

Brief Lecture

On China, Taiwan, & the United States of America



July 10th, 2023 - TDP

A Brief History of China / Taiwan



- **1949:** Chinese Communist Revolution (People's Republic of China) exiles government (Republic of China) to Taiwan.
- Since then, the island has been governed independently of mainland China.
 - China views Taiwan as a renegade province that will eventually be reunified with the mainland (**One China Principle**)
 - **Taiwanese leaders** have differing views on their relationship with mainland China
- Taiwan is **not** a member of the **United Nations**, with only 13 countries maintaining official diplomatic ties with Taiwan (the US is not among them).



Last 30 Years



- **1992 Consensus:** Agreement between Chinese Communist Party (CCP) & the Kuomintang (KMT) party that was in charge of Taiwan at the time.
 - Very vague terminology that has very differing opinions on the consensus
 - **CCP:** "Two sides of the strait belong to one China that will work together for national reunification"
 - **MT:** "one China, different interpretations. This includes China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Tibet, & the South China Sea"
 - Never intended to address Taiwan's legal status
- **2016 - Tsai Ing-wen** inaugurated as Taiwanese president
 - Tsai is leader of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which has never endorsed the 1992 Consensus
 - Tsai has been a stark defender of the island's democracy and sovereignty



The U.S. & Taiwan



- **1979:** U.S. establishes formal diplomatic relations with the PRC, severing ties with the ROC
 - The U.S. has maintained a strong unofficial relationship with the island, frequently selling defense equipment to them
- Policy has been that the U.S.:
 - **acknowledges** the China position that Taiwan is part of China
 - **rejects** any use of **force** to settle the dispute
 - **maintains** cultural, commercial, and other **ties with Taiwan**, specifically through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)
 - commits to **selling arms** to Taiwan for self-defense
 - will maintain the ability to come to **Taiwan's defense**, while not actually committing to doing so (**Strategic Ambiguity**)
- Recently, **Biden** has stated multiple times that the U.S. would come to Taiwan's defense if China attacked. The White House has walked back these comments.



When you break the policy...

Webbo | @RealWWEJohnCena

Uh, I made a mistake.

The U.S. vs China - Super Power Challenge

	China, as % of U.S.	
	1980	2014
GDP (PPP)	10%	101%
GDP (US\$)	7%	60%
Exports (US\$)	6%	106%
Reserves (US\$)	17%	2,800%

- China has already passed the U.S. as the world leader in these 20 indicators:
 - Manufacturer
 - Exporter
 - Trading nation
 - Saver
 - Holder of U.S. debt
 - Foreign-direct-investment destination
 - Energy consumer
 - Oil importer
 - Carbon emitter
 - Steel producer
 - Auto market
 - Smartphone market
 - E-commerce market
 - Luxury-goods market
 - Internet user
 - Fastest supercomputer:
 - Holder of foreign reserves
 - Source of initial public offerings
 - Primary engine of global growth
 - Economy

Thucydides Trap

- Graham Allison led a team at the Belfer Center that studied what happens when a rising power challenges a ruling power.
- Thucydides: "It was the rise of Athens, and the fear that this inspired in Sparta, that made war inevitable."
- This does not make war between The U.S. & China inevitable, but it can offer a guide to avoiding war.
- Xi: "There is no such thing as the so-called Thucydides Trap in the world. But should major countries time and again make the mistakes of strategic miscalculation, they might create such traps for themselves."

Period	Ruling Power	Rising Power	Result
1. First half of 16th century	France	Hapsburgs	War
2. 16th-17th centuries	Hapsburgs	Ottoman Empire	War
3. 17th century	Hapsburgs	Sweden	War
4. 17th century	Dutch Republic	England	War
5. Late 17th-early 18th centuries	France	Great Britain	War
6. Late 18th-early 19th centuries	United Kingdom, France	Russia	War
7. Mid-19th century	France	Germany	War
8. 19th century	United Kingdom, France	Germany	War
9. Late 19th-early 20th centuries	Russia, China	Japan	War
10. Early 20th century	United Kingdom	United States	No war
11. Early 20th century	Russia, U.S., France	Germany	War
12. Mid-20th century	Soviet Union, U.S., France	Germany	War
13. Mid-20th century	United States	Japan	War
14. 1970s-1980s	Soviet Union	Japan	No war
15. 1940s-1980s	United States, France	Soviet Union	No war
16. 1990s-present	United Kingdom, France	Germany	No war

	China, as % of U.S.	
	1980	2014
GDP (PPP)	10%	101%
GDP (US\$)	7%	60%
Exports (US\$)	6%	106%
Reserves (US\$)	17%	2,800%

China's Recent Moves

- Public Statements**
 - 2019: Xi: The island "must be and will be" united with China. A warning that independence efforts could be met by armed force.
- Military Exercises**
 - Increased frequency & scale of patrols of PLA bombers, fighter jets, & surveillance aircraft over and around Taiwan. Increased presence of warships through the Taiwan Strait.
- Cyber-Attacks**
 - In 2020, Taiwan accused four Chinese groups of hacking into over 10 government agencies
- Interference in Elections**
 - Spreading disinformation that damages Tsai & boosts KMT's candidates, also erodes trust in Taiwan's political system

Source: Taiwan Ministry of National Defense - By The New York Times

Urgent Briefing

Into the Situation Room...



July 10th, 2023 - TDP

Changes This Year



- Last year I gave you a briefing
- This year, I'm giving you an updated version of the actual simulation we did in my grad class.
 - Don't worry, we'll go through it together.
 - For those of you that wanna go to the moon, you'll be able to dive into real rich resources.
 - For those of you looking to stay near the surface, there will be easier resources too.
- Let's read it now! Get it at www.radclass.us/nsc2.html & then click [The Game](#)

Let's Talk



- What are important details that impact the situation?
- What are we supposed to do?

Request from the President



Interest Profile Memo (from your agency's perspective) should include...

1. **National Interests** - Which national interests are most relevant to the situation?
2. **Capabilities** - What instruments of statecraft do we have available to us (both long & short term)?
3. **Vulnerabilities** - What areas of ours might be targets? What do we need to do to protect these vulnerabilities?

* Note: The memo should be 1/2 page. The briefing to your team should be 1-3 minutes.

Any Questions About the Briefing?



July 10th, 2023 - TDP



Let's meet in our DC groups

Domestic

- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Homeland Security Advisor
- Deputy Homeland Security Advisor (DHSA) for Resilience & Response

Diplomacy

- Secretary of State
- Ambassador to the U.N.
- Secretary of Commerce
- Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA) for International Economics

Defense

- Secretary of Defense
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Director for Strategic Capabilities
- IndoPac Commander

Cyber

- National Cyber Director
- Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA) for Cybersecurity & Emerging Tech
- Director for Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency
- Director for International Cyber Policy

Communication

- National Security Advisor
- Senior Director for China
- Coordinator for Strategic Communications

DC Groups



- Start to understand your perspective (maybe split up research?)
- Share info with each other.
- Start crafting your Interest Profile Memo.
- Figure out what needs to be done tonight / tomorrow (you'll have about 30 minutes of time tomorrow to work on your memo)