

Q2

Introduction:-

To grab the attention on China-US Tension on Taiwan, we have to look in historical context of Chinese civil war which ended in 1949. The Chinese Government retreated after being defeated by the Communist Party, leading the two separate governments claiming legitimacy over China. While Taiwan has functioned as a self-governing body.

a) Reason Behind Tension:-

i) Political Aspirations:-

Is Taiwan part of China? Beijing assume that there is only "one China" and that Taiwan is a part of it, adhering to one China principle and seeking Taiwan's eventual unification with the mainland. It claims Taiwan is bound by the 1992 Consensus, an understanding reached between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT). Although both sides disagree on its interpretation. For the CCP, it signifies that both sides belong to one China while the KMT interprets it as "one China, different interpretations," recognizing the Republic of China (ROC) as that entity.

2) Military Movements-

China's military activities around Taiwan have intensified, with frequent incursions by Chinese aircraft and naval vessels. These actions are perceived as a threat by both Taiwan and the United States, prompting a cycle of military readiness and countermeasures.

3) US Involvement-

The US maintains an unofficial relationship with Taiwan and sells arms for its defense under the Taiwan Relations Act. However, this relationship is complicated by the US's "one China" policy, which acknowledges Beijing's claim over Taiwan without formally endorsing it. Recent visits by US officials to Taiwan have been viewed by China as provocations.

4) Strategic Ambiguity-

The US employs a policy of strategic ambiguity regarding its response to a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan. This strategy aims to deter both Chinese aggression and Taiwanese independence declaration but has led to uncertainty about US commitments.

Avoiding Conflict:-

1) Diplomatic Engagement:-

Both nations should engage in continuous diplomatic dialogues aimed at reducing misunderstanding and miscalculation. Regular communication can help clarify intentions and reduce tension.

2) Reaffirming Commitments:-

The U.S should clearly communicate its stance on defending Taiwan while reaffirming its commitments to the "one China" policy. This could involve reassessing the implications of arms sales and military exercise in the region to avoid provoking China unnecessarily.

3) Promoting Stability:-

Both countries should work together to promote stability in the Asia-Pacific region through multilateral forums that include other stakeholders like Japan and South Korea. This can help create a broader consensus on maintaining peace.

4) Crisis Management:-

Establishing crisis management protocol can help both nations respond effectively to unexpected military escalations without resorting to conflict.

5) Economic Cooperation:-

Strengthening economic ties between China and the US while maintaining support for Taiwan's economy, can create interdependence that discourage military confrontations.

Conclusion:-

The situations surrounding Taiwan is complex and fraught with historical grievances and modern geopolitical interest. Both China and the United State must recognize the potential consequences of their action in this volatile region. By prioritizing dialogue clarity in commitments and cooperative framework, both nations can work towards avoiding conflict while respecting each other's core interest.

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