

When it comes to the Security Council, the United Kingdom has been a permanent member since its creation in 1946 and has the power to veto resolutions.

United States of America

The U.S. approach is governed by its One-China policy. It is based on several documents, such as three U.S.-China communiqués reached in 1972, 1978, and 1982; the Taiwan Relations Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979; and the recently declassified “Six Assurances”, which President Ronald Reagan conveyed to Taiwan in 1982. These documents lay out that the United States:

- “Acknowledges the Chinese position that’s there is only one China and Taiwan is part of China” and that the PRC is the “sole legal government of China” (some U.S. officials have emphasized that the use of the word “acknowledge” implies that the United States doesn’t necessarily accept the Chinese position).
- Rejects any use of force to settle the dispute.
- Maintains cultural, commercial, and other ties with Taiwan, carried out through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).
- Commits to selling arms to Taiwan for self-defense.
- It will maintain the ability to come to Taiwan’s defense, while not actually committing to doing so—a policy known as strategic ambiguity.

The United States’ chief goal is to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and it has implored both Beijing and Taipei to maintain the status quo. Washington says it does not support Taiwanese independence.

Through its policy of strategic ambiguity, the United States has for decades attempted to maintain a delicate balance between supporting Taiwan and preventing a war with China. However, President Joe Biden has seemingly rejected the policy, stating several times that the United States would come to Taiwan’s defense if China attacked. White House officials have walked back his comments, saying the policy has not changed, but ultimately, the president gets to decide how to respond. Several members of Congress and some experts, including CFR President Richard Haass and Research Fellow David Sacks, have welcomed Biden’s statements, arguing that China’s increased aggression necessitates clarity.



When it comes to the Security Council, the United States has been a permanent member since its creation in 1946 and has the power to veto resolutions.

Ukraine

Ukraine is a country located in eastern Europe and its capital is the city of Kiev. The independence of Ukraine was proclaimed on August 24 of 1991 and it was recognized by other governments and international agreements were signed.

Ukraine recognized the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China in the year of 1949 and maintained diplomatic relations with the country. China has an embassy in Kiev which promotes "a bilateral mission and China's interest in Ukraine. The embassy also plays an important role in development, cultural affairs and contacts with the local press". And Ukraine also has an embassy in Beijing to promote the same objectives. Ukraine and Taiwan do not have official relations.

In January 2023, Audrey Tang, the Minister of Digital Affairs of Taiwan, said that the island is willing to help Ukraine update its digital infrastructure as part of post-war reconstruction of the country. "Taiwan has already provided humanitarian aid (to Ukraine) in terms of generators, equipment and so on, but we are also thinking about the digital layer," Tang said.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates along the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. The economy of the region is mainly based on the exploration and export of oil. The capital of the country is Abu Dhabi.

China and the United Arab Emirates have diplomatic relations and are important partners in both economic and strategic issues. "Amid tensions with the collective West led by the United States, Beijing prioritized its ties with the Arab world, especially with the United Arab Emirates, a country with which it has increased trade and even military exchanges".

The country does not recognize the sovereignty of Taiwan. "In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Arab Emirates affirmed its support for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and stressed the importance of "One China" principle".



When it comes to the Security Council, The United Arab Emirates is a rotating member.

8. QUESTIONS TO HELP WRITING THE POSITIONING OF DELEGATIONS

- 1- How does the debated topic impact your country?
- 2- What actions has your country implemented domestically and internationally to address this issue? Has your country aligned with others regarding this specific topic?
- 3- What are the guiding ideas behind the way your country deals with the issue?
- 4- What possible solutions will you advocate for during the simulation?

9. CONCLUSIONS

This study guide offers a comprehensive overview of the intricate geopolitical landscape surrounding Taiwan. Starting with the historical perspective, the aftermath of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 saw Taiwan governed independently from mainland China. China's unwavering commitment to the 'One China' principle and subsequent policies, notably the 2005 Anti-Secession Law, underscores its determination for eventual reunification, even if non-peaceful means are considered.

Recent developments bring to light escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait. China's military exercises, pressure tactics, and territorial claims in the South China Sea raise significant concerns for regional stability. The involvement of major international actors, particularly the United States and the European Union, adds complexity to the situation, with some countries already taking a firm stance in support of Taiwan.

The Taiwan issue is intricately linked to the broader dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, where China's rising political and economic influence is reshaping the balance of power. The stability of the region becomes even more intricate with the involvement of significant players like the United States, Japan, and Australia, potentially impacting the global order.

In summary, this study guide presents a nuanced narrative of the Taiwan issue, spanning its historical roots, evolving geopolitical dynamics, and potential



consequences for regional and global security. The delicacy of the situation, marked by historical grievances, territorial disputes, military posturing, and international alliances, emphasizes the need for diplomatic finesse to prevent the escalation of tensions into conflict.

As the delegates representing their countries in this conference of the United Nations Security Council, it is expected this issue to be dealt with by maintaining peace and being always polite. If you do not do so, there is the possibility of unintended consequences, including the escalation of border disputes in the region, which remains a pressing concern.

The team of the Security Council committee is pleased to welcome all the delegates attending the simulation. Therefore, we will see each other on the 23, 24 and 25 of may 2024 in this third edition of SimulaRI.



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