

The current state of China-Taiwan relations is far from being settled as the tensions between the Asia's massive superpower and one of the most economically developed countries in the world keep rising. The ongoing conflict has been largely overshadowed by the protests taking place in nearby Hong Kong, but it still remains a problematic situation that has shifted into an issue involving even China's and Taiwan's political partners across the world.

The origins of this problem started in 1949 when the fight between the Communist Party of China and the nationalist party Kuomintang escalated to the point that Kuomintang was forced to flee the country and move to Taiwan, where they established the unofficial Republic of China. In the meantime, the Communist Party formed the People's Republic of China and getting their land back became the number one priority. It is widely believed that if it was not for the USA that intervened and helped Taiwan to fight back, Taiwan would no longer be a free country.

The main issue is that even after 70 years, the situation has not improved one bit. Even though Taiwan and China remain in a state of a strictly economical relationship, the tensions are only getting higher as Taiwan recently closed the deal with USA about a purchase of weaponry worth 20 million dollars, in case they have to defend their country. USA primarily see Taiwan as a perfect strategic point in the East China Sea, that is the main reason they keep having such a close political relationship. The current Chinese president Xi Jinping publicly stated on the 40th anniversary of a key policy statement which improved relations between Taipei and Beijing that Taiwan "must and will be" reunited with China and as the 2020 is approaching it seems even more likely that a lot of blood will have to be spilled for it to actually happen. It is clear that the situation is highly complicated and considering the fact that UN regard Taiwan as a legitimate state, nobody can say right now how catastrophically could the conflict possibly escalate.

I feel like that after 70 years and all the economical growth that both China and Taiwan have gone through, it is pointless to try to forcefully bring these two back together. China is currently one of the strongest superpowers in the world and they honestly do not need Taiwan that much, it is more seen as a question of a principle and a personal pride. I hope the rest of the world will continue to support Taiwan, both politically and economically, otherwise there will be a clear path for China to attack and simply take the land with no remorse. This could prove to be disastrous when you realize that both Tibet and Hong Kong would find themselves in the weakest positions possible and there would be pretty much no chance for them to possibly survive as independent states.

In conclusion, it is crystal clear that the conflict will not be resolved anytime soon. Taiwan is now a well developed country with much more democratic system than China, but the fact that they

have never officially declared an independence from the mainland makes this much more complex than it may seem. As the Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen mentioned in her National Day speech: “When freedom and democracy are challenged and the Republic of China’s existence is under threat, we must stand up and defend ourselves.” Let’s hope that this stance will stay with Taiwan and its people for a long time.