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The significance of the Taiwan question for contemporary international politics

Abstract. This study aimed to assess the impact of the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949) between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, as well as evaluate the current situation on the international stage regarding the conflict between China and Taiwan, the policies of neighbouring countries, and the United States of America, as a key actor in the Pacific region. The research examined the course of the war, key stages, outcomes, and the present situation in the context of the China-Taiwan conflict. The methodology involved a comparative analysis of official statements and memoirs of the participants in the events, as well as an examination of the decisions, strategies, and tactics of the governments of the PRC and Taiwan during and after the Civil War. The results indicated that the tensions surrounding Taiwan are one of the most significant issues in international politics, particularly in the context of global stability. The international community responds in varying ways: the USA and Japan actively support Taiwan, while the EU, South Korea, and India exhibit caution in their diplomatic stance. Although the EU supports the One-China policy, it has expressed concern over the rising tensions, urging the strengthening of economic and trade relations with Taiwan and increasing its participation in international organisations. The USA continues to support Taiwan. China's military presence in the Taiwan Strait and its military exercises contribute to rising tensions, prompting the intensification of military cooperation between the USA, Japan, and other regional allies. Japan and South Korea, despite their economic ties with China, seek to maintain stability in the region, while India is strengthening its economic and unofficial relations with Taiwan in response to Chinese aggression. India is actively developing cooperation with Taiwan in technology and security, emphasising a pragmatic approach to the China-Taiwan conflict. The results suggest that the Chinese Civil War had a long-lasting impact on Taiwan's political status, laying the foundation for the current conflict. The tensions between China and Taiwan reflect the complexity of global politics and the varying approaches of international actors to the conflict

Keywords: One-China policy; territorial conflict; geopolitical tension; Asia-Pacific region; regime legitimacy; regional security

Introduction

The conflict between China and Taiwan is one of the most complex issues in international relations today. Its origins lie deep in the historical, political, and ideological roots of the Chinese Civil War of 1945-1949. Following the war's conclusion, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) established control over mainland China and proclaimed

the People's Republic of China (PRC), while the Republic of China (ROC) government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, was forced to retreat to the island of Taiwan. Since then, both sides have claimed legitimacy as the sole representative of all of China. Given the escalating tensions and the potential threat of armed conflict, the need to study this

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issue is more urgent than ever. The contemporary political situation surrounding Taiwan has a significant impact on international stability, particularly on US-China relations, and on security in the Asia-Pacific region.

To grasp the theoretical underpinnings of the conflict, one must turn to the concept of “OneChina” (Liff & Lin, 2022), which is central to the PRC’s diplomatic strategy and directly pertains to Taiwan’s status on the international stage. This policy asserts that there is only one China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of it, with the PRC government being the sole legitimate representative of China. Over the past few decades, most countries have gradually shifted towards recognising the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of China, leading to Taiwan’s diplomatic isolation.

Existing research on this topic encompasses a wide range of aspects, from historical to military-strategic and diplomatic. Considerable attention has been paid to the history of the Civil War and its consequences, as detailed in studies by scholars such as S. Gartner *et al.* (2021) and L. Duan (2023). They highlight the decisive battles and political decisions that led to the eventual division of China and Taiwan. Other research, such as those by Z. Zhang (2024) or M. Liu (2024), focus on analysing contemporary Chinese policy towards Taiwan, including military exercises, diplomatic pressure, and economic sanctions. A recent study, such as that by K. Zhang (2023), shows that Taiwan continues to actively develop its defence capabilities and strengthen diplomatic ties with other countries, despite pressure from China.

Furthermore, a significant body of research is dedicated to the economic and social aspects of the China-Taiwan conflict. Studies by D. Wiratama (2017) and C.-K. Chen (2018) examine economic relations between China, the US, and Taiwan, including trade, investment, and economic integration.

The social aspects of the conflict are also explored in numerous articles. For instance, L. Nachman *et al.* (2023) investigate issues of identity and nationalism, particularly how Taiwanese people define themselves in the context of growing pressure from China. Meanwhile, R. Hsiao (2023) analysed the impact of Chinese propaganda and media on public opinion in Taiwan, exploring how information campaigns influence Taiwanese attitudes towards mainland China.

A crucial aspect of studying this topic is the policies not only of the USA but also of neighbouring countries in the context of the China-Taiwan conflict. Considering the positions of Japan, South Korea, and India, one can observe the different approaches and strategies of these countries towards Taiwan and China. As L.G. Wallace (2023) notes in their research, Japan takes an active stance in supporting Taiwan. This is driven by both historical ties and geopolitical interests. In the research of L. Chaewon & A.P. Liff (2022) examining the relations between South Korea and Taiwan, a cautious approach of the Korean government in its policy towards the China-Taiwan conflict is traced. On the one hand, South Korea has significant economic ties with China and does not wish to complicate them. On the other hand, South Korea understands the importance of maintaining regional stability and

cooperation with other democratic countries. India also pursues a pragmatic policy towards Taiwan, as noted in the research of J.T. Jacob (2022) and A. Jash (2023). Despite officially recognising the One-China policy, India actively develops economic and unofficial relations with Taiwan. India sees Taiwan as an important partner in technology and security, which strengthens its position in the region and responds to growing aggression from China.

Despite a significant body of research, some gaps require further investigation. In particular, insufficient attention has been paid to the analysis of the role of other international actors in the China-Taiwan conflict, such as the European Union and other Asian countries. Additionally, there is a need for a more detailed examination of domestic political processes in China and Taiwan that influence the development of the conflict.

This research aimed to uncover the historical antecedents and the current state of the conflict, which is crucial for understanding the geopolitical processes in the region. The key objectives of this research were:

- ◆ to assess the impact of the Civil War on Taiwan’s political status;
- ◆ to examine the influence of international actors, such as the USA, Japan, the EU, South Korea, and India, on the development of the conflict between the PRC and Taiwan;
- ◆ to analyse the current situation on the international stage in the context of the China-Taiwan conflict. This includes examining the international response and strategies for ensuring regional stability and preventing the escalation of the conflict.

Materials and Methods

A comprehensive approach was employed for this study. To achieve the aim of research and obtain accurate data, official statements from the governments of the PRC, Taiwan, the USA, Japan, the EU, South Korea, and India were utilised to analyse the contemporary diplomatic situation. The research sample included historical data selected on a representative basis to reflect the global picture in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition to the primary countries of study, China and Taiwan, data from neighbouring countries or those considered globally significant actors, such as Japan, India, South Korea, and the USA, were included. These countries were chosen due to their diverse approaches to gender equality and the availability of accessible data.

Data collection was conducted in several stages. In the first stage, an analysis of archival documents and research was carried out to provide the most objective account of the events of the Civil War. Each document was carefully vetted for authenticity and relevance to the research topic. In the second stage, the political statements and declarations of the governments of the PRC, Taiwan, the USA, Japan, the EU, South Korea, and India were analysed (Law of USA No. H.R. 815, 2024; Ministry of National Defense Taiwan, 2024). This stage involved the collection and systematisation of contemporary political statements, official press releases, and public speeches by government representatives. Particular attention was paid to analysing changes in the policies and strategies of these states regarding the China-Taiwan conflict.

In the final stage, an analysis of the actions of international actors was conducted based on analytical reports and official documents (Dotson, 2023; Taiwan Relations Act of USA No. H.R. 2479, 1979). Analytical reports from leading international organisations and think tanks, such as the UN (United Nations) (Maizland, 2024) and ASEAN (2021), were utilised. This stage involved examining the impact of economic, military, and diplomatic decisions on the development of the conflict. Analytical reports and documents were used to evaluate the effectiveness of international sanctions, economic incentives, and military support provided to Taiwan.

The methodology of this research involved a comprehensive approach to analysing the ideological and political conflict between the PRC and Taiwan, as well as its impact on neighbouring countries and regional stability. To achieve the research objectives, both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods were employed. Quantitative methods included statistical analysis of data collected from official sources and analytical reports. Qualitative methods included content analysis of official statements and documents, as well as discourse analysis of media and academic publications. The overall approach to the research was interdisciplinary, allowing for consideration of various aspects of the conflict – historical, political, economic, and social. This enabled not only an assessment of the current state of the conflict but also an understanding of its root causes and potential solutions.

Results

The history of the issue and recent events in the China-Taiwan conflict. The Chinese Civil War (1945-1949) was a pivotal event in Chinese history that significantly shaped the region's political landscape, particularly concerning Taiwan. This conflict unfolded between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by Mao Zedong, and the Chinese Nationalist Party (Guomindang, or GMD), headed by Chiang Kai-shek. Although the conflict between the CCP and GMD had begun in 1927, it was temporarily suspended during the Japanese occupation of China during World War II. After the war ended in 1945, both sides resumed their struggle for control of the country. The Civil War reignited with renewed vigour, becoming a battleground between ideologies: communism and nationalism.

Initially, the Guomindang held a significant advantage due to support from the United States of America (USA) and control over most major cities and industrial centres. However, the CCP, relying on the support of the rural population and employing guerrilla warfare tactics, managed to gradually turn the tide of the conflict. Decisive communist victories in the battles for Manchuria, coupled with strategic errors by the GMD, led to the loss of control over mainland China's key regions. By the end of 1948, the CCP controlled most of mainland China, making communist victory inevitable.

In December 1949, after their final defeat, Chiang Kai-shek and the remnants of his government, along with approximately two million refugees, fled to the island of Taiwan. There, they proclaimed Taiwan as part of the Republic of China, which, in their view, remained the legitimate

government of all of China. This relocation marked a pivotal moment in the formation of Taiwan's modern status.

The relocation of the Guomindang government to Taiwan had significant consequences for the island. Isolated from mainland China, Taiwan embarked on a rapid process of modernisation and economic development. The nationalist government sought to establish authoritarian control over the island to prevent the spread of communist ideas. At the same time, Taiwan received substantial support from the United States, which viewed it as a bulwark against the spread of communism in Asia.

The Chinese Civil War and the flight of the nationalists to Taiwan laid the foundations for the protracted conflict between the PRC and Taiwan, which remains unresolved to this day. This conflict continues to have a significant impact on contemporary international politics, as Taiwan struggles for international recognition and support, while China insists on its One-China policy. The One-China policy is a fundamental concept at the core of the diplomatic strategy of the People's Republic of China and is directly related to the status of Taiwan on the international stage. This policy asserts that there is only one China and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of it. According to this policy, the government of the PRC is the sole legitimate representative of China at the international level (Brossat, 2023). The One-China policy originated following the conclusion of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, when the Communist Party of China, led by Mao Zedong, established control over mainland China and declared the formation of the People's Republic of China. Meanwhile, the Republic of China, led by Chiang Kai-shek, relocated to the island of Taiwan. Since that time, both sides have claimed legitimacy as the representative of all of China.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, most Western countries, including the USA, recognised the government of Taiwan as the sole legitimate government of China. However, the situation changed in 1971, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution (United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2758 (XXVI), 1971), transferring China's seat in the UN from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China (mainland China). This decision marked a significant turning point in the international recognition of the One-China policy. After the adoption of the Resolution, the majority of countries around the world gradually moved to recognise the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of China. This led to the severance of official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, although many countries continued to maintain unofficial ties with the island. Currently, only a few countries (Vatican City, Palau, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Haiti, and Saint Lucia) officially recognise Taiwan as an independent state (Fig. 1).

The One-China policy has a significant impact on international relations. Beijing actively applies economic and political pressure on countries attempting to establish official relations with Taiwan, and it uses its economic influence to isolate Taiwan on the international stage (Lin & Keng, 2023). The PRC insists that any country wishing to have official diplomatic relations with China must recognise the One-China policy.

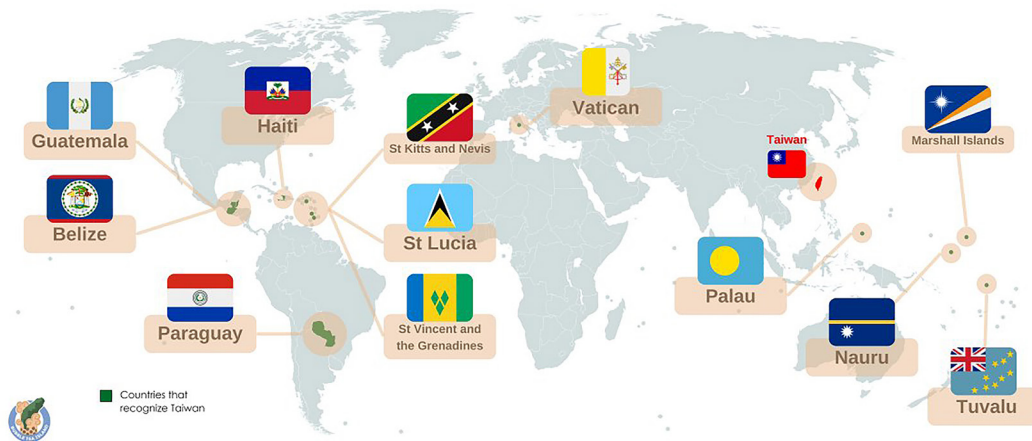


Figure 1. Countries that recognise Taiwan's independence

Source: Countries that recognize Taiwan (2024)

Taiwan, for its part, continues to fight for its international recognition and support. Since the 1980s, Taiwan has undergone a process of democratisation, transforming it into one of the most developed democracies in Asia. The country's government uses its democratic system, economic power, and technological advancements to strengthen its international standing. Specifically, the Taiwanese company TSMC is a leading global producer of semiconductors, making Taiwan an important player in the global economy (Park, 2022).

Taiwan has also been actively seeking support from international organisations and states, particularly the United States, Japan, and European Union countries. The USA remains Taiwan's largest ally, providing military and political support, although it officially recognises the One-China policy. In 1979, the USA enacted the Taiwan Relations Act of USA No. H.R. 2479 (1979), which established a legal framework for US-Taiwan relations without formal diplomatic recognition. Since 2022, tensions between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan have significantly escalated, drawing significant international attention and increasing the risk of conflict in the region. One of the most significant events in China-Taiwan relations in 2022 was the visit of US House Speaker N. Pelosi (2022) to Taiwan. This was the first visit by such a high-ranking US official in decades and provoked a strong reaction from China. N. Pelosi (2022) met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, expressing support for Taiwan and its efforts to preserve democracy and sovereignty (South Korean president..., 2022). This visit led to a significant escalation of tensions between the USA and China. Beijing responded with a series of military drills, including the launch of missiles near Taiwanese waters, and increased its military presence in the region. China also imposed economic sanctions on Taiwan, including a ban on imports of certain goods and a reduction in natural gas exports.

In August 2023, China conducted large-scale military exercises involving air, naval, and missile systems (Ministry of National Defense Taiwan, 2023). These drills included simulations of an island blockade and amphibious landings, sparking international concern about a potential

invasion of Taiwan. In response to the growing threat from China, Taiwan significantly increased its defence spending. In 2024, Taiwan's defence budget (Jung, 2023) reached a new record of over 19 billion USD. Taiwan invested in purchasing advanced air defence systems, state-of-the-art missile systems, and warships. The island also actively worked on developing its own defence technologies, including cruise missiles capable of reaching the Chinese mainland.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen (2016-2024) emphasised the importance of strengthening the island's defence capabilities, stating that Taiwan must be prepared for any scenario. In particular, Taiwan purchased new F-16 fighter jets from the USA and invested in developing its own long-range missile systems. In July 2024, China continued its exercises (Ministry of National Defense Taiwan, 2024), conducting military flights in the airspace near Taiwan and carrying out naval manoeuvres, increasing pressure on Taiwan.

Implications of the conflict for US-China relations and the stance of neighbouring countries. The Taiwan issue has become one of the most pressing topics in international politics, reflecting the growing tensions in Taiwanese policy and the significant impact of this conflict on global stability. The international response to the heightened tensions around Taiwan reflects the complexity and diversity of positions, ranging from active military and diplomatic support from the USA and Japan to a cautious and diplomatic stance by the EU, South Korea, and India. These diverse approaches underscore the importance of Taiwan to global security and the need for diplomatic efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Following the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the USA for many years adhered to a policy of non-recognition of the PRC as the legitimate government of China, instead supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan. However, in 1979, the USA officially recognised the PRC and established diplomatic relations, while simultaneously passing the Taiwan Relations Act of USA No. H.R. 2479 (1979), which guarantees defensive support for the island.

The United States of America continues to play a pivotal role in supporting Taiwan. In 2024, the USA announced a new military aid package worth over 9 billion USD (Law of USA No. H.R. 815, 2024), which includes advanced air defence systems, submarines, and surveillance technologies. This aid package is designed to enhance Taiwan's defence capabilities in the face of growing aggression from China. The heightened tensions in the Taiwan Strait have also served as a catalyst for the intensification of the US-Taiwan strategic partnership. Strategic rivalry between the PRC and the USA has intensified over several key issues, with the Taiwan issue playing a central role. Beijing views Taiwan as an inseparable part of its territory and seeks its reunification, while Washington supports the status quo and seeks to prevent any unilateral changes. One of the main reasons for the heightened tensions has been the increased Chinese military presence in the Taiwan Strait and the conduct of large-scale military exercises near Taiwan (Sadibaqosev, 2024). In response to these actions, the USA has increased its military support for Taiwan, including the supply of modern weapons and the conduct of joint military exercises. This increase in military

activity by both sides has only exacerbated the situation and increased the risk of confrontation.

Beyond the military tensions, the strategic rivalry between the PRC and the USA also has significant economic dimensions. Mutual trade restrictions and sanctions imposed by both sides create additional barriers to economic cooperation. In particular, the USA has imposed restrictions on the export of high-tech goods to China (International Trade Administration, 2023), negatively impacting the Chinese economy. In response, the PRC has imposed sanctions on US companies, which has also had negative consequences for economic relations between the two countries. However, despite the tensions, economic interdependence between the USA and China remains significant. Trade between the two countries remains high, and both sides understand the importance of maintaining economic ties. According to 2023 data, USA trade in goods and services with China amounted to approximately 756.3 billion USD. Exports totalled 198.2 billion USD, while imports amounted to 558.1 billion USD (United States Trade Representative, 2024) (Table 1). However, the growing tensions over Taiwan could lead to further economic sanctions and restrictions, further complicating economic cooperation.

Table 1. Trade between the USA and PRC from 2021-2024

Year	Imports (Billion USD)	Exports (Billion USD)
2021	506.4	151.1
2022	562.9	195.5
2023	558.1	198.2
2024	479	186

Notes: data for 2024 is only for the first half of the year (1 January 2024 - 1 August 2024)

Sources: United States Trade Representative (2024)

The strategic rivalry between the PRC and the USA has significant geopolitical implications. Taiwan has become a crucial element in the broader struggle for influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The USA is actively working to strengthen its alliances with countries in the region, such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia, to contain Chinese influence. The PRC is working to strengthen its geopolitical positions, developing partnerships with countries that have antagonistic relations with the USA. This includes strengthening cooperation with Russia, Iran, and other countries willing to support China's position on the international stage.

US policy towards Taiwan remains one of the key aspects of the strategic rivalry between Washington and Beijing. This policy is characterised by increased defence support, diplomatic efforts to ensure Taiwan's international status, and significant influence on US-China trade and economic relations. The USA has traditionally provided Taiwan with significant defence support, contributing to the maintenance of the status quo in relations between Taiwan and China.

Diplomatic support for Taiwan from the USA also remains an integral part of its policy. Washington is actively working to ensure Taiwan's participation in international organisations and to strengthen its international status. Although the USA officially adheres to the One-China policy, it simultaneously supports Taiwan's efforts to expand international relations and participate in global forums. The USA actively advocates for Taiwan's participation in

organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (U.S. Department of State, 2023). These efforts aim to ensure Taiwan's access to vital information and international support, which is critical for its security and development.

The European Union, while continuing to adhere to the One-China policy, has also expressed serious concerns about the growing tensions in the region. In December 2023, the European Parliament adopted Resolution of European Parliament No. 2019/2183(INL) (2023), calling for stronger economic and trade relations with Taiwan and increased Taiwanese participation in international organisations. This has become part of the EU's strategy to support Taiwan's international status and protect it from potential threats from China. Despite this, the EU's response remains cautious. The European Union encourages diplomatic dialogue and expresses concern about the potential economic consequences for Europe in the event of further escalation of the conflict.

Regarding the policies of neighbouring countries, several key players should be highlighted. One of them is Japan, as one of Asia's leading economies and a significant player in regional security. Japan has deep economic ties with both China and Taiwan. China is Japan's largest trading partner, making regional stability critical for the Japanese economy. In 2023, bilateral trade between Japan and China exceeded 350 billion USD, demonstrating the

high interdependence of the two economies (Japan External Trade Organization, 2023). However, Taiwan is also an important economic partner for Japan. The island plays a key role in the global supply chain for electronics and semiconductors, which are critical for Japan's technology industry (Yasuyuki, 2023).

The growing tensions between China and Taiwan have raised serious concerns for Japan's national security. Japan's proximity to the Taiwan Strait means that any escalation of the conflict could have severe consequences for Japan's security. The Japanese government views stability in the Taiwan Strait as critical to its own national security. In 2022, the Japanese government released a new defence strategy, which emphasised the importance of security in the Taiwan Strait (Japan, 2022). In this document, Japan reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with its allies, such as the USA, to ensure regional stability. Japan actively advocates for a peaceful resolution to the conflict between China and Taiwan. In 2023, G7 foreign ministers, including Japan, called for restraint and dialogue between the parties to avoid escalating tensions (G7 Foreign Ministers' statement, 2023).

A key aspect of Japan's policy towards Taiwan is the strengthening of defence cooperation with the USA. In 2023, Japan and the USA conducted large-scale military exercises, including manoeuvres to defend Taiwan from a potential invasion by the PRC. These exercises aimed to demonstrate readiness to respond to potential threats and underlined the strategic importance of Taiwan for Japan (Lawrence, 2023). Additionally, Japan is actively cooperating with other countries in the region, such as Australia and South Korea, to strengthen regional security.

In response to the growing threat from China, Japan is also taking domestic measures to enhance its own defence capabilities. In 2024, the Japanese government increased its defence budget to a record 51 billion USD, enabling the procurement of cutting-edge military technologies and the modernisation of its armed forces (Ministry of Defense of Japan, 2024). Japan is also expanding its military presence on islands near the Taiwan Strait, particularly the Senkaku Islands, which are the subject of territorial disputes with China. In 2022 the Japanese military installed new radar systems and strengthened defensive positions on these islands to enhance its ability to respond to potential threats (Chinese military activity spurs..., 2022).

When analysing the policies of neighbouring countries that could become directly involved in a conflict, South Korea should be highlighted as one of Asia's leading economies and democracies. Korea is attempting to balance supporting economic relations with China while protecting its national interests and security. South Korea's relations with China have a significant economic foundation. China is South Korea's largest trading partner, and the volume of trade between the two countries reaches billions of dollars annually (Observatory of Economic Complexity, n.d.). The Chinese market is crucial for exports of South Korean goods, especially in the electronics, automotive, and chemical industries. These economic ties create a significant dependence of South Korea on the Chinese market, which influences its foreign policy.

On the other hand, South Korea has strategic and security concerns regarding China. The growth of China's

military power and its aggressive policy in the South China Sea are causing concern in Seoul (Park, 2022). South Korea is actively cooperating with the USA and other allies to ensure regional security. However, given its economic dependence on China, South Korea is forced to be cautious in its policy and avoid direct confrontations with Beijing.

South Korea's relations with Taiwan are characterised by minimal intensity compared to its relations with China. South Korea officially (South Korean president..., 2024) adheres to the OneChina policy and does not have official diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, economic and unofficial diplomatic ties between South Korea and Taiwan continue to develop. Taiwan is a significant trading partner for South Korea, especially in the fields of high technology and semiconductors. Economic cooperation between the countries is growing, contributing to the strengthening of their ties (Jung, 2023).

In terms of security, South Korea focuses on its own challenges related to North Korea. The threat from North Korea remains a top priority for Seoul, limiting its ability to actively participate in the China-Taiwan conflict. South Korea seeks to maintain regional stability and avoid escalating tensions that could impact its own security (Hossain, 2023). South Korea's policy towards the China-Taiwan conflict is characterised by pragmatism and caution. On the one hand, Seoul upholds the One-China policy and seeks to maintain stable relations with Beijing, given its economic interests. On the other hand, South Korea aims to avoid excessive dependence on China and diversify its economic ties. In this context, cooperation with Taiwan becomes increasingly important.

The South Korean government's policy towards the conflict reflects its desire to ensure national security, strengthen its economic position, and maintain stable relations with China. Seoul seeks to balance supporting the One-China policy and developing economic and unofficial diplomatic ties with Taiwan. This approach allows South Korea to effectively respond to the challenges it faces due to regional tensions and simultaneously strengthen its position in the global context (Carothers, 2023).

India's stance on the China-Taiwan conflict, like that of most countries, is nuanced. India's relations with China are strained due to territorial disputes and competition for regional influence. On the other hand, India's relations with Taiwan are more friendly, and cooperation between the countries is growing. India and China have a long history of territorial disputes, most notably the border dispute in the Himalayas, which led to war between the two countries in 1962. In 2020, these disputes flared up again during the Galwan Valley incident, resulting in significant casualties on both sides (Ahmed *et al.*, 2020). These events highlight the ongoing instability in India-China relations. Despite regular diplomatic meetings and efforts to reduce tensions, deep mistrust remains between the two countries, and they continue to compete for influence in South-east Asia and the Indian Ocean.

India seeks to strengthen its position in the region and is actively pursuing new strategic partnerships. In this context, relations with Taiwan play an important role. India and Taiwan share a common interest in containing Chinese expansion and strengthening their own economic and technological capabilities. In 2023-2024, India

significantly increased economic cooperation with Taiwan, particularly in the fields of information technology, semiconductors, and innovation (Vanvari & Tan, 2023).

On the security front, India is also intensifying its cooperation with Taiwan. Although official military ties between the countries remain limited, the growing tensions in relations with China are forcing India to seek new ways to ensure its own security. Taiwan, as a potential ally in containing China, is becoming increasingly important for India. This is manifested in an increasing number of joint diplomatic initiatives and the exchange of security information. India's policy towards the China-Taiwan conflict takes a pragmatic approach. On the one hand, India officially supports the One-China policy and does not have official diplomatic relations with Taiwan. This is due to economic interests and the need to maintain stable relations with China, which is one of India's largest trading partners. On the other hand, India is actively developing unofficial relations with Taiwan and providing it with support from international organisations (Jacob, 2022).

India's economic situation also influences its approach to the conflict. India seeks to diversify its economic ties and reduce its dependence on China. In this context, Taiwan emerges as an important partner in the fields of high technology and innovation, which can help India strengthen its own economic base and become more competitive in the global market. Trade relations between India and Taiwan continue to grow, and both countries are working to expand cooperation in various sectors of the economy (Rocina & Rocina, 2023).

The security situation in the region also compels India to be cautious in its actions. Tensions in relations with China and the growing Chinese military presence in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean pose challenges to India's security. In this context, cooperation with Taiwan, which also faces aggression from China, becomes strategically important. India is actively involved in multilateral cooperation formats, such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which includes the USA, Japan, Australia, and India, to ensure regional stability and security (Aras & Kandemir, 2023).

The Indian government's approach to the China-Taiwan conflict is part of a broader strategy adopted by many countries. India seeks to balance the need to maintain stable relations with China with the desire to strengthen its partnership with Taiwan. This is evident in the combination of official support for the One-China policy and active economic and unofficial diplomatic cooperation with Taiwan. Such an approach allows India to effectively respond to the challenges posed by tensions in its relations with China, while simultaneously strengthening its position in the region and on the global stage.

Discussion

The historical context, rooted in the Chinese Civil War and the subsequent development of Taiwan, has significantly shaped the political and social relations between the two countries. Following the conclusion of the war in 1949, when the Chinese Communist Party established control over the mainland and the Republic of China retreated to Taiwan, a new political entity emerged, leading to prolonged tensions and conflicts.

Contemporary geopolitical shifts, including the growing competition between the United States and China, undoubtedly influence the situation surrounding Taiwan. However, it is worth noting that US support for Taiwan not only helps maintain a balance of power in the region, as D.F. Lawrence (2023) observes, but may also have far-reaching implications for global security. While such support may, at first glance, reduce the likelihood of direct escalation, the author also highlights that it simultaneously intensifies tensions between the USA and China, which could lead to unpredictable consequences.

A significant factor in this research has been the economic ties and interdependence between the countries in an economic context. Although economic ties are strong, they have not diminished political differences. This situation creates a paradoxical state of affairs where economic cooperation and strategic alliances simultaneously promote stability and increase the risk of conflict. In light of this, it is worth noting that the role of the USA in this region is both a stabilising factor and a potential source of escalating tensions. This thesis is supported by P.-Y. Hung (2022), who in their research examines the ambiguity of economic relations between China, Taiwan, and neighbouring countries. It is important to note that the author highlights the significant role played by economic ties but also expresses concern about the potential for political pressure from Beijing, driven by Taiwan's economic dependence on China.

China's military activities, particularly the development of its naval and air forces, undoubtedly cause concern in Taiwan and among its allies, especially Washington. Notably, H. Sadibaqosev (2024) emphasises that the modernisation of Taiwan's military, including the procurement of advanced weaponry from the USA, is an adequate response to the growing threat from China. However, this study notes that the confrontation should be viewed not only through the lens of military strategies but also through economic and diplomatic aspects that influence regional security.

Research findings demonstrate that contemporary geopolitical shifts, including the growing competition between the United States and China, impact the situation surrounding Taiwan. The strengthening of USA alliances in the region, particularly with Japan, South Korea, and Australia, is part of a strategy to contain China (Xu, 2024). Simultaneously, China is intensifying its efforts to strengthen relations with Russia and other countries, which also influences the regional situation.

The conclusions drawn are corroborated by other studies. For example, research by C. Chen (2018) confirms that economic integration does not always lead to political convergence, especially when dealing with countries with different political systems. Moreover, a study by K. Zhang (2023) shows that China's military strategy involves not only direct military threats but also "grey zone" tactics, such as economic sanctions and cyberattacks, aimed at undermining Taiwan's stability.

According to the research, China's decisions regarding Taiwan are largely dependent on domestic political circumstances and the need to maintain regime legitimacy. This is supported by research from E. Jung (2023), who demonstrates that the Chinese authorities often use

tensions surrounding Taiwan to strengthen domestic support. The political and diplomatic strategies of neighbouring countries in the context of the China-Taiwan conflict demonstrate significant variability, driven by differences in their economic and geopolitical interests. Japan cannot afford to ignore the growing military threat from China, and therefore it is increasingly seeking USA support, but does so through informal channels to avoid provoking economic sanctions from Beijing.

The situation of South Korea in the context of China-Taiwan relations is even more complex, as highlighted by numerous studies, including that of L. Chaewon & A.P. Liff (2022). However, it is important to note that maintaining a balance between economic interests and strategic alliances is a constant challenge for Seoul. South Korea seeks to avoid radical actions that could disrupt regional stability, but at the same time is forced to respond to threats such as military aggression from North Korea. This places the country in a position where it must constantly evaluate the shortterm economic benefits of cooperation with China against the long-term security interests associated with the USA alliance.

Compared to other countries, such as Japan or South Korea, India has more flexible manoeuvring capabilities due to its relatively independent economic position and the importance of regional strategic alliances. Thanks to this relative freedom, the research of J.T. Jacob (2022) clearly demonstrates that India supports Taiwan as part of its strategy to contain Chinese influence. However, this approach has limitations, determined by India's economic interests and strategic partnership with China, as noted by A. Jash (2023).

It is important to note that military strategies undoubtedly play a central role in the dynamics of the relationship between China and Taiwan. Historical disputes over the sovereignty of Taiwan are not only a source of tension but are also constantly used as a tool of political pressure. China, on the one hand, is increasing its military presence and conducting regular exercises in the Taiwan Strait, seeking to emphasise its claims to the island. On the other hand, as noted in the research of A.H. Cordesman & J.K. Kendall (2016), Taiwan, understanding the threat from China, is actively modernising its armed forces and strengthening cooperation with the USA to ensure its defence capabilities.

Economic cooperation is often seen as a means of mitigating conflicts, but in reality, it can become both a tool of pressure and a platform for constructive dialogue. This highlights the complexity and multifaceted nature of the relationship between China and Taiwan, where economic factors can both stabilise the situation and exacerbate political disputes depending on the context and strategic intentions of both sides. However, D. Wiratama (2017) notes that economic relations between China and Taiwan have a primarily stabilising influence on the political situation in the region.

Despite numerous studies, many aspects of the issue remain insufficiently researched. For example, it is important to study in more detail how domestic political changes in the USA and China influence their foreign policy towards Taiwan. Changes in leadership, policy decisions, and public opinion can significantly impact both countries'

approaches to resolving the Taiwan issue. For instance, if a new US president adopts a tougher stance towards China, this could lead to increased support for Taiwan, which in turn could exacerbate tensions. On the other hand, internal political crises in China could force Beijing to adopt a more aggressive position towards Taiwan to consolidate power and divert attention from domestic problems.

Thus, despite the significant amount of research conducted, there remain numerous unexplored aspects of the issue that require further analysis. A more detailed study of domestic political changes in the USA and China, the reactions of regional actors, the role of military strategies, and economic relations between China and Taiwan will help to better understand the complexity of this conflict and develop effective strategies for its resolution.

Conclusions

The conducted study assessed the impact of the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949) on the political status of Taiwan and analysed the current international situation in the context of the China-Taiwan conflict. The research achieved its aim by establishing that the Chinese Civil War was a pivotal moment in shaping the modern political landscape of the East Asian region. It was revealed that the conflict between the communist forces led by Mao Zedong and the nationalist government of the Guomindang, headed by Chiang Kai-shek, resulted in the formation of two separate political entities: the People's Republic of China on the mainland and the Republic of China on the island of Taiwan. This division led to the formation of two distinct political entities that still function in parallel, each claiming to represent a single Chinese people. Consequently, this event was a significant milestone in the formation of the modern political geography of China and Taiwan.

The research findings revealed that the contemporary conflict between China and Taiwan has a significant impact on international relations, particularly in the context of geopolitical strategy and global security. It was noted that the tensions between Beijing and Taipei are making substantial adjustments to international relations, influencing the security policies of major powers. The USA, Japan, South Korea, and India are key actors that play a significant role in maintaining stability in this region. The United States of America continues to provide military assistance to Taiwan, including the sale of modern weapons and military technologies, which significantly strengthens the island's defence capabilities. Japan, South Korea, and India, in turn, are also involved in creating a strategy of containment and supporting regional security.

The results of the study indicate a significant influence of international actors on the development of the conflict between China and Taiwan. In particular, economic sanctions imposed by the international community against China and diplomatic pressure exerted by Western countries have had a substantial impact on Beijing's strategic decisions. This has prompted China to intensify its policy of economic and military pressure on Taiwan, which, in turn, has led to an increase in Taiwan's defence capabilities. Taiwan is actively strengthening its international relations, seeking new partners and support in the international arena. Such actions demonstrate that international relations in the region remain dynamic and

interdependent, which is a key aspect in the study of global security and international politics. In future research on the topic, it is worth paying attention to the impact of Taiwan's unofficial diplomacy on international support, including interaction with countries of the Global South.

None.

None.

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Conflict of Interest

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