

## **MS THESIS**

# **US-CHINA STRATEGIC COMPETITION OVER TAIWAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY**



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# **US-CHINA STRATEGIC COMPETITION OVER TAIWAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY**

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this M.Phil thesis to my beloved parents, whose kindness, unwavering inspiration, and boundless support have been the foundation of my academic journey. Dear Mother and Father, your selflessness and sacrifices will forever be etched in my heart. Thank you for enabling me to achieve this significant milestone.

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## **FORWARDING SHEET**

The thesis entitled ‘**US-CHINA STRATEGIC COMPETITION OVER TAIWAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY**’, submitted by Shafiqat Rasool is partial fulfillment of M.Phil degree in Social Sciences with specialization in International Relations has been completed under my guidance and supervision. I am satisfied with the quality of student’s research work and allow him to submit this thesis for further process as per IIU-rules & regulations.

Date: December 31, 2024

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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## **List of Abbreviations**

AP	Asia-Pacific
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association South East Asian Nation
AUKUS	Australia United Kingdom United States
AW	Asymmetric Warfare
BBC	British Broadcasting Communication
Chip 4 Alliance	Japan South Korea Taiwan United States
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BRICS	Brazil Russia India China South Africa
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
CEA	China East Asia
CG	Coast Guard
CPC	The Communist Republic of China
CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
DOD	Department of Defense
CPTPP	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
EA	East Asia
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FONOPs	Freedom of Navigations Operations
FPD	Fire Power Demonstration
GTI	Global Taiwan Institute
GN GS	Global North Global South
I2U2	Indian Israel United Arab Emirates and United States
IC	International Community
IDA	International Development Agency
IO	International Order



IPS	Indo-Pacific Strategy
IS	International Security
IBG	Integrated Battle Group
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICBM	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KMT	Kuomintang
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NSFC	Naval Strategic Force Command
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRC	Peoples Republic of China
QUAD	Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
ROK	Republic of Korea
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
ROC	Republic of China
SC	Security Council
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SCS	South China Sea
SLOC	Sea Lanes of Communications
UN	United Nations
UNCLOC	UN Convention on the Law Sea
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WB	World Bank
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

## **ABSTRACT**

Growing tension between the United States and China over the Taiwan Strait's consequences for regional security, Taiwan's location being very significant in international politics, US influence in Taiwan to provoke China and pushing for retaliation against Taiwan, look like Russia, After the attacks on Ukraine, the United States desires to declare Taiwan an independent country while complying with the US's policy double standard on this issue, while US support one China policy, Will the US defend Taiwan? Is China as belonging to Taiwan or China as belonging to Taiwan? Both are claimed. If China invades and threatens the territory and sovereignty of Taiwan, in retaliation the US and allies will defend? Even though Taiwan is a red line for China and its integrity and sovereignty, there is a high risk of miscalculations and accidental escalation. China claims Taiwan belongs to us, and the United States and China's conformations and competitions over Taiwan are intentionally drawing the US and China into direct escalation. While China is raising military power in this region, strategic allies of the US feel threatened by the military power rise of China in the region. China never compromises over Taiwan and will pay any cost. Xi Jinping, keen on peaceful unifications, has a small strait but a very important economy, primarily exporting semiconductor technology all over the world. If China attacks, what will the consequences be for the supply chain? Taiwan is the third-strongest democratic state in Asia, and how long will the United States defend Taiwan under the flag of democracy? The geographical location of Taiwan is too far away from China, and that is the biggest challenge for China. Regional countries are also playing a very important role in the development of the region, as are all United States allies, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Mongolia. Tensions rising between the US and China have directly an impact on other allies of the United States.

**Keywords: China, Taiwan, US, Regional Security, Geopolitical tension**

# CHAPTER-1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

China claimed that Taiwan belongs to china, and Taiwan same time believing that china its geographic part, in the regards united states use this tension use it strategic competition with china in the name of democracy, international law and human rights, US too keen to support to Taiwan in all cost as same time US clear its China-one policy, Taiwan painful matter for china foreign policy, Taiwan not part of United Nations General Assembly, lack of international reorganization in domestic and international level, even Taiwan very important in global supply chain of chip industry sharing 60% globally, very competency in economy as well as for western countries, Taiwan day by day increasing maximize their military power due to potential threats from china, sometime china military drills over south china sea to deterrence Taiwan and purpose of Taiwan and United Sates close allies and increase influence of US in Taiwan, In the East Asia region many other stakeholders' playing key role in regional politics, very strong support mostly to United States its strategic partners competitions over Taiwan like Japan, Philippine, South Korea.

China is biggest landmass and Taiwan too small geography not go for war with United Sates but it's important for national security of China, if US presence in this region too concern for china, fear also from sea neighboring countries of Japan, South Korea, Philippine, all strategic ally of United States in the East Asia, Taiwan's pivot locations it's very important for china security in this region, china believing that Taiwan is redline for Peoples Republic of China, in the legally sense this small street belongs China, but in the great power competitions and power politics this use as tool weakens of china, Taiwan nation are united to protect national security of the Taiwan from china in the all costs. The profile of the Taiwan off the coast of mainland China East Asia, Taiwan officially republic of China (ROC) formerly known as formed largest mountain island located strait of Taiwan.

The South China Sea & Philippine Sea, about 370km, border with China, and Japan, area of Taiwan 36,188km very small of size, and population of the small strait 23.2 million (2022), the capital of Taipei, Is Taiwan a Country? This is very interesting question, Yes/No, According to International definition of Country, four basic requirements for state a define territory a permanent population, function of government, same time Taiwan isn't member of United Nations, Taiwan strong economy in the region and exporting material significance role in international market like Electronic devices, machinery, refined petroleum products, she is major export is semiconductor industry biggest influence in world stage, high skilled workforce available, current economy \$790 billion normal \$1.7 trillion (PPP), world stage 21 normal ranking and 22 number in (PPP) for 2022,

GDP per capital \$33,907. However, the self-ruled island sees itself as distance from the mainland, with its own constitution and democratically elected leadership.

Important for United States Taiwan strait will also bear on fundamental nation of international order and future of democracy, Taiwan's location also significance for US allies in East China Sea, like South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Australia and Thailand, A small island one hundred miles off the coast of China could be the flashpoint that determines the future of great power competitions. Experts increasing warns that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would be globally catastrophic, regardless of its success or if the United States interference! How concerned should American be? Like Russia invasion of Ukraine, if China does same with Taiwan successfully absorb despite. It would be established a pattern of authoritarian countries using force to attack on the country for achieving their strategic interests. Recently tension rising between two countries over Taiwan when US speakers Nancy Pelosi visited to Taiwan, many time China warns to their visit but she is ignoring to potential threats of China, China increasing aggressive stance against US, China massive military drills over Taiwan for deterrence, increasing the pressure on Taiwan to stop these types of activates around Taiwan territory. China provoke over US and China increasing their surveillances in the East Asian Region, China building strong presence in the region to counter United States, China too concern over United states movement in the region, China investing huge money for making strong naval power in the region. Historical Taiwan was under full Chinese control in the 17th century Qing dynasty began administering it, (Qing (Manchu) dynasty -1850) Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong king, Beijing. Chinese revolution over throw the Qing Empire established (ROC) Republican of China.

Two parties competition over dominate which system better for china to run this country, The communist republic of china CPC 1921 sought Chinese-styled communist future of socialist China, KMT the nationalist Chinese-styled of capitalist, china republican following western models of government. After Japan surrender 1945, US pressured to KMT negotiation with CCP, US keen to mediation between two parties, in 1949, Chiang Kai-Sbek withdraw their pro people to Taiwan along 2 million supporters, (Republic of China in Taiwan) while Mao established people republic of China.

### 1.1 Research Questions

The Studies would answer three key research questions.

1. What is the nature of the US-China Strategic Competition in East Asia?
2. How changing strategic dynamics between the US and China over Taiwan would impact the regional security?
3. How do Taiwan's evolving strategic ties with the US affect its domestic politics and foreign policy decisions?

## 1.2 Problem Statement

The US-China strategic competition over Taiwan is real and posing serious challenges to the regional and global security. The US strategic maneuvering in East Asia is posing serious implications for the PRC. The PRC will never compromise over its Territorial integrity and One China Policy, Where Taiwan's insistence for independent stature would invite aggressive political and strategic response from the PRC. America's policy of strategic ambiguity is another destabilizing factor in East Asia, which entails strategic repercussions for the regional security. In a nutshell any conflict in East Asia between US and China over Taiwan would be devastating for the regional and global security.

## 1.3 Literature Review

A literature review on the topic of US-China strategic competition over Taiwan and its implications for regional security should include an overview of key academic and policy literature. This review provides a selection of relevant sources, but it is essential to supplement these with additional research to create a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The Thucydides Trap and Great Power Rivalry: Allison, Graham. "Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides Trap?" Foreign Affairs, 2017, This article introduces the concept of the Thucydides Trap, which posits that the rise of a great power, in this case, China, can lead to conflict with an established power, the United States. The competition over Taiwan is viewed within this broader context. Economy, Elizabeth C, and Oksenberg, Michel "China Joins the World: Progress and Prospects." Council on Foreign Relations, 1999, this book covers the dynamics of China's integration into the global community and its effect on US-China relations. Taiwan is discussed as a flashpoint in these relations. Taiwan's Role in US-China Relations: Cole, Bernard D. "Taiwan in the Twenty First Century: Continuity and Change." Asia Policy, 2018, this article delves into the evolving role of Taiwan in US-China relations and its significance for regional security. Medeiros, Evan S. "Arms Sales and Military Relations: Balancing US Interests in the Taiwan Strait." The China Quarterly, 2007, Medeiros analyzes US arms sales to Taiwan and their implications for regional security. This source explores the military dimension of the competition over Taiwan. Taiwan's Identity and Regional Stability: Tucker, Nancy Bernkopf. "Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Challenge of China: A Model for 'One Country, Two Systems'?" Asian Survey, 2020, this article investigates Taiwan's identity, the concept of "One Country, Two Systems," and the potential impact on regional stability. **Chinese Perspective:** Li, Mingjiang. "China's Taiwan Dilemma: Contested Identities and Multiple Interests." International Security, 2017, Li's work provides insight into China's perspective on Taiwan and how it factors into their strategic calculations. US Policy and Strategic Posture: Ratner, Ely, and Samuels, Richard J. "Revising U.S. Grand Strategy toward China." International Security, 2017, this source discusses the evolution of US grand

strategy toward China and the implications for Taiwan's role in regional security. Regional Responses: Yahuda, Michael. "China's Territorial and Maritime Disputes: The Quest for Hegemony in the South China Sea." *Asian Survey*, 2013, This article explores how other countries in the region respond to the US-China competition over Taiwan and its broader regional implications. Wu, Shang-su, and Ziegler, David W. "Strategic Ambiguity and U.S. Interests in Taiwan" *Parameters*, 2015, this article discusses the concept of strategic ambiguity in US policy towards Taiwan and how it influences cross-strait relations and regional stability. Fravel, M. Taylor. "Power Shifts and Escalation: Explaining China's Use of Force in Territorial Disputes." *International Security*, 2005, This source provides a comparative analysis of historical cases of territorial disputes and the use of force by China, shedding light on potential scenarios related to Taiwan.

Swaine, Michael D. "China's Use of Coercion in the South China Sea." Testimony before the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, 2019, Swaine's testimony focuses on China's use of coercion in territorial disputes, including Taiwan, and how the US and others can manage such crises. Johnston, Alastair Iain. "How New and Assertive Is China's New Assertiveness?" *International Security*, 2013, this article examines China's assertiveness in regional disputes, including Taiwan, and its impact on multilateral security mechanisms. Remember that this list is not exhaustive, and the field of US-China strategic competition over Taiwan is constantly evolving. It's important to consult the most recent literature.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

- i. To examine the geostrategic dynamics of the US and China competition over Taiwan.
- ii. To emphasize the US- China Strategic Competition over Taiwan and its implications for East Asia.
- iii. To analyze Taiwan's strategic position amidst the US- China strategic competition.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

On the strategic competition over Taiwan between the US and China holds significant implications for regional stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Strait is a optional flashpoint conflict in the Asia-Pacific. Examining the dynamic of the strategic competition the between two major powers in the region is crucial for maintaining stability and preventing the outbreak of armed conflict. This competition extends beyond the Asia-Pacific and increasing tension as well as cold war between two powers. It's implication of this rivalry on international peace, global trade, trade and security. There are various aspects of international relations, making it a topic of vital importance for policymakers, scholars, and the broader international community.

## 1.6. Delimitation of the Study

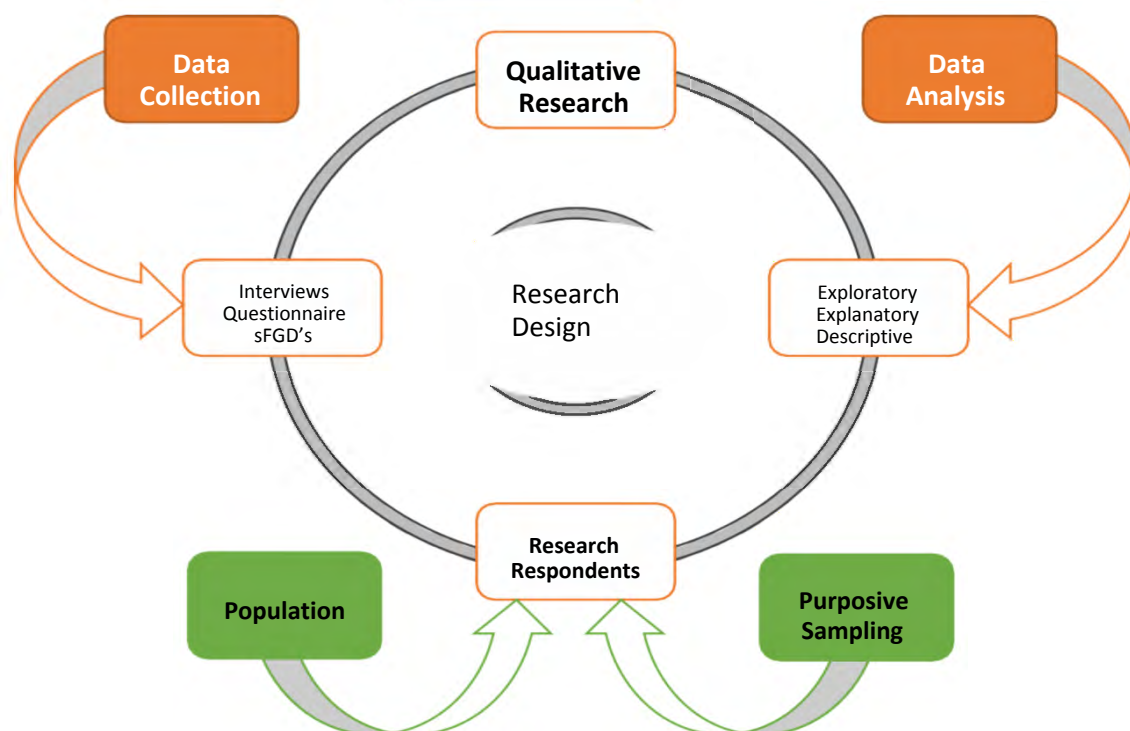
This study based on Quantitative method applying primary and secondary data to analysis deep exploring the matter, interactions with scholars of International Relations Islamabad based, asking questions face to face interviews, through online interviews, asking related answers by emails, by phone, contact with scholars of International Relations they have a grip on US-China relations, meet up with diplomats, scholars, facility members, researchers , approaches to Think Tanks, excess to online Research Think Tanks, reading newspapers national and internationals, monitoring international media on this issue, reading Journals, Magazines, watching Vlogs, reading books, articles, and related with Research topic. Moreover, this study focuses on “US-China strategic competitions over Taiwan implications” for regional security and how they impact international security.

## 1.7 Research Design

This is a qualitative use of method in research, designed to how and why research understanding to experiences, in this research use of technique explanatory, exploratory and descriptive methods. Qualitative collection of data such as storytelling, interviews, analysis, fieldwork, survey, and narrative, shape the valid and constructed research methodology to reach at meaningful research in International Relations.

**Figure 2.2 Research Design**

Source: [www.scribbr.com](http://www.scribbr.com), Viewed on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.



## **CHAPTER -2**

### **DYNAMICS IN US-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS**

#### **2.1. Introduction**

The Relations between China and Taiwan are severe at the moment; China frequently conducts military maneuvers over Taiwan, endangering Taiwan's security. China's aggressive action toward Taiwan: China has sent special navy personnel and cutting-edge military hardware to harass Taiwan to keep eyes and pressure on the area. Taiwan worries about China's sophisticated military buildup over its neighboring region. Concerns about China on the South China Sea and other fronts are shared by the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and other US allies. Analysts noted that the action might be a major blow to international weapons control efforts. China has escalated tensions over Taiwan, the US has backed Taiwan, and China pushed the US to recently cease nuclear arms talks over Taiwan's support. Given the current state of affairs, China tends to steer clear of discussions with the US on global issues like trade, democracy, climate change, technology, nuclear talks, and pandemics if doing so would jeopardize global peace and stability. (AGENCIES, 2024).

**Figure 1.1: Eras in China-Taiwan Relations**

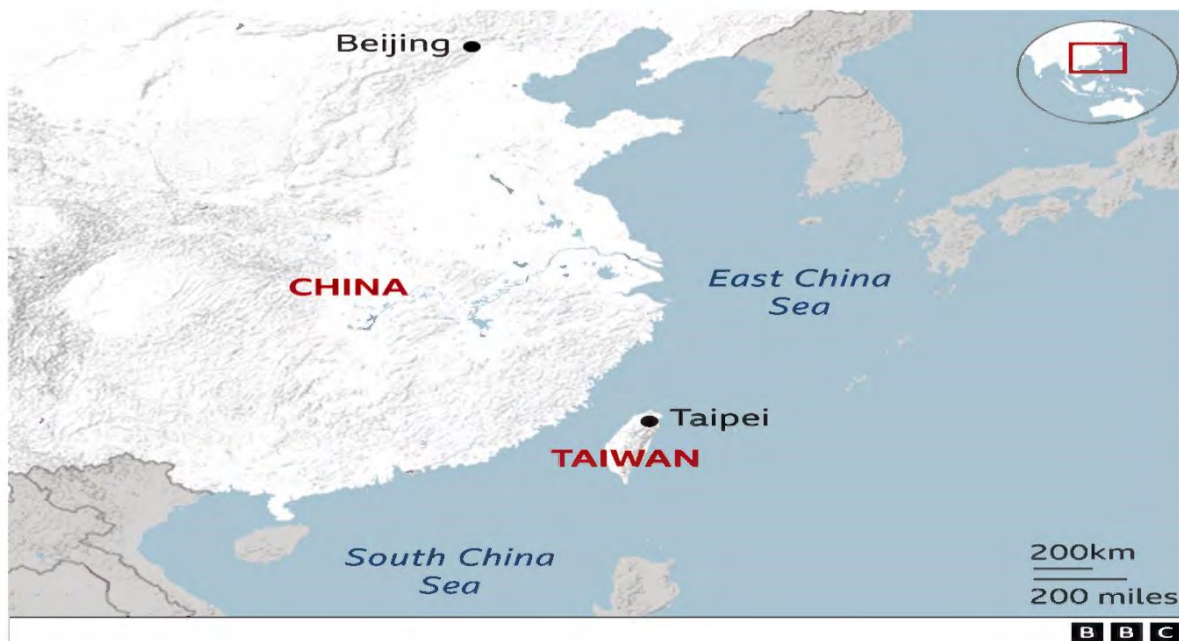
<b>Period</b>	<b>Era</b>	<b>Initiating event</b>
1949-1981	Cold War hostility	KMT evacuates to Taiwan after losing the Chinese Civil War
1981-1995	Tacit agreement for“ peaceful coexistence”	Ye Jianying’s Nine-Point proposal
1995-2008	Sovereignty disputes are much more conflictual	Taiwan Strait Crisis
2008-	Rapprochement	Ma Ying-jeou’s election as Taiwan’s President

The tense situation between China and the US makes people more frustrated about the likelihood of a Chinese attack on Taiwan; in recent years, academics have asserted that both nations are stepping up collaboration between the US and Taiwan. Because of the security quagmire that Russia created using NATO, China is going to seize Taiwan just as Russia attacked Ukraine. Such actions by the US have negative security effects on Taiwan as well as its friends outside of the area. Scholars have also asserted that the US will not defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. (Blackwill, 2020).



If Trump is elected to a second term as US president, he will defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. Republicans often abstain from war and their candidate claims he will put a stop to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in a matter of days if elected. Trump did, however, say throughout his campaign that he was not certain he would back Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan are mutually dependent; for example, Taiwan purchases cuttingedge armaments. Taiwan is the US's largest chip consumer and almost exports semiconductor output to the US. (Lin, 2024).

### 1.1. Strategic location of the East China Sea and South China Sea



## **2.2. US Strategic Interest and Indo-Pacific Strategy**

Beyond the global arena, the United States maintains a very strong interest in the area. The United States of America possesses formidable military equipment and has its forces stationed around the globe. The US is present in the Indo-Pacific and South China Seas and possesses the greatest and most powerful naval force. The US in the Indo-Pacific Strategy In the grand scheme of things, Taiwan must be protected and countered first. China is the United States' principal strategic rival on the international scene, hence the US has developed policies to offset and identify China's weaknesses. Knowing that Taiwan represents China's strategic weakest point, US strategists take advantage of this knowledge on several occasions, including military collaboration with Taiwan, the sale of cutting-edge weaponry, training programs, military drills, intelligence sharing, and assistance for international organizations. (Denoon, 2017).

The global order of the United States is threatened and challenged by China. The United States is advancing integrated deterrence for maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, strengthening deterrence and coordination with ROK and Japanese allies, and pursuing the

complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The United States has priority to strengthen the QUAD group and more cooperation with like-minded countries of the US, focusing on creating military alliances such as AUKUS and expanding to NATO in the Indo-Pacific Ocean. US thinkers believe that Russia is not a real threat to US order but a real threat from China in economy, military, and increasing cultural influence. That is why it has focused on countering China all around the world. US Expanding Coast Guard presence and cooperation against transnational threats; giving top priority to funding the Pacific deterrence and the maritime security initiatives; cooperating depending on and enhancing interoperability with allies and partners. Rapidly threatening the environment, including space, cyberspace, and critical and emerging technological areas, the US is feeling threats from China's development.

However, US regional treaty alliances with Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Philippines, and Thailand, strengthening relationships with regional partners such as India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Pacific Islands, Empowered to ASEAN and forging connections between the Indo-Pacific Islands. Expanding US presence and active diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia, and building resilience for partnership in the Pacific Islands, (Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States).

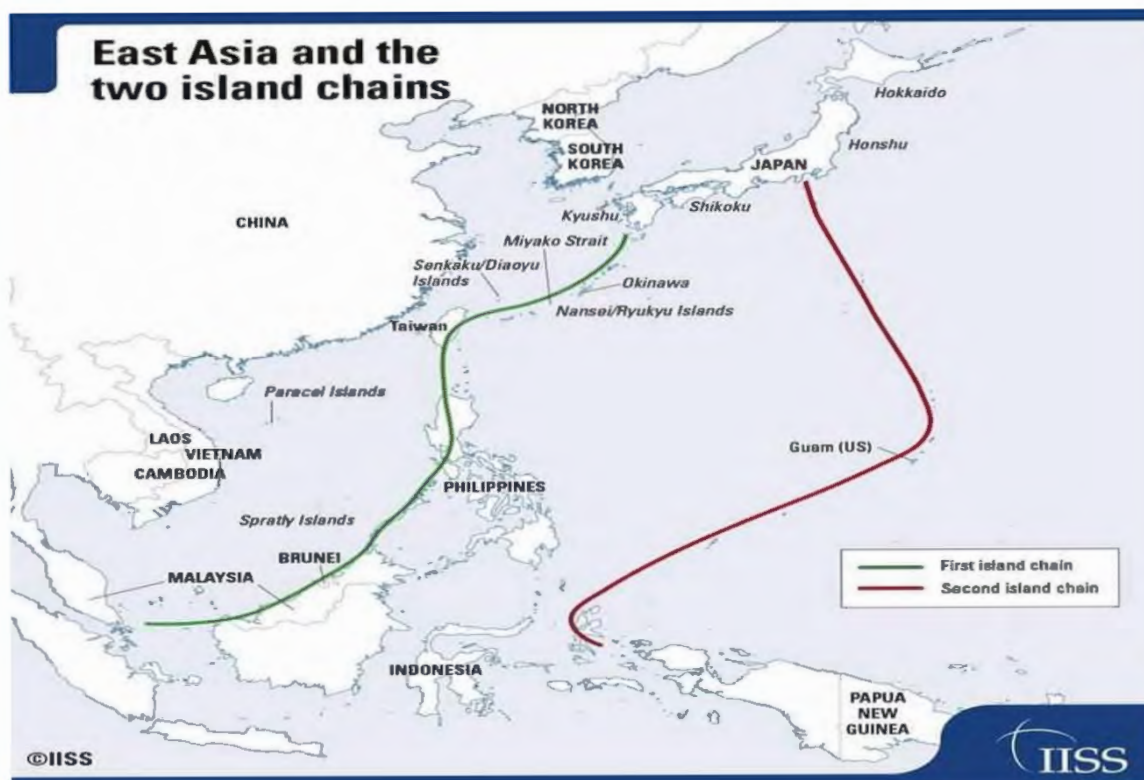
### **2.3. China's Position and Response**

China is fast growing its economy along with military hardware. China's investment in military capability is increasing every year, and the country is rising. A global superpower has responsible states that need to protect their security interests all around the world. China is focusing on improving its military posture due to its responsibilities and interest in the region and beyond. China is the leading exporter of cheap selling around the world, so its priorities are to secure its trade routes and secure their land.

China's almost dispute with all neighboring countries since its independence of China, so her strategy for advancement in hardware technology, China's current budget for 2024 has been set at \$231.36 billion, reflecting a 7.2% increase from the previous year. Perception of the military threats for China is increasing at a global level, essential to her security to investment. China builds up military installations in near-chokepoints and disputes waters. China has the second-largest military expenditure after the United States. The US is the largest military complex industry and exports military hardware all around the world. China has a limited military sales market and is not as capable of weapons as the United States has. China is focusing on improving its hardware capacity and capability to protect its national interests. China comes in offensive realism because China's investment increased the budget in the military by 7.2% since last year, more than.

A geostrategic analysis of China and its ambitions for regional stability and its national interests is a very comprehensive way to understand. China is a big player in the IndoPacific and dominates the role in the region. China alone enjoys its status competition with the US and its allies countries. The United States is leading its alliances to counter China. China is not slowing its offensive strategy to secure her interest in the region. China is facing a log of challenges in current circumstances from the western block, the United States military deployment in the region is also close to China's water, and the chances of a small war and tension are increasing in the region. China, in frustration with US deployment into her allies' countries such as the Philippines, Japan, and South Korea, faces all countries threats from China's aggression (Fravel, 2011).

Since mid-1990s, China has pursued a strategy that delayed the resolution of the dispute. This strategy aims to consolidate China's claims, especially to maritime rights and jurisdictions over these waters. However, since the mid-2000s, China's efforts to consolidate its claims and deter others have increased through administrative, diplomatic, and military means. China's strategy seeks its claims and deters weaker states; other countries have their claims, especially China's dispute with Japan on the Senkaku Islands/Diaoyudao Islands. (Affairs, 2024). Complex disputes in Southeast Asia and the South China Sea: all countries own claims, while China and the Philippines have also conflict on their waters; China usually conducts naval exercises near the Philippines; both claim the Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands.(Action, 2024).



## **2.4. Military Strength of China**

The index of GFP denotes China as a top 5 global military power for 2024. China has ranked 3 of 145 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. The Nation holds a power index score of 0.0706. The Populations of China 1, 413,142,846, ranked 1/145/. Available manpower 763,097,137 ranked 1/145 secure, Air Force personnel 400,000, Army personnel 2,545,000, and Navy Personnel 380, 000. (GFP, Global Firepower 2024, 2024).

China's military superiority would enable it to defeat the US over Taiwan. China is focusing on building up a powerful military, from quantitative assessments to counting weapons— tanks, jet fighters, and missiles—raw manpower. Chinese military presence in the South China Sea and her Coast Guard chasing Philippine Coast Guard vessels usually due to allies of the US and their dispute in the region. Over the last 15 years, China has expanded its military presence in the region. Beijing has claimed nearly the entire strategic waterway, blocked their ships, and built Chinese military bases based on disputes over islands. China is increasing its aggressive behavior towards islands and neighboring countries. Last month, a Chinese naval force attacked Philippine supply vessels with axes and other crude weapons, and several Filipino sailors were injured.

China may enjoy military advantages in a potential attack on Taiwan; within some years, China will build more than two dozen military outposts on disputed islands. Among the largest at Mischief Reef, Fiery Cross Reef, and Subi Reef, there are airstrips, fighter jets, radar systems, and laser and jamming equipment used in South China against the US and their allies' countries (Mastro, 2024). China advancing its Naval power due mostly facing threats from the Sea, her strategy for a powerful naval force is essential because China has disputes with many countries, and conflict situations China's strategy is very sharp and quick in response to the enemy. China is dominated powerful rough state in the region; the modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) rapidly increasing in growth in fleet size and capabilities. The US Congressional Research Service estimated the strength of the Chinese Navy consisted of 348 ships and submarines in 2021, while the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) puts the figures slightly higher at 355 vessels.

## **2.5. Taiwan Strategy**

China's aggressive strategy in the South China Sea and the response of Taiwan is also very essential part of the geopolitical environment; Taiwan has some locations such as geographical locations, small land in the sea, small strait, and Chinese military deployment surrounding Taiwan. The geopolitical situation is very tense in the South China Sea due to great power competition in the region. In complex geographical locations amid to rise of tension between the states, countries have fear of conflict and very large numbers of deployment in the region. Taiwan's leadership has committed to the defense of the territorial integrity of Taiwan. At the island's National Day celebrations on October 10, the President of Taiwan Tsai Ing-wen said that it was her duty to

protect the freedoms and way of life of Taiwan's people ((Taiwan), 2022). Their leadership has the vision to protect their land at any cost if needed. Taiwan's geography itself strategic weakness, People of Taiwan living in fear of Chinese invasion all the time. Usually, Chinese forces harass Taiwan's naval forces in the region most of the time.

### Strategic Importance of Taiwan



Due to war of fear created a security dilemma for Taiwan. Her strategy was to counter China's aggression at any cost so Taiwan also prepared to defend its territorial integrity and national interest. Taiwan has the biggest chip industry product to sell around the world, its leading industry to selling their products. Taiwan is so small but its geographical location is very important in world politics, United States is backing Taiwan and both have agreed to counter Chinese aggression. The US and Taiwan have a very close strategic partnership and intelligence sharing; the US fully supports Taiwan in providing advanced weapons.

Taiwan's military hardware is mostly made in the United States (Easton, 2019). Scholars of political Science and International Relations claim that Chin's People's Liberation Army (PLA) a huge military modernization campaign could be capable of mounting an invasion by 2030 (MAJ Kyle Amonson, 2023), with a population of just 23 million and a military strength of 169,000 active service personals. Taiwan is dwarfed by China's population and military strength and capability, Chinese leadership emphasizes "peaceful reunification" with a long-term goal of winning soft power over the Island's population.

Taiwan's armed forces dwarf compared to China, Taiwan's military strength total active force is 169,000, ground force 94,000, Navy 40,000, Air Force 35,000, and Reserves 1,657,000.

Hardware of Taiwan strength such as Tanks 750, Aircraft 531+, Submarines 4, Naval ships 26, and artillery 2,093 (GFP, 2024 Taiwan Military Strength, 2024).

Contemporary Taiwan has adopted a strategy of “asymmetric warfare” that intends to make any military assault so difficult, such as successful Examples of asymmetric warfare include the Vietnam War and the Taliban’s defeat of the United States force in Afghanistan. However, this war was not in favor of Taiwan due to the small land of the territory in the context of asymmetric warfare.

Taiwan’s strategy is to increase its defense budget each year, supporting domestic defense projects like manufacturing submarines, reforming Taiwan’s reserve system with an “All-Out Defense Mobilization Agency” and young men between the ages of 18 to 36 from four months to one year for extending conscription. Taiwan is using weapons systems such as the US-made Patriot air defense system, as well as advanced its homegrown Tien Kung or “Sky Bow” surface-to-air anti-ballistic missiles, and Hsiung Feng anti-ship missile system.

## **2.6. Japan and Philippines**

Japan and the Philippines have increased their intention on island defense; Japan and China have historical distribution over South China; Japan has, with the help of the United States, given a response to China; and the Philippines also has serious concerns over the sea. Japan and the Philippines both claimed their waters and their sovereignty at the same time China also claimed their waters. Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan have a triangle relationship to counter Chinese influence over regions; all three countries agree to counter China's aggressive strategy in the region; all countries, with the help of the United States, have a key role to play in countering China's power in the region. Japan and the Philippines leaders also avoid giving any response over when if China attacks Taiwan, both countries can't help them. In the limitation area of Japan and Philippine support for Taiwan, it’s also a reality that all these countries can’t do anything to counterattack China due to the largest size of Chinese power in the region. China is the second-most powerful state in the world, and their allies countries, such as Japan and Manila, avoided confrontation with China. Growing Chinese assertiveness in the East and South China Seas forced two U.S. allies together in their defense strategies. Investing in new advanced technology military capabilities and expanding training with the United States due to growing concern about tensions across the Taiwan Strait and the impact of a possible conflict there (U S -China Economic and Security Review, 2014).

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said, “We can see that just by our geographical location, should there in fact be conflict” around Taiwan, “It’s very hard to imagine a situation of conflict and a war scenario where the Philippines will not somehow get involved,” when speaking

to Nikkei Asia in February 2023. Taiwan needs Japan's support to secure itself from China; Japan even doesn't come forward to support it in a war situation because Japan has limitations. Japan kept supporting all sectors, but Chinese deployment and aggressive posture created fear for Japan. In a realistic approach, no one comes to defend you; you may provide weapons but not full support is possible. Countries have the priority to protect their land and defend others, it's a secondary option (Solis, 2017).

However, Japan and the Philippines have committed to defending their national interests. Taiwan's concerns they feel hesitation to defend; they want to support Taiwan because of their common interests, but not in all ways. Taiwan is responsible for defending its territory because of self-survival and self-help in international order, so be strong yourself. There is no central authority to ensure the security of the states, so they must make brave policies and strategies for advancing weapons, development of technology, and advancement in the 21st century Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan must focus on building up their hardware (Acting, 2024).

## **2.7. Economic Dependence**

Directly and indirectly, countries are dependent on each other; some are close, and some are in complex independence in all aspects. Economic dependence has a key role to play in avoiding any conflict and war if countries have good attempts at economic trade with another country, so it shows normal relations between the states. Economic impendence is very essential in a conflicted area where tensions are increasing. This activity benefits the minimum chances of War Between the States. In the case studies of China and the United States, which have complex independence due to economic strong relations, both countries have the largest trade partners. Trade and economic relationships between the states play a key role in international politics. China is the third largest trade partner of the U.S. after Canada and Mexico. Trade volume between the two countries will be approximately \$1 trillion in 2024. China is a rising global power, and the U.S. is an existing superpower in the world. Both have deep economic ties, and both are avoiding going to direct war with its consequences for the region as well as for global peace (Holt, 2022).

Taiwan's economy remains reliant on trade with China, its largest trading partner. However, their recent tense economic relationship has experienced disruptions in the recent year, and China makes up the largest share of Taiwan's trade, approximately \$200 billion per year in 2022. Under the President Mao, who was in office from 2008 to 2016, Taiwan signed more than twenty pacts with China, such as the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, in which they removed all barriers to trade under the agreement. China has also pushed for Taiwan's exclusion from multilateral trading blocks, such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-



Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). CSECF

## **2.8. International Support for Taiwan**

Due to rising tensions between China and Taiwan, both enemy countries and friendly countries come to support them in international institutions. Taiwan has achieved an international focus to support them. For China concerns, this is unacceptable at any cost. International pressure is facing China due to support led by the United States and its allies countries. They influence their friendly countries to support Taiwan.

Diplomatic fronts Taiwan is too active in her chip manufacturing industry; most countries are dependent on the sector. Taiwan is leading in electronic devices and exporting all over the world; trade and exports of Taipei increase her influence global level. International agencies and stakeholders support Taiwan due to its strategic location and its importance in international politics, such as the recent report by Bloomberg finds that a conflict in the Taiwan Strait might cost the global economy nearly \$10 trillion (Jude Blanchette, 2024).

Several leader supporters of the Taiwan issue, including those from the G7; are speaking about the importance of Taiwan; a small number of countries have also conducted military presence operations near Taiwan support; and more have sent parliamentary delegations and made support to Taiwan; a large number of democratic countries are full of support for them on the manifesto of democratic norms and value for Taiwan. The specific interest, rather than democratic solidarity, is these conflict consequences for the region as well as beyond the region. The United States and its key coalition partners must address the lack of basic history of China and Taiwan; the United States must clear its foreign policy to support China, one policy or not; the US also supports Taiwan most of the time and provides advanced weapons and provides all types of support (IISS, 2021).

A military support scholar claimed that the US is making an Asian NATO to counter China's aggressive posture and policies. China's very strong response to make another NATO in the South China Sea divided the world more, and Beijing also sought to inform countries about United States efforts to construct an "Asia NATO" and to link such efforts to U.S. support for Taipei. Beijing is also alert on the expansion of NATO toward the South China Sea, as well as concerns over the AUKUS security agreement (between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the institutionalization of the QUAD (between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States), and the other alliances depending on a JapanSouth Korea-United States trilateral grouping as evidence that the United States has ambition for "Asian-NATO" that only for countering against China, thereby raising the risk of military in the region (Lang, 2008).



## **Conclusion**

The current situation between China and Taiwan has tension and is creating a crisis in the region, and the United States is exploiting the crisis in their national interest in the region. Allies of the U.S. supporting Taiwan and China are too aggressive in this support; Beijing is clear and pressurizes countries to support the one-China policy, and Taiwan is a key player in the region for exporting their chip products. The U.S. is the stakeholder in this crisis; direct support to Taiwan Provides weapons and support; it crisis is more tense. China has a policy to empower Taiwan if it can't back, and if it's not part of China, then it will invade and make it part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Beijing is very clear about its aim: U.S. and ally countries threaten to avoid interference in their region. However, Taipei is in fear of war, which is why they are opening their options and making relations and engagements with other countries. Japan and the Philippines are also important stakeholders in this crisis; both have concerns with China, both countries following the path of the U.S., where she directs them. Economic dependence between South Asian countries is decreasing tension, and complex interdependence between the countries is creating integrated regional peace, economic activity, and peace and stability in the region. Finally, Taiwan's support from international organizations and the international community is also essential; Taiwan is also very dependent on international community support.

## **CHAPTER 3:**

### **4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: OFFENSIVE REALISM**

#### **3.1 Introduction of Offensive Realism:**

John J. Mearsheimer, the creator of offensive realism, was born in New York on December 14, 1947. He is a well-known American international relations expert who is most renowned for developing the offensive realism thesis (Munro, 2024). His extensive education includes a master's degree in international relations from the University of California (1974) and a doctorate in the same field from Cornell University (1981).

Popular academic John Mearsheimer theory of international relations, which is part of the realistic school of thinking, includes the structural theory known as offensive realism. Mearsheimer offensive realism theory is based on certain assumptions developed by classical realists, whereas defensive realism emphasizes the anarchic nature of the international system as a promotion of aggressive state behavior in international politics. Power-maximization revisionists prioritize buck-passing and self-help over balancing strategic consistency in their aim to dominate the international system. Mr. Mearsheimer developed the five-rock assumptions hypothesis of offensive realism in his book "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics" (Mearsheimer, 2001).

1. Anarchy: In the anarchy in the international system.
2. Offensive military capabilities: All great powers states possess offensive military capabilities that they can use against each other.
3. Uncertainty: states cannot be sure that other states will not use military capabilities against them;
4. Survival: the primary goal of states is survival;
5. Rationality: States are rational unitary actors who think strategically about how to pursue their primary goal (survival).

A reasonable reaction for a great power to such a circumstance is to go on the offensive. Great power expansions towards power under the conditions of anarchy in the international system caused threatening situations among the nations producing a security challenge for another country. As a result of big countries viewing power maximization in the same way, instability within the international system is likely to come from great power wars (James, 2022).

Understanding offensive realism as a whole is essential to understanding major countries' strategic maneuvers, particularly in regions with high geopolitical tensions like the Asia Pacific area. It provides a framework for comprehending the motivations behind governments' aggressive policies, alliance formation, and power conflicts. Offensive realism sheds light on the competitive aspect of the Taiwan dispute in the context of US-China relations, as both nations work to project more power and protect their strategic interests in the area.

### **3.2 Key Principles of Offensive Realism**

The most talked-about idea in international politics is offensive realism, a fundamental philosophy of international relations. States compete with one another and with one other out of self-interest, fear of losing power, and other factors. Furthermore, governments contend that their behavior is required by the international system for them to survive. The most talked-about idea in international politics is endemic realism, a fundamental theory of international relations. States compete with one another and with one other out of selfinterest, fear of losing power, and other factors. Furthermore, governments contend that their behavior is required by the international system for them to survive.

Some significant principles of offensive realism are discussed in brief.

### **3.3 Anarchic International System**

In international relations, anarchy is defined as the absence of a central authority, the existence of a global power center capable of defending nations, the maximization of state power for self-survival, the existence of self-help, rule-based order, constant competition among nations, and the determination of each nation's power by its aggressive posture and potent force. While the US is the current aggressive superpower, China's emergence represents another aggressive power. China and the US are demonstrating power and aggressive conduct in international politics, and both are actively participating worldwide (Donnelly, 2023). The idea of anarchy pushes governments to fortify their borders and bolster their armed forces. Due to the anarchy in the global order, the military might grow day and night.

According to case studies, China will spend \$298 billion in 2024 or 4.2% more, than it did in 2023 (McGerty, 2024). China spends less. What does this indicate in terms of China's military sector investments? She perceives democratic nations as dangerous. Because of the US's military partnership in the area, China maintains excessively robust and active surveillance in the South China Sea. To oppose China's expanding influence in the South China Sea, the US maintains a significant military presence in the area and frequently dispatches troops there. Because of the new great game in the region—China alone competes with the US, Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan—the US occasionally irritates China. It is disputed by others, but China maintains that it is Chinese territory. States are becoming more and more apprehensive about their

security, which puts other states in a difficult situation. China and the US are two examples of two nations that are involved in uncertain circumstances worldwide.

### **3.4 Important Features of the Anarchic Global System**

1. In a chaotic international system, states cannot depend on any higher authority for their safety and security. As a result, they have to rely on their skills and resources to safeguard themselves and accomplish their goals. This self-help principle motivates states to constantly strive for ways to increase their power and security.

2. Anarchy breeds insecurity and uncertainty. States are always uncertain about the intentions of other states, resulting in a pervasive sense of mistrust. This uncertainty leads states to anticipate the worst-case scenarios regarding others' intentions and take proactive measures to prepare for potential threats, often leading to competitive and aggressive behaviors. In an anarchic system, states prioritize relative gains over absolute gains. This implies that states prioritize the extent of their power relative to other states. Even if a cooperative agreement brings advantages to a state, it may decline it if it believes that other states will benefit more, which could jeopardize its security in the long run.

Survival as the main objective: the primary goal of every state in an anarchic system is to ensure its survival. To safeguard their future, states prioritize the development of their military and economy, the preservation of their borders, and the maintenance of their political autonomy.

3. This often leads to the pursuit of power maximization as a means to attain security. Power struggles and conflicts: the anarchic nature of the international system fosters power struggles and conflicts. To safeguard their existence, states may resort to territorial expansion, increasing their military capabilities, and forming alliances. These actions can provoke countermeasures from other states, which can escalate tensions and potentially result in conflicts.

From our perspective, the United States considers its influence over Taiwan as crucial for ensuring its ability to project power and providing reassurance to its allies in the region. In a chaotic system, the US cannot afford to lose a crucial position like Taiwan, as it would diminish its relative strength and embolden China. From China's viewpoint, Taiwan holds immense significance in terms of national security and its aspirations for regional dominance. The reunification of Taiwan with mainland China is viewed as a means to neutralize a nearby security risk and to strengthen Taiwan's influence in the Asia-Pacific region. In a chaotic global environment, China believes that gaining control over Taiwan would greatly enhance its security and strategic importance.

### 3.5 Power Maximization

Power maximizations by the states at all times depend on threat of perception, a basic understanding of security depends on power defined usually in terms of military hardware, power shows the strength of the states through military modernization, and investment in expensive technology shows to countries how much keen to advance technology to become a strong country. The security of the state is a priority to protect and she defends it any cost, taking more measures to strengthen herself than going for the required military weapons making alliance (M, 2017)

Balance of power if disturbed in the region countries making alliances and Signing treaties with like-minded countries to counter their adversary country, means that countries can do anything if feel threat by their enemy countries to secure their land.

China has felt existential threats from the West China is why increasing its budget on military expenditures, every year China increased its budget in the defense sector due to threats increasing all over the globe. China has a very strong presence in the region of Indo- the Indo-Pacific Ocean, China special focuses on the navy because China has threats from the seaside; China is the third most powerful state in the world, ranking third largest strong military in the world (Review, 2024). The US has a presence in the region full of strength, most of the time Advanced aircraft Carrier and military ships are in the ocean and at the coastal areas of the Philippines Japan, and South Korea, three triangular alliances against China, their alliance and concerns with China over islands and sea, all countries claims its territory and sea, conflict is very high tension in the region, escalation has been in the war between two superpowers. The US and China try to secure their interest in the region, their presence deployed everywhere in the important choke points of trade routes for global routes.

The United States: aims to maintain its regional dominance by strengthening its military presence, forging strategic alliances, and supporting Taiwan as a democratic and strategically important partner. Power maximization for the United States entails guaranteeing that its military strength and economic dominance surpass China's, thereby discouraging Chinese aggression and instilling confidence in its allies. China: China's power maximization efforts primarily revolve around expanding its military capabilities, modernizing its forces, and asserting its influence over regional territories, including Taiwan. By successfully reunifying with Taiwan, China would greatly strengthen its strategic position, fortify its borders, and extend its influence further into the western Pacific. This aligns with its overarching objective of becoming the dominant force in Asia. Recognizing the principle of power maximization sheds light on the assertive and competitive actions displayed by both the United States and China. It emphasizes the significance of military and economic strategies for both nations, underscoring the role of power dynamics in influencing their policies towards Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region.

### **3.6 Offensive Realism and the US-China Strategic Competition**

The rivalry between the United States and China has become a paradigm of international relations over the past three decades. The United States is an existing superpower and China is a rising power, both are in competition US is surviving for great power China is rising great power toward to superpower. It shapes strategic competition over Taiwan, west claimed the Taiwan Strait in democracy they protect values and norms, and China believes it is their part and its internal part of China, even the United States supports one-China policy and respects to territory of China. Both are countries following offensive realism policy to achieve their interest in the region, both countries try to counter each other in many fronts the South China Sea, the geographical location of Taiwan very close to China, and the US presence in Taiwan and their deployments, strategy of United States over Taiwan creating security dilemma for China. Offensive realism a theory of International Relations developed by John Mearsheimer, great powers are inherently driven by the desire for regional hegemony and maximize their security through power increase and dominance.

In the context of US-China relations, offensive realism provides a useful framework for understanding the strategic competition over Taiwan. Both the United States and China perceive Taiwan as a critical element in their respective security and strategic calculations, driven by the following considerations:

Offensive realism assumes that the anarchic nature of the international system compels states to prioritize their security. For China, Taiwan represents a key strategic buffer zone. Control of Taiwan would provide China with greater security by expanding its defensive perimeter and denying potential adversaries a forward base close to its mainland. For the United States, maintaining influence in Taiwan serves as a means to contain China's regional ambitions and to reassure allies in the Asia-Pacific region of its commitment to its security.

From the perspective of offensive realism, states seek to maximize their power to ensure their survival. Control over Taiwan would strengthen China's ability to project power into the Western Pacific and challenge US dominance in the region. For the US, Taiwan is critical to maintaining its power projection capabilities in East Asia, allowing it to maintain a balance of power that prevents any single state from achieving regional hegemony.

Taiwan's economic importance, particularly its role in the global semiconductor supply chain, makes it a valuable asset. China views the integration of Taiwan's advanced technological capabilities as essential to its own economic development and military modernization. The United States, on the other hand, seeks to protect its economic interests by ensuring the stability and independence of a key trading partner and technology hub. Both China and the United States have strong domestic political imperatives associated with their policies toward Taiwan. For China,

reunification with Taiwan is a matter of national pride and a key element of the Communist Party's legitimacy. For the US, supporting Taiwan is consistent with its democratic values and commitment to defend allies and partners from coercion and aggression.

The strategic competition for Taiwan also has broader implications for regional stability. Offensive realism suggests that a dominant power will try to prevent the rise of an equal competitor. Thus, the competition between the US and China over Taiwan can be seen as part of a larger struggle to shape the regional order in East Asia, with both powers seeking to create a favorable balance of power that will secure their long-term interests.

### **3.8 Conclusion**

Offensive realism provides a compelling theoretical framework to understand the strategic competition between the US and China over Taiwan. By focusing on the anarchic nature of the international system, the relentless pursuit of power, and strategic opportunism, this theory elucidates why both nations adopt aggressive postures and policies regarding Taiwan. The US views Taiwan as a critical element in maintaining its influence and power projection in the Asia-Pacific, while China sees it as essential for its national security and regional dominance. Recognizing these dynamics is crucial for policymakers and analysts as they navigate the complex and potentially volatile security environment in the region, aiming to manage tensions and prevent conflicts.

## CHAPTER-4

### 4. HISTORY OF (PRC AND ROC)

#### **4.1 Introduction**

Historically Taiwan was under full Chinese control in the 17th century when the Qing dynasty began administering it (Qing (Manchu) dynasty, 1850) in Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and Beijing. Chinese revolution overthrew the Qing Empire and established the Republic of China (ROC). Two parties compete over which system is better for China to run this country. CPC 1921 sought the Chinese-styled communist future of socialist China; KMT, the nationalist Chinese-styled capitalist China, followed western models of government. After Japan surrendered in 1945, the US put pressure on the KMT to negotiate with the CCP, and the US was eager to mediate between the two parties. In 1949, Chiang Kai-Shek withdrew their pro-people to Taiwan along with 2 million supporters (the Republic of China in Taiwan), while Mao established the People's Republic of China.

World War II brought about a critical juncture, with Japan's surrender in 1945 prompting the United States to play a significant role in mediating between the KMT and CPC. The U.S. pressure on the KMT to negotiate with the Communist forces reflected the strategic interests of the post-war world order. However, despite these diplomatic efforts, the Chinese Civil War resulted in the retreat of Chiang Kai-Shek and two million supporters to Taiwan in 1949.

The establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) by Mao Zedong on the mainland further solidified the division between the two Chinas. Taiwan, under Chiang Kai-Shek's leadership, became the seat of the Republic of China, presenting a complex and enduring challenge to the international community. Recent years have seen an escalation in U.S-China strategic competition, with Taiwan at the center of the geopolitical rivalry. The US has strengthened its ties with Taiwan through arms sales, high-level visits, and increase diplomatic engagement. China in response has become more assertive in its claims over Taiwan, viewing any external support for the island as interference in its internal affairs.

Recent years have seen an escalation in U.S-China strategic competition, with Taiwan, The evolution dynamics of U.S-China strategic competition over Taiwan have significant implications for regional security. As the two major powers navigate their complex relationship, the status of Taiwan remains a key factor shaping the broader geopolitical landscape in the Asia-Pacific region. The study aims to analyze these historical, diplomatic, and geopolitical intricacies, providing insights into the potential impact on regional security and stability in the context of the U.S.-China-Taiwan relationship.



Taiwan, officially recognized as the Republic of China (ROC), is an island located across the Taiwan Strait from China. Since 1949, Taiwan has functioned independently from mainland China, which is governed by the People's Republic of China (PRC). The PRC considers Taiwan a breakaway province and has vowed to "reunify" it with the mainland. Despite this, Taiwan operates under its own democratically elected government and is home to approximately twenty-three million people. Within Taiwan, political leaders hold varying opinions on the island's status and its relationship with mainland China.

Tensions between Taiwan and the PRC have intensified since Tsai Ing-Wen was elected President of Taiwan in 2016. Tsai rejected a framework endorsed by her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, which had facilitated stronger cross-strait ties. In response, Beijing has escalated its actions, including flying fighter jets near Taiwan, prompting concerns among some analysts that a potential Chinese attack on Taiwan could lead to a conflict involving the United States.

Taiwan's complex history reflects a series of pivotal events, particularly in years ending in "2." In 1922, China was fragmented by competing militarist groups, with the Kuomintang (KMT) not yet a major force. By 1932, Japan had solidified its occupation of Northeast China, and the Chinese economy suffered under the Great Depression. In 1942, Japan controlled much of East China, and despite the United States becoming an ally, the war's outcome was uncertain. By 1952, the ROC had lost the mainland to the Communists, relying on U.S. protection to remain in Taiwan. Taiwan's economic transformation began around 1962, despite ongoing authoritarian rule and tensions with the U.S. In 1972, Taiwan faced setbacks, including losing its UN seat as the U.S. pursued relations with China. By 1982, the U.S. had ended diplomatic relations with the ROC, leaving Taiwan's future uncertain as President Chiang Ching-kuo's health declined. The situation improved by 1992, with expanding economic ties with the mainland and progress toward democracy. However, by 2002, political tensions deepened, both within Taiwan and with China and the United States, as the PLA began focusing on military modernization targeting Taiwan (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.; The Brookings Institution, n.d.). Relations between Taiwan and China began to improve in the 1980s as Taiwan eased restrictions on visits and investments in China. In 1991, the ROC declared the civil war with the PRC over. China proposed the "one country, two systems"

Model, which was intended to grant Taiwan significant autonomy under Beijing's control—a model similar to what was implemented in Hong Kong in 1997. Taiwan, however, rejected this proposal, leading Beijing to declare Taiwan's government illegitimate, though informal talks between the two sides continued.

In 2000, Taiwan elected Chen Shui-bian, a member of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) that openly supported Taiwan's independence, as president, alarming Beijing. Following Chen's re-election in 2004, China enacted an anti-secession law, asserting its right to use force against Taiwan if it attempted to secede. Subsequent Taiwanese leaders from the KMT sought closer relations with the PRC.

In 2016, Tsai Ing-Wen, from the DPP, became president, further straining cross-strait relations. China cut off official communications with Taiwan, citing Tsai's refusal to acknowledge the concept of a single Chinese nation. Although Tsai has not declared formal independence for Taiwan, stating that it is already independent, her presidency coincided with Xi Jinping's increasingly aggressive stance on Taiwan. Xi has reaffirmed China's intent to reunify with Taiwan, setting 2049 as the target date for achieving what he terms the "Chinese dream."

In January 2024, Taiwan elected William Lai, Tsai's vice president, as the new president—a move that China condemned, labeling Lai a "separatist." Shortly after his inauguration, Beijing conducted military drills as a "punishment" for separatist activities, singling out Lai as the "worst" DPP president to date. Taiwan holds significant geopolitical importance, particularly for the Philippines, as it serves as a critical link between Northeast and Southeast Asia within the "first island chain," directly opposing mainland China. With 70 percent of global trade conducted by sea, and 60 percent of that trade passing through Asia, Taiwan's proximity to vital maritime routes like the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca enhances its strategic value. The Philippines has a vested interest in keeping these waterways open and navigable due to their economic importance (BBC, 2024; Global Taiwan Institute, 2024). A potential crisis in the Taiwan Strait is a significant concern for the Philippines, which is why former President Duterte declared a stance of neutrality, aiming to avoid involvement in a China-Taiwan conflict. However, Manila's security commitments to the United States could compel its involvement if the conflict threatens its borders, particularly given the close Geographical proximity between Taiwan and the Philippines (BBC, 2024). The Marcos Administration has further strengthened Philippines-U.S. security relations, viewing the U.S. as a crucial buffer against China's aggressive actions toward Taiwan. As Taiwan faces challenges to its international visibility, particularly under leadership other than the Kuomintang, it must intensify its soft power and public diplomacy, focusing on the Global South, including the Philippines, to maintain international support (Global Taiwan Institute, 2024).

#### **4.2 Early 20th Century: The Fall of the Qing Dynasty**

In the nineteenth century, the Qing Empire faced numerous challenges, including foreign invasions and internal unrest. The two Opium Wars, primarily with Britain, resulted in the loss of Hong Kong, the forced opening of treaty ports, and the establishment of foreign concessions in major cities under extraterritorial control. After its defeat in the Sino Japanese War (1894–95),

China was compelled to cede Taiwan, parts of Manchuria, and its suzerainty over Korea. The Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) further solidified Japanese claims to Northeast China and weakened the Qing authority. The rise of imperialist demands, coupled with growing dissatisfaction with the Qing's foreign Manchu leadership and a desire for a unified China, fueled a burgeoning nationalism and revolutionary sentiment (BBC, n.d.; History.com, n.d.).

In response to its decline, the Qing court made attempts at constitutional reform, including the abolition of the examination system in 1905, efforts to modernize the military, and initiatives to decentralize power by creating elected assemblies and increasing provincial self-governance. Despite maintaining some control, the Qing faced pressure from overseas Chinese communities, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Americas, who supported either significant reform or outright revolution. Reformers like Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao advocated for a constitutional monarchy, while Sun Yat-sen led the Revolutionary Alliance, which sought to replace Qing rule with a republican government (Milestone in the History, n.d.; BBC, n.d.).

The revolutionary efforts culminated in the 1911 uprising in Wuchang, which escalated into a nationwide nationalist revolt. As the Qing court's losses grew, it attempted to transition to a constitutional monarchy by appointing Yuan Shikai as premier. However, the provinces began declaring allegiance to the revolutionaries. Sun Yat-sen, who was in the United States during the initial revolt, quickly returned to China, where he was elected the provisional president of the newly established Republic of China after the revolutionaries captured Nanjing (History.com, n.d.; BBC, n.d.).

Sun Yat-sen telegraphed Yuan Shikai, offering him the presidency if he agreed to the formation of a republic. With the Qing dynasty's military power waning and assurances made for the royal family's well-being, the emperor and the royal family abdicated the throne in February 1912 (Milestone in the History, n.d.). After China's loss in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–95), Sun Yat-sen abandoned his medical career to become a fulltime revolutionary. He called for the complete overthrow of the Qing dynasty and the Manchu regime to create a modern Chinese nation. On November 24, 1894, Sun founded the Xingzhonghui (Revive China Society) in Honolulu, Hawaii. After a failed uprising in Canton in 1895, he spent 16 years in exile, traveling globally to gather support for his revolutionary cause (National Library Board Singapore, n.d.).

#### **4.3 The Chinese Civil War (1927-1949)**

On October 1, 1949, Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong declared the creation of the People's Republic of China (PRC). This announcement marked the end of a costly fullscale civil war between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang

(KMT), which had broken out immediately after World War II and was preceded by intermittent conflict between the two sides since the 1920s (Kuo-tai, 1989). The establishment of the PRC also completed the long process of governmental upheaval in China that began with the Chinese Revolution of 1911. The "fall" of mainland China to communism in 1949 led the United States to suspend diplomatic ties with the PRC for decades.

The Chinese Communist Party, founded in 1921 in Shanghai, initially existed as a study group working within the First United Front with the Nationalist Party (Ching-yao, 1981). Chinese Communists collaborated with the Nationalist Army during the Northern Expedition of 1926–27 to eliminate the warlords who prevented the formation of a strong central government. This cooperation lasted until the "White Terror" of 1927, when the Nationalists turned against the Communists, leading to mass killings and purges.

Mao Zedong's leadership during the civil war was crucial to the eventual victory of the CCP over the KMT (BBC, n.d.). Despite the Nationalists' initial advantage, years of corruption and Mismanagement eroded their popular support, while the Communists garnered strong grassroots support, superior military organization, and substantial weaponry seized from Japanese supplies in Manchuria. By the late 1940s, the ROC government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, began contemplating a retreat to Taiwan as Communist forces gained the upper hand. In October 1949, after a series of decisive military victories, Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the PRC, forcing Chiang and his forces to flee to Taiwan to regroup and plan for a counteroffensive. The Chinese Civil War, primarily fought between the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang, or KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), had several key battles and turning points that significantly influenced its outcome. Below are some of the most critical moments:

### **1. The Shanghai Massacre (April 12, 1927)**

**Significance:** Also known as the "April 12 Incident," this event marked a turning point where the KMT, under Chiang Kai-shek, violently purged Communists from its ranks in Shanghai. This massacre led to the breakdown of the First United Front between the KMT and CCP and initiated open hostilities between the two parties.

### **2. The Long March (1934–1935)**

**Significance:** A strategic retreat by the CCP to evade KMT forces, the Long March covered over 9,000 kilometers from Jiangxi to Shaanxi. Though it was a grueling and costly journey, it became a symbol of Communist resilience and allowed Mao Zedong to consolidate his leadership within the CCP.

### **3. The Xi'an Incident (December 1936)**

**Significance:** KMT leader Chiang Kai-shek was kidnapped by his generals and forced to form a second United Front with the CCP to resist Japanese aggression. This temporarily halted the civil war and redirected both parties' focus to fighting the Japanese invasion during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

### **4. The Battle of Huaihai (November 1948 – January 1949)**

**Significance:** This was one of the largest and most decisive battles of the Chinese Civil War. The CCP's victory in this battle effectively destroyed the KMT's main forces in central China, leading to the rapid collapse of Nationalist resistance and the eventual Communist takeover.

### **5. The fall of Nanjing (April 23, 1949)**

**Significance:** The capture of Nanjing, the capital of the Republic of China, by CCP forces, marked the beginning of the end for the Nationalist government on the mainland. This victory allowed the CCP to consolidate control over eastern China.

### **6. The Proclamation of the People's Republic of China (October 1, 1949)**

**Significance:** Following a series of military victories, Mao Zedong declared the establishment of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. This event signaled the complete control of the mainland by the CCP and the retreat of Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist forces to Taiwan, where they established a separate government.

### **7. The Retreat to Taiwan (December 1949)**

**Significance:** After suffering heavy losses and facing imminent defeat on the mainland, Chiang Kai-shek and the remnants of the KMT retreated to Taiwan. This move marked the final phase of the civil war, with the CCP in control of the mainland and the KMT governing Taiwan, a situation that persists to this day.

These battles and events were crucial in shaping the outcome of the Chinese Civil War, leading to the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the ongoing division between the mainland and Taiwan.

## **4.4 The Establishment of the PRC and ROC (1949)**

During Jimmy Carter's presidency, a pivotal moment in Sino-American relations occurred on December 15, 1978, when the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) announced. They intend to recognize each other and establish official diplomatic relations. This

landmark decision followed months of secret negotiations and represented a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy. The United States formally recognized the PRC as the sole legal government of China and withdrew diplomatic recognition from Taiwan, also known as the Republic of China (ROC). Before this, for nearly three decades, the U.S. had maintained official ties with the ROC on Taiwan, viewing it as the legitimate government of all China despite the PRC's control of the mainland since 1949.

The process of normalizing relations began under President Richard Nixon, who, alongside his advisor Henry Kissinger, sought to improve ties with Communist China during the Cold War. Nixon's historic 1972 visit to China and the subsequent Shanghai Communiqué laid the groundwork for future cooperation, although it acknowledged the two nations' continuing disagreements over Taiwan. Following this rapprochement, the U.S. and PRC opened liaison offices in each other's capitals in 1973, signaling a move toward more formal diplomatic relations despite Taiwan still maintaining an embassy in Washington at that time.

When Carter assumed office in 1977, the prospects for further improving Sino-American relations were uncertain. Previous U.S. administrations had made little progress, with efforts under Nixon stalled by the Watergate scandal and subsequent political opposition during Gerald Ford's presidency. However, Carter and his advisors recognized that the opportunity to normalize relations with China might be fleeting and decided to act decisively. In the spring of 1978, Carter authorized U.S. negotiator Leonard Woodcock, the head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Beijing, to proceed with normalization talks.

The emerging agreement included a U.S. acknowledgment of "the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China." As part of the deal, the U.S. agreed to terminate its Mutual Defense Treaty with the ROC, originally signed in 1954. Simultaneously, however, the U.S. declared its intent to maintain "cultural, commercial, and other unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan," a move designed to preserve some ties with Taiwan despite the formal shift in diplomatic recognition.

Carter announced the agreement to the American public on December 15, 1978, affirming the United States' continued interest in a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue as outlined in the Shanghai Communiqué. The U.S. and PRC established official diplomatic relations on January 1, 1979, and opened embassies in each other's capitals by March 1, 1979. The exchange of ambassadors marked the beginning of a new era in Sino-American relations, allowing the two nations to negotiate diplomatic disputes and pursue mutual interests more effectively.

Despite the initial success, several points of contention emerged in the aftermath of normalization. During Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping's visit to the U.S. in January 1979, he

informed Carter of China's intention to attack Vietnam in response to Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, a move Carter unsuccessfully tried to dissuade. Additionally, the U.S. Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in April 1979, which allowed continued economic and cultural relations with Taiwan and pledged to provide Taiwan with defensive arms. This act, influenced by Congressional supporters of Taiwan, was met with displeasure by PRC leaders, who viewed it as undermining the normalization process.

Despite these challenges, U.S.-PRC relations generally improved, particularly in the areas of economic and security cooperation. Deng's 1979 trip to the U.S. was a public relations success, with the Chinese leader winning over Congress, the media, and the American public. The two nations concluded agreements on various topics, including consular relations, academic exchanges, and cooperation in space technology, high-energy physics, and science and technology policy. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan later that year further strengthened Sino-American military cooperation, despite some objections within the U.S. administration. This new diplomatic relationship provided both sides with the mechanisms needed to manage difficulties and promote shared objectives, marking a significant shift in both domestic and foreign policies under Mao Zedong's successor, Deng Xiaoping.

On the other hand, Taiwan's international standing has long been a subject of intricate and ongoing debate, shaped by a mix of historical events, political dynamics, and diplomatic efforts. Over the past several decades, Taiwan has managed to govern itself independently and develop a robust democratic system, despite its limited recognition on the global stage. The "status quo" arrangement with China has been a cornerstone of Taiwan's strategy, allowing for a certain level of international engagement, albeit with significant restrictions.

The roots of Taiwan's current situation can be traced back to the Chinese Civil War, which culminated in the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland. The retreating Republic of China (ROC) government set up its base in Taiwan. Initially, the ROC held onto its seat in the United Nations and continued to represent China in various international organizations. However, as the PRC gained international recognition, most countries gradually shifted their diplomatic ties from Taipei to Beijing, leading to Taiwan's marginalization in the global community.

Despite this diplomatic isolation, Taiwan has not remained idle. In recent years, it has adopted a strategy known as "flexible diplomacy," which involves forming informal yet substantive relationships with numerous countries and securing participation in international organizations under various names, such as "Chinese Taipei." This approach has allowed Taiwan to stay active on the world stage, although often at the cost of reinforcing its ambiguous status.

Taiwan's involvement in bodies like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Health Assembly (WHA) is emblematic of its efforts to contribute internationally while navigating the complex political realities imposed by China's influence.

Looking forward, Taiwan faces a range of possibilities regarding its international status, each fraught with its challenges. The current status quo, while imperfect, provides Taiwan with a degree of stability and room to maneuver, allowing it to engage with the world without triggering direct conflict with China. The option of declaring formal independence, however, is fraught with danger. China has made it clear that such a move would likely provoke military action, a risk that few in Taiwan are willing to take. On the other hand, the prospect of unification with China is even less appealing to the Taiwanese public, who largely favor maintaining their autonomy, at least under current conditions.

In essence, Taiwan's international status remains in a delicate balance. The island has carved out a space for itself in the global arena, despite Beijing's efforts to limit its influence. The future of Taiwan's status will be determined by a complex interplay of factors, including the evolution of cross-strait relations, the broader geopolitical climate, and the internal political landscape in both Taiwan and China. As the situation evolves, Taiwan's leadership will need to continue navigating these challenges carefully, balancing its aspirations for greater international recognition with the realities of its unique position.

#### **4.5 Cold War Context**

During the Cold War, the global alignment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC) was shaped by their respective relationships with major powers like the United States and the Soviet Union. After the Chinese Civil War ended in 1949, the PRC, led by the Communist Party under Mao Zedong, aligned itself with the Soviet Union, which became its most significant ally. This alliance was rooted in shared communist ideologies and mutual interests in countering Western influence, particularly that of the United States (Zhang, 2002). Meanwhile, having retreated to Taiwan, the ROC aligned itself with the United States and its Western allies as part of the broader anticommunist bloc. This alignment was crucial for the ROC's survival, as it sought to maintain international legitimacy as the rightful government of all China (Kissinger, 2011).

The relationship between the PRC and the USSR, however, was not without its tensions. Despite their initial camaraderie, ideological differences and national interests began to drive a wedge between the two communist giants. By the late 1950s, the Sino-Soviet split had occurred, with the PRC distancing itself from the USSR and seeking to assert its independence within the communist world (Westad, 2005). This shift had significant implications for the global Cold War



dynamics, as the PRC began to position itself as a leader of the "Third World" and a challenger to both Western and Soviet hegemony. Conversely, the ROC continued to rely heavily on U.S. support, both militarily and diplomatically, to sustain its claims as the legitimate government of China (Chang, 1988).

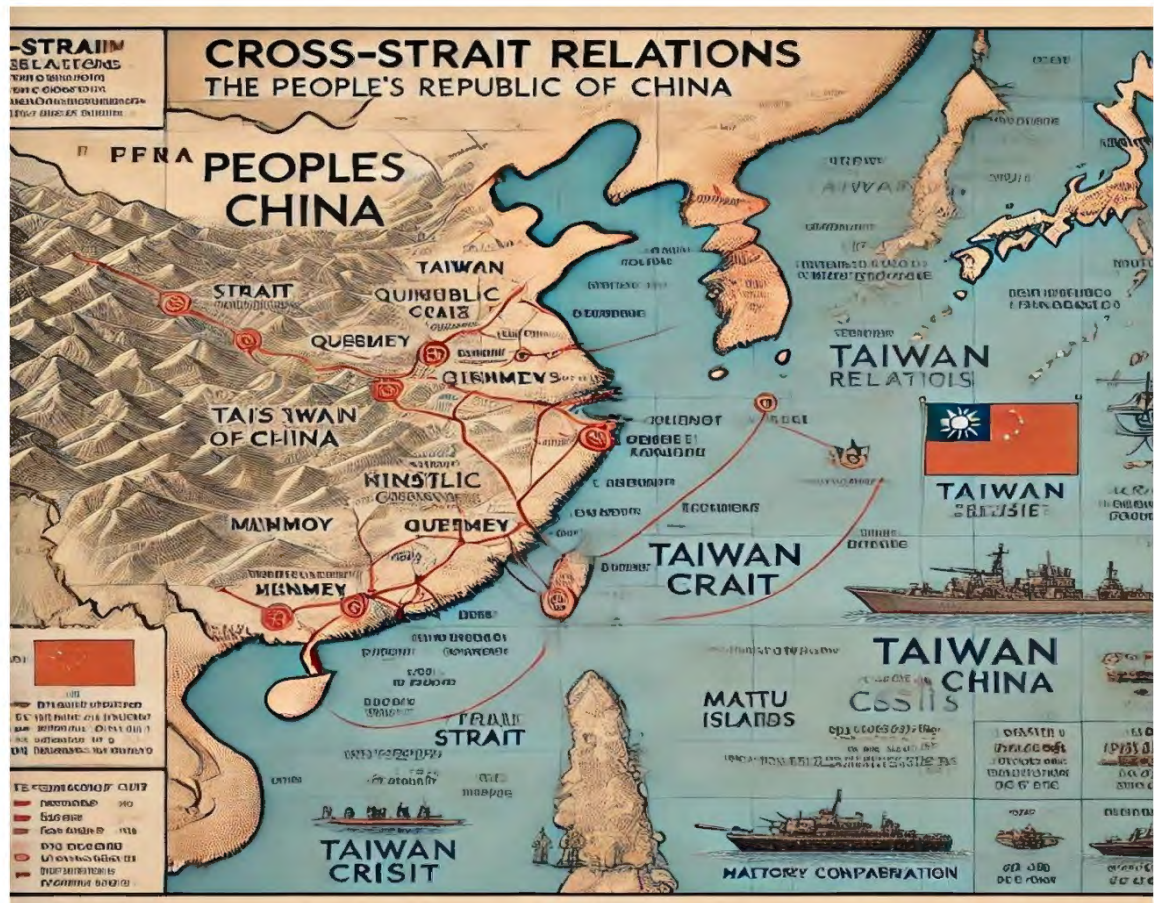
One of the most contentious issues during this period was the struggle for the United Nations seat representing China. For over two decades, the ROC held the seat as one of the founding members of the UN and a permanent member of the Security Council, despite having lost control of the mainland to the PRC. The PRC, backed by the Soviet bloc and a growing number of newly independent countries in the developing world, argued that it was the legitimate government of China and thus deserved the UN seat (Buzo, 2017). The United States and its allies, however, staunchly supported the ROC's continued representation, viewing the PRC as a communist adversary that should be contained rather than legitimized (Tucker, 2009).

This diplomatic struggle culminated in 1971, when the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758, which recognized the PRC as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations" and expelled the ROC from its seat (Garver, 2016). This decision marked a significant shift in global diplomacy, as it acknowledged the PRC's growing influence and effectively ended the ROC's participation in the UN. The loss of the UN seat was a major blow to the ROC, as it signaled the erosion of its international standing and the consolidation of the PRC's position as the recognized government of China. Despite this setback, the ROC continued to maintain informal relationships with several countries, while the PRC's entry into the UN marked the beginning of its gradual integration into the global community (Harding, 1992).

#### **4.5 Cross-Strait Relations**

During the Cold War, cross-strait relations between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC) were marked by significant military tensions, most notably the Taiwan Strait Crises. These crises were a series of military confrontations that underscored the volatility of relations between the two governments. The first Taiwan Strait Crisis occurred in 1954-1955 when the PRC bombarded the offshore islands of Quemoy (Kinmen) and Matsu, which were held by the ROC. The United States, under its mutual defense treaty with the ROC, intervened to prevent a full-scale invasion by the PRC (Tucker, 2009). A second crisis erupted in 1958 when the PRC again shelled the same islands, leading to a major standoff that brought the world to the brink of another large-scale conflict. These crises highlighted the PRC's determination to reunify China by force if necessary and demonstrated the ROC's precarious position in the face of superior military power from the mainland (Garver, 2016).

Despite the ongoing military tensions, there were also periods of détente where economic cooperation and cultural exchanges flourished between the PRC and ROC. Starting in the late 1980s, both sides began to cautiously engage in dialogue, recognizing the benefits of economic interdependence. The PRC adopted economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping, opening up to foreign investments and trade, which eventually led to closer economic ties with Taiwan. Taiwanese businesses took advantage of the PRC's burgeoning economy, investing heavily in the mainland, particularly in manufacturing and technology sectors (Wang, 2017). This economic cooperation was a pragmatic move by both sides, seeking mutual benefit despite the unresolved political status of Taiwan.



Cultural exchanges between the PRC and ROC also became more prominent during these periods of reduced tension. The increased interactions were part of a broader strategy to foster a sense of shared cultural identity and to ease the political divide. Taiwanese tourists began visiting the mainland in larger numbers, and academic exchanges became more frequent. This period also saw the gradual lifting of restrictions on family visits, allowing many who had been separated by the civil war to reunite after decades of separation (Bush, 2013). These exchanges helped to build a complex relationship where economic and cultural ties grew even as political tensions persisted.

However, these developments did not resolve the fundamental political conflict between the PRC and ROC. The PRC continued to view Taiwan as a breakaway province and refused to

renounce the use of force for reunification, while the ROC maintained its de facto independence with the backing of the United States. The cross-strait relationship thus evolved into a delicate balance of cooperation and confrontation, with economic and cultural exchanges serving as stabilizing factors in an otherwise tense and unresolved situation (Wang, 2017).

#### **4.6 Modern Era (Post-1990s)**

The post-1990s era has been transformative for both the PRC and ROC, particularly regarding economic growth and political reforms. The PRC experienced rapid economic expansion, becoming a global economic powerhouse. This growth was fueled by market reforms initiated in the late 1970s and continued aggressively into the 1990s, leading to China's integration into the global economy (Naughton, 2018). On the other hand, Taiwan (ROC) also saw significant economic progress, with its economy transitioning towards high-tech industries and becoming a critical player in global supply chains (Saxenian, 2002). Simultaneously, Taiwan underwent profound political reforms, evolving from a one-party state under martial law to a vibrant democracy. The democratization process in Taiwan, marked by the lifting of martial law in 1987 and the first direct presidential election in 1996, was a critical development that distinguished Taiwan from the authoritarian rule in mainland China (Rigger, 1999).

In terms of international relations and diplomacy, the PRC and ROC have taken divergent paths. The PRC has leveraged its economic power to gain diplomatic recognition and expand its influence on the global stage. Since the 1990s, China has established itself as a key player in international organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO), and G20, shaping global policies in various sectors (Shambaugh, 2013). Taiwan, however, has faced increasing diplomatic isolation as more countries shifted their recognition from Taipei to Beijing (Nathan & Scobell, 2012). Despite this, Taiwan has managed to maintain informal relations with many nations and participates in international organizations, albeit often under names like "Chinese Taipei" to navigate around Beijing's objections (Roy, 2003). This period also saw Taiwan's attempts to secure greater international space, such as its bid for membership in the World Health Organization (WHO), which reflects the ongoing struggle for international recognition and participation despite Beijing's persistent diplomatic pressure (Bush, 2004).

## **CHAPTER-5:**

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF THE US-CHINA COMPETITION OVER TAIWAN**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The strategic competition between China and the United States over Taiwan has disruptive implications for the region and beyond. China has a clear policy: don't compromise over Taiwan; Beijing emphasizes that all countries support one China policy; the U.S. global level supports one China policy; and also supports Taiwan morally and diplomatically by providing advanced military hardware. The United States has supported Taiwan on all diplomatic fronts and sold arms to Taiwan; a new arms race started in the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific. China is proactive in defending its territory against any threats from the United States. However, the U.S. is keen to counter China's rise by making military alliances with like-minded countries along anti-states of China, such as QUAD; this alliance anti-Chinese block includes Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. Australia is a weaker member state in QUAD; India is also, doesn't it make a military alliance less committed in the alliances? Japan is promising to support QUAD alliances in all aspects.

Due to Japan's disputes in the region with China and her keenness to form military alliances against China, the United States is leading this alliance's support to all levels; some reports have claimed this QUAD. The United States is keen to make it an Indo-Pacific NATO (Carafano, 2024).

In Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS), this is an alliance to provide advanced weapons to Australia, such as submarines. Australia has canceled its deal with France. The United States is keen to secure their ally countries, sell guns, and earn for the United States Defense Complex. The U.S. has taken benefits from all sides, strategic her and her defense complex, earning billions of dollars from these alliances. The United States is standing a Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOP) in the South China Sea. The United States has its terminologies for its interest in this regard. Freedom of Navigation: China is against it because the U.S. has used this theory for the South China Sea (Voices, 2022).

Economic implications directly or indirectly, a regional and global level of conflict happened; the semiconductor industry was disturbed, as was the supply chain. China and the U.S. trade war and tension over Taiwan and between countries interrupt trade relations, creating a huddle for the global trade supply chain. Both countries are in tension, creating a lot of challenges for underdeveloped countries and the prices of the commodities.

Political implications and security implications are worse than history faced, such as in World War I and World War II. Security perspective consequences for both countries as well as

for global security and potential regional and global conflict problems for all countries for other countries. Along with a political implication is also a serious debate between the two countries and a debate in the international community. However, regional alliances and partnerships are increasing between two blocks, with the United States leading and China leading with Russia's support. The United States leading alliances in the AsiaPacific region, the response of regional countries such as South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and ASEAN, and the role of international organizations such as the UN, the global power shift, and the U.S.-China shift in global balance. In the 21st century, unilateralism has an emerging network in international relations of like-minded countries that share the same interest in the region. Prominent bilateral blocks such as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), Australia-UK-USA (AUKUS), Chip 4 Alliance, Japan-South Korea-Taiwan and United States, and India-Israel-UK-USA (I2U2). All mini-groups collaborate, such as across various sectors including security, technology, defense, and economy, and their direct and indirect impact on global peace and security (Siddique, 2023).

## **5.2 Geopolitical Implications**

The rise of China has not slowed her with massive economic progress and a buildup of military power. The United States feels fear of authoritarian regimes and is too concerned about the liberal order's chance of being replaced by China through its massive achievements. Geopolitical dynamics changed when both countries clashed over the SouthChina Sea; this pivot of geopolitical ground was where both sides to the future of global peace and stability. China and the United States are keen to make strong alliances to secure their national interests.

Geopolitics situation: in circumstances where both countries going into conflict directly impact the Allies countries of the two blocs, they will survive due to their confrontation's negative impact because allies countries of the United States will invest in the military buildup rather than social-political development for their people. Great power competition impacts other countries when friendships or relationships, such as sharing their interests,

Taiwan is the center of the great power and a historical part of China, and Taiwan belongs to China; both are part of each other in many regards (Kanwal, 2024).

1. **The Quadrilateral Alliances Dialogue: QUAD** is formed in 2007 between the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia. Since 2017, the group has undertaken activities in various areas, such as collaborating to make vaccines, sharing military intelligence, and competing with China in providing loans to the Indo-Pacific nations. During the leader-level summit 2024, the group started its vision of a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region and was keen to reaffirm its collaboration with ASEAN and other Pacific nations.



2. **Australia-UK-USA (AUKUS):** Established in September 2021, this is three countries alliance and collaboration on information and technology, hypersonic missiles, and the development nuclear-powered submarines in Australia. There are two functions on pillars. Pillar 1. Development of nuclear submarines for Australia, and Pillar 2. Technology sharing and increased interoperability between the member states, such as cyber security

3. **The Chip4 Alliance:** The Chip4 is a group; there are four like-minded states: the U.S., Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. This group formed in 2022 mainly to cooperate on manufacturing sustainable semiconductors. Components technologybased devices have key semiconductors. Three main focal points.

- 1) Establish a semiconductor manufacturing base and relocate the crucial supply lines to other like-minded countries by supporting industry and investment efforts.
- 2) Protecting the intellectual property (IP) for the companies in member states.
- 3) Promote exports of the advanced semiconductors by policy development.

4. **Freedom of Navigations Operations (FONOPs):** In South China, the United States is keen on freedom of navigation operations. China is strongly against criticism from the United States on the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets international rules for use of the ocean for defining maritime zones like territorial seas, contiguous zones, and exclusive economic zones. In this document, different features like islands, rocks, and low-tide elevations generate different rights. In the provisions of the UNCLOS, it asserts freedom of navigation operations for duties and rights.



From Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School

### **5.3 Economic Implications:**

Economic implications: worst consequences for the global trade and supply chain. Global trade is already facing a lot of challenges due to the War of Russia. Ukraine, the PalestineIsrael war and COVID-19, and great power competition between great powers such as China, Russia, the United States, and rising India are interrupting global trade and rising inflation. This aspect is discussed in the detail of Chapter No. 3. There are two dimensions over Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific between China and the United States: security aspect and economic aspect. Economic situation disturbed two countries their largest trade relations and sharing good and services. Both largest countries have complex interdependencies in economic relations. Tension raises over the Taiwan issue consequences for global level distribution in trade and communication among the developing countries, especially for the global south. United States, with the help of allies' countries creating influence in the region, such as the ASEAN region, keen to develop economic good relations with them (Jennifer Welch, 2024).

### **5.4 Trade and Investment**

Mutual trade and investment between two countries: the U.S. has given openness to China in the 1970s era and gave it a chance to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 11 December 2001. The People's Republic of China and United States good services trade totaled an estimated \$758.4 billion in 2022. Exports were \$195.5 billion; imports were \$562.9 billion. The U.S. goods and services huge trade deficit with China was \$367.4 billion in 2022. However, U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in China (stock) was \$126.1 billion in 2022, an increase 9 percent from 2021. U.S. special investment in manufacturing, wholesale trade, and finance and insurance. China's FDI in the United States was \$28.7 billion in 2022, down 7.2 percent from 2021, in areas led by manufacturing, real estate, and depository institutions (Berman, 2024).

### **5.5 Economic Sanctions**

The global trade carried by the South China Sea estimated 20% to 30% volume flow, overlapping territorial involving dispute China in the region. US government for maintaining pressure over Beijing imposing economic sanctions on companies, officials, individuals, and military personnel, usually when the United States has needed it. In the response of China, also in retaliations, imposed sanctions duties on and imposed the same like the U.S. did with China. Escalation between two countries is very common in that if they have strategic interests, they impose sanctions on each other. The United States has huge influence in international institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, the International Development Agency (IDA), and the International Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), etc. In these all in institutions, there is a lot of influence in the various windows (Tellez, 2023).

## **5.6 Security Implications**

The United States has security partnerships around the world; the one with Taiwan is surely unique. Washington DC does not recognize nor has diplomatic relations with the Republic of China's (ROC) government in Taipei, but instead recognizes the People's Republic of China's (PRC) in Beijing. The United States has been engaging with Taiwan through nominally private organizations, the American Institute in Taiwan.

## **5.7 Potential conflict regional and global**

When the United States and China go into conflict over the region as well as beyond the globe, dangerous consequences include the economy, political situation, geopolitical dynamics, and regional security. Regional countries most affected by the escalation between Washington, DC, and Beijing. A cold war situation has been created in global institutions, divided more than ever has been. The geopolitical situation is not better around the world; traditional and non-traditional security are facing. The United States has been committed to ensuring their allies security and providing advanced weapons to protect from China. First, Washington, DC, and the military complex ensure and promise the Philippines security and to provide needed advanced weapons. The U.S. has also signed an agreement with the Philippines for providing security. Another important ally in the region is South Korea's strongest military in the region. The US and South Korea enjoy a very close strategic partnership. The United States and Japan also great their partnership in the region; Japan is using the most advanced and costly jet of the F-35. In sum, Western-likeminded and anti-

China's countries are too active in their policies and interests towards Indo-Pacific strategy, including Japan, France, Canada, and the U.S.A. The United States and China have been interred into another cold war; this world is more divided than ever before; already, this global situation is tense due to the Russia-Ukraine war; the Palestine-Israel war interrupted the global supply chain; these factors are creating instability at the international level (Avery Goldstein, 2021).

## **5.8 Deterrence and Defense Postures by China U.S**

Theory of Realism in International Relations in key assumption of deterrence for projects their power in the region. The United States has a unique example of defending nuclear weapons for peace and deterrence; historical USA and Russia both in the competition over defense and security maximize their power. In the context of the China rise, she also claimed their security for the region. China is coming with aggressive behavior due to a lack of security guarantees for any



states to protect their security and interests in the region. China is building up their military power in balance with the United States their strong military complex. Deterrence of military posture between two countries in all aspects of the military, traditional weapons and non-traditional weapons. Special nuclear weapons and missile technology development is engaging and completing, like working on super-conic and hypersonic missiles and jets. China, Russia, and the United States have fighter jets, thousands of missiles, military tanks, ships, aircraft carriers, and advanced satellite technology. Full of spectrum nuclear deterrence among the nuclear weapons countries, no need for such more advancement in acquiring nuclear weapons; these are enough to damage the global infrastructure; they all have advanced nuclear weapons ten times more than current land can destroy the world (Ashley Townshend, 2020).

China is rising due to a security dilemma for the country, which is why they are advancing their military, and Beijing too is advancing their satellites and space technology, along with working satellite technology.

Secondly, China wants to protect economic interest at the global level, her huge exports towards Africa, the Middle East, and the European region, and economic interest in the region and beyond the region. China is too committed to protect their trade routes and secure interests. China is the fastest and most rapidly growing economy in the world, second most powerful economy in the region. China and the United States both have the potential to be full of deterrence in the region and beyond the globe; these all major power countries have the power of the military, such as nontraditional nuclear weapons.

## **5.9 Cyber Security and Intelligence**

In the concerns of the rising cyber security and intelligence threats for both countries, the massive rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in the all fields and security threats for the national security of the States. Cybersecurity concerns for both countries both are advanced in their technology. Responsible Great Powers have a need to cooperate on the security concerns, especially on the technological development. Cybersecurity and Intelligence China is advancing within decades to competitions with advanced countries such as the United States, Japan, Israel, and European countries.

## **5.10 Political Implications**

Geo-Strategic and Geo-Political competition on Political stability between two major powers is very disturbed throughout the region. Due to political stability in the region for the major powers for their national interest states, survival for the third country. Global South and Global North are facing a lot pressure due to camp politics. I discussed very briefly the chapters between China and the United States impact on the political stability of the region (Dittmer, 2017).

### **5.11 US domestic Politics, Influence of Taiwan in US Politics:**

The international community and international society have the biggest role in any global event of relations between the countries. In the United States, domestic politics has part of the international very strong view point because the people of the country are free and believe in freedom of speech and talk, democratic norms, and value in the country. The United States has a huge role of people. What are they thinking for the world? Specially people of Taiwan and their commixture views; some people believe the U.S.A. has a need to avoid internal matters of China; along their views, China and the U.S.A if in confrontation another global crisis in the world politics. Another view is about standing with the people of Taiwan in the democratic value; they want to support the Taiwan freedom struggle, and they are encouraging the government to support Taiwan (Goldstein, 2023).

### **5.12 Role Taiwan-American Community Lobbying Group**

People-to-people contact between the United States and Taiwan is strong and continues to grow. In 2019, travel for business and pleasure from Taiwan to the United States has increased 70% percent since the Taiwan part of the U.S. visa waiver program in November 2012. The Seven largest sources of international students from Taiwan in the United States, sending each year around 20,000 students to receive a high-quality education in the last decades. The U.S.A. is supporting Taiwan in international institutions for memberships and encouraging Taiwan meaningful participation in organizations where its membership is not possible. Taiwan is a member of several international organizations and bodies, including the World Trade Organizations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, and the Asian Development Bank. All institutions and people-to-people ties between two countries bring them closer to each other and lobbying for Taiwan and the American community huge influence to support them against China. Taiwan's thousands of people living in the United States goodwill and their strong relations with them, playing a key role in defending Taiwan's interest in the United States (Freeman, 2022).

### **5.13 Implication for International Relations**

In the international relations between the United States and China, their strategic competition and great game impact on the other state-level relationships. The United States is running an international liberal order if China will surpass it in the economy, defense, culture, foreign policy domain, and their BRI key project of connectivity, which directly impacts the dynamics of international relations. Global Order if China make their own direction and change their circumstances of international affairs. China is rising as a great power, and the United States is declining as a superpower, but the U.S.A. remains a great power, if not weaker in internal. Internal politics of the United States and weakening their democracy have a very negative impact on the image of the United States. China's raise their influence in the regional and international

organizations, such as leading Asian Development Bank under BRI projects; China is leading the BRICS with this platform of currency; and SCO is a very important regional organization in this alliance's strength to China. In the international relations between the United States and China, their strategic competition and great game impact on the other state-level relationships. The United States is running an international liberal order if China will surpass it in the economy, defense, culture, foreign policy domain, and their BRI key project of connectivity, which directly impacts the dynamics of international relations. Global Order if China make their own direction and change their circumstances of international affairs. China is rising as a great power, and the United States is declining as a superpower, but the U.S.A. remains a great power, if not weaker in internal. Internal politics of the United States and weaken their democracy have a very negative impact on the image of the United States. China's raise their influence in the regional and international organizations, such as leading Asian Development Bank under BRI projects; China is leading the BRICS with this platform of currency, and SCO is a very important regional organization in this alliance's strength to China (Dong Wang, 2021).

#### **5.14 Regional Alliances and Partnership**

We define very briefly about minilateralism rising in international relations and alliances in the region; some are based on the theory of offensive realism, some are in counter offensive realism. The United States is very aggressively making their alliances to counter China in the South China Sea and along beyond the regions. United States acts to real political behavior in the region. China and the United States have a huge presence in the region, such as countered alliances and offensive stances against each other. Regional countries too cooperative with the U.S.A. due to water disputes with China, such as Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam, have a very close partnership with the United States.

The United States and China are keen to make their interest in the Asia Pacific special in the ASEAN region. Both are trying to make their alliances with them as they can. This regional organization has huge economic relations with both countries. Some scholars claim this region is under high cold war between two great powers. ASEAN countries try to gain independence from the great powers game between the two countries. This region is very important for the geopolitics and geo-economics dynamics; this region is a huge potential pivot of great power competition. The United Nations has no recognition as a state this strait is far from the mainland of China; by United Nations law, this mainland of China is a state, not Taiwan.

Other organizations such as AUKUS, QUAD, I2U2, and Chip-4 alliances this huge important for countering China's rise, these organizations also impact on the China Foreign Policy and their military posture in the region (Chachavalpongpan, 2014).

#### **4.15 Implication for Global Governance and Multilateral Institutions**

US-China competition over Taiwan and other worlds; both are competition over all the global issues and fronts, where both are also cooperation and well coordinated engagement. China is rising very fast; none other countries do. The United States has been leading almost all international institutions, and her global governance has hugely shared its finances. International multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, WTO, and IMF, and the primary organ of the United Nations, have protected the interests of global peace and stability. However, democratic laws, values and norms, regulations, and duties and responsibilities defined by the U.S. A liberal order in the institutions, in the international major institutions, the United States has a key role, and they make decisions and command and control. China has also shared in the global governance and global issues due to the rise of the economy, trade, and development of military technology. These all factor in encouraging China to become a part of the decisions made in global governance. China is the leading capitalist economy in the world compared to other liberal countries; China is supportive of capitalistic liberal order; the U.S.A. has a fear of the liberal economy of China. Basically, openness of the Chinese economy is the biggest role of the United States given space in the 1970 era. The United States also wants to normalize relations with China to counter the influence of the Soviet Union.

In the current circumstances, global governance is led by the United States and their allies countries, such as the European Union, and China is also an important stakeholder in global governance. EU countries have huge influence on the global stage, and they are all supportive of U.S.A. stances all over the world. The United States has a very active and leading role in international politics (Chin, 2021).

#### **5.16 Role of Russia and India**

Russia is a very important and great power; she has veto power in the Security Council and enjoys their great power status around the world. Russia is also an important stakeholder in the global issues and decision-making process, such as in the United Nations and Security Council. After attacks of Russia on Ukraine, the closer partnership with China ever in the history of both countries, China and Russia annexed against Western countries. The United States faces two fronts of pressure due to China and Russia's close strategic partnership. The United States has made a strategic mistake in the annex of China and Russian close friendship. The Russian Federation has strong military hardware and the strongest military in the world. China and Russia are supporting each other on all fronts, protecting their interests on a global level. China is supporting Russia in the Ukraine war, and Russia is also supporting China in the Taiwan dilemma (Kapoor, 2021).

India is a rising great power; she also has a key role in the Global South; India is a strategic partner of the United States; both are sharing the same interest in the Indo-Pacific region against China. India is growing great power; India's strategic location determines the strength of India, and huge populations crossed to China in population in 2024, and India is the largest country in the world by population.

India and the United States are close partners against China, making their potentially strongest military alliance enemy. India and the U.S.A. have a closed partnership in many sectors of military, diplomatic, economic, social, and political alliances against China. India is supporting the U.S.A. on many fronts against China (Peng, 2023).

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