SECTION 3: TAIWAN

Introduction

The continued growth of cross-Strait trade and investment and the pursuit of cross-Strait trade agreements under President Ma Ying-jeou are raising public concern in Taiwan, including concern about uneven competition from mainland Chinese firms and exports and Taiwan's vulnerability to Chinese influence and economic coercion. Cross-Strait relations continue to deepen, but negotiations slowed in the past year due to a student-led protest movement that challenged the existing cross-Strait negotiation framework and ratification process. To counterbalance its economic dependence on China and increase its global competitiveness, Taiwan continued its longstanding efforts to diversify its trading partners through bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and to reinvigorate its economic relationship with the United States.

The United States and Taiwan raised the visibility of their relationship with the first visit of a U.S. Cabinet-level official since 2000 and a meeting under the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement that yielded positive yet limited steps forward for U.S. firms. In an effort to address the threat posed to Taiwan by China's military modernization, the United States and Taiwan maintain a strong but low-profile security partnership through

military-to-military exchanges and arms sales.

This section—based on a June 2014 Commission hearing on cross-Strait and U.S.-Taiwan economic and security developments, briefings by nongovernmental experts on Taiwan throughout 2014, and staff research and analysis—examines Taiwan economic issues; cross-Strait political relations; Taiwan's international engagement; Taiwan military and security issues; and U.S.-Taiwan relations. This section concludes with a discussion of the implications of these developments for the United States.

Taiwan Economic Issues

Cross-Strait Trade and Investment

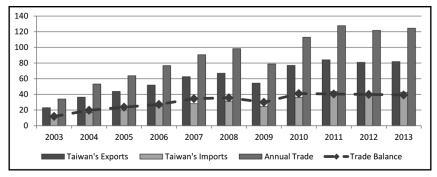
China is Taiwan's largest trading partner,* largest export market, and largest source of imports. In 2013, annual cross-Strait trade reached \$124.4 billion, a nearly 27 percent increase since 2008 (see Figure 1). This expansion continued through the first seven months of 2014, growing 4.1 percent when compared with the same period last year. Taiwan's exports to China largely drive this relationship. They composed nearly two-thirds of total bilateral trade and accounted for Taiwan's \$39.2 billion trade surplus with

^{*}China became Taiwan's largest trading partner in 2005. Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan), "Trade Statistics." http://cus93.trade.gov.tw/ENGLISH/FSCE/.

China in 2013. This year, China, for the first time, surpassed Japan to become Taiwan's largest source of imports.¹

Figure 1: Cross-Strait Trade, 2003-2013

(US\$ billions)



Source: Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan).

Approximately 45 percent of the world's microchip* output is exported to China for both domestic consumption and as components and other products for export.² Taiwan, the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer, has tapped into this market, supplying 31 percent of China's total imports of semiconductors in 2013.³ Taiwan firms generally manufacture microchips and other semiconductor-related products in Taiwan for assembly and testing in China.⁴

Microchips are Taiwan's largest export to and largest import from China (see Table 1).⁵ In 2013, semiconductor-related exports, including microchips, semiconductors, and printed circuit boards, made up three of the top five exports to China and accounted for nearly a quarter of Taiwan's total global exports of these products.⁶ Microchips and semiconductors continued to dominate Taiwan's exports to China in 2014. A comparison of the first seven months of 2014 to the same period last year shows that semiconductor exports increased 21 percent and microchip exports increased 17 percent.⁷

Table 1: Taiwan's Major Exports and Imports to China (US\$ billions)

Top Taiwan Exports to China				
Product	2013	2014 (January–July)		
Microchips	13.1	8.6		
Liquid crystal display (LCD) products	12.4	6.1		
Semiconductors	3.6	2.4		
Cyclic hydrocarbons	3.4	1.9		
Printed circuit boards	2.3	1.3		

^{*}Semiconductor products such as microchips and printed circuits are incorporated into a wide range of modern electronics such as cellular telephones, computers, cars, military systems, and planes. Semiconductor Industry Association, "SIA Infographic." http://www.semiconductors.org/clientuploads/Comms/sia-new-11-gr.pdf.

Table 1: Taiwan's Major Exports and Imports to China—Continued (US\$ billions)

Top Taiwan Imports from China				
Product	2013	2014 (January–July)		
Microchips Cellular telephones	5.4 3.2	3.7 1.7		
Flat-rolled stainless steel Electronic computers Chemical elements for use in electronics	1.5 2.0 1.2	1.2 1.1 0.9		

*Re-export and re-import figures are included.

Note: Listed in order of largest amount based on 2014 figures.

Source: Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan).

The concentration of Taiwan's exports to China contrasts with the diversity of Taiwan's imports from China. Taiwan's imports of cellular telephones and electronic computers, the second and third largest imports, reflect China's dominance in manufacturing.8 A 2013 Bank of America-Merrill Lynch report shows China assembled 70.6 percent of all the world's cellular telephones and 90.6 percent of all the personal computers produced in 2011.9 Taiwan's imports of cellular telephones from China increased nearly 15 percent since 2012 to reach \$3.2 billion in 2013.¹⁰

Imports from China pose stiff competition for Taiwan's domestic industries, particularly steel manufacturers. Since 2009, Taiwan's imports of flat-rolled stainless steel from China have grown 1,257 percent and now account for nearly three-quarters of Taiwan's total stainless steel imports. 11 Tariff reductions by Taiwan and oversupply in China have driven down prices for mainland steel over the last five years. 12 Competition from these imports has forced some smaller Taiwan producers into bankruptcy, and the combined impact of Chinese and Korean steel imports led to a 30 percent decrease in production by Taiwan's top two stainless steel firms. 13 (For more information on overcapacity in China's steel sector, see Chapter 1, Section 1, "Year in Review: Economics and Trade.")

China is the leading recipient of Taiwan's foreign direct investment (FDI) as Taiwan's firms seek to take advantage of China's enormous market, relatively low labor costs, geographic proximity, and close historical, cultural, and linguistic ties. Taiwan's annual FDI to China reached a peak of \$14.6 billion in 2010 and has since tapered down to \$9.2 billion in 2013 (see Table 2). Contributing to this decline are lower profit margins as labor costs rose and as reduced demand from China for Taiwan manufactured goods cut exports. ¹⁴ Despite the decline, China accounted for 64 percent of Taiwan's total outward FDI in the first eight months of 2014. ¹⁵ Of this \$6.5 billion of investment, the leading recipients were financial and insurance (18.2 percent), wholesale and retail trade (13.0 percent), electronic parts and components manufacturing (10.7 percent), and chemical material manufacturing (10.1 percent). 16 This concentration in manufacturing reflects the cross-Strait production cluster, where Taiwan firms export components for assembly in China. In 2014, financial and insurance sector investment became the largest recipient sector due to greater market access and broader easing of restrictions in China while manufacturing sector investment costs rose.17

Table 2: Cross-Strait FDI Flows, 2009-2014

(US\$ millions)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	January– August 2014
Taiwan's FDI to China	\$7,143	\$14,618	\$14,377	\$12,792	\$9,190	\$6,484
China's FDI to Taiwan	\$37	\$94	\$52	\$332	\$349	\$239

Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Overseas Chinese and Foreign Investment Commission (Taiwan).

Although restricted, Chinese FDI in Taiwan is growing rapidly. 18 Since 2010, Chinese FDI has grown nearly 300 percent from \$94 million to \$349 million in 2013 due to the loosening of investment caps and regulations* on mainland investment into Taiwan under President Ma.¹⁹ From June 2009 to August 2014, Chinese investment by value is concentrated in wholesale and retail trade (24.4) percent), banking services (18 percent), harbor port services (12.6 percent), and electronics parts and components manufacturing (10.4 percent).²⁰

Cross-Strait Economic Agreements

Since President Ma's first term in office began in 2008, Taiwan and China have signed 21 agreements to broaden the cross-Strait economic relationship and deepen cross-Strait ties (see Table 3). The two most important of these agreements are the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), signed in June 2010, and the follow-on Cross-Strait Services Trade Agreement (CSSTA).† The ECFA provides the foundation for future economic integration and lays out a roadmap for four subsequent agreements concerning investment protection, trade in goods, trade in services, and dispute settlement. ECFA has opened up cross-Strait trade, but critics argue that gains from ECFA and CSSTA largely benefit a few, large Taiwan firms at the expense of small and medium-sized enterprises.‡21

^{*}For example, in March 2012, Taiwan loosened mainland investment caps originally set at a 10 percent stake in local firms and 50 percent in joint ventures in Taiwan's semiconductor, a 10 percent stake in local firms and 50 percent in joint ventures in Taiwan's semiconductor, liquid crystal display, integrated circuit assembly and testing, microelectronics production equipment, and metal tool manufacturing sectors. Although, loosened, Taiwan government approval is still required for all investments, and controlling stakes or appointing managers in mainland investments is still prohibited. PWC, Chapter 4: The Bigger Picture—China's Impact on the Semiconductor Industry 2012 Update, September 2012. http://www.pwc.com/gx/en/technology/chinas-impact-on-semiconductor-industry/assets/pwc-china-semincon-2012-chp4-pdf.pdf.

† For more information on the ECFA and CSSTA, see U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Chapter 3, Section 2, "Taiwan," 2013 Annual Report to Congress, November 2013 an 329–330

[‡]In June 2010, President Ma and Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, then Chairwoman of Taiwan's main opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, weighed the benefits and risks of ECFA in a high-profile, televised policy debate. This was the first-ever televised debate on a major policy issue between the leaders of Taiwan's ruling party and the major opposition party outside of a presidential election.

Table 3: Cross-Strait Agreements, 2008-2014

Year	Agreement
2008	Cross-Strait Agreement Signed Between Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Concerning Mainland Tourists Traveling to Taiwan SEF-ARATS Minutes of Talks on Cross-Strait Charter Flights Cross-Strait Postal Service Agreement Cross-Strait Air Transport Agreement Cross-Strait Sea Transport Agreement Cross-Strait Food Safety Agreement
2009	 Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement Cross-Strait Air Transport Supplementary Agreement Cross-Strait Agreement on Cooperation of Agricultural Product Quarantine and Inspection Cross-Strait Agreement on Cooperation in Respect of Fishing Crew Affairs Cross-Strait Agreement on Cooperation in Respect of Standards, Metrology, Inspection and Accreditation
2010	Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement Cross-Strait Agreement on Intellectual Property Right Protection and Cooperation Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation
2011	Cross-Strait Agreement on Nuclear Power Safety and Cooperation
2012	Cross-Strait Agreement on Investment Protection and Promotions Cross-Strait Customs Cooperation Agreement
2013	Cross-Straits Service Trade Agreement
2014	Cross-Strait Collaboration Agreement on Seismological Monitoring Cross-Strait Collaboration Agreement on Meteorology

Source: Mainland Affairs Council (Taiwan).

The ECFA provided an early harvest program to reduce tariffs in both countries.* President Ma highlighted the benefits of the program in April 2014, claiming Taiwan's firms had saved over \$1 billion in customs duties. However, the ultimate effects of the ECFA remain controversial. One report by the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's legislature, in 2012 found "a reverse effect on cross-strait trade" that instead boosted the share of China-made products in Taiwan. The report noted that market share of Taiwan's early harvest products in China eroded for five consecutive years and raised public concern on the benefits of additional economic agreements with China. However, the ultimate effects of the ECFA remain controversial.

The CSSTA, signed in June 2013, would eliminate investment restrictions and other barriers across 80 service industries in China and 63 service industries in Taiwan. Taiwan's service sector is already an important driver of Taiwan's economy, accounting for 70 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and nearly 60 percent of its workforce.²⁴ This sector could benefit from a deal opening up China's banking and financial industries to both investment and

^{*}An "early harvest" program allows negotiators in trade talks to lower trade barriers immediately to certain goods and services even before the final agreement on the entire agreement is reached.

imports of services.²⁵ Taiwan's financial and retail-related services compose roughly 25 percent of GDP and would gain advantages from liberalization through the ability to establish sub-branches in parts of China and greater access to the renminbi service platform.²⁶ But Taiwan's legislature has yet to ratify the agreement in the face of political and public opposition. Opponents of the CSSTA fear the agreement creates unfair competition for local firms and moves Taiwan closer toward political unification with the Mainland.

Trade agreements under ECFA—such as the Early Harvest Program and CSSTA—generally foster uneven competition between Taiwan's small and medium-sized enterprises and large, state-owned Chinese firms, according to JoAnn Fan, a visiting fellow at The Brookings Institution who testified at the Commission's June hearing.²⁷ The trade gains are usually limited to a few beneficiaries while most firms and workers "appear to be left without substantial recourses or trade adjustment compensations." ²⁸ For example, opening up the cross-Strait tourism sector would pit over 3,000 Taiwan small and medium-sized firms against three Chinese state-owned firms. Chinese and Hong Kong firms retain a near monopoly on Chinese tourists traveling to Taiwan, providing complete service for Chinese tourists—from travel agents to airline travel to hotel operators and tour bus companies.²⁹ Therefore, small Taiwan firms are unlikely to reap the expected benefits of opening up this sector in either Taiwan or China.

In March 2014, the Taiwan public launched massive protests, known as the Sunflower Movement, and pushed Taiwan's legislature to delay ratification of the CSSTA (see "The Sunflower Movement" later in this section). The protesters highlighted their concerns in a public statement:

Regardless of the political division between pro-unification with China and those pro-independence for Taiwan, this trade agreement will allow large capital to devour the majority of small peasants, laborers and small businesses, not to mention the difficulties the future generation of Taiwan will face.³⁰

These protests played a large role in temporarily postponing cross-Strait negotiations and pushing the Legislative Yuan to implement an oversight mechanism on cross-Strait agreements and delay CSSTA ratification. The President Ma has since revitalized cross-Strait negotiations with the restart of discussions over a potential goods trade agreement in September, but it is unclear how successful these on-going negotiations will be given Taiwan citizens' strong opposition to the CSSTA.

Economic Security Issues Arising from Expanding Cross-Strait Ties

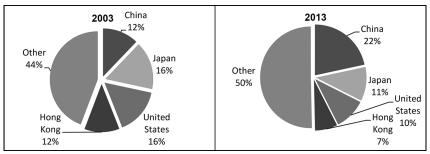
Cross-Strait economic integration presents numerous opportunities and risks for Taiwan. Large Taiwan firms have taken advantage of expanding market access in China and lower tariffs on goods exported to China to create advantageous production clusters.³³ For example, Hon Hai Precision Industry Company has successfully capitalized on China's relatively low-cost, skilled labor to become the world's largest electronics manufacturer and Apple Cor-

poration's main manufacturing partner.³⁴ In addition, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer, benefits from lower tariffs as it exports its products to China for final assembly and testing and gains easy access into its customers' various electronic products' supply chains in China.³⁵

At the same time, however, this integration has opened up sectors in Taiwan to greater mainland competition and raised Taiwan's vulnerability to China's political and economic coercion. A May 2014 investigation by CommonWealth magazine found that despite overall growth of Taiwan's exports to China, the market share of these early harvest products in China has declined.³⁶ Taiwan's steel sector, one of the expected beneficiaries of ECFA's Early Harvest Program, has faced significant financial losses from competition with Chinese firms that offered stainless steel at 30 percent lower prices.³⁷ The rapid growth of cheap, flat-rolled stainless steel imports from China spurred Taiwan to impose emergency, temporary antidumping measures in August 2013.38

As Taiwan's reliance on China as a trading partner has increased from 12 percent of annual trade in 2003 to 22 percent in 2013, its overall share of trade with its other major trading partners has necessarily decreased (see Figure 2). Demand from China accounts for approximately 26 percent of Taiwan's total exports, and China is now the largest source of Taiwan's imports at 17 percent, according to figures for the first seven months of 2014.³⁹ As China's economy slows and production costs in China rise, this dependency creates potential risks to Taiwan's export-dependent economic growth and returns on foreign investment in China.

Figure 2: Comparison of Taiwan's Largest Trading Partners, 2003 and 2013



Source: Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan).

Furthermore, this dependency may provide additional leverage to China as it seeks to tie Taiwan closer to China and make progress on its long-term goal of unification with Taiwan. Taiwan is "facing a turning point" in cross-Strait relations, according to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. She warned of Taiwan's vulnerability from its increased reliance on China and linked Taiwan's greater economic dependency with political dependency. "Every time you make a decision, whether it is in a trade agreement or on flight routes, you must take a prudent view of the expected results and whether there may be unintended consequences," Secretary Clinton warned.40

Chinese Influence in Taiwan's Media

Potential investment in the publishing and media sector by high-profile Taiwan businesspersons who favor unification and/or have commercial interests in China continues to raise public concern in Taiwan about increasing Chinese influence on Taiwan's media.* Furthermore, although Chinese investment in this sector is tightly regulated, Chien-Jung Hsu, adjunct research associate at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, found China has stepped up its efforts to influence Taiwan's media directly. China does so by encouraging the purchase of Taiwan's media outlets by pro-China Taiwan businesspersons, pressuring Taiwan media owners to censor by offering or restricting mainland sales and investment opportunities, and purchasing increasing numbers of advertisements to influence public opinion. Press Freedom Index emphasized this concern. "China's growing economic weight is allowing it to extend its influence over the media in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, which had been largely spared political censorship until recently."

Developments in U.S.-Taiwan Economic Relations

The United States and Taiwan maintain a robust economic relationship. The United States continues to be Taiwan's largest foreign investor and is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner, accounting for 10 percent of Taiwan's global trade in 2013. For the United States, Taiwan is its 12th largest trading partner, composing 1.7 percent of total U.S. trade in the first seven months of 2014. 44

Annual bilateral trade reached \$57.3 billion in 2013 and continued to grow during the first seven months of 2014 (see Figure 3). Bilateral trade figures during this period grew 6.0 percent over the same period in 2013.⁴⁵ Taiwan maintained a \$7.4 billion trade surplus with the United States in 2013.⁴⁶ This surplus had been shrinking since 2011.⁴⁷

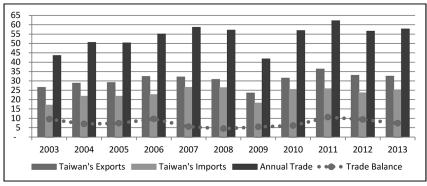


Figure 3: U.S.-Taiwan Trade, 2003–2013 (US\$ billions)

Source: Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan).

^{*}For a recent example of a pro-China Taiwan businessperson's attempted acquisition of a Taiwan media outlet, see U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Chapter 3, Section 2, "Taiwan," 2013 Annual Report to Congress, November 2013.

These trade flows, specifically Taiwan's exports to the United States, are more diversified than Taiwan's trade to China but similarly reflect the importance of the semiconductor industry to Taiwan's economy. Taiwan exports to the United States are mainly composed of manufactured parts and accessories and cover a relatively wide range of sectors including cellular telephones, motor vehicle parts and accessories, and office machine parts and accessories (see Table 4). By contrast, Taiwan's imports from the United States are dominated by semiconductor-related equipment, agriculture, and arms sales. Arms sales have constituted an important component of trade, with deliveries of U.S. arms to Taiwan amounting to \$3.0 billion from 2008 to 2011.⁴⁸ For more information, see "Developments in U.S.-Taiwan Military and Security Relations" later in this section.

Table 4: Taiwan's Major Exports and Imports to the United States (US\$ billions)

Top Taiwan Exports to the United States					
Product	2013	2014 (January–July)			
Cellular telephones	2.6	1.4			
Tractor and special purpose motor vehicle parts and accessories	1.5	0.9			
Fasteners	1.3	0.8			
Office machines parts and accessories	1.4	0.8			
Microchips	1.4	0.8			
Top Taiwan Imports from the United States					
Product	2013	2014 (January–July)			
Semiconductor, microchip, and LCD manufacturing machines	3.1	1.9			
Microchips	2.5	1.6			
Miscellaneous	1.7	1.3			
Petroleum and coal oils and oil products	0.9	0.6			
Helicopters, satellites, and spacecraft launch vehicles	0.1	0.6			
Iron and steel waste and scrap	1.1	0.6			
Soy beans	0.6	0.5			

 $^{{}^{*}\}text{Re-export}$ and re-import figures are included.

Note: Listed in order of largest amount based on 2014 figures. Source: Bureau of Foreign Trade (Taiwan).

Taiwan's largest U.S. import is the machinery to make semiconductors and liquid crystal display (LCD) products. Taiwan's imports of this machinery totaled \$3.1 billion in 2013, accounting for 26 percent of Taiwan's total import market of this machinery. ⁴⁹ According to figures from the industry association SEMI, Taiwan's billions of dollars of investment in the last two years makes it the single largest semiconductor equipment market in the world. ⁵⁰ This investment partly accounts for the 20 percent increase between 2012 and 2013 of Taiwan's imports of these machines, though growth slowed in the first seven months of 2014. ⁵¹

Taiwan is also a major importer of U.S. agricultural goods, constituting the seventh largest U.S. agricultural export market in 2013.⁵² In particular, soybeans have become a major export to Taiwan as Taiwan's demand for soybean meal for livestock feed grows. According to AgroChart's 2014 Annual Report, the United States has once again become the largest supplier of soybeans to Taiwan and accounts for roughly 50 percent of Taiwan's import market. U.S. soybeans are favored over South American competitors partly due to their superior protein quality.⁵³ In 2013, soybeans were the sixth largest import from the United States at \$615 million. Demand in the first seven months of 2014 grew 36 percent in comparison to the same period last year.⁵⁴

Despite the recent growth spurt in bilateral trade this year, U.S.-Taiwan economic relations have been largely unchanged since 2008. Annual bilateral trade grew only 1 percent from 2008 to 2013.⁵⁵ President Ma has sought to reinvigorate these ties by enacting trade liberalization policies and opening new bilateral trade talks. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei's 2014 White Paper found that Taiwan's government has made significant progress in the last year on improving its business climate. Of the 103 suggestions for improving the business climate in its 2013 White Paper, the organization noted resolution of six of the issues raised and satisfactory progress on 21 others.⁵⁶

President Ma also hopes to establish a free trade agreement (FTA) or bilateral investment agreement with the United States but faces obstacles as a result of disputes over pork imports, pharmaceutical intellectual property rights, and private-equity investment regulations. In November 2013, former Taiwan vice president Vincent Siew led a large trade delegation of senior Taiwan industry leaders to the United States in support of enhancing the U.S.-Taiwan economic relationship.⁵⁷ This trip led to millions of dollars of investment in the United States and elevated U.S.-Taiwan economic and business relations within U.S. government policy.⁵⁸ More specifically, Hon Hai announced a \$30 million investment in a high-tech manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania and a \$10 million research and development fund at Carnegie Mellon University.⁵⁹

President Ma has made significant efforts to revitalize the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) negotiations. The U.S.-Taiwan TIFA is an annual, high-level forum on economics and trade for trade dispute resolution, trade promotion, and investment cooperation. The TIFA talks were suspended in 2007 due to the dis-

pute over Taiwan's ban on importing U.S. beef* and did not resume until the issue was partially resolved in 2013.†60 In April 2014, the United States and Taiwan held their eighth TIFA meeting and noted progress on easing restrictions on cross-border data transfer in the financial sector and addressing the concerns of pharmaceutical firms regarding intellectual property rights.‡

However, future progress may be constrained by Congressional demands for the removal of Taiwan's restrictions on U.S. pork imports and additional improvement in pharmaceutical and private-equity disputes.⁶¹ Although some progress has been made in the pharmaceutical and private-equity sectors, Taiwan's ability to reduce barriers on pork is hampered by its politically powerful domestic pork industry and aversion by Taiwan's citizens to the use of ractopamine in pork production.⁶² Until this row is resolved, progress on advancing the U.S.-Taiwan economic relationship through trade agreements likely will remain limited.

Diversification of Trading Partners

Taiwan's export-oriented economy requires the expansion of economic ties with the Asia Pacific region to maintain its competitiveness as one of the world's largest suppliers of electronic products and components. Faiwan's exports are a critical driver of its economic growth, accounting for 62 percent of GDP. Taiwan's international status and strong opposition from China limit its ability to negotiate FTAs or other trade liberalization accords, thereby placing its companies at a disadvantage. For example, the FTA between South Korea, Taiwan's main economic competitor, and the United States eliminates tariffs for specific Korean imports and thereby provides Korean firms with a 2.5 to 10 percent price advantage over competitors in Taiwan. Despite this disadvantage, Taiwan's GDP grew 2.1 percent in 2013 and is expected to grow 3.4 percent in 2014.

Taiwan has placed a high priority on joining bilateral and regional trade agreements, but the government achieved little success in the past year. In 2013, Taiwan signed FTAs with New Zealand, the first country without official diplomatic ties with Taiwan to do so, and with Singapore. Although these agreements represent a step toward enhancing Taiwan's export competitiveness, trade

^{*}Taiwan banned imports of U.S. beef because Taiwan citizens were concerned over insufficient safeguards to prevent mad cow disease and U.S. farmers' use of ractopamine, a controversial feed additive that promotes leanness in meat. Ractopamine is widely used in U.S. pork and beef production, but Taiwan, the European Union, and China have banned the use of ractopamine based on health and safety concerns. J.R., "Gored," Banyan Asia (Economist blog), March 8, 2012. http://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2012/03/taiwan-america-and-meat-wars; Shirley Kan and Wayne Morrison, U.S.-Taiwan Relationship: Overview of Policy Issues (Congressional Research Service, April 22, 2014), pp. 34–36.
† The issue was partially resolved when the Taiwan government established a maximum residue limit for ractopamine in beef in September 2012, allowing U.S. beef exports greater access to Taiwan, In 2013, the U.S. became Taiwan's largest beef supplier by value. Cleo Fu and Emily

[†]The issue was partially resolved when the Taiwan government established a maximum residue limit for ractopamine in beef in September 2012, allowing U.S. beef exports greater access to Taiwan. In 2013, the U.S. became Taiwan's largest beef supplier by value. Cleo Fu and Emily Scott, "U.S. Beef Exports to Taiwan Realize 2013 as Record Year," USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, March 31, 2014. http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/U.S.%20Beef% 20Exports%20to%20Taiwan%20Realize%202013%20as%20Record%20%20Year_Taipei_Taiwan_3-31-2014.pdf.

[‡]Taiwan agreed to allow financial institutions to store their data on servers outside of Taiwan and has made progress in clarifying investment regulations in the private equity sector. In exchange, the United States agreed to allow imports of Taiwan guava and orchids. "U.S. Secures Pledges on Data Transfers, Pharmaceuticals from Taiwan," China Trade Extra, April 18, 2014. http://chinatradeextra.com/201404182468024/China-Trade-Extra-General/Daily-News/us-secures-pledges-on-data-transfers-pharmaceuticals-from-taiwan/menu-id-428.html.

with these two countries constitutes a relatively small share of Taiwan's overall trade. 67 Singapore is Taiwan's fifth largest trading partner, with roughly 5 percent of total trade, and New Zealand is

the 38th largest, with one-fifth of a percent of total trade. 68

Taiwan is in various stages of negotiating FTAs with Australia, Brunei, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, and Vietnam.⁶⁹ Taiwan already has conducted feasibility studies on the economic impact of proposed FTAs with India, Indonesia, and Malaysia.⁷⁰ Taiwan and the Philippines are currently in the process of conducting a similar study.⁷¹ Details about the status of the other negotiations are limited due in part

to China's opposition to such agreements.⁷²

In April, Taiwan's then Economic Minister Chang Chia-juch said that many countries shelved their FTA negotiations with Taiwan for the rest of this year due to concern that Taiwan public opposition to the ratification of the CSSTA would similarly occur with any future negotiated FTA with Taiwan.⁷³ Although a potential factor, countries seem more concerned over China's opposition than that of the Taiwan public. In August, Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Huang Huikang openly expressed China's opposition to a proposed Taiwan-Malaysia FTA, likely discouraging both Malaysia and other potential partners from upsetting one of their largest trading partners.⁷⁴ Former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao highlighted this concern and said, "Establishing a relationship with Taiwan should not spoil our relationship with [China], which is far more important than [Taiwan] to the Indian establishment." 75

Beyond bilateral FTAs, Taiwan seeks to join the two major Asian regional trade agreements currently under negotiation, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).* The RCEP† is a proposed free trade agreement between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ‡ and six other Asian countries § that would encompass over half of Taiwan's annual trade.76 Taiwan has also expressed interest in joining the TPP as a way to counterbalance its economic dependence on mainland China. The TPP is a free trade agreement under negotiation among 12 countries that together purchase 32 percent of Taiwan's total exports.⁷⁷ Taiwan's government has made significant efforts to become a party to the negotiations by lobbying current participants and amending over 900 laws and regulations. 78 Mr. Rupert Hammond-Chambers, president of the

2013/07/regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership-rcep-issues-and-way-forward/. ‡ASEAN is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN, "ASEAN Member States." http://www.

^{*}The countries negotiating the TPP are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam. Alexander Bernard and Paul J. Leaf, "The U.S., TPP and Taiwan," The National Interest, April 24, 2014. http://national interest.org/feature/the-us-tpp-taiwan-10300. "TPP Talks Made Progress, Barring Thorny Issues," Jiji Press (Japan), July 13, 2014. http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0001421519.
† Launched in November 2012, the RCEP seeks to broadly liberalize trade in goods and services anceurers investment establish a dispute, softlyment reach are and faster companie and faster companie and

ices, encourage investment, establish a dispute settlement mechanism, and foster economic and technical cooperation. Rohit Sinha and Geethanjali Nataraj, "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Issues and Way Forward," *Diplomat*, July 30, 2013. https://thediplomat.com/

asean.org/asean/asean-member-states.
§ Participants in the RCEP negotiations are ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea. Rohit Sinha and Geethanjali Nataraj, "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Issues and Way Forward," Diplomat, July 30, 2013. http://thediplomat.com/2013/07/regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership-rcep-issues-and-way-forward/.

U.S.-Taiwan Business Council, highlighted President Ma's efforts in his testimony to the Commission. "We are seeing a degree of unilateral reform within Taiwan that frankly we haven't seen since the WTO [World Trade Organization] accession days in the 1990s," he said ⁷⁹

Cross-Strait Political Relations

The Sunflower Movement

Cross-Strait relations reached a potential turning point in 2014 as protesters occupied Taiwan's legislative chamber for 23 days in opposition to the CSSTA. The grassroots protest movement, later called the Sunflower Movement, ignited a public debate in Taiwan about the agreement, delayed its ratification, and temporarily postponed negotiations of other cross-Strait agreements. Looking ahead, the Taiwan public's concerns about the impact of cross-Strait relations on Taiwan's economy and political autonomy, as well as continued civic activism in Taiwan, could force the Taiwan and Chinese governments to change the way they have approached the relationship during the previous six years of cross-Strait rapprochement.⁸⁰

The Sunflower Movement was sparked when Kuomintang (KMT) legislator and convener of the Legislative Yuan's Internal Administration Committee Chang Ching-chung announced the CSSTA would be put to a vote—despite Taiwan's legislature having failed to conduct a review of the agreement, as the KMT and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Taiwan's main opposition party, had previously agreed.⁸¹ Prior to this announcement, KMT and DPP legislators were locked in a dispute over the procedure for the review.⁸² Mr. Chang's announcement led protesters, mostly comprised of university students, to occupy the legislative chamber on the evening of March 18, 2014 and to remain there until April 10. During the occupation, on March 30, more than 100,000 people demonstrated outside Taiwan's presidential office.⁸³

The protesters asserted the Ma Administration negotiated the CSSTA in an opaque manner, failed to properly evaluate the impact on Taiwan's industries, and tried to force it through the legislature without a review. They expressed concerns the agreement will negatively impact Taiwan's small and medium-sized enterprises, hurt employment opportunities in Taiwan, and increase China's influence over Taiwan.⁸⁴ They also raised concerns regarding the potential for the agreement to open opportunities for large numbers of Chinese citizens to emigrate to Taiwan.⁸⁵ Although the DPP shared some of the Sunflower Movement's concerns about the CSSTA, the DPP did not organize the movement.⁸⁶

The Ma Administration argued Taiwan must ratify the agreement to increase its economic competitiveness and to avoid falling further behind South Korea in the number of FTAs it has signed. The Administration also warned that the dispute over the CSSTA will hurt Taiwan's credibility in trade negotiations with other countries.⁸⁷

The unease voiced by the Sunflower Movement represents broader public concern in Taiwan about cross-Strait relations and Taiwan's growing economic dependence on China.⁸⁸ The movement re-

flects a resurgence of civic activism in Taiwan. Over the previous two years, mass protests and other forms of activism by Taiwan civil society organizations occurred in response to a range of issues.⁸⁹ The leaders of the Sunflower Movement had been involved in several civil society organizations and social movements beginning in 2008.⁹⁰

The occupation of Taiwan's legislative chamber ended after legislative speaker Wang Jin-pyng, a member of the KMT, promised that the legislature would create an oversight mechanism for cross-Strait agreements before Taiwan legislators meet to discuss the CSSTA.⁹¹ Taiwan's legislature has made little progress since then

toward passing an oversight bill.

Following the end of the occupation of the legislative chamber, Taiwan and China postponed a meeting, originally scheduled for April 2014, during which the two sides had planned to continue negotiating a goods trade agreement. They also planned to discuss a dispute resolution mechanism and the establishment of representative offices, among other areas of cooperation. The two sides resumed negotiations in September 2014. However, even if other cross-Strait agreements are signed, the legislature is unlikely to discuss their ratification until it passes a cross-Strait oversight bill.

If enough time passes without the ratification of the CSSTA, Beijing may conclude cross-Strait cooperation agreements are no longer meeting its objectives and pursue a more destabilizing, unilateral approach to Taiwan. However, for the time being, Beijing has chosen to increase its efforts to win "hearts and minds" in Taiwan. After the end of the occupation of Taiwan's legislative chamber, the Chinese government sought to present an image of openness, humility, and respect toward the needs and desires of the people of Taiwan and to focus on "the grassroots" of Taiwan society. President Xi's statements during his meeting in May 2014 with chairman of Taiwan's People First Party James Soong reflected Beijing's intent to show it is aware of and willing to address the ways in which cross-Strait economic integration may not be benefitting certain groups in Taiwan.⁹⁵ During the visit to Taiwan in June 2014 by the director of the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO)* Zhang Zhijun, the first ever visit to Taiwan by a TAO director, in addition to meeting with his counterpart Mainland Affairs Council (MAC)† Minister Wang Yu-chi, Director Zhang met with members of a Taiwan aboriginal group, religious leaders, farmers, and small businesses. He also met with students but not with the Sunflower Movement's student leaders, who had requested to meet with him. 96 Protesters gathered at several locations along Director Zhang's route. Moreover, due to confrontations between protesters and police, he canceled three events that he was to attend at the end of the visit.97

During the trip, Director Zhang said, "We know that Taiwan people cherish very much the social system and the life style they have chosen. ... We in mainland China respect what Taiwanese people have chosen." ⁹⁸ While Director Zhang's statements in Taiwan were

^{*}TAO is an agency within China's State Council that is responsible for overseeing China's cross-Strait policies.

[†]MAC is a cabinet-level agency in Taiwan's executive branch that is responsible for overseeing Taiwan's cross-Strait policies.

conciliatory, the Chinese government's actions and statements regarding Hong Kong, such as its 2014 white paper on the "one country, two systems" policy, undermine its efforts to create a favorable image for itself among the Taiwan public. Witnesses testified to the Commission that people in Taiwan closely follow developments in Hong Kong.⁹⁹ In August 2014, after the Chinese government announced its decision to rule out the open nomination of candidates for Hong Kong's chief executive, Wu Jieh-min, a researcher at Taiwan's Academia Sinica, said the decision "should serve as a red flag for Taiwan that Beijing could also break its promises to Taiwan no matter how rosy cross-strait ties appear right now." 100 In September 2014, the student association of Taiwan's National Tsing Hua University created an Internet-based petition to express support for university students in Hong Kong who organized a boycott of classes to protest the Chinese government's decision. 101 Approximately a week later, protesters gathered in the lobby of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade, and Cultural Office in Taipei to express their opposition to the Hong Kong police's use of pepper spray and tear gas against protesters in Hong Kong and to voice their support for democracy in Hong Kong. 102 Reflecting public sentiment, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, Taiwan's New York representative office, in early October stated, "The protests [in Hong Kong] clearly show that the so-called 'one country, two systems' formula does not work and that Beijing has failed to keep its promises. We empathize with the people of Hong Kong and their demands for true democratic elections." ¹⁰³ At the time of writing of this Report, the situation in Hong Kong continues to develop. (For more information about developments in Hong Kong and the connection between Hong Kong and Taiwan, see Chapter 3, Section 4, "Hong Kong.")

Negotiations and Meetings

Several weeks prior to the Sunflower Movement, Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and its Chinese counterpart, the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS),* signed two agreements on cooperation in the areas of earthquake monitoring and meteorology. These agreements reflect a continuation of President Ma's focus on cross-Strait economic and other areas of cooperation rather than issues of sovereignty and security. President Ma has pursued this approach to cross-Strait relations since he was first elected in 2008 based on the Taiwan public's continued aversion to political talks due to its concern that such talks might move the sides closer to unification.

Furthermore, Taiwan and China reached a milestone in cross-Strait relations by holding the first formal talks between the heads of MAC and TAO since Taiwan and China split in 1949 following the Chinese civil war. At the meeting—held in February 2014 in

^{*}SEF and ARATS facilitate cross-Strait negotiations in the absence of formal ties between the governments of Taiwan and China. Although SEF and ARATS are semiofficial organizations, they receive direction from their respective governments. Richard Bush, director of the Brookings Institution's Center for East Asia Policy Studies, explains, "Representatives of SEF and ARATS may open their joint meetings and then attend to preserve the fiction that these are not governmental interactions, but the individuals who are conducting the negotiations are officials from the relevant government agencies." Richard C. Bush, *Uncharted Strait: The Future of China-Taiwan Relations* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution Press, 2013), p. 59.

Nanjing, China—MAC Minister Wang and TAO Director Zhang agreed to create a mechanism that, according to Minister Wang, will allow direct communication between the heads of the agencies, their assistants, and their deputies. Prior to the meeting, communication between the two agencies took place at the working level; however, top-level officials could not directly contact one another. According to a TAO spokesperson, during the meeting Director Zhang said he hopes the mechanism will "eliminate and reduce misjudgment, misunderstanding, and various kinds of interference." ¹⁰⁶

In addition to enhancing communication, Taiwan and China took an important step toward an agreement on opening representative offices on each side's territory. One major point of disagreement concerned whether personnel from these offices will be able to visit their own citizens who have been detained by the other government. The Taiwan government insisted its representatives in China should have this right, but the Chinese government was initially reluctant to agree. After the MAC-TAO meeting in Nanjing, during which the two sides discussed the issue but could not come to an agreement, Minister Wang explained that Beijing was concerned a Taiwan representative office would resemble a diplomatic facility in its functions. 108 However, China subsequently conceded to Taiwan on this point, and, in March 2014, Minister Wang announced that SEF and ARATS agreed that representative offices should have the right to conduct visits to their detained citizens. 109 The two sides are still negotiating a final agreement on representative offices.

In 2014, leaders of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continued to meet with Taiwan politicians from the pan-blue* coalition during these politicians' visits to China. Prior to People First Party Chairman Soong's visit to China, honorary chairman of the KMT Lien Chan also visited China and met with President and CCP General Secretary Xi. This inter-party dialogue has served as a forum for communication between Taiwan and China since Mr. Lien and Mr. Soong met with then President Hu Jintao in China in 2005. DPP legislators have criticized these exchanges for their lack of legislative oversight and for being outside of Taiwan's demo-

cratic structure. 110

Taiwan's International Engagement

China's insistence on the "one China principle" precludes any country or international organization from simultaneously recognizing China and Taiwan, thereby restricting Taiwan's full participation in the international community. For example, Taiwan is unable to participate in the International Court of Justice, the International Maritime Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. ¹¹¹ The Taiwan government also continues to be excluded from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. ¹¹² A joint study by the World Bank and Columbia University found that "Taiwan may be the place on Earth most vulnerable to natural hazards." ¹¹³

^{*}The pan-blue coalition refers to the KMT, the People First Party, and the New Party.

Nevertheless, Taiwan pursues greater international space by maintaining its official diplomatic relations with 22 countries,* expanding its participation in international organizations through creative diplomacy, and strengthening economic partnerships with countries other than China.

The U.S. government supports Taiwan's efforts to expand its international engagement and has played a key role in Taiwan's entry into or retaining of a seat in international organizations, including the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the World Trade Organization, and the Asian Development Bank.¹¹⁴ In October 2013, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kin Moy said that "with [U.S.] support, Taiwan has participated as an observer in the World Health Organization, or 'WHO,' Assembly for four consecutive years." ¹¹⁵ In 2014, Taiwan was invited again to participate as

an observer in the World Health Assembly. 116

In 2008, China and Taiwan reached a tacit understanding—or what President Ma unilaterally declared to be a "diplomatic truce"—to stop poaching each other's diplomatic partners in order to maintain positive momentum in the cross-Strait relationship. 117 The truce appears to still be in place despite The Gambia's severing of diplomatic relations with Taiwan in November 2013. Beijing has not established diplomatic ties with The Gambia since the decision, and no public evidence exists to suggest China enticed or pressured the West African country to break diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Taiwan's Foreign Minister stated that The Gambia's decision was related to Taiwan's refusal to grant the country additional financial aid that it had requested. 118 The Gambian president may have mistakenly calculated China would establish diplomatic relations with The Gambia after it split with Taiwan or that China would provide The Gambia with aid or other benefits exceeding what Taiwan provided, even without diplomatic relations. Such a calculation could explain the president's willingness to cut ties with a country which former Gambian Foreign Minister Sidi Sanneh described on his blog as the president's "most important diplomatic partner." 119

The cross-Strait diplomatic truce has enabled Taiwan to retain most of its diplomatic partners during President Ma's tenure. However, should cross-Strait relations sour, Taiwan may find it difficult to maintain some of these relationships. According to Zhang Zhexin, a research fellow at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, Beijing has rejected overtures from at least five countries with diplomatic relations with Taiwan since President Ma's election in 2008. Moreover, the lack of diplomatic relations with these countries has not prevented them from engaging in extensive business activity with China, including Chinese companies exploring investment projects in Nicaragua and Honduras. ¹²⁰ Some of their governments also are increasing contact with the Chinese government. For example, in November 2013, the government of São Tomé and Principe and the Chinese government agreed to

^{*}The following countries have official diplomatic relations with Taiwan: Belize, Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Holy See, Honduras, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé and Principe, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, and Tuvalu.

open a Chinese trade office in the Central African country. Then, in June 2014, the president of São Tomé and Principe visited China in what he said was an effort to seek investment in a deep-water harbor and to support his country's economic development.¹²¹

Taiwan Military and Security Issues

Cross-Strait Military Balance

Although relations between the governments of Taiwan and China have improved dramatically since 2008, China's military modernization continues to focus on improving its ability to conduct military operations against Taiwan and to deter, delay, and deny any U.S. intervention in a cross-Strait conflict. Over the last decade, the balance of military power across the Taiwan Strait has shifted. China's military now appears to possess an increasing advantage over Taiwan's military. Moreover, the increased range and capabilities of China's power projection platforms have largely negated Taiwan's historic geographic advantages in a cross-Strait conflict.

In contrast to this assessment, Ian Easton, research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, testified to the Commission that there has not been "a fundamental shift in the cross-Strait military balance. Rather, the situation remains fluid and dynamic." ¹²² He explained internal PLA documents and technical studies indicate the PLA believes it is unable to gain air superiority over Taiwan with its current precision strike capabilities. In addition, he asserted Taiwan so far has countered the PLA's strike capabilities with targeted investments in missile defense and radars, infrastructure hardening, rapid runway repair capabilities, and military training. Many of Taiwan's improvements in these areas have been supported or enabled by the United States. ¹²³

Notwithstanding pessimistic PLA assessments of China's capabilities and areas of excellence within the Taiwan military, the Commission assesses the expanding number and increasing effectiveness of China's military assets points to an increasing military advantage for China over Taiwan. China currently has approximately 2,100 combat aircraft and 280 naval ships available for a Taiwan conflict, as well as overlapping air and missile defense coverage over most of Taiwan. About 600 of China's combat aircraft and 90 of China's submarines and surface ships are modern. China continues to expand its fleet of modern platforms rapidly while regularly upgrading legacy platforms with new weapon systems as they become available. By comparison, Taiwan has approximately 410 combat aircraft and 90 naval combatants. 124 Fewer than 330 of Taiwan's combat aircraft and about 25 of Taiwan's surface ships are modern. 125 Taiwan has not acquired a modern combat aircraft or naval combatant since the mid-2000s. For a definition of modern combat aircraft and naval combatants, see Chapter 2, Section 2, "China's Military Modernization."

Moreover, China's vast arsenal of short-range ballistic missiles and cruise missiles would provide it with a crucial advantage in a conflict with Taiwan. William Murray, associate research professor at the U.S. Naval War College, testified to the Commission that a Chinese short-range ballistic missile attack on Taiwan's air bases

likely would render the runways temporarily unusable and prevent the Taiwan Air Force from taking off during the early hours of a conflict. Follow-on short-range ballistic missile and cruise missile attacks then could destroy aircraft that were stuck on the runways. In addition, a surprise short-range ballistic missile attack on Taiwan's naval ports while ships were still moored could destroy many of the Taiwan Navy's destroyers and frigates. Those Taiwan surface combatants already at sea during the attack then would be vulnerable to strikes by China's large number of sea-, air-, and land-based antiship cruise missiles. Furthermore, short-range ballistic missile and cruise missile strikes against Taiwan's command and control infrastructure would hamper the Taiwan military's ability to coordinate its response to a PLA attack. 127

Mr. Murray testified about the challenge Taiwan faces in defend-

ing against China's short-range ballistic missiles. He said:

In 2002 China had 350 [short-range ballistic missiles] with an estimated accuracy, or Circular Error Probable (CEP), of approximately 300 meters. By 2012, China had over 1,100 missiles deployed to units opposite Taiwan, with CEPs on the order of 20 meters. This level of accuracy, increased inventory, and the targeting flexibility provided by multiple types of warheads means that [short-range ballistic missiles] now provide China new options against Taiwan. 128

Mr. Murray added that Taiwan's Patriot missile defense systems are costly and "will likely stop no more than 323 of the ... short-range ballistic missiles China could fire. This arms race between Chinese [short-range ballistic missiles] and Taiwan's Patriot interceptors is thus one Taiwan cannot win, and cannot afford to continue." 129

Beyond their utility during a cross-Strait conflict, China's large and diverse inventory of short-range ballistic missiles also provides China with "significant psychological coercive value," according to Mark Stokes, executive director of the Project 2049 Institute. ¹³⁰ Mr. Stokes testified to the Commission in 2010 that "every citizen of Taiwan lives within seven minutes of destruction, and they know that." ¹³¹

A combination of factors has led to the shift in the cross-Strait balance of power, including China's large defense budget and annual increases in defense spending for more than 20 years, Taiwan's smaller defense budget and decreases in defense spending, and Taiwan's limited ability to acquire platforms and weapon systems on the global market.

- Cross-Strait defense spending trends since 2001 have dramatically shifted in China's favor. The officially reported budget gap between Taiwan and China in 2014 totaled more than \$120 billion. For more information on China's defense spending, see Chapter 2, Section 2, "China's Military Modernization."
- Taiwan's defense budget as a percentage of GDP has decreased from 3.8 percent in 1994 to 2 percent in 2014.¹³³ This decline is due largely to political gridlock in Taiwan and competing

budget priorities. Furthermore, President Ma during the first six years of his tenure has had little incentive to increase the defense budget. Improved cross-Strait relations have reduced the Taiwan public's perceptions of the threat posed by China to Taiwan, and domestic and social welfare issues have become more salient as Taiwan's economy attempts to recover from the global financial crisis and its workforce ages.

 Taiwan does not have the expertise and experience to design and produce certain weapon systems, and in many cases it has been unable to procure these systems from other countries. Aside from the United States, no country has been willing to sell major platforms and weapon systems to Taiwan since the early 1990s due to pressure from the Chinese government.¹³⁵

Keenly aware of the threat posed by China's military modernization, Taiwan is attempting to expand and upgrade its military capabilities with a combination of domestic production and acquisition from the United States. Major domestic programs under development or recently completed include the following:

- Air-to-Ground Cruise Missiles: In January 2014, the Taiwan
 Air Force introduced a new domestically-produced air-toground cruise missile, called the Wan Chien. Taiwan has already upgraded over half of its Indigenous Defense Fighters to
 be capable of carrying the missile. In a cross-Strait military
 conflict, Taiwan could use the Wan Chien to attack military
 targets on China, including runways, missile bases, and radar
 installations. 136
- Antiship Cruise Missiles: In February 2014, Taiwan media reported the country will begin to produce a supersonic long-range antiship cruise missile that eventually will be deployed to land-based mobile launchers along Taiwan's coast.¹³⁷ The new missile will complement Taiwan's existing land-based fixed and mobile antiship cruise missile units, which are equipped with an earlier version of the missile, as well as Taiwan's extensive inventory of sea-based antiship cruise missiles. The land-based variant of the missile will be more survivable and lethal than its naval predecessor, providing Taiwan military commanders with increased operational flexibility and enhancing Taiwan's ability to target the PLA's amphibious ships during a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.¹³⁸
- Missile Corvette: In March 2014, the Taiwan Navy received the first ship in a new class of catamaran-style missile corvette from Taiwan's Lung Teh Shipbuilding Company. 139 Taiwan may build as many as 12 of these ships. 140 The new corvette has better range, endurance, and sea-keeping ability than Taiwan's current patrol ships, and it will be armed with longrange antiship cruise missiles. The ship will provide the Taiwan Navy with greater survivability, due to the ship's stealth features, and lethality in a potential cross-Strait conflict as well as increase the Taiwan Navy's ability to patrol the East and South China seas. 141

• Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs): Taiwan is said to be developing its first UAV capable of carrying munitions. This UAV also will have stealth capability, according to a Taiwan official. The Taiwan Army already has 32 UAVs designed for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions that are based on Taiwan's southeastern coast. Taiwan reportedly is considering establishing a second UAV base in southwestern Taiwan. 143

Select military equipment Taiwan is acquiring or pursuing from the United States includes the following:

- *P*–3*C Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft:* In late 2013, Taiwan received the first four of 12 P–3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft that it agreed to purchase from the United States in 2007. Taiwan is scheduled to receive five more in 2014 and the remaining aircraft in 2015. 144 Taiwan incorporated the P–3C into the command post and field training portions of the 2014 Han Kuang military exercise. 145 The aircraft will supplement and ultimately replace Taiwan's aging S–2T maritime patrol aircraft. The P–3C will increase the capability and endurance of the military's fixed-wing maritime patrol aircraft force, improving Taiwan's ability to perform antisubmarine warfare and ISR.
- Apache Attack Helicopters: In November 2013, Taiwan received the first six of 30 AH–64E Apache helicopters that it agreed to purchase from the United States in 2010.¹⁴⁶ As of September 2014, Taiwan had received 18 more helicopters, with the six remaining helicopters scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2014.¹⁴⁷ These helicopters are armed with a chain gun and can also carry air-to-air or air-to-ground missiles or rockets.¹⁴⁸ Taiwan likely would use these helicopters to counter a PLA invasion force that was approaching or had already landed on Taiwan territory.¹⁴⁹
- Fighters: In October 2012, the United States awarded Lockheed Martin a \$1.85 billion contract to begin performing a midlife upgrade on Taiwan's existing fleet of 145 F–16 A/B fighter aircraft. The upgrades are scheduled to occur from 2017 to 2021 in groups of about 24 aircraft. In March 2014, the U.S. Air Force cancelled the budget for the Combat Avionics Programmed Extension Suite upgrade for 300 of its own F–16 fighters in the Department of Defense's (DoD's) 2015 budget request.* Although Taiwan and the United States apparently plan to move forward with the mid-life upgrade program, the cost of upgrading each Taiwan F–16 almost certainly will increase without cost sharing with the U.S. Air Force. 151 Even with the scheduled upgrade to Taiwan's F–16 A/Bs, in August 2014, the deputy director general of the Department of Strategic Planning in Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense indi-

^{*}As of October 2014, Congress has not yet passed a National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. To date, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (H.R. 4435) passed by the U.S. House of Representatives would require the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the effects of canceling the Combat Avionics Programmed Extension Suite program.

cated Taiwan is still considering procuring F–16 C/Ds from the United States. 152

- OLIVER HAZARD PERRY-Class Guided-Missile Frigates: In April 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3470, a bill authorizing the sale of four decommissioned and unarmed PERRY-class frigates to Taiwan. Taiwan subsequently announced it would only purchase two of the ships if they are made available, due in part to budget constraints. 153 After being fitted with Taiwan weapon systems, these two ships would supplement the eight PERRY-class frigates already serving in the Taiwan Navy and help to offset the planned retirement over the next few years of Taiwan's eight KNOX-class frigates, which specialize in antisubmarine warfare. 154 While the U.S. Senate has yet to consider H.R. 3470, in November 2013, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee did approve S. 1683, a related bill that awaits consideration on the Senate floor. 155
- Submarines: In 2001, the United States approved Taiwan's request to purchase diesel-electric submarines via the foreign military sales process. However, the sale has stalled for a number of reasons on both sides. These include partisan political gridlock in Taiwan's legislature, delays in Taiwan's commitment of funds, and disagreements between Washington and Taipei over costs. Furthermore, the United States has not built a diesel-electric submarine since the 1950s or operated one since 1990. In late 2014, the Taiwan media reported the Taiwan Ministry of Defense has decided to pursue an indigenous submarine program. The ministry's spokesperson said Taiwan would prefer to procure new U.S. submarines but due to the stalling of the procurement process Taiwan will "pursue both foreign procurement and domestic building plans in tandem." He added, "We welcome the US and other free, democratic countries to collaborate with us to advance our indigenous submarine-building program." ¹⁵⁶ The U.S. government has not said whether it will authorize the transfer of technology to an indigenous submarine program in Taiwan. Taiwan's current fleet of four submarines includes two former U.S. boats that were built in the 1940s and transferred to Taiwan in the 1970s.

Taiwan Defense Policy and Reform

As explained to the Commission by Mr. Easton, "even more important than advanced weapons are the investments Taiwan is making into high quality military personnel." ¹⁵⁷ Taiwan originally planned to complete its transition to an all-volunteer force by the end of 2014, but due to low recruitment rates it pushed the completion date to 2017. ¹⁵⁸ In addition to recruitment challenges, the establishment of an all-volunteer force has been more expensive than expected, and Taiwan has had to divert funds from other portions of the defense budget, including operations and investments, to ease the rising personnel costs. ¹⁵⁹ Taiwan also has sought to offset some of the rising costs resulting from the recruitment and reten-

tion of an all-volunteer force by downsizing its active duty force. Taiwan aims to shrink the active duty force from 275,000 to 215,000 troops by the end of $2014^{\,160}$ and to as few as 170,000 troops by $2019.^{161}$

Moreover, the all-volunteer force transition could adversely impact Taiwan's reserve force, which presently consists of over 2.6 million personnel and is tasked to help defend against a PLA invasion and to support disaster relief efforts. Previously, Taiwan conscripts performed one year of active duty service before becoming reservists. Under current Taiwan law, men born after 1994 are required to undergo four months of active-duty service, a length of time that critics assert is inadequate to prepare them to be effective soldiers. At the end of four months, the conscripts enter Taiwan's reserve system. Reservists participate in military training every two years and in military exercises every year. 164

Taiwan Military Training and Activities

The Taiwan military routinely conducts a range of exercises to maintain combat readiness; test and improve its capabilities and war plans; integrate new weapons systems; and demonstrate to the Taiwan public, China, and the United States that it has a credible deterrent capability. In some exercises, Taiwan also seeks to assert its territorial claims and demonstrate freedom of navigation. Major Taiwan military exercises and activities in late 2013 and 2014 included the following:

- Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief to the Philippines: In November 2013, the Taiwan military provided humanitarian assistance/disaster relief to the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. Taiwan Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft and a Taiwan Navy amphibious ship delivered relief supplies and equipment to the Philippines. This marked the first visit by a Taiwan Navy ship to the Philippines in 10 years. 165 The relief supplies and equipment which the Taiwan military transported to the Philippines were donated by Taiwan nongovernmental organizations and were valued at approximately \$8.25 million.* 166
- ADIZ Exercise: In February 2014, Taiwan's Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force carried out combined drills and patrols in the area of the East China Sea where its Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) overlaps with the ADIZ announced by China in November 2013. (For a discussion of the ADIZ, see Chapter 2, Section 1, "Year in Review: Security and Foreign Affairs.") According to official Taiwan press, the exercise demonstrated that "Taiwan is pursuing its own national interests despite China's announcement ... of a new ADIZ that heightened tensions in the region." Exercise participants included

^{*}The Taiwan government made a monetary donation of \$921,000 to relief efforts. The Chinese government donated \$100,000 in cash and \$1.4 million worth of relief supplies. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Taiwan), "Love and Empathy Transcend Boundaries: Relief Aid Extended by the Republic of China to the Philippines in Wake of Typhoon Haiyan." http://www.mofa.gov.tw/Upload/WebArchive/1304/8cde/1037-5708-4eb2-8f82-c33d8c006c6f.PDF; Jane Perlez, "China Increases Aid to Philippines," New York Times, November 14, 2013. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/15/world/asia/chinese-aid-to-philippines.html?_r=0.

two coast guard vessels, two navy frigates, an antisubmarine aircraft, a helicopter, and two fighter aircraft.¹⁶⁷

South China Sea Landing Exercise: In April 2014, the Taiwan Navy and Marine Corps conducted an amphibious landing to re-take control of Itu Aba (also known as Taiping Island),* an island in the Spratly Islands (see Figure 4), from a notional enemy force in the Taiwan military's largest exercise in the South China Sea since 2000. Exercise participants included two marine companies, 20 amphibious assault vehicles, and multiple advanced frigates, amphibious ships, and coast guard personnel. 168 In addition to increasing the number of its military exercises in the South China Sea, Taiwan is upgrading its military and civilian infrastructure on Taiwan-controlled islands in the region. Taiwan is expanding the wharf on Itu Aba, currently only capable of accommodating small ships, to enable larger ships to dock there. Taiwan also is renovating the island's runway, including upgrading its drainage system and lights. These projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2015.169

^{*}Taiwan and China have almost identical claims in the South China Sea. Both Taiwan and China claim to have historic and legal rights in the South China Sea and they illustrate their claims with the nine-dash line. (For further discussion of China's sovereignty claims, see Chapter 3, Section 1, "China and Asia's Evolving Security Architecture.") According to Taiwan academics, in recent years, unnamed U.S. officials have expressed concern that Taiwan and China might cooperate on the issue of territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Although, on several occasions, the Chinese government has proposed that Taiwan and China cooperate on this issue, the Taiwan government has refused to cooperate with China. Chou Yi-ling and Maia Huang, "MAC Sees No Room for Cross-Strait Cooperation on Territorial Issues," Central News Agency (Taiwan), May 15, 2014. https://focustaiwan.tw/news/acs/201405150040.aspx; J. Michael Cole, "Taiwan-China Ties in South China Sea Concern US," Taipei Times, June 6, 2012. https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2012/06/06/2003534621; and Peter Dutton, "Three Disputes and Three Objectives: China and the South China Sea," Naval War College Review 64:4 (Autumn 2011): 44–45.

CHINA

Pratas Islands

Pratas Islands

THAILAND

South China Sea

Palawan

Figure 4: South China Sea

Source: New York Times, "Territorial Claims in South China Sea." http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/31/world/asia/Territorial-Claims-in-South-China-Sea.html. Adapted by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Locations of various features are not exact.

- Han Kuang: In May 2014, the Taiwan military held the command post component of its annual Han Kuang exercise, Taiwan's only national-level joint exercise. This year's command post exercise focused on defending against a simulated PLA full-scale invasion of Taiwan that included attacks against Taiwan's east coast launched from China's new aircraft carrier, the Liaoning. Taiwan conducted the field training component of Han Kuang in September.¹⁷⁰ According to Taiwan officials, the exercise included Taiwan's largest maritime live-fire drill in 10 years.¹⁷¹ Typically, a team of around 50 U.S. military personnel observes the Han Kuang exercise from various sites throughout Taiwan. The observation teams include senior retired military officers, mid-level active duty or reserve officers, mid-level civilian analysts, and contractors.¹⁷²
- Response to PLA Flights through Taiwan's ADIZ: On August 25, 2014, the Taiwan Air Force deployed fighter aircraft to follow PLA surveillance aircraft that entered Taiwan's ADIZ multiple times on their flights to and from the South China Sea. These are highly unusual actions for PLA aircraft, which historically have avoided flying through Taiwan's ADIZ. 173 According to J. Michael Cole, editor-in-chief of Thinking Taiwan,

PLA aircraft may have entered Taiwan's ADIZ to "to gauge Taiwan's surveillance capabilities and response mechanism. Chinese electronic surveillance aircraft last year committed similar intrusions near Okinawa and close to the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu islets in the East China Sea to—it is speculated—evaluate Tokyo's ability to respond (Japan's response was to scramble F–15 aircraft). Soon thereafter, China declared its controversial ADIZ over the East China Sea. Some analysts believe that China is drawing up plans to establish an ADIZ in the South China Sea, though Beijing has yet to give any concrete indication that it intends to do so." ¹⁷⁴

Computer Network Defense

In addition to China's conventional military forces, China's computer network operation capabilities also pose a major threat to Taiwan. According to the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense's 2013 National Defense Report, "Once a conflict arises, these operations will enable [China] to cripple our command, control and logistics network, which will affect the normal operation of the [Taiwan] Armed Forces' information systems, and delay its contingency response time." 175

To address the cyber threat from China, the Taiwan military is attempting to enhance information security awareness through increased education, inspections, and exercises. It also plans to bolster the cyber defense of its command, control, communications, and information platforms. These measures supplement the steps Taiwan has taken in recent years in this area, which include increasing spending on cyberwarfare capabilities, establishing an additional cyberwarfare unit within the Ministry of National Defense, and building a facility for cyber defense training against simulated attacks on critical infrastructure. 177

Cross-Strait Espionage

The counterintelligence risks to Taiwan and U.S. military information and equipment in Taiwan are increasing as cross-Strait ties expand and Chinese citizens visit Taiwan in greater numbers. China now has greater access to Taiwan and better opportunities to conduct intelligence operations against Taiwan citizens both in Taiwan and China. In 2013, nearly three million Chinese tourists visited Taiwan, up from around 300,000 in 2008. 178

In the last two years, Taiwan has arrested at least eight former or active military officers, including one flag officer, for suspected espionage.¹⁷⁹ In April 2014, a former Taiwan Air Force major was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison for providing the Chinese government with classified information related to Taiwan's E–2K airborne early warning aircraft, a U.S. system which Northrop Grumman first delivered to Taiwan in 2005.¹⁸⁰ In addition to gathering strategic, operational, tactical, and technical intelligence, these activities are intended to demoralize the Taiwan military and public and increase concerns in the U.S. government and military about the security of defense information and technology provided to Taiwan.

The Taiwan military is implementing measures to counter Chinese intelligence activities. These measures include enhancing security at military bases, heightening awareness among the military of espionage threats, and requiring some military personnel to take more polygraph tests. ¹⁸¹ For example, in 2012 the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense instituted a policy to require ministry personnel posted overseas, including attachés and procurement officials, to return to Taiwan once a year for a polygraph test. ¹⁸²

The counterintelligence threat to Taiwan is not limited to military personnel; it also extends to civilian researchers. In 2014, Chinese and Taiwan media reported Chen Kun-shan, the former director of the Center for Space and Remote Sensing Research at Taiwan's National Central University and a top expert on remote sensing technology, had defected to China and taken a position with the State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science at Beijing Normal University. Taiwan media reported that an anonymous source within Taiwan's intelligence community said Dr. Chen's former position would have given him access to classified information about the Taiwan military and Taiwan's methods for analyzing intelligence about China. Taiwan's methods for analyzing intelligence about China. Taiwan's remote sensing technology. In China, Dr. Chen may contribute to Chinese research projects that have applications for the PLA. Taiwan

Although U.S. media reporting tends to focus on China's intelligence successes against Taiwan, Mr. Easton testified that Taiwan has an impressive track record of espionage against China:

Since 2004, China has suffered from dozens of Taiwanese espionage cases. Taiwan's agents have included the leadership of China's Air Force Command Academy, a Central Committee member, and more. Recent examples of success include Taiwan's ability to collect detailed information on China's anti-ship ballistic missiles, drones, and airbases. Taiwan also obtained timely forewarning of China's intention to declare an air defense identification zone over the East China Sea in November 2013. This allowed the [Taiwan] National Security Council to call an emergency meeting and deliberate in advance of Beijing's declaration. 186

U.S.-Taiwan Relations

Developments in U.S.-Taiwan Political Relations

April 10, 2014 marked the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act. Leading up to the anniversary, U.S. and Taiwan government officials praised the state of bilateral relations, saying the relationship is the strongest it has been in over three decades. ¹⁸⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy's visit to Taiwan in April, the first by a Cabinet-level official since June 2000, reflects this positive momentum in U.S.-Taiwan relations. ¹⁸⁸ In a speech at National Taiwan University, she spoke about U.S.-Taiwan collaboration and Taiwan's leadership on environmental issues. ¹⁸⁹ The U.S. and Taiwan governments have co-hosted meetings involving participants from around the world on topics such as port sustainability, electronic waste,

and environmental information.¹⁹⁰ U.S. cabinet-level visits to Taiwan help to strengthen ties between high-level U.S. and Taiwan officials, reinforce the bilateral partnership, and express U.S. support to Taiwan.*

Although the relationship has recovered from a period of height-ened tension and weakened trust from 2002 to 2008, some analysts point out there is still much room for improvement. Mr. Hammond-Chambers, in his testimony to the Commission, described the relationship as "adrift" and "underwhelming" due to the lack of "significant goals and objectives. Mr. Hammond-Chambers and Vincent Wei-cheng Wang, professor at the University of Richmond, testified that the U.S. government probably has been complacent regarding Taiwan because it assumes the warming of cross-Strait relations and greater economic engagement will lead to lasting peace in the Taiwan Strait. Mang cautioned that even though the United States and Taiwan "share common values, commercial interests and [a] historical relationship," the two sides must constantly "cultivate and manage" the relationship. Mr.

Developments in U.S.-Taiwan Military and Security Relations

Taiwan continues to be one of the largest buyers of U.S. arms in the world. From 2008 to 2011, Taiwan agreed to purchase approximately \$18.3 billion of U.S. arms. ¹⁹⁵ However, the U.S. government has not authorized a major arms sale to Taiwan since 2011,† leading some analysts to question whether the United States is doing enough to make defense articles available to Taiwan. Randall Shriver, president and chief executive officer of the Project 2049 Institute, testified to Congress that "[the Obama Administration] needs bolder and more visible measures to fulfill U.S. obligations to Taiwan consistent with notification requirements under the Arms Export Control Act." ¹⁹⁶

David Firestein, vice president for the Strategic Trust-Building Initiative at the EastWest Institute, testified to the Commission that U.S. policy toward Taiwan is falling short of its goal of enhancing Taiwan's security. He said:

It is fair to say that U.S. policies, as implemented, do not seem to be able to keep pace with events in the region, particularly the rapid and well-documented development of China's military capabilities. To put it in simple terms, the United States is selling arms to Taiwan at an arithmetic pace, while China's military capabilities are developing at something closer to a geometric trajectory. On these terms, this is a game that the United States and Taiwan cannot win. 197

^{*}Administrator McCarthy was originally scheduled to visit Taiwan, in addition to China, in December 2013, but she postponed the Taiwan portion of her trip for unknown reasons. Shirley Kan and Wayne Morrison, U.S.-Taiwan Relationship: Overview of Policy Issues (Congressional Research Service, April 22, 2014), p. 16.

Research Service, April 22, 2014), p. 16.

†The executive branch is only required to notify Congress of arms sales through the foreign military sales process that meet or exceed the following values: \$14 million in major defense equipment, \$50 million in defense articles or services, and \$200 million in design and construction services. Thus, there may have been U.S. arms sales to Taiwan that did not exceed these amounts since 2011. Piin-Fen Kok and David J. Firestein, Threading the Needle: Proposals for U.S. and Chinese Actions on Arms Sales to Taiwan (EastWest Institute, September 2013), p. 71. http://www.ewi.info/sites/default/files/TAS%20Final%20%2528ISSUU%20VERSION%209

Mr. Firestein also explained that the U.S. executive branch's practice of "bundling" announcements of arms sales to Taiwan creates misperceptions of U.S. policy that could affect U.S. diplomatic efforts. He offered that, "By issuing more frequent, but smallerscale, notifications, the United States can perhaps mitigate some of the public diplomacy problem without affecting the content of the sales at all. ... This approach might also sensitize the Chinese including the Chinese public—to the sales to a greater degree than is the case now with less frequent, larger notifications." 198

In addition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, U.S. training and consultations are a key component of the bilateral security relationship. For example, the U.S. provides training to Taiwan fighter pilots, special operations personnel, and rapid runway repair personnel. Furthermore, members of Taiwan's military study at U.S. military educational institutions. 199

In an important development, military-to-military contact increased in 2013. In 2013, DoD personnel conducted more than 2,000 visits to Taiwan, compared to approximately 1,500 visits in 2012.*200 Nevertheless the U.S. practice of limiting the highest rank of U.S. military personnel who can visit Taiwan to colonels and captains (O6-level) prevents the most senior U.S. officers from gaining firsthand knowledge of the Taiwan military and the operational environment in a potential cross-Strait conflict. Mr. Easton explained to the Commission:

Our most difficult operational plan calls for the U.S. military to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with Taiwan's military. How can the President of the United States, this or any future president, be assured that we could seamlessly do that if we don't allow our military leaders to go out and see the battlespace firsthand? If you've not been out to the offshore islands, Kinmen, Matsu, Tungyin, Penghus, if you've not seen the 18 invasion beaches on Taiwan's west coast, and if you don't have that personal relationship, I think that's a mistake. 201

Role of Taiwan in U.S. Rebalance to Asia

The Obama Administration recognized the importance of the Asia Pacific when it committed to "rebalance" U.S. government attention and resources to the region in 2011. The strategy intends to strengthen U.S. economic, diplomatic, and security relations throughout the Asia Pacific, both bilaterally and multilaterally, with a "whole-of-government" approach to policy implementation. However, some analysts have suggested the Obama Administration has not adequately incorporated Taiwan into the U.S. rebalance to Asia policy, pointing to several important speeches and documents about the rebalance by then Secretary of State Clinton, President Obama, and then National Security Advisor Thomas Donilon. † 202

^{*}DoD personnel conducted nine exchanges with Chinese military personnel in China in 2013. The total number of DoD personnel who participated in these exchanges is unavailable. U.S. Department of Defense, Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2014, June 5, 2014, p. 71.

†However, in a November 2011 speech about the rebalance to Asia policy, then Secretary of State Clinton spoke about Taiwan and cross-Strait relations. She said, "We have a strong relationship with Taiwan an important security and economic partner and we applied the progress

that we have seen in cross-Strait relations between China and We applied the past three

The Administration may feel constrained in addressing Taiwan's role in the rebalance policy, particularly regarding military cooperation, by the unofficial nature of U.S.-Taiwan relations and concerns about the impact of openly including Taiwan in the rebalance policy on U.S.-China relations.

According to some analysts, Taiwan could play an important role in the U.S. rebalance to Asia given its geographic position, relatively advanced military capabilities, large and vibrant economy,

and robust democracy.²⁰³

In the military realm, Taiwan's strengths in ISR could support U.S. efforts to promote security and stability in the Asia Pacific. Mr. Stokes and Russell Hsiao, non-resident senior fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, explain:

Taiwan is uniquely positioned to contribute to regional situational awareness of the air, space, sea and cyber domains. Peacetime air surveillance data can be fused with other sources of information to better understand PLA Air Force tactics and doctrine. Long range [ultra high frequency] early warning radar data could fill a gap in regional space surveillance. The Taiwanese Navy has a firm grasp of the unique undersea geography and hydrological environment of the Western Pacific Ocean. . . . Taiwan's geographic position and willingness to contribute to a regional common operational picture, including maritime domain awareness, air surveillance, and space surveillance and tracking, could be of significant value for both disaster response and military purposes. 204

Taiwan and the U.S. military also could cooperate on surveillance for missile defense. In May 2014, Representative Randy Forbes added a provision to the House National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 requiring the U.S. Missile Defense Agency to evaluate the potential for linking Taiwan's highly advanced early warning radar to U.S. sensor and missile defense systems. ²⁰⁵

Beyond sharing technical ISR data, the U.S. government could learn from Taiwan's unique insights into China, the PLA, and Chinese cyber operations. As Mr. Easton points out, Taiwan has a "long history of leveraging its close cultural, linguistic, and economic ties to China for collecting traditional human intelligence" and Taiwan's research centers possess "unique expertise and historical experiences—as well as unparalleled access to data." ²⁰⁶ In the area of China's cyber operations, Taiwan's cybersecurity

In the area of China's cyber operations, Taiwan's cybersecurity experts possess in-depth knowledge of Chinese cyber tactics, techniques, and procedures. For more than a decade, Taiwan's information networks have been a major target for Chinese hackers. These hackers have tried new tactics, techniques, and procedures on Taiwan's networks before using them against networks in other countries.²⁰⁷

Cooperation with Taiwan on the development of defense technology is another area in which the U.S. military could benefit

years and we look forward to continued improvement so there can be peaceful resolution of their differences." Hillary Clinton, "America's Pacific Century" (Honolulu, HI, November 10, 2011).

from Taiwan's strengths. Taiwan has a great deal of expertise in information and communications and cruise missile technology. It also is able to produce these technologies at lower cost than the United States. ²⁰⁸ Mr. Stokes and Mr. Hsiao suggest "Taiwan and the U.S. may find mutually beneficial ways to integrate their efforts including in defense-related R&D and low cost, high quality electronic components that could reduce costs for U.S. weapon systems." ²⁰⁹ This kind of collaboration also could have the benefit of increasing interoperability between U.S. and Taiwan military platforms and systems.

In addition to defense and security, economics and trade are a major part of the rebalance to Asia policy, with the TPP as the central economic policy initiative. Taiwan has made joining the multilateral trade agreement a priority. In April 2014, President Ma told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies that "a TPP with Taiwan's membership would not only assure Taiwan's economic security, but would also help strengthen the economic presence of the U.S. in the Asia Pacific region." ²¹⁰ Although there are substantial political obstacles in Taiwan and the United States to Taiwan joining the TPP, the U.S. government in 2014 welcomed Taiwan's interest in the TPP.

Finally, in line with another aspect of the rebalance to Asia policy, Taiwan can play a role in the development of democracy and the promotion of universal rights and freedoms in the Asia Pacific. Taiwan is a vibrant democracy in a region with many authoritarian governments. As an example of democratic governance, human rights, freedom of expression, and rule of law to its neighbors, most importantly to China, Taiwan can support positive change in these countries. Highlighting Taiwan's achievements in these areas in official statements could support and augment U.S. efforts to promote democracy and human rights in the region and around the world. 212

Implications for the United States

The United States and Taiwan maintain a strong relationship built on shared values, commercial interests, and commitment to assist Taiwan's defensive capability. Taiwan's position as a major U.S. trading partner, and its important role in the global hi-tech supply chain, make it vital to U.S. economic interests. Taiwan companies are leaders in the global semiconductor industry and their need for advanced U.S. machinery has made semiconductor, microchip, and LCD manufacturing machines the top U.S. export to Taiwan. In addition, Taiwan's role as a regional leader in democracy, human rights, and environmental protection further strengthens this relationship and provides opportunities for regional partnering. 213

Six years of cross-Strait rapprochement have been beneficial to the United States by temporarily reducing the likelihood of military conflict, enhancing regional stability and development, and allowing U.S. policymakers to address other priorities in the U.S.-China and U.S.-Taiwan relationships.

However, improved cross-Strait relations have not resolved the fundamental sovereignty issues between Taiwan and China. Deepening economic integration has increased Taiwan's dependence on China's economy and raised its vulnerability to Chinese economic and political coercion. China could leverage this dependence to ad-

vance its goal of unification with Taiwan.

In addition, China's military modernization presents an intense challenge to Taiwan's ability to defend itself and the U.S. military's ability to intervene successfully in a cross-Strait conflict. It also improves China's ability to use the threat of military force to coerce Taiwan into making political concessions. Mr. Easton testified to the Commission that "if the PLA used all the tools at its disposal in a coordinated fashion, it could turn the defense of Taiwan into the democratic world's most stressful military challenge. To put it another way, no other U.S.-friendly democracy faces the level of military threat that Taiwan does." ²¹⁴

Taiwan is confronted with the question of how to meet the requirements of national defense while also addressing domestic and social welfare issues. Taiwan is taking steps to enhance its defensive capabilities and increase the quality of its military personnel, but some members of Congress and outside observers have raised questions and concerns about whether Taiwan's defense spending is sufficient to address the threat from China's military moderniza-

 $tion.^{215}$

Separate from questions regarding Taiwan's defense spending, in the 2000s, the question of whether the Taiwan military, government, and public would resist a PLA attack on Taiwan was the subject of much discussion by U.S. analysts. Lieutenant Commander John E. Lee, USN, described the issue as follows: "In a conflict with [China], Taiwan's 'will to fight' is its strategic center of gravity—the source of massed moral strength, whose degradation would have a decisive impact on Taiwan's ability to resist the enemy." ²¹⁶ Since then there has been little discussion of this issue. However, Mr. Cole has written about Taiwan's will to fight in recent years, and he asserts that "once bombs and missiles, however precise, [begin] raining down on Taiwan, killing family members, friends, and neighbors, most Taiwanese would rally round the flag." ²¹⁷

More broadly, Taiwan's role in regional stability extends beyond the Taiwan Strait due to its territorial claims in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. In 2013, Taipei contributed to stability in the East China Sea with the fisheries agreement it signed with the Japanese government. With regard to the South China Sea, Taiwan is pursuing a fisheries agreement with the Philippines that, according to a Taiwan official, the two countries are close to signing. Analysts have proposed Taiwan could also help reduce tension in the South China Sea by clarifying its definition of the nine-dash line, which is the basis for both Taiwan's and China's

claims in that area.²¹⁹

Conclusions

• Under President Ma, cross-Strait economic relations have deepened with the expansion of trade and investment and the signing of numerous economic agreements. However, these agreements face increasing public and political opposition. The Taiwan public's concerns about the effects of cross-Strait economic integration on the country's economy and political autonomy led to

- a temporary postponement of cross-Strait negotiations and a push for increased oversight of cross-Strait agreements by Taiwan's legislature.
- Prior to the Sunflower Movement, cross-Strait relations reached a milestone with the first formal talks between the heads of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council and China's Taiwan Affairs Office in February 2014. After a temporary postponement following the protests, Taiwan and China restarted trade negotiations in September, but the Taiwan legislature will unlikely ratify any new agreements until it agrees on a formal legislative oversight process for cross-Strait agreements.
- U.S.-Taiwan relations took positive but small steps forward this past year with progress in the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) talks, the first trip to Taiwan by a Cabinet-level official since 2000, and recent growth in bilateral trade. Remaining obstacles to further progress in the TIFA talks are disputes over pork imports, pharmaceutical intellectual property rights, and private-equity investment regulations.
- The United States and Taiwan continue to engage in a robust but low-profile security partnership, including increased military-to-military contact in 2013. However, the U.S. government has not authorized a major arms sale to Taiwan since 2011, which allows China to further tip the cross-Strait balance of power in its favor.
- Taiwan has expanded its international engagement in recent years, but China continues to restrict Taiwan's participation in most international organizations. Furthermore, Taiwan's discussions with other countries regarding bilateral free trade agreements have reportedly stalled due to those countries' hesitation over China's opposition and questions about Taiwan's ability to ratify any negotiated free trade agreement following strong public opposition to the Cross-Strait Services Trade Agreement.
- Despite the recent cross-Strait rapprochement, the core sovereignty and security issues between Taiwan and China remain unresolved. China's military modernization has significantly increased Beijing's ability to conduct military operations against Taiwan and to deter, delay, and deny any U.S. intervention in a cross-Strait conflict. Taiwan's recent focus on developing innovative and asymmetric military capabilities and continued acquisition of major conventional platforms and weapon systems from the United States have improved Taiwan's military capabilities. However, the cross-Strait balance of power has shifted decidedly in China's favor.

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