THE ROLE OF US IN CHINA – TAIWAN CRISIS

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Abstract

The United States has long played a major role in the China-Taiwan crisis and likely will remain so for many years to come. The crisis or impasse across the Taiwan Strait serves as one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world, the one issue that could lead to military conflict at a moment's notice among the United States, Taiwan and China today. China is fond of calling this crisis a remnant of China's civil war and a relic of the cold war. Indeed it is. However, the crisis has evolved substantially from this historical context over the years, making the Taiwan crisis in some ways even more relevant and immediate today than ever. Many in the United States may reasonably ask why the United States cares so much about this island off China's coast and why Washington remains committed to it even when this commitment could lead to war not only with a nuclear weapons state but also with the world's most important rising power. Likewise, it is reasonable to ask why China cares so deeply about the island that it is willing to jeopardize many other political and economic interests to concentrate on gaining control over the territory. To bring answers to the above questions raised, this work used the power theory while data gathered were analyzed through documentary evidence method. Data used were gotten from books, journals, theses, magazines, Newspapers and internet materials. The US has played many roles that are unfortunately sustaining the China-Taiwan crisis like serving as a covert Diplomatic back up, arms supplier, ambiguous strategic policy supporter, paying subtle government official visits, firm economic relations, strong science and technological ties, international organization membership support, and socio-cultural links-all on the side of Taiwan. Be that as it may this work recommended that the US should abandon her partial strategic ambiguity (that is they will not commit to go to war to defend Taiwan, nor will they take the war option off the table if Taiwan is attacked) and other subtle supports to Taiwan and play a clear and transparent mutual meditative role in China-Taiwan crisis so that the issue between China and Taiwan can be settled amicably. A truthful mediator must prove herself or himself impartial.

Introduction

The partial role of US in the China-Taiwan imbroglio is one of the international issues in the global arena. The US role in Chinese affair started from time immemorial. In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took power on the Chinese mainland from the Nationalist government and declared the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) (Abang, 2018). The Nationalist government evacuated the administration of the Republic of China (ROC), as it was called, to the Island province of Taiwan, contesting the power of the CCP on the mainland. The United States continued for some time to recognise the Republic of China (ROC) as the government of all China. This is unbelievable as small Taiwan was meant to represent the big mainland China due to the irrational US hatred against the Chinese communists. That policy changed in the 1970s. The Taiwan Strait is a body of water that is approximately 110 miles wide at its widest point which separates the Island of Taiwan from the mainland of China. As a result, crisis between China and Taiwan are often referred to as Cross-Strait Crisis (Zheng, 2019).

On January 1, 1979, the United States and the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC)-hereafter "China"- established diplomatic relations, almost thirty years after the communist government came to power in 1949. The process of establishing diplomatic ties with the United States began in February of 1972 when President Nixon visited China. That visit produced the "Shanghai Communiqué" which was an acknowledgement by China and the United States that the two countries faced obstacles to establishing diplomatic relations; but also that they would work toward normalizing their relations (Richardson, 2020). The US did not keep to this agreement as she continually work toward escalating the crisis instead of normalizing it.

It was clear that the principal obstacle to normalization of relations with China was not the American role in Vietnam 1955-1975 but rather Taiwan. The problem centered on the fact that both China and Taiwan claimed that there is only one China, and that Taiwan is a part of China, but each side also claimed to be the legitimate government of China with Taiwan using the formal name "Republic of China" (ROC) to express that claim and China using the formal name "Peoples' Republic of China" (PRC). The PRC objected to the United States having diplomatic relations with both the PRC and the ROC, hereafter, Taiwan- because- it would mean that the United States believed there were" two Chinas" and not just one China (Richardson, 2020). The US still maintains overtly and covertly diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Further, China demanded that the United States withdraw her troops stationed in Taiwan, but refused to promise that the PRC would not use force to reunite the island of Taiwan with the mainland of China which the United States asked the PRC to promise. The PRC government believed that the issue of Taiwan was an internal problem, it concerned only the Chinese on Taiwan and the Chinese on the mainland and the United States should not interfere in the Shanghai communiqué the United States said that she did not challenge the claim that there was one China but would insist on a peaceful settlement of Taiwan question. But what the US meant by peaceful settlement is an agreement based on their condition. This is clear infringement on the Chinese people sovereignty.

Despite US opposition, but very much in response to US-China détente, the UN in 1971 voted for the PRC to replace the ROC in the China seat which includes a seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Finally, in 1979 official US ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan were cut as the US switched her diplomatic recognition to the PRC on the mainland (Omale, 2021). Many Americans were upset at what they felt was the abandonment of Taiwan and soon after diplomatic relations were established with the PRC the US Congress passed the "Taiwan Relations Act" This Act sought to grant Taiwan the same privileges as a sovereign nation though it was no longer recognised as one. It reiterated the commitment to a peaceful resolution of Taiwan crisis and it

promised to make available such defense articles and defense services as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self defense capability (John, 2020). This clearly show the US hideous ambiguity in the China-Taiwan crisis.

Some Americans and members of congress felt that without a promise by the PRC not to use force against Taiwan, the United States had a moral obligation to help Taiwan protect herself and also that the credibility of the American strategic position as the guarantor of peace in Asia required this. Who gave the US this position? Certainly the US self impose this position on herself because of her selfish interest. The PRC government was extremely angry and they are suppose to be. The issue of Taiwan has continued to be a major obstacle in the PRC's relations with the United States. In 1982, the United States and the PRC again signed a joint communiqué (Sometimes referred to as the 2nd Shanghai Communiqué) stating that the United States would not sell Taiwan a greater number of weapons than it did before 1979, and that they would not be more sophisticated (John, 2020). This agreement was not equally adhered to by the US.

But the commitment was premised on progress toward peaceful resolution of the Taiwan crisis but the United States refused to commit herself to a date on which it would stop selling weapons to Taiwan. Indeed, arms sales to Taiwan have continued at a robust or even increasing level in both quantity and quality right through 2020. From 1980s till date the PRC's relationship with the United States has been shaky and unpredictable due to US partial role in the China-Taiwan crisis.

Theoretical Framework

The theory this work used is the power theory. Power politics is a theory in international relations which contends that distributions of power and national interests or changes to those distributions are fundamental causes of nation's actions in the international arena (Morgenthau, 1946). In other words nation's behaviour in the international arena is determined by the pursuit of power underpinned by national interest. This is exactly what underpins the US role in China-Taiwan crisis. Main proponents of power theory are Hans Morgenthau, Nicclo Machiavelli, Carl von Clausewitz, Claus Moser, Jean Monnet and Robert Schumah, and Joseph Nye. The concept of power politics provides a way of understanding systems of international relations. In this view, states compete for the world's limited resources and it is to an individual state's advantage to be manifestly able to harm others (Joseph Nye, 1976). Taiwan is heavily industrialized and the sea surrounding it is full of aquatic and mineral resources and hence the US and China imbroglio. Power politics prioritizes national self-interest over the interests of other nations or the international community, and this may include threatening one another with military, economic or political aggression to protect one's nation interest. This is the situation of things as relates to US role in China-Taiwan crisis.

Types or techniques of power theory includes: Deterrence, in which weaker state deters attack by bolstering her defensive capabilities through alliance and acquiring arms enough to render attacking her infeasible. This is exactly what Taiwan is doing by allying with America and buying arms from her. Other types are conspicuous weapon development, pre-emptive strikes, blackmail, the massing of military units on a border, whether for stationing or for exercises, the imposition of tariffs or economic sanctions (possibly to initiate a trade war), proxy warfare, bloodletting tactics, hard and soft balancing, buck passing in which a state attempts to coerce another state to confront a threat, in order to preserve its own capabilities and possibly intervene later, the use of espionage to subvert another state's capabilities from within, covert and clandestine military operations in which states obscure their role in an operation or conduct the operation in secret respectively (Jean Monnet, 1980).

Furthermore we have shock and awe in which a state uses a real (or played-up) show of force to deter potential attack. The US is using this tactics to deter China from attacking Taiwan by often patrolling

her aircraft carrier fleet through the Taiwan Strait. Asymmetric warfare is a war in which a state uses unconventional warfare methods in order to exploit another's weaknesses and propaganda in which a state or its agencies use adverse inaccurate information to weaken another's reputation. The US is equally using this by exaggerating human right issues in China. From the above analysis this theory is at home with our work.

The History of Relationship and Importance of Taiwan to the US

The United States has its, own historical perspective on Taiwan. The US connection in fact predates consideration of the island itself. Its roots stem from US historical engagement in China dating back to the 19th century and fascination in particular with the Republic of China under Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang Party. The rise of the Republic of China under Chiang and his US-educated Christian wife Soong Mei-ling (Madame Chiang) during the 1930s and 1940's represented the culmination of decades of US hopes and dreams to remake China in the western image (Mark, 2020).

Generations of American missionaries had travelled to China, since the 19th century to save souls, do good works, and bring "enlightened" western ways to a vast new frontier. News about China was transmitted back to the US through US churches, which increased interest and awareness of Chinese affairs within US society. The rise of Chiang-a Christian convert- and his wife to power seemed to be a validation of their efforts and a measure of their success. China under Chiang received a boost from US media and popular culture (Mark, 2020).

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor made the United States and China both victims of, and immediate war-time allies against, international fascism, particularly Japan. When Madame Chiang made a triumphant visit to the United States in 1943, during which she addressed a joint session of congress in flawless English, US ties to the Chiangs as China's hope only deepened the American psyche (Okoye, 2019). The reality of Chiang's life and governance was obviously more complex. His personal commitment to Christianity, for instance, was inconsistent, and his rule was hardly as enlightened clean or democratic as many Americans had assumed. In fact, Chiang had flirted with fascistic models in the 1930s (Okoye, 2019).

Nonetheless, when Chiang's Kuomintang forces succumbed to Mao's communists and fled to Taiwan in 1949, many in the United States were stunned and angered. Some vilified the Harry S. Truman administration and US State Department's China specialists for allowing communism to expel an old ally and end the longstanding US project to change China (Leonard, 2020). With concern over international communism growing as the cold war dawned, the refrain of "who lost, China" became a heated cry in US policy and partisan circles. Others simply felt betrayed that the Chinese people, upon whom US citizens had bestowed so much time, toil, and emotion over many years, would turn their backs on "enlightenment" and choose communism.

For others, however, the Kuomintang's retreat simply tied the United States emotionally to the transplanted Chinese on Taiwan. Those who had felt betrayed by the mainland's turn to communism could now turn to the Republic of China based in Taiwan as the last best hope to transform China. Nonetheless, in early 1950 the state Department had determined that, despite concern about communist victory on the mainland, the United States was in no position, militarily or otherwise to prevent Mao's forces from finishing off the Kuomintang on Taiwan. This posture changed in June 1950, however, when North Korea invaded South Korea to begin the Korean War (Leonard, 2020). The North Korea aggression-as the US claimed- provoked a new strategic calculation that the United States needed to demonstrate a firm commitment to defend against aggressive communist expansion anywhere and shore up the morale of its allies during the early stages of the Cold War.

The change in strategic mindset caused the United States to maintain its formal diplomatic ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan and led to the establishment of a treaty alliance in 1954 that incorporated

the island into the US-led collective security system in East Asia. Taiwan became an essential component of the West's containment policy against international communism. The United States maintained military bases on the island as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" from which to project power and fulfill its security commitments in East Asia (Ben, 2021). This act indicates that the US cannot be an impartial umpire in the China-Taiwan issue.

In 1954 and 1958 (Ben, 2021), Taiwan became a military flashpoint when China threatened two small Kuomintang-controlled islands-Quemoy (Jimen) and Matsu-just off her coastline. The Dwight D. Eisenhower administration viewed Chinese pressure in each instance as a test of Western resolve against communist aggression worldwide, and threatened use of nuclear weapons in response deepening a sense among many US and Kuomintang policy makers that the defense of Taiwan was not only of great symbolic value but also a vital Cold War interest. The crises also raised the first specter of the United States potentially becoming entrapped in a war-even nuclear war- with China over the island. This danger of miscalculation leading to conflict caused the United States and China to begin direct if quiet ambassadorial talks in the mid-1950s, first in Geneva and then in Warsaw.

Overtime, US relations with the people of Taiwan deepened in many other practical respect. The Taipei government provided economic and technical assistance in support of US operations in Vietnam (although offers of combat assistance were turned down for fear of provoking China). Taiwan's economy expanded rapidly beginning in the early 1960s, with an export-led growth strategy that moved the island from an agricultural to a flourishing industrial based capitalist economy. By the 1980s, Taiwan had become one of Asia's economic "tigers" (Ada, 2022). At the same time, personal contacts between US and Taiwan government, academic, and business elite flourished. Americans who sought to study Chinese language or culture travelled to Taiwan, as the mainland remained closed to outsiders and marked by strange convulsions of revolutionary fervor and ideological zeal, epitomized by China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

By contrast, although remaining an authoritarian state, Taiwan seemed eminently friendly, open and a capitalist ideal, deepening the connection many Americans had with the people on the island and creating expectations among the Taiwan people that the United States would remain her friend and benefactor. Nonetheless, over time international realities made it more controversial and difficult to defend diplomatic recognition of a small government in exile in Taiwan and isolation of Chinese communists in Beijing. John F. Kennedy pledged privately in 1963 that he intended to recognize the people Republic, but could only do so after he was reelected, given the fierce political opposition he would face from anti-communist conservatives. It thus ultimately fell to Richard Nixon, one of those anti-communist conservatives, to redefine US Cold War strategy by reaching out to Mao's China marking the beginning of the end of the US focus on Taiwan as a critical strategic component in waging that war.

The United States recognised that she could not entirely abandon Taiwan to China without seriously damaging her international credibility and reputation, let alone as a matter of decency and fairness to an old friend. Indeed, in the bilateral communiqué that resulted from Nixon's break through trip to China in 1972 (Ada, 2022), the Taiwan crisis was central. The two sides agreed to disagree on the issue, and finessed their differences in diplomatic language, setting down on paper the divergence in perspectives, which continues to this day. While China affirmed that Taiwan is a province of China, the United States would only "acknowledge" that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain that there is but one China and that Taiwan is part of China.

The United States also reaffirmed her interest in the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. In negotiating the communiqué, the Nixon administration recognised that regardless of the future development of relations with China, US

commitment to Taiwan's security and peaceful resettlement of her relationship with the mainland would remain important for US credibility with other allies and friends who relied on the United States for their security and for maintaining peace and stability in East Asia more broadly. In this view, failing to live up to her long-standing commitment to the people in Taiwan would leave doubts in others' minds about whether the United States was a reliable ally over the long run.

In the end, establishment of official diplomatic relations between the United States and the Peoples Republic of China on January 1, 1979, led to the end of formal US-Republic of China diplomatic ties, the eventual termination of the Mutual Defense Treaty, and termination of US military presence on the island. But it did not lead to the end of military arms sales, unofficial ties with Taipei, or to the fundamental and long standing US requirement that the ultimate resolution of the Taiwan impasse be peaceful (Ajayi, 2021).

On April 10, 1979 the US entered into a quasi-formal defense commitment with Taiwan. The Act called all non peaceful means to determine the future of Taiwan, including boycotts and embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the western pacific area and of grave concern to the United States. For obvious reasons, the Chinese considered the Taiwan Relations Act irrelevant to US commitments concerning Taiwan as reflected in the bilateral communiqué and a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the normalization agreement. The US still wants Taiwan relations because:-

(1) The US wants to maintain her strategic commitments with Taiwan as a guarantor of East Asian security.
(2) The US wants to help maintain Taiwan multiparty democracy
(3) The US continues to care about Taiwan because of her economic development. Taiwan is the United States ninth largest trade partner.
(4) The US wants to use Taiwan relations to checkmate China growing status
(5) If US allow China to take Taiwan without resistance, their treaties to fight for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand will become a suspect. Belief in the US commitment to fight for the nations of East Asia and the Western Pacific would dissipate. The entire architecture of Asia defense against communist China will disintegrate and collapse. If the US allowed Taiwan to be taken by China without intervening, the value of her commitments to fight to defend scores of allies in Europe and Asia would visibly depreciate.

US credibility would suffer a blow as substantial as the loss of South Vietnam in 1975. The fall of Saigon was followed by the loss of Laos and Cambodia to communism, the overthrow of the Shah, the Iranian hostage crisis, the Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan, the strategic transfer of Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Grenada to the Soviet bloc and the rise of Euro-communism on the old continent (Europe) (Ajayi, 2021). In addition, the formular of "one country, two systems" which Beijing proclaimed for Hong Kong was also floated by China as a model for Taiwan. But Beijing's repression in Hong Kong makes the territory looks more like an awful warning for Taiwan than a potential role model. The Taiwanese know that Xi's honeyed talk of "peaceful reunification" is in fact code for annexation and incorporation into a dictatorship. They will not accept that. This means that, if Xi is in earnest in his insistence that the Taiwan issue must be resolved to Beijing's satisfaction in this generation, force is his only option.

Why China care about Taiwan

To most Chinese, Taiwan represents something far more important than mere territory. It is the final piece in China's attempt to overcome the legacy of its "century of humiliation" spanning the 19th

and 20th centuries, when it was colonized and divided by outside powers. Japan had colonized Taiwan in 1895 as a spoil of the Sino-Japanese war and relinquished control only after her defeat in World War II (Chang, 2021). The return of Taiwan is also wrapped up in China's traditional measure of national power and self-respect dating back to her imperial days.

Before the Ming dynasty (1368-1644AD), the island had little association with mainland China. The Portuguese and the Dutch colonized Taiwan during the 16th and 17th centuries, respectively and only under Qing (1644-1911AD) was the island returned forcefully as a protectorate (Chang, 2021). During Qing rule, native uprisings were common and central control inconsistent and tenuous. Taiwan thus has had a murky status historically and a legacy of local resistance to Chinese rule.

While both the Chinese communists under Mao Zedong and the Nationalists (Kuomintang) under Chiang Kai-Shek eventually came to assert that Taiwan is part of China, neither side mentioned or focused on the issue until World War II when Taiwan became a potential spoil of war upon the defeat of Japan which had colonized the island in 1895, and the waning days of the Chinese civil war in the late 1940s. After Chiang's Nationalists were defeated in the Chinese civil war and fled to the island in 1949 they continued to assert their "Republic of China" regime and remained the rightful government of all China, just from off shore in the temporary capital of Taipei. The communists for their part viewed Taiwan as the final stage of the civil war and came to consider restoration of the country's unity-also to include Hong Kong and Macao-as essential for the regime's legitimacy.

Chinese leaders also have viewed Taiwan in terms of national security, specifically as being vulnerable to foreign powers' strategy of encirclement and containment. This perspective reflected China's traditional suspicions about the outside world and historically rooted consciousness about threats to the Chinese heartland from her periphery that periodically led to the nation's subjugation or division. Beijing is particularly sensitive to talk of the island as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" a term coined by the Japanese during their colonization of the island and continued during the cold war when the United States maintained military bases on Taiwan and a formal alliance with the Nationalist (Republic of China) government in Taipei. Chinese strategists have written about the importance for China's security of gaining control out to the "first island chain". They view Taiwan as part of a band of territory around China's eastern maritime periphery that includes US allies like Japan, Korea and the Philippines and thus is of strategic concern (Zao, 2022). Also of significance are the benefits to China's economy from increasing cross-strait trade and investment flows.

One may argue that the People's Republic of China government herself through the success of national education and propaganda has created the conditions whereby the Taiwan crisis has become a matter of regime survival and that it may be in China's own interest to consider how to get out of the corner in which she has placed herself. But it is essential to understand that the Chinese people today believe deeply that Taiwan is a historical part of China and that its separation is a legacy of foreign-instilled humiliation. Whether the people on Taiwan have similar views today is of lesser importance to the Chinese. Likewise, China considers any questions from outsiders about Taiwan's rightful place as part of China as insulting and rude involvement in China's internal affairs that reflects ignorance, ulterior motives, or just fundamental ill will toward the rise of China.

Until or unless the views of the Chinese people change, this deep emotional resonance with and popular connection to Taiwan cannot be ignored as a fundamental context for US and others' handling of the Taiwan situation.

The Role of US in the Sino-Taiwan Crisis

The United States has being playing partial roles and is still playing them in China-Taiwan crisis. In fact these roles are what is sustaining and making the crisis intractable. These roles are arms supply, covert Diplomatic back up, strategic ambiguity policy support, subtle high government official visits, firm economic ties, strong science and technological connection, international organization membership support, and strong socio-cultural ties.

The US continues to be the main provider of arms to Taiwan which is often a source of tension with China. The US has come to the aid of a beleaguered Taiwan on several occasions. When communist forces crossed the Korean peninsula's 38thparallel in 1950 as the US and her western allies claimed. (Rhodes, 2019), the alarmed and angry Truman administration reversed existing policy and re-involved herself in the Chinese civil war. The communists did not just cross the 38th parallel but where reacting to provocations by the US and her allies through South Korea. Washington deployed the seventh fleet to the Taiwan Strait to prevent the Korean conflict from spreading and Taiwan from falling.

Later in 1950s, Eisenhower deployed significant forces in the Taiwan Strait to prevent Beijing from seizing the off shore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. Clinton dispatched two aircraft carrier groups in 1996 partly to prevent confrontation from escalating out of control. All subsequent US presidents have been dispatching aircraft carriers to the Taiwan Strait up till today to checkmate China from taking Taiwan. The US also embarks on huge naval military exercises from time to time in conjunction with some allies in the Indo- Pacific in order to protect Taiwan. For instance the US carried out the RIMPAC exercises in the Indo-Pacific. RIMPAC is the Rim of the Pacific Exercise. It is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially with headquarter in Honolulu, Hawaii. On 1st June, 2022 a total of 26 countries took part at Exercise RIMPAC, they are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States (Njoku, 2021) (i.e. being 11 countries in Asia, 5 countries in Europe, 4 countries in South America, 3 countries in North America and 3 countries in Oceania). Can the US tolerate this nefarious military activity near her coast?

The US arms sales to Taiwan from 1983-1993 is 13,155 million US Dollars and her arms sales to Taiwan from 1994-2022 is 67,130 million US Dollars and is still counting (Obed, 2022). With this huge arms acquisition plus the US ever ready and expansive naval military exercises, Taiwan has been able to put China in check. On August 3, 2022 the US Department approves another 1.1 billion sale of military equipment to Taiwan, including 60 anti-ship missiles and 100 air-to-air missiles. All these acts of the US are what is flaming the China-Taiwan crisis to crescendo level (Obed, 2022). These huge arms sales to Taiwan show the US partiality in the China-Taiwan crisis.

The US has equally given Taiwan covert diplomatic back up. The United States operates a de-facto embassy in Taiwan called American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). It also operates a de-facto consulate in Kaohsiung called the American Institute in Taiwan Kaohsiung Branch Office (Robert, 2019). This is how the US is solidifying and fueling the China-Taiwan crisis. Taiwan operates several diplomatic missions in the United States, with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States located in Washington D.C. This mission is also accredited to Cuba, the Bahamas, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican, and Trinidad and Tobago despite Taiwan not having official relations with them (Robert, 2019).

Other than the mission in Washington D.C, Taiwan also operates representative offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, Miami, Los Angles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Guam, and Denver (Mary, 2020). The American Institute in Taiwan performs citizen

and consular services similar to those at diplomatic posts. This means that this Taiwan institute is a proxy diplomatic office.

The US also offers strategic ambiguity support to Taiwan and this in no small measure lingers the China-Taiwan crisis. Strategic ambiguity is the US policy of diplomatically and theoretically recognizing one China stance while simultaneously and practically supporting Taiwan's self-rule. The US sees the policy as being important to stabilize China-Taiwan crisis and to assist Taiwan from an invasion by China if possible whereas a policy of strategic clarity on Taiwan would likely induce China opposition and challenges to US legitimacy in East Asia or beyond. But US clarity on the China-Taiwan crisis will greatly help to resolve the debacle instead.

The US allows some of their high government officials to visit Taiwan thereby covertly according national status to her. This is a strong subtle diplomatic support that emboldens Taiwan and makes her to talk tough on the China-Taiwan crisis. This is corroborated when the Taiwan leader said that the US government visits reinforce the Island's determination to defend herself. US House speaker, Newt Gingrich paid a visit to Taiwan in 1997 which China seriously opposed. Now after twenty five years, Nancy Pelosi another US House speaker has visited Taiwan no matter China strong warning (Benson, 2022). In fact this visit has evoked a serious military drills between China and Taiwan with each show casing her latest military technology.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has given the lie to the US government's commitment to have only unofficial relations with Taiwan. Could a visit of the No. 3 figure of the US government aboard military aircraft escorted by naval vessels be described as unofficial? This is proof that the US administration has been complicit all along and therefore must accept all responsibility and consequences in escalation of the China-Taiwan crisis.

Many countries like Russia, Nicaragua, Cuba, North Korea, Republic of the Congo, Venezuela, Iran, Pakistan, South Africa, Laos, Belarus, Palestine, Syria, strongly condemned Nancy Pelosi controversial visit to Taiwan on August 2022 as grossly infringing on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. US actions on Taiwan are working against her official policy toward China in that the "One China" policy has been hollowed out over many years by the dispatching of senior US officials to the island. Such visits give Taiwan increasing diplomatic space as if Taiwan was a separate country from China. In addition, a delegation led by Governor Eric Holcomb of the Indiana state of the US visited Taiwan on 20th August 2022 on what is termed "Economic Development Trip" making the governor the latest US official to visit the island since China stepped up her military drills in response to US House speaker Nancy Pelosi's controversial visit (Benson, 2022).

The US has strong economic links with Taiwan. Taiwan is a highly advanced economy producing an estimated 786 billion US Dollars in goods and services in 2021 (Regal, 2022). The United States and Taiwan have deep and growing commercial, financial, and trade ties, which advance US interest and help create economic opportunities in the United States. Since 2020, the United States and Taiwan under the auspices of American Institute in Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) (Regal, 2022), have held the Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue to enhance economic and commercial ties.

Taiwan is the United States ninth-largest trading partner and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner. AIT and TECRO have a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and recently resumed regular TIFA Council meetings. Taiwanese cumulative investment in the United States was nearly 137 billion US Dollars in 2020 (Monday, 2020). Taiwan's direct investment in the United States is led by manufacturing, wholesale, trade and depository institutions.

The US has a strong science and technological cooperation connection with Taiwan. AIT and TECRO signed a Science and Technology Agreement in 2020 to enhance scientific cooperation

and joint research. This act helps the Taiwanese to develop state of the art weapon which makes the peaceful resolve of the China-Taiwan crisis unreachable. The United States and Taiwan also engage in joint scientific cooperatives endeavours in areas including meteorology, nuclear science, environmental protection, thoracic cancer research, atmospheric research, public health and preventive medicine (Monday, 2022).

Moreover, US help Taiwan in being member of international organizations giving Taiwan a de facto independent country status. The United States supports and continues to support Taiwan's membership in international organizations where statehood is not a requirement and encourage Taiwan's meaningful participation in organizations where her membership is not possible. Taiwan and United States are members of several international organizations and bodies, including the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, and the Asian Development Bank. In June 2015, AIT and TECRO established the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, a platform for show casing Taiwan's technical expertise to the world (Ibrahim, 2018).

Under the framework, Taiwan and her partners offer technical training in fields as diverse as public health, supply chain resiliency, energy, women's rights and disaster relief. Japan joined the GCTF as a global partner in 2019 and Australia joined in 2021 (Ibrahim, 2022).

Finally, the US maintains strong socio-cultural ties with Taiwan. People-to-people ties between the United States and Taiwan are good and continue to grow. Through 2019, travel for business and pleasure, from Taiwan to the United States had increased 70% since Taiwan became a member of the US visa waiver programme in November 2012 (Adebanji, 2017). Taiwan is the United States seventh largest source of international students, sending more than 20,000 students to receive a high-quality education each year for the three decades leading up to the pandemic (Adebanji, 2017).

The United States also sponsors study abroad opportunities in Taiwan for US students from the high school to postgraduate levels, with a particular focus on mandarin language learning. Since 1957, the Fulbright Programme has supported 1,700 individuals to study and teach in Taiwan and 1,600 to come to the United States. In December 2020, AIT and TECRO, with participation from the US Department of Education launched the US-Taiwan Education Initiative (Basil, 2021). The goal of this initiative is to provide increased opportunities for more Americans to teach and study in Taiwan, and for more Taiwanese to pursue education and mandarin teaching opportunities in the United States.

Conclusion

Unlike other works on the issue being discussed this work has shown that instead of the US playing a balanced or level role in resolving the China-Taiwan crisis she has rather played the opposite and she is still playing it. Furthermore, from our analysis it is vividly clear that the US partial role in China-Taiwan crisis has been deepening and flaming the crisis. These US lopsided roles started from time immemorial i.e. from 19th century till date (still counting) and has been dictated by world events like the Chinese communist victory in the Chinese civil war, the North and South Korean war, the Vietnam War, the cold war, the rise of China as an economic and military power house, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the recent China reaction against the ill-timed and controversial Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit.

Be that as it may our work disclosed the various roles by which the US is escalating the crisis like through arms supply, covert Diplomatic back up, strategic ambiguity policy support, subtle high government official visits, firm economic ties, Strong science and technological connection, international organization membership support, and strong socio-cultural ties. Our stand is that the US should play an unbiased meditative role that will resolve the crisis and possibly stabilize the whole Far East Asian region.

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