

Name: AMINA AAMER

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Lms ID:

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## PART - II

### ANSWER - I

#### TAIWAN : A BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN CHINA AND USA

Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and United States of America due to several reasons such as historical and ideological conflicts, political and strategic motives that impact both nations influence in Asia-Pacific region. Being two major global powers, a rivalry between the two would severely impact geo-politics and global economic dynamics. Through diplomatic channels and economic cooperation, both the countries can avoid the conflict.

#### REASONS EXPLAINING SINO-US RIVALRY IN TAIWAN

##### 1. Sovereignty claim over Taiwan by China

In the historical context, China views Taiwan as part of its territory under "One China policy". China claims that Taiwan should be reunited with the mainland. On the other hand, Taiwan has developed its self-government backed by the USA. China views Taiwan historically,



politically and strategically significant.

The military support by the US to Taiwan is seen as a threat to Chinese territorial claim over Taiwan.

## 2. US military support to Taiwan to maintain its government

US significant military support in the form of arms sale to Taiwan under "Taiwan Relations Act" is considered as a counter-check to Chinese increasing influence in Asia-Pacific region and South-China Sea - major route for international trade.

## 3. Strategic Location of Taiwan: A key-point for international Trade

Taiwan is located in the crucial region of Asia-Pacific, particularly in the South-China Sea - a major trade route and strategically important region. Both the powers are seeking to expand their influence in the region. The deployment of military by the US and China's control over Taiwan significantly reshapes balance of power in Asia.

## 4. TAIWAN AS a Giant chip Producer

"He who controls the technology shall now shape the contours of global world system."



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World is evolving now. In the past, military strength and weapons were considered <sup>as</sup> the parameters of power. However, in the present times the who holds the means to make chips and technological advancements shall rule the world for the years to come. Taiwan is economically important for both US and China. As Taiwan's Semi-conductor Manufacturing Company rise to become chip manufacturing giant first in South Asia and then in the world.

### 5. TAIWAN'S Ideological Conflicts with China's One-Party System

Taiwan's democratic form of government conflicts with China's one-party system. US supports Taiwan to defend its democratic institutions which creates a natural clash with China's ideology and interests.

### EXPLAINING THE REASONS WHY THE TWO GIANTS MUST AVOID CONFLICT OVER TAIWAN

1. US-China conflicts would significantly impact the global economy. US-China are economically interdependent, with China as a major supplier and US as a major export destination for China. Conflict would disrupt the trade and supply chains, leading to inflation, global shortages and job losses.



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2. Taiwan Semi-conductor Manufacturing Company could be put to an halt by US-China Conflict

TSMC is considered as a global producer of chip around the globe. Any armed conflict between two super-powers can halt the production of chip, leading to technological shortages such as electronics, automobiles, etc worldwide.

3. Sino-US rivalry could lead to military conflict affecting regional and global security. China's nuclear capabilities and USA powerful defense system could lead to military escalations resulting into nuclear war. A military conflict involving nuclear weapons could cause catastrophic human losses and disaster.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVOID US-CHINA CONFLICT**