

The Taiwan Gambit: American Weakness Exposed

News:

Trump's Taiwan Gambit is Already a Gift to China. ([nytimes](#))

Comment:

Recent remarks by Donald Trump regarding U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have intensified geopolitical tensions across East Asia, while simultaneously exposing the increasingly fragile position of American global influence. Following a summit in Beijing with Xi Jinping, Trump revealed that he was delaying a proposed \$14 billion weapons package for Taiwan, describing it as a "very good negotiating chip" in broader talks with China. The statement immediately fueled speculation that Washington may now view Taiwan less as a strategic commitment and more as leverage within a wider geopolitical bargain involving trade and regional security.

Beijing moved quickly to capitalize on the comments. Chinese state media portrayed Trump's remarks as evidence that the U.S. support for Taiwan is conditional and ultimately transactional. Officials and commentators argued that Taiwan's leadership, particularly President Lai Ching-te and the Democratic Progressive Party, could no longer rely on automatic American backing. Chinese messaging emphasized that Taiwan's security cannot simply be guaranteed through military purchases from Washington, framing the island instead as vulnerable to becoming a bargaining chip between competing great powers. By shifting public attention toward Taiwan during the summit, Beijing successfully redirected the diplomatic conversation away from American efforts to pressure China over Iran.

The United States reportedly hoped China would use its influence to pressure Iran into maintaining open shipping lanes and reducing tensions in the Gulf. However, Beijing refused to meaningfully align itself with Washington and the Zionist entity against Tehran, which remains one of China's most valuable strategic and energy partners. Although China encouraged negotiations between Iran and the U.S., it made clear that it would continue purchasing oil from Iran and would not participate in efforts to economically isolate Tehran. As a result, the summit produced little concrete progress on Iran, highlighting the limited leverage Washington currently holds over Beijing.

Washington entered the summit seeking Chinese cooperation on Iran, but instead found itself defending its own commitments in the Pacific while softening its posture on Taiwan. The broader significance of the summit extends beyond Taiwan or Iran alone. The episode reflects a larger transformation in the international balance of power, with China increasingly positioning itself at the center of global diplomacy while confidence in U.S. security guarantees steadily erodes. Countries around the world are beginning to question the reliability of American alliances as Washington appears more willing to renegotiate long-standing commitments when strategic interests shift. Meanwhile, coordination between China and Russia continues to deepen as both powers capitalize on the declining American influence. Taken together, the summit may ultimately be remembered less for its immediate outcomes and more as another marker in the emergence of a new global order - one in which Beijing, rather than Washington, increasingly shapes the direction of international politics and economic power.

In conclusion, the situation underscores how conflicts originating in the Muslim world are being absorbed into wider great-power competition. While China is able to translate instability within the Muslim world into strategic positioning, the Muslim world remains subordinate to its enemies, fragmented in its responses, limiting its collective influence in shaping outcomes to align with shared political objectives. All due to the absence of our Khilafah (Caliphate) which prevents the emergence of coordinated leverage that could meaningfully shift the dynamics of international politics in line with our ideological aims and global ambitions.

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