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## **SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS: THE ROLE OF TAIWAN AS MAIN CROSS-ROADS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN ASIA**

**Key words:** China, the USA, Taiwan, international relations.

Taiwan and the Taiwan Strait have been the places where Sino-American relations faced the heaviest collisions because of the status of the island and its importance in the region of Southeast Asia. First of all, because of the strategic location and amount of transportation routes that pass by Taiwan and Taiwan Strait.

The growth of the Chinese economy, international ambitions, international influence, and increasing self-evaluation as a result of the above-mentioned factors allowed China to reevaluate its own place in the whole existing world order [8].

At the same time, the world also changed its view of China. The idea of Chinese revisionism started to become more and more popular, especially among Western politicians and scientists. Such projects as the “Belt and Road Initiative” or “Global Security Initiative” proclaimed by the PRC

underline existing ambitions of becoming the alternative center of power that wants to reconsider the existing world order.

However, how does this idea connect with Taiwan and the United States?

First of all, it is important to say that international competition never stops or ends as long as international relations still to be anarchic.

Secondly, if this competition happens among the democratic actors, competition between international actors with absolutely contradictory ideological agendas, domestic political systems, and basically, the philosophy of life and view on the international system.

The article “Strategic Competition and US-China Relations: A Conceptual Analysis,” written by Stephanie Christine Winkler, looks for the sources of the “strategic competition” between the USA and China, which is considered a challenger and competitor of the existing world order and rule-maker of the world order [6].

On the opposite, China tries to declare an alternative to the Western system of values by using economic, political, and cooperation tools by promoting its own developmental programs. However, those tools are easy to bring the recipients to dependence on China, whatever it might declare.

PRC actively expands its area of influence in the Asia-Pacific. That can be easily seen in numerous potential conflict situations between China from one side and other countries of the region, such as the Philippines, Vietnam, or Japan, for disputed maritime zones [7]. As an example, the conflict for the disputed Spratly Islands in which China takes a particularly active position in improving its presence in the South China Sea as a part of the First Island Chain, which also incorporates Taiwan and smaller islands that are under the control of Taipei. Another concern, not only from the US but also in the Philippines and other interested actors of the region, was called the militarization of the Spratly Islands and the constant disputes that happened around them. Thus, this fact has only increased the importance of Taiwan in the scenario of possible China “breaking through the first island Chain”, [5] which would seriously influence and change the balance of power and security in the whole Asia-Pacific region and decrease the ability of the USA and allies to influence the situation in the region while the growing dominance of China as a global power [1].

The PRC has a particular opinion on the place of Taiwan and recognizes Taiwan as a “rebellion province” and a part of China. This statement is considered rock-solid and has been repeated by Chinese officials on a regular basis. Nevertheless, official Beijing has no de-facto control over Taiwan. Thus, the issue of cross-strait relations is considered by Beijing as an inner political issue that should not be interfered with by any other international actor. Thus, the issue of the relationship between Taipei and

Beijing has a deep ideological nature and is a matter of principle for the second one.

Beijing claims that reunification of Taiwan is inevitable as it is only a matter of time and does not exclude the use of force in case if it is needed. This can be proved by the extreme growth of a number of military drills of the PLA in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. On the other hand, Beijing also tries to use the means of soft power to encourage Taiwanese people to strengthen ties with Mainland China, particularly Fujian province, by implementing various programs. Together with the means of demonstration of power, it creates the image of the image of “carrot and stick” strategy.

Taiwan: an American perspective

Taiwan is an important unofficial ally of the United States of America in the Asia-Pacific region without any doubts for many reasons.

First of all, it is a strategic location of Taiwan in the above-mentioned First Line Chain. Saving at least the existing status quo around Taiwan allows the USA to control the growing naval capability of the PLA and the influence of China in the region in general. Secondly, the existing situation of the Chinese rise also calls for a lot of concerns among the camp American allies, first of all, Japan and South Korea.

In order to deter possible conflict, the USA tightened its military ties with the Philippines. For example, the authorities of the Philippines granted American military access to military bases in the country.[3] The United States is also improving ties with allies within the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) as a key instrument of deterring China from further expansion as a military and international power. The US also has been increasing military help and exchanges for Taiwan as a part of its strategic security policy.

Furthermore, research conducted by the Pew Research Center in the US claims that even the regular population of the USA sees China-Taiwan tensions as a real threat to the US. Particular concerns about possible conflict in the Taiwan Strait only grew after the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 [4].

On the other hand, keeping and continuing the policy of American “strategic ambiguity” becomes increasingly difficult because of the growing pressure from China. After the last meeting of the presidents of the People’s Republic of China and the United States of America, the press release of the White House claimed the following: “On Taiwan, President Biden emphasized that our one China policy has not changed and has been consistent across decades and administrations. He reiterated that the United States opposes any unilateral changes to the status quo from either side, that we expect cross-strait differences to be resolved by peaceful means, and that the world has an interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. He called

for restraint in the PRC's use of military activity in and around the Taiwan Strait" [2].

This citation directly tells that the situation, events, and relations across the Taiwan Strait are still the focus of the presidential administration of the United States and the Department of State. Moreover, Taiwan and the events around it are a deep focus of the foreign policy of the United States as a key place of possible conflict and danger for existing American allies that have national security concerns because of the growing influence of the People's Republic of China and other factors that might cause conflict in the region.

#### Conclusions

Taiwan is an important part of both parties' strategic policy, the PRC and the USA. The location of Taiwan as a part of the First Island Chain makes it an obvious geopolitical "borderland" that separates China from the explosive growth of its influence in Asia-Pacific. On the other hand, it is important to understand the symbolic meaning of Taiwan as a "beacon of democracy" or "rebellion democracy" and how it contradicts the official ideology of Beijing, even having official diplomatic relations with less than 15 countries. Thus, Taiwan is a key point in crossing interests and strategic policies in numerous directions of Beijing and Washington.

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## **ENHANCING CHINESE EDUCATION: A POLICY PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND INTERCULTURALISM**

**Key words:** China, international education, international relations, interculturalism, education program.

The growth of industries in China, such as manufacturing, advertising, media, publishing, and IT technologies, imposes new demands on graphic design professionals. In this context, the emphasis on product images and visual communication becomes increasingly important. This leads to the globalization of the graphic design profession, necessitating educational organization in this field based on intercultural principles. An analysis of the graphic design market indicates a rapid annual growth in China, highlighting the escalating demand for professionals in this sector [4].

This led to a demand for such professionals, which, in turn, spurred the need for the enhancement of design education. As noted by Pan Lu Shen and Wang Xiao Jie, the evolution of industrialization and socio-economic development in China posed a challenge for the advancement of design education and introduced diverse requirements for professionals in the design field [1; 2]. Researchers also note that in response to the industry's overarching call for preparing a new generation of market-oriented, re-