

# Solidarity in Advancing Sustainable Development for All





Forum: Security Council  
Issue: Safeguarding Peace and Security in the Region of Taiwan  
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***"No one wants war, but, my fellow countrymen, peace will not fall from the sky."*<sup>1</sup>**

- Tsai Ing-wen, president of Taiwan

## **I. Introduction**

Ever since the government of the People's Republic of China staged several military exercises in the period between the 4th of August and the 15th of August 2022 in the waters surrounding Taiwan as a response to House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island, the conflict between the two countries, which has been raging since 1947 has reached a new high. The situation continues to escalate, with China launching its latest military operations on the 9th of January of 2023.<sup>2</sup>

The Chinese government sees these as justified, as according to its policy, the ruling communist party sees Taiwan as part of its territory and thus the surrounding territory, whilst supporters of Taiwanese independence saw these as a violation of the country's territorial integrity, as despite not being a recognized state, Taiwan sees themselves as separate from the Chinese mainland, having a separate constitution and democratically elected government.

After the Chinese civil war ended with the victory of the communist party and the founding of the PRC, the nationalist government fled to Taiwan and continued to rule from there as the ROC, expecting to regain their power soon, representing the interests of China from exile. With the course of time however, the ROC's power faded and most countries did not believe in their ability to regain power over the mainland, resulting in the international recognition of the PRC as the legitimate representative of China.

Taiwan, originally part of the Chinese Empire and formerly under Japanese control, was ceded by Japan during the Chinese civil war after the Second World War, making it unclear which of the parties was now responsible for the island.

The issue over the ownership of the island remains unresolved.

The situation continues to escalate, for one due to a possible emboldenment of China following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and due to the elevated involvement of the U.S. government in the conflict, with the Biden administration's positioning themselves on the side of Taiwan and assuring support, both military and political, as demonstrated by an arms deal of almost 180 million dollars approved by the Biden administration on December 28th.<sup>3</sup>

As a response to the situation, Taiwan has extended the obligatory military service from 4 months to 12 months, effective from January 2024.

## **II. Definition of Key Terms**

<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.news24.com/amp/news24/world/news/peace-will-not-fall-from-the-sky-taiwan-president-tsai-ing-wen-extends-military-service-20221227>

<sup>2</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/09/asia/china-taiwan-combat-drills-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/28/politics/biden-arms-sale-taiwan/index.html>





### **a) *de facto* independence**

The adjective “*de facto*” originates in Latin, *facto* is a form of the Latin word *factum*, meaning fact, which means that the phrase in its entirety means “of fact” or “in effect”, as opposed to “in theory”.<sup>4</sup>

According to the official definition by the Oxford dictionary, it is used when something is “existing or holding a specified position in fact but not necessarily by legal right”.<sup>5</sup> When speaking of Taiwan's independence, we have to differentiate between *de jure* independence and *de facto* independence.

What Taiwan currently has is *de facto* independence, meaning that while it holds the necessary power over the country, it has never proclaimed itself as an independent state and is not regarded as an independent state by international law.

### **b) *de jure* independence**

The adjective “*de jure*” also has its origin in Latin, meaning “by right” or “of right”.

By official definition of the term, it refers to “having a right or existence as stated by law”<sup>6</sup> and is often used to describe a concept that only exists in theory, but is not translated into practice.

In the case of Taiwan however, it refers to the nation's lack of legal right to be regarded as a sovereign nation.

This is due to many reasons, but mostly due to the fact that if Taiwan were to proclaim its independence, it would risk an existential threat by its neighbor, the PRC.

If regarding the criteria for statehood, as determined by the 1933 Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, which are used as a standard for determining statehood according to international law, a country needs to, as of article 1 posses:

- a) a permanent population
- b) a defined territory
- c) a government
- d) the capacity to enter diplomatic relations with other states;

Taiwan has for one, a permanent population of around 24 million people, it's territory is clearly defined, as it is an island state, it has a democratically elected government that has the ability to pass and enforce laws and it has the ability to enter into diplomatic relations with other countries, even unofficially, as it does with countries such as the United States of America.<sup>7</sup>

### **c) Territorial Integrity**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/de-facto>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095706639;jsessionid=EF410B979993ED400D4C85F82BDC7780>

<sup>6</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/de/worterbuch/englisch/de-jure>

<sup>7</sup> <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/12/12/the-case-for-taiwans-de-jure-independence/>



The term territorial integrity refers to the right of sovereign nations to defend their borders and the territory that lies within them from other nations, which are aiming to change these borders.<sup>8</sup>

In a statement by the office of foreign affairs, the Chinese government has claimed, that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as part of her trip to the Asian continent is a violation of its territorial integrity, as it supposedly encourages "separatist forces"<sup>9</sup>, referring to movements seeking the *de jure* independence of Taiwan.

### III. General Overview

#### a) The One-China Policy

The term "One-China Policy" refers to the policy of countries, including the United States, which recognize the People's Republic of China as the only legal government of China. The United States adopted the policy in 1979, after years of recognizing both the PRC and the Republic of China as legitimate representatives of Chinese interests. This was only eight years after the expulsion of Taiwan from the UN.

After the civil war between the Chinese communist party and the nationalist party resulted in the defeat of the then ruling nationalist party and its flight to the island of Taiwan, both governments proclaimed themselves as the sole legal representatives of all China, meaning including the mainland and all isles belonging to it. The government of the nationalist party, now located in Taiwan, still resumed their seat in the UN as the nation of China, despite having no authority over the mainland, where the majority of the Chinese population lived. The government of the ROC maintained that they would regain power over mainland China until the 70s, but by then most countries had no faith in the ability of the government to regain control over the mainland and thus decided to recognize the PRC as the legitimate representative of Chinese interests.<sup>10</sup>

Since the 1990s, the Taiwanese government has started to recognize mainland China as a separate entity ruled by the communist party, though the constitution of Taiwan still applies to both the mainland and the isle. The PRC however still holds on to the one-China principle, seeking a reunification with Taiwan and proclaiming its sovereignty over it.

As of today, only 13 mostly small countries recognize Taiwan's sovereignty, those being the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, the Holy See, Eswatini, Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.<sup>11</sup> The U.S. position is however, more complicated. Whilst the United States regard the PRC as the only representative of China,

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<sup>8</sup> <https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/686>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx\\_662805/202208/t20220802\\_10732293.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202208/t20220802_10732293.html)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2021/10/25/chinas-un-seat-50-years-on>

<sup>11</sup> <https://en.mofa.gov.tw/AlliesIndex.aspx?n=1294&sms=1007>



they don't recognize their claims to sovereignty over Taiwan, resulting in unofficial diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the ROC.<sup>12</sup>

### **b) Legal Status of the Taiwanese Government**

*De facto*, the Taiwanese State is an independent nation, such as the 193 countries belonging to the UN. It has close diplomatic relations to at least 13 countries, which recognize it as a sovereign nation. It is an important partner in trade as hub of key industries such as the microchip industry<sup>13</sup>, which countries such as the U.S., China and many European nations are heavily reliant on. The Taiwanese passport is internationally recognized and grants its holder visa-free access to over 150 countries but despite all that, Taiwan is not internationally recognized as a sovereign state. Taiwan has never declared its independence, so according to international law, it is not an independent country. But nonetheless, the Chinese claim to the isle is not legitimate according to international law for various reasons.

For one, the ownership over the territory is not entirely clear. In 1895, the Japanese government signed a treaty with the then-rulers of China, the members of the Qing dynasty, through which they gained ownership of the territory, making Taiwan a Japanese colony.<sup>14</sup> After their defeat in the course of WWII, Japan was forced to cede all their colonies, including Taiwan. This was outlined in the Cairo Declaration, which Japan never officially ratified. Japan only indirectly accepted this by signing The Japanese Instrument of Surrender, in which it assured its acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, which referred to the Cairo Agreement and reassured its validity. In the allied peace treaty with Japan, which didn't follow until 1951, Japan formally surrendered Taiwan, but did not specify to whom. In the Treaty of Taipei, in which Japan recognized the ROC as the sole representative of Chinese interests, it once again stated its surrender of Taiwan, but the issue over whether the ROC or the PRC had a claim over Taiwan remained and to this day remains unresolved.<sup>15</sup>

### **c) Military Exercises in the Taiwan Strait**

The Taiwan Strait has been relatively free of military conflicts even after the separation of the ROC from the PRC in 1949. The events of 1995 and 1996 changed the relative stability of the region drastically. In July 1995 the Chinese government announced they were test launching nuclear-capable ballistic missiles in the Taiwan Strait and two days later fired six missiles over a span of three days. August the same year guided missile and artillery firing exercises were held involving about 20 naval warships and about 40 aircraft.

A year later, following the announcement of the ROC's government to hold its first democratic presidential elections, China reacted by issuing warnings to steer clear of the Taiwan Strait because of test-firing missiles into commercial shipping and transportation

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-us-one-china-policy-and-why-does-it-matter>

<sup>13</sup> <https://time.com/6219318/tsmc-taiwan-the-center-of-the-world/>

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Taiwan](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Taiwan)

<sup>15</sup> <https://international.thenewslens.com/amparticle/128242>



lanes near two of Taiwan's most important ports creating a blockade. Additional live-fire naval and air exercises took place across the Fujian coast of Taiwan.<sup>16</sup>

Prior to 1995 Chinese Second Artillery and submarine-launched long-range missile tests had been conducted either inside China or in an unpopulated area in the Pacific, now in 1995 only 35 miles away from Taiwan.<sup>17</sup> The crisis calmed down because of the interference of the USA, after increasing their military presence in the Taiwan Strait. Although the crisis calmed down, the potential for new conflicts remained.

Noticeable in October 2021, China dispatched warplanes crossing Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) leading to Taiwan dispatching their own fighter jets to conduct interceptions.<sup>18</sup>

The visit of the U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August 2022 resulted in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the PRC announcing joint air and sea drills less than 20 kilometers from Taiwan and test launches of conventional missiles in the east part of the Taiwan Strait. Further intruding into Taiwan's sovereign territorial waters with additional live-fire exercises.<sup>19</sup> With the following visit of the American senator Ed Markey China set forth further military drills. Later that year, the Taiwan's Defense Ministry reported about 47 aircraft crossing the median line. At the beginning of 2023, China already dispatched 28 warplanes which were sent over the ADIZ and they issued plans to engage in new combat exercises around Taiwan.<sup>20</sup>

Since 1995 China has been demonstrating their military growth and power visibly with their military exercises taking place in the Taiwan Strait. Furthermore, Justin Bassi, executive director for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, describes the strategy of China to be calibrated to avoid escalation from the U.S., only provoking the ROC with aggressive measures such as but not limited to military exercises.<sup>21</sup>

#### **d) Reunification with Mainland China**

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<sup>16</sup> James R. Lilley and Chuck Downs; "Crisis in the Taiwan Strait"; edited by in cooperation with the American Enterprise Institute; National Defense University Press; ft. McNair; Washington, D.C.  
[https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/139755/1997-09\\_Crisis\\_Taiwan\\_Strait\\_11-Chap.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/139755/1997-09_Crisis_Taiwan_Strait_11-Chap.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/04/china-taiwan-tensions-how-worried-should-we-be-about-military-conflict>

<sup>18</sup>

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/what-do-taiwanese-think-of-chinas-record-setting-incursions-into-taiwans-adiz/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/following-chinas-military-drills-taiwan-settles-into-new-normal/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/09/asia/china-taiwan-combat-drills-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

<sup>21</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/04/china-taiwan-tensions-how-worried-should-we-be-about-military-conflict>



Since the separation in 1949, the PRC sees Taiwan as part of their territory consequently wanting to reunite with the island. During the 1980s and early 1990s China's attempts to achieve such unification were in the hands of Deng Xiaoping and Yang Shangkun. Under Deng, Beijing took a pragmatic and long-term approach in its dealing with Taiwan, concentrating more on economic and cultural exchanges rather than using force.<sup>22</sup> This strategy shifted and by 1995 military exercises were used to demonstrate their military power and resources as well as to intimidate the later found democracy.

A year later after Taiwan re-elected Chen Shui-bian as president in 2000, China passed a so-called Anti-Secession law, stating in article 8 China's right to use "non-peaceful means" against Taiwan if it tried to "secede" from China.<sup>23</sup>

President Xi, elected in 2012, reinforces China's wish to reunite with the island, insisting that "complete reunification must and will be realized". Further stating during an opening speech for the Communist party Congress in October 2022 that they "will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort, but [they] will never promise to renounce the use of force".<sup>24</sup>

Taiwan however rejected China's offer of the "one country, two systems" option, which would allow Taiwan significant autonomy if it agrees to come under Beijing's control.

The idea of "independence" cemented itself within Taiwan with the election of Chen as president in 2000, because his party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), openly supported and backed Taiwan's independence.

In 2012, Sunflower Movement protesters occupied Taiwan's parliament, protesting against what they called China's growing influence over Taiwan resembling the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement (CSSTA) created the same year. The CSSTA would open selected service-sector markets in Taiwan to Chinese investment, and vice versa. It aims to formalize existing business practices and lift trade restrictions between Taiwan and China. Though its benefits for Taiwan, the CSSTA holds flaws. In particular, it fosters asymmetric competition and does not address potentially marginalized groups. Another flaw would concern Taiwanese workers. The CSSTA could potentially affect roughly 2.85 million people's lives. With the average annual real salary in 2013 shrinking back to the level of 1997, at around US\$ 14,400 dollars, "lower-skilled" workers in less competitive industries were already at risk. Another badly affected demographic are younger workers, as many were experiencing a lack of job mobility and stagnation in entry-level wages which ran approximately 38 percent below norm. While trade liberalization enables structural reforms and would open broader market openings, the Taiwanese workers would face more hardship than their Chinese counterparts. The Sunflower Movement demonstrations led to the prevention of the trade agreements passage because of the protestors disapproval of the flaws within the CSSTA only badly affecting Taiwan, further establishing the idea of independence from China within Taiwan.<sup>25</sup> In October 2022, the current president Tsai Ing-wen warned Beijing that Taiwan

<sup>22</sup> James R. Lilley and Chuck Downs; "Crisis in the Taiwan Strait"; in cooperation with the American Enterprise Institute; National Defense University Press; ft. McNair; Washington, D.C.  
[https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/139755/1997-09\\_Crisis\\_Taiwan\\_Strait\\_11-Chap.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/139755/1997-09_Crisis_Taiwan_Strait_11-Chap.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34729538>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-63296105>

<sup>25</sup>

[https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/content\\_3.php#:~:text=The%20ROC%20government%20relocated%20to,rule%20of%20a%20different%20government.](https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/content_3.php#:~:text=The%20ROC%20government%20relocated%20to,rule%20of%20a%20different%20government.)





would not give up its democracy or sovereignty. In addition, stating that: "Only by respecting the commitment of the Taiwanese people to our sovereignty, democracy and freedom can there be a foundation for resuming constructive interaction across the Taiwan strait."<sup>26</sup>

#### **IV. Major Parties Involved**

##### **a) Taiwan (ROC)**

According to the Taiwanese Constitution, Taiwan and the Mainland are to be regarded as one country, both under the ROC's control.

Since the 1990s however, a general consensus was reached in Taiwanese politics to regard the PRC as a legitimate representative of the mainland and the Taiwanese government retracted its stance on regaining control of the mainland, focusing rather on remaining in control over the isle.

The country has never explicitly stated its independence and for long, the population of Taiwan seemed to be against it, many still feeling connected to the mainland. Despite that, a similarly small part of the population desires to be unified with the PRC controlled mainland, as recent polls indicate only 5.2 percent of the population are wishing for a unification at a later date and 1.3 percent are wishing for immediate unification. In contrast to that, 25.2 percent wished for independence at a later date and 5.1 percent wished for immediate independence.<sup>27</sup>

Since the 2016 election of president Tsai Ing-wen, the relationship with China has deteriorated, as she opts to increase dialogue with the United States and attacks China's handling of the democratic protests in Hong Kong, marking a stark contrast to the policy of her predecessor Ma Ying-jeo, under which cross-strait relationships remained friendly.<sup>28</sup>

Due to the Covid pandemic, student- and personnel exchanges, which are of substantial importance for cross-strait relations, were suspended and are yet to be relaunched.<sup>29</sup>

Nonetheless, Taiwan and China are still connected by strong economic ties, with Taiwan being one of the biggest investors into the Chinese economy, with the total of cross-strait trade reaching over 166 billion U.S. dollars in 2020 alone.<sup>30</sup>

##### **b) China (PRC)**

Officially titled the People's Republic of China, China is the country with the highest population on Earth. In addition to that, It is the second largest economy, a nuclear power

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/10/taiwan-president-calls-for-unity-to-tackle-chinese-disinformation-ahead-of-elections>

<sup>27</sup>

<https://www.newsweek.com/taiwan-china-politics-identity-independence-unification-public-opinion-polling-1724546?amp=1>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/background/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>

<sup>29</sup>

<https://amp.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3137231/timeline-cross-strait-relations-under-taiwan-president-tsai>

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/content\\_6.php](https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/content_6.php)



and the holder of a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council and it is a communist country.

After the Chinese civil war, the country became a communist state under the leadership of Mao Zedong.

The CPC, the communist party of China is the founding party of modern China and has been able to retain monopoly over political power since 1949.<sup>31</sup>

In theory, the population is able to participate in their government in the form of elections, as each level of government has an elected official with authority to make decisions.

In practice however, most of the power lies in the hands of the CPC. According to the Chinese constitution, the CPC is “the leadership core for the cause of socialism”<sup>32</sup>, so once a policy decision is made by the CPC, it overrides any decisions made by the formal government.<sup>33</sup>

Freedom of speech in China is limited, with Chinese media ranking 173rd (from 178 countries) in terms of press freedom in 2013. Media is mainly state owned or state controlled. Even the access to the internet is restricted, with over 30.000 officers overseeing internet content and many websites with content going against party policies being blocked by a firewall.<sup>34</sup>

The influence of the CPC is not limited to the political sector but also reaches into the judicial system. Charges of corruption or fraud are often brought against individuals and officials who do not adhere to party policy or even go as far as criticizing it. Those individuals are deprived of fair trials in the form of being denied representation by lawyers.<sup>35</sup>

The Chinese government has repeatedly stated that Taiwan is part of the People’s Republic of China and is thus under their jurisdiction. President Xi Jinping has expressed the PRC’s wish to be “reunited” with Taiwan and said that they will strive to do so in a peaceful manner, at the same time vowing to “never promise to give up the use of force and reserve the option to take all necessary measures”<sup>36</sup> in a speech at an opening of a major meeting of the communist Party.

China views all interventions of the U.S. into the conflict as a violation of their sovereignty, according to foreign minister Wang Yi.<sup>37</sup>

### c) USA

Despite Taiwan being of crucial importance to the U.S. due to its vital role as a microchip supplier, the USA continues to adhere to its “One China Policy” established in 1979, meaning that they recognize the PRC as the sole representative of Chinese interests.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zptxxnb/revision/2>

<sup>32</sup> [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/27/content\\_10195159.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/27/content_10195159.htm)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zbhnrj6/revision/4>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zptxxnb/revision/3>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zptxxnb/revision/4>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/xi-china-will-never-renounce-right-use-force-over-taiwan-2022-10-16/>

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx\\_662805/202208/t20220806\\_10736474.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202208/t20220806_10736474.html)



Nonetheless, they do not recognize China's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan, opting to merely "acknowledge" it.

At the attempt of the Chinese government to change the wording from „acknowledge“ to „recognize“ in the mandarin translation, thus changing the meaning, the U.S. resisted. After derecognizing the ROC as the legitimate representatives of Taiwan, the U.S. passed the Taiwan Relations Act, short TRA, in order to ensure the safety of Taiwan despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties. It requires that the president inform congress immediately of any possible threats to Taiwan in order for congress and administration to launch joint action. It also authorizes the continuation of economic, cultural and commercial ties between the U.S. and Taiwan and assures military support from the U.S. in the case of military action by China.

Under the Reagan Administration, the U.S. also delivered six assurances to Taiwan regarding the situation in the strait, which are the following:

- **The U.S. will not:**
  - agree to set a date for ending arms sales to the Republic of China
  - agree to hold prior consultations with the PRC regarding arms sales to the Republic of China;
  - play a mediation role between the PRC and the Republic of China;
  - revise the Taiwan Relations Act;
  - alter its position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan;
  - exert pressure on the Republic of China to enter into negotiations with the PRC.<sup>38</sup>

The U.S., under the Biden administration, continues to sell arms to Taiwan, with a 180 billion dollar arms deal being approved in December of the past year.<sup>39</sup>

## V. Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description
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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-us-one-china-policy-and-why-does-it-matter>

<sup>39</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/28/politics/biden-arms-sale-taiwan/index.html>



<b>1895</b>	Following defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895), the Qing government signs the Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which it cedes sovereignty over Taiwan to Japan, which rules the island until 1945.
<b>1911-1912</b>	Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing Empire and establish the ROC.
<b>1945</b>	The ROC, U.K. and U.S. jointly issue the Potsdam Declaration, calling for Japan's unconditional surrender and the carrying-out of the Cairo Declaration. After World War II, ROC government representatives accepted the surrender of Japanese forces in Taiwan.
<b>1948</b>	As full-scale civil war rages in China between the Kuomintang-led ROC government and CCP, the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are enacted, overriding the ROC Constitution and greatly expanding presidential powers.
<b>1949</b>	The ROC government relocates to Taiwan, followed by 1.2 million people from China. The People's Republic of China is being established in Beijing. Oct. 25 sees the Battle of Guningtou on Kinmen, in which the ROC armed forces defeat the CCP on the northwestern coast of the island.





<b>1952</b>	Following the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan signed by 48 Allied nations on behalf of the United Nations, the Treaty of Peace is signed between Japan and the ROC. Japan has renounced all right, title, and claim to Taiwan.
<b>1954</b>	The ROC-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty is signed in Washington.
<b>1971</b>	On Oct. 25, the United Nations General Assembly passes U.N. Resolution 2758 recognizing the PRC as the only legitimate representative of China to the global body. The ROC withdraws from the U.N.
<b>1995</b>	Chinese government announces test launching nuclear-capable ballistic missiles in the Taiwan Strait.
<b>1996</b>	The ROC holds its first-ever direct democratic presidential election. Chinese military exercises take place around Taiwan test-firing missiles into commercial shipping and transportation lanes. The USA increases their military presence in the Taiwan Strait.
<b>2001</b>	China passes the Anti-Secession law



<b>2009</b>	Taiwan attends the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in an activity of the U.N. since its withdrawal in 1971.
<b>2021</b>	China dispatches warplanes crossing Taiwan's ADIZ
<b>2022</b>	In Aug., U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and later senator Ed Markey visits Taiwan. China's response is military exercises around Taiwan.
<b>2023</b>	China launches its latest military operations on the 9th of January.

## VI. Relevant U.N. Documents

### Resolution 2758 (XXVI):

The resolution titled "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations", created and signed in the General Assembly during the 26th session in 1971, recognizes the PRC as the only legitimate representative of China to the global body.<sup>40</sup>

### UN Document A/53/145:

The UN document A/53/145 is a letter dated 8 July 1998 from the representatives of Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Gambia, Grenada, Liberia, Nicaragua, Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Swaziland and Solomon Islands and addressed to the Secretary-General asking to review the resolution 2758 (XXVI). The letter contains an explanatory memorandum dealing with the issues of the separation of PRC and ROC, the resolution 2758 (XXVI) and explains further how the ROC fulfills the qualifications of

<sup>40</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/192054>



becoming an UN member. A draft resolution is added at the end giving examples on how to approach this issue.<sup>41</sup>

## VII. Questions to Consider

When determining your country's position on the topic of the Taiwan conflict, regarding the following questions can be helpful:

- Does your member state recognize Taiwan's independence?
- Does your country entertain unofficial diplomatic ties with Taiwan?
- Is your country economically or politically dependent upon either Taiwan or China?
- Is your country facing similar threats to its sovereignty (for example Ukraine and Russia)?
- Would your country benefit from a two-state system?
- Would your country suffer in the case of China gaining control over Taiwan?
- Did your country sign UN resolution 2758 (XXVI)?

## VIII. Possible Solutions

### a) Two State Solution

There are many possible solutions to the Taiwan issue, one of them being the two state solution. There are two possible variations of this model:

- I. Two states with a *de facto* independent Taiwan
- II. Two states with a *de jure* independent Taiwan

The former would simply mean that the status quo remains, with the ROC continuing to rule over Taiwan as a sovereign government, without formally declaring its independence from Mainland China.

The second option would require a formal Declaration of Independence from Taiwan and would once and for all close the door to the idea of a unified China.

### b) One Nation Two Systems

As the PRC government first suggested to the Taiwanese government in 1981, after a reunification there would be the possibility that Taiwan become a special administrative region that despite formally belonging to the PRC, could continue to maintain a certain degree of autonomy and under circumstances its own military forces, according to Ye Jianying, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <https://www.un.org/ar/ga/53/a53145.htm>

<sup>42</sup>

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/ziliao\\_665539/3602\\_665543/3604\\_665547/200011/t20001117\\_697847.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/ziliao_665539/3602_665543/3604_665547/200011/t20001117_697847.html)



Taiwan has refused this offer, referring to China's violent suppression of the Hong Kong protests, despite promising its citizens freedom of expression and speech.<sup>43</sup>

### **c) One China under ROC leadership**

A highly unlikely, regarding China's strong geopolitical position and military, but possible outcome is a unified Chinese state under the control of the government of the ROC, which currently governs Taiwan. That would mean that both the mainland and the isle would be western-oriented, liberal democracies.

### **d) New Chinese-Taiwanese State**

Another option for resolving the issue is the establishment of a new joint state, under the jurisdiction of neither the ROC or the PRC, but of a new government composed of the both, with a new constitution, government and possibly political system.

## **IX. Conclusion**

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has published an article from the 22 November 2022 discussing China's will to reunite with Taiwan through force. This article titled "Reunification with Taiwan through force would be a pyrrhic victory for China" was written by Jude Blanchette, Freeman Chair in China Studies, and Gerald DiPippo, Senior Fellow in the Economics Program.

It is stated that Beijing might undertake a military campaign against the ROC, because of matters such as the long-standing territorial and national identity aspirations of China and the perceived threat to its security due to the U.S.-Taiwan defense cooperation motivating the PRC to reunite.

Blanchette and DiPippo predicate that if China attempts to achieve reunification through force, it would most likely not just fracture the global geopolitics and economics but also preclude any long-term "national rejuvenation" for China's economies. The CSIS further predicts that a conflict over Taiwan would devastate the global economy, but the cost would be especially high for China. Commercial shipping through the war zone and nearby ports would collapse and supply chains for many goods would seize up, leading to a great loss of China's economy.<sup>44</sup>

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