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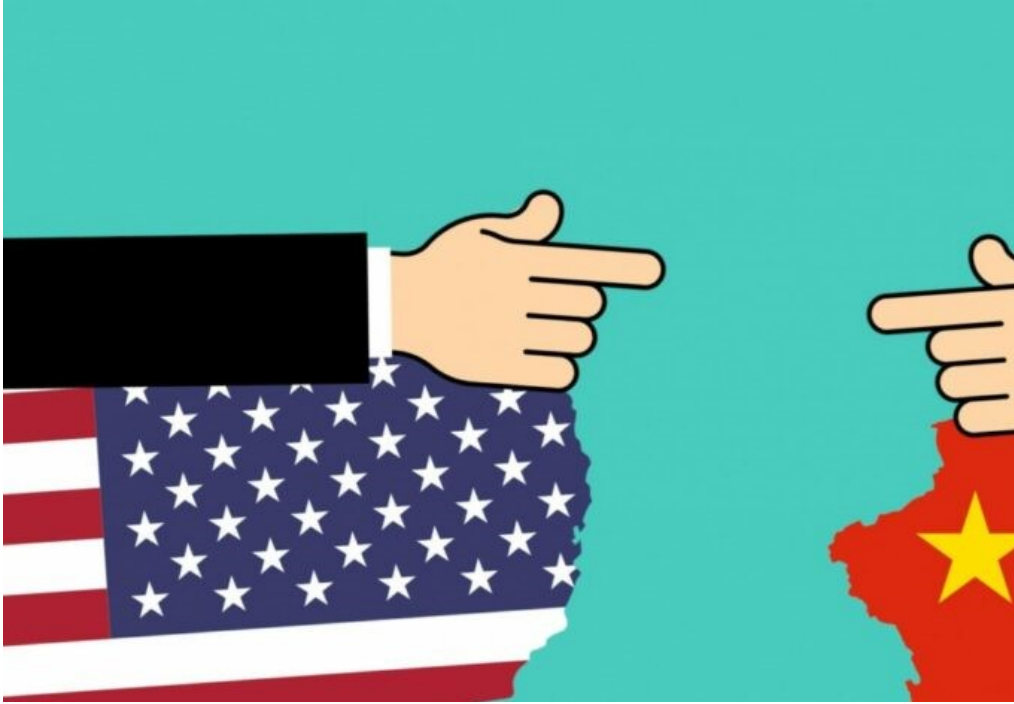
زبانهای اروپایی

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Interview with China expert Dirk Nimmegeers

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## War fever: Taiwan after Ukraine?



Sources: De

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Translated from English for Rebellion by Dilara Kabak

*In late January, a top U.S. general declared that war could break out in Taiwan within two years. Will we soon find ourselves with a second flashpoint in Asia after Ukraine? We asked China expert Dirk Nimmegeers.*

**For Understand exactly what is happening, it is important to have note Taiwan's special status. Can you explain a little bit? this status?**

Taiwan It has its own government and parliament, but it is not essentially a Sovereign or independent state because it is part of China. Almost all the States of the world, including the United States, Recognize. Taiwan, for example, has no seat at the UN.

Alone there is a China with a government based in Beijing. The political entity Taiwanese was established in 1949 by the losing side of the war Chinese civilian, after being expelled from the rest of the country by the Party Communist of China.

Legally the island has been part of China for centuries, just like Flanders it is part of Belgium or Friesland of the Netherlands. You can consider Taiwan a bit like a rebellious province.

**¿Which one is China's relationship with this "rebellious province"?**

The China's policy has been invariable for years: Taiwan must Peacefully reunite with the rest of the country. Beijing wants economic ties between The continent and the island province are once again as strong as They used to be until recently. It is also good if there are more contacts social and cultural.

Without However, Beijing has always warned – and does so whenever it is causes in excess- that any declaration of independence Taiwanese or serious step towards it would provoke a military response. In essence, the "Taiwan question" is an internal matter, which the Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait will settle between yes.

**¿Cómo se ve este asunto desde Taiwán?**

En Taiwán hay dos partidos principales. Actualmente está en el poder el Partido Progresista Democrático (PPD). Este partido está impulsando el separatismo. La postura del PPD y de su actual líder, Tsai Ing-wen, es que Taiwán ya es independiente, y que China y Taiwán no deben estar unidos.



This contrasts with Taiwan's other major political party, the Kwomintang (KMT). This party still follows the "one China" constitution which assumed that a Taiwanese government would succeed in recovering all Chinese territory. Of course, even the KMT already knows that it is a utopia and the party drafted the "1992 Consensus" on that basis. It states that there is only one China, but it is interpreted differently on both sides of the Strait. For Beijing and the KMT, this remains a good basis for mutual contacts and negotiations. The separatists of the PDP have always refused to recognize this consensus.

**¿And What is the position of the United States on this?**

Traditionally The United States has defended the view that Taiwan is part of the China and that there is only one China, whose capital is Beijing. In his last meeting with Xi at the G20 in Bali in November 2022, Biden He reiterated it. In In 1982, the United States promised to phase out the sale of arms to Taiwan (1).

The U.S. president also stated then that he and his The government remains in favour of the status quo, i.e. the situation in which Taiwan does not declare independence, but Continue to operate autonomously. The United States would intervene militarily if any of the parties involved change this status. quo unilaterally and by force.

### ¿Like this that the United States clings to the status quo?

The occurred in the months before and after the conversation of Bali raises serious doubts about the sincerity of the statements of Biden. Rather, it seems that Washington is encouraging the Taiwan's most reckless separatist and militarist politicians.

Is as if the United States wanted to fulfill its own prediction that war with China is inevitable. It seems that the leaders of Washington is preparing for that conflict and recruiting or pressuring his allies to join him.

### ¿Can be more concrete?

In First, there is the overall strategy. Washington would never spend high sums in armament. Annually the Congress will allocate 858,000 of millions of dollars to the military. This is 45,000 millions of dollars additional to what Biden had asked for and is equal to the spending of the nine countries that follow it together.

In this arms race Russia and China are especially in the spotlight. I'm not saying it, Washington is very clear about that. Two US strategic documents support this and Washington explains how it intends to deal with it. In the *National Security Strategy* (2022) and the *Nuclear Posture Review* (2022) they even state in bellicose language that the United States has the right to use a nuclear bomb in order to "deter strategic attacks," that is, not just nuclear attacks!

The Indian commentator [Vijay Prashad](#) notes: "This, coupled with Washington's refusal to adopt a strategy of not being the first to act, together with modernization by Washington from its nuclear arsenal and the withdrawal of Washington *Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles*, has led many countries – certainly China and Russia – to fear that U.S. Place Missiles Nearby and arm them with nuclear warheads."



The points are

military bases. Arrows are missiles of intended range

Around China, more specifically in the Indo-Pacific, the United States is expanding its fleet. Pacts such as [AUKUS](#), the military treaty between the United States, Britain and Australia, also increase military bidding in the region. It is also the case [with British military cooperation with Japan](#), a country that, like Germany, is doubling its military spending at the behest of the United States and NATO.

Washington it now has agreements with Australia to move nuclear weapons with B-52 and B-1 bombers to Australia. Spending on the so-called Initiative Pacific Deterrence to Increase by 11.500 Billion Dollars.

Of New is very clear: Washington does not deny that all this is aimed at mainly against China.

This Military strategy goes hand in hand with economic warfare. Recently Biden started a real chip war against China. What the United States tries by all means with broad export restrictions is blocking economic development, China's technological and military.

**That It is the overall strategy. What role does Taiwan play in everything? this?**

It could argue that the United States has given Taiwan the role of a kind of military base. Washington seems determined to use Taiwan against China as Ukraine uses against Russia, however great they may be The differences between the war that is already underway and the one that is already underway He seems to be preparing.



Photo: Taipei (Mao Mao, Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 2.0)

One Once again, American presidents have reneged on their promises to reduce and stop arming Taiwan. However, the Biden administration It goes over the line. He has been able to convince the current Island leaders to use massive arms purchases to increase the profits of arms manufacturers American.

According to Under the new military budget, Taiwan will receive 10,000 millions of additional dollars in military aid. This is They will add another 6,500 million dollars under a new law called *Taiwan Policy Act*.

The White House wants to invest in war games, military exercises on a large scale, and a permanent and rotating military presence of United States. House of Representatives asks Navy U.S. to invite Taiwanese Navy to maneuvers military Rim of the Pacific 2024.



Photo: US Navy destroyer (US Navy, Flickr/CC BY 2.0)

The January 7, another [U.S. Navy destroyer](#) crossed the Taiwan Strait, the first transit of this type reported by the U.S. Navy United this year. As always, Washington claims that it is a operation of 'freedom of navigation', while China obviously does not obstruct commercial navigation nor does it have intention to shoot himself in the foot with it.

In The newly elected U.S. Congress is preparing new provocative and illegal "official visits" to Taipei (the self-proclaimed "government" of Taiwan), after the [example by Nancy Pelosi](#).

### ¿How The government of Taiwan responds?

The Separatist party in power applauds these actions and calls for Constantly even more weapons. Taipei expands service military from four months to a year and does everything possible to convince the population that there is a military threat from of China.

Even There are plans to teach nursery school children to distinguish the Sound of artillery shells.

Taipei joins the bid also on the economic front. Large companies as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) look forced to set up factories in the United States in an attempt to cut off the obvious and beneficial cooperation between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

**You place warmongering on the side of the United States, but most people here have the opposite impression and assume that China is the aggressor.**

I I also fear it. Politicians, commentators, academics and media of Communication do everything possible every day to convince the The population of the United States and its allies that China is the one who is It shows increasingly aggressive and constitutes a threat to its neighbors and peace.

By For example, the *Center for Strategic and International Studies* conducted a study based on a [simulation](#) of a possible "invasion" by the People's Liberation Army Taiwanese Chinese in 2026 to find that it would cause large losses for the parties involved: mainland China, the island of Taiwan and the United States, with Japan as an ally.

To early January the well-known American magazine *Foreign Policy* published a special issue with twelve articles by former directors of the CIA, US military commanders, a former secretary general of NATO, a Trump administration minister and *think representatives tanks*. They see the victory of Ukraine in the war initiated by Russia close and They propose to draw from it what they call lessons. For some the lesson is to deter

China by arming Taiwan much more. Other They think undeterred about the best way to wage war against China "in defense of Taiwan."

Ago Not long enough, a senior American general claimed that a war for Taiwan could explode [in a period of two years](#).

Recalling Biden's words on "undermining the status quo" and its "unilateral and violent change", it seems clear that It is precisely the United States that is to blame for this, with contacts and visits that serve Taiwan's leaders as if they were official representatives of an independent State, armed Large scale and war propaganda.

**Yes but surely one cannot ignore the fact that China deploys regularly military forces in the region; This is how it happened, by example, shortly after the visit of the President of Parliament American, Pelosi, to Taiwan.**

How I have already said, China wants peaceful reunification. But also It wants the commitments of the past to be respected. Every time The United States and Taiwan take another step in their tactics of salami to move towards Taiwan independence without declaring Also this independence with a resounding declaration, the government Chinese defends itself from provocation with symbolic [exercises](#) to show that it does not want to give up the option military.

During Those exercises The Chinese Air Force also crosses the limit of the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) declared by Taiwan. Of course, China does not recognize that identification zone. air defence, as it can only be established by one State acknowledged. The imaginary border gaps did not exist until recently because China wanted to show its goodwill.

Even thus, as Washington and Taipei intensify their preparations In the face of war, Beijing will try by all means *not* to fall into the trap of an arms race. However, China it will never give up the aspiration to reunify Taiwan with the homeland and is doing everything possible to make this happen in a way Nonviolent on the road to the model of "one country with two systems".

For However, Beijing wants to resume the favourable development of the Economic relations, investment and trade between the mainland and the island, as well as contacts between family members and other people. A peaceful evolution that was interrupted by the electoral victories of the separatist PPD, which quickly erected an ally of the Trump and Biden administrations with his new aggressive course.



### **By Finally, do you think a war could come to Taiwan?**

No I am a seer, but we should avoid such a war at all costs. The Ukraine war, terrible as it is, will be child's play compared to what can be expected in a war for Taiwan.

Do Everything possible to keep a cool head and not be influenced by the war fever that is currently raging in much of the ruling class of the United States and Europe. The pacifist movement He has a lot of work to do here.

#### **Note:**

(1) In the [Third Communiqué](#) of Understanding between the United States and China, dated 17-8-1982, paragraph 5 states that "the United States does not pursue a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan and that US arms sales will not exceed, either qualitatively or quantitatively, the level of deliveries of recent years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China, and that it intends to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan and reach a definitive solution over time." (NDLR)

Source: <https://www.dewereldmorgen.be/artikel/2023/02/01/oorlogskoorts-na-oukraine-taiwan/>

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