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CHINA - TAIWAN CONFLICT

Why In News?

- **US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** Landed In Taipei With Her **Congressional Delegation** Late On Tuesday, Defying **China's Repeated Warnings** Against The Visit. **Pelosi** Pledged Solidarity Hailed Taiwan's Democracy And Said That The **US Will Not Abandon Its Commitment To The Self-Governing Island.**

The Indian EXPRESS

China-Taiwan tensions post-Pelosi visit, Live Updates: China begins 'illegitimate, irresponsible' live-fire military drills, says Taiwan



Hindustan Times

Nancy Pelosi departs Taiwan after visit that fueled US-China rift

World News

Published on Aug 03, 2022 03:48 PM IST

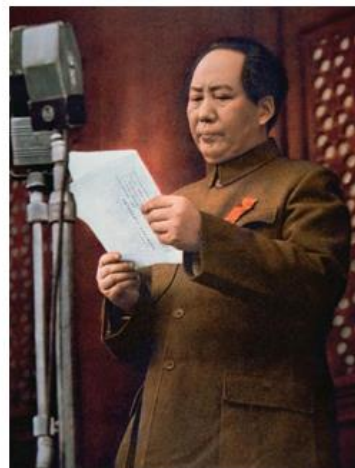
Pelosi and five other members of Congress were headed to South Korea, the next stop on an Asia tour that also includes Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.



Understanding The China - Taiwan Conflict:

- Historically The Island **First Came Under Full Chinese Control In The 17th Century** When The **Qing Dynasty** Began Administering It. Then, In **1895**, They Gave Up The Island To Japan After Losing The **First Sino-Japanese War**. **China** Took The Island Again In **1945** After **Japan Lost World War Two**.
- But A **Civil War Erupted** In Mainland China Between **Nationalist Government Forces Led By Chiang Kai-shek** And **Mao Zedong's Communist Party**. The **Communists Won In 1949 And Took Control Of Beijing**.
- **Chiang Kai-shek** And What Was Left Of The **Nationalist Party** - Known As The **Kuomintang** - **Fled To Taiwan**, Where They Ruled For The Next Several Decades. China Points To This History To Say That **Taiwan Was Originally A Chinese Province**.
- But The **Taiwanese Point To The Same History** To Argue That They Were **Never Part Of The Modern Chinese State** That Was **First Formed After The Revolution In 1911** - Or The **People's Republic Of China** That Was **Established Under Mao In 1949**.

- The **Kuomintang** Has Been One Of Taiwan's Most Prominent Political Parties Ever Since - Ruling The Island For A Significant Part Of Its History. Currently, **Only 13 Countries (Australia, Canada, EU Nations, Japan and New Zealand Plus The Vatican)** Recognize Taiwan As A **Sovereign Country**.
- Besides, **Taiwan Has Full Membership In 38 Intergovernmental Organizations** And Their Subsidiary Bodies, Including The **World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Asian Development Bank And Central American Bank For Economic Integration**.
- **China** Exerts Considerable **Diplomatic Pressure** On Other Countries **Not To Recognize Taiwan**, Or To Do Anything Which Implies Recognition. **Taiwan's Defense Minister** Has Said Relations With China Are The Worst They Have Been For **40 Years**.



USA & China Relations:

- The **US And China** Reconciled In The **1970s** Due To The **Cold War's Shifting Geopolitics**, So That The Growing Influence Of The **USSR** Could Be Countered. This Was Followed By The **Visit Of The Then US President To The PRC In 1972**.
- Subsequently, **ROC Was Displaced By The PRC** As The **Official Representative At The UN**. Then, the **"One-China Principle"** Came Into the Picture. The **Shanghai Communique (1972)**, The **Normalization Communique (1979)**, And The **1982 Communique** Are The Three Documents Outlining The US-China Mutual Understanding On The **Taiwan Question**.
- As Per The **1979 Communique**, The **US Accepts The 'One China Principle'** Considering Taiwan, A Part Of China. However, The **US Started Maintaining Unofficial Relations With Taiwan** In The Name Of People Of Both The Nations.

- In The **1982 Communique**, China Expressed Its Concerns Over The Likelihood Of **Continued Supply Of Arms By The US To Taiwan** As Per The Provisions Of **Taiwan Relations Act (TRA),1979**. In This Way, The **US Has Balanced** Its Recognition Of The PRC Along With The Concerns Of Taiwan.

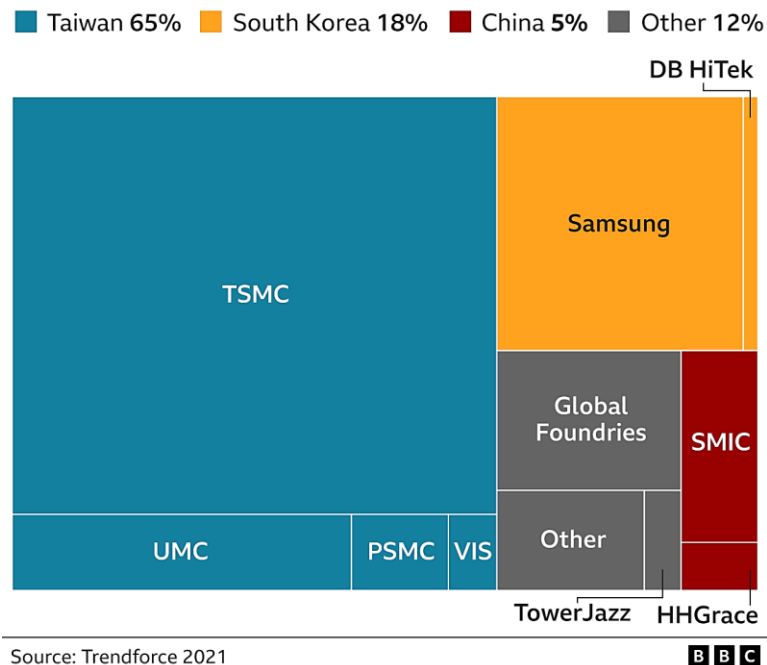


Taiwan - The Bone Of Contention:

- In Taiwan, The **Democratic People's Party (DPP)** Has Become The Most Powerful Political Force In Taiwan Catering To The **Pro-Independence Constituency** In Taiwan. The DPP Wants To **Expand Its Economic Relations** Away From China.
- **China Considers** Taiwan As A Territory With **High Geopolitical Significance** As It Is Centrally Located In The **First Island Chain Between Japan And The South China Sea**.
- Throughout This Region, **Military Outposts Of The US Are Scattered**. Therefore, It Would Be A **Significant Breakthrough For China** In Case It Takes **Taiwan's Control**. Similarly, The USA Also Wants To **Dominate The Indo-Pacific Region** and Keep A **Check Over The Growing Influence Of China** In the Region Across.
- **Taiwan's Economy** Is Hugely Important. Much Of The World's Everyday **Electronic Equipment** - From Phones To Laptops, Watches, And Games Consoles - Is Powered By **Computer Chips Made In Taiwan**.
- By One Measure, **A Single Taiwanese Company** - The **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company** Or TSMC - Has **Over Half Of The World's Market**.
- A Company That Makes Chips Designed By Consumer And Military Customers. It Is A Vast Industry, Worth Almost **\$100 B (£73bn) In 2021**.

Taiwan dominates the global production of computer chips

Global foundry market share, by country and company 2021








India's Stand On The Issue:

- Since 1949, India Has Accepted The “One China” Policy That Accepts Taiwan And Tibet As Part Of China. However, India Uses The Policy To Make A Diplomatic Point, i.e., If India Believes In “One China” Policy, China Should Also Believe In A “One India” Policy.
- Even Though India Has Stopped Mentioning Its Adherence To One China Policy In Joint Statements And Official Documents Since 2010, Its Engagement With Taiwan Is Still Restricted Due To The Framework Of Ties With China.
- India And Taiwan Do Not Have Formal Diplomatic Relations But Since 1995, Both Sides Have Maintained Representative Offices In Each Other's Capitals That Function As De Facto Embassies.



Can Taiwan Defend Itself?

Chinese and Taiwanese armed forces

| |  |  |
|---|---|--|
| | China | Taiwan |
| Total active forces | 2,035,000 | 169,000 |
| Ground forces  | 965,000 | 94,000 |
| Navy  | 260,000 | 40,000 |
| Air force  | 395,000 | 35,000 |
| Reserves  | 510,000 | 1,657,000 |
| Tanks  | 5,400 | 650 |
| Aircraft  | 3,227+ | 504+ |
| Submarines  | 59 | 4 |
| Naval ships*  | 86 | 26 |
| Artillery  | 9,834+ | 2,093 |

*Only includes ships classified as principal surface combatants, such as aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates

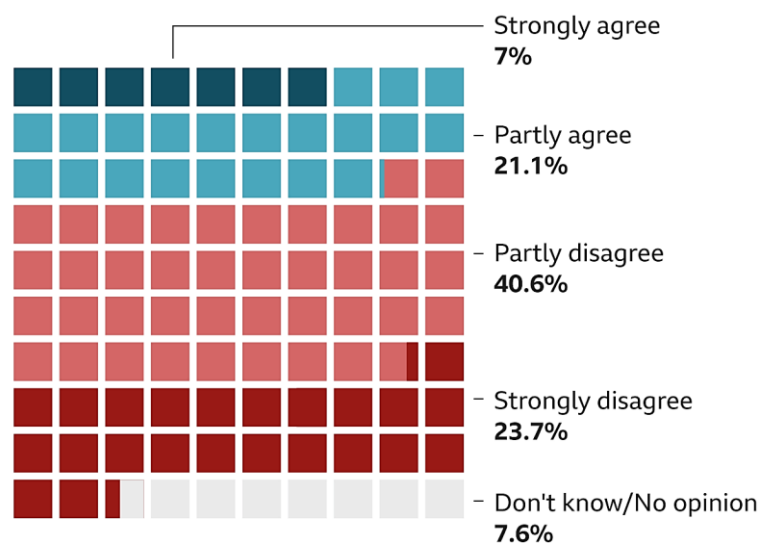
Source: The Military Balance 2022, IISS

BBC

Are The Taiwanese People Worried?

Most Taiwanese people do not think there will be military conflict

People were asked if they agreed that "There will be war between China and Taiwan eventually."



Research carried out in October 2021

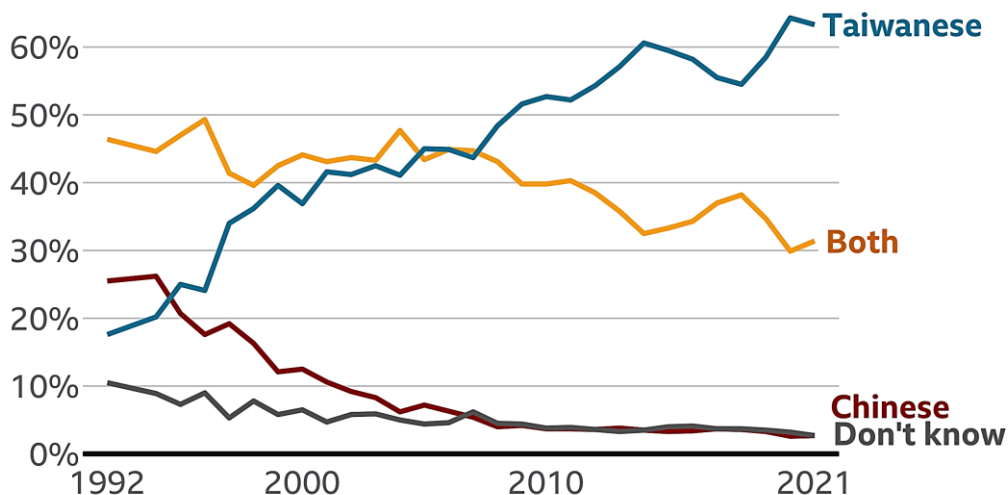
Source: Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

BBC

People In Taiwan Identify As Taiwanese

The proportion of people in Taiwan who identify as Taiwanese has risen

Do you consider yourself to be Taiwanese, Chinese, or both?



Source: Election Study Center, National Chengchi University

BBC

Will USA Intervene In Case Of Military Conflict?

- In An **Open Conflict**, Some Western Experts Predict That **Taiwan Could At Best Aim To Slow A Chinese Attack**, Try To Prevent A Shore Landing By Chinese Amphibious Forces, And Mount Guerrilla Strikes Whilst Waiting For Outside Help. That **Help Could Come From The US Which Sells Arms To Taiwan**.
- Until Now, Washington's Policy Of "**Strategic Ambiguity**" Has Meant The **US** Has Been **Deliberately Unclear** About **Whether Or How It Would Defend Taiwan In The Event Of An Attack**.
- Diplomatically, The **US Currently Sticks To The "One-China" Policy**, Which Recognizes Only One Chinese Government - In Beijing - And Has **Formal Ties With China Rather Than Taiwan**.
- But **In May, US President Joe Biden** Appeared To Harden Washington's Position. Asked Whether The US Would Defend Taiwan Militarily, **Mr. Biden Replied: "Yes"**. The White House Insisted That **Washington Had Not Changed Its Position**.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When Did The Manchu Dynasty Fall?

- A. 1910
- B. 1911
- C. 1912
- D. 1913

ANSWER: B

2. Who Was The Hero Of The Chinese Revolution In 1911 AD?

- A. Mao Ze Dong
- B. Sun Yat Sen
- C. Deng Xiaoping
- D. Vladimir Lenin

ANSWER: B

3. Who Founded The Kuomintang Party In 1912 AD

- A. Zheng Xi
- B. Sun Yat Sen
- C. Mao Ze Dong
- D. Sun Chung Shan

ANSWER: B

4. People's Republic Of China Was Established In

- A. 1947
- B. 1948
- C. 1949
- D. 1950

ANSWER: C

5. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution Of China

- A. 1966
- B. 1972
- C. 1981
- D. 1991

ANSWER: A

6. The Great Leap Forward Movement Of China

- A. 1948
- B. 1952
- C. 1958
- D. 1963

ANSWER: C

7. Not A Part Of 'AUKUS', A Trilateral Security Pact

- A. Australia
- B. United Kingdom
- C. United States
- D. Japan

ANSWER: D

8. Malabar Naval Exercise Is Conducted By

- A. ASEAN
- B. QUAD
- C. NAFTA
- D. OIC

ANSWER: B

9. Capital Of Taiwan

- A. Kaohsiung
- B. Taipei
- C. Hsinchu
- D. Taichung

ANSWER: B

10. President Of The Republic Of China

- A. Tsai Ing-wen
- B. Xi Jinping
- C. Hu Jintao
- D. Wang Qishan

ANSWER: A



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