

My partner and I negate the resolution.

Observation 1: The Pro's analysis must engage with the geopolitical situation that is reasonably expected within the next 1-2 years, particularly with respect to the incoming US administration.

Definitions: According to Merriam-Webster, substantial is defined as "considerable in quantity: significantly great," and in common understanding and usage, as more than 50%.

Contention 1) Chinese annexation of Taiwan

Subpoint A) Without US Deterrence, Taiwanese annexation is guaranteed.

China has desired the reintegration of Taiwan for decades, [per Yen 23](#). There are only two things standing in their way.

The first obstacle is minimal political motivation. [Per the South China Morning Post](#), only around half of Chinese citizens currently support an invasion of Taiwan. However, that obstacle is soon to disappear, as the Trump administration's proposed tariffs are guaranteed to incite retaliatory sentiment within China and serve as a clear motivating factor for Beijing to push for military action.

The second obstacle is US deterrence. Experts agree, per Croucher 24, that "China's Decision to invade Taiwan [...] would [...] require [...] a signal from Washington that it would not defend Taiwan," because the costs of an outright war with the US are disastrous. However, the Taiwanese military is almost entirely reliant on US support. Per Harper 23, "Training... in Taiwan's army is notoriously inadequate and unrealistic. Soldiers spend time [...] sitting in classrooms, [not] [...] practicing [...] combat skills." Furthermore, monetarily, Robertson 24 finds that Taiwan is critically reliant on the US, and we're actively "sending almost 570 million [dollars] in security assistance to Taiwan."

Thus, if American backing for Taiwan suddenly disappears, the odds become overwhelming that Xi Jinping, motivated by domestic pressures and emboldened by diminished U.S. support, will seize the opportunity to flood forward and annex Taiwan. The Pro is handing China their greatest desire on a silver platter, and as Wang et al. 19 confirm, "A weakly defended Taiwan would tempt [China] [...] to use [...] force [...] for unification."

Such an invasion would be devastating. **Economically**, Welch 24 (citing Bloomberg Economics) sets the price tag at 10 Trillion dollars, nearly 10% of Global GDP. **The human cost is no better**,

and Guibert 22 finds that according to a Pentagon estimate, notes, “The conflict could result in 500,000 deaths on both sides.”

Subpoint B) Chinese Annexation causes a global semiconductor monopoly

Taiwan is uniquely key to producing semiconductors. Per the BBC 23, “The silicon semiconductor [...] sits at the heart of every technology we use [...] Taiwan now makes more than half the [world’s] chips, [...] mak[ing Taiwan] nearly irreplaceable - and vulnerable.”

There are two impacts. First is Coercion. If China annexed Taiwan, per Collins et al. 23, “Beijing would have [...] significant power over the U.S. tech industry [...] and its consumers. [...] The U.S. would be unwilling to cut off supplies and services to a [China-occupied Taiwan] [...] because the consequences to [its] econom[y] would be dire. [...] [Taiwan] could be prohibited from investing in [...] overseas facilities [and] new facilities [...] would [...] be located in China. [...] The end result would [...] be amplified coercive power in [...] [China’s] hands.”

Second is GDP loss. Per Walters 23, “losing access to Taiwan’s semiconductor industry would [...] [be worse than] the global financial crisis of 2008 [and] the COVID lockdown of 2020. A significant disruption to Taiwan’s semiconductor industry could affect as much as \$1.6 trillion, or roughly 8%, of America’s annual [GDP] [...] [and] this estimate may be low, considering how our lives, from farming to health care, are increasingly reliant on [semiconductors]”

GDP loss terminalizes as death. [Doerr and Hofmann](#) of the Bank for International Settlements, 2020, write, “Falling GDP [causes] death rates [to] rise by... 4%, [and] Child mortality rates surge by... 6%.”

Contention 2) Withdrawing US support from Taiwan causes regional nuclear proliferation.

Per Wang 19, “If Washington appears to be backing away from its commitment[s], [...] other governments will take that as a sign that they may not be able to rely on [the] US, [...] forcing them to become more competitive.” In South Korea in particular, Hong 22 finds that such sentiment “could precipitate unwarranted nuclear proliferation. The urge for an independently nuclear South Korea already exists among Koreans, [...] should the US nuclear umbrella fail.” Furthermore, according to Milne 23, South Korean nuclear proliferation could tempt North Korea to “execute a preemptive attack against the South Korean program in its infancy,” potentially inciting a nuclear conflict.