

Q No 2: Taiwan a potential conflict between China and USA:

Introduction:

Taiwan is one of the major conflicts between China and USA as both of them have their own interests tied to it, both gainers view this island the same in theory but different in practice. China believes in 'one china principle' and treats Taiwan in this context: trying to get a hold on it and even to annex it, by force if necessary. Over the years, China has significantly increased its military activities around Taiwan and this aggressive posture has put Chinese forces in confrontation with US forces. USA is helping Taiwan ~~strongly~~ by selling arms to Taiwan for self-defence and supporting its security, and increasing military cooperation. USA support to Taiwan is not out of altruistic consideration as US has its own axe to grind. This conflict between China and USA can be avoided by implementing certain strategic approaches i.e. by enhancing diplomatic engagement, bilateral agreements on stability and multilateral collaboration.

• China's Interests in Taiwan:

Taiwan was once the part of China but it was given to Japan in 1895, when China lost first sino-Japanese war. After regaining Taiwan in 1945, civil war caused Nationalist party KMT to flee to Taiwan where it established the Republic of China (ROC) and the Communist Party of China CPC proclaimed the People's Republic of China (PRC) on mainland. The PRC asserts sovereignty over Taiwan and insists that there is only one China and Taiwan is part of it according to its 'One China Principle'.

Moreover, Taiwan holds significant strategic values due to its location in Asia-Pacific region. Control over Taiwan would enhance China's military and economic presence in area.

Also, Taiwan is a major player in technology and semiconductor manufacturing. Integrating Taiwan into China would boost its technological capabilities and economic growth.

Furthermore, reunification would reinforce China's influence in the region, challenging USA dominance and altering the balance of powers. These are the reasons China wants to gain Taiwan by any

means necessary.

• USA's Interests in Taiwan:

Taiwan holds importance for USA due to several reasons. Firstly, Taiwan produces 60% of the world's semiconductors including 90% of advanced chips. USA's economy is overwhelmingly dependent on Taiwanese chip.

Secondly, as Taiwan dominates in semiconductor and chip market, USA fears that the acquisition of the technological powers by CPC of China would put us in a disadvantaged position.

Thirdly, strategic position of Taiwan also makes it important. Taiwan is the first link to the island chain that extends through Japan and Philippines to South China Sea. US fears that China would cripple its capabilities to defend its treaty allies.

And lastly, by maintaining strong ties with Taiwan, USA can manage its broader strategic competition with China, as USA aims to deter Chinese aggression and deny its regional hegemony.

• Reasons for Avoiding Conflict:

The conflict over Taiwan should be avoided due to several reasons. First, it could challenge regional stability, threatening peace and security of neighbouring nations.

Second, a conflict could undermine established international norms regarding sovereignty and conflict resolution, setting a dangerous precedent for other territorial disputes around the world.

~~Third~~, lastly, conflict can lead to economic losses for both countries and globally as Taiwan is a significant player in semi-conductor and chip industry.

• Strategies for Mitigation:

The conflict can be mitigated or even avoided via:

- Enhanced diplomatic engagement, communication and dialogue.
- Establishing bilateral agreements or frameworks for peace and cooperation.

• Multilateral approaches should be adopted i.e. engaging other nations to support stability.

• By reinforcing existing frameworks for conflict resolution.