

CONFLICT MECHANISM BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

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Abstract:

Military background surrounding Taiwan

1, Considering the military balance between China and Taiwan, it is difficult for China to get air superiority over Taiwan. Without air superiority, it is impossible for China to succeed in landing operation on Taiwan.

2, US navy has enough capability to check Chinese invasion and occupation of Taiwan. Even if China could succeed in occupying Taiwan, it is easy for the US navy to cut the logistic line from mainland China to Taiwan. China is now modernizing and expanding its military forces very rapidly. But at present, it is difficult for China to occupy the heavily armed and hostile island. Mao Zedong once said in his book that China should not make war without enough preparation and a chance of winning.

Political movements in China and Taiwan

1, If military pressure is not effective, China would opt for political and economic pressure upon Taiwan. For that purpose, China tries to establish close economic relations with the United States. Economic interdependence between the United States and China will raise the cost of a US intervention in the Taiwan problem.

2, Chinese military expansion is very rapid. Therefore, if Taiwan wants to be independent, it is reasonable to declare independence as soon as possible. But the United States would not support the declaration of independence.

3, If Taiwan wants to maintain the present favorable military balance, it is necessary for Taiwan to promote economic development and buy more weapons from the United States. For economic development, Taiwan needs to establish good economic relations with China and the United States. China's policy toward Taiwan is relatively simple. Good economic relation with the United States reduces the possibility of US military intervention and good economic relation with Taiwan reduces the benefit of

independence.

But the Taiwanese policy is complicated. Military expansion contradicts good economic relations with China. Taiwan needs to balance its good economic relation with China against military build-up. This confuses the domestic politics of Taiwan.