

CHINESE NATIONALISM AND THE MAKING OF THE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

Suisheng Zhao
Professor and Executive Director
Center for China-US Cooperation
Graduate School of International Studies
University of Denver, USA

Abstract:

The Anti-Secession Law passed by China's National People's Congress on March 14, 2005 is described by some people as a war authorization law, mainly driven by Chinese nationalism, to set a benchmark against nationalist pressure and show Chinese leaders' willingness to risk war across the Taiwan Strait at all cost. It thus signifies greater irrationality of China's policy toward Taiwan. Is Chinese nationalism a cause of international aggression, making China's policy toward Taiwan irrational and inflexible? Does the anti-secession law signal that Beijing is on a path that reduces its scope for rational choices? This paper tries to find answers to these questions by examining the making of the Anti-Secession Law and its immediate aftermath.