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# ASSESSING CHINA'S RISK PREPAREDNESS ON A TAIWAN CONFLICT SCENARIO

BY  
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ORGANISED BY CENJOWS  
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# **ASSESSING CHINA'S RISK PREPAREDNESS ON A TAIWAN CONFLICT**

## **SCENARIO**

**BY DR BHAVNA SINGH**

**ORGANISED BY CENJOWS ON 05 MAR 2026**

The session provided a comprehensive analysis of the escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait, focusing on the strategic shift in Beijing's approach under the leadership of Xi Jinping. The speaker highlighted that since President Xi's ascendance to power, the reunification of Taiwan with the Mainland has been elevated to a primary national goal, viewed by the Chinese Communist Party as an inalienable part of its territory and a core tenet of the one China principle.

### **Strategic Ambitions and Deadlines**

The discourse noted that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has significantly emboldened Chinese ambitions regarding the island. A critical takeaway from the lecture was the speaker's emphasis on Xi Jinping's personal stake in this pursuit. The speaker highlighted that Xi is eager to achieve reunification during his tenure to secure his legacy in the history of Chinese nation-building. To this end, a potential deadline of 2027 has been identified for these strategic pursuits.

### **Internal and External Friction Points**

The speaker pointed out a growing demographic and ideological divide within the island itself, where the younger generations in Taiwan increasingly identify with democratic values, leading to a large proportion of the population that remains firmly opposed to the idea of reunification. This sets the stage for a potential clash between a democratic, nationalistic Taiwan and an aggressive, authoritarian China.

The lecture further explored the dilemma of China's strategy regarding whether it will favour peaceful co-optation or usurping by force. The speaker highlighted several factors that have historically kept the Mainland dormant, including the cultural stigma of shedding the blood of Chinese brethren and the deep economic bondages shared across the Straits, specifically Taiwan's extensive investments in Chinese coastal cities.

## **Geopolitical Deterrence**

A major portion of the discussion was dedicated to the role of the United States as a primary deterrent. The speaker highlighted that US defence support, exemplified by recent security investments totalling USD 1.1 billion, renders a full-scale invasion a highly non-pragmatic and risky endeavour for Beijing. Despite the official policy of status quo maintenance held since 1949, these external geopolitical complexities remain the largest hurdle to China's goals.

## **Conclusion and Outlook**

In conclusion, the speaker examined the dynamics of a possible full-scale invasion, noting an increase in the intensity of threats from the Mainland directed at separatist elements. The lecture successfully shed light on the military aspects of an impending clash and provided a balanced assessment of gains and losses for both sides should such a scenario materialise. The session underscored that while the desire for reunification is at an all-time high in Beijing, the risks, ranging from international sanctions to domestic economic fallout, continue to complicate China's preparedness for a direct conflict.