

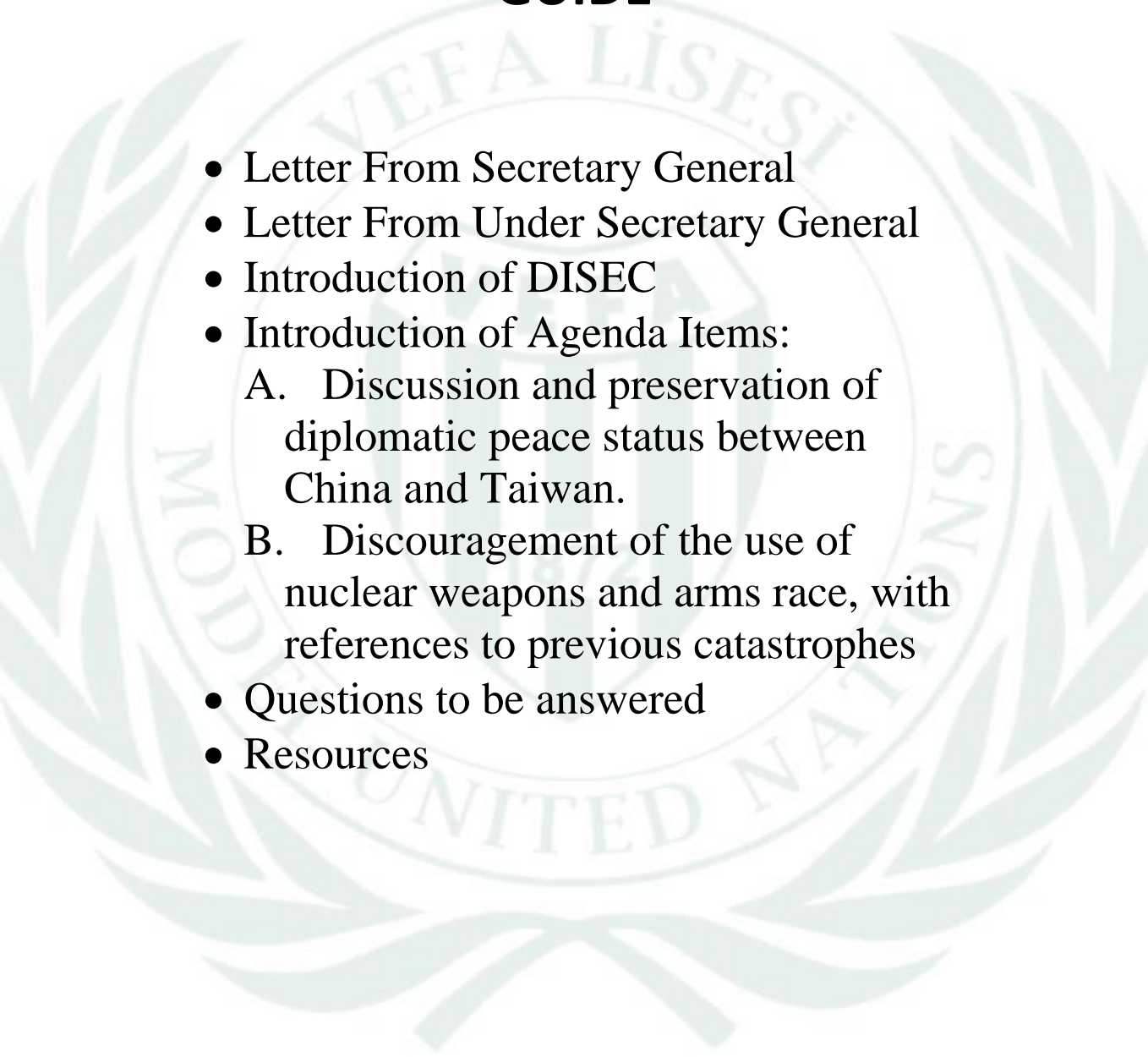
**Vefamun'23**

**Disarmament  
and  
International Security**



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# VEFAMUN'23 DISEC STUDY GUIDE

- Letter From Secretary General
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    - A. Discussion and preservation of diplomatic peace status between China and Taiwan.
    - B. Discouragement of the use of nuclear weapons and arms race, with references to previous catastrophes
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## Letter From Secretary General

Most distinguished participants of VefaMUN'23,

After such a prolonged break, as the Secretary-General, I am more than pleased to extend a warm welcome to you at the 4th Vefa Lisesi Model United Nations Conference. After diligent preparation, it is my utmost pleasure to announce that we are ready to host you for one of the premier Model UN conferences. Both our VefaMUN'23 Academic and Organization team has worked tirelessly to cultivate an energetic and engaging atmosphere that will provide the perfect backdrop for tackling some of the world's most pressing issues. I know that your participation in this conference will be just the beginning of a long and meaningful commitment to justice and progress, and we find it to be a privilege to be a part of this journey.

Respectfully,

Ali Kağan Aydıngör, Secretary-General

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## Letter From Under Secretary General

Dear participants of Vefa High School Model United Nation Conference 2023, It is my immense pleasure to welcome you all to the VEFAMUN'23 as an Under-Secretary-General of Disarmament & International Security Committee (DISEC). Let me introduce myself first, I am Cansu Tosun and I graduated from Kadir Has University. My department was Political Science and Public Administration. As you can see, I live in Istanbul. I am very excited since the time the Director General Ms. Cemre Yüksel invited me to the magnificent VEFAMUN. I accepted the invitation without hesitation. My dear delegates, In the DISEC, you will be discussing a very popular agenda item that the world cannot stop talking about. My dear academic assistant Ms. Melis and I cooperated with each other in order to find various informations to serve you different perspectives for a healthy debate atmosphere where you can feel yourself in the real United Nations. All of the sources that you need during the conference are attached to study guice which means I highly suggest you read the study guide carefully. Several headlines are also added at the bottom of the study guide, which you need to cover them during your negotiations. You dear attendants, you can always reach us via mail, do not hesitate.

cansutosun1@gmail.com

Kindest regards, CANSU TOSUN

Under-Secretary General responsible for DISEC

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## Introduction of DISEC

The United Nations General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and International Security / DISEC) was established in 1945 to deal with the emerging international security and disarmament matters. The committee is concerned with issues such as nuclear weapons, the disarmament aspects of outer space, disarmament machinery, regional disarmament and security, and other weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, DISEC functions as an international forum where all members of the UN discuss matters of international peace and security, as well as disarmament and prevention of arms race.

During our conference, this committee will be tasked with debating two agenda items which are significant and relevant topics concerning the committee. These agenda items encourage our delegates to rethink the future while considering the events of the past. The first agenda item requires delegates to discuss the ongoing diplomatic peace status between China and Taiwan and what DISEC can do to preserve these conditions. Delegates should be keeping the core values of DISEC and the UN in mind, while actively trying to find solutions for the problem and taking action.

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The second agenda item will urge delegates to debate the discouragement of the use of nuclear weapons and arms race, taking previous catastrophes into account. This agenda item is about an issue that might have devastating consequences, if not dealt with; therefore, all members of the UN should be considering possible results that may occur and the results that have arisen in the past.

## Introduction of Agenda Items

### A. Discussion and preservation of diplomatic peace status between China and Taiwan.



China has staged its largest-ever military display in the skies and seas surrounding Taiwan, including the launch of ballistic missiles. The military exercises came after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the island. Self-ruled Taiwan is viewed by China as a breakaway province that will eventually be absorbed into China's control. President Xi Jinping has stated that "reunification" with Taiwan "must be achieved" and has not ruled out the use of force to accomplish this. With its constitution and democratically elected leaders, Taiwan sees itself as distinct from the Chinese mainland. Taiwan is an island

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located approximately 100 miles off the coast of Southeast China. It is part of the so-called "first island chain," which includes several US-friendly territories critical to US foreign policy. Some Western experts believe that if China takes over Taiwan, it will be freer to project power in the western Pacific region, even threatening US military bases as far away as Guam and Hawaii. However, China maintains that its intentions are entirely peaceful.

### **Has Taiwan always been separate from China?**












According to historical records, the island first came under full Chinese control in the 17th century, when the Qing dynasty took over the administration. After losing the first Sino-Japanese war in 1895, they handed over the island to Japan. After Japan lost World War II, China reclaimed the island in 1945. In mainland China, however, a civil war broke out between nationalist government forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party. In 1949, the communists won and took control of Beijing. Chiang Kai-shek and the remnants of the nationalist party, known as the Kuomintang, fled to Taiwan, where they ruled for decades. China uses this history to claim that Taiwan was once a Chinese province. However, the Taiwanese use the same history to claim that they were never a part of the modern Chinese state that emerged after the 1911 revolution - or the People's Republic of China that was created under Mao in 1949.

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## Can Taiwan defend itself?

China might try to achieve "reunification" through non-military ways such as developing economic connections. However, in any military conflict, China's armed forces would overwhelm Taiwan. Except for the United States, China spends the most on defense and has access to a wide range of weapons, including naval power, missile technology, aircraft, and cyber strikes. Much of China's military force is concentrated abroad, but there is a significant imbalance between the two sides in terms of active duty soldiers, for example.

Chinese and Taiwanese armed forces

|  |  China |  Taiwan |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Total active forces</b>   | <b>2,035,000</b>  | <b>169,000</b>   |
| Ground forces  | 965,000   | 94,000   |
| Navy          | 260,000   | 40,000   |
| Air force     | 395,000   | 35,000   |
| Reserves      | 510,000   | 1,657,000  |
| Tanks         | 5,400   | 650  |
| Aircraft      | 3,227+  | 504+   |
| Submarines    | 59  | 4  |
| Naval ships*  | 86  | 26   |
| Artillery     | 9,834+  | 2,093  |

\*Only includes ships classified as principal surface combatants, such as aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates

Source: The Military Balance 2022, IISS

Some Western analysts believe that in an open confrontation, Taiwan might at most strive to halt a Chinese onslaught, block a beach landing by Chinese amphibious forces, and launch guerilla operations while waiting for foreign assistance. This assistance might come from the United States, which sells armaments to Taiwan. Until Washington's doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" meant that the US was purposefully ambiguous about whether or not it would protect Taiwan if attacked. Diplomatically, the



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United States presently adheres to the "One-China" policy, which recognizes only one Chinese government - that of Beijing - and maintains official connections with China rather than Taiwan. However, US President Joe Biden seemed to stiffen Washington's stance in May. The White House emphasized that Washington's attitude had not altered.

### **Is the situation getting worse?**

Relations between Taiwan and China appear to have worsened rapidly following Beijing described as "very hazardous". China's military drills concentrated on six danger zones surrounding Taiwan, three of which overlap with the island's territorial seas.



The drills were supposed to cease on August 7, but on August 8, China conducted large-scale military activities surrounding Taiwan. Tensions between China and Taiwan were already rising. In 2021, China appeared to increase pressure by deploying military aircraft into Taiwan's Air

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Defence Zone, a self-declared region where foreign aircraft are recognized, tracked, and controlled for national security purposes. Last year, the number of reported planes peaked in October 2021, with 56 intrusions in a single day, with Taiwan's defense minister claiming relations were at their worst in 40 years. In 2020, Taiwan made statistics on aircraft intrusions public.

### **Why is Taiwan important for the rest of the world?**

Taiwan's economy is hugely important. Much of the world's everyday electronic equipment - from phones to laptops, watches and games consoles - is powered by computer chips made in Taiwan. By **one measure**, a single Taiwanese company - the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company or TSMC - has over half of the world's market.

### **What is Taiwan's economic situation?**

Taiwan's economy is still heavily reliant on trade with China, the island's primary commercial partner. However, their economic relationship has been strained in recent years, owing in part to Beijing's pressure on the island and Taiwanese leaders' rising anxiety about the island's overdependence on trade with China. President Ma, who served from 2008 to 2016, signed more than twenty treaties with the PRC, notably the 2010 Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, in which

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they committed to remove trade obstacles. China and Taiwan reestablished direct sea, air, and mail communications that had been prohibited for decades. They also agreed to enable banks, insurers, and other suppliers of financial services to operate in both markets. Tsai and the DPP, on the other side, have tried, with mixed results, to diversify Taiwan's trading partnerships. Tsai has had some success in increasing trade and investment with Southeast Asian and Indo-Pacific countries through her trademark program, the New Southbound Policy. Between 2016, when the project was announced, and 2021, trade between Taiwan and the eighteen targeted nations rose by more than \$50 billion. Taiwanese investment in other nations has likewise expanded steadily. Tsai proposed a three-year strategy in 2019 to entice Taiwanese firms to relocate from the mainland to Taiwan. Nonetheless, Taiwan's exports to China will reach an all-time high in 2021. Beijing has put countries under pressure not to negotiate free trade deals with Taiwan. A few nations have negotiated free trade agreements with the island, with New Zealand and Singapore being the only developed economies to do so. Beijing has also advocated for Taiwan's exclusion from multilateral trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) (RCEP). (China is a member of the RCEP but not the CPTPP.) Taiwan is likewise not included in Biden's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

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## What is the United States' relationship with Taiwan:

The United States established formal diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China in 1979. At the same time, it cut diplomatic ties with the ROC and terminated their mutual defense treaty. However, the US retains a strong unofficial connection with the island and continues to supply defensive weapons to the country's military. Beijing has frequently pushed Washington to halt arms sales to and engagement with Taipei. The United States' attitude is guided by its One-China policy. It is based on various documents, including three US-China communiqués issued in 1972, 1978, and 1982; the Taiwan Relations Act, approved by the US Congress in 1979; and the recently released "Six Assurances," delivered to Taiwan by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. According to these papers, the United States:

- "acknowledges the Chinese stance that there is only one China and Taiwan is a part of China" and that the PRC is the "only lawful government of China" (some US officials have stressed that the term "acknowledge" suggests that the US does not necessarily support the Chinese view);
  - rejects any use of force to settle the dispute;
  - maintains cultural, commercial, and other ties with Taiwan, carried out through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT);
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- commits to selling arms to Taiwan for self-defense; and
  - will maintain the ability to come to Taiwan's defense, while not actually committing to doing so—a policy known as strategic ambiguity.

The primary priority of the United States is to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and it has urged both Beijing and Taipei to do so. It declares that it opposes Taiwanese independence.

For decades, the United States has sought to strike a careful balance between aiding Taiwan and avoiding confrontation with China through its policy of strategic ambiguity.

### **How have recent U.S. administrations approached Taiwan?**

Over Chinese protests, the US increased ties with Taiwan under President Donald Trump, notably by selling more than \$18 billion in armaments to the military and erecting a \$250 million facility for its de facto embassy in Taipei. Trump called Tsai before of his inauguration, the greatest level of engagement between the two countries since 1979. He also dispatched several top administration officials,

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including a cabinet member, to Taipei, and the State Department lifted long-standing limitations on where and how U.S. officials can meet with their Taiwanese counterparts during his final days in office. The Biden administration has taken a similar approach, maintaining arms sales and supporting Trump's decision to allow US diplomats to interact with Taiwanese officials more freely. Biden was the first American president to invite Taiwanese officials to the presidential inauguration. The US participates in military training and discussions with Taiwan, sails ships across the Taiwan Strait on a regular basis to display its military presence in the region, and has pushed Taiwan to raise its defense budget. Taiwan has also had bipartisan support in Congress over the years, with members introducing and enacting legislation to strengthen US-Taiwan ties, strengthen the island's defenses, and encourage its involvement in international organizations. The Taiwan Policy Act of 2022, the most recent proposed legislation, proposes identifying Taiwan as a key non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei in August 2022, the first speaker to do so since Newt Gingrich in 1997, and met with Tsai. Beijing immediately opposed the visit and, in reaction, scheduled military drills that essentially surrounded the island, as well as a restriction on Taiwanese imports of some fruits and seafood.

**Could war erupt over Taiwan?**

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Analysts in the United States are concerned that China's expanding military capability and aggressiveness, as well as the worsening of cross-strait relations, might precipitate a confrontation. A quarrel of this magnitude has the potential to escalate into a conflict between the United States and China. This is due to the fact that China has not ruled out using force to accomplish Taiwan's "reunification," and the US has not ruled out supporting Taiwan if China attacks. According to a 2021 assessment from the US Department of Defense, China's military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), is "certainly preparing for a scenario to integrate Taiwan with the PRC by force, while simultaneously discouraging, delaying, or refusing any third-party involvement, such as the US."

Experts, however, vary on the possibility and timing of a Chinese invasion. In 2021, the senior US military commander in the Indo-Pacific warned that China may try to attack Taiwan within the next decade, however other analysts feel that such an assault is still a long way off. Others feel 2049 is a significant date; Xi has underlined that unification with Taiwan is critical to accomplishing what he refers to as the Chinese Dream, which envisions China regaining great-power status by 2049.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 rekindled the argument, with some observers claiming that Moscow's actions may inspire Beijing to attack Taiwan similarly, while others argue that Beijing may become more cautious after

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watching Russia's problems. According to CFR's Sacks, Russia's actions will have little impact on China's readiness to use force, but "Chinese officials will review Russia's shortcomings and alter their operational plans to avoid making similar mistakes."

Analysts believe Taiwan lacks the capacity to defend itself against a Chinese assault without external assistance. Despite Tsai and the DPP's priority of raising defense expenditure, with a record budget of about \$17 billion for 2022, China's spending is still anticipated to be approximately twenty-two times Taiwan's. Taiwanese parliament approved the Tsai administration's intention to spend an additional \$8.6 billion on defense over the next five years in 2022. A portion of the increased military budget will be used to purchase cruise missiles, naval mines, and advanced monitoring systems to defend Taiwan's shores.

### **How has China tried to intimidate Taiwan?**

China has used coercive techniques other than armed combat, and it has increased these steps since Tsai's victory in 2016. Its goal is to wear down Taiwan and lead the inhabitants of the island to believe that unification with the mainland is their best alternative. To that goal, China has expanded the frequency and scope of PLA bomber, fighter jet, and observation aircraft patrols over and around Taiwan. It has also increased the number of times its

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warships and aircraft carriers have gone through the Taiwan Strait in a show of force. Taiwan has stated that China launches hundreds of cyberattacks on its government entities every day. These attacks have become more common in recent years. Taipei accused four Chinese organisations in 2020 of hacking into at least 10 Taiwanese government institutions and 6,000 official email accounts since 2018 in order to get access to government data and personal information. Beijing has also utilized nonmilitary pressure on Taiwan. China terminated a cross-strait contact mechanism with Taiwan's primary liaison office in 2016. It limited travel to Taiwan, and the number of mainland visitors visiting Taiwan dropped from more than 4 million in 2015 to 2.7 million in 2019. China has also put pressure on multinational firms, such as airlines and hotel chains, to recognize Taiwan as a Chinese province. Furthermore, China has intimidated nations with relations to Taiwan: in 2021, China suspended trade with Lithuania in exchange for building a Taiwanese representative office in its capital.

### **Do Taiwanese people support independence?**

The majority of Taiwanese people support the status quo. According to National Chengchi University opinion polls, a tiny proportion favour quick independence. Even fewer express support for Taiwan's unification with China. An overwhelming majority of Hong Kong residents oppose the

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"one nation, two systems" approach, a stance that has strengthened as Beijing restricts Hong Kong's freedoms. An rising proportion of Taiwanese citizens identify with Taiwan rather than the mainland. According to a National Chengchi University study, more than 62 percent of the island's people identified as entirely Taiwanese in 2021. In comparison, 32% identified as both Taiwanese and Chinese, down from 40% a decade ago. Only approximately 3% identified as exclusively Chinese, a proportion that has declined since 1994, when 26 percent did.

### **Are the Taiwanese people worried?**

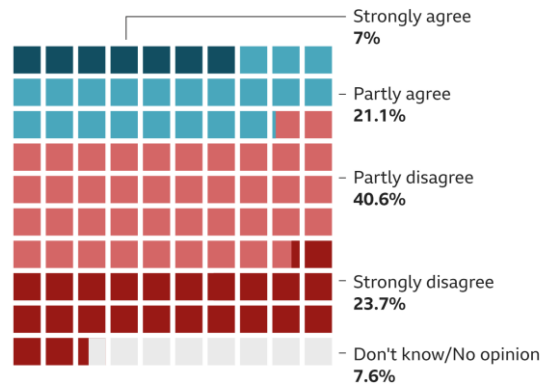
Despite the recent tensions between China and Taiwan, research suggests that many Taiwanese people are relatively untroubled. In October 2021 the **Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation** asked people whether they thought that there would, eventually, be war with China. Almost two thirds (64.3%) replied that they did not.

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### Most Taiwanese people do not think there will be military conflict

People were asked if they agreed that "There will be war between China and Taiwan eventually."

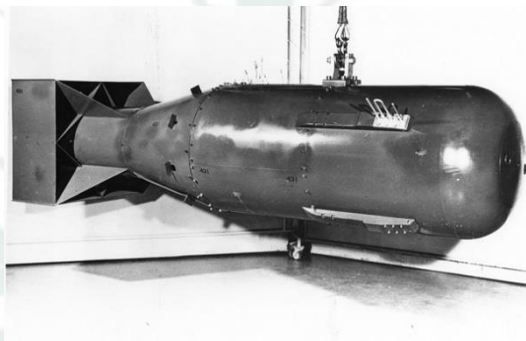


Research carried out in October 2021

Source: Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation



### B. Discouragement of the use of nuclear weapons and arms race, with references to previous catastrophes



**A nuclear weapon** is an explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reactions,

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either fission (fission bomb) or a combination of fission and fusion reactions (thermonuclear bomb), producing a nuclear explosion. Both bomb types release large quantities of energy from relatively small amounts of matter.

The first test of a fission ("atomic") bomb released an amount of energy approximately equal to 20,000 tons of TNT (84 TJ). The first thermonuclear ("hydrogen") bomb test released energy approximately equal to 10 million tons of TNT (42 PJ). Nuclear bombs have had yields between 10 tons TNT (the W54) and 50 megatons for the Tsar Bomba (see TNT equivalent). A thermonuclear weapon weighing as little as 600 pounds (270 kg) can release energy equal to more than 1.2 megatonnes of TNT (5.0 PJ).

A nuclear device no larger than a conventional bomb can devastate an entire city by blast, fire, and radiation. Since they are weapons of mass destruction, the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a focus of international relations policy. Nuclear weapons have been deployed twice in war, by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 during World War II.



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**The nuclear arms race** was perhaps the most alarming feature of the Cold War competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Over the decades, the two sides signed various arms control agreements as a means to manage their rivalry and limit the risk of nuclear war. However, deep fissures have reemerged in the U.S.-Russia relationship in recent years, raising once again the specter of a nuclear arms race.

**TIMELINE:**

**1945**

On July 16, U.S. military researchers conduct the world's first atomic weapons test in Los Alamos, New Mexico, a culmination of the top-secret Manhattan Project. Days later, U.S. President Harry Truman informs Soviet leader Joseph Stalin of his plans to use an atomic weapon on Japan. In early August, American warplanes drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than one hundred thousand Japanese people. Many more would later die from related injuries or illnesses. The devastation helps compel Japan's surrender in World War II and demonstrates the staggering power of a new class of weapons.

**1949**

**August 29, 1949**  
**First Soviet Nuclear Test**

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The Soviet Union explodes its first nuclear weapon at a test range in Kazakhstan. Most U.S. intelligence assessments at the time had estimated that Moscow was at least three years away from obtaining such technology.

**1952-1955**

### **The Next Generation of Bombs**

A mushroom cloud rises over Enewetak, an atoll in the Pacific Ocean, during the first test of a hydrogen bomb. The so-called Mike test completely destroyed the tiny island of Elugelab. As their geopolitical rivalry heats up, the United States and Soviet Union race to develop the next class of weapons, known as thermonuclear, or hydrogen, bombs. In late 1952, U.S. scientists detonate the first of these weapons at an atoll in the Marshall Islands, an explosion hundreds of times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. (Weeks earlier, the United Kingdom tested its first nuclear weapon.) During another U.S. test in 1954, known as Castle Bravo, scientists badly miscalculate the yield, creating a radioactive fallout that harms many Marshall Islands inhabitants. The Soviet Union tests its first thermonuclear device in November 1955. Soviet testing also produces devastating health effects on nearby residents in Kazakhstan.

**1957**

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## **IAEA Established**

The opening session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Conference in Vienna on October 1, 1957. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is established in Vienna as a forum for international cooperation on civilian nuclear research. U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower first called for the creation of a such an agency in his Atoms for Peace speech to the UN General Assembly in 1953. Unanimously approved by more than eighty countries, the IAEA's charter outlines a three-part mission: nuclear verification and security, safety, and technology transfer. The IAEA's first safeguards for civilian nuclear facilities are established in 1961.

### **1957–1958**

## **Sputnik Kicks Off Space and Missile Race**

A photograph of the Soviet satellite Sputnik I. The Soviet Union conducts the world's first successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), seen as capable of striking U.S. territory, in October 1957. Days later, a modified version of the rocket launches Sputnik 1, the first man-made satellite, into orbit. The Soviets' rapid technical achievements startle U.S. leaders, raising the specter of a first strike and the militarization of space. The Atlas missile program in United States conducts its first full-range ICBM flight in late 1958, the same year

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Washington creates NASA, a civilian space exploration agency.

**1958–1960**

### **Testing Boom**

As part of Operation Hardtack 1, the U.S. conducts nearly three dozen nuclear tests on proving grounds in the Pacific Ocean in 1958. The year 1958 proves to be the most active to date for nuclear testing, with the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States detonating more than one hundred devices in total. The three countries then voluntarily pause testing for several years as they discuss a permanent testing ban. In early 1960, France conducts its first test, becoming the world's fourth nuclear power.

**1962**

October 1962

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## Cuban Missile Crisis

A Russian ship loaded with missiles in Port Casilda, Cuba, on November 6, 1962. Cold War tensions nearly spill over into a nuclear conflict when, in October, U.S. reconnaissance flights reveal the Soviets constructing secret missile bases in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy warns Moscow of a “full retaliatory response” if it launches a nuclear attack from Cuba on any country in the Western Hemisphere. After a thirteen-day standoff between the superpowers, which includes a U.S. naval quarantine of Cuba, the Soviet Union agrees to withdraw its missiles. In exchange, the United States publicly pledges not to invade Cuba and, confidentially, agrees to pull its nuclear missiles out of Turkey.

**1963**

August 1963

### **Limited Test Ban Treaty**

President John F. Kennedy prepares to sign the Limited Test Ban Treaty with the Soviet Union in 1963. After years of on-again, off-again negotiations, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States agree to ban nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water, and to significantly

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restrict underground testing. The Limited Test Ban Treaty reflects growing international concerns about the dangers of a nuclear fallout. A high-speed “hotline” connecting the leaders of the Soviet and U.S. governments is established to mitigate the risk of accidental warfare. France and China, which would become the world’s fifth nuclear power the following year, are not party to the treaty.

**1968**

### **A Nonproliferation Victory**

The pursuit of nuclear weapons by more states leads to calls for an international framework to halt proliferation. Discussions on a treaty began at the United Nations in 1959. After multiple drafts, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States sign the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on July 1, 1968, agreeing to pursue general disarmament. China and France do not join until 1992. The nonnuclear signatories pledge to forgo the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Today, 190 countries are party to the NPT, making it the most widely adhered-to arms control agreement. Only India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and South Sudan remain outside the treaty—the first four of which possess or are suspected to possess nuclear weapons.

**1969–1979**

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## **Détente**

On June 21, 1973, U.S. President Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev pledge to permanently limit their countries' offensive nuclear arsenals. The late 1960s and early 1970s see a general thawing of U.S.-Soviet relations, ushering in a hopeful era of nuclear arms control, which becomes most apparent in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, or SALT. The two sides forge a pair of groundbreaking agreements in 1972: the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty limits the countries' deployment of missile defense systems to their national capital and one ICBM site, and SALT I, which restricts their number of nuclear missile silos and submarine-launched missile tubes for a five-year period. SALT I does not address strategic bombers or warhead arsenals. Meanwhile, Washington's rapprochement with Beijing during the decade stuns Soviet leadership, whose own relations with Mao Zedong's communist regime had frayed.

## **1979–1980**

### **SALT II and the Invasion of Afghanistan**

Soviet tanks take positions in front of the Darul Aman Palace, which houses the Afghan Defense Ministry, in the outskirts of Kabul. In June 1979, the United States and Soviet Union sign a SALT II agreement that would have placed further limits on their nuclear weapons and

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launch platforms, including strategic bombers, and imposed certain notification requirements and new testing bans. But in December, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan, starting a nine-year war in which its forces and allied Afghan communists battle the U.S.-funded mujahideen resistance. U.S. President Jimmy Carter responds to the Soviet invasion by asking the Senate to freeze consideration of the SALT II treaty and by pulling the country out of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

### **1981–1983**

#### **‘Zero Option,’ START, and Pershing**

West German soldiers and civilians march with a banner reading "NATO soldiers against nuclear missiles" in a demonstration attended by about 150,000 people in Bonn, June 10, 1982. In its first year, the Ronald Reagan administration focuses on modernizing the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal and accelerating a general military buildup. However, in November, President Reagan presents the Soviet Union with a so-called zero option, in which all Soviet and U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles would be removed from installations around the world. The following June, Reagan proposes a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which seeks deep cuts in warhead counts and delivery vehicles. Soviet concerns are heightened as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) begins to deploy upgraded Pershing missiles in Western Europe, capable

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of striking targets in Russia. The Pershing II rollout triggers massive antinuclear protests in European NATO states.

## 1983

March 1983

### **Reagan's 'Evil Empire' and 'Star Wars' Speeches**

President Reagan addresses the nation on March 23, 1983. On March 8, President Reagan gives a speech in which he refers to the Soviet Union as an “evil empire,” and warns against “appeasement” and “the so-called nuclear freeze solutions proposed by some.” In a March 23 address, he announces a Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) to create a space-based ballistic missile shield that could protect against a Soviet nuclear attack. SDI seems to mark a major shift in a U.S. posture that had so far embraced the doctrine of mutually assured destruction, or MAD, to maintain strategic stability. Critics say that the SDI, if technologically viable, would run afoul of the ABM treaty. Meanwhile, the Soviet military grows increasingly wary of a widening technological gap with the West.

## 1986

### **Reykjavik Summit**

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U.S. President Reagan with Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev at Hofdi House during the Reykjavik Summit in Iceland. In October 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Reagan hold an extraordinary short-notice meeting in Iceland, where the two leaders nearly agree to abolish their offensive nuclear weapons within ten years. (The pair had previously discussed arms control in Geneva, where they declared that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”) The deal unravels over the question of missile defense testing and the SDI research underway in the United States. The Soviets favor a strict interpretation of the ABM treaty that confines research and development to laboratories, while the United States argues for a broad interpretation allowing the development and testing of space-based missile defense technology. Despite their failure to reach an agreement at Reykjavik, the measures discussed pave the way for subsequent nuclear diplomacy.

**1987**

**Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty**

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A Soviet inspector examines a BGM-109G Tomahawk ground-launched cruise missile prior to its destruction in October 1988. Gorbachev and Reagan sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, agreeing to eliminate by 1991 their countries' arsenals of ground-launched, midrange nuclear missiles (ranging from about 300 to 3,400 miles). It's the first agreement to reduce nuclear arms—as opposed to setting ceilings—and it introduces comprehensive verification measures. A turning point for the negotiations came after Gorbachev, in a shift from his Reykjavik posture, agreed to de-link the INF from broader strategic talks, which included Soviet efforts to inhibit U.S. development of the SDI.

**1989–1991**

### **End of Cold War and START Signed**

West Berliners crowd in front of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 as they watch East German guards demolish a section of the barrier to open a crossing point between East and West Berlin. U.S.-Soviet disarmament talks accelerate after the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, which marks the beginning of the end of the Cold War and communism in Europe. The following year, East and West Germany reunify as one state that retains its NATO membership. In July 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union just months away,

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U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Gorbachev sign the START treaty. The agreement is a success as both sides, which each had more than ten thousand deployed warheads in 1990, pledge to reduce their arsenals to well below six thousand by 2009.

## 1992

### **Open Skies and Ex-Soviet Republics Disarm**

In March, the United States, newly independent Russia, and twenty-five other countries sign the Treaty on Open Skies, which allows members to conduct scheduled reconnaissance flights over another's territory. Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine sign the Lisbon Protocol to the START agreement in May, committing the newly independent states to transferring the former Soviet nuclear arsenals to Russia and to joining the NPT as nonnuclear-weapons states. The U.S. government provides billions of dollars to fund the denuclearization process through its Cooperative Threat Reduction program. The weapons handover is completed by the end of 1996.

## 1993

### **START II Signed but Not Implemented**

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, right, toasts U.S. President George H.W. Bush after signing the START II

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treaty in Moscow on January 3, 1993. The United States and Russian sign START II, which aims to limit the number of strategic nuclear weapons that the parties can hold to 3,500, respectively. The ratification process, however, would be complicated by many factors and drag on into the next millennium. The treaty never comes into effect.

## 1997

March 1997

### **ABM Treaty Amended**

To redefine and strengthen the ABM treaty of 1972, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin ink a joint statement in March that delineates between strategic and nonstrategic, or theater, missile defense systems. Russia ratifies the agreement in 2000, but the measure is never sent to the U.S. Senate. In 2001, President George W. Bush announces that he will withdraw the United States from the ABM, effectively ending the agreement.

## 2000

### **Missile Data Sharing Proposal**

Russian military officials peer into an opened silo of an intercontinental ballistic Topol-M missile at an undisclosed location. Building on caveats worked into

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past arms control agreements, the United States and Russia propose the creation of an early-warning, pre-launch notification system that would reduce the risk of an inadvertent missile launch. The proposal was first floated in 1998 by Yeltsin, who suggested the data-sharing center should be located “on Russian territory.” Washington and Moscow sign a memorandum of agreement on the center in 2000. However, the project is delayed for various reasons, including Russian concerns about U.S. missile defense research, and it never materializes.

**2002**

### **SORT and Missile Defense**

President George W. Bush announces on December 13, 2001, that the United States will withdraw from the ABM Treaty. In May, President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin sign the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), also known as the Moscow Treaty, agreeing to significantly cut the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads within ten years. Critics say the treaty, which effectively supersedes START II, is too

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vague and lacks adequate compliance measures. (SORT takes effect the following year after congressional approval.) In June, President Bush withdraws the United States from the ABM, claiming it limits United States' ability to develop missile defenses against terrorists and so-called rogue states, such as Iran and North Korea. The move angers Russia, which views U.S. foreign policy in the aftermath of 9/11 with increasing concern.

**2007**

### **A Missile Shield Fracas**

A U.S. plan to place antimissile interceptors in the Czech Republic and Poland irks Moscow, which regards the shield as a threat to its strategic nuclear deterrent. Washington says the system is intended to defend against potential Iranian and North Korean strikes. During Group of Eight (G8) summit talks in Germany in June, Putin proposes jointly developing a missile shield based on radar facilities in southern Russia and Azerbaijan.

**2009**

### **The Obama 'Reset'**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Geneva, pressing the

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“reset button” in relations between the countries. President Barack Obama looks to set a new tone for U.S. engagement with the world, giving a series of high-profile foreign policy addresses in Prague, Cairo, and Moscow. He says the United States has a “moral responsibility” to lead the world in nuclear disarmament and pledges to negotiate new strategic weapons reductions with Moscow. As part of this effort, Obama says the United States and Russia should “reset” their relationship so they can focus on common challenges, including nuclear nonproliferation, counterterrorism, and the global economic recession. Later that year, Obama says the United States will alter its Europe-based missile defense system, scratching plans to build permanent sites in the Czech Republic and Poland.

**2010**

### **New START**

In April, Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sign a new strategic arms reduction agreement in Prague, replacing the first START treaty, which expired in 2009. The so-called New START treaty commits Washington and Moscow to another round of cuts to their strategic offensive arsenals. The package sets a 30 percent reduction on deployed warheads and lower caps on deployed and non-deployed intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile launchers, and heavy bombers

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equipped for nuclear weapons. The treaty is approved by the U.S. Senate in a decisive bipartisan vote. The Russian parliament approves it in early 2011.

**2014**

### **The Ukraine Crisis**

A Russian serviceman carries two rocket launchers near the Crimean city of Simferopol, March 2014. After political upheaval in the former Soviet Republic drives the pro-Russia president from office, Russian security forces invade Crimea, an ethnic Russian-majority region of Ukraine. With its assault on and subsequent annexation of Crimea, Russia violates its previous pledges to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, raising deep concerns about its commitments to arms control. Moscow also begins arming and abetting pro-Russia separatists in southeastern Ukraine. The aggression is widely condemned by Western powers, which impose economic sanctions. The United States also supports Ukraine with military aid. The conflict ends the U.S. - Russia reset and heralds a renewed era of geopolitical rivalry.

**2018**

### **U.S. Withdraws From INF Treaty**

In August, the Donald J. Trump administration announces it will pull the United States from the Cold

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War-era pact that bans midrange, ground-launched nuclear missiles. For years, the United States had claimed that Russia tested and deployed a cruise missile prohibited by the treaty, an allegation Moscow denied. The U.S. withdrawal, which takes effect in August 2019, is supported by NATO allies and comes amid a series of disputes with Russia over Ukraine, Syria, and interference in U.S. elections.

**2020**

### **Open Skies Under Threat**

A U.S. Air Force member takes aerial photographs while flying an observation mission. In November, the United States withdraws from the Treaty on Open Skies. As its rationale, the Trump administration alleges that Russia has been abusing the agreement for years. Many NATO members express regret at the U.S. withdrawal from Open Skies, which they say is useful despite Russia's noncompliance.

**2021**

### **New START Extended**

A Russian intercontinental ballistic missile is driven during the Victory Day Parade in Red Square in Moscow, June 2020. Days before the 2011 treaty is set to expire, the United States and Russia agree to extend New START for another five years, keeping verifiable limits

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on their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons. The agreement is one of Joe Biden's first major foreign policy acts as U.S. president. The Trump administration had tried and failed in its final months to secure a shorter extension to the treaty that would have addressed China's nuclear weapons.

### **Questions to be answered**

A: Discussion and preservation of diplomatic peace status between China and Taiwan.

1. Why does China claim Taiwan as its own?
  2. How did Taiwan come to be an independent nation?
  3. How has Taiwan responded to China's territorial claims on the island?
  4. What are the results that may have effects around the globe if the dispute between Taiwan and China isn't resolved?
  5. What role do international organizations such as the UN play in addressing the situation?
  6. How have the economic ties between China and Taiwan been affected by the tensions between the two sides?
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7. Can Taiwan and China start an armed conflict, and if so, how would that affect each side?
  8. What measures has Taiwan taken to defend and protect its independence from Chinese aggression?
  9. Under which circumstances can the diplomatic peace status between China and Taiwan be jeopardized?
  10. How have Taiwan's democratic developments impacted its relationship with China?

B: Discouragement of the use of nuclear weapons and arms race, with references to previous catastrophes.

1. What can individual nations and international organizations do to pursue disarmament?
  2. What is the ultimate objective of nuclear disarmament?
  3. How has the global nuclear arena evolved over time?
  4. Can we assure that the use of nuclear weapons won't cause war crimes, considering the devastating impact they had on civilians in previous catastrophes?
  5. What effects have nuclear weapons had on the idea of deterrence in the arms race?
  6. Nuclear monopoly or the ownership of nuclear powers by all countries— why one or the other?
  7. Is there a connection between nuclear weapon ownership and global power dynamics?
  8. How have the arms race and proliferation of nuclear weapons affected countries' individual economies and global trade?
  9. Is it possible for nuclear proliferation and the arms race to set off a chain reaction of global events that could lead to another world war?
  10. What has the world learned from previous nuclear disasters, and what political or military action was taken to prevent these catastrophes from occurring again?
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