

## Understanding the Pretext of “Strategic Competition” between China and the United States over Taiwan: Is it an Objective Premise or a Misleading Construct?

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### Abstract

*The ongoing contestation between China and the United States over Taiwan has garnered significant attention in international relations, raising critical questions about the nature of their interaction and the underlying premises of this rivalry. This research article examines whether the widely used term "strategic competition" accurately captures the essence of the Sino-American relationship regarding Taiwan or if it is a potentially misleading construct. Through an objective analysis, this article explores counterarguments that challenge the Chinese claim of sovereignty over Taiwan while understanding the United States' plea of "strategic competition." The Chinese perspective centers on Taiwan as an integral part of its territory, driven by the One-China Policy, a stance acknowledged by most of the international community. China contends that its approach to Taiwan is a matter of sovereignty and an internal affair, and foreign involvement, particularly military support, constitutes interference. However, this article presents counterarguments that contest this perspective. First, it emphasizes the principle of Taiwanese self-determination, asserting that the people of Taiwan should have the right to determine their own future. This viewpoint negates China's assertion of sovereignty and underscores the United States' support for self-determination and democratic principles. Second, the article examines the role of democracy and human rights, highlighting Taiwan's flourishing democracy and respect for individual freedoms. In contrast, concerns are raised about China's authoritarian regime, justifying the U.S. position as a defender of democratic values. Third, the research delves into the deterrence factor and regional stability. It argues that U.S. involvement in the region, including its support for Taiwan, serves as a necessary deterrent against potential Chinese aggression, ultimately contributing to regional peace and stability. Lastly, the article discusses humanitarian concerns associated with Taiwan's potential reunification with China. It underscores the*

*importance of preserving the rights and freedoms of the Taiwanese people, arguing that a change in the status quo could lead to human rights violations and a rollback of democratic institutions, further justifying the United States' strategic competition. In conclusion, this research article critically examines the contestation of "strategic competition" in the context of Taiwan between China and the United States. By presenting arguments that challenge U.S. position while supporting the China's claim of sovereignty, it sheds light on the multifaceted nature of this complex international relationship. Ultimately, it calls into question whether the term "strategic competition" is indeed a false premise, urging a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the underlying dynamics at play in this contentious issue.*

**Key Words:** China, United States, Taiwan, Strategic Competition, Human Rights, Sovereignty, Democracy.

### 1. Introduction:

Strategic competition in International Relations refers to the dynamic and often complex interactions between countries as they pursue their national interests in the global arena. It involves the deliberate and calculated efforts of states to gain advantages over one another, whether through economic, military, diplomatic, or other means.<sup>1</sup> This competition can manifest in various forms, such as trade disputes, military buildups, alliance formations, and even information warfare. It is driven by the belief that international power and influence are finite resources, and one country's gain may come at the expense of another. Strategic competition is a fundamental aspect of the international system, shaping the behavior of states and influencing the course of global events as countries vie for relative advantage and security.<sup>2</sup>

The term "strategic competition" in this context needs to be seen through the lens of geopolitics between the United States and China. Both countries have significant interests in the Asia-Pacific region, and their differing views on Taiwan contribute to broader strategic competition between

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<sup>1</sup> Jianren Zhou, "Power transition and paradigm shift in diplomacy: Why China and the US march towards strategic competition?." The Chinese Journal of International Politics 12, no. 1 (2019): 1-34.

<sup>2</sup> Bates Gill and Yanzhong Huang, "Sources and limits of Chinese 'soft power'." In Survival, pp. 17-35. Routledge, 2023.

them. The United States sees its support for Taiwan as consistent with its interests in promoting democracy, regional stability, and a rules-based international order. On the other hand, China views any foreign involvement in Taiwan as interference in its internal affairs. Taiwan on the other hand is sandwiched between the two strategic giants as it captures the competitive and often adversarial nature of U.S.-China relations in the Asia-Pacific region, with Taiwan's status being one of the contentious issues within this broader competition.

## **2. United States Posturing over Taiwan:**

The question of Taiwan's status is a highly contentious and complex issue in international relations. While Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state with its own government, China regards Taiwan as a part of its territory and has not ruled out the use of force to reunify it with the mainland.<sup>3</sup> The United States, along with several other countries, maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan and provides support in various forms, including arms sales and diplomatic engagement.<sup>4</sup> Analyzing the United States' plea of "strategic competition" over Taiwan can be grounded in principles of self-determination, democracy, human rights, regional stability, and humanitarian concerns. These arguments counter China's claim of sovereignty by emphasizing the importance of respecting the will and rights of the people of Taiwan and preserving democratic values in the region.

### **i. Taiwanese Self-Determination:**

One of the central arguments of the U.S. stance is that Taiwan's status should ultimately be determined by the Taiwanese people themselves. The United States asserts that the people of

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<sup>3</sup> Joseph S. Nye, "The rise of China's soft power." In *Soft Power and Great-Power Competition: Shifting Sands in the Balance of Power Between the United States and China*, pp. 97-99. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Jude Blanchette and Ryan Hass, "The Taiwan Long Game: Why the Best Solution Is No Solution." *Foreign Aff.* 102 (2023): 102.

Taiwan have a right to decide their own future, which may include maintaining their current autonomy or pursuing independence.<sup>5</sup> This perspective negates China's claim of sovereignty over Taiwan, as it prioritizes the principle of self-determination.

This point of reference underscores the principle of Taiwanese self-determination, a foundational concept in international law and ethics. It asserts that the people of Taiwan should have the inherent right to determine their own political status and future without external coercion. This principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, is grounded in the belief that the destiny of a people should be in their own hands. By advocating for the right of the Taiwanese people to make choices about their political status, this viewpoint challenges China's assertion of sovereignty over Taiwan.

The perspective of Taiwanese self-determination aligns with the United States' support for self-determination and democratic principles worldwide. The United States has historically been a proponent of nations' rights to determine their own paths, respecting the will of their citizens. In this context, the U.S. position reflects a commitment to upholding this fundamental principle, which is enshrined in various international agreements and conventions. Thus, it's not merely a strategic competition; it's a matter of safeguarding the inherent rights and aspirations of the Taiwanese people, echoing the broader democratic values that the United States seeks to protect and promote globally.

## **ii. Democracy and Human Rights:**

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<sup>5</sup> Rowan Nicholson, "Self-determination and the use of force." In *The Routledge Handbook of Self-Determination and Secession*, pp. 74-87. Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2023.

The United States argues that it supports Taiwan due to shared democratic values and a commitment to human rights. Taiwan has developed into a vibrant democracy with a strong respect for individual freedoms and the rule of law. In contrast, China's authoritarian regime raises concerns about the protection of these values, further justifying the U.S. position as a defender of democratic principles in the region.<sup>6</sup>

This point of reference delves into the role of democracy and human rights as central factors in the Taiwan-China-U.S. dynamics. It highlights Taiwan's remarkable trajectory as a flourishing democracy, characterized by regular free and fair elections, a vibrant civil society, and robust protections for individual freedoms and human rights. Taiwan's democratic system, which includes a multiparty political landscape and a free press, stands in stark contrast to many authoritarian regimes around the world.

In contrast, concerns are raised about China's governance model, which is often characterized as an authoritarian regime. China's political system is characterized by a single-party rule, limited political pluralism, restricted freedom of expression, and a lack of transparent and democratic institutions. These differences in political systems contribute to the U.S. position, which is framed as a defender of democratic values.

The United States, as a proponent of democracy and human rights globally, justifies its stance by emphasizing the importance of preserving these values. It argues that supporting Taiwan, which has successfully embraced democratic governance, is consistent with its broader commitment to promoting democratic principles internationally. From this perspective, the U.S. position in the

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<sup>6</sup> Michael Beckley and Hal Brands, "China's Threat to Global Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 34, no. 1 (2023): 65-79.

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Taiwan-China dispute is not solely about strategic competition but also about upholding and protecting the democratic values it holds dear. This view contends that safeguarding democracy and human rights is not only a moral imperative but also contributes to regional and global stability by fostering open and accountable governance. Therefore, the contestation over Taiwan is not merely a geopolitical rivalry but a reflection of competing visions for the future of governance and individual freedoms in the Asia-Pacific region.

**iii. Deterrence and Regional Stability:**

The United States maintains that its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, including support for Taiwan, serves as a deterrent against any potential aggressive actions by China. This deterrence is seen as essential for regional stability and preventing any unilateral changes to the status quo. From this perspective, strategic competition is a means of ensuring peace and stability in the region.<sup>7</sup>

This point of reference explores the strategic dimension of the Taiwan issue by examining the role of deterrence and its impact on regional stability. It posits that the United States' involvement in the Asia-Pacific region, which includes its support for Taiwan, serves as a critical deterrent against potential aggressive actions by China.

Deterrence, in this context, refers to the use of military, diplomatic, and economic measures to dissuade a state from taking certain actions that could be detrimental to the security and stability of the region. The United States, through its commitments to Taiwan's defense and its military

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<sup>7</sup> Jingdong Yuan, "The United States and stability in the Taiwan Strait." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 79, no. 2 (2023): 80-86.

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presence in the region, seeks to deter China from pursuing a coercive or aggressive approach toward Taiwan.

The argument here is that this deterrence mechanism plays a crucial role in maintaining regional peace and stability. By signaling a strong commitment to the defense of Taiwan, the United States aims to discourage any unilateral actions by China that could disrupt the status quo and potentially lead to conflict. In essence, the U.S. presence in the region, including its support for Taiwan, acts as a stabilizing force, preventing any one party from attempting to alter the situation by force.

From this perspective, the contestation between China and the United States over Taiwan is not solely about competing interests or strategic advantage; it is about maintaining a delicate balance of power that contributes to regional peace. It argues that a lack of a credible deterrence could embolden aggressive actions and heighten tensions, which could have far-reaching consequences not only for Taiwan but for the entire Asia-Pacific region. It is significantly important to note that the U.S. position as a defender of regional stability through deterrence adds a dimension beyond mere strategic competition. It underscores the significance of the Taiwan issue in maintaining peace and security in the broader context of East Asian geopolitics

**iv. Humanitarian Concerns:**

The United States and its allies often express concerns about the potential consequences of Taiwan coming under Chinese control, citing the need to protect the rights and freedoms of the Taiwanese people. They argue that such a scenario could lead to a violation of human rights and a rollback of

democratic institutions on the island, necessitating their strategic competition to prevent such outcomes.<sup>8</sup>

This point of reference delves into the humanitarian dimension of the Taiwan issue, particularly focusing on the potential consequences of Taiwan's reunification with China. It underscores the paramount importance of preserving the rights and freedoms of the Taiwanese people, emphasizing that any significant alteration in the status quo could lead to human rights violations and a regression of democratic institutions. This perspective further justifies the United States' strategic competition with China over the issue of Taiwan.

The argument here is that a change in Taiwan's political status, particularly if it were to be forcibly integrated into China, could have severe repercussions on the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the Taiwanese population. Taiwan has developed a robust democratic system, respect for the rule of law, and protection of individual liberties. These democratic achievements are highly valued not only by the Taiwanese people but also by the international community.

In contrast, concerns arise about China's track record regarding human rights and its restrictions on political freedoms. The fear is that if Taiwan were to come under Chinese control, the democratic institutions that underpin Taiwan's political system could be eroded, and the rights of the Taiwanese people might be curtailed. This could involve limitations on freedom of speech, assembly, and the press, as well as a potential crackdown on political dissent.

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<sup>8</sup> Edward Halizak and Aleksandra Jarczewska, "The United States, the European Union, and China: A Global Triangle of Rivalry and Cooperation." *Issues & Studies* (2023): 2350007.

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Given these potential consequences, the United States argues that it has a moral imperative to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the Taiwanese people. It views its strategic competition as a means of preventing such adverse outcomes and preserving the democratic values that Taiwan represents in the region. From this perspective, the U.S. position goes beyond geopolitical interests and is rooted in a commitment to protect the well-being and fundamental rights of the people of Taiwan.

Moreover, the humanitarian concerns associated with Taiwan's potential reunification with China introduce a moral and ethical dimension to the Taiwan issue. They emphasize that the United States' strategic competition is not only about geopolitical competition but also about preventing potential human rights violations and defending democratic values in the face of a changing political landscape in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **3. Chinese Political Posturing Over Taiwan:**

Understanding China's claim of sovereignty over Taiwan and negating the notion of "strategic competition" between the United States and China can be based on the principles of respecting international consensus, non-interference, peaceful reunification, and considering the complex issue of Taiwanese self-determination.<sup>9</sup> These arguments highlight the Chinese perspective that the United States' actions in relation to Taiwan are not competitive but rather infringing on China's sovereignty. Significant aspects of China's political posturing over Taiwan are:

#### **i. One-China Policy:**

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<sup>9</sup> Suisheng Zhao, "Is Beijing's long game on Taiwan about to end? Peaceful unification, brinkmanship, and military takeover." *Journal of Contemporary China* 32, no. 143 (2023): 705-726.

China's stance on Taiwan is rooted in the One-China Policy, which is widely recognized by the international community, including the United Nations. According to this policy, there is only one China, and Taiwan is an integral part of that China. The United States, by maintaining unofficial relations with Taiwan and providing military support, is undermining this longstanding international consensus and interfering in China's domestic affairs rather than engaging in strategic competition.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the Chinese "One-China Policy" is a complex and contentious issue with implications in international law, the United Nations Charter, and China's defense policy. Here's an explanation of each aspect:

### **International Law**

**Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** The One-China Policy is based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which are fundamental principles of international law. China asserts that Taiwan is an integral part of its territory and that it has the sovereign right to govern the island. This claim is consistent with the principle of state sovereignty, a cornerstone of international law, which asserts that each recognized state has the right to control its territory without external interference.<sup>11</sup>

**Non-Recognition of Dual Regimes:** China's policy entails that it does not recognize the existence of two separate Chinese states, one on the mainland and one on Taiwan. It maintains that there is only one legitimate government representing China, which is the government of the People's

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<sup>10</sup> Anaswara Joy, "China, Taiwan and the One China Principle 7. China." *Indo-Asian Geopolitics: Contemporary Perspectives by DRaS* (2023): 61.

<sup>11</sup> Devprakash, Charvi, *Statehood of Taiwan- The One China Quandary* (March 19, 2023). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4392978> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4392978>

Republic of China (PRC). This non-recognition of dual regimes aligns with international law principles that discourage the recognition of competing governments for a single state.<sup>12</sup>

### **United Nations Charter**

- **UN Membership:** Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations. This is due to the One-China Policy, as China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has used its influence to prevent Taiwan from gaining UN membership or observer status. The UN Charter does not explicitly address the issue of Taiwan's membership, leaving it to the discretion of member states and the Security Council.<sup>13</sup>
- **General Assembly Resolutions:** Over the years, the UN General Assembly has passed resolutions (e.g., Resolution 2758) recognizing the PRC (Peoples Republic of China) as the legitimate representative of China and acknowledging that Taiwan is part of China. While these resolutions are not legally binding, they reflect the prevailing diplomatic consensus within the UN on the One-China Policy.<sup>14</sup>

### **Defense Policy**

- **Military Deterrence:** China's defense policy regarding Taiwan is closely tied to the One-China Policy. Beijing has consistently asserted its readiness to use force to prevent Taiwan

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<sup>12</sup> Pasha L. Hsieh, "Rethinking non-recognition: Taiwan's new pivot to ASEAN and the one-China policy." *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 33, no. 2 (2020): 204-228.

<sup>13</sup> Matthew A. Castle, "The politics of non-membership: How exclusion from international institutions shapes international relations." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (2023): 56.

<sup>14</sup> Charalampos Stamelos and Konstantinos Tsimaras, "The UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 of 1971 Recognizing the People's Republic of China as the Legitimate Representative of the State of China." In *China and Taiwan in Africa: The Struggle for Diplomatic Recognition and Hegemony*, pp. 101-119. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022.

from declaring formal independence. The Chinese government considers Taiwan's separation from the mainland as a red line that would justify military action. This approach is grounded in China's defense doctrine of safeguarding its territorial integrity.<sup>15</sup>

- **Modernization of the PLA:** China has invested significantly in the modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to enhance its capabilities for a potential reunification with Taiwan. This includes the development of advanced military technology, such as ballistic missiles and naval assets, aimed at achieving military superiority in the Taiwan Strait.

The Chinese One-China Policy is based on principles of international law, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity, and is reflected in China's defense policy, which emphasizes the use of force if necessary to prevent Taiwan's separation. While this policy has led to complex diplomatic and security challenges, it remains a central tenet of China's approach to the Taiwan issue in both domestic and international contexts.

## **ii. Internal Matter:**

China argues that Taiwan's status is an internal matter, and foreign interference, especially military support, violates the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states. From this perspective, the United States' actions in Taiwan are not strategic competition but rather an infringement on China's sovereignty. In other words, the Chinese plea of "internal matter" over Taiwan refers to China's assertion that the issue of Taiwan is an internal affair of the People's

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<sup>15</sup> Dongtao Qi, Suixin Zhang, and Shengqiao Lin, "Urban Chinese Support for Armed Unification with Taiwan: Social Status, National Pride, and Understanding of Taiwan." *Journal of Contemporary China* 32, no. 143 (2023): 727-744.

Republic of China (PRC).<sup>16</sup> This claim is a core component of China's policy regarding Taiwan and is rooted in its historical and political perspective.

The roots of this assertion can be traced back to the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949) when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by Mao Zedong, emerged victorious over the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or KMT), led by Chiang Kai-shek. The KMT retreated to Taiwan, where it continued to govern as the Republic of China (ROC). The CCP established the PRC on the mainland. Another facet already explained in the above paragraphs is about the One-China Principle, which is at the heart of China's "internal matter" plea. China contends that there is only one China in the world, and both the mainland and Taiwan are part of that single China. According to this principle, the PRC is the sole legitimate government of China. China argues that any separate entity or government representing Taiwan would be inconsistent with the One-China Principle.

China also invokes the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which are fundamental in international law. It maintains that Taiwan is an integral part of Chinese territory and that its government exercises jurisdiction over the island. China views any external interference or recognition of Taiwan as a separate sovereign state as a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In addition to that China also reiterates that it does not recognize the existence of two separate Chinese states, one on the mainland and one on Taiwan. This position is in line with international norms that discourage the recognition of competing governments for a single state. China

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<sup>16</sup> Michael J. West, and Aurelio Insisa, "Reunifying Taiwan with China through Cross-Strait Lawfare." *The China Quarterly* (2023): 1-16.

considers any diplomatic relations between foreign countries and Taiwan as an affront to its sovereignty.

China's "internal matter" plea is also reflected in its diplomatic efforts to prevent Taiwan from gaining international recognition and membership in international organizations, including the United Nations. China has used its diplomatic clout to pressure countries and organizations to adhere to the One-China Principle and not engage in official relations with Taiwan. This makes China's plea of "internal matter" over Taiwan, a central component of its policy regarding the island. It is based on the One-China Principle, asserting that Taiwan is an integral part of Chinese territory, and any efforts to treat Taiwan as a separate sovereign entity are considered a breach of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This stance shapes China's domestic policies, international diplomacy, and military posture concerning Taiwan.

### **iii. Peaceful Reunification**

China has consistently expressed its commitment to achieving reunification with Taiwan through peaceful means. While the United States frames its actions as part of a strategic competition, China emphasizes its preference for peaceful dialogue and negotiations to resolve the Taiwan issue. China's goal is not to engage in competition but to peacefully integrate Taiwan into the mainland. The Chinese "peaceful reunification" policy, often referred to as the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, is a strategy and vision put forth by the People's Republic of China (PRC) for the eventual reunification of Taiwan with the mainland. It aims to peacefully resolve the Taiwan issue while preserving a degree of autonomy for Taiwan.

The idea of peaceful reunification emerged in the 1980s when China began to pursue a more conciliatory approach toward Taiwan. It was a response to the improving relations between Taiwan and the United States and the realization that a military solution was not a preferred option. The core principle of this policy is the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. Under this model, Taiwan would be reunified with the mainland but would retain a high degree of autonomy, including its existing political, economic, and legal systems. This model was first applied when Hong Kong was handed over from British rule to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. China's policy emphasizes the importance of peaceful dialogue and negotiations as the means to achieve reunification. It calls for the Taiwanese authorities to engage in discussions with the PRC government to determine the terms and conditions of reunification, with the understanding that these negotiations would respect the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.<sup>17</sup>

A key component of the policy is the pledge not to use force against Taiwan as long as Taiwan does not declare formal independence. China asserts that it reserves the right to use force only if Taiwan moves toward formal independence, which Beijing considers a red line. To mold the situation and inevitable circumstances, China has also sought to enhance economic ties with Taiwan as a means of promoting cross-strait integration. Economic cooperation, trade, and investment have grown significantly in recent years, fostering interdependence between Taiwan and mainland China. Furthermore, China has been actively working to diplomatically isolate Taiwan by pressuring countries and international organizations not to recognize it as a separate sovereign state. Beijing views international recognition as undermining its goal of reunification. Within the policy of peaceful reunification, there is an emphasis on fostering goodwill and people-

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<sup>17</sup> Ian Scott, "'One country, two systems': the end of a legitimating ideology?." *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration* 39, no. 2 (2017): 83-99.

to-people exchanges between individuals on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The aim is to build mutual trust and create an environment conducive to reunification.

It's important to note that Taiwan's government, as well as a significant portion of its population, has been cautious and skeptical of China's "peaceful reunification" policy. Many in Taiwan are concerned that the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, as implemented in Hong Kong, may not fully protect Taiwan's freedoms and democracy. In nutshell, the Chinese "peaceful reunification" policy is a diplomatic and political strategy aimed at resolving the Taiwan issue through peaceful means, emphasizing the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. While it represents China's vision for reunification, it faces challenges and skepticism from Taiwan's government and people, who are wary of the potential implications for their way of life and democratic system.<sup>18</sup>

#### **iv. Taiwanese Self-Determination**

While Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, it is important to acknowledge that its status is a matter of contention and has not been universally recognized. China argues that the majority of Taiwanese people identify as Chinese and aspire to eventual reunification with the mainland. From this perspective, the United States' support for Taiwan's autonomy can be seen as counter to the wishes of the Taiwanese people.<sup>19</sup>

The concept revolves around the idea that the people of Taiwan should have the right to decide their own political future. Taiwan's status is indeed a matter of contention in international relations.

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<sup>18</sup> Ching-hsin Yu, "Why Tickle the Dragon's Tail? Taiwanese Attitudes toward the China Threat and the Role of the United States." *Asian Survey* 63, no. 1 (2023): 150-174.

<sup>19</sup> Rowan Nicholson, "Self-determination and the use of force." In *The Routledge Handbook of Self-Determination and Secession*, pp. 74-87. Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2023.



While Taiwan operates as a de facto sovereign state with its own government, military, and constitution, it has not declared formal independence from China. This ambiguity stems from its historical legacy as the Republic of China (ROC), which governed all of China before the Chinese Civil War.

The status of Taiwan is disputed because China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, while Taiwan operates as a separate entity with its own government. The international community is divided on the issue, with some countries recognizing Taiwan diplomatically, while others adhere to the One-China Policy and officially recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the legitimate government of China.

China argues that the majority of Taiwanese people share a cultural and historical identity with mainland China and aspire to eventual reunification with the mainland. This perspective is based on the idea that Taiwan's separation from the PRC is a result of historical circumstances rather than a fundamental difference in identity. China contends that the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland is not only its policy but is also in line with the supposed wishes of the Taiwanese people.

In contrast, the United States, along with other countries, supports Taiwan's autonomy and right to self-determination. The U.S. argues that Taiwan's political status should be determined by the Taiwanese people themselves, without coercion from outside forces. While it is true that some Taiwanese individuals may identify as Chinese or support reunification, others identify primarily as Taiwanese and favor maintaining their current autonomy.

The reality is complex, as there are diverse opinions within Taiwan's population regarding its political status. Some advocate for formal independence, some support maintaining the status quo,

and others do indeed express a desire for reunification with China. These differing views reflect the complexity of Taiwan's history, politics, and society.

#### **4. Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the discussion surrounding Taiwan's status is undoubtedly complex and multifaceted, encompassing historical, political, and social dimensions. While various perspectives exist, supporting the Chinese "One-China Policy" with a basis in international law, the United Nations Charter, and considerations of international peace and security presents a distinct viewpoint.

International law places significant emphasis on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The United Nations Charter, the foundational document of international law, enshrines these principles as fundamental to the maintenance of global order and stability. China's "One-China Policy" aligns with these principles by asserting that Taiwan is an integral part of its sovereign territory. By adhering to this policy, China upholds international norms that discourage the recognition of multiple governments or states within a single territory.

The United Nations Charter, while not explicitly addressing the issue of Taiwan's membership, promotes the peaceful resolution of disputes and the avoidance of the use of force in international relations. China's commitment to peaceful reunification, as part of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, aligns with these principles. It advocates for the peaceful negotiation and dialogue necessary to resolve the Taiwan issue without resorting to military means.

Preserving international peace and security is a paramount objective of the United Nations and the global community. The Taiwan issue has the potential to disrupt regional stability and provoke

conflicts with far-reaching consequences. By adhering to the "One-China Policy" and emphasizing peaceful reunification, China seeks to mitigate the risk of armed conflict in the Taiwan Strait and contribute to regional and global stability. It underscores the importance of maintaining a peaceful status quo to avoid destabilizing actions that could have adverse consequences for international peace.

It is important to note that these arguments supporting the Chinese "One-China Policy" are based on principles of international law and stability. However, the Taiwan issue remains a complex and sensitive matter, with differing perspectives and nuances that need to be carefully considered in any comprehensive discussion or negotiation. Ultimately, the goal should be to find a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution that respects the rights and aspirations of the people of Taiwan while safeguarding regional and international peace and security.

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