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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Role of AI in Shaping US-China Diplomacy: A Case Study of the Taiwan Strait Crisis

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Abstract: This paper specifically focuses on the Taiwan Strait conflict and explores how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping military, diplomatic and informational strategies among the US, China and Taiwan. This study examines how AI technologies support both international and national security strategies and how this happens. It shows how AI is involved in diplomatic messages, military presence, campaigns of misinformation and collecting intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI) is said in the report to help make decisions faster and improve awareness of the situation, however, it can also lead to issues like escalating the conflict, giving inaccurate details and failing to use the best strategy. As per the report, the US is emphasizing AI in intelligence and defense work, but China applies it to domestic surveillance and psychological tactics (Meserole, 2018). Taiwan defends itself with AI against cyberattacks and keeps its democratic institutions safe and secure. It is determined that AI both brings uncertainty and can be used as a political tool by countries. To make sure dangers do not occur, it suggests establishing crisis communication channels, promoting openness and setting AI ethical rules. In general, the Taiwan Strait demonstrates how AI strengthens traditional disputes and makes it clear that urgent governing rules are needed to prevent global AI-related problems.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), US-China Relations, Taiwan Strait Crisis, Information Warfare, Cybersecurity, Military Strategy, Diplomacy, Security Dilemma, Geopolitics

Introduction

The globalization of the world is prompting AI to have an impact on international relations, mainly in diplomacy and national security. Two major countries in this technological transformation are the US and China. Now the battle between nations includes who leads in the field of AI, as well as their military and economic strength. Having technology that is ahead helps military operations in areas that are sensitive to world politics such as the Taiwan Strait. The purpose of this article is to analyze the effects of AI on the US-China relationship, with main attention on their plans and policies concerning the Taiwan Strait disagreement (Pomfret, 2024).

Even though Taiwan has governed itself since 1949, China maintains Taiwan is a part of its territory according to its "One China" policy. America still helps Taiwan protect itself by allowing arms sales and having indirect diplomatic ties with it, even though it does not officially see it as independent. Taiwan, the United States and China have built their relationship by means of diplomacy and military deterrence. However, with the increase of AI, the way stories are shared, facts are collected, and official communications are sent is also altered. Methods the military uses to watch and plan tasks are evolving because of AI-based processes like satellite image analysis, machine learning and facial recognition. In the periods of 2022 and 2023, there was a lot of tension, so both China and the United States used advanced AI systems designed for reconnaissance around the Taiwan Strait. They process a lot of data instantly, so answers can be given more promptly. But, because of their errors, escalation can happen suddenly or accidentally (Meserole, 2018).

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AI is now widely used in information warfare. Television adverts, Internet trolls and other online sources have been used to spread fake news about Taiwan in support of China during the 2024 election. The Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau found evidence that more than 500,000 posts that favored China were shared over social media, before the elections took place. Deepfakes and AI were used in many cases to undermine democratic institutions.

AI is now a part of how countries communicate in diplomacy. AI is currently used by governments for keeping an eye on public mood on social networks, writing policy documents and translating documents automatically. Using these tools might ease the pressure and improve how countries conduct diplomacy. If you communicate badly, it can actually cause more problems, particularly in a sensitive location such as the Taiwan Strait (Krasodomski, 2025).

In terms of strategy, both countries want to strengthen their military power with AI. Both the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center from the U.S. Department of Security and China's Next Generation AI Development Plan say that AI will be applied in diplomacy and security. The Chinese government hopes that artificial intelligence will allow military and diplomatic decisions to be made automatically. So, the United States aims to keep its global leadership role by furthering AI studies and keeping security needs in the Indo-Pacific in mind.

Looking at the Taiwan Strait is useful for seeing how the technology race is tied to the major geopolitical struggle between the United States and China. Since AI tools will be used and developed by both sides, the risk of an accidental clash increases. If supervised carefully, AI could help enhance diplomatic strategies, spot potential threats and recognize possible crises.

The Taiwan Strait problem is used here to demonstrate how AI is modifying the US and China's relationship. It focuses on the use of AI by the countries to support their foreign policy objectives. It examines the use of AI in warfare using information, gaining intelligence and strategic communication.

Key Entities: United States, China, and Taiwan United States

The United States includes AI in their military and international policies as elements of their broader Indo-Pacific plans. Through the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, AI is being adopted faster in surveillance, predictive analytics and cyber security fields. In the Taiwan Strait, the United States uses AI to get a clear view of the situation, assist Taiwan's defense and warn China. The US uses AI-powered sentiment analysis in diplomacy to talk with allies and control how people view things.

AI has been made a major goal in China, and it is now used by their military and shapes their foreign policies. China's recent plans and theories show it aims to use AI to secure a leading position in military strategies. China relies on artificial intelligence (AI) near the Taiwan Strait to watch the region, wage psychological wars and anticipate actions by Taiwanese and American officials. Besides attacking Taiwan's political system, it also tries to spread information that is untrue, produced by artificial intelligence (Sperzel, 2025).

Taiwan is affected by the competition in AI technology because it is not considered part of great power politics. It is now using AI tools to locate lies being shared and to provide warnings. U.S. AI-powered help with intelligence is used by Taiwan to contrast China's military activity and internet loudspeaking. Being situated where it is, Taiwan is regularly encountered as a target, a proxy and a role player in the ongoing competition among countries for AI diplomacy.

Research Question

The essay examines how progress in artificial intelligence (AI) is affecting the diplomatic competition between the US and China because of Taiwan. It focuses on: What are the results of using AI on American, Chinese and Taiwanese media, defense, diplomatic and intelligence activities during the Taiwan Strait crisis? The

analysis should answer how to prevent disputes and outline the pros and cons that AI introduces to the way U.S., China and Taiwan interact.

Theoretical Framework

To analyze how artificial intelligence (AI) influences U.S.-China diplomacy in Taiwan, this study uses the theoretical framework called realism. Their main concern is how nations stay safe, active and secure in unstable global situations around power and national interests. States, according to realism, think logically and always focus on gaining more power, safety and influencing the world. Using this point of view, nations are seen as adopting technology like AI to get an edge over others and place themselves in the group of leading powers.

It makes sense that the US and China are both trying to use artificial intelligence (AI) for military, intelligence and diplomatic purposes given realistic thinking. Authorities in China have said clearly that AI is required for the country to have a top-rated military. Because it views China's progress in AI as a challenge to its position, the U.S. has increased the speed of its AI efforts for defense. Such realist analysis also leads to the prediction that new powers will rival leading nations, and rivalry will be stronger when there is a military advantage (Thomas, 2024). Also, realism allows for better understanding of the security issues that AI brings about in the Taiwan Strait. If China, for example, applies AI to improve its missile control, it is considered a danger by the United States which then adds new measures to its own systems. So, they both develop technology that reduces their own risks instead of attacking first which leads to a continuous cycle of measures and countermeasures. In the midst of this AI-driven power struggle, Taiwan serves as both a catalyst and a testing ground.

As realism focuses on how states use AI to protect national interests, it was helpful in addressing the research questions: How do AI-enabled tools and capabilities influence intelligence gathering, military posturing, information operations, and diplomatic signaling among the U.S., China, and Taiwan? It clarifies why the development of AI involves not only innovation but also strategic influence, survival, and deterrence. Realist behavior is demonstrated, for instance, by the U.S. Department of Defense's use of AI for situational awareness in the Indo-Pacific, China's use of AI for cyber espionage and cognitive warfare, and Taiwan's defensive use of AI to identify misinformation. Each actor uses AI to either challenge or maintain the status quo (China and the U.S., respectively)

Realism and Power Competition

Realists believe that governments use all available tools, including technology, to gain a strategic edge. AI has emerged as a "decisive factor" in the U.S.-China rivalry that has the potential to change the balance of power.airandspaceforces.com. AI is specifically framed by China's leadership as being essential to its military modernization and "world-class" force. To obtain an advantage over the US, Beijing's "intelligentization" strategy seeks to incorporate AI throughout its military. In response, U.S. officials caution that if China's expanding capabilities are not resisted, they could endanger American dominance. According to realist reasoning, states will use AI to preserve or change the military balance, making it a new technology that centers a traditional security competition (Sperzel, 2025).

Technological Determinism vs. Agency

According to technological determinism, social and political change will be triggered by AI advancements on their own. The impact of AI depends on how governments use it, so some observers advise against treating it as an independent force. Since only wealthier, more technologically advanced states can field cutting-edge AI tools, critics point out that AI may further entrench divisions between "haves" and "have-nots". According to this perspective, AI exacerbates already-existing power imbalances, but human decisions still determine results (Thomas, 2024). China's "military-civil fusion" modelcnas.org, U.S. Defense AI strategy). Therefore, a

thorough analysis must acknowledge both the agency of states in guiding the use of AI as well as the constraining influence of AI's capabilities (the inherent properties of the technology).

Security Dilemma

AI's ambiguity exacerbates the traditional security conundrum, in which one side's security-enhancing measures seem menacing to the other. According to one analysis, AI "introduces both forms of uncertainty," which are well-known from previous security issues. No state can be certain of the true capabilities or thresholds that new AI-enabled weapons or surveillance systems will surpass. China and the United States are both concerned that even harmless AI investments made by one country could be seen as dangerous. For instance, U.S. intelligence may be alarmed by China's use of AI-guided drones or surveillance, while Beijing may view U.S. public AI exercises or deployments as a precursor to intervention. Arms racing may be sparked by this uncertainty. According to Brookings.edu, experts caution that great-power competition in AI "is far from an idle question" since it may make the security issue worse. In summary, AI's quick development and ambiguous effects facilitate suspicion amongst parties, fostering competition even in the absence of deliberate escalation (Meserole, 2018).

In order to expedite the integration of AI throughout the military, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has mobilized AI primarily through its Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC), which is currently replaced by the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office. JAIC is a prime example of the Pentagon's use of agile development and rapid prototyping to "keep pace with rapid advancements in AI technology" (Thomas, 2024). For example, JAIC supports research in explainable AI (XAI) to increase confidence in military AI systems and assisted in the launch of projects like Project Maven, which uses AI to analyze drone imagery. Policy guidance is reflected in this institutional focus: according to a 2018 DoD strategy, the United States "must adopt AI to maintain its strategic position, prevail on future battlefields, and safeguard [the free and open international order]."

Practically speaking, the United States uses AI to modernize its forces and improve situational awareness in the Pacific. Leaders of the Pacific Fleet and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command demand AI-enabled monitoring and analysis to decipher PLA activity near Taiwan. To differentiate between routine Chinese exercises and an impending invasion, for instance, Adm. Samuel Paparo has argued for the use of persistent drone surveillance in conjunction with AI analytics, pointing out that conventional indicators might not be adequate.breakingdefense.com. Similarly, U.S. war planners are creating AI-powered decision-making tools (like sophisticated battle management systems) that combine sensor data to produce the best possible responses to threats in the Taiwan Strait. These initiatives are based on programs coordinated by JAIC; as one real-world example points out, JAIC's flexible methodology enables the military to "rapidly prototype and iterate" AI tools appropriate for operational requirements (Krasodomski, 2025).

But there are still difficulties. AI bias, adversarial vulnerabilities, and the challenge of integrating AI into operational systems are among the concerns raised by the DoD's own analyses. A wild AI arms race is possible if we adopt a competitive mentality ("if China invests in AI, we must too"). Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall warns that China might already have a technological advantage in some areas and that "it is artificial intelligence that may be the decisive factor should conflict erupt." This highlights both the stakes of failure and the strategic importance the Pentagon places on AI.

Through JAIC/CDAO, U.S. defense agencies have formalized AI development with an emphasis on autonomy, command-and-control, and intelligence analysis. Improved situational awareness and faster data processing are benefits; if AI systems are unproven or poorly understood, there is a chance of errors in judgment and accelerated escalation.

China's Ministry of State Security (MSS)

The leading civilian intelligence organization in China is the Ministry of State Security (MSS), which is in charge of both internal security and foreign espionage. The MSS contributes both political influence operations and cyber capabilities to the Taiwan Strait. Advanced persistent threat (APT) cyber units that target Taiwan and international networks are sponsored or controlled by it. Researchers studying cyber security attribute organizations such as UNC5221 and CL-STA-0048 to China's intelligence services, particularly the MSS, stating that they "operate strategically to compromise critical infrastructures, exfiltrate sensitive data, and maintain persistent access". These cybercriminals probably feed the Beijing intelligence apparatus's AI-based analysis tools the intelligence they have collected. Additionally, it has been reported that MSS units have experimented with AI for internal surveillance. For instance, according to reliable reports, MSS uses facial recognition and AI-enhanced video analytics to keep an eye on suspected subversives and foreign diplomats in Beijing's embassy districtcryptorank.io. (Indirectly referencing MSS/Cyber vulnerabilities, Chinese state media also frequently warns of the risks of "smart" devices being compromised (Thomas, 2024). The MSS perspective is also reflected in official Chinese narratives regarding AI. The MSS issued public warnings about AI in late 2024, stating that these tools could unintentionally "leak sensitive data," allow foreign agencies to deduce private information, and quickly produce false information that could jeopardize state security. Additionally, it emphasized how AI-powered phishing is becoming "more sophisticated and covert," citing instances of foreign intelligence abusing generative AI against Chinese. This rhetoric emphasizes how even China's security establishment views artificial intelligence (AI) as a two-edged sword: a strategic advantage if Beijing's own agencies use it, and a vulnerability if competitors do the same.

As a dual-threat actor in the Taiwan Strait crisis, the MSS conducts psychological and information operations in addition to supporting China's cyber espionage campaigns, which frequently make use of advanced AI-driven tools. By focusing on AI, China is likely to implement machine learning widely for monitoring, persuasion and collecting information. Both strong intelligence and success in cognitive warfare may help Beijing, but they could also worsen the feeling of distrust among other nations. Both Taiwanese and American analysts believe China's use of AI-assisted intimidation such as drones and simulators, helps produce a "gray zone" that makes it tougher for countries to solve diplomatic issues (Sperzel, 2025).

Taiwan's main intelligence agency, the National Security Bureau (NSB), is in charge of counterintelligence, foreign intelligence and national security protection. Because China has gradually exerted more influence on Taiwan, Taiwan's significance in the cross-strait relations has also increased. The NSB makes use of AI for security at home as well as by signaling allies overseas about important happenings in China. It is written that NSB teams examine cyber risks and have tracked the financial and travel movements of Chinese agents using the power of big data and machine learning.

Analyzing Chinese misinformation tells us that the NSB gives special attention to AI use. Taiwan's early 2025 security report points out that over half a million questionable messages using generative AI targeting residents of the island had appeared on social media. (Afina, 2023). Studies by the NSB, mentioned by international media, say that Beijing is using AI to "divide" the Taiwanese population and increase its influence (Thomas, 2024). The information included here proves that the NSB is monitoring AI-powered information attacks and trying to make people more aware.

The NSB has contributed to Taiwan developing legal and protective actions for AI safety. In June 2023, Taiwan's legislature passed laws demanding harsh consequences (up to seven years in jail) for anyone producing or sharing deepfake audio or video related to elections. The NSB's intelligence regarding foreign AI meddling attempts served as a catalyst for these laws. The NSB also places a strong emphasis on collaboration with civil society: the government encourages media literacy to combat "echo chambers," and Taiwan's news media and fact-checkers have been urged to use AI detection tools.

The NSB uses AI defensively to identify espionage, improve cyber defense, and filter and attribute misinformation. It informs citizens and policymakers about the dangers posed by AI. Improved counterintelligence and a more robust election process are the benefits; an arms race in domestic AI surveillance, which raises civil rights issues, and a potential overestimation of AI's threat that causes public alarm are the risks (Greene, 2023).

Intelligence Gathering

AI is greatly improving how both sides collect and examine data. Artificial intelligence is used in the U.S. to study satellite images, intercepted signals and online conversations in order to detect hints of military activities. Machine learning is used in Project Maven to look through UAV videos for hazards which helps analysts stay aware of the situation faster. Chinese cyber defense forces are using AI for cyber spying tasks. According to a recent study, PLA-affiliated researchers developed an intelligence-assessment chatbot named "ChatBIT" that is tailored for military intelligence queries using open-source large language models (LLMs). This suggests that Beijing's intelligence community is experimenting with artificial intelligence (AI) to sort through massive amounts of data for strategic insights, possibly leading to quicker decision cycles. Taiwan uses AI to keep an eye on Chinese personnel and media while also benefiting from allied intelligence (such as U.S. intelligence sharing). AI has been used in practice by Taiwan's media labs to identify potentially fraudulent images and monitor online narrative trends (Pomfret, 2024).

More data-driven intelligence on all fronts is the end result. The advantage is early warning: AI is able to identify patterns, like irregularities in troop movements or spikes in bot activity that humans might overlook. However, relying too much on opaque systems is dangerous (Thomas, 2024). One side's increased ISR may appear to the other side as strike preparation in the context of the security dilemma. As a result, although AI increases intelligence, it also increases uncertainty (Schneider-Petsinger, 2019).

Military Posturing and Operations

AI is also transforming military readiness and posture in the Taiwan Strait. Both the U.S. and China are developing AI for unmanned vehicles, autonomous naval and air platforms, and faster command-and-control. For instance, China is advancing AI-guided missile systems and swarms of drones that complicate Taiwan’s defenses. The U.S. is developing ship- and air-launched drones (e.g. X-62A) and autonomous logistics systems to offset China’s numerical advantages. In addition, AI-driven wargaming tools allow planners to simulate conflict scenarios more rapidly, informing diplomatic signals (e.g. red lines).

Deployment of AI influences how each side postures forces. The U.S. military’s new doctrine (Joint All-Domain Command and Control, JADC2) seeks to use AI to integrate sensors across air, sea, and space – theoretically allowing faster U.S. responses to any Chinese moves. China’s “intelligentized” doctrine similarly imagines real-time AI-based coordination between jets, ships, and rockets. These capabilities can serve as deterrence by promising a calibrated, immediate response (Afina, 2023). However, benefits come with risks. High-speed AI systems reduce decision time, possibly contributing to a hair-trigger environment. An automated threat-detection system might misinterpret a routine PLA exercise as an invasion signal, prompting U.S. force posturing or alerts. Likewise, China may feel compelled to field autonomous weapons to keep up, inviting a classic arms race. Analysts note that while fears of a full-blown AI arms race may be overstated, “military spending on AI is relatively modest to date,” the focus being on careful adoptioncnas.org. Nevertheless, both sides’ pursuit of advanced AI-enabled arms inevitably tightens the security dilemma: each AI enhancement by one party demands a countermeasure by the other, escalating tensions in the Strait

Disinformation and Influence Operations

The information sector is arguably where AI is having the most noticeable effects on this crisis. AI tools are being used by Taiwan (with U.S. assistance) and China in a battle of narratives. AI-generated disinformation campaigns targeting Taiwanese audiences have significantly increased in China. For instance, according to Taiwan's NSB, Beijing is using generative AI to spread memes, videos, and text on social media in an effort to "divide" Taiwanese public opinion. These messages, which are timed to politically sensitive events, frequently capitalize on anxieties or identity issues (for example, by framing Lai Ching-te's policies as "war versus peace"). The enormous volume—more than half a million contentious posts were found—has been ascribed to AI's help in expanding content production (Meserole, 2018). AI-powered counters are the response from Taiwan and its allies. Machine learning is used by Taiwanese news organizations and fact-checkers to identify deepfake audio and manipulated images. According to the Thomson Foundation report, Taiwan implemented an institutional countermeasure by amending its Election and Recall Act to make it illegal to create and disseminate AI "deepfakes" intended to sway votes. Voters are taught to challenge sensational content through media literacy campaigns. The RAND study also cautions that since trolling bots and machine-generated deepfakes can imitate real dissentrand.org, generative AI may make election meddling much more effective. Although Taiwan's robust civil society—which includes a free press and an active public—has so far shown itself resilient, the spread of AI censors and propagandists is still a major worry.

When used in influence operations, AI significantly expands an adversary's reach. Improved detection and resilience techniques are advantageous for the target (Taiwan); however, there is a risk that an abundance of convincing fakes could overwhelm the information environment. A society that lacks trust may interpret the diplomatic environment incorrectly. Indeed, China is sending a message to the United States and other democracies about the strength of authoritarian information control by attempting to stifle Taiwan's information space. It demonstrates how AI tools can make it difficult to distinguish between international signaling and domestic politics (Krasodomski, 2025). Diplomatic Signaling: Although in more subdued ways, AI also has an impact on formal diplomacy. AI can be used by governments to analyze media sentiment and diplomatic language, allowing for more sophisticated "signals intelligence" in communications. AI-powered sentiment analysis, for instance, could assist American diplomats in determining how the Chinese public will respond to American actions (like arms sales to Taiwan) or vice versa. AI may also be used to customize diplomatic communications; according to reports, both sides may use social media or chatbots to project official narratives overseas.

However, a new diplomatic risk is presented by AI-generated deepfakes. Tensions could be heightened by a fake video purporting to show a leader (such as President Lai or Xi Jinping) making offensive remarks. Even if it can be proven as false soon after, a fake news broadcast may create trouble before it is verified. Because of all this, diplomats have to handle viral posts in the same way they handle semi-official statements. Likewise, if satellite or communication network data is corrupted digitally, AI could decrease faith in public messages by making people question their truthfulness. AI may help diplomacy by allowing the analysis of detailed data, but there is a danger that wrong information could cause misunderstanding or irritation (Afina, 2023). AI been used to improve targeting, process large data sets quickly and introduce new device defense strategies in each of these categories. DRV and Taiwanese officials believe AI can make things fairer for each country. Taiwan’s defense efforts, for example, are trying out ways to apply AI to their anti-aircraft defenses. The system can also avoid problems like incursions (e.g., by issuing warnings before they start) and de-escalate situations, as it can advise commanders who make errors.

But there are a number of serious risks to consider. AI systems may stop working correctly or become unpredictable, especially in response to pressure. The use of AI in decision-making systems might make responses to unclear situations stronger which could result in conflict faster and increase the risk of unintentional seriousness. AI increases the strength of false information and hacking attacks which makes dealing with crises more uncertain. If one side adopts AI for defense, the other feels threatened and increases

their spending on it which increases threats and makes the situation worse. They believe that "strategic risks" need us to pay close attention and be careful (Krasodomski, 2025). Calculated use of AI tools has become common in the administration of the Taiwan issue by Beijing, Taipei and Washington. They affect how operations run, quicken and strengthen intelligence and bring unpredictable factors into diplomatic thoughts.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

AI is largely changing the range of diplomatic interactions between the United States and China regarding Taiwan. The use of advanced AI systems by both countries in strategy, cyber-attacks and surveillance creates both chances and risks for the region. Besides helping with smart decisions, sensing emotions and alerting during disasters, AI may result in errors and increase the chances of conflicts.

According to realist theory, states are motivated to use AI mainly through their constant struggles for power and security. The Taiwan Strait acts as a key location where the conflict is unfolding. It is evident from China, Taiwan and the US' activities that AI is now used as an instrument for national strategies. AI can be part of psychological attacks or used to craft diplomatic messages; it takes side, not a passive role (Krasodomski, 2025). AI plays an important role in the way the US, China and Taiwan relate to one other. It is influencing collection of information, competition in military areas, use of information for wars and relationships between countries over straits. From what we can see, AI poses risks but it also creates opportunities for revenue. Situational awareness is better, but it also makes a mistake or accident typically led to more trouble. It provides great powers with a new powerful tool in models, but it also increases the uncertainty about security threats.

Policymakers should adopt a dual approach of risk mitigation and competitive readiness to steer clear of the pitfalls of AI-enhanced tensions. To avoid losing technological leadership to competitors, the US and its allies must keep funding strong, moral AI capabilities, such as interoperable defense systems and election security. Leaders should simultaneously endeavor to create standards and protections that can avert miscommunications and escalation.

In particular, the following legislative actions are suggested:

1. Establishing Transparency and Confidence: Similar to Cold War confidence-building measures (CBMs), negotiate agreements, either bilaterally or through multilateral forums, to inform and potentially restrict specific AI-enabled military operations. Agreements could be made, for instance, to share information about significant AI-driven military drills or to forbid the use of AI with autonomous strike capabilities in patrol aircraft. Bilateral CBMs on AI could lower the likelihood of unintentional conflict, as recommended by CNAS experts (Thomas, 2024).

2. Guidelines for the Safe Use of AI: Both parties should support global guidelines that forbid AI-based misinformation that targets the domestic politics of the other party and involve humans in crucial military decisions. To define the boundaries of fully autonomous weapons, including in the context of Taiwan, support should be provided for continuing multilateral discussions, such as those conducted by the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons. In order to share its election security experience, Taiwan should be invited to take part in international AI governance discussions.

3. Channels of Crisis Communication: Keep up and improve diplomatic communication and hotlines dedicated to AI-related issues. For instance, a planned verification process should be in place to stop the situation from getting worse if Taiwan discovers an AI-generated deepfake that is ascribed to Chinese authorities. To differentiate between deliberate attacks and technical mistakes, quick communication is essential.

4. Allied Collaboration on AI Ethics: Establish shared ethical guidelines for military AI in cooperation with allies and partners, including the European Union, Japan, and Australia. To better track Chinese AI activity,

the U.S., Taiwan, and Japan should increase their intelligence sharing. Furthermore, allied systems could be tested for flaws, biases, and possible abuses using shared AI "red teams." (Thomas, 2024).

5. Public Resilience Programs: Fund public education initiatives to raise media literacy regarding deepfakes and AI-generated misinformation in Taiwan and its allies. Taiwan has already made progress in this area, and foreign assistance can strengthen these initiatives by forming alliances with platforms and non-governmental organizations like the Thomson Foundation. Additionally, social media companies ought to be urged to block or flag known disinformation sources.

These actions could aid in stabilizing the cross-strait environment if they are put into practice. They understand that while Taiwan and the United States must continue to be aggressive and watchful in building AI defenses, they should also show caution in deploying AI in ways that could be misinterpreted. Beijing and Washington, with Taiwan as a major stakeholder, can endeavor to stop AI from becoming a crisis accelerator by instituting communication and common standards around the technology.

Final Policy Recommendations

- To elucidate intentions, pursue U.S.-China dialogue on AI in the military and intelligence domains (e.g., at the defense or foreign minister level). Create multilateral or cooperative mechanisms for assessing AI threats and resolving incidents (perhaps under APEC or ASEAN).
- Strengthen Taiwan's cyber defenses and back its legislative initiatives to combat misinformation powered by AI. Maintain allied investment in defensive AI tools, such as anti-drone systems and surveillance drones with AI capabilities (Thomas, 2024).
- To allay fears, increase openness regarding military versus civilian AI developments. Building trust, for example, could be facilitated by exchanging cross-strait AI safety principles. U.S., Chinese, and Taiwanese leaders can lessen the likelihood that AI technologies will unintentionally drive the region toward crisis by combining strong defenses with explicit rules of engagement for AI.
- The Taiwan Strait is still a strategic hot spot, but diplomatic stability can be maintained by managing AI-related risks sensibly and cooperatively. AI is a potent tool of statecraft, not just a technical one. The first step in preventing this reality from becoming a source of conflict is acknowledging it.

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