



上海國際問題研究院  
SHANGHAI INSTITUTES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

# From Political Commitment to Political Betrayal

*Pelosi's Off-Course Flight*

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August 2022



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This publication can be downloaded at no cost at the institutional websites.

# Contents

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>About the Authors</b>  | <b>i</b>   |
| <b>Foreword</b>   | <b>iii</b> |
| CHEN Dongxiao   |            |
| <b>A Foreign Policy Venture in Context of Institutional Decay</b>                 | <b>1</b>   |
| SHAO Yuqun  |            |
| <b>Impact of Pelosi's Provocative Taiwan Visit on China-US Relations</b>          | <b>4</b>   |
| ZHAO Minghao  |            |
| <b>Pelosi's Provocative Taiwan Visit Severely Hampers Cross-Straits Relations</b> | <b>7</b>   |
| NI Yongjie  |            |
| <b>Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan Disrupts Regional Cooperation Order</b>               | <b>11</b>  |
| ZHOU Shixin   |            |
| <b>China's Peaceful Reunification Serves the Interests of All</b>                 | <b>14</b>  |
| YAN Anlin   |            |

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# Foreword

On August 2, 2022, regardless of China's diplomatic efforts and strong opposition, Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi insisted on visiting Taiwan during her visit to four Asian countries, recklessly challenging China's red line and forcing Beijing to take firm and comprehensive countermeasures, which triggered the most serious crisis across the Taiwan Straits in the past 25 years with further escalation of confrontation and tension between China and the United States. Since the outbreak of the crisis, on various traditional media and social media platforms, the Chinese general public have widely expressed dissatisfaction with the US's blatant perfidy, deliberate provocations, interference in China's internal affairs, and political maneuvers to undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and in the region at large. Besides vocal disgruntlement, strong public support for government's series of countermeasures was also voiced.


Obviously, the current crisis in the Taiwan Straits that further ferments China-US tension is the inevitable result of the US government's stepped-up efforts to "use the Taiwan card to contain China" in recent years and the continuous hollowing out of the foundation of its one-China policy. It has also exposed the increasingly extreme political ecology and serious institutional failure in the US, which makes it possible for US politicians, as in Pelosi's case, to do whatever they want for their own selfish reasons and by so doing, put the overall relationship between China and the US as well as the peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits at stake. Against this background, the urgent issue that demands China's meticulous study for the time being and beyond is how to keep high alert on this political decay of the US system while actively preventing the constant and systemic damage it causes, to China's core interests and China-US relations, and further to global peace and stability as a whole.

Undoubtedly, the current Taiwan Straits crisis, deliberately provoked by the US side and triggered by its collusion with the DPP's "Taiwan independence" forces, is of far-reaching impact. On the one hand, as the US government's Taiwan Straits strategy continues to vacillate between so-called "strategic ambiguity" and "strategic clarity", its specific policies have shown more signs of "strategic confusion", thereby rendering a source of "strategic chaos" for the future. If this off-course development continues, it is bound to intensify strategic hostility between China and the United States and markedly raise the risk of military conflict between the two sides. At the same time, the risk of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including US allies, being actively or passively involved in a China-US military conflict is also likely to rise significantly, hence the anxiety of regional countries' "strategic dilemma" is becoming more and more pronounced.

On the other hand, this crisis has also escalated cross-Straits tensions to new heights. If the US government's strategy of "using the Taiwan card to contain China" further colludes with the DPP authorities' strategy of "relying on the US to pursue 'independence'," it will inevitably make the separatist forces on Taiwan further indulge in the illusion of "preventing reunification by force", thus inciting the DPP authorities to take risky and reckless actions in their constant attempts to break through the internationally recognized one-China structure. From mainland China's perspective, it is a major task for the Chinese government to take stronger measures to counteract such collusion and decisively stop the pace of "Taiwan independence", while adhering firmly to the basic principles of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems".

The Taiwan question has always been the most sensitive and important issue in China-US relations, which concerns the overall situation of regional and international peace and stability. The Chinese government and people have a firm determination to defend the core interests of the country and promote national reunification. The parties concerned must not take it lightly, and must not act arbitrarily. Since the outbreak of this crisis, many US media and think tank experts, despite criticizing Pelosi's reckless behavior and the Biden administration's weak handling of the situation, have unreasonably accused China of escalating the crisis, completely ignoring the fact that the US provocative promise-breaking actions took place first, while the Chinese reasonable and justifiable countermeasures came after. As the originator of this crisis, the US side should reflect on the mistakes of its own, think seriously about how to adhere to its political commitments to China in the future, and uphold the basic principles outlined in the three Sino-US Joint Communiqués, in order to manage the China-US competition in a truly responsible manner.

At present, the evolution and impact of this crisis continue to be of great concern at home and abroad. The Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) has organized a task force of experts to compile this study to analyze the cause and effect of this crisis as well as its multiple impacts on China-US relations, cross-Straits relations, and the regional and international security as a whole, with the intention of providing a multi-perspective analysis of the situation and in-depth policy interpretation for people of various sectors from around the world. We look forward to working with people at home and abroad, who are truly committed to the healthy development of China-US relations and genuinely care about the long-term wellbeing of both sides of the Taiwan Straits, to continue to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability of the region and in the world.





# A Foreign Policy Venture in Context of Institutional Decay

BY SHAO YUQUN

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made her personal calculation too well when she visited Taiwan regardless of the dissuasion of the White House's national security team. That is, to accentuate her "independent" persona of an advocate for democracy and human rights, being tough on China and uncooperative with the Republican and Democratic Presidents, and mark a "perfect" ending to her political career. Known for her criticism of China's human rights, Pelosi has long been propelling the legislation at Congress to support anti-communism, anti-China separatists under the banner of "protecting human rights" and link bilateral trade and people-to-people exchange with human rights issues, adversely affecting the healthy development of China-US relations. Though being criticized as "ill-conceived"<sup>1</sup>, "too dangerous"<sup>2</sup> and "utterly reckless"<sup>3</sup> for the immense geo-security risk that it potentially creates, Pelosi's Taiwan visit, as wreaking havoc on China-US and cross-Straits relations, has brought to light at least two worrisome trends underlying America's domestic politics and foreign policy.

**One is that America's political institutions in decay have become and will continue to be a dangerous factor in its China policy.** Francis Fukuyama sharply pointed out that "the US political system has decayed over time because its traditional system of checks and balances has deepened and become increasingly rigid. In an environment of sharp political polarization, this decentralized system is less and less able to represent majority interests".<sup>4</sup> Pelosi's Taiwan visit is yet another vivid example of Fukuyama's observation. First, America's foreign policy is being pushed to extremes by checks and balances between the executive branch and the legislative branch. Though fully aware that the visit is not in line with America's strategic interests and will deal a heavy blow to China-US relations, the executive branch, despite seeing America's Taiwan Straits policy being dragged to the extremes by certain politicians, is reluctant to stop Pelosi's Taiwan visit to the best of its ability, in fear of being accused by the Republicans for "being soft

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<sup>1</sup> The Editorial Board, Nancy Pelosi's ill-conceived visit to Taiwan, The Financial Times, August 2, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Bonnie Glaser and Zack Cooper, Nancy Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan is Too Dangerous, The New York Times, July 28, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Friedman, Why Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan is Utterly Reckless, The New York Times, August 1, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Francis Fukuyama, America is Decay, Foreign Affairs, September/October 2014.

on China” and losing ground in party politics, let alone the legislative branch is entitled to act independently. Second, the US Congress is in fact losing confidence amongst the American public while still claiming itself representative of America’s public opinion on Taiwan Straits policy. As stated by Gallup’s survey this June, Americans are less confident in 16 major US institutions than they were a year ago, with only seven percent of Americans expressing confidence for Congress, five percentage points lower than last year. This result is not only the lowest of the major institutions tested this year but also the worst rating Gallup has measured for any institution since 1973.<sup>5</sup> Though having lost the trust of the American people, Congress is still ironically claiming itself representative of public opinion in formulating America’s Taiwan Straits policy. Third, the US policy toward Taiwan is being taken hostage by certain interest groups. The Taiwan authorities admitted this June that it has been a long-term practice for its “representative office in the US” to hire public relations firms to assist in strengthening ties with the US.<sup>6</sup> Based on a study conducted by American scholars, the Taiwan authorities are reported to have paid \$4.97 million in 2019 to American public relations firms for lobbying services, who contacted nearly 90 percent of all members of Congress, including 18 contacts made to Nancy Pelosi’s office and those that facilitated Pelosi’s closed-door meetings with Tsai Ing-wen in the summer of 2019.<sup>7</sup> A few “major progress” made in US-Taiwan ties boasted by the Taiwan authorities during the Biden and the Trump administrations, such as Tsai Ing-wen’s phone call with Donald Trump and Hsiao Bi-khim’s attendance at President Joe Biden’s inauguration ceremony, are all acts of political manipulation orchestrated by paid lobbyists who used to be US Congress members.

**The second trend is that America’s China strategy is most likely to completely lose its realistic caution and restraint under the “democracy vs. autocracy” framework.** Pelosi said her trip to Taiwan is taken “at a time when the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy” and is to reaffirm that “the freedoms of Taiwan...must be respected”.<sup>8</sup> Saying so, Pelosi is on the one hand obscuring the nature of the Taiwan question by taking a matter concerning China’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity for an issue of ideological confrontation; and on the other, distorting the Chinese mainland’s cross-Straits policy by demonizing its military operation that aims to deter “independence-seeking” separatists in Taiwan and their foreign supporters as “invasion” threats. Such opinion is more than just Pelosi’s personal view but is widely echoed in Congress and America’s strategic community. Several bills were passed by Congress over recent years to upgrade US-Taiwan interactions in an effort to deepen bilateral connections on multiple fronts, including military, security and cyberspace, and give full play to Taiwan’s role as a “chess piece” in US “Indo-Pacific” strategy. An even more dangerous “Taiwan Policy Act of 2022” is now being pushed at Congress, seeking to elevate Taiwan as America’s “non-NATO ally”, provide Taiwan with billions of dollars of “security assistance” and comprehensively recalibrate American policy to Taiwan. The legislative actions at Congress and the administration’s attempt to curtail China’s geo-strategic influence by playing the “Taiwan card”, if taken together, lay bare that the US is in fact pursuing hegemony globally and perceiving Asia-Pacific part of its own sphere of influence, even if it claims to be implementing a “Foreign Policy for the Middle Class” and refraining from conducting large-scale military operation overseas. It also reveals that the US fails to draw lessons from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and has not duly reflected on its failure of addressing the security dilemma with Russia properly while designing and implementing the institutional arrangements in the post-Cold War era. It has been proved that the real challenge facing America’s democratic system is coming from within. In an effort to deflect attention from domestic maladies, the US administration is focusing on developing a framework of “democracy vs. autocracy”, causing egregious impact both at home and abroad. In this context, America’s China strategy is at risk of losing realistic caution and restraint once and for all.

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<sup>5</sup> Jeffrey Jones, Confidence in US Institutions Down; Average at New Low, Gallup, July 5, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> 杨孟立：聘用美国公关公司游说，中时新闻网，2022年6月16日。

<https://www.chinatimes.com/realtimenews/20220616002197-260407>

<sup>7</sup> Holly Zhang and Ben Freeman, The Taiwan Lobby, Center for International Policy, April 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Nancy Pelosi, Why I’m leading a congressional delegation to Taiwan, The Washington Post, August 2, 2022.

From Taiwan's perspective, ever since the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority set the tone of "pursuing independence with the help of the US", Taiwan has signed up as one of America's pawns in its chess game of containing the Chinese mainland. Pelosi's Taiwan visit is an example of how this pawn is moved. The DPP authority was reportedly thinking about secretly withdrawing its invitation to Pelosi but eventually carried on with the plan at her insistence. As doing so is inconsistent with its US policy, the DPP authority was apparently trying to shirk responsibility in fear of a strong response from the Chinese mainland. By receiving Pelosi's visit, the DPP authority may have harbored its own agenda. **First and foremost, elevating US-Taiwan ties will serve the DPP's interests well in the year-end election.** Taiwan's "nine-in-one elections" are expected to be held in November this year. Tsai Ing-wen and her party are taking it seriously because the DPP suffered a crushing defeat in 2018 when Tsai Ing-wen was forced to step down as chairperson. With its lackluster governance record, the DPP authority goes to the length of giving away Taiwan's whole interests to bolster support in the forthcoming election by taking opposition parties hostage in terms of Taiwan's US policy, trumpeting Pelosi's visit as a major sign of improved US-Taiwan relations, propagating the Chinese mainland's countermeasures to intimidate Taiwan people, inspiring enthusiasm of DPP's base, capturing as many swing votes as possible, and further battering those who promote cross-Straits peace and reunification. **The second agenda is to shore up US Congress's support for Taiwan to avoid being abandoned in America's chess game.** While bragging about elevated ties with the US, the DPP authority is also keeping a close watch on the dynamics of America's domestic politics and its implications for America's Taiwan policy. With "losers of globalization" emerging across American society, US domestic politics has come under severe strain, attested by Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election of 2016. The upended domestic politics has produced great surges of "isolationism" and "nativism" in foreign policy, exemplified by America's "extortion" and "intimidation" of its traditional allies. Against this background, the idea of being "abandoned" is getting on the DPP authority's nerves as it cropped up several times within America's strategic community over recent years. The DPP authority, therefore, stepped up its lobbying efforts at US Congress in hope of securing long-term support from the US government. **The third agenda is to enhance Taiwan's presence in the international community and expand the space for its "parliamentary diplomacy" and other diplomatic efforts as an "independent country".** Entering the focus of the global limelight, Pelosi's Taiwan visit is perceived by the DPP authority as an opportunity to enhance its presence in the international community. In addition, by playing up the Chinese mainland's countermeasures, the visit helps to portray Taiwan as a "democracy" that is being "threatened" by the Chinese mainland and is "standing up against the bully", to win sympathy from the international community and lobby more legislators or politicians of America's allies for a visit, as part of a wider push for policy recalibration toward Taiwan. As in the case of the US, the so-called "democratic system" adopted by Taiwan can neither stop the DPP's and some politicians' pursuit of maximized party or personal gains at the expense of Taiwan's whole interests, nor can it play any counterbalancing role when the DPP authority proactively responded to America's risky "democracy vs. autocracy" framework. The whole international community should be on high alert for a foreign policy venture of this kind and the geo-security risk it could incur in the context of America's decaying political institutions.

# Impact of Pelosi's Provocative Taiwan Visit on China-US Relations

BY ZHAO MINGHAO

Most recently, Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi made a provocative visit to China's Taiwan region in disregard of China's strong opposition and repeated representations. This visit is a gross violation of America's commitment not to conduct "official exchanges" with Taiwan, and severely undermines the political foundation of the China-US relations. As the third-highest-ranking official of the US government, Pelosi attempts to exploit the Taiwan question to cement her own political legacy, disregarding the grave negative impact the visit will have on the China-US relations. Her visit demonstrates US politicians' arrogance, insolence and irresponsibility, which will further heighten the tensions between the two countries.

**First, Pelosi's Taiwan visit dents the mutual strategic confidence between China and the US.** Appropriate handling of the Taiwan question was a prerequisite for the two countries to normalize diplomatic ties in the 1970s. The Taiwan question, which concerns China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, has always been the most vital and sensitive issue in the China-US relations. Although the US government claims it has not changed its position on the one-China policy, it has adopted a series of provocative actions to gradually hollow out the policy in recent years. In the name of great power competition, the Trump administration comprehensively adjusted America's China strategy, trying in vain to use the Taiwan card to contain China. Against this backdrop, the Trump administration sent cabinet-level officials to visit Taiwan, and the US Department of Defense inserted Taiwan as an "independent" entity in a country list in its publicly released strategic documents. The US also conspicuously expanded military sales to Taiwan, inciting Taiwan to play a crucial role in its "Indo-Pacific Strategy".

The Biden administration largely inherits the predecessor's China policy, proclaiming to



“vigorously compete with China” while continuing to adopt provocative remarks and actions on the Taiwan question. President Biden himself made a slip of tongue by saying the US would “defend Taiwan militarily” on a number of occasions. US high-level officials including Secretary of State Blinken accused the mainland China of “changing the status quo”. When expounding its one-China policy, the US placed “Taiwan Relations Act” before the three Sino-US joint Communiqués while emphasizing the so-called “Six Assurances”. US State Department website removed “does not support Taiwan independence” statement. In her openly published article, Pelosi blatantly used “diplomatic relations” to describe the US-Taiwan ties. In China’s perspective, Pelosi’s provocative Taiwan visit is not an isolated incident. It reflects America’s plot to “destabilize the status quo” of the Taiwan Straits and to “use the Taiwan card to contain China”. Just as some US scholars including Bonnie Glaser, senior expert at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, commented, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit will erode US government’s political credibility, further weakening China’s confidence in America’s intention to prudently handle the Taiwan question.<sup>1</sup>

**Second, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit may increase the risk of China-US military frictions and conflicts.** From the Chinese mainland’s perspective, building up military preparation is a necessary step to curb “Taiwan independence” and counter external forces’ military intervention on the Taiwan question. In recent years, military risk concerning the Taiwan question is rising. By propagating rumors that the mainland will take military actions against Taiwan before 2017, US high-level military officials seek to hype “China threat”, create a tense situation in the Asia-Pacific region, and rake in more military budgets. The US has been incessantly peddling its “Pacific Deterrence Initiative” (PDI), speeding up the network building with Japan, the Taiwan Region, and the Philippines along the First Island Chain to accurately target China, and advancing the “integrated deterrence” strategy against china. According to US Deputy Secretary of State Sherman, US military sales to Taiwan has amounted to over \$30 billion since 2009, and the US Department of State and Department of Defense will continue to streamline the related military sales procedure while encouraging armament manufacturers to expedite delivery to Taiwan.

In response to Pelosi’s Taiwan visit, which embodies US-Taiwan collusion and provocation, the Chinese side has launched forceful military countermeasures. Besides the People’s Liberation Army (PLA)’s massive live-fire military drills around Taiwan, the Chinese side also canceled the working meeting between the Chinese and the US Department of Defense, and the phone call between the leaders of the Chinese and American military theaters. America falsely accused the PLA’s actions for escalating tensions, not mentioning a word about Pelosi’s malicious provocation. The US military also threatened to dispatch fleets and fighters to cross the Taiwan Straits and deploy a carrier strike group. What deserves vigilance is that some US high-level military officials portrayed the PLA’s actions as “unsafe” and “unprofessional”. Some even argue that, since a war between China and America is inevitable, it is better early than late. Undoubtedly, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit has brought the China-US military games in the Taiwan Straits region into a new phase, and risk of unintended clashes or head-on collisions cannot be underestimated.

**Third, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit may further embolden the China hawks within America, making it more difficult for the two countries to manage and control their tense relations.** In America, a group of anti-China, anti-Communism congressmen have long been playing a negative role on the Taiwan question, instigating China-US confrontation. In the last few years, while America has been intensively promoting strategic competition with China, a new wave to “shore up Taiwan” has emerged in the US Congress. Especially after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a number of US congressmen deliberately confuse the Ukraine crisis with the Taiwan

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<sup>1</sup> [https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/event/220804\\_Fourth\\_Taiwan\\_Crisis.pdf?Vp5.ZkA2t\\_cuoKtYushlA3z6KM76CBYx](https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/event/220804_Fourth_Taiwan_Crisis.pdf?Vp5.ZkA2t_cuoKtYushlA3z6KM76CBYx)

question, clamoring for “military protection of Taiwan”. In April, a US congressional delegation, co-led by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, visited Taiwan. American politicians frequently refer to the Taiwan region as a country, openly defying the one-China policy. When meeting with Tsai Ing-wen, Menendez falsely described Taiwan as “a globally important country”.

Pelosi’s Taiwan visit will inevitably set an “inspiring” example for the China hawks in the US Congress. Not only do some democratic congressmen bang the drum for Pelosi, even republicans like Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell also openly champion her. The Legislative procedures for bills such as the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022, which is co-sponsored by Menendez and Graham, may get expedited. These bills demand the US government to take a series of new provocative measures, such as renaming “Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States” as “Taiwan Representative Office”, floating “Taiwan Security Assistance Initiative”, and incorporating the Taiwan region into the “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework”. In fact, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit reflects the complicated influence that the US domestic politics has on both the China-US relations and the cross-Straits relations. In order to accrue political capital, US congressmen of both parties compete to exploit the “Taiwan card” to demonstrate their hard-line stance on China. Hence, the US executive branch’s control over the Taiwan issue may wane, and negative impacts of US domestic politics on the ability of the two countries to manage and control the Taiwan situation may wax.

**Fourth, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit sends a wrong signal to America’s allies, and America may seek to “internationalize” the Taiwan question in a more reckless way.** Up till now, the US government has adopted no position on the “sovereignty” of Taiwan. Meanwhile, it has not made clear commitment to help defend Taiwan militarily. This is interpreted as a kind of “strategic ambiguity”. In recent years, noises endorsing “strategic clarity” inside the US have amplified, and politicians in countries like Japan and Australia are eager to seize the opportunity to make waves. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe once wrote that, the Ukraine tragedy was a heart-wrenching lesson, America’s “strategic ambiguity” on the Taiwan question could no longer deter mainland China, and America and Japan have to demonstrate their resolve to defend Taiwan. Apart from this, former Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton and other politicians in Canberra expressed worries that the Russia-Ukraine conflict might distract Washington’s attention away from Asia and back to Europe, which might prompt Beijing to take a hard line on Taiwan. British Foreign Minister Truss puffed up the so-called concept of “global NATO”, asserting that the NATO members should intervene in the Taiwan issue.

European Parliament Vice President Nicola Beer openly applauded Pelosi for her Taiwan visit and, to follow her example, vowed to arrange for more European Parliament legislators to visit Taiwan. In addition, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons plans to assemble a delegation to illicitly visit Taiwan this November or December. Politicians in some European countries including Germany, France and Czech have also “jumped on the bandwagon”. By adopting a provocative position on the Taiwan question, they try to vent their discontent with China on issues like the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and use it as bargaining chips to pressure China. Obviously, this tactic to internationalize the Taiwan question is an integral part of America’s strategy to “use the Taiwan card to contain China”. In order to transform Taiwan into a bridgehead of the “free world” against the “China threat”, America instigates its allies to deepen their links with Taiwan by manipulating various issues such as economic, trade and technology cooperation, democracy, and human rights. However, this will only compound the China-US games on the Taiwan question, and wreak havoc on peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

# Pelosi's Provocative Taiwan Visit Severely Hampers Cross-Straits Relations

BY NI YONGJIE

Pelosi's provocative visit to China's Taiwan region is a reckless interference in China's internal affairs, threatening China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, trampling the one-China principle and the three Sino-US joint communiqués, jeopardizing peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, and undermining the cross-Straits relations. With this visit, America has sent wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces, egging the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities down a secessionist path with no turning back, shoving the Chinese mainland and Taiwan into war, and creating an unprecedented Taiwan Straits crisis. America's maneuvers have extremely pernicious effects on the cross-Straits relations, causing tremendous damages and fundamentally transforming both the cross-Straits relations and its surrounding situation. For all these dire consequences, the US, the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces, and the DPP authorities should take responsibility.

**First, Pelosi's visit endangers peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.** Pelosi's insistence on visiting Taiwan is an important step for the US, who falsely reckons China as its primary competitor, to implement a strategy of "using the Taiwan card to contain China". This visit is an integral part of America's plot to spark a conflict or even a war across the Taiwan Straits. The US side had never wholeheartedly dissuaded Pelosi from visiting Taiwan. On the contrary, it mobilized massive military forces in Asia Pacific to escort her while closely monitoring and deterring the Chinese side. It deployed the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group into the surrounding waters of Taiwan Straits, and sent fleets to the surrounding area. It also ordered high-performance fighters and early warning aircrafts to fly in the direction of Taiwan, while utilizing various methods including internet and satellites to track and monitor the moves of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). Besides, America has tightened its command and

control over Taiwan military forces' command system and military equipments, and enhanced US-Taiwan military intelligence communication and military operation coordination. America has also mustered its allies in this military farce through military and security mechanisms such as the AUKUS, QUAD and Five Eyes. All of a sudden, a real threat of war is looming large on the Taiwan Straits. People of Taiwan are frightened, and the important groups including the New Party have vented their strongest protest and outrage. Most countries and international organizations in Asia Pacific and in the world, jittery and agitated, have condemned the US for being a trouble-maker and a source of instability in the region.

**Second, Pelosi's Taiwan visit undermines the cross-Straits relations.** Out of the strategic need to "use the Taiwan card to contain China", the US side, while pledging it does not seek to alter the one-China policy or support "Taiwan independence", incessantly abet and instigate, with overt and covert measures, the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and the DPP authorities to collude with the external interfering forces while continuing to provoke and confront the Chinese mainland. During her Taiwan visit, Pelosi hyped "democratic values" and US-Taiwan "solidarity", vowing that the US would never break its commitments to Taiwan. Under the US security umbrella, the DPP authorities dare to deny the 1992 Consensus, maliciously destroy the common political foundation of the cross-Straits relations, cancel cross-Straits official hotlines, dismantle cross-Straits communication platforms, frenziedly push for "de jure Taiwan independence" with a "referendum on a new constitution", produce "green terror", condense the space for cross-Straits exchanges, and crack down on reunification supporters in Taiwan and those engaging in the cross-Straits exchanges. As a result, the cross-Straits relations have been locked in a tense situation where risks keep spiraling. In order to win the elections scheduled at the end of this year and to consolidate its power, the DPP is using Pelosi's visit and America's need to play the Taiwan card to divert Taiwan people's attention from its failure to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and the "Dissertation Gate" scandal which involves several DPP members. The DPP is also redoubling its effort to hug America close, clamoring for a new round of confrontation with the Chinese mainland, heightening the cross-Straits tensions, and narrowing the space for amending the cross-Straits relations. In a word, America and the DPP authorities should be held responsible for the deterioration of the Taiwan Straits situation.

**Third, Pelosi's Taiwan visit increases the risk of economic, trade and technological decoupling across the Taiwan Straits.** Pelosi, well-known for her paranoid anti-China, anti-Communist stance, has sponsored and helped pass a series of anti-Chinese, pro-Taiwan acts. During her Taiwan visit, she vigorously peddled the "Chips for America Act", urged the DPP to join the US-dominated supply chains, bullied Taiwan semiconductor and green energy enterprises not to invest in the Chinese mainland with US sanctions. To collude with the US government, the DPP authorities have spent nearly 100 million TWD on lobbying and bribing American politicians, Pelosi included, for as much as 16 times within a short period of four years. They quickly follow America's delinking policy by promoting the "New Go South Policy", directing the Taiwan businesses to evacuate from the Chinese mainland, return to Taiwan or reinvest in America or Southeast Asia, and rigidly restricting and even fining Taiwan businesses for investing in high-tech sectors in the Chinese mainland. The US and Taiwan's decoupling policy have fundamentally altered the cross-Straits economic cooperation atmosphere, harming Taiwan products' reputation and denting mainland people's confidence in Taiwan products. Due to quality problem, sales of more than a hundred kinds of products, including pineapple, wax apple, citrus fruits, ice fresh hairtail, and frozen horse mackerel, were severely affected. This resulted in huge losses on the part of Taiwan businesses, peasants, fishermen, and fruit producers while greatly reducing the common wellbeing of the compatriots across the Taiwan Straits. For the purpose of environmental conservation, the Chinese mainland has to suspend natural sand exports to Taiwan, which will inevitably initiate another round of "natural sand storm", gravely affecting the construction, real estate, and several metal manufacturing industries in Taiwan. It is so absurd that the Taiwan people should suffer and pay for the cost of the US-Taiwan collusion.



The ungrateful “green” Taiwan businesses, which have made a great fortune in the mainland markets and yet sought to undermine the cross-Straits ties, have aroused public indignation. The Chinese mainland has already prohibited any transactions or cooperation with firms like Speedtech Energy, Hyweb Technology, and Skyla Corporation. The Chinese mainland is determined to cut off the “green gold veins” of the DPP.

**Fourth, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit intensifies the animosity across the Taiwan Straits.** Pelosi’s visit and America’s ploy to “use the Taiwan card to contain China”, with an aim of driving a wedge between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, may further estrange Taiwan people, especially the young generation, from the mainland, distort Taiwan people’s view of the cross-Straits relations, and induce more people in Taiwan to falsely treat their mainland compatriots as enemies and foreign interventionist forces as kin. Pelosi’s visit may even further consolidate the animosity across the Taiwan Straits, hurting feelings of people on both sides. In addition, it may strengthen Taiwan people’s sense of “Taiwanese identity”, and weaken their Chinese national identity, thus intensifying the contradiction between the reunification and “independence” forces. The DPP authorities has mobilized “1450 cyber army” to launch a “cognitive warfare” against the mainland, assailing and denigrating the latter’s policy of “peaceful reunification, one country two systems” and preferential policies for the Taiwan region. However, no extreme will hold long. More and more Taiwan people are now firmly opposing America’s intervention, realizing that America only sees Taiwan as a chess piece, or even cannon fodder in its games. Taiwan people discredit America’s so-called “commitments” or “assurances”, disgusted with its maneuvers to heighten the risk of war cross the Straits. According to a recent poll conducted by the China Times in Taiwan, 62 percent of the respondents don’t believe America will protect Taiwan, 40.9 percent think the current cross-Straits relations are very “insecure”. Taiwan people’s views clearly “slap the face” of US politicians like Pelosi, indicating that any attempt by the US to create cross-Straits tensions and conflicts is not popular.

**Fifth, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit makes China’s reunification more difficult.** Complicated international factors have contributed to the long protraction of the Taiwan question. Now the US is trying hard to “internationalize the Taiwan question”, stirring more of its allies to bolster and support the DPP authorities and the “Taiwan independence” separatist forces. America is urging its allies to endorse Taiwan’s accession to international organizations such as the UN which only sovereign countries are entitled to join. To help Taiwan maintain its existing “diplomatic relations”, the US prevents the south Pacific island countries from abolishing “diplomatic ties” with Taiwan. Most recently, the US succeeded in persuading the G7 members to express a collective support for Taiwan, and the US Secretary of State made concerted efforts with his counterparts in Japan and Australia to blame and accuse China. American has set the worst example on the Taiwan question for the international community. Politicians from countries like Lithuania may follow Pelosi’s suit to illicitly visit Taiwan and create more troubles. America is also bullying and forcing countries like those in Southeast Asia into choosing its side and opposing China. It tries to obstruct China’s reunification, shake the confidence of the Chinese government and Chinese people in peaceful reunification, and interfere with China’s course of peaceful and integrated development. However, these dirty tricks of American politicians can neither halt the process of China’s reunification, nor change this irresistible trend.

**Sixth, Pelosi’s Taiwan visit can’t alter the process of China’s national reunification.** Pelosi’s persistence in visiting Taiwan for making personal gains has infuriated all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation including Taiwan compatriots. In comparison, the Chinese government’s sober reaction and its rational, lawful, professional, accurate, and efficient countermeasures have received universal praises from more than 170 countries and many international organizations. China’s air and sea live-ammunition drills targeting Taiwan have marked a milestone and achieved decisive goals. In the future, should the US collusion with the “Taiwan independence” forces go any further, the PLA’s frequent and intensive combat exercises and training surrounding

Taiwan would come to normality, which will undoubtedly frustrate the swollen arrogance of the DPP authorities and “Taiwan independence” secessionist forces, and smash America’s attempt to “use the Taiwan card to contain China”, besiege the Chinese mainland and halt the cross-Straits reunification.

In the short run, America’s collusion with the “Taiwan independence” secessionist forces and the DPP authorities will lead to a major cross-Straits crisis, undermine the cross-Straits relations and make it more difficult for China to achieve reunification. However, in the long run, it can’t alter China’s reunification process, or reverse this historical trend. We believe the Chinese government will continue to uphold the overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question, chart the course for cross-Straits relations, stick to peaceful and integrated development across the Straits, crack down on the “Taiwan independence” forces and the external interfering forces, safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, win hearts and minds of people, and follow the tide of the times. Any attempt to intoxicate the cross-Straits relations or to halt the process of China’s national reunification is futile and bound to fail.

# Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan Disrupts Regional Cooperation Order

BY ZHOU SHIXIN

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and the resulting Taiwan Straits crisis have major impacts on the regional security situation. Southeast Asian countries have issued statements either individually or collectively in an attempt to calm the situation and avoid any obstruction to the 12th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, yet their efforts were in vain. Consequently, Southeast Asian countries frown on the visit, because the tensions it has triggered are thwarting the established agenda of regional cooperation.

**Pelosi's visit to Taiwan deeply worries the ASEAN.** ASEAN countries issued official statements after Pelosi's whirlwind tour to Taiwan caused tensions. They mainly stated their positions from the perspective of regional security and stability without alluding to the cause and effect of the visit, and implicitly criticized the US for disrupting the status quo of the regional order. In contrast, scholars from ASEAN countries are more straightforward. For example, Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political-science professor at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, described Pelosi's Taipei stop as "ill-advised" and "an offensive move", which will be unhelpful to Southeast Asia.

**First, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has profound impacts on the rules-based order of regional cooperation.** The visit has laid bare the US-Taiwan collusion in violating the one-China principle. It has radically undermined regional security and stability, and counters ASEAN's stance on the cross-Straits relations, increasing ASEAN's doubts about the US commitment to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. That the US failure to strictly, comprehensively and consistently abide by its international commitments has given rise to heightened tensions and open frictions. The irresponsible behavior of the US on the cross-Straits issues contradicts the norms it has always advocated, weakens the foundation of its long-vaunted rules of order, and dishonors its commitments to the partnership with ASEAN. As the US interfered in China's

internal affairs, the ASEAN countries should also remain vigilant against any US interference or the like.

**Second, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan impairs ASEAN's ability in leading regional cooperation.** The Statement by Spoke Person of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry indicates that the tension in the Taiwan Straits is the result of the increasing rivalry among major powers. The original purpose of the ASEAN-led multilateral cooperation mechanism is to reduce tensions arising from power rivalry. However, the visit not only intensified tensions in the Taiwan Straits, but also led to a deepened rupture between China and the US. It became the central topic during this year's East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, cutting in the top priorities on the ASEAN agenda, such as climate change, the energy crisis and the pandemic response. As a result, ASEAN's leadership in these regional cooperation mechanisms has been undermined, making it more difficult to advance a multilateral agenda in the common interest of all parties. For ASEAN, the US is proved to be the biggest saboteur of peace and the biggest troublemaker to stability in the region.

**Third, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has undermined the security environment conducive to maintaining regional stability.** In the past 55 years since the establishment of ASEAN, mutual respect for sovereignty among member states and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries have become the mainstay for maintaining regional stability and security. However, the visit almost exhausted the reservoir of strategic trust previously built between China and the US, which may eventually lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences. As Pelosi left a destabilized region in her wake, ASEAN countries realize that regional hotspot issues may invite more extra-regional forces to get involved, challenging the seemingly stable but fragile regional security and exposing ASEAN to great security risks. This reckless move with which the US seeks to change the status quo in the Taiwan Straits from a position of strength has made ASEAN countries feel threatened.

**Fourth, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan curbs the impetus to promote sustainable regional development.** The visit is seen as an important move by the US to press the Taiwan authorities to make concessions on the chip industry, which is consistent with the US recent strategy to contain China's semiconductor development and would disrupt the global industrial chain and supply chain. The already fragile global development will be further challenged. As dynamic players in the global industrial chain, ASEAN countries have relatively close economic and trade relations with both Chinese mainland and Taiwan. It is estimated that the Philippines alone accounts for 145,000 of Taiwan's external workforce. The US adding fuel to the fire in the Taiwan Straits is forcing some countries to start reconsidering their investment and trade layouts to mitigate risks that may result from another US provocation.

According to Bilahari Kausikan, former permanent secretary at Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan serves no significant strategic or foreign policy goal and is not the kind of responsible behavior expected of a Speaker of the House. The visit has prompted ASEAN to reflect on the US reckless interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and to realize the self-serving and hypocritical nature of US politicians and government, which are good at making troubles but lack responsibility. ASEAN countries are concerned about the inflamed tensions in the Taiwan Straits, as the collusion and provocations by the United States and Taiwan have undermined regional stability and added more uncertainties to sustainable regional security.

**ASEAN aspires to security and stability in the Taiwan Straits.** Since the end of the Cold War, both sides of the Taiwan Straits have rapidly integrated into regional development. Both are in the framework of the APEC and the World Trade Organization, and both are maintaining close cooperation with other regional economies. However, the repeated provocations by the United States on the Taiwan question have not only undermined the norms of behavior that ASEAN



holds as a guideline and harmed ASEAN's interests, but also deteriorated the regional environment. ASEAN aspires to peaceful development across the Taiwan Straits under the one-China principle.

**First, security and stability in the Taiwan Straits help regional integration sustain momentum.**

In recent years, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed accelerated integration, and also promoted cross-Straits economic and trade integration. Hong Kong has signed a free trade agreement with ASEAN and also submitted application to join the ASEAN-centered RCEP, which has exerted pressure on the Taiwan region of China. Both the Chinese mainland and Taiwan applied to join CPTPP, which is also conducive to the economic integration process of the entire region. However, destabilizing the Taiwan Straits seems to have become an important instrument for the US to disrupt cross-Straits and Asia-Pacific integration process, which has frustrated the multilateral trade architecture in the region built by ASEAN with itself at the core.

**Second, security and stability in the Taiwan Straits are conducive to maintaining the strong momentum of enhancing regional economic and trade relations.**

For historical reasons, ASEAN's relations with Chinese mainland and Taiwan have gone through unbalanced development. Because of China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and BRI, cross-Straits investors have been increasingly active in many ASEAN countries. In recent years, the growth of cross-Straits trade and investment in ASEAN has accelerated significantly as global and regional industrial chains have shifted faster, enhancing the connectivity of regional trade chains from which all parties have reaped tangible benefits. However, in fear of being marginalized, the US wants to put a stop to this momentum. The US is taking advantage of the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces and playing with fire in the Taiwan Straits in order to thwart the process of regional economic integration.

**Nonetheless, the US is making trouble in the Taiwan Straits, countering ASEAN's endeavors to maintain regional security and stability.**

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is by no means just a personal act, but a manifestation of the US habit of reckless interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The toxic Taiwan stunt opens up ASEAN's eyes about the hypocrisy and ugliness of some US politicians, and the Biden administration's shirking of responsibility in the wake of the visit has revolted ASEAN. The applicability of the one-China principle is universal, unconditional and indisputable, and the situation in the Taiwan Straits needs to be restored to the original course.

**Third, with its irresponsible and provocative move, the US does not only renege on its commitments on the Taiwan question, but could also impair its relations with ASEAN and cause unpredictable damage to the regional cooperation architecture.**

The US has in recent years induced countries inside and outside the region to build exclusionary blocs, which has already jeopardized ASEAN's central position in the regional cooperation architecture. If this trend continues, there might be confrontation and conflict in the rivalry between ASEAN and the US for regional leadership. Moreover, the outlook of a comprehensive strategic partnership between the US and ASEAN planned for November this year is also clouded with uncertainty.

# China's Peaceful Reunification Serves the Interests of All

BY YAN ANLIN

As a key leader of the US Congress, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is not only a "political show" that she is bent on making, but also a barbaric act to infringe upon China's internal affairs for her personal political gains, and an inevitable result of the longstanding US policy of "using the Taiwan card to contain China". Detrimental to both China-US relations and American national interests, this blatant political betrayal of the US side is a major blow to its national credibility and a serious strike against cross-Straits relations and peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, especially against the interests of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, including that of the Taiwan compatriots. In this regard, the visit is a barbaric and foolish move that serves no one any good. How to correctly and properly handle the Taiwan question, which is the most important, sensitive and core issue in China-US relations? How to remove the "fuse in the Taiwan Straits" that may trigger a military conflict between China and the United States? How to stabilize China-US relations so as to cool the situation in the Taiwan Straits? This is already a "must-answer" question in front of the Biden administration.

**The continuous upgrading of US-Taiwan ties in recent years is the main source of crises across the Taiwan Straits. First, Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is a major political provocation which escalates US-Taiwan collusion and substantially enhances "official" contacts between the two.** In the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and the United States in 1979, the US side clearly acknowledged that "the United States of America recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. Within this context, the people of the United States will maintain cultural, commercial, and other unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan." This is a clear and unambiguous commitment by the US government. However, as the century of transformation unfolds, the US government, in an attempt to contain China's development, has repeatedly reneged on its political commitment to the one-China policy, elevating its relations with the Taiwan authorities and engaging in frequent high-level exchanges, such as a visit to Taiwan by the third-highest-ranking official in the State Department under Trump administration and incessant arms sales and arming of Taiwan, etc. Concurrently, the US Congress has passed a series

of Taiwan-related bills, such as the “Taiwan Relations Act” and the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act of 2019”, which seriously violate the one-China policy.

As an integral part of the US government, the US Congress should strictly abide by the US government’s one-China policy and refrain from any official dealings with the Taiwan region of China. Yet Pelosi, as the US House Speaker who is the third highest ranking member of the US government, took a US military aircraft on a visit to Taiwan, definitely not just her “personal conduct”. Her visit to Taiwan in any form and under any pretext is a major breakthrough in “official” relations between the US and Taiwan, a major political provocation to enhance US-Taiwan ties, a serious political event that challenges the one-China policy, which severely violates the US commitment to the one-China policy, and constitutes an infringement on China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. The nature is very bad and the consequences are very serious.

**Second, the escalating US-Taiwan collusion has sent the wrong signal to the separatist forces and has connived Tsai Ing-wen and the DPP authorities to “lean on the United States to pursue independence”.** Since taking power in 2016, especially after the DPP’s disastrous defeat in the nine-in-one election at the end of 2018, Tsai Ing-wen and the DPP authorities, in an attempt to succeed in re-election, have deliberately stirred up confrontation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits by continuously fueling cross-Straits hostility and stubbornly pursuing the “Taiwan independence” along the policy line. In external relations, they insist on the political stance of “siding with the US, continuously strengthening high-level political, economic, and military interactions and reinforcing the ideological alignment with the US on “democracy” and “human rights”. At the same time, Taiwan separatists have been reinforcing military purchases from the United States to strengthen their capacity to “resist reunification by force”, while deferring to the US to expand their participation in international organizations in order to enhance the international visibility of “Taiwan independence” and challenge the already established one-China structure in the international community. Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan has particularly inspired the separatist forces seeking “Taiwan independence” to do whatever they want. Therefore, whether the visit is the result of the DPP lobbying Pelosi at a cost of \$2.14 million or Pelosi’s own “anti-China” political needs, it will feed the illusion of Tsai Ing-wen and the DPP authorities to confront the mainland and push forward the policy of “decoupling across the Taiwan Straits”.

**Third, the continued development of relations between the United States and the Taiwan authorities has seriously interfered in China’s internal affairs, seriously violated the principles of the UN Charter, and undermined the norms of international law.** While respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is a fundamental norm of international law established by the UN Charter after World War II, China’s Taiwan region, as an inalienable and sacred territory of China, should be protected and honored by international law. The US intervention in the Taiwan question based on its strategic need to “use the Taiwan card to contain China” is undoubtedly challenging China’s core interests, undermining the international community’s consensus on one China, challenging the international order, and undermining the basic norms of the international community. For Tsai Ing-wen and the DPP authorities, they have been acting as the anti-China “pawn” of the United States for their illusion of “Taiwan independence” and own selfishness. The attempt to “rely on the US to pursue independence” at the expense of the security and wellbeing of Taiwan compatriots is not only extremely dangerous, but also extremely immoral.

**Fourth, the deepening US-Taiwan collusion has catalyzed the “internationalization of the Taiwan question,” impelled mainland China’s “military containment against independence”, thus forming a “security dilemma” across the Taiwan Straits.** The US regards China’s Taiwan region as a special “political entity” and engages in frequent contacts with it, even inducing

political figures of certain countries to refer to the Taiwan region of China as a so-called “country”. It is the US that has drawn in and inspired its allies to intervene in Taiwan Straits affairs, and colluded with Tsai Ing-wen and the DPP authorities who are plotting to secede from China, thereby forcing the PLA to take military actions to defend China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. And this in turn is used by the United States and the West as a pretext to further interfere and intervene in Taiwan Straits affairs, which has led to a spiraling trend in the “security dilemma” and the danger of war in the Taiwan Straits.

**Properly handling the Taiwan question is the only way to achieve the development of China-US relations and is in the best interest of the United States.** How to make this most important, sensitive and core question in China-US relations become no longer an obstructive factor affecting the stability and development of the bilateral relations, no longer an explosive issue therein? The answer is not only realistic and feasible, but is also proven by the pros and cons of the past 70 years of China-US engagement.

**First, the Taiwan question remains at the core of the China-US relations.** During the 30 years from 1949 to 1979, as a result of the US developing relations with the Taiwan authorities, military conflicts between China and the US occurred as they did in the Korean War. The Taiwan question became the crucial question obstructing the normalization of relations between China and the United States. After the US severed “diplomatic relations”, withdrew its troops, and abrogated the treaty with the Taiwan authorities, China-US relations were normalized in 1979. Since then, the 40-year history until around 2018 has proved that when the US side properly handled the Taiwan question, China-US relations would enjoy smooth development that serves the interests of both sides. However, when the US side did not properly handle the Taiwan question, such as inviting Lee Teng-hui to “visit the US” in 1995, China-US relations would take a turn for the worse and the “Third Taiwan Straits Crisis” occurred. The same is true for Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan this time. As the US side did not handle the Taiwan question well, again it triggered what historians might call the “Fourth Taiwan Straits Crisis”, which will damage both China-US relations and the American own interests.

**Second, the US abandoning the policy of “using the Taiwan card to contain China” is a prerequisite for developing decent China-US relations.** China’s development is for the sake of the Chinese people’s pursuit of a better life, not for the purpose of superseding the US. The “Chinese Dream” is not premised on defeating or replacing the “American Dream”. If the US government and the community of strategists can truly understand this, they will not view China’s development and its relationship with the United States as a “Thucydides trap”, thus will not use the Taiwan question as a chess piece. In this way, peace, stability, development, and coordination in China-US relations can be expected, while jointly building a better world becomes the mutual choice and interest of both sides.

**Third, a stable China-US relationship brings stability to cross-Straits relations.** In contrast, an unstable China-US relationship not only leads to an unstable global situation, but also causes further tension and turmoil in cross-Straits relations. In particular, regulating the separatist forces for “Taiwan independence” by opposing “Taiwan independence” is an important means to achieve the stability of China-US relations. Therefore, if the US government’s Taiwan Straits policy returns to the “starting point” at the time of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and the US in 1979, it should be the right path and direction, which serves both China’s interests and the interests of the United States.

**China and the United States should work together to create opportunities for peaceful reunification across the Taiwan Straits. First, the Chinese government’s overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question is peaceful reunification.** Since the 18th CPC National Congress, in promoting peaceful development of cross-Straits relations and integrated development of the



two sides, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have consistently adhered to the basic principles of Peaceful Reunification and One country, Two systems without wavering, opposed and curbed “Taiwan independence” separatist activities without compromise, placed hope in the people of Taiwan and worked for the wellbeing of the people on both sides of the Straits without yielding. The Party’s overall strategy for resolving the Taiwan question has been formed by taking the holistic approach of developing oneself and completing the great task of reunification in the process of national rejuvenation, by “opposing independence” on one hand and “promoting reunification” on the other, advancing the national reunification guideline of “opposing independence in accordance with the law” and “promoting reunification in accordance with the law.” On August 10, 2022, the Chinese government published a white paper titled “The Taiwan Question and China’s Reunification in the New Era”, the keynote of which is “peaceful reunification”. To peruse its text, the white paper can be valued as “a rallying call for China’s reunification” and “a manifesto for peaceful reunification”.

**Second, the Taiwan question should not be used as a “bargaining chip” for the United States in its attempt to confront China.** If the US and anti-China forces in the West should obstinately pursue the wrong policy of interfering in the Taiwan question, it will not only plunge Taiwan into the abyss and bring serious harm to the Taiwan compatriots, but will also impel the Chinese government to accelerate the transition of its policy toward Taiwan from “anti-independence” in a “non-peaceful manner” to “promoting reunification” in a “non-peaceful manner”. In particular, under the policy of “using the Taiwan card to contain China” that is frequently carried out by the US government, and in the context of the DPP authorities’ continuous provocation of cross-Straits relations, the Chinese government’s policy toward Taiwan will have to eventually move toward “using force to contain independence” and “using force to promote reunification.” With special emphasis: this is not the original intention of the Chinese government and people, and the peaceful reunification remains the highest priority of the Chinese government to date. But if the two sides of the Straits could not be “peacefully reunified” by any arrangement, what other options does the Chinese government have?

**Third, China’s peaceful reunification needs and hopes for the affirmation and support of the international community.** An international environment conducive to peaceful reunification not only meets the expectations of the Chinese government and people, but is also the wish of most countries and people around the world, as China’s peaceful reunification is conducive to the cause of peace among the countries and people of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. In retrospect at some point in the future, this megatrend of national reunification will surely be proved by history.

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