

**The relationship between People's Republic of China and  
Republic of China  
— The People's Awareness**

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## **1 Introduction**

Since Hongkong's returning to China mainland in 1997, this reuniting event has become a capable possibility of uniting Taiwan, which also under the case "One country, Two systems". In 1982, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China redeclared the one-China policy as "Taiwan is part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China." Beside, the great cause of reunifying the motherland is the sacred duty of the entire Chinese people, including Taiwan compatriots. Whether the relevant similarity between Hongkong and Taiwan could mean the appropriate suitability of the theory "One Country, Two Systems" to Taiwan, or the case of Hongkong could be approached to Taiwan or not.

At the same time, following the contemporary generation and the growing social atmosphere in Taiwan and China, the way of thinking is shifting and the expentance of the future development has more appeal, the attitude of the people's awareness from Taiwan and China has the same willing consensus or the bifurcation. This essay will be investigated with a deeper understanding and determining whether the cognitive awareness between PRC and ROC is stating the same opinion or holding the opposite attitude and whether the case of Hongkong is suitable for Taiwan.

## **2 Thesis statement**

The principle purpose of this study is focusing on analyzing the unapproachable reason why the case of Hongkong is irrelevant to the case of Taiwan, above the aspect of the historical character, the necessary element of a country and the people's willingness, the theory "One Country, Two Systems" is not approached to Taiwan. The research of this study also provides the result of a cognitive awareness among the people of Taiwan and China by interviewing the several comparative works of the "Two-Strait". The interview about the study proceeds the different point of view of the Two-Strait with identifying the relationship between People's Public of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC) and get the final result as the bifurcation of the awareness.

### **2.1 Background Information**

Taiwan (ROC) and China (PRC):

Taiwan had been colonized by Spain and Netherland from 1624 to 1662. In 1662, Taiwan had been governed by Dynasty Ming, and then turned to the Ching Dynasty. In 1895, following the First Sino-Japanese war, Taiwan was ceded to the Empire of Japan. In 1945, following the end of World War II, the Republic Of China took control of Taiwan. When the Republic of China moves to Taiwan and established the capital in Taipei in 1949, and the same year, the People's Republic of China claimed to establish the government and held the founding ceremony in Beijing on first October, Taiwan (ROC) and China (PRC) was separated and divided to two individuals.

Hongkong (HK) and China (PRC):

The turning point of the relationship between HK and PRC could be dealt in 1997, Transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong, China took back the govern the right of Hongkong from the United Kingdom with the overdue of the contract and the implementation of the policy “One country, Two systems” in Hongkong, and this policy in Hongkong has a great influence of the its autonomous govern system and the development of economic, as a special case to examine the approach with the possibility of the uniting of Taiwan.

## 2.2 Definitions

**Peace:** “Positive” peace denotes the simultaneous presence of many desirable states of mind and society, such as harmony, justice, equity, and so on. “Negative” peace historically denoted the “absence of war” and other forms of large-scale violent human conflict. -(David P. Barash and Charles P. Webel, PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES, 3RD Edition)

“Peace research, with its ambition to understand the causes of violence and to find ways to reduce/remove violence, has been sensitive to such changes.” -(Peter Wallensteen, UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT RESOLUTION, 3RD EDITION)

## 3 Methodology

In order to clarify the different behavior and cognitive consensus of PRC and ROC in the past and the shifting situation nowadays, the study will focus on the interview of the Two-Strait people of the opposite standing of consensus and comparison of the three main conflict aspects: the conflict of politics and government categories, the conflict of culture and the localized influences, and the position of conflict in the world and diplomatic relations. The argument between HK and Taiwan will be conducted with the relevant article, news and books; also convinces the bifurcation point of the background with the brief history summary. The theory for approaching this study will be mostly conducted with a focus on discussing feasibility of comparing the case of Hongkong to Taiwan, investigating the hypothesis of the uniting of China (one country, two systems), and discussing the possible influential consequences.

## 4 Theoretical Framework

"*One country, two systems*" is a constitutional principle formulated and proposed by Deng Xiaoping for the purpose of reuniting the China mainland which in order to achieve peaceful national reunification and territorial integrity to solve the problems of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.it’s also a promise which China gave Hongjong High Degree of Autonomy for fifty years could still maintain own political system, legal, economic and financial affairs, including external relations with foreign countries.

**One Country:** Based on the explanation of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, China is a single-system state: sovereign state ownership, the National People's Congress is the highest authority in the country, the exercise of the highest authority of the State, its permanent body is the Standing Committee; The State Council is the highest administrative organ in the country. There is no surplus power in Hong Kong.

**High Degree of Autonomy:** Based on the declaration of China mainland, High Degree of Autonomy is not autonomy, nor is it an independent, but rather a comparison of other localities and administrative regions of China (except for the states and provinces of the Macao and regional and foreign federal systems), the state or province of Hong Kong Should be wider.

With the standard of High Degree of Autonomy under the Basic law, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) may has the following rights which more significant:

1. The composition of the executive and the legislature consisting of the permanent residents, the central government does not send officers to control the SAR Central.
2. SAR could maintain the original capitalist system and the way of lifestyle for fifty years unchanged.
3. The society, economy, administration, legislative law, the judicial system, policies and Protection the basic rights of the population, and free system to the "Basic Law "provisions as the basis.
4. Self-legislation, including the law to defend the territory.
5. SAR can handle their own affairs on the seventh chapter of the Basic Law: Including: The participation in an international organization or the agreement.
6. SAR can own the Self-financing, financial independence, the autonomy of controlling the foreign exchange.

## **5 Argument**

First, the presenting character to China.

When meeting with the Taiwan Unity Group at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, stressed that "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" are the basic principles for resolving the Taiwan issue. Xi Jinping also said that in Taiwan, the gospel is the historical opportunity.

In response to an inquiry, the Executive Yuan of Taiwan, Mr Jiang Yi-Hua, said that "the Republic of China never accepts the policy of one country, two systems"

As Hongkong was restricted in a contract with the foreign government without the sovereign right under the name of China, in the contrast, Taiwan doesn't restrict in any contract with any country under the govern right of China. Since 1949 which ROC moved to Taiwan and after two years, PRC declared to be independent, the government was officially divided and started the different rule, and Hongkong is the leased land which China rented to the England Empire, Taiwan and Hongkong have the different history source and present the different character to China.

Second, the full element of a country. The basic elements to develop a country: Sovereign, People, Government and Territoty. Furthermore, Taiwan has its own constitution, law system, the national defense system, the complete democratic government operates, the mature elected system and diplomatic relations with other countries. Taiwan satisfies the element of a modern country, but Hongkong does not. Hongkong has the government office with the right to govern people, nevertheless, without the sovereign right to rule its people. Based on the basic difference of presenting their right to the people, the element to be individual is lacking in Hongkong.

Third, the willingness of people.

"If there are some people who are willing to accept (or reunification) of democracy after the mainland, it will take some time," he said. "We believe that democracy on the mainland must also be democratic," said Yan Zhensheng, director of the Center for International Relations Studies at National Chengchi University. And, more importantly, Taiwan's future is now determined by 23 million people, and unless Taiwan supports the reunification today and the mainland also voted to support reunification. "

The reuniting in Hongkong made the people a great backlash of the unsecure freedom loosening and unsatisfied with the new governing right shifting from Hongkong to China with the attitude of mistrust. In the near fifty years, "One Country, Two Systems" as China promise to Hongkong will stop and re-discuss about, it means, the social freedom and the available space of the self govern right of Hongkong might be deprived or be shirked by China, comparing to the origin social mode before the Transfer of sovereignty, the new condition in Hongkong becomes more conservative and restricted. The lately new which brought up a new concern about the festibility of the reuniting in Hongkong is one exercise which is held by almost the students in 2014, the Umbrella Resolution, to protest the members of the Election Committee majority is pro-people political view and appeal the real universal suffrage in Hongkong. China is trying to make Hongkong reunited more complete and absolute slowly. If Taiwan assent the proposal of China to implement "One Country, Two Systems". Taiwan will become the next Hongkong and it's not Taiwanese people willing to see about. If the reuniting is not for the willingness of

people and ignoring people's aspiration, that it is based on the force and reluctance. It's the invasion.

According to the above reasons, it is not suitable to suppose the feasibility either being an example to prove the legitimacy of the policy "One Country, Two Systems".

## **6 Research**

### **6.1 Research Question**

1. Would the case of Hongkong be relevant or approachable in the case of Taiwan? How the Chinese and the Taiwanese think?
2. What is the association and the capable future prediction between the "Cross-Strait" to the people of Two-Strait with the example of Hongkong?
3. What's the opinion of the "Cross-Strait" current condition and the relationship to the people of the People's Republic of China and the people from the Republic of China?

### **6.2 Study Theory**

*One country, Two systems*, by Deng Xiaoping, the Paramount Leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC)

### **6.3 Type of research**

The type of research that will be used in this study is qualitative research. Qualitative researchers aim to gather an in-depth understanding of the behavior of "Two-Strait" by interviewing which could compare the opposite comment directly and obviously. Besides this, the interview will also examine the different understanding of the sovereign right in Taiwan through observations in their representations and rely on their personal opinion. Along with the theory "One country, Two systems" that will be brought to respondents' attention to the statistical representation of the findings in the study, interviews with the respondents and a few experts in this field will also be conducted.

## 6.4 Participant

There were ten participants participating which will divide into two groups. Five Taiwanese and also five Chinese from the different age range and the occupation. In the following research result, the Taiwanese participants will be presented as T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5; the Chinese participants will be presented as C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5.

## 6.5 Limitations and Biases

Due to the time limitation and the number of samples, the essay's completion and the objectivity have been limited, but still make a temporary conclusion of this research with the obtained information. Therefore, hope to be able to complete the study in the future and keep researching this issue with more professional insight and experience.

## 6.6 Interview Result

### 1. Do you support the Independence of Taiwan, the Unification (One country, Two systems) or maintaining the status? Why?

0% Taiwanese support the Unification, 60% support the Independence, 40% support maintaining the status.

80% Chinese support the Unification, 20% support the Independence, 0% support maintaining the status.

The final statistic is 40% support the Unification, 40% support the Independence and 20% maintaining the status.

Mr.T1 (29 years old, Financial Industry) indicates that Taiwan has the full elements of modern nation-state: Territory, People, Government and Sovereign, so in his opinion, the Independence is only a politic issue of the media. Taiwan is a country without any doubt.

Mr. T2 (58 years old, Building Industry) said Taiwan's nowadays official declaration is China Taipei. If Taiwan wants to declare as a fully sovereign country, Taiwan has to alter the constitution and at the same time, this activity will cause the war with China. We are essentially independent, but in nominally, we are not. The most important part to insisting the independence is not only by the government, the economy makes the property, the property brings the technology. No economist, no independence.

Mr. C1 (48 years old, Garment Industry) indicates not support the Independence and not admit the Taiwanese government.

Ms. C2 (21 years old, Student) supports the Independence by the great gap between the culture of Two-Strait and the economy in Taiwan isn't attractive enough to China.

Ms.C4 (21 years old, Student) In her opinion, by the education of the child, "Taiwan is Chinese territory since ancient times an inseparable part" is an ingrain thought among the Chinese people.

**2. Do you think that Taiwan has a great chance to be independent or be united? What's your reason? Will it be peaceful or be treated of force?**

20 % Taiwanese think to be united, 60% to be independent and 20% no opinion.

80% Chinese think to be united, 20% to be independent.

The final statistic is 40% thinking to be independent, 50% to be united and 10% no opinion.

Mr. T3 (47 years old, Services) In his view, the chance being united by the treatment of force is greater than being independent. China isolates Taiwan internationally and cuts off our economy of tourism. The unification of the economy is faster than the force.

Mr. T5 (55 years old, Teacher) In his eyes, after the uniting, China would have a large amount investigatement in Taiwan during the short period. When the people have the higher dependence, the condition of the Independence will be more difficult. Although the economy increases, we need to lose our democracy, dignity and Democracy is priceless. When Chinese take over the commerce of Taiwan, Taiwanese will become the Second-Class citizen. In spite of the economic advantage of China, Taiwan should develop the own complete industry. China is used to treat the penalty means to suppress Taiwan.

Mr. C1 (48 years old, Garment Industry) "In the near decent, Taiwan must be reunited by the threat of force. The reason is China becoming stronger and the uniting influences the justification of the Communist party."

Ms. C2 (21 years old, Student) indicates that it has more potential to be united by force, and we are all from the same root.

Ms. C3 (19 years old, Student) believes the uniting is sooner or later because the Chinese diplomatic is too aggressive.

**3. Do you think the relationship of Two-Strait now is the best condition between Taiwan and China? Will the relationship become better or worse? Why or why not?**

20% Taiwanese assent it's the best, 80% dissent, it's the best relationship between Two-Strait.

20% Chinese assent it's the best, 80% dissent, it's the best relationship between Two-Strait.

The final statistic is 20% assenting it's the best and 80% dissenting it's the best relationship.

Mr. T1 (29 years old, Financial Industry) From his perspective, the condition right now is not the worst, neither the best. Nevertheless, the relationship will become much better. Depending on the development of Chinese people's knowledge level, they won't hold the extreme attitude to threaten Taiwan anymore. The communication between Two-Strait is going to tend to the more peaceful sense.

Mr. T2 (58 years old, Building Industry) To his way of thinking, maintain the status gives Taiwanese more benefit. Taiwan's 60% export depends on China and our status is always the passive character. The official assentive declaration is "Consensus of 1992" more equally, both sides hold their statement, but do not declare independence.

Mr. T3 (47 years old, Services) His point is, by the economical point of view, Taiwan is restricted. The main income source of Taiwanese Tourist Industry was forced to cease due to China suppress the new Taiwanese government, and the situation is not optimistic.

Mr. C1 (48 years old, Garment Industry) "The possibility of the peaceful uniting becomes worse and worse. The uniting consensus of the two governments is dividing. The Chinese significant economy must promote the awareness of Nationalism, and DPP rejected to admit "Consensus of 1992".

The current Chinese policy is used in the differentiation and incentive, and it's going to cause the Taiwanese inferior splitting.

Ms. C2 (21 years old, Student) indicated that the relationship will become better because the generation and the cultural level are all in the progressing.

Ms. C3 (19 years old, Student) In her view, the future will be better following to this new generation, the young people will become who have the right to change this stuck condition of Two-Strait with the open attitude.

#### **4. Do you think it's possible to improve the relationship of Two-Strait? What is the most difficult cause you consider to improve the condition between Taiwan and China?**

40% Taiwanese think it's possible to improve, 60% think it's not possible.

80% Chinese think it's possible to improve, 20% think it's not possible.

The final statistic is 60% assenting it's the best and 40% dissenting it's the best relationship.

Mr. T1 (29 years old, Financial Industry) His position on this problem is in the near twenty years, the politic won't be the most issue anymore, the economic influence is what people care more about.

Besides, the young people don't care the politic much more than before.

Mr. T2 (58 years old, Building Industry) He indicated that it's totally depend on the policy from

the government, and the new Taiwanese leader doesn't admit "Consensus of 1992", so China won't have any communication with Taiwan. The relation won't have any chance to improve. The essential point is the economy. If Taiwan has a stern stand on the economy, China will negotiate naturally with Taiwan.

Mr. C1 (48 years old, Garment Industry) In his point of view, according to the party constitution of the DPP and the History of the Taiwan leader, Tsai Ing-wen, the antithetical confrontation between Two-Strait is not possible to change. The reason to cause this difficult condition is the Taiwanese leader would not give up the idea and policy to be independent.

Ms. C2 (21 years old, Student) In her eyes, it's possible to prove, but Taiwanese are too stubborn and radical because Taiwanese don't want to be reunited at all.

Ms. C3 (19 years old, Student) said the main point is China government is not democratic enough.

##### **5. Do you assent Honkong's returning is a suitable example of Taiwan? What's your point of view?**

0 % Taiwanese assent it's a suitable example for Taiwan, 100 % dissent.

60% Chinese assent it's a suitable example for Taiwan, 40% dissent.

The final statistic is 30% assent it's a suitable example for Taiwan and 70% dissent.

Mr. T1 (29 years old, Financial Industry) indicated that from the case of Hongkong, we can see clearly from the open politic transferred to the closed plolitic, the people have a great reluctance backlash.

Mr. T3 (47 years old, Services) said that Hongkong was rented out to England, but Taiwan did not. They are two totally different independent cases. China has the contract to deal Hongkong with England, but Taiwan doesn't restrict in any contract.

Mr. T5 (55 years old, Teacher) pointed out that Hongkong reunited with China because the contract time is on the deadline, so China implement "One Country, Two System". Taiwan doesn't belong to any country.

Mr. C1 (48 years old, Garment Industry) "The policy in Taiwan is more tolerant than Hongkong's. "One Country, Two System" admits Taiwan has its own military, part of the diplomatic right and negotiate with the country name and the flag, but such a sincere attitude was rejected by Taiwan; it means Taiwanese choose to be independent and the war as well.

Ms. C3 (19 years old, Student) dissented and thought the condition in Taiwan is more complicated that the case of Hongkong.

## 7 Comparing the results

From the first statistical data, 0% Taiwanese and 80% Chinese support the Unification; the gap is 80%. The gap of the Independence is 40%, and the gap of maintaining the status is 40%. There is a huge deviation from the people's awareness and the most diverse opinion among the people of Two-Strait is the Unification. From the second statistical data, about the future predicted, the gap of the Unification which is 60% still larger than the gap of the Independence which is 40%. By the first two statistical comments, we could find the most significant difference between the Taiwanese and Chinese people is on the issue of Unification.

The third interview's statistical data reveals that both 80% Taiwanese and Chinese dissent the current relationship between Taiwan and China is the best condition. Furthermore, from the fourth question, there are only 40% Taiwanese think it's possible to improve the relationship of Two-Strait, compare to Chinese statistical result, there are 80% Chinese think it's possible to improve. Both groups assent the current condition isn't the best condition and have the expectation for the better future, but the Chinese seem more aggressive and have a more optimistic prediction to improve the relationship.

In the final statistical data about the case of Hongkong, 0% Taiwanese assent the case of Hongkong are a suitable example for Taiwan, however, there is 60% Chinese agree it's suitable. We could obviously see the mentality of the people from Taiwan and China have a great diversity awareness on the case of Hongkong. Taiwanese prefer to have the non-changeable life and do not welcome any activity of China also include the policy "One Country, Two Systems". Chinese prefer to use the same reunited mode of Hongkong to reunite Taiwan as well.

From this interview's comparable result, we could learn the conclusion and confirms the hypothesis that the people of Two-Strait have a great gap of the awareness to each other.

## 8 Discussion

There are several differences of various cases between Two-Strait, here are three main representable conflicts to reveal the comparable discrepancy.

First of all, the conflict of politics and government categories.

From 1996, the first presidential election held and the first ruling parties in 2000, Taiwan's democratic system has been consolidated and became more mature. In contrast, the Chinese mainland

still remains the authoritarian regime. The president of Taiwan, is voted by general public election and the Chinese leader is appointed by the Communist party. Not only the way to choose a leader, but the parties are also different. There are two main parties which so far had two political alternations in the election history in Taiwan: Chinese Nationalist Party (CNP) and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Communist Party is the only main party which has the most effective power to the national level in China. One-Party also represents the authoritarian character of China. If Taiwan and China have the totally opposite way to govern the country, one is governed by the general people and one is governed by the authoritarian government, how can we say that this Democratic country belongs to the that Communist country?

Secondly, the conflict of culture and the localized influences.

Taiwan and China come from the same root, but as Taiwan had been colonized by several external forces, the cultural effect is not single and originally from China. For example, the Japanese colonial period and during the Assimilation policies and Komika educated movement for roughly 50 years. Taiwan's local literature has the greatest influence of the strong national identify and the development of the Patriotism with the history which be colonized several times. After the cultural revolution in China and some education reform, the cultural gap between the two-Strait becomes larger. For example, the font of typeface in Taiwan is Traditional Chinese, and in China is Simplified Chinese. The Closures attitude and the Restrictions on freedom of speech makes China staying their own media world and all the information pathways were controlled and filtered by the government. Almost the international social media and website among the world are prohibited in China, such as Google, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, instead, they have their own search engine and flat form. Consequently, Taiwan's people don't have the enough chance to get the real interchanging and communicating with the people in China during the daily life. The lack of the cultural exchange causes two kinds of Chinese modern social customs and the worst misunderstanding of each other.

Third, the conflict of position in the world and diplomatic relations.

Republic of China was one of the charter members of the United Nations as one of five permanent member, but in 1971, PRC insteads POC of the presentation of China, and Taiwan officially retired from the United Nations. Since then, under the suppress of China, Taiwan has faced the difficulties to join any international organization. "Only One China" is also the main reason that Taiwan is rejected from other countries' diplomatic. China suppresses the diplomatic developments of Taiwan and isolated the international status. Nowadays, Taiwan has diplomatic relations with 21 countries; China has 173 one. There are 161 visa-free countries to Taiwan; 21 visa-free countries to China.

## 9 Conclusion

Contemporary peace maintaining is the most important current issues among Two-Strait, people of Two-Strait still has the great gap of awareness to the relationship between Taiwan and China, also the different understanding about the case of Hongkong to Taiwan. The expectance to the future is both government and the leader could rend to the calm, rational solution to make an equal. peaceful consensus with a deep and open-mind discussion and make a without the threat or any form of force, and promote the higher life level to both people of Taiwan and China. Also, with the power of civil society organizations, communicating, interchanging and achieving the cooperation between China and Taiwan. The cultural exchange, the academic exchange and the economic exchange, also the education exchange, are all the chances to achieve the goal of having a great relationship and maintain the peaceful condition between Two-Strait.

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