

# Fourth General Assembly

Addressing the rising tensions In the Taiwan Strait





<b>Forum:</b>	The Fourth General Assembly
<b>Issue:</b>	The Issue of the Taiwan Strait
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## Introduction

The Taiwan Strait is known to be one of the most contested and geopolitically sensitive areas in the world. It is a part of the South China Sea, at its narrowest point it is 180 km (110 miles) long and 130 km (81 miles) wide. It is on average 60 meters (200 feet) deep with a current flow of North to South on the Western side and vice versa on the Eastern side.

Since the end of the Chinese civil war (what year) there have been multiple crises in the Taiwan Strait, the first one happening from 1954 to 1955 where the People's Liberation Army (PLA) bombed three islands under the Republic of China's (ROC) regime. An effect of this bombing was that it led to Taiwan joining the Sino-American Mutual Defense treaty, which authorised the American army to place military assets around the island of Taiwan and a few other islands under the ROC. Shortly after, the Formosa Resolution was created by the U.S. congress which allowed President Dwight D. Eisenhower to defend Taiwan in any way he saw fit. The second crisis happened three years later in 1958 when the PRC continued its offensive on Taiwan's offshore islands, Jinmen and Matsu islands, while the U.S. was involved with Lebanon. As the U.S. – ROC relations were becoming stronger, as the U.S. had agreed to start selling military planes and weapons to the ROC to help protect themselves in 1995, the PRC retorted by starting military exercises in the Strait. These Military exercises involved amphibious landings, and the shooting of missiles very close to the Taiwanese shores. Adding on to that the PLA also stationed 100,000 soldiers on an island neighbouring Taiwan, Fujian, in a means to intimidate Taiwan before their elections of a new president.



More recently in August 2022 U.S. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, visited Taiwan in an official capacity. Due to this visit the PRC countered with an increase in Military exercises, which included shooting missiles into Taiwanese waters. Dispatching a sizable number of aircrafts to fly over Taiwan, which simulated air attacks, the PRC also bordered Taiwan with a large number of naval forces. The strait is a crucial shipping route that 88% of the largest shipping containers by capacity navigate. For a shipping container to reach Taiwan it does not need to go through the strait but if a shipping container needs to reach Hong Kong and China it does have to go through the Taiwan strait. Recently the chinese military exercises have had very limited effect on shipping, even though the boats were moving around the chinese exercise areas.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Republic of China

The Republic of China (ROC) also known as Taiwan is a political group that was established in 1911. By 1928 the ROC ran most of China until the end of the second world war where there was a civil war between the ROC and the PRC which resulted in the Republic of China losing control of most of China except for Taiwan and a few of its offshore islands. It is a capitalist party which allows Taiwan to have a GDP of more than 500 billion US Dollars. The ROC is also known by a multitude of different names such as Kuomintang party, the nationalist party, etc.

### People's republic of China

The People's Republic of China (PRC) which is also known as 'mainland' China is a different political group that was inaugurated in 1949. This political party was made after the Communist party had won the civil war against the ROC, which then took over all control of China. The PRC is a self-proclaimed communist party, but they practice capitalism.

### People's Liberation Army (PLA)

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is China's air, land, and sea military forces unified. It is the world's largest military in the world with 2 million troops excluding the troops that are on reserve.



This is the military that were doing military exercises in the Taiwan strait and surrounding Taiwan itself.

## General Overview

### The Chinese civil war

Before the Chinese civil war was the second Sino-Japanese war, where China was fundamentally split into three parts, the nationalists, the communists, and the areas subjugated by the Japanese army. Even though the Chinese army was allegedly allied by the United Front, all three parts of China were set in opposition against each other. As a consequence of this millions of Chinese soldiers and citizens had died due to this war, either in battle or due to starvation, and disease. As the Sino-Japanese war ended the contest for power between the Nationalists and the Communists began.

This marked the beginning of the Chinese civil war which started in 1945 and ended in 1949, both parties were rushing to gain power of fundamental resources and largely populated areas. Nationalists began by taking over most of the larger cities and were able to gain power over a large number of train lines in the eastern and northern parts of China. While the communists took over most of the hinterland in the north and in Manchuria. Eventually the communists got the upper hand due to the ineptness of this war as neither parties could achieve what they wanted too without the cost of national struggle, and how corruption was speaking in the nationalist party. In August 1945 the nationalist party extended multiple invites to the leader of the communist party, Mao Zedeng, to come to Chongqing where they would be able to consider rebuilding and unifying the country once again. On the 28th of August Mao Zedeng went to Chongqing with American ambassador Patrick Hurley to meet with Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nationalist party.

On October 10th the two announced that they would be working together to reconstitute a united and democratic China, and that they had come to an agreement on how they would do this by targeting ongoing political and military issues that were happening. Unfortunately these plans were never carried out due to the acute hostility between the parties. The U.S. president at the time Harry S. Truman reacted to the abrupt violence by sending the secretary of state George C. Marshall to China in December of 1945. By January 10th of 1946 Marshall had rapidly and effectively negotiated



a ceasefire between both parties and created the CPPCC, also known as the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The CPPCC settled on a government restructure, a national conference, and military incorporation. Even with the ceasefire and the restructure of the government, there would still be a lot of violence in Manchuria and other areas once the Soviet Army pulled their troops from China. As the situation quickly escalated Marshall and the U.S. Ambassador, John Leighton Stuart, attempted to resume peace talks which ended up not working as both parties continued with their attacks. In early 1947 Marshall left China after denouncing both parties for prolonging the civil war.

All through 1947 the nationalist party was slowly deteriorating as they struggled to protect themselves from the advancements that the communist party would make. This allowed the communist party to change their focus to the more rural areas to build support and, all while the Nationalist party was faced with worsening economic conditions and the uproar from the discontented public. The state of the nationalist party continued to go downhill until 1949 where the communist party declared themselves the 'People's Republic of China', which left the Nationalist Party to go into complete disorder making the Leader Chiang Kai-sek to step down and letting General Li Zongdren to take over. In this confusion the Nationalist party was forced to Taiwan, where they began their rule. Meanwhile the People's Republic of China had control over practically all of China.

### One-China Policy

The One-China Policy dates back to 1949 after the Nationalists left mainland China for Taiwan. It is a policy in which mainland China is the one China with Taiwan as a breakaway Island that will be unified with China in a later day. This policy forces any country that wishes to have diplomatic ties with China to break all ties with Taiwan beforehand, this includes the U.S. that has a diplomatic relationship with China. Nevertheless the U.S. still claims to have a thriving 'unofficial' relationship with Taiwan as they sell weaponries to Taiwan for them to continue to protect themselves. This has had serious consequences for Taiwan as they became very diplomatically isolated.

### Military Exercises in the Taiwan

One of the first Military exercises led by the PRC happened in 1958, from then there was not much activity in the Taiwan strait. Recently, since 2022, China has been much more active in



intimidating and showing its dissatisfaction with Taiwan in the form of these military exercises that are placed very close to the Taiwanese shores. In August of 2022 China executed its first encirclement around Taiwan. These exercises continued in 2023, but became much more severe after the Taiwanese election of President Lai Ching-te. This has been made very obvious as before and after the election Beijing had labeled Mr. Lai a 'Separatist' and a 'Troublemaker'. The Chinese have recently started doing air drills, by flying fighter planes over Taiwan and some of the other Islands controlled by the ROC. They are doing this to simulate air attacks on Taiwan to further intimidate the government and citizens of the country to unify once again with China. These drills have had a significant impact on the diplomatic relationship between China and Taiwan, due to these military exercises they no longer have a proper communication network. Meanwhile, Xi Jinping, the President of China has made multiple claims that they would unify with Taiwan and that Taiwan is an undeniable part of China.

## Major Parties Involved

### Taiwan

Taiwan is an Island that is located on the southeastern coast of China, between China and Taiwan is the Taiwanese Strait. It is a self-sufficient island that is fighting for its Independence from China, it is governed by the Republic of China, it has its own economy and military that is separate from China's.

### China

China, also known as the People's Republic of China, is a communist state in southeast asia. It claims that Taiwan is a 'breakaway province' from China and that one day they will be unified once again. China pressurises Taiwan to never formally claim independence with the threat of military action. Currently the Chinese Army (PLA) are performing military drills in the Taiwan Strait, these drills consist of aircraft drills, shooting missiles into the ocean close to Taiwanese shores.

### United States



The United States is a global influence with complex relationships with both China and Taiwan. The U.S. provides Taiwan with defensive Arms to help protect themselves from China in the most strategic way to avoid aggravating China or affecting Taiwan's Freedom.

### ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is an association of 10 of the most influential countries in Southeast Asia. Their impact on the Taiwan Strait issue is more indirect as they try to keep the international waters of the Taiwan Strait safe while also protecting their relationships with China.

### Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA)

FAPA is a non-profit organisation that is based in the U.S., this organisation supports the freedom of Taiwan and also encourages the relationship between Taiwan and the U.S.. FAPA promotes the sale of arms to Taiwan and campaigns for U.S. policies that support Taiwan.

### Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The HRW is an international NGO that advocates for human rights and for research on what should be a human right. The HRW keeps an eye on the situation in Taiwan and China to make sure no human rights have been violated and that the civil liberties will be kept. They also make sure that the PRC is not violating any international laws or abusing their power.

## Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
October 1911	A group of revolutionaries in southern China successfully revolted against the Qing Dynasty, and formed the Republic of China.
25th October 1945	The ROC begins its regime in Taiwan.
1st October, 1949	Mao Zedong established the People's Republic of China.



7th December 1949	The ROC leaves China and starts to entirely run Taiwan.
1954	The PRC bombed Taiwan and some of its offshore islands which led to the U.S – ROC mutual defense treaty being signed.
1998	The PRC continued its offensive on the Taiwan shores.
2010	The ECFA is created
August 2022	U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, comes to Taiwan in which the PRC retorted by increasing military exercises in the Taiwan Strait and encircling Taiwan.
2023	The exercises increased to intimidate citizens in the upcoming elections.

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Letter from China to the UN Secretary General, 25 September 2000 (A\_55\_420-EN)
- Letter from China to the UN Secretary General, 26 September 2023 (A\_78\_388-EN)
- Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, 1971, (A/RES/2758(XXVI))

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Most of the attempts to solve the issue were carried out by the United States, as stated in the General Overview the President of the United States sent over a multitude of ambassadors, the secretary of state, and a house speaker to try and mediate the situations at hand. There have also been multiple arrangements to try and strengthen the relationship between the two parties, such as the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement (CSSTA) that was founded in 2013. It was created to deepen economic bonds between the two parties but it was quickly revolted by the Taiwanese citizens in a protest. Before that on the 18th of September 2010 was the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement that was signed by both the PRC and the ROC which would reduce the tariffs and improve





economic bonds. This agreement is still intact. This agreement did help boost the relation between the parties but did not help

## Possible Solutions

### Peaceful Unification

In this solution the ROC and PRC can come to an agreement to work in the same country but with two systems such as Venezuela, Germany, and more. If this works then Taiwan and China would be able to settle all of the mistrust and help Taiwan to thrive. They would also be bringing Taiwan into a bigger and better economy. Although peaceful unification could happen and solve some of these issues it may be problematic as the issues between China and Taiwan are very deep rooted, complex and this conflict has been going on for multiple decades now. It would also be difficult to peacefully unify the two countries as ROC does not want to be under the jurisdiction of the PRC.

### Declaring Independence

If Taiwan were to declare independence then they would be able to make many more international relationships with other countries, which would allow Taiwan to grow by making more and new allies or by making more trades with other countries. However this would be very challenging to do peacefully as China has been trying to intimidate the ROC to rejoin the PRC. This could give China a reason to launch a full scale attack on Taiwan.

### Increased Cross-Strait Integration

This could gradually heal the relationship between the ROC and the PRC, this would be done by increasing trade, communication, and stopping all military exercises. This would also help reduce the likelihood of mistrust as it would all happen very slowly.



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