

China's Heavy Hand will Force the Free World to Embrace Taiwan's Independence

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered a very short, succinct and accurate speech in regards to the U.S. relationship with Taiwan in November 2020. This information has again angered Beijing. They have stated that the existence of a free and independent Taiwan will not be tolerated. Chinese foreign ministry Wang Wenbin says Secretary Pompeo's language is interfering with the sovereignty of China.

Secretary Pompeo was stating the facts. Taiwan has never been a part of the PRC or the Chinese communist party, therefore not a territory of China. The history outside of China's communist party's propaganda and interpretation is clear on this. The reality is that Chiangai Kai-shek, was the undisputed leader of the Nationalist government in all of China from 1928-1949. The communists started a civil war which they won. This then forced Chiangai Kai-shek and his people to flee to the island nation known as Formosa.

The independent nation of Taiwan was then established on the Island of Formosa and recognized by the U.N. along with nations around the world. These are the facts. The current confusion regarding the status of Taiwan was bad foreign policy created in error by Jimmy Carter who instructed the U.S. Government to formally un-recognize Taiwan's sovereign nation status to appease China. A further lack of clarity came out of the Nixon administration with the help of Henry Kissinger. This led to the misguided foreign policy that has become known in the U.S. as "strategic ambiguity" in regards to the Taiwan/ China relationship. This change in definition by the U.S. Government does not change the fact that Taiwan was and has remained an independent nation, and it does not state that Taiwan is part of China.

China has been using the phrase "one country, two systems" for decades to say they will accept sovereign rule in a territory like Hong Kong, allowing for Hong Kong to have its own political and independent judiciary systems but with the acknowledgement that their foreign affairs concerns defer to China. It sounds nice in theory that China would allow Taiwan to remain an independent nation but somehow part of China. Again, the facts are clear: Taiwan has never been a part of the People's Republic of China or part of their Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

We have seen China's true colors and intent along with their lack of credibility in their commitments to foreign policy especially in the realm of

“one country, two systems”. This was illustrated when Xi and the CCP dishonored the Chinese rulers that negotiated the transfer of Hong Kong back to China. This transition was to proceed peacefully over a 50-year period, 1997-2047. The world agrees that Hong Kong was part of China even though it was colonized by Britain in the 1800’s. The British agreed to return Hong Kong back to China in the 1990’s. This was formally done on the world stage at the United Nations with a signing ceremony including witnesses from other nations. There was within the negotiated treaty a guarantee from China to Hong Kong that the latter would remain a self-governing territory with an independent judiciary for 50 years. In just a short 22 years since the signing of that treaty, Xi, China and the CCP have dishonored this agreement and the Chinese people. This is evidenced by the heavy hand of Beijing’s police force in Hong Kong and the introduction of China’s National Security Law eroding Hong Kong’s independent judiciary. Now, China wants to apply the “one country, two system” on Taiwan and have all nations think they will handle this relationship equitably? Unfortunately, China’s actions speak differently.

The difference with Taiwan is again it has never been part of China or the CCP. This is why it will take a world-wide coalition of countries to recognize Taiwan as an independent sovereign nation. This must be done before China errors in their efforts at reunification. If China were to act forcibly as they have vowed to do, this then would force the western democratic nations to respond in defense of Taiwan, a similar independent democratic nation. This most likely could foment the next great world war at a great loss in human lives and capital on all sides but also at China’s expense and shame.

The remedy is for countries that believe as most do that Taiwan is an independent nation to recognize them diplomatically. China should also immediately relinquish false territorial claims over Taiwan. There should be international encouragement and agreement that any talks in the relationship between Taiwan and China must be done peacefully. This is why my office introduced the “Taiwan Invasion and Prevention Act” before I retired from congress at the end of the 116th Congress in 2021. This legislation instructs and recommends the U.S. Government along with other nations work together to facilitate peaceful negotiations concerning Taiwan and China. The legislation states that if China forcibly invades Taiwan then the U.S. will defend Taiwan. This legislation is intended to send a strong, clear message and clarify the “strategic ambiguity” policy of the past. It also is meant to bring a message of unity between western democratic countries to China, the CCP and President Xi before they miscalculate their next move in regards to Taiwan.

That message is this: Allow Taiwan to exist independently as a sovereign nation. The world has benefited much from Taiwan whether in medicine, science, engineering, culturally or trade. We (all nations) should continue to work peacefully together and do all within our power to prevent another world conflict between nations. Let us come together for the benefit of all and celebrate the success and independence of Taiwan. China is invited to do the same and would be regarded highly for doing so.

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