

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL UNSC



Security Council
United Nations

CERVMUN IX

BACKGROUND GUIDE

PRESIDENT:
SARA HAAG GARCÍA

LICEO DE CERVANTES BARRANQUILLA

COORDINACIONES

PBX: 3784172 - 3784173 - 3784174 - 3784175
Cra. 51B N° 87-99 | Barranquilla, Colombia
www.liceodecervantes.edu.co

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I. LETTER FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to address you as the President of the Security Council for this edition of CERVMUN IX. Together with my Co-President, we are here to offer you our support in everything you need.

This committee, like all committees, presents certain challenges. Delegates must constantly discern information about global conflicts. This is for the bold, those who can look beyond the data and generate empathy with the affected populations. I must say that I firmly believe that every person who allows themselves to face their fears are the one who will succeed in life. I'm very proud of each one of you, and I do hope that these next three days will be a key moment in each of your paths.

The Model United Nations has provided me with valuable personal learning opportunities and has awakened in me a deep desire to continue developing as a person. Likewise, I'm very grateful for the people I have met on my journey. It has been so extraordinary to share the same space with people that I admire and appreciate.

During this conference, it is essential that, through diplomacy and fluid debate, we create an enriching and dynamic space to address the various topics.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us; we will respond as soon as possible. As the chair, we are here to support you in this wonderful experience that is the Model United Nations.

All the best,

Sara Haag.

Email: shaaggarcia@gmail.com

Phone number: +57 3012990093

II. ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

WHAT IS THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives this organ the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

1. to maintain international peace and security;
2. to develop friendly relations among nations;
3. to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
4. be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

RIGHT TO VETO

The creators of the United Nations Charter conceived that five countries — China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) [which was succeeded in 1990 by the Russian Federation], the United Kingdom, and the United States —, because of their key roles in the establishment of the United Nations, would continue to play important roles in the maintenance of international peace and security. They were granted the special status of Permanent Member States at the Security Council, along with a special voting power known as the "right to veto". It was agreed by the drafters that if any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.

All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain, thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favorable votes.

III.

TOPIC A: THE IMPACT OF THE 2003 IRAQ INVASION ON THE RISE OF INSURGENCY.

INTRODUCTION

To begin with the introduction, I would like to establish expectations regarding the dynamism of the committee.

Firstly, starting with the precise analysis of the intervention in Iraq in 2003 and the members involved. In the second stance, debating about how this historical event directly led to the creation of non-state actors that continue to be an ongoing threat to the international community. The third stance focuses on the effects and ongoing threats that insurgencies have on the international community. And finally, ending the agenda with an evidence-based resolution that covers the events leading to the 2003 Iraq intervention, and the short and long terms that this conflict had; focusing on the impact this had in the rise of insurgency. And finally, formulating strategies to combat the rise of these groups. Plus, aiming for solutions such as policy recommendations and security measures at the end of the debate.

NOTE: Keep in mind that many of the nations were opposed to this US-led invasion due to some flaws of coherence and consistency in their arguments. However, it is also relevant to mention the influence that Hussein's government had in this decision. It is important that you as delegates are able to discern the both sides of the conflict.

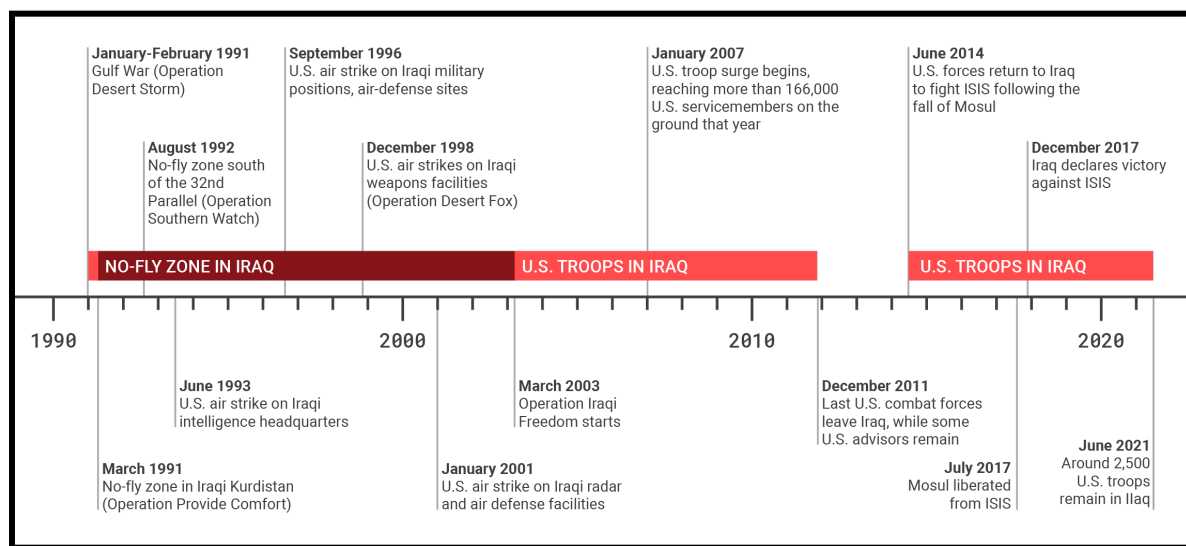
In March 2003, U.S. forces invaded Iraq with the objectives of destroying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ending Saddam Hussein's dictatorial regime. However, the intelligence regarding WMDs was largely based on assumptions and limited evidence. Declassified reports later revealed significant gaps in U.S. intelligence, indicating that their knowledge about Iraq's WMD programs was incomplete and often speculative.

The war quickly lost public support when it became clear that WMDs were not found and a violent insurgency emerged. Saddam Hussein was eventually captured, and executed, and Iraq held democratic elections. Despite these developments, the conflict resulted in over 4,700 deaths of U.S. and allied troops and the deaths of more than one hundred thousand Iraqi civilians.

The war also had far-reaching consequences, including the destabilization of the region. This instability contributed to the rise of extremist groups like ISIS. The power vacuum left by the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, combined with sectarian conflicts and weak political structures, allowed ISIS to gain a foothold in Iraq and Syria, leading to significant regional and global security challenges.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Timeline of the 2003 Iraq Invasion:



Events leading up to the intervention:

The Iraq intervention had various causes and the root started long ago around 1990 in which Iraq decided to invade Kuwait under the command of Saddam Hussein. This ended in Iraq's defeat by the US-led coalition. Yet after this, the Iraqi branch of the Ba'ath Party, headed by Saddam Hussein, managed to retain power by harshly suppressing uprisings of the country's minority Kurds and its majority Shi'i Arabs.

As a following action, the allies established a “safe heaven” and patrolled “no-fly” zones in northern and southern Iraq that were off limits to Iraqi aircraft. Likewise, to control Hussein’s regime, the United Nations implemented economic sanctions for the mere purpose of hindering the process of development of WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction).

As the United States was fearful of the capacity of Iraq’s nuclear program, inspections were a must, and during the mid-1990s it was under-covered a variety of biological agents such as botulinum and anthrax, and other prescribed weapons and prohibited technology. The lack of compliance during the inspections and continuous flouting over the UN weapons plan generated a frustrated international community and by 1998 President Bill Clinton led the **Operation Desert Fox**. The primary mission was to strike military targets in Iraq to halt their ability to produce, store, maintain and deliver weapons of mass destruction. Yet, Iraq didn’t allow inspectors to reenter the country.

After 2001 September 11 hijacked four commercial airplanes and attacked significant places around the United States, such as the Pentagon and the Twin Towers. This act of aggression came from an insurgent group from Afghanistan, and caused America’s over prevention and following the launching of the War on Terrorism campaign. This is of huge influence because President Bush Junior started linking Saddam Hussein and Iraq’s government to maintain relations with Al-Qaeda, even though it was later confirmed that they had no link with this organization, and made its disarmament a renewed priority. On November 8, 2002, UN Security Council Resolution 1441, passed and demanded that Iraq readmit inspectors and that it comply with all previous resolutions.

“The resolution requires UNMOVIC and the IAEA to report immediately to the Security Council any interference by Iraq with inspection activities or any failure by Iraq to comply with its disarmament obligations.”

Iraq appeared to comply with the resolution, but in early 2003 President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that Iraq was actually continuing to hinder UN inspections and that it still retained proscribed weapons.

As a response, Iraq declared the “Iraq Declaration of Weapons”. This declaration was required under UN Security Council Resolution 1441, which demanded that Iraq provide a complete inventory of its WMD programs and

allow UN inspectors to verify the disarmament of such weapons. But, this declaration was labeled as incomplete by the Bush administration, and on March 17, seeking no further UN resolutions and deeming further diplomatic efforts by the Security Council futile, Bush declared an end to diplomacy and issued an ultimatum to Saddam, giving the Iraqi president 48 hours to leave Iraq. The leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and other countries objected to this buildup toward war.

It is important to highlight that years later, many important leaders and experts around the world have concluded that this invasion had multiple voids and lacked coherency. According to Sanam Vakil, deputy director of the Middle East North Africa programme at Chatham House, the decision to invade Iraq was a “huge violation of international law” and that the real objective of the Bush administration was a broader transformational effect in the region.

2003 IRAQ INTERVENTIONS:

In March 2003, when Saddam Hussein refused to leave Iraq despite international pressure, the United States and its allies initiated Operation Iraqi Freedom. The operation began with U.S. aircraft targeting a bunker complex in which Saddam Hussein and his senior staff were reportedly meeting, using precision-guided bombs. This marked the start of a series of airstrikes aimed at Iraqi government and military installations.

Key goals of **Operation Iraqi Freedom** included:

- Removal of Saddam Hussein's regime: By targeting Saddam Hussein and his top officials, the operation sought to eliminate the leadership of the Iraqi government.
- Disarmament of Iraq: The operation aimed to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and dismantle its ability to produce such weapons in the future.
- Liberation of Iraq: The coalition forces aimed to liberate the Iraqi people from the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein.
- Stabilization and democratization: The operation sought to establish a stable and democratic Iraq, promoting governance that respected human rights and represented all ethnic and religious groups.

The military campaign unfolded with U.S. forces invading Iraq from Kuwait in the south and facing initial resistance from irregular groups loyal to the Ba'ath Party. In central Iraq, the Republican Guard units defended Baghdad, while coalition forces advanced through the Tigris-Euphrates river valley, strategically bypassing strongholds of Fedayeen resistance. Despite challenges like inclement weather and logistical issues, U.S. forces continued their advance, inflicting heavy damage on Republican Guard units near Baghdad.

By early **April 2003**, coalition forces had secured Baghdad's international airport, and disorganized Iraqi resistance led to the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in the capital. This marked a significant turning point in the operation, as U.S. troops gained control of Baghdad and continued efforts to stabilize the country in the subsequent months.

On **May 1, 2003**, U.S. President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, marking a significant moment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This declaration came about a month after coalition forces had effectively taken control of Baghdad and other key cities in Iraq. The president's announcement was symbolically made under a banner that read "Mission Accomplished," signifying the perceived success of the initial military objectives.

Yet this was just the beginning of a prolonged civil war that had a huge impact on the Iraqi community. During the civil war, there were outbreaks of violence, including criminal acts and reprisals against former leaders. On the other hand, by that time, photographs of US soldiers abusing Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison were leaked. By the end of the Iraq civil war, it was estimated that the deaths of more than 4,400 American troops and an estimated 300,000 Iraqis.

The Bush administration was heavily criticized for mishandling the situation and deteriorating Iraq's stability, plus, giving rise to the creation of insurgent groups.

THE RISE OF INSURGENCY:

The 2003 intervention in Iraq resulted in the rapid collapse of Saddam Hussein's central government. This sudden power vacuum led to disorder and theft, which fueled anger among the Iraqi populace. Although there was an initial expectation of a decisive military victory, the Iraqi army largely dissolved, often returning home with their weapons.

Further resentment grew due to delays in reconstruction efforts and the initial lack of substantial humanitarian aid to assist Iraqis affected by both the intervention and Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime, compounded by international sanctions. The U.S.-led intervention also raised suspicions about America's long-term intentions in Iraq. Additionally, the conduct of certain American soldiers exacerbated tensions.

The insurgency that emerged was diverse. Sunni-majority regions such as the "Sunni Triangle" were early focal points of insurgent activities, while Shi'a militias became more prominent later in the conflict. Some former members of the Ba'ath Party, including security personnel and military officers, participated in the insurgency. However, it's important to note that not all Ba'athists turned to violence; many remained cautious of the U.S. presence but refrained from engaging in armed resistance.

The dissolution of the Iraqi army remains a contentious issue. While it undoubtedly angered Iraqis who lost their livelihoods and pensions, some argue it prevented a prolonged and bloody conventional war.

Understanding the insurgency in Iraq necessitates recognizing multiple contributing factors. The initial power vacuum, delayed aid, and societal grievances all played significant roles, alongside the actions of certain U.S. forces and the involvement of former regime elements in the insurgency.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE US TROOPS IN THE IRAQI TERRITORY:

On December 18, 2011, all the United States Forces withdrew from all Iraqi territory.

CURRENT SITUATION

Although the official fight against the Islamic State (IS) ended in 2018, Iraq continues to face significant security challenges and lacks a strong sense of stability. The country still struggles with the aftermath of the conflict, including ongoing threats from insurgent groups and internal divisions.

The differences in religious beliefs between Sunni and Shia groups, as well as tensions between Kurdish groups in the north and the central government in Baghdad, have made it more challenging to defeat IS. These divisions have intensified since the US invasion in 2003 and the downfall of Saddam Hussein. They now pose a threat to the stability of the new Iraqi government as it works to reconstruct the country and prevent IS from gaining power again. There is concern that the war's effects and the challenges of rebuilding could result in Iraq splitting apart completely. Furthermore, the religious tensions in the area may persist for a long time, possibly escalating into a larger conflict involving different countries.

In October 2022, Abdul Latif Rashid became president, promising to bring Iraq back to normal. Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, a close ally of Iran, was ultimately chosen as Prime Minister. His government leans towards Iran and includes some ministers linked to groups designated as extremist organizations by the US, such as Kataib Hezbollah. However, al-Sudani has taken a moderate approach, wanting US forces to stay in Iraq and continuing the previous government's policy of "balance and openness." The US remains concerned about Iran's growing influence in Iraq and its government. This has damaged Iraq's relationship with the US and made it harder to rebuild ties with other Arab countries, especially the wealthy Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Despite being in a weakened state, the Islamic State remains a significant challenge for Iraq, reverting to their previous methods of surprise assaults and selective assassinations, leading to instability in the area and demonstrating their capacity for violence. An example of this is the bombing near Kirkuk in December 2022, resulting in the deaths of nine federal police officers.

Consequently, the US declared its intention to maintain its military presence in Iraq to combat IS.

Iranian-backed groups were responsible for the killing of Kurdish protestants in Kirkuk due to a dispute over the handover of a building to a Kurdish political party. Following deadly clashes between different ethnic groups, the Supreme Court in Baghdad intervened by halting al-Sudani's directive to return the building to the Kurdish party on September 1st. Kirkuk, an oil-rich province located at the border of the Kurdish autonomous region and Iraqi government-controlled areas, has been a focal point of severe violence in Iraq since the presence of IS. Meanwhile, Turkey escalated its military operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, conducting a drone strike that resulted in the death of seven members in August 2023. Subsequently, Turkey called on Iraq to designate the PKK as a terrorist group, citing the organization as a threat to the security of both Iraqi and Turkish territories.

In August 2023, Iran revealed that the central Iraqi government had agreed to disarm and move militant groups from the Kurdish region by September 19th. Despite this positive development, tensions between Turkey and the Kurds heightened after a PKK suicide bombing in Ankara in October, marking the first attack in the capital since 2016. In retaliation, Turkish forces conducted airstrikes in northern Iraq, targeting sixteen PKK locations. The conflict escalated further in 2024 with additional Turkish strikes in response to PKK attacks on Turkish bases that resulted in the deaths of twenty-one soldiers between December and January.

To conclude, the situation in Iraq is complex and has a profound root that is still ongoing and marked a pattern of instability and lack of security in Iraq's territory. What is expected from the delegates is their capacity to generate solutions that differentiate themselves from the ones made in the past; that aggravated the conflict. Plus, found a way to cease non-state members and create strategies for the reconstruction of Iraq.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What is your country's position regarding the conflict?
2. What are your country's allies? Are they actively involved in the conflict?
3. What were the immediate and long-term consequences of the Iraq intervention for Iraq itself and the broader Middle East region?
4. How did the intervention contribute to the rise of insurgent groups like ISIS?
5. Which insurgent groups flourished in the aftermath of the 2003 invasion?
6. How did the power vacuum created by the removal of Saddam Hussein contribute to the rise of insurgency and terrorism in Iraq?
7. What were the main factors contributing to the insurgency in Iraq post-2003?
8. What were the loopholes in the invasion led by the USA that were not fairly justified?
9. What are the ongoing security challenges Iraq faces today, particularly concerning insurgency and terrorist activities?
10. How have Iraq's internal political dynamics been shaped by the intervention and subsequent events?
11. What are potential strategies for stabilizing Iraq and addressing ongoing security threats?
12. Describe the aspects in which the international community and the security council failed in protecting Iran's sovereignty and security.

IV.

TOPIC B: TAIWAN'S MILITARY TENSIONS AMID CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE.

INTRODUCTION

To begin with the introduction, I would like to establish expectations regarding the dynamism of the committee. In the first stance, addressing the challenges surrounding Taiwan's call for independence, and the growing military tensions provoked by this. In addition, looking forward to the creation of strategies for dialogue, treating the key components of the conflict, and ensuring viable objectives that align with the interventions addressed throughout the day.

The conflict between China and Taiwan is rooted in a complex historical and political background. After the Chinese Civil War in 1949, the defeated Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan and established the Republic of China (ROC) government there, while the Communist Party of China (CPC) established the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland. Both governments claim to be the legitimate rulers of all of China, including Taiwan. Over the decades, Taiwan has evolved into a vibrant democracy with its government and military, but China regards Taiwan as a renegade province that must eventually be reunited with the mainland, by peaceful means or force if necessary. This dispute has significant implications for regional stability and international relations, as countries navigate their diplomatic relations with both China and Taiwan while considering their stance on Taiwan's sovereignty and autonomy.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1949, a conflict erupted in China, leading to the loss of mainland China by the government (ROC) to the Communist Party. Subsequently, the Communist Party established the People's Republic of China (PRC) and gained authority over mainland China. The ROC retained control solely over the island of Taiwan.

The tensions resulted in an armed conflict over islands in the Taiwan Strait that held a significant strategic power. Leadership on both sides of the strait maintained a perspective that the islands could serve as a possible base for an ROC campaign aimed at reclaiming the Chinese mainland, and they were keen on exerting control over the islands.



Before 1970, the Republic of China (ROC) held recognition as China's government from all nations and the United Nations. ROC was also one of the Security Council's five permanent members. However, in 1971, UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 replaced ROC's representation with the People's Republic of China (PRC). This shift altered global perspectives, leading to today's understanding where "China" generally denotes the People's Republic of China (PRC), while the Republic of China (ROC) is commonly associated with Taiwan.

China proposed the so-called "one country, two systems" option, which it said would allow Taiwan significant autonomy if it agreed to come under Beijing's control.

In mid-1995, China started running what it would look like highly publicized combat exercises very similar to what it would look like to cross this 130 kilometer wide strait to invade the island of Taiwan. A small island that from China's perspective is a rebellious province in an unfinished civil war. The US and other nations notice this peculiar behavior coming from China, and as a casualty all these new movements coming from China happened after Taiwan's president asked for a visa to visit the United States while also holding their first

democratic election, that would be the first in 5,000 years. China also started new military exercises less than a week before the election.

The United States started sending military force to the ROC and heightening the diplomatic branch between them and China. President Bill Clinton sent the US's best equipment: aircraft carriers, guided missile cruisers, destroyers, and powerful weapon systems. This entered right through the Strait of Taiwan and was a clear response to China's efforts to intimidate Taiwan. Furthermore, China backs down its military and weaponry.

Taiwan rejected the offer, leading Beijing to insist the Taiwan's ROC government was illegitimate - but unofficial representatives from China and Taiwan still held limited talks.

Then in 2000, Taiwan elected Chen Shui-bian as president, much to Beijing's alarm.

Mr Chen and his party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), had openly backed Taiwan's "independence".

A year after Mr Chen was re-elected in 2004, China passed a so-called anti-secession law, declaring China's right to use "non-peaceful means" against Taiwan if it tried to "secede" from China.

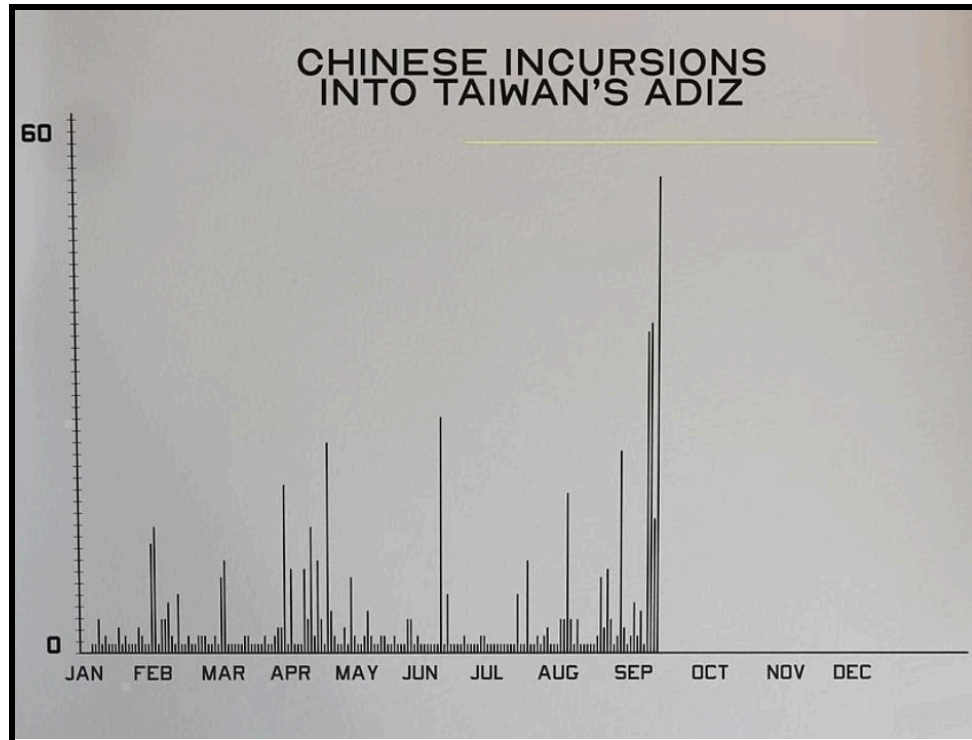
CURRENT SITUATION

In 2016, Tsai Ing-wen, a member of the DPP, won the presidential election. During her tenure, relations between Taiwan and China have deteriorated. China stopped communicating officially with Taiwan when Tsai assumed office because she did not support the idea of a unified Chinese nation.

Tsai has consistently stated that she does not intend to declare Taiwan's independence formally, arguing that Taiwan is already an independent entity.

However, during Tsai's presidency, Xi Jinping's leadership in China saw increased assertiveness in Chinese territorial claims. Xi has repeatedly stated that China is determined to reunite with Taiwan and has set 2049 as the goal to achieve the "Chinese dream."

After 20 years of the last military movement China had on Taiwan, it has been documented a recent activity of China's military aircraft into Taiwan's air border: Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ)

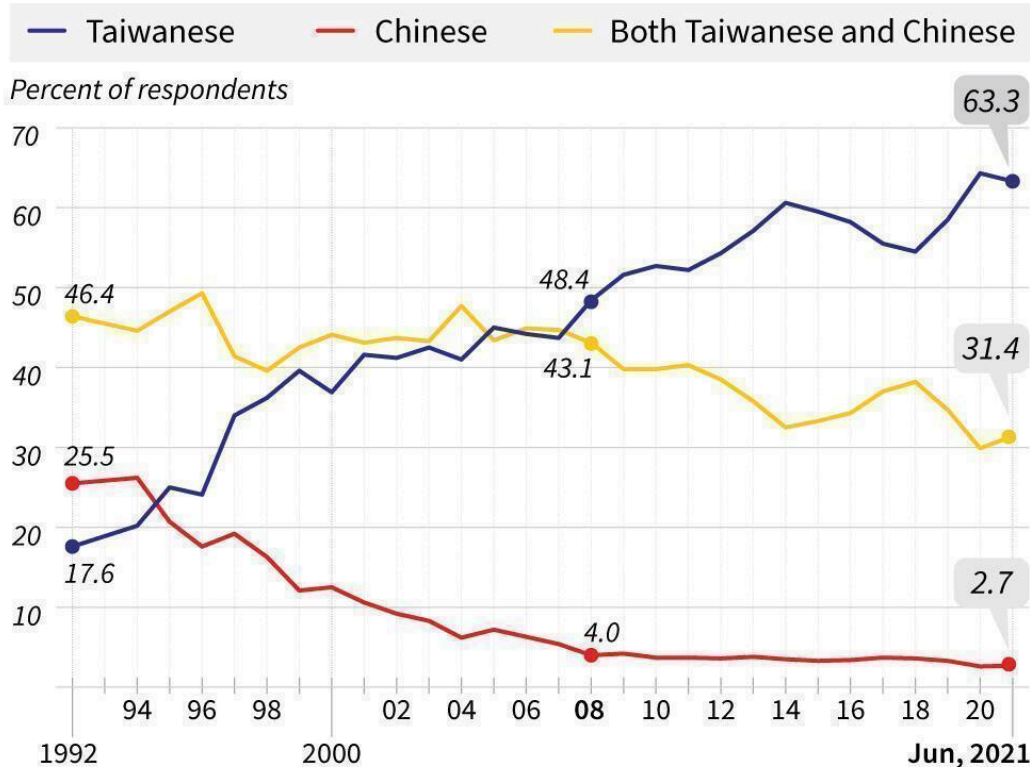


Right after this direct threat, the US decided to send aid to Taiwan by providing missile destroyers through the Taiwan Strait. Yet, unlike the last time, the flyovers radically increase instead of ceasing the threat.

Taiwanese people argue that they were not part of the People's Republic of China, which was established under Mao in 1949. Plus, statistics show that the majority of people in Taiwan recognize themselves as Taiwanese instead of Chinese.

Identity politics

How people in Taiwan identify themselves in polling by National Chengchi University



AFP

Source: NCCU

Likewise, 12 countries, including the Vatican, officially recognize Taiwan as a country. Nevertheless, a powerful China is exerting influence so that countries do not recognize Taiwan.

A recent study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) sheds light on China's potential strategies for pressuring Taiwan, moving beyond traditional military options. The report focuses on a tactic known as a "gray zone" approach, specifically a maritime quarantine instead of a full-blown invasion or blockade. This strategy, according to CSIS, could involve China's coast guard and paramilitary forces implementing measures to restrict Taiwan's access to essential supplies. The goal is to exert economic and psychological pressure without sparking a major military confrontation.

The report from CSIS raises concerns about the potential effects of a quarantine on Taiwan's economy. Taiwan depends heavily on international trade and maritime imports. A notable example is the Port of Kaohsiung, the busiest in Taiwan, which handles a substantial amount of energy and maritime imports. This port could be a primary focus for such measures. The economic consequences of these actions would impact Taiwan significantly and could also have global repercussions, especially due to Taiwan's crucial role in global supply chains, notably in advanced semiconductor manufacturing.

Additionally, the report indicates that implementing a sea-based isolation would present a strategic challenge for the United States and other democratic nations that back Taiwan. According to the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States is obligated to furnish defensive resources to Taiwan. Nevertheless, taking action in response to a policing operation, as China might describe it, could potentially escalate tensions to outright warfare, thereby complicating global reactions.

The geopolitical consequences are significant. The global community, especially the United States and its partners, would need to carefully navigate between supporting Taiwan's self-governance and avoiding direct military conflict with China. China's use of ambiguous tactics not only challenges traditional ideas of conflict but also tests the strength of global norms and alliances in the face of coercive diplomacy.

In summary, while the possibility of a complete invasion exists, China's exploration of alternative methods like a maritime blockade demonstrates a sophisticated approach to achieving its strategic goals concerning Taiwan. How the international community reacts to these developments will be pivotal in shaping the future dynamics of security in East Asia and deciding whether Taiwan can maintain its semi-independent status in the face of growing assertiveness from China.

This situation underscores the complexity and volatility of modern geopolitical rivalries, where economic interdependence and military brinkmanship converge, posing significant challenges for global stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What is your country's position regarding the conflict?
2. What are your country's allies? Are they actively involved in the conflict?
3. Why are the islands in the Taiwan Strait considered strategically important, and how do they impact security dynamics between Taiwan, China, and the United States?
4. What role does the concept of "one country, two systems" play in the Taiwan-China relationship, and why has Taiwan historically rejected this proposal?
5. Considering China's strategic objectives and Taiwan's stance on independence, what are potential future scenarios for cross-strait relations?
6. What are the economic and security implications of China's gray zone tactics, such as maritime quarantines, on Taiwan's economy and global supply chains?
7. How has the international community, particularly the US and its allies, balanced support for Taiwan while avoiding direct conflict with China?
8. What are the implications of recognizing Taiwan as a sovereign state amidst China's efforts to exert influence on international recognition?
9. How can Taiwan and its allies enhance military cooperation to deter potential threats from China while maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific region?
10. What are the implications of increased military activities, such as China's air and naval exercises near Taiwan, on regional security dynamics and international responses?

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