

## China-Taiwan-U.S. Relations

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### General Directions:

Your group has been assigned one element of China-Taiwan-U.S. relations. In your group, read the background below and then answer the questions on your handout. Once your group has completed the handout, you will be split up into new groups. Your new groups will design a poster that conveys your understanding of the Taiwan Strait conflict. Each of you will need to be prepared to share the findings of your first group with your second group, so that you can design and create an effective poster together.

### Poster Directions:

In your new group, design a poster that conveys your knowledge of the Taiwan Strait conflict from each side: China, Taiwan, and the United States. A person looking at your poster should be able to understand the conflict, though you should minimize the number of words you use. Design, symbols, colors, and shapes can be used to convey your message. Be sure to consider whether your group has a point of view on the conflict and whether you wish to convey that or try to be as neutral as possible.

### Background on the Conflict:

The conflict across the Taiwan Strait has a long history. Today, mainland China seeks to exert its regional influence, to celebrate its heritage, and to provide a counterweight to U.S. leadership in East Asia. Communist China sees Taiwan (also called the Republic of China) as rightfully part of China, and seeks to bring the island back under mainland Chinese control. Before Japan took over Taiwan in 1895, the island was loosely controlled by the Manchu dynasty for centuries. When the end of World War II forced Japan to relinquish its occupation of Chinese territory, the question of who would permanently control Taiwan became important. Following the Chinese civil war in 1949, two million Nationalist Party refugees escaped to Taiwan, declaring Taipei as the new capital of China.

The communist government of mainland China has never recognized the government of Taiwan as legitimate. For its part, the government of Taiwan, a free-market democracy, does not wish to be controlled by communist China. U.S. support for Taiwan has complicated the issue. Continued U.S. arms shipments to Taiwan, as mandated under the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, coupled with U.S. assertions of support for the "One China Policy" can be difficult for Chinese and Taiwanese officials to interpret. Misunderstandings between China and the United States have flared to dangerous levels in the past.

The conflict between China and Taiwan is unlike most other regional conflicts in the world, such as Israel/Palestine, Northern Ireland, or Cyprus. The people of China and Taiwan share a common written language, they are ethnically the same, and there are no major religious differences separating the two populations. One hundred miles of water separate Taiwan and China. The two populations are not living close enough to each other so that neighborhood tensions become violent, as is often the case in other regional conflicts. Neither population is subject to oppression from the other. Culturally the two populations are very similar. Trade between the island and the mainland is high; the two benefit each other economically. The only major difference between the two is political. China would like political control of the island, while Taiwan wants to preserve its sovereignty.

## Group One: Policy Statements

### Taiwan Relations Act, 1979 Enacted by U.S. Congress

It is the policy of the United States

(1) to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland and all other peoples of the Western Pacific area;

(2) to declare that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern;

(3) to make clear that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means;

(4) to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States;

(5) to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character; and

(6) to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan.

### Constitution of Taiwan Article 141

The foreign policy of the Republic of China shall, in a spirit of independence and initiative and on the basis of the principles of equality and reciprocity, cultivate good-neighborliness with other nations, and respect treaties and the interests of Chinese citizens residing abroad, promote international cooperation, advance international justice and ensure world peace.

### Anti-Secession Law, 2005 Chinese Government

*Article 2.* There is only one China in the world. Both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China. China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. Safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included. Taiwan is part of China. The state shall never allow the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces to make Taiwan secede from China under any name or by any means.

*Article 8.* In the event that the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces should act under any name or by any means to cause the fact of Taiwan's secession from China, or that major incidents entailing Taiwan's secession from China should occur, or that possibilities for a peaceful re-unification should be completely exhausted, the state shall employ non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### Questions:

1. What kinds of documents are these?
2. From whose perspective are the different documents written?
3. What are the most important sentences or phrases in each document? Highlight or underline them.
4. How do these documents explain the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait?
5. How do the documents explain current U.S.-China relations?

## Group Two: News Report on U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations

### U.S. Arms for Taiwan Send Beijing a Message

February 1, 2010 in *The New York Times*

By HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON — For the past year, China has adopted an increasingly muscular position toward the United States, berating American officials for the global economic crisis, stage-managing President Obama's visit to China in November, refusing to back a tougher climate change agreement in Copenhagen and standing fast against American demands for tough new Security Council sanctions against Iran.

Now, the Obama administration has started to push back. In announcing an arms sales package to Taiwan worth \$6 billion on Friday, the United States leveled a direct strike at the heart of the most sensitive diplomatic issue between the two countries since America affirmed the "one China" policy in 1972.

The arms package was doubly infuriating to Beijing coming so soon after the Bush administration announced a similar arms package for Taiwan in 2008, and right as tensions were easing somewhat in Beijing and Taipei's own relations. China's immediate, and outraged, reaction — cancellation of some military exchanges and announcement of punitive sanctions against American companies — demonstrates, China experts said, that Beijing is feeling a little burned, particularly because the Taiwan arms announcement came on the same day that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton publicly berated China for not taking a stronger position on holding Iran accountable for its nuclear program.

While administration officials sounded a uniform public note, cautioning Beijing not to allow this latest tiff to damage overall relations, some administration officials suggested privately that the timing of the arms sales and the tougher language on Iran was calculated to send a message to Beijing to avoid

assumptions that President Obama would be deferential to China over American security concerns and existing agreements.

"This was a case of making sure that there was no misunderstanding that we will act in our own national security interests," one senior administration official said. A second Obama administration official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said pointedly: "Unlike the previous administration, we did not wait until the end of our administration to go ahead with the arms sales to Taiwan. We did it early."

But larger questions remain about where the Obama administration is heading on China policy, and whether the new toughness signals a fundamentally new direction and will yield results that last year's softer approach did not.

Beyond the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, management of the American relationship with China is one of Mr. Obama's biggest foreign policy challenges. Flush with cash, China's economy is growing mightily, and China has become one of the biggest foreign lenders to the United States. China also is an increasingly critical American trading partner and a global rival in influence and economic power.

"The president's view is that obviously we have to have a mature enough relationship with China that we can be candid and firm where we disagree and cooperate forcefully when we agree," a senior administration official said. He insisted that the timing of the arms package and Mrs. Clinton's tough words were "not designed to send a gratuitous message to China, but to demonstrate the firmness of our position."

China has a history of getting off to a tough start with American administrations. President Bill Clinton alienated Beijing with tough talk on human rights, even signing an executive order that made renewal of trade privileges for China dependent on progress on human

rights. But Mr. Clinton reversed himself in 1994, saying that the United States and China would move forward faster on issues of mutual concern if Beijing was not isolated.

Similarly, President George W. Bush's first dealings with the Chinese were also fractious, including an effort to recover American airmen whose spy plane was forced down off the Chinese coast.

"The Obama administration came in exactly the opposite," said Steven Clemons, director of foreign policy programs at the New America Foundation. "They needed China on economic issues, climate change, Iran, North Korea. So they came in wanting to do this lovely dance with China, but that didn't work."

Instead, China pushed back hard, including at the Copenhagen climate change summit meeting in December, when Beijing balked at American and European demands that China agree to an international monitoring system for emissions targets. Twice, the Chinese prime minister, Wen Jiabao, sent an underling to represent him at meetings with Mr. Obama, in what diplomats said was an intentional snub. Mr. Obama later had to track down Mr. Wen, surprising him and appearing at the doorway of a conference room where Mr. Wen was meeting with the leaders of South Africa, Brazil and India.

The United States and China eventually reached a compromise on the monitoring agreement, but the whole incident left a bad taste in the mouths of many Obama administration officials, who believed China had deliberately set out to belittle Mr. Obama, and who were determined to push back and reassert American authority.

"The Chinese," said James J. Shinn, who was assistant secretary of defense for Asia during the Bush administration, "now seem to have a palpable sense of confidence that they're more in the driver's seat than two years ago, across a whole range of issues."

For Mr. Obama, the arms sale to Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province, may be only the first of many instances this

year in which he will run afoul of Beijing.

Some foreign policy experts said that the administration now seemed intent on poking at the sovereignty issues that have long been China's Achilles' heel. Mrs. Clinton noted on Friday that Mr. Obama would soon be meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama — a meeting that White House officials put off last summer to avoid alienating Beijing in advance of Mr. Obama's China trip. China regards the Dalai Lama as an advocate of Tibetan independence.

"China is feeling very confident these days, but the one thing that the Chinese freak out about consistently are sovereignty issues," said Mr. Clemons of the New America Foundation. "So anything related to Taiwan or Tibet will get them going."

Added to that, the administration has been championing Internet freedom recently, another source of public tension with Beijing. China's government is embroiled in a fight with Google over that company's complaints about Internet censorship and hacking attacks it says originated in China.

But the tougher American positions do not change the fact that Mr. Obama needs Chinese cooperation on a host of issues. Beyond his efforts to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions, the president is also working with Beijing on similar ambitions in North Korea.

And Mr. Obama announced in his State of the Union address last week that he planned to double American exports in the next five years, an ambitious goal that cannot be met unless he somehow persuades China to let its currency appreciate, making Chinese products more expensive in the United States and American products more affordable in China.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. What kind of source is this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. From whose perspective is the source written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When was this written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are the most important sentences or phrases in the source? Highlight or underline them.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does the source explain the current situation in Taiwan?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does the source explain current U.S.-China relations?

## Group Three: Statistics

### China and Taiwan at a Glance

	China	Taiwan
population	1.3 billion	23.2 million
largest ethnic group	Han (91.5%)	Han (98%)
major religions	Daoism, Buddhism	Daoism, Buddhism
major languages	Mandarin Cantonese	Mandarin, Taiwanese
literacy rate	92.2%	96.1%
GDP per capita	\$8,500	\$38,200
internet users	389 million	16.1 million
military expenditures per GDP	4.3%	2.2%
government	authoritarian state	multiparty democracy

Data from 2012 CIA Factbook and State Department Background Notes.

### Cross-Strait Trade in Millions of U.S. Dollars

	Exports from China to Taiwan	Exports from Taiwan to China	Total
1994	1,858.7	131.6	1,990.3
1996	3,059.9	623.4	3,683.2
1998	4,113.9	914.9	5,028.8
2000	6,229.3	4,391.5	10,620.8
2002	7,968.8	10,526.9	18,495.5
2004	16,792.3	36,349.4	53,141.6
2006	24,783.1	51,808.6	76,591.6
2008	31,391.3	66,883.5	98,274.8
2010	35,946.0	76,935.1	112,881.9

Data from Cross Strait Economic Statistics Monthly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions:

1. What kind of information can you get from these charts?

2. What are the most important pieces of information in the charts? What makes them important?

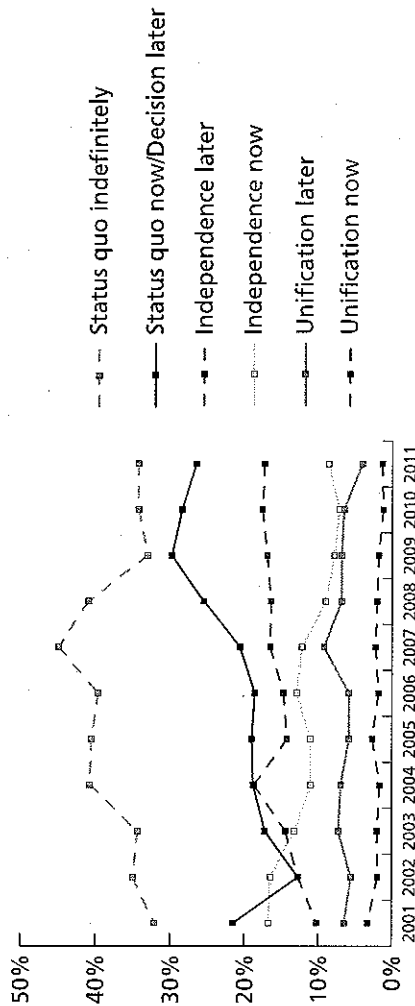
3. How do the charts explain the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait?

4. How do the charts explain current U.S.-China relations?

### Unification or Independence?

The Taiwanese government periodically asks people's opinions about whether to become independent or join China, and whether to do that soon or later. Respondents are adult Taiwanese between the ages of 20-69.

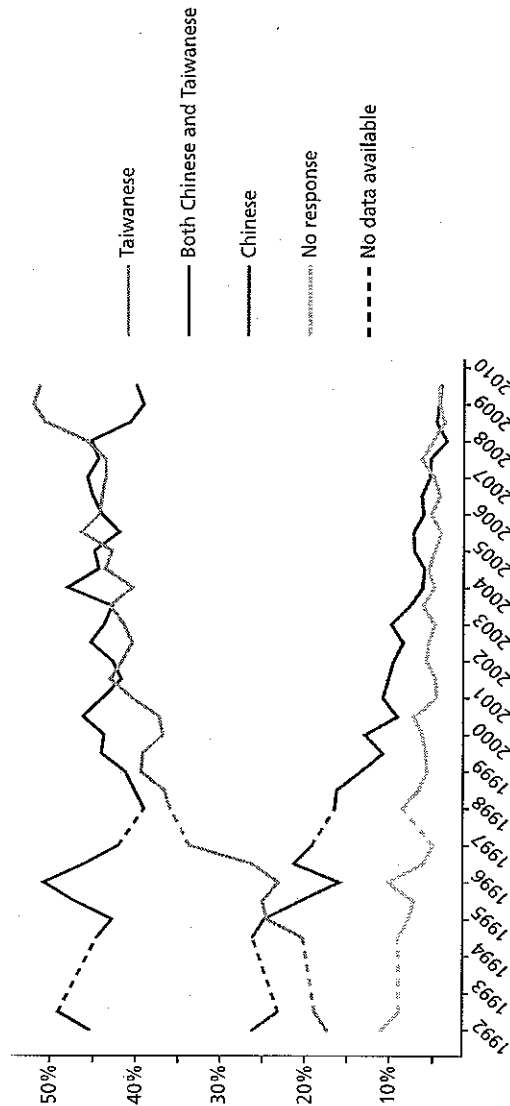
Data from Mainland Affairs Council, Taiwan.



### Chinese or Taiwanese?

Every year a university in Taiwan conducts a survey asking respondents from the island whether they identify as Chinese, Taiwanese, or both.

Data from the Election Study Center, N.C.C.U.



## Group Four: Timeline

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### pre-1600s

*Taiwan is settled by Malay and Polynesian groups.*

### 1624-1662

*The Dutch East India Company occupies the island. It imports laborers from China to work in sugar and rice fields as temporary, migrant workers. Many laborers eventually settle in Taiwan.*

### 1663

*The Manchu Dynasty from China takes nominal control of the island. Clashes between Chinese officials and island inhabitants occur frequently.*

### 1887

*Manchu rulers declare Taiwan a province of China.*

### 1895

*Japan takes control of Taiwan as a result of war between China and Japan.*

### 1945

*Japan is forced to give up control of Taiwan at the conclusion of World War II. According to the peace treaty ending World War II, "...the future status of Taiwan will be decided in accord with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations." Chiang Kai-Shek and the Kuomintang (KMT, or Nationalists) are given temporary control of Taiwan.*

### 1947

**February 28**

*As many as 28,000 Taiwanese inhabitants, calling for democracy, are massacred by corrupt KMT forces.*

### 1949

*People's Republic of China is declared on the mainland after Mao's communist forces declare victory over the KMT. Two million KMT refugees flee to Taiwan, and the KMT establishes martial law on Taiwan.*

### 1950

*U.S. begins supporting Taiwan during Korean War.*

### 1954

*Violence erupts in the Taiwan Strait: First Taiwan Strait crisis. The United States and Taiwan sign a mutual defense treaty.*

### 1958

*Second Taiwan Strait crisis. China bombs islands near Taiwan; United States send a naval contingent to the area.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**October 23**

*U.S. and Taiwan officials sign a joint communiqué that reaffirms U.S.-Taiwan friendship.*

**1971**

*U.S. ping pong team is invited to visit China. The visit, and the Chinese team's visit to the United States the following year, marks the beginning of warming relations between China and the United States.*

**1972**

*President Nixon visits China. The Shanghai Communiqué between China and the United States is issued.*

**1979**

**January 1**

*United States and China normalize relations and issue second joint communiqué.*

**April 10**

*U.S. Congress passes Taiwan Relations Act.*

**1982**

**August 17**

*U.S. and China issue third joint communiqué.*

**1996**

*Third Taiwan Strait crisis occurs after U.S. government allows Taiwanese president to visit the United States. China begins military testing in the strait, threatening Taiwan and the United States.*

**2000**

**March 18**

*Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Chen Shui-bian wins Taiwan presidency. The DPP more actively supports independence for Taiwan than the KMT.*

**2001**

*Chinese military exercise simulates attack on Taiwan.*

**2004**

**March 24**

*Chen Shui-bian narrowly wins reelection in Taiwan.*

**2005**

**March**

*China passes "anti-secession law" indicating that China will use force if necessary to prevent Taiwan from becoming independent.*

**2008**

May 20

*Ma Ying-jeou, chairman of the KMT, is sworn in as president of Taiwan.*

**2009**

*For the first time in seventeen years, Taiwan does not apply for UN membership.*

**2012**

*Ma Ying-jeou is reelected as president of Taiwan. Xi Jinping becomes the leader of China.*

**Questions:**

1. What kind of information can you get from the timeline?
2. What are the most important pieces of information in the timeline? Highlight the important events.  
What makes them important?
3. How does the timeline explain the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait?
4. How does the timeline explain current U.S.-China relations?
5. How can you determine if a timeline is neutral or has a bias?

## Group Five: Leaders' Statements

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### From the Chinese Perspective

**“Taiwan is part of China. It has been part of China since ancient times, and it’s just because of some of the separatist attempts of certain people on Taiwan and the interference from foreign forces that Taiwan is still separated from the motherland. I think that people can understand that when a country is divided its people will like to see the country reunite, especially in the case of China, which has suffered so much in the past.”**

—Yang Jeichi, Chinese Ambassador to the United States, 2001

**“Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory, and we maintain consistently that under the basis of the one China principle, we are committed to safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and to the promotion of the improvement and development of cross-strait relations.... We will by no means allow Taiwan independence.”**

—Hu Jintao, Chinese President, 2006

### From the Taiwanese Perspective

**“I believe that Taiwan’s security rests on three legs. The first is the use of cross-strait rapprochement [renewed relations] to realize peace in the Taiwan Strait. The second is the use of viable diplomacy to establish more breathing space for ourselves in the international community. And the third is the use of military strength to deter external threats. We must regard each as equally important and develop them in a balanced manner. The first leg, as I mentioned, is cross-strait rapprochement to realize peace in the Taiwan Strait. Over the past four years, this government has resumed institutionalized cross-strait negotiations, signed 16 bilateral agreements and made cross-strait rapprochement a reality.... In the next four years, the two sides of the strait have to open up new areas of cooperation and continue working to consolidate peace, expand prosperity and deepen mutual trust. We also hope that civic groups on both sides of the Taiwan Strait will have more opportunities for exchanges and dialogue focusing on such areas as democracy, human rights, rule of law and civil society, to create an environment more conducive to peaceful cross-strait development.... In the area of weapons procurement from overseas, the United States has approved three arms sales to Taiwan since I took office, in aggregate totaling US\$18.3 billion, and exceeding all previous such sales in terms of quality and amount. This provides us with an appropriate defensive force in the future that will give the government and public greater confidence and willingness to pursue continued stable and solid development of the cross-strait relationship....”**

—Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, May 20, 2012

### From the U.S. Perspective

**“We also [applaud] the steps that the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan have already taken to relax tensions and build ties across the Taiwan Strait. Our own policy, based on the three U.S.-China communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act, supports the further development of these ties—ties that are in the interest of both sides, as well as the broader region and the United States.”**

—President Barack Obama, November 17, 2009

***“For more than thirty years, the United States’ ‘one China’ policy based on the three U.S.–China Joint Communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act has guided our relations with Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China. We do not support Taiwan independence. We are opposed to unilateral attempts by either side to change the status quo. We insist that cross-Strait differences be resolved peacefully and according to the wishes of the people on both sides of the Strait. We also welcome active efforts on both sides to engage in a dialogue that reduces tensions and increases contacts of all kinds across the Strait.”***

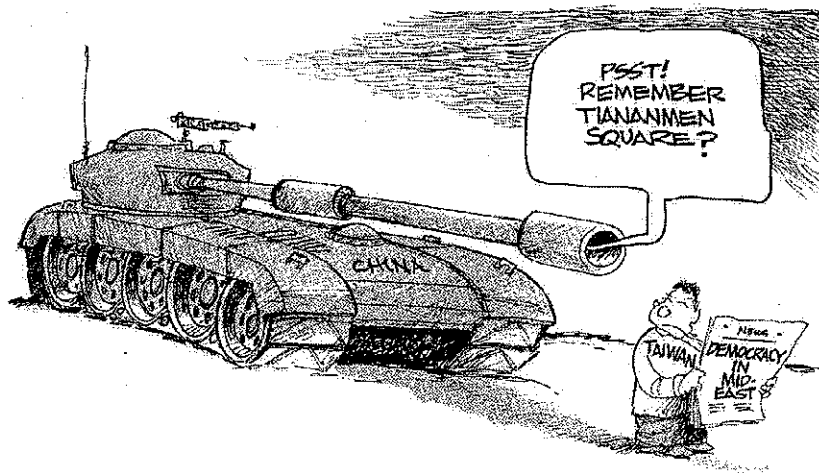
—Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David B. Shear, Bureau of East Asian Affairs, March 18, 2010

### Questions:

1. What kinds of sources are these?
2. What are the most important sentences or phrases in the sources? Highlight or underline them.  
What makes them important?
3. How do the sources explain the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait?
4. How do the sources explain current U.S.-China relations?

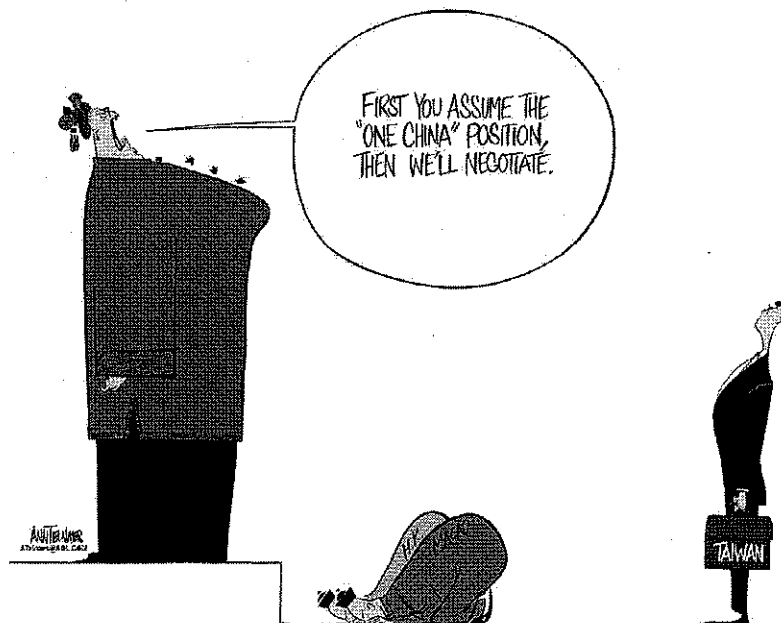
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## Group Six: Political Cartoons

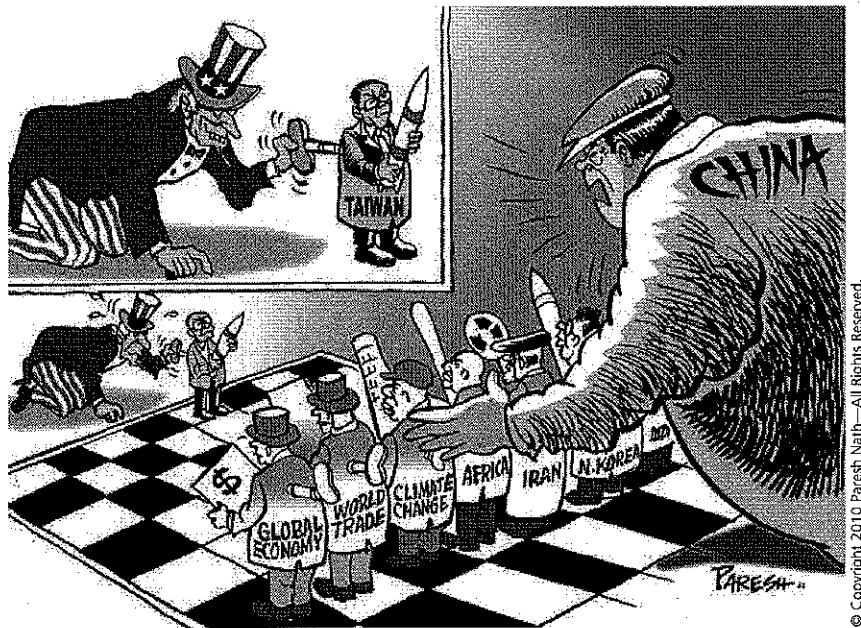


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CANNES 2005 THE ORANGE OUTLINE



Ann Telnaes Editorial Cartoon copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Used with the permission of Ann Telnaes and the Cartoonist Group.



### Questions:

1. What kinds of sources are these?
2. Which perspectives do the cartoons represent?
3. How do the cartoons explain the current tensions in the Taiwan Strait?
4. How do the cartoons explain current U.S.-China relations?