

Chapter V

Conclusion

PRC has been never giving up returning Taiwan into the part of mainland of China by asking for unification. Mao had tried to conquer Taiwan which already occupied by Guomintang power by military deployment. But it was failed and he did a new strategy. Mao made a liberating policy for Taiwan by using coercion in 1955s by shelling the island and conflict in cross strait relations. However, it was prevented by U.S because Taiwan had been aligned under mutual defense treaty. Thus, PRC turns into peaceful approach by rebuilding the unbound ties with trade and communication. In 1981, PRC asked for unification to Taiwan, but it wasn't responded directly until 1987 Chiang Ching Kuo open the trade between China and Taiwan. But still, Taiwan remain status quo for Chinese unification proposal.

These kinds of political conflict is still happening, but seems unseen because both of parties are managing strategy in cross strait relations. PRC was the first party that offered reunification proposal, but Taiwan which was led by Guomintang rejected it. They claimed that the legitimate ruler of China (mainland include Taiwan) was Guomintang Party. This idea was rejected and couldn't be applied because the red army already occupy the mainland of China territory. Thus, the people in Taiwan choose to be status quo. It becomes hard for China and dilemma for Taiwan because both of parties have their own political ideology and both of them don't want to be ruled by

one another. Then both party are building national defense system and managing cross-strait relation to reduce the conflict. China keep pursuing the Taiwan to return into mainland, but Taiwan slowly respond it and managing its strategy to face China's unification.

The slow respond of Taiwan because of its separation within domestic interest towards cross-strait relations. The two dominance parties have different perspective and interests which is contradicting for the continuity of Taiwanese political independence. One is Nationalist party or well known as Guomintang which has close relation with mainland China politics, because of their historical ties with mainland China. The other party is Democratic Progressive Party which support the independence of Taiwan. In fact that China has never been ruling Taiwan because it has been running with their own democratic state-system and it has a president. Most of the president like Chiang Ching Kuo, Lee Teng Hui, and Chen Shui bian have their own policy towards cross strait relations. Most of them did slow respond towards cross-strait political interest, but they had applied economic and trade policy with China in cross strait relations.

The fear of threat from China can't be avoided since it has big growth in economic and military modernization. In the early 21st century, China shows the great development within their GDP as 2nd largest growth on the world. The perspective of Taiwan people with the growth of China makes their sense to defend themselves as important policy. Taiwanese already enjoy their democracy and their living style which is not influenced by mainland communism ideology. Moreover, most of the Taiwanese

president had to choose the policy to maintain the stability of domestic condition. Thus, it makes them have to maintain security alignment with the ally which has similar ideology and similar interest, United States.

Taiwan has no other choice to align itself with United States. The great power of U.S military is the one in the world who can challenge Chinese military power. Besides that, U.S has more ally in East Asia such as Japan, South Korea, which is close with Taiwan. There are more benefit for Taiwan to align itself with U.S to maintain its existence from the coercion of Chinese military.

Taiwan has strengthen its position to protect the island with U.S since the early 1954. U.S and Taiwan align itself with mutual defense system. This policy focus to secure the track of U.S trading system in East Asia. But then, since the diplomatic relations turned from Taipei to Beijing, Taiwan had new bilateral security alignment with U.S under Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). TRA had approved by U.S Congress as a treaty to maintain the security in western pacific. It helps Taiwan to have self-defense system and protection from any kinds of possible threat and coercion which disturb the stability of Taiwan.

TRA promises to provide arms sales to Taiwan without any interfere from China. After TRA established in 1979, it continued by emphasizing the arm sales from U.S to Taiwan. It declared by President Ronald Reagan in joint Communique 1982 with PRC that U.S will not to limit the time of arm sales and it doesn't need consultation with Beijing. It stances that U.S holds the prerogative to do arms sales to Taiwan.

However, the arms sales also not free for Taiwan, but it still need to be approved by Congress. Taiwan has wider opportunity to ask for arsenal from U.S, but it is limited.

The strategy to provide self-defense security by doing arms sales is not enough. The peak of modern conflict for the first time was happening in cross strait relation, after reunification proposal, around 1995-1996. The ballistic missile test from China to northern shore of Taiwan triggered the tension of military use and the possibility of war, but it was abated by the influence of U.S sending two aircraft carrier on the Taiwan Strait. Thus, it makes Taiwan and U.S had to turn new strategy to face PRC's in cross strait relations.

Taiwan and U.S modernize security alignment through TRA in two ways that are maintaining arms sales package and increasing 'software' capability. As aiming to defend the territory, Taiwan and U.S has been modernizing the security alignment since 1997. They have traded the arms sales and keep doing it by modernizing the arsenal. Taiwan and U.S also increasing bilateral security alignment by having top official meetings to decide the strategy, policy, military training, and experts exchange which is mostly called as improving the 'software'. First, there are several top officials meetings such as the visit of Taiwan President to U.S and meetings between Taiwan National Security and Pentagon such as Monterey Talks and Review Talks to discuss the strategy for Taiwan to face PRC. Second, the top level exchange such as sending top military attaché; U.S sends the experts from Pentagon to review the Taiwan security and the China's threat; and joint military exercise such as Han Kuang's training which

is observed by active and non-active military personnel from U.S. Third, U.S open the direct access for Taiwan to submit the arsenal needs since 2001 during Bush administration.

As can we see here, the mainland China still become a threat although they propose the reunification to ask Taiwan return with China and Taiwan wants to maintain its political democratic environment over the Pescadores Islands by aligning itself with U.S. The growth of China cannot be avoided and Taiwan realize that it needs to improve the defense system to face the possible 'threat' from China. Taiwan and U.S have been improving post 1997 after the conflict in Taiwan Strait. They're transforming the security cooperation from arms trade only into arms trade and increasing the capability of human resources to manage Taiwan's defense system-usually simplified by improving the 'software'. Taiwan and U.S has an improvement within their bilateral security alignment and transform the security alignment from arms trade and increasing the 'software' compare to deal with the growth of China.