

International Lecture of the Eurasia Foundation, Fall Semester 2022

Series Lectures (7): “Asian Community: The Construction and Transformation of East Asiaology”

Topic: Analysis of the Development of Global Political and Economic Situation

For the 7th Eurasia Foundation International Lecture in the 2022 academic year of the Chinese Culture University, we invite Professor Philip Yang (楊永明), the Distinguished Chair of the College of Social Science at the Chinese Culture University, former Director-general of Government Information Office, Executive Yuan, to deliver a speech entitled “Analysis of the Development of Global Political and Economic Situations.” Professor Yang, who has studied international relations and Asian economic integration for years, has published books including *台日關係史* (The History of Taiwan-Japan Relations, co-authored with Yasuhiro Matsuda, Shin Kawashima, and Urara Shimizu), *中美貿易戰與科技戰* (The Sino-US Trade War and Technology War), *亞洲大崛起：新世紀地緣政治與經濟整合* (The Rise of Asia: The Geopolitics and Economic Integration in the New Century). He is the first Taiwanese scholar to be awarded the Nakasone Yasuhiro Award. In this speech, Professor Yang analyzes the latest global political and economic situation through four topics: “Russian-Ukrainian war, Taiwan issue, Sino-US confrontation, and after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.” The four topics are the focus news now that must be paid close attention.

The Russian-Ukrainian War: Counterattack, Annexation, Nuclear Threats

After the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war, more than 11 million people internally displaced or fleeing Ukraine. On September 30, Putin announced the official incorporation of the four Russian-occupied regions in eastern and southern Ukraine. Because countries around the world refused to recognize it and the UN Secretary-General remarks that “it must not be accepted,” Putin threatened to use nuclear weapons to threaten NATO not to infringe “Russian territory.”

The situation of the Russian-Ukrainian war intensified after the Ukrainian counterattack. On October 8, a suicide bombing occurred on the Crimea Bridge. On October 10, hundreds of Russian missiles attacked major cities such as Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. By October 24, the latest situation so far is the Ukrainian counterattack to recover nearly 8,000 square kilometers of lost land from Kharkiv to Izum. The war is a stalemate with no end in sight in a short period of time.

Taiwan Issues: The New Normal and the Proxy War

After speaker of the United States (US) House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan on August 2, China held a three-day military exercise from August 4 to 7. The so-called “encircling Taiwan” military exercise literally means that the entire Taiwan and surrounding waters were the exercise area. It is a military blockade aiming at sanctioning Taiwan independence and warning the US.

The direct impact of this military exercise is to change the military balance in the Taiwan Strait, intensify the confrontation between China and the US on Taiwan issues, and affect the attitudes of various countries towards the situation in the Taiwan Strait.

On the other hand, the US has used the following moves to strengthen its relations with Taiwan, including successive visits by lawmakers and governors, warships and military aircraft to cross the Taiwan Strait, launching a roadmap for trade negotiations between Taiwan and the US, increasing the attraction of Taiwanese semiconductors to the US, and deliberating and formulating the *Taiwan Policy Act* in Congress. However, despite the increasing number of mentions of Taiwan, the attitude of the US remains “opposes any unilateral change of the status quo and does not support Taiwan’s independence.” Moreover, Taiwan and the US are not a military alliance, and there is no explicit mention of military cooperation in defense. In his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 21, President Biden emphasized on the Taiwan Strait issue that the US “will lead with our diplomacy to strive for peaceful resolution of conflicts. We seek to uphold peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.” If there is an actual war, Taiwan may not receive foreign military aid.

Sino-US confrontation: The new cold war and the tech war

In the *National Security Strategy* released on October 12, from the preface to the conclusion, it pointed out that China will be the “biggest geopolitical challenge of the US” in the next ten years. The whole strategy report mainly describes how to defeat China in an all-round way. This can be viewed as the “New Cold War Declaration” officially issued by the US to China.

From the perspective of Taiwan, the US national security strategy report has four important aspects worthy of attention: 1. The US officially declares full competition against China. 2. Continue and consolidate the international order centered on democracy

and allies. 3. The technological war is the core area of Sino-US competition and confrontation. 4. The policy direction of the internationalization of the Taiwan issue under the one-China policy.

The third point of the Sino-US tech war is that the US strongly ensures the dominance of the semiconductor industry, requests other states' semiconductor makers to build factories to manufacture wafers in the US, and attracts Taiwanese semiconductor talents to work in the US. This shows that the status of Taiwan is very important.

After the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China: Taiwan Policy and foreign economic and trade policy

After the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CCP), the CCP indicated the four priorities of Taiwan policy: 1. Promoting reunification. 2. Anti-independence. 3. Anti-external interference. 4. No commitment to renounce the use of force. The four major areas of foreign economic and trade policy: 1. Leading the Asian economic integration and balancing against the US Indo-Pacific strategy. 2. Deepen the connection between Eurasia and ensure strategic and energy security. 3. Expand global South-South cooperation and ensure global trade stability. 4. Pragmatically implement the Belt and Road policy and expand assistance of international public good.

As the possibility of the CCP's military invasion of Taiwan is getting higher and higher, Professor Yang pointed out that there are currently three predictions for the time of the invasion: 2023 when use of force is immediately declared, 2024 when Taiwan's presidential election is held, and 2027 when the 100th anniversary of the PLA's establishment. If a war begins, it may fall into street fighting, causing a major blow to Taiwan. No one wants war, and Professor Yang has repeatedly stressed that if a war starts, the young students will lose the "golden decade" of their lives. The whole speech kept audience updated with the current international situation, leaving many thought-provoking topics.

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