

China Taiwan Conflict 1949 to 2022

and history of semiconductor production in Taiwan

1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990

October 1949 ✓
People's Republic of China (PRC) is established after defeating (KMT) the nationalists government in a civil war; the KMT flee to Taiwan to form their own government

August 1954 ✓
First Taiwan Strait Crisis: The PRC began bombing the outlying islands of Kinmen and Matsu, where Nationalist troops were massing

January 1955 ✓
Formosa Resolution grants President Eisenhower the authority to use military force to defend Taiwan "as he deems necessary"

1950 ✓
Korean War breaks out; Taiwan becomes an ally of the US; the US deploys a fleet in the Taiwan Strait to protect Taiwan from attack from the mainland

August 1958 ✓
The Second Taiwan Strait Crisis: Beijing launches months-long artillery attacks on the Taiwan-controlled outlying islands; Taiwan fights back with some US supplied weapons. China does not seize control of any Taiwan-held island

1972 ✓
President Nixon's trip to China ends 25 years of isolation; the "One-China policy" was first stated in the Shanghai Communiqué

1973
Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) is created

1974
Taiwan gets start in the semiconductor industry

Dec. 15, 1978 ✓
President Carter formally recognizes the PRC and severs diplomatic relations with Taiwan

April 1979 ✓
Congress enacts the Taiwan Relations Act, which makes clear that the US decision to establish diplomatic ties with Beijing rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means; it obliges Washington to help provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself

1980
ITRI sends engineers to the US for training; which is the start of United Microelectronics Corp (UMC) Taiwan's first semiconductor company

1982 ✓
President Reagan adopts the Six Assurances, the fifth being that the US would not formally recognize Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan

1987
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) is founded

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

1995 ✓
Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visits the US for a reunion at Cornell University, drawing criticism from Beijing and escalating tensions

1995-1996 ✓
Third Taiwan Strait Crisis: Taiwan holds its first direct presidential vote; Beijing launches missiles into waters near Taiwan; Washington dispatches aircraft carriers; President Lee Teng-hui wins by a landslide

2000 ✓
Chen Shui-bian is elected Taiwan president, marking the first time in power for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which supports Taiwanese sovereignty and formal independence

2005 ✓
Beijing adopts an anti-secession bill making it illegal for Taiwan to secede; in April, leaders of KMT and PRC meet for the first time since 1949

2007
Taiwan's semiconductor industry overtakes that of the US, second only to Japan

2008 ✓
KMT-backed President Ma Ying-jeou, who favors closer ties with China, comes into power and sets aside political disputes discussing deals ranging from tourism to commercial flight

January 2016 ✓
Tsai Ing-wen of the DPP wins presidential race on a platform of standing up to China

June 2016 ✓
China suspends all official communications with Taiwan

December 2016 ✓
President-elect Trump breaks decades of US diplomatic precedent by speaking directly, by telephone, with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen

March 2018 ✓
Trump signs Taiwan Travel Act allowing high-level diplomatic engagement between Taiwanese and American officials, and encourages visits between government officials of the US and Taiwan at all levels

2020
Taiwan becomes the unmatched leader of the global semiconductor industry with TSMC alone accounting for more than 50% of the global market

October 2021 ✓
US calls on all United Nations member states to support Taiwan's participation in the U.N. system

December 2021 ✓
US National Defense Authorization Act which calls for the enhancements of the security of Taiwan

August 2, 2022 ✓
Nancy Pelosi visits Taiwan

August 10, 2022 ✓
China releases white paper on Taiwan question, reunification in new era

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1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
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The Taiwanese government convinces RCA to transfer semiconductor technology to Taiwan

1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
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Separation of China and Taiwan

The US was an ally of China—the Republic of China (ROC)—during World War II. After WWII, the Kuomintang (KMT) that ruled the ROC and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) engaged in a bloody civil war. With the Communist victory imminent, the KMT government retreated to Taiwan. In October 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established on the mainland.

<https://www.csis.org/programs/international-security-program/isp-archives/asia-division/cross-strait-security-initiative-0>

A Brief History of Modern China and Taiwan

After several centuries of relative Taiwanese autonomy, if uncertain sovereign status vis-à-vis China (a subject of continuing debate between China, Taiwan, and international scholars), Japan acquired the island as a colony in 1895 following the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese War. With the fall of China's Qing Dynasty in 1911, China was thrown into political and social turmoil as the end of centuries of dynastic rule **left China in a politically fragmented** semi-colonial state.

In this era, **two main political-military groups with opposing ideologies competed to shape the future of modern China. The Nationalist Party (KMT) arose as the legacy of the Republic of China (ROC)**, which succeeded the Qing Dynasty but eventually succumbed to warlordism. The KMT envisioned China as a constitutional republic following Western models of government. **The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), formed in 1921, sought a Chinese-styled Communist revolution and a future socialist China upholding the principals of Marxism-Leninism (and eventually Maoism).**

The two groups, superficially working together, successfully unified China from the warlords in 1928 but quickly plummeted into open violent

conflict. Despite a brief period of cooperation against the occupying Japanese Army during the 1930s, fighting between the KMT and CCP continued throughout the Second World War. On December 1, 1943, the heads of state from China, the United States, and Great Britain jointly signed the "Cairo Declaration" stipulating that: "all the territories Japan has seized from China, such as Manchuria, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, shall be restored to China."

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, the United States, which had favored the KMT during the surrender negotiations, attempted to broker a truce between the KMT and the CCP. However, subsequent CCP-KMT disagreements and cease-fire violations resulted in U.S. abandonment of mediation efforts on January 29, 1947, and the withdrawal of the U.S. mission. The United States suspended military aid to the KMT but continued its program of economic assistance. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong, the chairman of the CCP, announced the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing while Chiang Kai-Shek, generalissimo of the KMT, withdrew to Taiwan, bringing two million KMT troops and supporters with him. His army proclaimed Taipei the temporary capital of the Republic of China. ...

...

Taiwan becomes an ally of the US, during war with Communist China in Korea

After the outbreak of the Korean War on 25 June 1950, Truman declared that the **"neutralization of the Straits of Formosa" was in the best interest of the United States, and he sent the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet into the Taiwan Strait to prevent any conflict between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China, effectively putting Taiwan under American protection.** The move was also intended to deter ROC attacks against the Chinese Mainland.

On 27 June 1950, President Truman issued the following statement:

The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war. It has defied the orders of the Security Council of the United Nations issued to preserve international peace and security.

In these circumstances the occupation of Formosa by Communist forces would be a direct threat to the security of the Pacific area and to United States forces performing their lawful and necessary functions in that area. Accordingly, I have ordered the 7th Fleet to prevent any attack on Formosa. As a corollary of this action, I am calling upon the Chinese Government on Formosa to cease all air and sea operations against the mainland. The 7th Fleet will see that this is done. The determination of the future status of Formosa must await the restoration of security in the Pacific, a peace settlement with Japan, or consideration by the United Nations.

August 1954 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Taiwan_Strait_Crisis

First Taiwan Strait Conflict (also Formosa Crisis 1954-1955)

In August 1954, the Nationalists placed 58,000 troops on Kinmen and 15,000 troops on Matsu. The ROC began building defensive structures and the PRC began shelling ROC installations on Kinmen. Zhou Enlai, PRC premier responded with a declaration on 11 August 1954, that Taiwan must be "liberated." He dispatched the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to the area, and it began shelling both Kinmen and the Matsu Islands.

Despite warnings from the U.S. against any attacks on the Republic of China; five days before the signing of the Manila pact, the PLA unleashed a heavy artillery bombardment of Kinmen on September 3, during which two American military advisers were killed.[2] In November, the PLA bombed the Tachen Islands. This renewed Cold War fears of Communist expansion in Asia at a time when the PRC was not recognized by the United States Department of State. Chiang Kai-shek's government was supported by the United States because the ROC was part of the United States policy of containment of communism which stretched from a devastated South Korea to an increasingly divided Southeast Asia.

On 12 September, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended the use of nuclear weapons against mainland China. President Eisenhower, however, resisted pressure to use nuclear weapons or involve American troops in the conflict. However, on 2 December 1954, the United States and the ROC agreed to the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, which did not apply to islands along the Chinese mainland. This treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate on 9 February 1955.

The PLA seized the Yijiangshan Islands on 18 January 1955. Fighting continued in nearby islands off the coast of Zhejiang, as well as around

Kinmen and the Matsu Islands in Fujian. On 29 January 1955, the Formosa Resolution was approved by both houses of the U.S. Congress authorizing Eisenhower to use U.S. forces to defend the ROC and its possessions in the Taiwan Strait against armed attack. The U.S. Navy then assisted the Nationalists in evacuating their forces from the Tachen Islands.[15]

In February, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill warned the U.S. against using nuclear weapons, but in March, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles stated publicly that the U.S. was seriously considering a nuclear strike.[16] In response, the NATO foreign ministers warned at a meeting of the alliance against such action. In late March, U.S. Admiral Robert B. Carney said that Eisenhower is planning "to destroy Red China's military potential." [17]

January, 1955 <https://thediplomat.com/2015/07/how-eisenhower-saved-taiwan/>

Formosa Resolution grants President Eisenhower the authority to use military force to defend Taiwan “as he deems necessary.”

... When Eisenhower took office in January 1953, the Korean War was drawing to a close. That meant new uncertainty for Taiwan. Originally, then-President Harry Truman had declared a military nonintervention policy for Taiwan, effectively signaling that should the newly-formed People’s Republic of China launch a full-scale invasion, the United States would not interfere. That policy changed with the advent of the Korean War, which brought the U.S. and the PRC into conflict. Truman deployed the U.S. Seventh Fleet to the Taiwan Straits to signal new U.S. opposition to a PRC military strike against the island.

But with the Korean War ending, there was some uncertainty over what would become of the U.S. commitment to Taiwan. Eisenhower lifted the U.S. naval blockade of the straits in 1953. Both the Nationalists and the PRC took advantage of the opportunity to restart hostilities. In particular, the PRC began to bomb the outlying islands of Kinmen and Matsu, where Nationalist troops were massing, sparking what came to be known as the First Taiwan Strait Crisis.

In response, the U.S. under Eisenhower made clear for the first time that the United States was formally committed to defending Taiwan from armed attack. The Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of China was signed on December 2, 1954, with both sides pledging to aid each other in the case of a military attack. A month later, in **January 1955, the U.S. House and Senate passed the “Formosa Resolution,” granting Eisenhower the authority to use military force to defend Taiwan “as he deems necessary.”** In case that wasn’t enough to deter the PRC, Eisenhower’s secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, also publicly revealed that Washington was considering the option of a nuclear strike against the Chinese mainland.

These guarantees formed the backbone of U.S. policy toward Taiwan and

mainland China throughout the Cold War and beyond. The mutual defense treaty would remain in force until the U.S. established diplomatic relations with the PRC in 1979 – but **the ghost of this security commitment still remains today, in the form of the Taiwan Relations Act.** The Republic of China probably owes its continued existence to U.S. foreign policy and security decisions made under Eisenhower.

...

While Eisenhower was not alone in shaping U.S. policy during that time, he is remembered by many Taiwanese as having taken a personal interest in the fate of the ROC. Eisenhower even visited Taipei in June 1960, making him the first and only sitting U.S. president to do so. That cemented his legacy in Taiwan’s historical memory.

Over half a million Taiwanese were reported to have stood in the square outside Taiwan’s Presidential Palace, listening to Eisenhower’s speech. “The very fact that he was standing there was a symbol of American reassurance, of American defense of Taiwan,” Dr. Lyushun Shen, representative at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. (TECRO), said at the July 28 reception.

“Eisenhower was the only U.S. president to visit Taiwan. People in Taiwan always remembered that,” Chi Wang, president of the U.S.-China Policy Foundation and a history professor at Georgetown University, told The Diplomat. “He’s one of the presidents they respect most.”

.....

The Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, also called the 1958 Taiwan Strait Crisis

... The conflict was a continuation of the Chinese Civil War and First Taiwan Strait Crisis. The Republic of China (ROC) had begun to build military installations on the island of Kinmen (Quemoy) and the Matsu archipelago. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) began firing artillery at both Kinmen and some of the nearby Matsu islands.

On August 24 and 25, 1958 Chinese Communist and Chinese Nationalist forces clashed in the vicinity of Dongding Island, which the Nationalist troops controlled. The action was seen as an attempt by the communists to land on the island. This was the only naval and amphibious landing action during the crisis. The communist forces were repelled from taking the island. The action has also been seen as an attempt to draw Nationalist forces away from other areas.

...
In the days after shelling began, the American Joint Chiefs of Staff had determined to defend the islands even if the defense necessitated a nuclear response. Throughout the following weeks as the crisis continued to unfold, contingency plans were developed as it became clear that the critical issue was supplying Kinmen. In a meeting on September 2, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top officials to formulate an ongoing American strategy. The group determined that the use of nuclear weapons would ultimately be necessary for the defense of Kinmen, but that the United States should initially limit itself to using conventional forces. Throughout the crisis, coordination between American policymakers and military commanders was hampered by communication delays of days at a time, but by September American officials had authorized naval escorts to accompany ROC convoys up to 3 miles off Kinmen and begun to supply the ROC with advanced weapons. The Chinese Communists considered the escorts a violation of the territorial waters of the People's Republic of China. On September 19, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev sent a letter

warning that the American actions threatened world war, claiming that the Soviet Union would be forced to honor its commitments to the territorial integrity of Communist China. The letter was rejected by the American government.

The American Eisenhower Administration responded to the request for aid from the ROC according to its obligations in the ROC-United States mutual defense treaty that had been ratified in 1954. President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the reinforcement of the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet in the area, and he ordered American naval vessels to help the Nationalist Chinese government to protect the supply lines to the islands. In addition, the U.S. Air Force deployed F-100D Super Sabres, F-101C Voodoos, F-104A Starfighters, and B-57B Canberras to Taiwan to demonstrate support for the republic. The F-104s were disassembled and airlifted to Taiwan in C-124 Globemaster II transport aircraft, marking the first time such a method was used to move fighter aircraft over a long distance.

By September 11, the artillery crisis was overall stabilized (even though numerous rounds of artillery would still be fired by Communist China almost daily for the next two months or so) because U.S. Navy warships started to escort ROC convoys to Kinmen, breaking the previous artillery blockade due to constant PRC artillery shells that prevented any air or naval relief for Kinmen. The PRC did not want to risk war with the United States so they refrained from firing on any convoys if they observed U.S. Navy ships. The biggest issues in the crisis after September 11 were the air battles and the success or failure of the naval convoys relieving the Kinmen garrison.

...

February 22, 1972 <https://www.nixonlibrary.gov/nixons-trip-china>

President Nixon's trip to China

President Nixon's trip to China in 1972 ended twenty-five years of isolation between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and resulted in establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1979.

Listen to Nixon discuss his rationale for the trip, the arrival of the pandas at the National Zoo, and his reasoning for the importance of restoring communications with the People's Republic of China.

These excerpts are drawn from the Third Chronological Conversation Tape Release, which was released on February 28, 2002.

For additional audio, as well as documents and photographs about Nixon's trip to China select the link above.

President Carter recognizes communist China

... President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States will formally recognize the communist People's Republic of China and sever its diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Carter set Jan. 1, 1979 as the effective date of the change.

Carter's announcement that diplomatic ties would be severed with Taiwan — which the Chinese insisted upon — angered Republicans in Congress. In April 1979, the lawmakers passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which gave the breakaway island nearly the same status as any other nation recognized by the United States. It also mandated that arms sales continue to the Nationalist government. In place of the U.S. Embassy in Taiwan, an “unofficial” representative, called the American Institute in Taiwan, would continue to serve U.S. interests there.

Some GOP lawmakers also challenged the president's right to cancel a treaty without Senate approval. Their case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which dismissed the challenge, thus supporting Carter's stance.

Following Mao Zedong's successful revolution in China in 1949, the United States had refused to recognize the new communist regime. Instead, America continued to recognize and supply the Nationalist Chinese government that had been established by Chiang Kai-shek on the island of Taiwan. In 1950, during the Korean War, American and Chinese “volunteers” clashed on the peninsula. During the Vietnamese War, Beijing supported North Vietnam.

By the 1970s, however, a new set of circumstances had arisen. From Washington's perspective, closer relations with Beijing could yield both economic and political benefits. American business leaders were eager to exploit the potentially huge Chinese market. **Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford signaled the change by visiting the People's**

Republic.

Carter continued to play the “China card” — using closer diplomatic relations with Beijing to pressure Moscow into becoming more malleable on a variety of issues, including arms control. Beijing also had come to desire better relations with Washington.

The Chinese leadership, seeking to foster a large increase in trade with the United States which would result from normalized relations, looked the other way as Washington continued to approve arms sales to Taiwan. The communist hierarchy looked forward to the technology its country might obtain from the Americans. Moreover, a military showdown with China's former ally, Vietnam, was in the making. (Vietnam had a mutual support treaty with Moscow.)

H.R.2479 - Taiwan Relations Act

Taiwan Relations Act - Declares it to be the policy of the United States to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland and all other people of the Western Pacific area. Declares that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern. States that **the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means and that any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes is considered a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States. States that the United States shall provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character and shall maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan.**

Reaffirms as a commitment of the United States the preservation of human rights of the people of Taiwan.

Declares that in furtherance of the principle of maintaining peace and stability in the Western Pacific area, the United States shall make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capacity as determined by the President and the Congress. Requires such determination of Taiwan's defense needs to be reviewed by United States military authorities in connection with recommendations to the President and the Congress.

Directs the President to inform the Congress promptly of threats to the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan, and any

danger to the United States interests arising from such threats. Specifies that the President and the Congress shall determine the appropriate action in response to any such danger.

Stipulates that the absence of diplomatic relations with or recognition of Taiwan shall not affect U.S. laws relating to Taiwan.

Authorizes the President or any department and agency to conduct and carry out programs, transactions, and other relations with respect to the people on Taiwan, including, but not limited to, the performance of services for the United States through contracts with commercial entities in Taiwan, in accordance with applicable laws of the United States.

Stipulates that withdrawal of diplomatic recognition of the Government on Taiwan shall not affect, including actions in all United States courts, the ownership of, or other rights or interests in, real property or other things of value, nor the contractual obligations and debts of the people on Taiwan.

Stipulates that whenever the application or a rule of law of the United States depends upon the law applied on Taiwan or compliance with such law, the law applied by the people on Taiwan shall be considered the applicable law for that purpose.

Prohibits any United States agency, commission, or department from denying an export license application or revoking an existing export license for nuclear exports to the people on Taiwan based on the lack of diplomatic recognition by the United States of the Government of Taiwan.

Permits Taiwan to be treated in the manner specified in the selection system for a separate immigration quota for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

President Reagan adopts the Six Assurances, the fifth being that the US would not formally recognize Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan

The Reagan Administration spent the first half of 1982 in increasingly tough negotiations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) over America's continuing arms sales to Taiwan following the 1979 shift of U.S. diplomatic relations to Beijing. The Carter Administration had insisted that, given congressional opinion, continuing limited arms sales to Taiwan was a political necessity, but this was a bone in the throat as far as Beijing was concerned. American supporters of the new relationship with China also saw the arms sales as an obstacle to good relations with Beijing and were vocal on that point.[1]

In the spring of 1982, the PRC began threatening to severely downgrade its relationship with the U.S. unless something was done about the arms sales, and some in Beijing were discussing "playing the Soviet card." Then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig was convinced that, "in the last quarter of the twentieth century, China may well be the most important country in the world" in terms of American interests.[2] He pressed hard and successfully for some form of accommodation with Beijing, although his ultimate recommendation that the U.S. agree to cease arms sales to Taiwan was not accepted.[3]

The result was the communiqué signed on August 17, 1982--almost two months after Haig had left office. In it, the U.S. government stated "that it does not seek to carry out a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan, that its arms sales to Taiwan will not exceed, either in qualitative or in quantitative terms, the level of those supplied in recent years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China, and that it intends to reduce gradually its sales of arms to Taiwan, leading over a period of time to a final resolution." [4]

Though he agreed to sign the communiqué, President Reagan was disturbed by its possible effect on Taiwan and put little trust in Chinese promises to adhere to a peaceful solution. Therefore, while allowing the August 17 communiqué to go forward, President Reagan also placed a secret

memorandum in the National Security Council files, which read:

The U.S. willingness to reduce its arms sales to Taiwan is conditioned absolutely upon the continued commitment of China to the peaceful solution of Taiwan-PRC differences. It should be clearly understood that the linkage between these two matters is a permanent imperative of U.S. foreign policy. In addition, it is essential that the quantity and quality of the arms provided Taiwan be conditioned entirely on the threat posed by the PRC. Both in quantitative and qualitative terms, Taiwan's defense capability relative to that of the PRC will be maintained.[5]

This was not the only step President Reagan took. He decided that Taiwan needed to be reassured that the U.S. would not abandon the island republic. Therefore, on July 14, 1982, James Lilley, then the head of the American Institute in Taiwan, America's nominally unofficial representative body in Taiwan, called on Republic of China President Chiang Ching-kuo. His visit came as negotiations with the PRC were close to reaching a conclusion and as Taiwan's anxiety was at its height. In President Reagan's name, Lilley delivered orally, not in writing, six assurances regarding America's policy toward Taiwan. The United States, he explained:

- Had not agreed to set a date for ending arms sales to the Republic of China;
- Had not agreed to hold prior consultations with the PRC regarding arms sales to the Republic of China;
- Would not play a mediation role between the PRC and the Republic of China;
- Would not revise the Taiwan Relations Act;
- Had not altered its position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan; and
- Would not exert pressure on the Republic of China to enter into negotiations with the PRC.

With American approval, the statement was made public in Taiwan three weeks later, and soon after that, "The Six Assurances" were the subject of a Senate hearing.

...

Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visits the US for a reunion at Cornell University, drawing criticism from Beijing and escalating tensions

... **the first to the United States by a Taiwan leader since the United States severed relations with Taiwan in 1979**, is being hailed here as the "journey of the century" and a diplomatic triumph.

For Taiwan, the voyage is festooned with the trappings of a state visit. More than 300 newspaper, radio and television reporters have descended on the United States to chronicle every minute of Mr. Lee's trip, to broadcast every public word he utters, and glean meaning from every private conversation overheard.

This afternoon, all three Government-controlled television stations carried Mr. Lee's departure ceremony, complete with red carpets, a receiving line of the country's senior ministers, a military honor guard, and lingering pictures of Mr. Lee's chartered Boeing 747 roaring off the runway en route to Los Angeles, where it landed later today to another large press reception.

For 16 years, Taiwan's leaders had not been allowed to so much as step off an airplane in the Honolulu airport for fear that such a step would antagonize the Government of China and violate the official American policy that there is only one China.

On Friday, Mr. Lee is to address alumni at Cornell, where he received a doctorate in agricultural economics in 1968.

...
Because the United States does not recognize the Taiwan Government, Clinton Administration officials have refused to meet Taiwan's president. However, Taiwan officials have said that Mr. Lee expects several members of Congress to come to Ithaca.

Yet despite the cold shoulder the Administration is showing Mr. Lee, Beijing, which regards this island as a renegade province, has reacted with fury to his trip, declaring that Chinese-American relations would suffer as a result.

Since Taiwan's expulsion from the United Nations in October 1971, the country has fallen into a diplomatic black hole, an oblivion that many thought complete when the United States severed relations in 1979 and granted full diplomatic recognition to the Chinese Government in Beijing.

But Taiwan prospered. Its economy has expanded dramatically, catapulting the country's per capita gross national product from \$443 in 1971, the year it was thrown out of the United Nations, to \$12,640 today. And after decades of martial law, the country has now embraced democratic politics with a boisterousness rivaled by few Asian nations.

In the last several years Taiwan has trumpeted its economic achievements and democratic credentials as it has sought wider international recognition. Last year, President Lee visited several countries in southeast Asia where he happened to find himself on golf courses with those countries leaders. "Vacation diplomacy," it was called. And earlier this year, Mr. Lee visited Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

But the centerpiece of Taiwan's diplomatic offensive has been the struggle to send Mr. Lee to the United States. For its part, the Clinton Administration had resisted appeals by Taiwan to allow Mr. Lee to visit the United States.

...

Third Taiwan Strait Crisis

... also called the 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis or the 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis, was the effect of a series of missile tests conducted by the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the waters surrounding Taiwan, including the Taiwan Strait from 21 July 1995 to 23 March 1996. The first set of missiles fired in mid-to-late 1995 were **allegedly intended to send a strong signal to the Republic of China government under President Lee Teng-hui, who had been seen as moving its foreign policy away from the One-China policy. The second set of missiles were fired in early 1996, allegedly intending to intimidate the Taiwanese electorate in the run-up to the 1996 presidential election.**

...

Beijing intended to send a message to the Taiwanese electorate that voting for Lee Teng-hui in the 1996 presidential election on March 23 meant war. A third set of PLA tests from March 8 to March 15 (just before the election), sent missiles within 46 to 65 km (25 to 35 nmi) (just inside the ROC's territorial waters) off the ports of Keelung and Kaohsiung. Over 70 percent of commercial shipping passed through the targeted ports, which were disrupted by the proximity of the tests.[14][15] Flights to Japan and trans-Pacific flights were prolonged by ten minutes because airplanes needed to detour away from the flight path. Ships traveling between Kaohsiung and Hong Kong had to take a two-hour detour.

On 8 March 1996, also a presidential election year in the U.S., the U.S. government under President Clinton announced that it was deploying the USS Independence carrier battle group (CVBG), already stationed in the western Pacific, to international waters near Taiwan. On the following day, the PRC announced live-fire exercises to be conducted near Penghu from March 12–20. On March 11, the U.S. dispatched Carrier Group Seven, centered on USS Nimitz, which steamed at high speed

from the Persian Gulf.[citation needed] Tensions rose further on March 15 when Beijing announced a simulated amphibious assault planned for March 18–25.

Sending two carrier battle groups showed not only a symbolic gesture towards the ROC, but a readiness to fight on the part of the U.S. The ROC government and Democratic Progressive Party welcomed America's support, but staunch unificationist presidential candidate Lin Yang-kang and the PRC decried "foreign intervention."

...

The PRC's attempts at intimidation were counterproductive. Arousing more anger than fear, it boosted Lee by 5% in the polls, earning him a majority as opposed to a mere plurality.[16] The military tests and exercises also strengthened the argument for further U.S. arms sales to the ROC and led to the strengthening of military ties between the U.S. and Japan, increasing the role Japan would play in defending Taiwan.

During the military exercises in March, there were preoccupations in Taiwan that the PRC would occupy some small islands controlled by Taiwan, causing panic among many citizens. Therefore, many flights from Taiwan to the United States and Canada were full.[citation needed] The most likely target was Wuqiu (Wuchiu), then garrisoned by 500 soldiers. The outlying islands were placed on high alert.[17] The then secretary general of the National Security Council of Taiwan, Ting Mao-shih, flew to New York to meet Samuel Berger, Deputy National Security Advisor of the United States.[18]

2000 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Progressive_Party

Chen Shui-bian is elected Taiwan president, marking the first time in power for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which supports Taiwanese sovereignty and formal independence

The DPP won the presidency with the election of Chen Shui-bian in March 2000 with a plurality, due to Pan-Blue voters splitting their vote between the Kuomintang and independent candidate James Soong, **ending 91 years of KMT rule in the Republic of China. Chen softened the party's stance on independence to appeal to moderate voters, appease the United States, and placate China.** He also promised not to change the ROC state symbols or declare formal independence as long as the People's Republic of China did not attack Taiwan. Further, he advocated for economic exchange with China as well as the establishment of transportation links.

2005 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-10/china-s-first-white-paper-on-taiwan-since-xi-came-to-power-in-full>

PRC Anti-Secession Law

...

The Anti-Secession Law, adopted at the Third Session of the 10th NPC in March 2005, stipulates: "There is only one China in the world. Both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China. China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. Safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included. Taiwan is part of China. **The state shall never allow the 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces to make Taiwan secede from China under any name or by any means.**"

Ma Ying-jeou's Plan To Improve Ties With China

Almost immediately after he was elected Ma Ying-jeou announced ambitious plans Sunday to revolutionize economic and security relations with China, **aiming ultimately for a peace accord to end the hostility between Taiwan and China.** Edward Cody wrote in the Washington Post, "Ebullient after a decisive victory in the March election, Ma predicted he could reach agreement with Beijing on a wide range of delicate issues because, **unlike President Chen Shui-bian, he is willing to put aside the question of whether this self-ruled island should be considered an independent nation or a part of China.**" "The idea is to shelve the issue," he said. Relaxed but closely following his script, he seemed strikingly confident of his ability to move forward with Beijing on agreements covering direct airline flights, increased mainland tourism, commercial ties, confidence-building military arrangements and even a formal end to the state of hostility in effect since the defeated Chiang Kai-shek fled here in 1949 with his Nationalist followers — including Ma's father. [Source: Edward Cody, Washington Post, March 24, 2008 |+]

"Ma agreed he was setting out on a difficult course that would be impossible to navigate without equal determination from China. "These are very ambitious plans," he said. "They require the other side's goodwill." Ma said he based his confidence on three years of contacts between his Nationalist Party and China's Communist Party, discussions that bypassed Chen's government and its relentless emphasis on Taiwanese independence. Those talks have led him to believe that President Hu Jintao and the Chinese government are ready for dramatic changes now that Chen will no longer be Taiwan's leader, Ma said. In particular, he cited a statement by Hu in November 2007 in which he expressed readiness to seek a peace accord with Taiwan under certain conditions. "I think both sides have the strong intention to stabilize the situation," Ma said. |+]

"Chen, a lifelong campaigner for Taiwanese identity, centered his two four-year terms on the independence issue, embittering Chinese leaders and keeping tensions high across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait. In contrast, Ma said China and Taiwan probably would not settle the issue in his lifetime and

meanwhile would be better off trying to reach practical agreements. They could begin their talks, he suggested, by returning to an understanding reached in 1992 that was repudiated by the Chen government. China has long insisted that the "one-China principle" — there is only one China, with Beijing as its government — is a prerequisite for any negotiations. Taiwan endorsed the principle in 1992 but stipulated that both sides interpret it differently. On the basis of that diplomatic sleight of hand, China agreed that talks were possible on a variety of subjects. |+]

"Discussions would not have to be conducted by the Chinese and Taiwanese governments directly, Ma suggested, relieving China of concern over dealing with a government it considers illegitimate. Instead, he said, as in the past, exchanges could be held through semiofficial organizations such as airline groups, tourism associations or the Strait Exchange Foundation in Taiwan and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait in mainland China. Ma said the first subject of discussion should be direct charter flights to and from Chinese cities, which he predicted could be in operation every weekend by July. From there, he said, negotiations could begin about regular scheduled flights and increasing the number of mainland tourists allowed to visit Taiwan." |+]

Keith Bradsher wrote in the New York Times, Ma offered "a mechanism and a formula for achieving a peace agreement with the mainland. For starters, he said that peace negotiations should be handled through two semi-official foundations set up with government backing in the early 1990s: the Straits Exchange Foundation, which Ma helped establish on the Taiwan side, and Beijing's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits. Using semi-official organizations to conduct talks, instead of government agencies, is like shaking hands while wearing white gloves, Ma said. "If you wear a white glove, it is still courteous, but it is not your actual flesh," he said. [Source: Keith Bradsher, New York Times, March 24, 2008 +]

...

January 2016 <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-china-relations>

Pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, wins election to become Taiwan's first female president

In January 2016, opposition candidate Tsai Ing-wen, from the traditionally pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, wins elections to become Taiwan's first female president.

In her victory speech, Tsai said the results showed that democracy is ingrained in the Taiwanese people and that she will strive to maintain stability with China.

"We will work towards maintaining the status quo for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait in order to bring the greatest benefits and well-being to the Taiwanese people," Tsai said.

The day of her inauguration in May, **China cautions that peace would be "impossible" if she makes any moves to formally break away.**

In June, China suspends all communications with Taiwan after the island's new government fails to acknowledge the concept that there is only "one China".

China Suspends Diplomatic Contact With Taiwan

BEIJING — In a sign of growing friction between China and Taiwan, mainland diplomats said Saturday that they had **suspended contact with their Taiwanese counterparts because the island's new leader would not endorse the idea of a single Chinese nation.**

Beijing said it had cut off communication because President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan failed to endorse the idea that Taiwan and the mainland are part of one China, a concept known as the 1992 Consensus.

The move was the latest effort by the Chinese government, led by President Xi Jinping, to increase pressure on Ms. Tsai, who took office last month and has unsettled Beijing with her reluctance to disavow calls for Taiwanese independence.

“The cross-strait communication mechanism has been suspended because Taiwan did not recognize the 1992 Consensus, the political basis for the One China principle,” An Fengshan, a spokesman for Beijing’s Taiwan Affairs Office, said in a statement posted on its website.

Taiwanese officials said Saturday that they would continue to try to communicate with their mainland counterparts. “We hope Taiwan and the mainland can continue to have benign interaction, which is good for both sides,” said Tung Chen-yuan, a government spokesman in Taipei.

Patrick M. Cronin, a senior adviser at the Center for a New American Security, called the decision by Beijing to halt talks a “warning shot across the bow.” He said mainland officials were growing increasingly nervous about an independence movement in Taiwan and were seeking to hinder Ms. Tsai’s domestic agenda, including her promise to revive a

slowing economy.

“China will deny carrots and signal red lines for President Tsai as she grapples with her fundamental challenge, which is righting the economy,” Dr. Cronin said.

Taiwan and China have been estranged since the Communist revolution of 1949. Under Ms. Tsai’s immediate predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, the two sides forged closer economic and political ties.

Ms. Tsai has taken a more cautious approach, openly criticizing Chinese officials and warmly embracing China’s historic rivals like Japan. Her party, the Democratic Progressives, has traditionally advocated Taiwanese independence, a move the mainland has threatened to counter with military force.

President-elect Donald Trump breaks with decades of US diplomatic policy by speaking directly, by telephone, with Tsai

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump broke with decades of foreign policy to speak with the president of Taiwan, prompting Beijing to accuse Taipei of a ploy but saying the move would not affect US-China ties.

It was not immediately clear whether Trump's telephone call with President Tsai Ing-wen marked a deliberate pivot away from Washington's official "One China" stance, but fuelled fears he is improvising on international affairs.

China regards self-ruling Taiwan as part of its own territory awaiting reunification under Beijing's rule, and any US move that would imply support for independence would likely trigger fury.

During yesterday's discussion, Trump and Tsai noted "the close economic, political and security ties" between Taiwan and the United States, according to the president-elect's office. It said:

President-elect Trump also congratulated President Tsai on becoming President of Taiwan earlier this year..

...

President Barack Obama's White House said the outgoing US administration had not changed its stance.

"There is no change to our longstanding policy on cross-Strait issues," National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne told reporters.

"We remain firmly committed to our 'One China' policy," she added. "Our fundamental interest is in peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations"

Washington cut formal diplomatic relations with the island in 1979 and recognises Beijing as the sole government of "One China" – while keeping friendly, non-official ties with Taipei.

But since coming to office this year, Tsai has refused to accept the "One China" concept, prompting Beijing to cut off all official communication with the island's new government.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party government (DPP) defeated the Kuomintang (KMT), which had much friendlier ties with Beijing, in a landslide election victory in January.

...

President Trump signs Taiwan Travel Act

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday signed legislation that **encourages the United States to send senior officials to Taiwan to meet Taiwanese counterparts and vice versa**, angering China, which views the self-ruled island as a wayward province.

The bill, which is non-binding, would have gone into effect on Saturday morning, even if Trump had not signed it, said the White House.

The move adds to strains between the two countries over trade, as Trump has enacted tariffs and called for China to reduce its huge trade imbalance with the United States, even while Washington has leaned on Beijing to help resolve tensions with North Korea.

Earlier on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang reiterated that Beijing was opposed to the legislation and urged the United States to abide by the “one China” policy, that stipulates that Taiwan is part of China, and cease official exchanges with Taiwan.

In a statement after Trump’s signing of the bill, the Chinese embassy said clauses of the legislation “severely violate the one-China principle, the political foundation of the China-U.S. relationship”.

“China is strongly dissatisfied with that and firmly opposes it,” the statement said, adding that the United States should “stop pursuing any official ties with Taiwan or improving its current relations with Taiwan in any substantive way.”

Taiwan’s Foreign Ministry expressed its thanks for the “friendly move” by the Trump administration, saying the government would continue to deepen its cooperation and partnership with the United States at all levels. **The United States does not have formal ties with Taiwan but is**

required by law to help it with self-defense and is the island’s primary source of weapons.

Douglas Paal, who served as U.S. representative to Taiwan from 2002 to 2006, said the legislation did not change anything real as it was non-binding. U.S. administrations already had discretionary authority to permit visits by senior Taiwanese officials and visits by senior U.S. officials and military officers to Taiwan, he said.

“They don’t authorize these trips because the policy judgment is that the costs in relations with China would outweigh the benefits in relations with Taiwan,” Paal said.

The bill, which was passed by Congress last month, says it should be U.S. policy to allow visits at all levels. High-level Taiwan officials should be permitted to enter the United States “under respectful conditions” to meet U.S. officials, while Taiwanese economic and cultural representatives should be encouraged to conduct business in the United States.

China’s hostility toward Taiwan has risen since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, in 2016.

It suspects Tsai wants to push for formal independence, which would cross a red line for Communist Party leaders in Beijing, although **Tsai has said she wants to maintain the status quo and is committed to ensuring peace.**

...

Defeated Nationalist forces fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing the Chinese civil war to the Communists.

Blinken urges all U.N. member states to support Taiwan participation

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called on all United Nations member states to support Taiwan's "robust" participation in the U.N. system, contesting ongoing pressure from China to block the self-ruled island's access to international organizations.

Taiwan held the Chinese U.N. seat until Oct. 25, 1971, when it was voted out as representative of the country in favor of the People's Republic of China, which had won a civil war in 1949 and forced the republican government to flee to Taiwan.

China says Taiwan is one of its provinces and so it has the sole right to represent Taiwan internationally.

In a statement, Blinken said Taiwan's exclusion from U.N. forums "undermines the important work of the U.N. and its related bodies, all of which stand to benefit greatly from its contributions."

"The fact that Taiwan participated robustly in certain U.N. specialized agencies for the vast majority of the past 50 years is evidence of the value the international community places in Taiwan's contributions. Recently, however, Taiwan has not been permitted to contribute to U.N. efforts," Blinken said.

"That is why we encourage all U.N. member states to join us in supporting Taiwan's robust, meaningful participation throughout the U.N. system and in the international community," he said.

Blinken added that Taiwan was not present at global bodies, such as the World Health Assembly, despite its "world-class response" to the COVID-19 pandemic.

China, which has ramped up political and military pressure to force Taiwan to accept Chinese sovereignty, has said it is "gravely concerned" about U.S. advocacy for Taiwan in global organizations, and that efforts by Taiwan to expand its participation would fail.

Taiwan Eyes Deeper U.S. Security Ties After Joe Biden Signs Defense Bill

Taiwan says it is ready to step up its security partnership with the United States after President Joe Biden signed a \$768 billion defense package that encourages deeper exchanges with the island's armed forces.

The National Defense Authorization Act, signed on Monday, **includes a multibillion-dollar initiative to better fund American forces in the Pacific, where China's growing military presence has become the U.S.'s principle challenge.** The NDAA requires the Defense Department to produce a number of reports and analyses about Chinese hard and soft power.

Also included is a bipartisan push by Congress to improve Taiwan's self-defense, a capability that has slowly deteriorated as China devoted ever larger sums to its military spending over the decades. **The law, which has already drawn Beijing's ire, wants the Pentagon to assist Taipei in investing in the right areas, while also assessing the possibility of integration and interoperability between American and Taiwanese forces.**

One such area is a proposed partnership between the National Guard and Taiwan's reserves, which will be an important component of any sustained effort to fend off a future Chinese attack. Additionally, the NDAA expresses the non-binding sense of Congress to invite Taiwan to the Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 2022. RIMPAC—hosted from Hawaii every two years—is the world's largest maritime exercise.

China was twice a participant in 2014 and 2016, while Taiwan previously expressed a desire to take part.

August 2, 2022 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_visit_by_Nancy_Pelosi_to_Taiwan

Nancy Pelosi visits Taiwan

United States politician Nancy Pelosi, while serving as the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Taiwan (officially the Republic of China) on 2 August 2022. A delegation of five Democratic Party members of the House accompanied Pelosi on the visit. The two-day trip to Taiwan was part of tour of Asia that also included stops in Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan. **President Joe Biden discouraged but did not prevent Pelosi from travelling to Taiwan**, and the White House later affirmed her right to visit the island nation.

Taiwanese foreign minister Joseph Wu received Pelosi and her delegation. Shortly after her arrival, **Pelosi said that her visit was a sign of the United States' "unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy."** Pelosi's trip included a visit to the Legislative Yuan and a meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen before her departure for South Korea.

The visit was condemned by the People's Republic of China (PRC), which sent warnings through diplomatic channels to the U.S. government. **After Pelosi's departure, the PRC commenced military exercises encircling Taiwan, which ran from 4 to 7 August 2022.** Additional "regular" exercises were announced to run in the Yellow and Bohai Sea until August 15 and September 8 respectively, but ended early on August 10.

August 10, 2022

https://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/202208/10/content_WS62f34f46c6d02e533532f0ac.html#:~:text=China%20releases%20white%20paper%20on%20Taiwan%20question%2C%20reunification%20in%20new%20era,-Updated%3A%20August%2010&text=BEIJING%20%E2%80%94%20The%20Taiwan%20Affairs%20Office.New%20Era%22%20on%20Aug%2010

China releases white paper on Taiwan question, reunification in new era

...The white paper was released to reiterate the fact that Taiwan is part of China, to demonstrate the resolve of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese people and their commitment to national reunification, and to emphasize the position and policies of the CPC and the Chinese government in the new era.

Taiwan has belonged to China since ancient times. This statement has a sound basis in history and jurisprudence, according to the white paper.

The UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 is a political document encapsulating the one-China principle whose legal authority leaves no room for doubt and has been acknowledged worldwide, says the white paper.

The one-China principle represents the universal consensus of the international community; it is consistent with the basic norms of international relations, says the white paper.

...
"The realization of complete national reunification is driven by the history and culture of the Chinese nation and determined by the momentum towards and circumstances surrounding our national rejuvenation. **Never before have we been so close to, confident in, and capable of achieving the goal of national rejuvenation. The same is true when it comes to our goal of complete national reunification,**" says the white paper.

...
The actions of the Democratic Progressive Party authorities have resulted in tension in cross-Straits relations, endangering peace and

stability in the Taiwan Straits, and undermining the prospects, and restricting the space for peaceful reunification. These are obstacles that must be removed in advancing the process of peaceful reunification, says the white paper.

External forces have encouraged and instigated provocative actions by the separatist forces; these have intensified cross-Straits tension and confrontation and undermined peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. This runs counter to the underlying global trends of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, and goes against the wishes of the international community and the aspiration of all peoples, says the white paper.

Relying on external forces will achieve nothing for Taiwan's separatists, and using Taiwan to contain China is doomed to fail. The wheel of history rolls on towards national reunification, and it will not be stopped by any individual or any force, says the white paper.

Peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" are our basic principles for resolving the Taiwan question and the best approach to realizing national reunification. Embodying the Chinese wisdom — we thrive by embracing each other — they take full account of Taiwan's realities and are conducive to long-term stability in Taiwan after reunification, according to the white paper.

...
Peaceful cross-Straits reunification is of benefit not only to the Chinese nation but to all peoples and the international community as a whole, says the white paper.

Link to Full Text: The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era

