

Forum: Historical Joint Crisis Committee

Issue: First Year Taiwan Strait Crisis, Year 1954.

Head Chair: Richard Hsu

Deputy Chairs: Kenrick Brown, Emma Liu

Introduction

The Cold War was a global power struggle between Marxist Socialist nations and their Western Capitalist rivals after World War II. The sides were lead primarily by the United States and Soviet Union, but heavily involved their respective satellites and allies. While outright war between the two superpowers never occurred, proxy wars and small military incursions erupted from periodically during that era. One such conflict was the Chinese Civil War where after WW2, China became engaged in a clash between the rival governments of the Republic of China (ROC) and People's Republic of China (PRC). The Civil War ended in 1949 when the ROC suffered military defeat, retreating to Taiwan, however, the conflict did not end then. Five years later, conflict broke out again during the First Taiwan Strait Crisis, geopolitical military clash in East Asia and the Pacific Ocean between Communist and Nationalist Chinese forces. Tensions between the PRC and ROC were extreme during this period and further escalated over the ownership of strategic islands, the Kinmen, Mazu, and Dachen islands, in the Taiwan Strait. On September 3, 1954, the PRC began to shell the ROC-controlled islands. The crisis continued until intervention by the United States Seventh Fleet to prevent greater escalation of the conflict.



Taiwan Straits Map

Definition of Key Terms

Taiwan

Taiwan, also known as Formosa, is a Pacific island located off the coast of China. In its history it has been governed by Dutch colonists, the Qing Dynasty of China, the Empire of Japan, and finally the Republic of China.

The Cold War

The Cold War was a global power struggle that occurred from 1945 to 1991 between Marxist Socialist nations and their Western Capitalist rivals. The United States and Soviet Union were allies of convenience during the World War II, however, after the World War II, the enemies of the Axis Powers no longer existed so the USA and USSR had no reason to retain warm relations. The invention of the Atomic Bomb spurred further anger between the USA and USSR which soon became deadly rivals. They respectively formed two alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and faced off in a competition to demonstrate legitimacy, prestige, and military might. In doing so, they hoped to spreading their rival ideologies- Democracy and Communism.

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was a military alliance and mutual defense pact involving nations from Europe and North America. NATO's strongest member was the United States and was created primarily to ward off the threat of the Soviet Union and Communism. The key element of NATO is Article Five which states that if one member is attacked, all will retaliate as if they were attacked.

Background Information on East Asia

The Fall of the Republic of China (1937-1949)

Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) was a theater of World War II fought between the Empire of Japan and a United Front of Chinese Nationalists and Communists. In the early 1930s, Japan had took over the traditionally Chinese-controlled territory of Manchuria. Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek had been occupied with combatting Communist forces until in December 1936 when he was kidnapped and was convinced to ally with the Communists to fight against the Japanese Imperialist invaders forming the Chinese United Front. With support from the US and USSR, the United Front managed to defeat Japan after eight long years of war.



Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-Shek meet to create the Chinese United Front

Chinese Civil War (1945-1949)

This was a conflict that occurred from 1945-1949. During the World War II, the two governing factions of China, Nationalists and Communists, worked together to halt the invasion of China by the Empire of Japan. After defeating the Japanese invaders, the alliance collapsed and fighting broke out between the two factions. Ultimately, the Communists gained an upper hand causing the Nationalists to flee to Taiwan.

Proclamation of the People's Republic of China (1949)

This occurred after Mao Zedong's victory in the Chinese Civil War in 1949. As the leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Mao proclaimed a Communist Chinese state, securing his autocratic rule of the country until his death in 1976. This was a shock to and a severe loss for the United States in the Cold War.



Mao Zedong proclaims the People's Republic of China (1949)

The Korean War (1950-1953)

The Korean War was a war fought during the Cold War between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Kim Il-Sung, backed by the Soviet Union, invaded the southern half of the Korean peninsula. The United States successfully launched a counteroffensive taking back most of the Korean peninsula until Mao Zedong ordered the People's Liberation Army to join the conflict on the Communist side. The war ended in a stalemate and established the current border between North and South Korea.

Communist Nations and Individuals Involved

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea/DPRK)

Chairman Kim Il-Sung is the absolute dictator of North Korea. Despite his immense power, several factors hinder Kim and the DPRK. First, North Korea has been completely devastated by the recent Korean

War which ended in 1953. Secondly, North Korea is extremely poor, lacking natural resources and money. Third, there remains a constant threat that the Soviets or Chinese may seek to replace Kim with a rival North Korean Communist leader in a coup. Possible routes for Kim include aligning himself completely with the Soviets and/or Chinese, or seeking more independence from the rest of the Communist bloc.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Nam Il had little authority in North Korea, because power in the DPRK's is entirely concentrated under Kim Il-Sung, and whatever Kim says, Nam must comply. However, being the Minister of Foreign Affairs has some benefits for Nam- he has more connections with the rest of the Warsaw Pact, thus giving him increased chances of replacing Kim as leader of North Korea should the action be deemed necessary by the Soviets or Chinese. As Kim expands his grip over North Korea, it is possible that certain purges may affect Nam Il. Possible routes Nam may take include breaking away from Kim Il-Sung, seeking Soviet/Chinese support to overthrow Kim, or swearing total allegiance to Kim in hopes of gaining more power.

People's Republic of China (PRC/China)

Chairman Mao Zedong was his life a soldier, scholar, headmaster, and husband, but Mao was most widely-known for his role as the ideological theorist of the CCP and ruling dictator of the People's Republic of China. Backed by the Soviet Union, Mao fought and defeated the Nationalists during the Chinese Civil War. With general control of mainland China, Mao Zedong set his sights on the last few Nationalist strongholds- the Dachen Islands, Kinmen, Matsu, Penghu, and of course, Taiwan. Mao Zedong was strongly influenced by his mentor Joseph Stalin. It is no surprise then that Politically and economically, Mao was a hardline Marxist-Leninist who collectivised practically all industry and agriculture in China.

Premier Peng Dehuai, a powerful figure in China, was one of the most skilled generals in Chinese Communist history as a powerful member of the CCP. Peng was originally was a Nationalist until he broke with Chiang Kai-Shek in 1927 over disagreements with the party purge of leftists. Peng then sided with the Communist forces under Mao Zedong. Later in life, Peng was the second highest ranked general in the PRC and was also a prominent member of the Politburo of the CCP.

The Republic of India

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is an Indian nationalist and statesman who has led India from its independence in 1947 until now. Instrumental in the Indian independence movement, Nehru was chosen by Gandhi as his successor. Nehru is a dominating figure in the Indian National Congress.

President Rajendra Prasad is an Indian statesman. As a journalist, Prasad campaigned for Indian independence and later was critical in shaping India's constitution. Prasad has been India's President since his unanimous election in 1950 and reelection in 1952.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union/USSR)

First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev seized political control of the Soviet Union in a power vacuum following the death of Stalin March 1953. Despite being General Secretary, the Politburo (legislative branch) of the USSR still holds considerable influence on Khrushchev. Under Khrushchev, a small division is occurring between the USSR and PRC because Mao Zedong believes that the policies that Khrushchev is enacting deviates too far from “true Communism”. With the Soviet Union holding strategic locations near China and on the Pacific coast like Vladivostok and Sakhalin, Khrushchev can either choose to support the PRC or fully initiate a Sino-Soviet Split.

Minister of Defense Georgy Zhukov is a popular figure within the Soviet Union because of his crucial role in the defeat of Nazi Germany during World War II. Zhukov is an extremely skilled expert in the military strategy as well as a good friend of Khrushchev. It should also be noted that Zhukov also has very good relations with President Eisenhower, as they were both supreme commanders of allied forces in World War II, so a possible negotiation point between the USSR and the US could be achieved through Zhukov and Eisenhower.

Capitalist Nations and Individuals Involved

The Republic of China (ROC)

Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek (CKS) was the military and political dictator of the Republic of China from 1928 to his death in 1975. In 1949, at the end of the Chinese Civil War, Chiang retreated to the island of Taiwan after being defeated on the Chinese mainland by the Communist forces. However, backed by the promise of protection by the US, the island of Taiwan was untouchable by the Communists. In addition to Taiwan, the ROC owned islands such as Kinmen, Matsu, Penhu and the Dachen islands. The islands next to the Chinese mainland, Kinmen Matsu and the Dachen islands, are vulnerable to Communist invasions. Chiang enjoys military and economic support from the United States, and if he works well with Yu Hungchun, who controls the executive yuan (the parliament of the ROC), Chiang will have the support of the citizens of the ROC as well. The main goal of Chiang is to defend the ROC's remaining territories from the Communists, as well as securing support from the US with Chiang's great relations with President Eisenhower.

Premier Yu Hungchun serves as the link between Chiang Kai-Shek and the citizens of the ROC, which is a major role because he ensures that Chiang Kai-Shek has the support of the people of the people. It is also the duty of Yu Hungchun to ensure that Chiang Kai-Shek does not go beyond the boundaries of his

power. Yu Hungchun is the de-facto second in power of the ROC; if anything happens to Chiang Kai-Shek, he has the duty to take over the powers of the President.

The United States of America (US)

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was a faithful ally of the ROC and a staunch anti-Communist. A close friend of Chiang Kai-Shek, Eisenhower was instrumental in signing the Taiwan Defense Act, in which if any ROC territories is attacked by the PRC, the US would be obligated to join the war on the Nationalist side. Eisenhower provided Taiwan with large supplies of military arms as well as economic aid. Eisenhower is likely to give Taiwan its full support and intervene in any cross-strait conflict.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was a powerful US statesman. During the Truman administration, Dulles was an ardent US interventionist in the Cold War calling for America to take an even harsher stance against Communism than it was, however, he later toned down his stance and considered the possibility of negotiations with post-Stalin Soviet Union. Dulles was adept at crisis management.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
October 25th, 1945	Japan is forced to return Taiwan to China after World War II ends
October 1st, 1949	Mao Zedong establishes the People's Republic of China (PRC), Chiang Kai Shek and the ROC flee to Taiwan
June 25th, 1950	President Truman declares Taiwan as neutral territory; sends troops and supplies economic aid to the island
September 3rd, 1954	The PRC starts to bomb Kinmen and Matsu (Two Taiwanese islands); the First Taiwan Strait Crisis officially begins
December 2nd, 1954	The U.S. Congress signs the Sino-American Mutual Defense treaty. The treaty officially goes into effect from March 3rd, 1955 to December 31st, 1979

January 20th, 1955	China starts bombing the Tachen Islands, the US troops help evacuate around 30,000 ROC soldiers and civilians
January 29th, 1955	The U.S. Congress passes the Formosa Resolution and sends troops to Taiwan to defend the nation from PRC attacks
May 1st, 1955	The First Taiwan Strait Crisis comes to an end, however, fundamental issues on the conflict remain unsolved

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

The **Mutual Defense Treaty (Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty)** was a defensive pact between the US and ROC, effective from 1955 - 1979. This treaty, however, was limited to the mainland of Taiwan. Therefore, the two most important islands during this crisis - Kinmen and Matsu - were not protected under the treaty. The treaty had also highly discouraged Taiwan to attack the PRC, even though they were constantly being bombed.

The **Formosa Resolution of 1955** was a bill passed by the 96th US Congress that authorized president Eisenhower to defend Taiwan. The bill also marked Eisenhower's promise to help Taiwan if anything happened. This resolution was prompted after the islands Matsu and Kinmen were attacked, and had also led to the US and the PRC coming to a negotiation where the PRC would stop bombing those islands.

Possible Solutions

There could be a treaty of non-aggression between the PRC and ROC detailing a 49 or 99 year ceasefire and temporary governance of Taiwan Strait islands. The PRC and ROC could come to an agreement where they agree to cease military conflict between them for 49 to 99 years. This treaty would contain an agreement as to who will govern, NOT own, the islands within the Taiwan strait for the duration of the non-aggression. The ownership of the islands would be titled as belonging to "China", being intentionally unclear and vague as to which government to appease both sides. After the time period elapses, a meeting would occur where the ROC and PRC would restart the ownership debate. The downside of this solution is that it is unlikely that the PRC or ROC will come to such a peaceful solution.

Conflict between the ROC and PRC could be ended by naval foreign intervention by the fleet of a superpower nation such as the USA or USSR: The presence of a naval fleet from the United States or Soviet Union could provide emphasis on peace and end the conflict. The downside is that if both superpowers attempt to intervene simultaneously the crisis could end very disastrously with an escalation into a proxy war or a direct war between the US and USSR.

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