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THE IMPACT OF TAIWAN ISSUES ON POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA  
AND THE UNITED STATES

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**Summary:** The issue of Taiwan and its impact on the existing political relations between the United States and China are discussed in this paper. The author pays attention to the double standards of the US, and its versatile political course towards Taiwan and China. Modern political relations are given, and the challenges and the current difficult political situation that is felt in the relations between the parties are presented.

**Keywords:** superstate; political competitor; double standards; pandemic; informational war; propaganda.

**Introduction:** Nowadays the struggle for world redistribution has taken an active phase, next to the big and developed countries which are now considered superstates, there are new countries that are strengthening their condition as time goes by and are trying to have a say in an international area. Due to its rapid development, China has become such a state during the past three decades. Such fast development in China has become a huge puzzle for the United States.

During the XIX-XX centuries, Taiwan used to represent one of the most important parts of the Far East's politics. As of now, Taiwan has become a widely unacceptable state despite that it has international support, especially from the US. The issue of Taiwan is one of the most urgent and important topics for China.

The purpose of this paper is to display the rivalry between China and the US in modern international relations, the rising importance of Taiwan in these relations, as well as the importance of these processes for the rest of the world.

**Results:** Many consider China an important political competitor because of its rapid development in the last three decades. It's also worth noting the fact that China has problems that are not easy to settle, nor does the solutions for these problems seem to be on board. These problems are domestic tension, foreign relations with some of South Asia's regions, and demographic issues.

Two problematic territorial units are considered in domestic tension: Tibet and Xinjiang. Uyghurs with

ethnic and religious differences live in the province of Xinjiang, whose origins are connected to the group of Turkish people, and their religion is Islam. China has mentioned numerous times that the west is encouraging Uyghur and Tibetan organizations to expand working to reach their desired goals, which clearly creates problems for China in consolidating its own prestige in the international area.

The issue of Taiwan is also considered in domestic problems, which is one of the biggest topics between two states' political relations and has an effect on the existing relationship. After the 1949 civil war, China and Taiwan are ruled by different governments. Taiwan has support from the international system, especially from the US. Taiwan is in active diplomatic relations with multiple countries. It was Taiwan that represented China at the UN until 1972.

Due to demographical problems, China is facing serious challenges. China has had the "One Child Policy" ever since 1979, which caused a dramatic decrease in childbirth. Since 2016 citizens were allowed to have two children, but this step still could not improve the previous problem. [2] President Xi Jinping, later on, activated the "Three Child Policy" which was needed after the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a heavy burden worldwide. Based on the latest census, experts have suggested that China will be forced to lift all restrictions on birth rates because the majority of the population refrains from having lots of children due to difficult social background, they also think that a low birth rate will also impact on Chinese people living overseas. The process of aging also has a significant impact on demographic problems.

The problem of Taiwan is one of the biggest issues in the relations between China and the United States. Taiwan is an island, which is divided from China by the strait. Nowadays it is ruled independently, has an independent government, a population of 23 million, has its own constitution, flag, anthem, army, navy, or air force, and has political leaders with different political views - which include different opinions about the status of the island. Taiwan is a modern state, it actively handles modern technological challenges,

and is distinguished by an active civil society, free media, and an independent judicial system.

The nationalist government of China has taken refuge in Taiwan in 1949, which was led by Chan Kai Shi, who previously was defeated by Mao Zedong in a communist war.

In Taiwan, as early as 1947, the local National Assembly was elected, later on, in 1948 Legislative Council was elected, which its authority was defined for life. During these reforms, Chinese President Chan Kai was in power, during the years in which the US administration sought to distance itself from Taiwan. [5]

US attitude towards Taiwan changed in the years 1950-to 1953, right after the Korean War. Under a 1954 agreement with Taiwan, the United States took responsibility for protecting Taiwan and other islands under its' northern jurisdiction. In the same year that U.S. military forces were deployed in Taiwan, the Senate authorized the U.S. president to use the forces at his discretion to protect Taiwan from military attacks. Taiwan also played an important role for the United States, as it was from its territory that Chinese air reconnaissance was conducted, involving Taiwanese pilots. The information was encrypted by Taiwanese specialists who made a significant contribution to the processing of the information received because without their contribution it would be almost impossible to encrypt the conversations which were in Chinese dialect.

We can say that 1972 was a special date in the history of China, because Nixon, who was in China for an official visit, openly admitted to Mao Zedong that Taiwan was a part of China. Later in 1978 he said that he was canceling diplomatic relations with Taiwan. After this period China has become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In 1979 the situation changed again and the US renewed its' economical, cultural and military relations with Taiwan. As for arms supplies, even in the years since the severance of diplomatic relations, the U.S. has not stopped supplying arms to Taiwan [1].

None of the states can have diplomatic relations with the Republic of China and People's Republic of China at the same time. After the severance of diplomatic relations with the Republic of China during the years of Jimmy Carter's presidency, the U.S Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which included informal relations with Taiwan. It was under this agreement that the United States was allowed to sell arms to Taiwan in order to protect Taiwan from a possible attack. The U.S.' relations with Taiwan and China's topic is known as an ambiguous policy.

It is worth mentioning that every president of the U.S. has had different opinions about China. Even more, in the years of the rule of one president, changes in attitudes were observed. For example, during his presidency, Bush openly stated that he did not consider Taiwan to be part of China. China took this announcement as a violation of bilateral relations.

Taiwan always had a special attitude from the United States, it also had and still has support from the international system, which leaves China with quite a small chance of resolving its existing territorial claims to Taiwan by military force.

In 2005, the Chinese government passed an anti-secession law that allowed it to use force against Taiwan if it demanded independence. [6]

In 2009, China and the United States agreed to cooperate in the field of defense and deepen relations, although no significant progress has been made in this regard. Moreover, relations between the two countries have been further complicated by the US supply of arms to Taiwan. The Chinese media actively covered the issue, noting that the U.S. took too much on itself when it applied double standards and sold arms to Taiwan. The government of China noted that this action would seriously harm the existing relations between the two countries.

Now about handling problems with military force from China's perspective - Many believe that China does not have the capacity to do so, but we should not forget that China has significantly increased its funding for defense weapons to modernize its military, and it is also actively working to build a navy.

It is worth noting too, that in 2008 the relations between China and Taiwan was improved, in Taiwan during the years of Ma Ying-jeou rule, which initiated the first introduction of air traffic between Taiwan and China. Taiwan was opened for Chinese tourists, this fact is also proved by the statistic that the number of Chinese tourists in Taiwan was increased. Ma Ying-jeou's goal was to ease inter-sectarian tensions and use China's economic development for Taiwan's economic development, so that's why he was aspired to achieve social and economic integration with China. It was these factors, the stable political situation, that enabled him to come to power in 2012 for the second time, based on the elections. After 1945, for the first time in 2015 historic meeting was held between two leaders of the two sides of the strait.

Tsai Ing-wen won in the presidential election in 2016, which was followed by irritation from Peking and so China cut off diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which with all this also lost 7 diplomatic allies who have brought China to a standstill. Taiwan is recognized as an independent country by the Vatican

and 14 other countries. There seems so a perspective of regulating relations between China and Taiwan, especially after Tsai Ing-wen also won elections in 2020. [7]

Despite the fact that the United States has unofficial relations with Taiwan, It is the main guarantor of its security and the supplier of military weapons to the state.

In the Conference held in Tokyo, Biden answered to a question if the US would protect Taiwan, with: "Yes, this is the responsibility, which we took upon." Biden's statement was followed by protests in China. Foreign Minister Wang Wenbin described the statement as «interference in China's internal affairs» and said no country, including the United States, had the right to interfere. [9]

At the present stage, Biden's statement that the United States will use military force in the event of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan should not come as a surprise, since a similar statement was made in 2003 during the years of George W. Bush's administration. When asked by Bush if the United States had an obligation to protect Taiwan, he replied that: "Yes, we have a responsibility and Chinese people should understand it. Military power is definitely an option if China takes steps to conquer Taiwan.»

Trump won in elections in 2016, which was followed by congratulations from the leader of China Tsai Ing-wen, this was the first case of telephone communication between the leaders of these countries since 1979. Despite this, Trump signed the Taiwan Travel Act, in 2018, which encouraged all kinds of visits. In 2020, the law was signed where the US took

responsibilities to Taiwan.

About the existing relations between China and the US during the pandemic, it was a significant impasse, as Trump has repeatedly emphasized in his speeches that China has facilitated the artificial creation and spread of the virus. As for China's position, it was actively involved in disinformation and propaganda made by Kremlin, and did not shy away from following the anti-US narratives.

Famous scientist Henry Kissinger announced in 2017 that China would not wait forever to unify with Taiwan, [11] his words were strengthened in 2013 by Xi Jinping, who noted that the issue of Taiwan should not be passed down the generation and joining with Taiwan would be one of China's priorities. [12]

**Conclusion:** If China can and takes over Taiwan, it will be China's win over the US, which will damage the image of the US in the eyes of Far East region countries, and it will create more problems, including for countries in the region may question US support in Asia-Pacific.

It should be noted too that with the struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan strengthened its place in the modern international system.

Worth mentioning that the US and China are both global actors, that's why, in a tense relationship between the United States and China, it is virtually impossible for international order to be permanent, because in the creation of new world order, the role of superstates is equally important. Changing political situations is one of the biggest puzzles in modern international society.

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### **СОПО ЧКОПОИЯ**

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### **ВЛИЯНИЕ ТАЙВАНЬСКОГО ВОПРОСА НА ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ МЕЖДУ КИТАЕМ И США**

#### **Резюме**

В международных отношениях борьба за передел мира никогда не теряет своей актуальности. Сегодня наряду с великими и развитыми государствами, которые мы сейчас называем сверхдержавами, появляются новые страны, которые все больше утверждают свое положение и пытаются сказать свое слово на международной арене, за последние три десятилетия, благодаря бурному развитию, таким государством стал Китай. Такое быстрое развитие Китая стало серьезной головоломкой для Соединенных Штатов Америки. Вопрос о Тайване всегда был и остается важным фактором в политических отношениях между Китаем и США. Оба государства, Китай и США, являются глобальными акторами, поэтому отношения между ними оказывают существенное влияние на стабильность мировой политики. Сегодня Тайвань является широко непризнанной страной, несмотря на международную поддержку, особенно со стороны США. Тайвань рассматривается Китаем как часть своей территории, а Тайвань не отказывается от своей независимости, несмотря на переменчивую политику США. Тайвань пользуется мощной поддержкой США, особенно в последние годы.