

US Message to PRC

- We were restrained, PRC hit sovereign territory (Guam and Japan sovereign territory) and if it moves forward we can hit them
- We see you have amphibious ships but we can sink them, we can make it impossible for you to invade
 - China doesn't have enough to invade Taiwan
- End all blockades
- Start negotiations
 - Including getting economy back on track
- We'll press Taiwan tries to enter diplomatic negotiations with PRC, stop Taiwan from declaring independence
- Stop shooting/mutual withdrawal of forces
- End sanctions once there is satisfactory resolution
 - Satisfactory resolution: status quo, end blockade, take military forces back, formal end hostilities, no shooting at Taiwanese, regional arms control,
 - Crisis management, some kind of constraint on forces in East Asia

Post Crisis US Strategy for Region

- We are prepared to recognize ASEAN claims to territory
 - Vietnam, we can move our supply chains to India, Vietnam (away from China)
- Move to more formal political, military alliance structure, e.g. Indo-Pacific NATO
- Working with allies to build technological and economic resilience
- State formally that we will continue to defend Taiwan against invasion
- Double down on nonproliferation in region, cut off aspirations for nukes

What actions, policies should the US have pursued in the months prior to this conflict that would have strengthened US national interests?

- Should have worked harder on Chinese calculations on their ability to take quasi-military action against Taiwan
 - How could we have deterred them from these thoughts
- Stating up front that we are willing to go to war over Taiwan, should have done more to build up Taiwan's ability to defend themselves
- If we are not willing to defend Taiwan, create a diplomatic strategy
 - After initial skirmishes, call some emergency sessions to tell China what our responses would be before clashes. Build in timeline for negotiations, have a strategy in place.
- Gamed scenario out with allies, play the whole game including war termination and resolution aspects and end state
- If we had pushed harder on arms sales, the Chinese might not want to take them on and we might not have had to be in it ourselves
 - But this increases China's angst
 - Porcupine strategy: long range surface to surface missiles, f35s, launch their own military satellites or give access to ours, kamikaze drones, mines

Final thoughts

- Good news story, two nuclear armed states went to war and did not engage in escalation as of now
- No real nuclear shadow
- We want to be able to understand Chinese responses that are baked in so we are able to think proactively
- Has it ever been considered to give Taiwan the means to defend themselves with nuclear?
 - How does a situation like this affect regional actors desire for nuclear capabilities
- Presidential level statement to clarify US position
 - At this point we need to make Taiwan and China a presidential issue instead of a Sec of State issue
- Some of the moves would have resulted differently in real world situation
- Blockade is better for US rather than invasion of Taiwan