

China's Attempt to take over Taiwan by force: Is an Attack imminent?

November 19, 2024

---- NEWS about CHINA's THREAT to TAIWAN ----

November 18, 2024: Lima, Peru: Xi Jinping warned USA not to deal with **Lai Ching-te**, a 'Separatist' for China, and to handle the "Taiwan question with extra prudence".

China considers Taiwan an integral part of the country and sees in **Lai Ching-te, the President of Taiwan**, a 'Separatist'.

President Lai Ching-te belongs to **Democratic Progressive Party** (DPP) of Taiwan. DPP wants a democratic regime and is a proponent of the island's independence. China prefers to deal with **Kuomintang** (KMT) party in Taiwan. But, for the last decade, KMT has not been elected as the ruling party in Taiwan.

Kuomintang (KMT) is a Chinese political party that ruled mainland China from 1927 to 1949 prior to its relocation to Taiwan as a result of the Chinese Civil War. The name of the party translates as "China's National People's Party" and was historically referred to as the Chinese Nationalists.

China's stand is that Taiwan is a domestic Chinese issue. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and says it should not even have a foreign ministry or any official relations with foreign governments. Immediately after **DPP won the 3rd consecutive election in January 2024**, the Chinese foreign ministry said in its statement: "The Taiwan question is China's internal affair. Whatever changes take place in Taiwan, the basic fact that there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China will not change."

In January 2024, the defense ministry of Taiwan had reported that PLA had sent 49 warplanes and 19 navy vessels for military drills. 35 of PLA planes flew across the median of the Taiwan Strait in a threatening manoeuvre.

Taipei, Taiwan: **Taiwan's foreign ministry** accused Beijing of falsehoods in the statements issued by China. Taiwan took issue specifically with China's often-repeated line that Taiwan is a domestic Chinese issue. Taiwan said that the statement "is **completely inconsistent with international understanding and the current cross-strait situation. It goes against the expectation of global democratic**

communities and goes against the will of the people of Taiwan to uphold democratic values". It added: "Such cliches are not worth refuting."

WAR GAMES by CHINA around TAIWAN: Over the past two years, China has staged three rounds of major war games around Taiwan and its forces regularly operate in the Taiwan Strait. China has also restricted or made more expensive some trade with Taiwan.

Su Tzu-yun, a research fellow at Taiwan's top military think tank, the **Institute for National Defence and Security Research**, said that he does not expect any military action from Chinese President Xi Jinping in the coming months.

Mr Su said. **"The Chinese Communist Party is a super realist. What it cannot bear is political risk."**

China's Eastern Theater spokesperson Col. Li Xi has said that the **People's Liberation Army (PLO)** would carry out the "Sword 2024 joint exercise" in the waters and airspace around Taiwan, with a focus on "joint naval and air combat readiness patrols, joint seizure of comprehensive control of the battlefield, joint precision strikes on key targets, and other subjects." **He called the exercises a "powerful punishment" dealt out to "Taiwan independence separatist forces" and a warning to "external forces" not to intervene or provoke.**

Taiwan's Defense Ministry condemned the display, saying it regretted China's "irrational provocations and actions that undermined regional peace and stability." It added that it had dispatched sea, air, and ground forces to "protect freedom and democracy and defend the sovereignty of the **Republic of China** (*i.e. Taiwan*) with practical actions."

TAIWAN'S RESPONSE: In January 2024, Taiwan had tracked dozens of Chinese warplanes and navy vessels off its coast during these exercises after the self-governing island's inauguration of its President, whose party had won a third consecutive general election.

Taiwan's President, **Lai Ching-te**, emphasized the values of freedom and democracy in the face of external challenges. He called on Beijing to stop its military intimidation and asserted that **"Taiwan is a sovereign independent nation, in which sovereignty lies in the hands of the people."**

PUBLIC RESPONSE in TAIWAN: Though China had issued elaborate media statements and a new video, showing animated forces of the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**, surrounding Taiwan and attacks by simulated missiles on key population and military targets, **there was little sign of concern among Taiwan's 23 Mn people**, who have lived under threat of Chinese invasion since the two sides split during a civil war in 1949. In Taiwan business continued as usual in the bustling **capital of Taipei** and the **ports of Keelung and Kaohsiung**.

"Facing external challenges and threats, we will continue to maintain the values of freedom and democracy," Taiwan's **President Lai Ching-te** told sailors and top security officials, as he visited **a marine base in Taoyuan**, just South of the capital, **Taipei**.

PENTAGON's RESPONSE: The Pentagon said the "joint Chinese drills were reckless, escalated risk, and, eroded longstanding norms that have maintained regional peace and stability for decades."

"We strongly urge Beijing to act with restraint," it said.

Chen Binhua, the spokesperson of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said, "As soon as the leader of Taiwan took office, he challenged the one-China principle and blatantly sold the 'two-state theory.'" The one-China principle of **Communist Part of China (CPC)** asserts that that Taiwan should be a part of China under Communist Party rule, even as the island's electorate overwhelmingly favors de facto independence.

In Beijing, **Shi Yinhong**, Professor of International Relations at **Renmin (the "Defense") University of China** said the 'drills by PLA' and 'China's verbal condemnations of Taiwan's **President Lai Ching-te**' showed Beijing's anger toward **Lai Ching-te** and his administration's policies. Those include a continuance of his predecessor **Tsai Ing-wen's** policies of building a strong national defense and resisting Beijing's efforts to isolate Taiwan diplomatically.

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said it was following China's drills closely. "We urge the relevant parties to refrain from acts that could escalate tensions in the South China sea.

EFFECTS of TRUMP's VICTORY: www.DiGiNews360.com notes the effects that the 45th President **Donald John Trump's** unprecedented victory at the US General Elections of November 5, 2023 is having all over the world.

November 7, 2024: Taipei, Taiwan: Taiwan's Army held what it said was its first live-fire drills of locally made anti-tank Kestrel rockets on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Citizens enrolled in Taiwan's recently implemented one-year conscript program and fired the rockets in a drill at a shooting range in Tainan.



November 8, 2024: Taiwan: Military's 1st live-fire drills, with anti-tank rockets, developed in Taiwan.

(Reference with thanks to AP: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7fshwe>)

---- IR-RESPONSIBLE STEPS by UK – DANGER of a NUCLEAR WAR ----

A DANGEROUS STEP: At Rio de Janero, in Brazil, it was revealed that Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister of UK from 5 July 2024 had transferred a number of missiles to Ukraine, when Zelenskiyy has been pushing for attacking Russia with such missiles.



Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister of UK from 5 July 2024

Ukraine has 10 nuclear reactors, built by USSR before 1990s. Ukraine has thousands of trained scientists. It is possible for Zelenskiyy to find some mad scientists, who can assemble dirty nuclear bombs in days. With transfer of rockets and missile, which could carry these bombs into Russia.

During the last week, Russia has modified its nuclear doctrine twice. Today, Russia has eliminated its **'No First Use Policy'** to take care of the dangerous trends in Zelenskiyy's policy.

President Putin's office has announced in Moscow that President Putin would be visiting India soon. This is probably an important effort by President Putin to move the world's leaders towards taking responsibility for avoiding a nuclear war.



*November 18, 2024: Rio de Janero, Brazil at G20: Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi,***

*With President **Joe Biden** and with **Cyril Ramaphosa**, the South African President.*

Washington is legally bound to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself. The U.S. has been aiding in the upgrading of Taiwan's equipment and training, even while US **official policy remains ambiguous** on whether American troops and those of regional allies would be dispatched to defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack.

---- The CHINESE ATTACKS on ATOLLS of PHILIPPINES ----

November 17, 2024: Lima, Peru: On the question of the South China Sea, **President Xi Jinping warned USA** that the US “should not get involved in bilateral disputes over the relevant islands”.

He slammed the policy of a “**small yard and high fence**”, a term employed by US national security advisor **Jake Sullivan** to describe American efforts to block China from accessing advanced technology.

November 9, 2024: Manila, Philippines: Manila has made major efforts to bring up its economy so that it is no longer dependent on other countries for essential goods like food items.

In 2023, Philippines has witnessed the highest rice harvest in the country this past year. It hit over 20 Mn tons — the highest yield since 1987!

However, this yield is only equivalent to 13 Mn tons of rice. It is still not enough for Manila’s needs of 16 Mn tons of rice.

Through modernized customs procedures and heightened enforcement efforts, more than 2.7 Bn pesos worth of smuggled agri-fisheries products have been seized, preventing them from entering the market and negatively influencing prices. The smuggled rice, which is caught, is distributed to the poor, through Government shops in **Local Government Units (LGUs)**.

These Government shops in LGUs are called the KADIWA Centers. Manila had built the LAWA and BINHI water reservoirs for protecting the farmers from the threat of drought. The Government is dredging the dams so that the dams can be used optimally.

EFFECTS of CHANGE in CLIMATE: The weather events are getting more extreme, such as torrential rains that instantly shift to scorching heat waves — or vice-versa. Philippines’ geographical location makes it highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Philippines has secured a seat on the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund. Further, the Philippines has also been selected as the host country for the fund.

This will require an enabling law from the Parliament of Philippines to confer the legal personality and capacity to the Board.



*November 18, 2024: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: G20 Summit.
President Joe Biden is in the 3rd row.*

---- A BACKGROUNDER on MILITARY EXERCISES by CHINA around TAIWAN ----
November 8, 2024: **Taipei, Taiwan**: Within 48 hours of the declaration of victory by the 45th President **Donald John Trump** at the presidential general election of November 5, 2024, China conducted military exercises around Taiwan, which have raised tensions in the region. These exercises are seen as a show of force by China. The Communist Part of China has been particularly against the assumption of power by **Lai Ching-te**, the President of Taiwan, whose party won a 3rd consecutive term. President **Lai Ching-te** belongs to Democratic Progressive Party, which wants an independent democratic country in the Island.

Lai Ching-te's Presidential Order for introducing one-year of compulsory military training for graduates, along with Taiwan's design and production facility for short-range rockets and missiles are considered as irritants for China's plans to annex Taiwan.

EXAMPLE: The small country of Israel, with most of the much larger neighboring countries of Iran and Arabia, refusing to recognize the existence

of Israel: This has enabled a small permanent **Israel's Defense Force** (IDF) to requisition a much larger force, whenever Israel has been attacked.

MILITARY DRILLS: China's **People's Liberation Army** (PLA) held two days of military drills around Taiwan. The drills used jet-fighters, submarines and landing vessels of PLA's Navy. These exercises were branded as "punishment" for what China perceives as separatist forces seeking independence.

China's exercises come on the heels of combined drills by U.S. and its Dutch NATO ally in the disputed South China Sea, a crucial waterway for global trade, fisheries and energy resources which China claims virtually in its entirety. China routinely objects to activities in the region by foreign military forces, it accuses of acting without mandate outside their home regions.

China has particularly pressed its claims against the Philippines. Philippines had taken the case to International Court of Justice at the Hague. Philippines won the case. But China refused to accept the judgement.

The Philippines Defense Secretary **Gilberto Teodoro** on Friday criticized Beijing's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea, without citing China by name. He was speaking at a military ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the Philippine navy.

The Philippines, he said, would not tolerate aggression and provocative moves.

Since territorial hostilities with China surged last year in the South China Sea, Philippine President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.**'s administration has taken steps to forge new security alliances with a number of Asian and Western countries and allowed a U.S. military presence in more Philippine bases under a 2014 defense pact. (Reference of <https://apnews.com/> dated November 9, 2024: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8acuxn>).

Within 48 hours of the declaration of victory by the 45th President Donald John Trump at the presidential general election of November 5, 2024, the **Republic of the Philippines'** President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** signed two laws on Friday, November 8, 2024, **reaffirming the extent of Philippine's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea**, angering China, which claims the hotly disputed waterway almost in its entirety.



November 8, 2024: Manila, **The Republic of Philippines**:

President **Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** signed into law two measures to reinforce the Philippines' entitlement and responsibility within its maritime zones.

(**Reference** of the website of the President, Philippines:

<https://tinyurl.com/r43bhwnd>)

The **Philippine Maritime Zones Act** and the **Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act**, which, he said, are "significant laws that emphasize the importance of our maritime and archipelagic identity."

"With these pieces of legislation, we align our domestic laws with international law, specifically the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, improve our capacity for governance, and reinforce our maritime policies for economic development and for national security," he said at the ceremonial signing in Malacañang.

The Philippine Maritime Zones Act: It declares the Philippines' maritime zones in accordance with the standards set by UNCLOS. It also seeks to designate the country's archipelagic sea lanes, which would create routes over the country's waters and airspace.

According to the President, the measure is vital in ensuring that the country's rights and duties are well-defined.

“Our people, especially our fisherfolk, should be able to pursue their livelihood free from uncertainty and harassment. We must be able to harness mineral and energy resources in our seabed” President Marcos said.

He stressed that asserting the country’s maritime zones also projects to the international community the Philippines’ commitment to nurturing, cultivating and protecting the country’s maritime domain.

The Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act: It establishes a system of archipelagic sea lanes and air routes, through which foreign vessels and aircraft shall exercise the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage. “The designated archipelagic sea lanes and air routes aim to facilitate safe passage for foreign ships and aircraft without compromising our national security nor diminishing our capacity for good environmental stewardship,” the President said.

The Chief Executive said the two laws will impact domestic laws and regulations at the national and local level. He hoped the measures would allow the country continue to defend its territory.

“It is my fervent hope that with the help of these two laws, we will continue to pursue and defend our maritime interests and navigate towards a brighter and stronger Bagong Pilipinas,” he said. | PND



MAP.1.1: China's Aggressive Military Drills around Taiwan

---- A Brief NOTE on CONTROL of FORMOSA ----

China claims Taiwan as its own, though the Chinese Communist Party government in Beijing has never ruled there. Japan was ruling over Taiwan, called Formosa, till July 9, 1945. After the 2nd Atomic Bomb destroyed Nagasaki, the 2nd city to be attacked with an atom bomb within 2 days. Emperor Hirohito (b.: 29 April 1901; d.: 7 January 1989) decided to surrender to the US Army and the Allies during WW II, even though the Japanese Cabinet and the Commanders of the Japanese Armed

Forces had advised against it. The Emperor had been reigning from 1926 and his order was not dis-obeyed.

During the 19th century CE, Formosa was the center of Netherland's trade with China and other countries in the region.

There was a struggle between the Netherlands and the Ming dynasty for control of Formosa. But the Qing dynasty made no efforts to assume control over Formosa.

Thus, Beijing has not controlled Formosa during the 18th and the 19th centuries CE.

---- A Brief NOTE on Beijing's Dis-like of Taiwan's new President ----

November 7, 2024: Thursday's military drills by **China**, around the Western coast of **Taiwan**, were accompanied by a tirade against the man that Beijing said had triggered it all: **William Lai**, Taiwan's new President.

The Global Times had already cast him as “arrogant” and “reckless”, and **China Central Television** (CCTV) wrote that William Lai "will certainly be nailed to the pillar of shame in history" and lambasted him for "selling the two-nation theory".

President Lai's alleged crime is that in his inauguration speech, in January 2024, he used the word China to describe China. Beijing says that in doing so Mr Lai revealed his true thinking that Taiwan is not China, and they are two different countries. It is, in their eyes, an admission of his “separatist” ideology.

To outsiders this may all sound absurd. But for decades Beijing and Taipei have obfuscated on their definitions of China, and whether Taiwan is part of it. Even former president Tsai was careful to refer to China in euphemistic terms like “the other side of the strait” or “the Beijing authorities”.



A Chinese warship navigates on waters near Pengjia Islet in northern Taiwan on 23 May, 2024

Some scholars in Taiwan will tell you such language is important, and that Mr Lai has crossed a dangerous line. Others say Beijing's loathing for him was already set in stone and his speech has merely offered a rhetorical justification for the latest round of intimidation.

Most agree it doesn't change the basic fact that Xi Jinping wants China to control Taiwan, and the people of Taiwan emphatically do not.

This is the new normal.

But no-one in Taiwan is particularly surprised. To them, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is rather predictable. When Mr Lai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won a third consecutive presidential election here in early January, many wondered how and when Beijing would respond.

The obvious assumption was that it would be after Mr Lai's term was inaugurated with his first presidential address. So here we are, four days after President Lai's inauguration, and Beijing has issued a response.

The main clue that none of this is spontaneous is in the preparation. No military, not even the PLA can mobilise a drill on this scale in a matter of days.

Also worth noting is that so far China has repeatedly crossed the median line - an unofficial border that is about 50 nautical miles out from both sides' shores. But it is yet to ever cross the contiguous zone, about 24 miles from Taiwan's shore. That would be seen as a major escalation. And it suggests that despite the aggressive rhetoric, Beijing is still being cautious.

On the streets of Taipei the response to the drills has been a collective shrug. Many will tell you they are not worried. But that is not quite true. Living next to China is like living in an earthquake zone. The threat is always there and the drills are getting bigger and more dangerous, so you need to be prepared for it. But you also need to get on with your life.

Despite rancorous relations between Taiwan's ruling DPP and the opposition – they have been brawling in parliament – the Chinese drills have brought all the parties together. The opposition KMT, which is traditionally seen as being pro-China, has called for Beijing to show restraint. This is not the time when they want to be seen as being friendly to Beijing.

There is a strange irony here - one that shows how little China's communist leaders understand Taiwan and its people. China has declared that the military operations are focused solely on “detering and defeating independence forces”.

Every time China turns up the military intimidation, support for the DPP tends to rise, and that for the “China-friendly” KMT falls. A more recent case in point: months of military incursions in the lead-up to January's election put Mr Lai in the top job. If the aim is to frighten the people of Taiwan into turning away from parties and leaders who challenge Beijing, so far it seems to be having the opposite effect.

These developments highlight the ongoing tensions between China and Taiwan, and the situation remains closely monitored by the international community.



March 29, 2023: 2nd Summit for Democracy (virtual)

Please read “Elections in Taiwan: Scare by a Chinese Satellite” dated January 9, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/elections-in-taiwan-scare-by-a-chinese-satellite/> .

Please read “Biden saving Taiwan; China trying to take over Myanmar” dated November 16, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/biden-saving-taiwan-china-trying-to-take-over-myanmar/> .

Please read “One China Policy: “Promote a Unified Stance among Democracies” dated November 12, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/one-china-policy-unified-stance-among-democracies/> .

---- A Brief Note on UNSC RESOLUTIONS on TERRORISM ----

(Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISIL_\(Da%27esh\)_and_Al-Qaida_Sanctions_Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISIL_(Da%27esh)_and_Al-Qaida_Sanctions_Committee))

The **ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee** (IA-QSC): On 15 October 1999, UNSC designated al-Qaeda and the Taliban as terrorist organizations by its Resolution # 1267 and set up IA-QSC. When a separate **Taliban Sanctions Committee** was set up on 17 June 2011, IA-QSC was renamed the **Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee**. The scope of the **Sanctions** regime was expanded to include the Islamic State on 17 December 2015 pursuant to Resolution 2253.

Since 2021, **Vanessa Frazier** (b.: 24 May 1969) has been Malta’s Permanent Representative to the UN.

She has been appointed as the Chairperson of the IA-QSC.

---- A Brief Note on MALTA, a CITY-STATE in the MEDITERRANEAN ----
(Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malta>)

The Republic of Malta is an island country in Southern Europe located in the Mediterranean Sea. It consists of an archipelago 80 Km South of **Italy**, 284 Km East of **Tunisia**, and 333 Km North of **Libya**.

The Republic of Malta

- Population: 542,000.
- Area: 316 Km².
- GDP (2024 Estimate): \$22.737 Bn (118th)
- GDP/ capita: \$41,738 (25th)

Malta is the world's 10th-smallest country by area and the 9th most densely populated.

- The two Official Languages: Maltese and English.
- The Capital: Valletta.

Valletta is the smallest capital city in the EU by both area and population.



Location of MALTA, Southern Europe, in the Mediterranean Sea. Demographic groups (2021): 89.1% European, Catholic; 5.2% Asian; 1.5% African; 1.3% Arab; 1.2% Hispanic / Latino;



MAP.2. Malta consists of an archipelago 80 Km South of Italy, 284 Km East of Tunisia, and 333 Km North of Libya. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Malta>



MAP.3. **The Republic of Malta**; The capital **Valletta** is in the South-Eastern part of the bigger island.

---- A Brief Note on the new POLITICAL PARTY of GERMANY – BSW ----
 (Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahra_Wagenknecht_Alliance)

The **Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance – Reason and Justice** (in German: “*Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht – Vernunft und Gerechtigkeit*”: in abbreviation “*BSW*”) is a political party in Germany founded on 8 January 2024.

It has been described as **left-wing populist**, left-wing nationalist, socialist, **culturally conservative, socially conservative** and **Eurosceptic**.

The party is **sceptical of green politics** and has been described as **Russophilic**, due to its support for Ukraine in the Russo-Ukrainian War.



Sahra Wagenknecht (b. 16 July 1969)

Leader of Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht from 8 January 2024

Leader of Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht in the Bundestag from 11 December 2023

Leader of the Opposition from 12 October 2015 to 24 October 2017

Leader of The Left in the Bundestag from 12 October 2015 to 12 November 2019

The party originated as a split from **the Left** (in German: “*Die Linke*”). In September 2023, **Sahra Wagenknecht, Amira Mohamed Ali, Christian Leye, Lukas Schön**, and several other long time Left party members announced their intention to form a new party. It was subsequently joined by others including former Left party leader **Klaus Ernst, Fabio De Masi, and Thomas Geisel**, the *former Mayor of Düsseldorf*. The Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance was officially founded in January with Wagenknecht and Mohamed Ali as its leaders.

The BSW contested its first elections in May. In June, 2024 the party won 6.1% of votes nationally in the European Parliament elections. In September, 2024 it won between 11% and 16% in three Eastern State elections in **Saxony, Thuringia, and Brandenburg**.