

*US-C-T Leadership Change And Its Impact on Asia*

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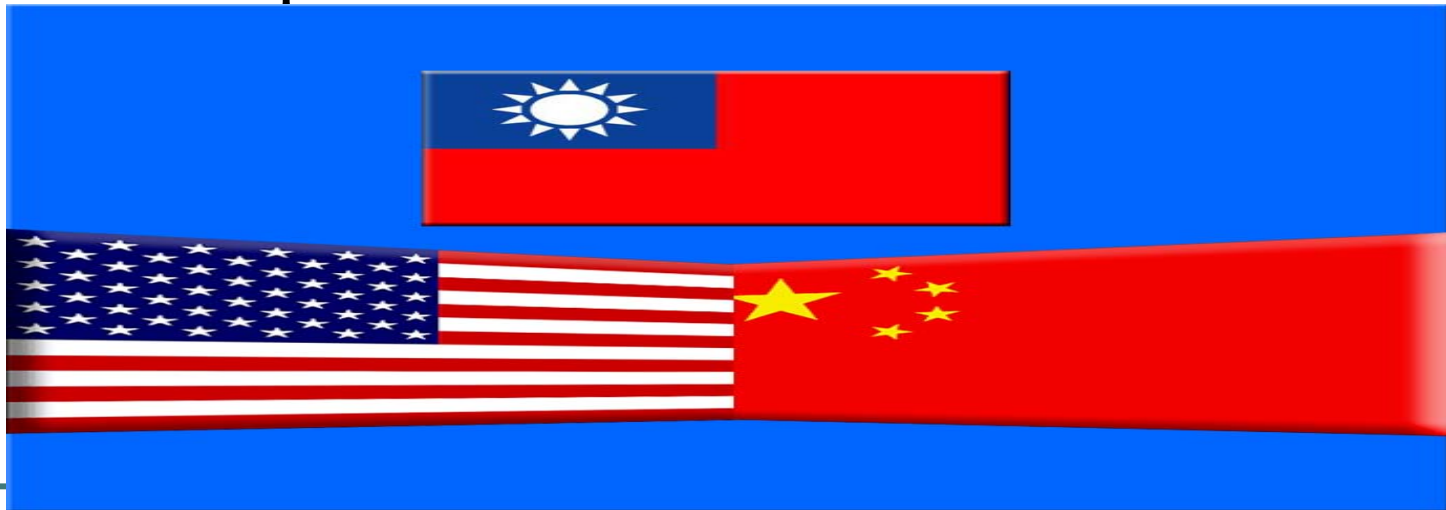
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## I. Introduction

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The United State, People's Republic of China, and Republic of China have had leadership change in the year of 2012. How will leadership change in these three countries have Impact on Asia?



## II-1. US Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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Obama's reelection suggests his pivoting or rebalancing Asia strategy will remain intact and even turn out to be a much stronger one than it used to be in the past 4 years. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta will stay for at least one year or so.



## II-2. US Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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NSC adviser Tom Donilon will either stay or be promoted if he wishes.

State Secretary Hillary Clinton will be outgoing and so is her Asian Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell.

Secretary's position will most likely be assumed by one of the following four: the Senator John Kerry, NSC adviser Tom Donilon, US Ambassador to UN Susan Rice, or No. 1 Deputy Secretary of State James Burns.

## II-3. US Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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One may wonder how could the US support its pivoting Asia strategy while its economy is in relative decline and its defense budget is shrinking.

In fact, unlike America was during the Vietnam War era, this time it would make good use of the resources from its allies and partners through military training and drills, deployment of marines on a rotation basis, and Air-Sea Battle Plan.

## II-4. US Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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In other words, whether the US pivoting or rebalancing Asia Strategy succeeds does not depend upon its own resources, but depends upon the cooperation and the coordination between the United States and its allies and partners.

To be sure, the US pivoting or rebalancing Asia Strategy will be launched through military, diplomatic, political, and economic offenses in order to check and balance China's fast rising.

## III-1. China's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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China has kept a close eye on the leadership change in both Taiwan and America.

When President Ma Ying-jeou was reelected on January 14, 2012, China was more than happy to witness his victory as DPP's presidential candidate Tsai Ying-wen would be provocative if she was elected.



## III-2. China's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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While Chinese leaders place its trust on President Ma, believing he would further promote cross-Strait relations, it has soon found that they are too early to be optimistic.

Xi Jinping, Chinese new leader, as shown in Hu Jintao's CPC's work report for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, will try his best to work for a political solution across the Strait in the next ten years.

### III-3. China's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- In China's overall policy towards Taiwan in the next decade, Xi's main tasks will include a promotion of political dialogues across the Strait, a discussion on political status across the Strait, a negotiation of Cross-Strait Military Mutual Trust Agreement (MMTA), and a negotiation of Cross-Strait Peace Accord (PA), etc.

## III-4. China's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- President Obama's successful re-election seems to be in the interest of Beijing because China has had a mutual accommodation with the United States for the past 4 years.
- China has to take US pivoting or rebalancing Asia strategy into serious consideration as Mr. Obama is re-elected, thinking of unthinkable in the future.

### III-5. China's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- Beijing will cast its suspicion about Washington's strategic intention behind US support for Japan on the dispute over Diaoyutai/Senkaku Islets.
- Before US exerts its political pressures on Japan letting the nationalization of these islets return to the previous status, it seems that China will use its economic and semi-military measures against Japan.

## IV-1. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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The reelection of President Ma and subsequent leadership change at the national security level will have immense impact on Asia. Perhaps surprising to Beijing, Ma does not think he owes Chinese leadership too much when Beijing believes it is giving away benefits to Taiwan.



## IV-2. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- Instead, Ma thinks the Cross-Strait exchanges and economic cooperation are conducted on *a quid pro quo* basis.
- As a result, he does not believe that he owes anything to China despite the fact that Taiwan has signed the ECFA with China and has been invited to attend the WHA.

## IV-3. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- Since President Ma was reelected in early 2012, China has been determined to promote political dialogues across the Strait.
- In the KMT-CPC Forum held in Halbin during July 28-August 1, 2012, Chairman of Chinese Political Consultation Committee Jia Qinlin advocated “Both sides of Taiwan Strait belong to one China” or at least “One country, two areas.”

## IV-4. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- China hopes that Ma could accept “Both sides of Taiwan Strait belong to one China” or at least “One Country, two areas.”
- However, Ma neither accepts “Both sides of Taiwan Strait belong to one China” nor accepts “One country. two areas.” Instead, he proposed “One ROC, two areas.”



## IV-5. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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When Hu Jintao delivered his CPC work report on November 8, 2012 presenting a proposal that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should negotiate the Cross-Strait “Peace Accord” (PA) and the Cross-Strait Military Mutual Trust Agreement (MMTA) according to the spirit of the cross-Strait peaceful development. He even provides Taiwan with an offer that once political dialogues start, the Cross-Strait relationship can be arranged in a meaningful and reasonable way.

## IV-6. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- Although “Peace Accord” was one of his 2008 campaign platforms, President Ma said on November 8, 2012 that all 18 agreements signed across the Strait are on basis of “1992 Consensus” and the spirit of Cross-Strait peace development. Given the current social, military and political climate across the Strait, he is afraid that the overwhelming majority of Taiwan people will not be willing to sign PA and MMTA.

## IV-7. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- Obviously, during the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC's Congress, President Ma simply did not want to use harsh wording to hurt the feelings of Chinese leaders.
- In late 2011, he presented three conditions for the Cross-Strait Peace Accord: (1) people's support; (2) Legislative Yuan's supervision; and (3) a need of the nation. Other than these conditions, he even proposed that such a Peace Accord needs a referendum voting as it might change the political system of the ROC.

## IV-8. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- On the disputes over Diaoyutai islets, President Ma has proposed “East China Sea Peace Initiative” (ECSPI).
- ECSPI, as an initiative, will help create a scenario in which other nations will automatically follow the suggestions offered by the initiating nation because doing so will also be in their own national interest.

## IV-9. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- The position of the ROC on the disputes over the Diaoyutai islets can be expressed by an English word “FIRM” and each letter of it.
- “Firm” itself represents ROC's position on the sovereignty of Diaoyutai will be firm forever. We can wait another one thousand years.
- “F” signals that ROC's current stance will be flexible as these islets are not in our hands. Our short-term goal is to gain some progress in the fishing rights for our fishermen

## IV-10. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- “I” suggests that we will adjust our stance according to the changing international environment.
- “R” indicates that we have the resolve to solve the problem in the long run.
- “M” shows that we need military forces as our back-up either in times of negotiation or in times of conflict.

## IV-11. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- The same word of “Firm” can also be applied in ROC's position on the disputes of South China Sea (SCS) with “F” signaling facilities because we own the largest island in SCS and several islets in East China Sea.

## IV-12. ROC's Leadership Change & Its Impact on Asia

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- The ROC will not completely depend on China's economy and market without embracing US security commitment because doing so Taiwan will commit a political suicide; whereas Taiwan will not totally depend on US security commitment without embracing China's economy and market because doing so ROC's economy will be marginalized in the East Asian economic integration.



## V-1. Conclusion

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In the future, as long as the KMT is the ruling party, the ROC will continue to stick its Three-No policy of “No independence, No unification, and No use of force” and its strategic approach of “Making peace with China, Making Friend with Japan, and Taking a Pro-U.S. policy.”



## V-2. Conclusion

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- Only with US security commitment at hand, can Taiwan have sufficient capital to deal with China and enjoy economic bonus and peace bonus.