

My partner and I affirm the resolution

Resolved: The United States should substantially reduce its military support of Taiwan.

Observation: According to the [Council on Foreign Relations](#), The US has authorized nearly 50 Billion dollars worth of arms sales to Taiwan since 1950. This number is over \$2 Billion in 2024 alone. The Pro is only required to substantially reduce military support, not outright eliminate it. Thus, the Pro can affirm their burden by ending or substantially reducing Taiwanese arms sales.

It is the Pro's **Thesis and Sole Contention** that minimizing arms sales improves US-China relations without abandoning Taiwan

Subpoint A) US Arms sales are ineffective

Thrall and Cohen 20 of the Cato Institute write, "There is no way for Taiwan to defend itself against a concerted assault by China without American assistance. A few more missiles or fighter jets won't [do] much. Given this, arms sales to Taiwan increase tensions with Beijing and generate additional risk without providing any significant benefits to the United States. [...] China has a massive military advantage.

Subpoint B) Arms Sales uniquely worsen US-China Relations

Thrall and Cohen 20 continue, "On the other hand, [...] Arms sales to Taiwan increase tensions with China. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said that these sales "seriously damage China's sovereignty and security interests, send a seriously wrong signal to Taiwan independence forces, and severely damage China-U.S. relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait." Zhao added that China will make a "legitimate and necessary response" because of the sales."

Worsened US-China Relations have two impacts. **First is nuclear proliferation.** We've already begun to see the result of such direct tensions. Al Jazeera, 2024, reports that "[China] said the US's arms sales to Taiwan [...] 'seriously compromised the political atmosphere for [...] arms-control consultations,' and as a result, Chin[a] decided to hold off discussion with the US on [nuclear] non-proliferation,"

Second is Climate Change. The [AP 22](#) writes that, in response to strengthen bilateral relations between the US and Taiwan, as well as increased arms sales, "Beijing announced a series of measures aimed at retaliating against the US [...] [saying] it will stop working with the US on climate change [and] other key issues." [Zhang 23](#) further note that US-China cooperation on climate change is critical because "[they] are the world's largest economies and emitters," but in

the foreseeable future, due to competition, neither will sacrifice their national interests to substantially reduce emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius” Importantly, [Prof. Luke Kemp et al, 22](#), write, “the ultimate consequences of climate change [is] potentially ‘second only to a global nuclear war.’ ...50 to 75% of the global population could be exposed to life-threatening climatic conditions by [2100].”

The good news is that reducing Taiwanese Arms Sales lessens tensions, which could reignite cooperation. [Gilbert 24](#) finds that “US and China inch towards renewing science-cooperation pact, [and] sources say the nations are close to a deal, but [tensions] bog it down.” This pact, known as the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, is critical. The [UCS 24](#) finds that “Scientific cooperation and exchange between the United States and China is making irreplaceable contributions in areas like watershed protection, air and water quality, cancer research and reducing electronic waste. The Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement between the U.S. and China is critical to making this kind of exchange and collaboration possible, driving scientific progress. Cutting off contact will have consequences for the health, environmental, security and economic gains made possible by science.” The impacts from the expiration of this agreement further include:

- 1) [Per Roser 19](#): 10 million deaths from cancer
- 2) [Per the UN](#): 3.5 million annual deaths from inadequate water supply
- 3) [Per the Clean Air Fund 24](#): 9 million annual deaths from unsafe air
- 4) And, [per the DTC](#): Nearly 1 million deaths annually from e-waste pollution.

What this tells us is that even if the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement only mitigates 1% of these issues, that’s still saving 235,000 people per year. If this agreement flourishes it can save up to 23.5 million lives.

Subpoint C) Reducing Arms Sales still upholds Taiwanese sovereignty

Zhang 24 notes that “Reducing arms sales [...] is [not] a massive change from the status quo. It’s likely that ending arms sales wouldn’t be the one spark that signals to China that the US is unwilling to defend Taiwan, so it’s less likely to greenlight aggressive action.” The US can continue supporting Taiwan through other means, including non-arms-sales-based aid and unofficial defense commitments to act as a deterrent. Importantly, [per the Council on Foreign Relations](#) and the Taiwan Relations Act, these avenues are already utilized and in place.

Because arms sales to Taiwan are ineffective, detrimental to global cooperation and security, and fundamentally unnecessary, we urge a pro ballot.