

## List of essential reading about the Taiwan question

### Analysis:

#### Australia-Taiwan relations

[\*Taiwan flashpoint: What Australia can do to stop the coming Taiwan crisis\* – Brendan Taylor \(2020\)](#)

Taylor argues that Australia should advocate for more robust crisis management mechanisms to deal with the increasingly precarious Taiwan Strait situation.

[\*Rethinking Taiwan policy: History, politics, ideology\* – Mark Harrison \(2019\)](#)

Harrison calls for a reassessment of the Taiwan issue by outlining policy options Australia should consider when responding to possible future Taiwan Strait scenarios.

#### Beijing's cross-Strait relations policy

[\*The Taiwan issue in US-China relations: Cause for concern\* – Wang Jisi, Evan Medeiros, Michael Green, and Wu Xinbo \(2020\)](#)

Leading scholars from the United States and People's Republic of China (PRC) offer their views on the likelihood of a potential flashpoint across the Taiwan Strait.

[\*Chinese government drops references to "peaceful" reunification with Taiwan\* – Kristin Huang \(2020\)](#)

The PRC's annual work report removed the word "peaceful" in reference to reunification with Taiwan, signalling a potential change in the PRC's cross-Strait policy.

[\*From pressure to coercion: Beijing's approach to Taiwan and Taiwan's response\* – Richard Bush \(2019\)](#)

Bush outlines the evolution of the PRC's cross-Strait relations policy as well as internal political challenges to a consistent, unified response from Taiwan.

[\*Will China seize Taiwan?\* – Peter Gries and Tao Wang \(2019\) \(Paywall\)](#)

Gries and Wang argue that imminent conflict over Taiwan is possible, and Beijing, Taipei, and Washington's misguided beliefs of how each will act only heighten the risks.

#### Taiwan's cross-Strait relations policy

[\*Coronavirus embitters cross-Strait relations\* – David Brown and Kyle Churchman \(2020\)](#)

Churchman and Brown assess the damage caused to cross-Strait relations by Beijing's attempts to side-line Taiwan during the COVID -19 pandemic. The piece also highlights the effect PLA exercises, strong US-PRC ties and KMT reforms are having in further straining cross-Strait relations.

[\*Tsai's second term and the Taiwan Strait: Greater clarity, same challenges\* – J. Michael Cole \(2020\)](#)

Cole outlines cross-Strait challenges facing Tsai Ing-wen's government and provides recommendations to counter these risks amid an uncertain international environment.

[\*China's art of war, in Taiwan\* – Patrick Mendis and Fu-Kuo Liu \(2020\)](#)

Liu and Mendis argue that PRC-Taiwan tensions have been heightened by the global pandemic and that Taipei should avoid any direct or indirect actions to push for independence.

[Why does the WHO exclude Taiwan? – Yu-Jie Chen and Jerome Cohen \(2020\)](#)

A clear explanation of why Taiwan is excluded from membership in the WHO.

### **Washington's cross-Strait relations policy**

[The US new approach toward Taiwan – Dean Chen \(2020\)](#)

Chen describes the Trump administration's unprecedented public action to normalise Taiwan's international engagement, arguing that the trend of closer US-Taiwan ties is unlikely to change irrespective of the 2020 US presidential election result.

[Taiwan: Select political and security issues – Congressional Research Service \(2020\)](#)

An overview of US commitments to Taiwan, one-China and the Trump administration's Taiwan policy.

[The Trump administration's policies towards Taiwan – Richard Bush's speech at the Taipei Forum \(15 June 2019\)](#)

Bush assesses the Trump administration's security and economic policy towards Taiwan.

### **Taiwan's economy**

[Cross-Taiwan Strait economic relations in times of uncertainty – Tse-Kang Leng \(2020\)](#)

Leng explains how Taiwan's government and businesses are changing the economic cross-Strait relationship to reduce risks exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the US-PRC trade war.

[US-Taiwan trade relations – Congressional Research Centre \(2019\)](#)

The 2019 report outlines the issues facing Taiwan's trade-dependent economy and its trade relations with the US.

[Chip war: Taiwan's role in China's semiconductor industry policy – Yi-Ting Wang \(2019\)](#)

A comprehensive look at how the semiconductor industry intersects with the politics of cross-Strait relations.

### **Recent books**

[Cross-Strait relations since 2016: The end of the illusion – J. Michael Cole \(2020\)](#)

Cole provides an assessment of the DPP's pragmatic cross-Strait relations policy since 2016.

[Dangerous decade: Taiwan's security and crisis management – Brendan Taylor \(2019\)](#)

Taylor explains the increasing risk of Taiwan's unresolved political status growing into a major strategic crisis, advocating for the use of crisis-management mechanisms.

[The Taiwan issue: Problems and Prospects – Benjamin Schreer and Andrew Tan \(eds\) \(2019\)](#)

This book examines the internal and external political conditions facing Taiwan and evaluates the prospects for preventing conflict across the Taiwan Strait.

[Why Taiwan matters: Small island, global powerhouse – Shelley Rigger \(2011\)](#)

Shelley outlines Taiwan's key economic and political achievements and importance to the PRC, the US and the world.

## **Official documents:**

### **Australia**

[\*Joint communique of the Australian government and the government of the People's Republic of China concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China \(1972\)\*](#)

Establishes diplomatic relations between Australia and the PRC, and recognises that Taiwan is a province of the PRC and the PRC government is the sole legal government of China.

### **People's Republic of China**

[\*The one-China principle and the Taiwan issue white paper \(2000\)\*](#)

White paper issued by the State Council summarises the basis for the one-China principle, and how it applies to issues in cross-Strait and international relations.

[\*Anti-Secession Law \(2005\)\*](#)

Article 8 of the Law provides the legal basis for the use of force should Taiwan make any move towards independence and Article 2 articulates the PRC's one-China principle.

[\*"Working together to realize rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and advance China's peaceful reunification" – Xi Jinping speech \(2 January 2019\)\*](#)

Xi Jinping embeds the issue of unification into the PRC's goal for national rejuvenation. He emphasises peaceful reunification but does not rule out the use of force.

### **Taiwan**

[\*Taiwan white paper on relations across the Taiwan Straits \(1994\)\*](#)

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council white paper outlines Taiwan's understanding of cross-Strait divisions and its plans for achieving reunification in contrast to the PRC's policy.

[\*Statement on mainland China's white paper \(2000\)\*](#)

Taiwan's rebuttal to the PRC's one-China principle white paper. It rejects the PRC's unilateral definition of one China and argues that both sides should be able to maintain their own interpretation.

[\*President Tsai statement on China's President Xi's "Message to compatriots in Taiwan" \(2019\)\*](#)

Tsai adamantly rejects the PRC's 'one country, two systems' principle.

[\*Tsai Ing-wen's second-term inaugural address \(20 May 2020\)\*](#)

Tsai's speech has a clear domestic focus but reiterates her rejection of the 'one country, two system' principle, her commitment to the status quo and to national defence reforms.

### **United States**

[\*Joint communique of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China \(1972\)\*](#)

US acknowledges that there is one China and Taiwan is part of China. US commits to the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue by the "Chinese themselves".

*Joint communique of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China (1979)*

US recognises the PRC and not the ROC as the sole government of China. US agrees to maintain only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

*Taiwan Relations Act (1979)*

Act provides a legal basis for unofficial US-Taiwan relations and provides commitments to Taiwan's security and support through arm sales.

*Joint communique of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China (1982)*

US declares intent to gradually decrease arm sales to Taiwan.

*The "Six Assurances" to Taiwan (1982)*

US passes six key but non-binding principles of US support for Taiwan as a unilateral US clarification to the 1982 US-PRC communique.