

Will the Macron Visit lead to France's Split from Biden's Indo-Pacific Policy?
China's Threat to Taiwan & President Macron's Visit to Beijing

April 9, 2023

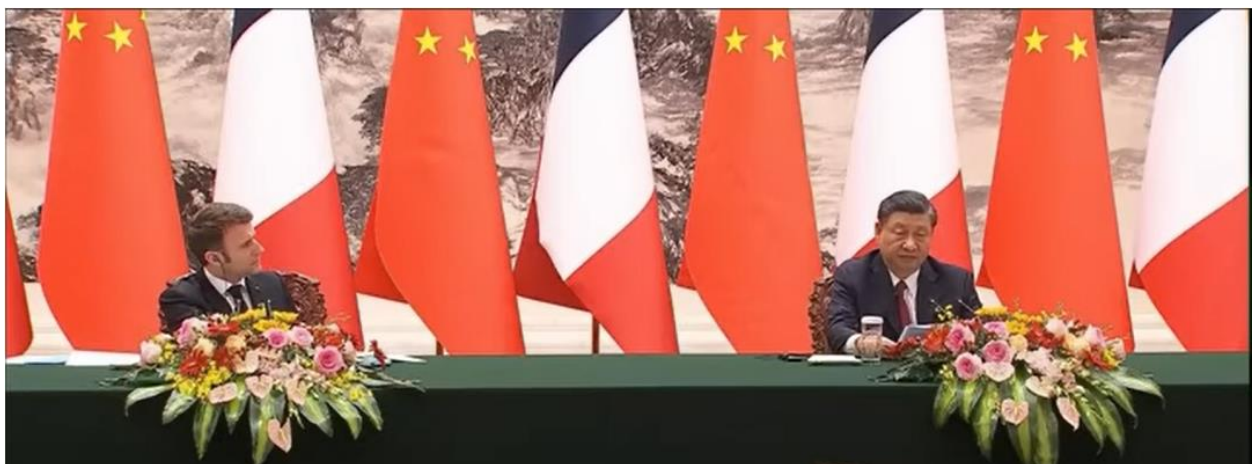
April 9, 2023: Beijing: Two days after the visit of the French President and EU President to Beijing, China simulated precision attacks on key targets in Taiwan in response to the meeting of Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen returned on Saturday, 8th April from a 10-day visit to Central America and the United States of America.

The military drill of April 9-10, 2023, called "United Sharp Sword", involved many China's Naval vessels, including its aircraft carrier and warplanes.

China's Communist Party has never ruled over Taiwan but it openly threatens to use force to capture it.

China had fired missiles for the first time over Taiwan in military drills when the then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan on August 2-3, 2022.

Emmanuel Macron, the French President and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission visited Beijing during April 5-7, 2023. Macron said that his visit jointly with EU President was to unite Europe in its approach to China and Ukraine. The objective was to ask China help bring peace by using its influence on Russia.



Thursday, 6th April: President Emmanuel Macron and President Xi Jinping in Beijing

President Macron was accompanied by French business leaders, filmmakers, and musicians. It included:

The former French Prime Minister Raffarin, Chairman of the Constitutional Council Fabius, many ministers, parliamentarians, more than 60 heads of large companies such as Airbus, EDF, the luxury goods industry, and the banking industry, and more than 20 cultural figures.

Prior to this, France's Total Energy Company conducted a 65,000-ton liquefied natural gas transaction with China. The amount was not large, but it was settled in RMB, which was regarded as a show of sincerity by France.

He also presented a French photographer's pictures of mid-20th-century China and a blue Sèvres porcelain vase decorated with golden fish, intended to represent the early trade in decorative arts between the two countries to China during his visit. Earlier in a Thursday morning meeting with Li Qiang, the Chinese Premier at the Great Hall of the People, the heart of power in Beijing, Macron stressed the importance of dialogue between China and France "in these troubled times".

Though the visit did not change Beijing's stance on Russia, Ukraine or Taiwan, the Macron meeting did succeed in getting a large number of business deals on construction projects, nuclear power stations and water desalination plants. France also succeeded in selling more aircrafts, cosmetics and financial products. These will bring more jobs to France, though in France the unions were on strike on the day President Macron's delegation was signing the large deals.

During his address to 22,000 French expatriates, living in China on the first day of his visit to Beijing, President Macron said that China could help in peace efforts since it had close relations with Russia.

Macron likes to show the European card when he negotiates with China. In 2019, during Xi Jinping's visit to Paris, he had invited Angela Merkel, the then German Chancellor and the EU President to Paris for joint talks with the Chinese President.

While President Macron brought the EU President with him to forge a united European stand on Ukraine, China managed to differentiate clearly between the two Presidents. President Macron was given a great welcome, a lavish state banquet and the benefit of many business deals. President, on the other hand, was given effectively a cold shoulder.

An article published by a social media platform affiliated with the Ministry of Defense:

Von der Leyen, a pro-American person, has spared no effort to promote hostility between Europe and Russia in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. President von der Leyen's "principal speech" was only to prevent China from getting too close to Russia, and hoped to help the United States by balancing its relationship with China. It went on to say that "She made it to China only by sticking with Macron."

(Reference:

<https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1762409719662035546&wfr=spider&for=pc>)

The article by Yi Zhi can be interpreted to mean that the author thinks that a protracted war in Ukraine is in China's interest.

Politico reported on April 6, in its Report titled "The warm embrace and the cold shoulder: China mines Europe's fractures during joint visit" the following:

Macron and Ursula von der Leyen's policy differences when it comes to China — Macron, a leader eager to work with Beijing; von der Leyen, holding a more hawkish perspective — surfaced during the visit.

While French officials stressed that Macron was not interested in raising the issue of Taiwan with his hosts, von der Leyen discussed the status of the island with Xi. **"Nobody should unilaterally change the status quo by force in this region," she said. "The use of force to change the status quo is unacceptable and it is important that the tensions that might occur should be resolved through dialogue."**

President Xi Jinping has spent a long time personally with President Macron. It shows that China considers France as an important business partner in Europe. But it is doubtful that President Macron would be able to persuade China to use its enormous influence on Russia to help end the Ukraine war.



April 7, 2023: Pine Garden in Guangzhou City:

Informal Meeting of Xi Jinping and Emmanuel Macron

Ref: https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202304/t20230409_11056456.html