

TAIWAN

Written By
R Admiral Cíbar Benítez Cáceres

Member of IDPPS's Directors Board

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INSTITUTO DE DESARROLLO
DEL PENSAMIENTO PATRIA SOÑADA

Ph: Fo Guang Shan (taiwan.net)

INTRODUCTION

In a scenario where communications are available to all and technology has helped to shorten distances, both for trade, political leadership and trends, Geopolitics has regained its strength and is perceived to be valid in all countries. By the same logic, any instability in any part of the globe, however remote, has a degree of political, economic, commercial and / or environmental consequences in most other parts of the globe.

Instability anywhere in the world affects in some way global stability.

In our world today, democracy, freedom and respect for human rights are universal values that the very evolution of history has confirmed that without them, no one can reach the state of General Wellbeing that all societies seek and is the very reason for their political organization.

Precisely, we must recognize that the basis of authentic Wellbeing is freedom, decent work, equal opportunities and a democracy and republicanism that guarantees the orderly participation of all. Economic prosperity alone and the power of force do not imply the happiness to which we all aspire.

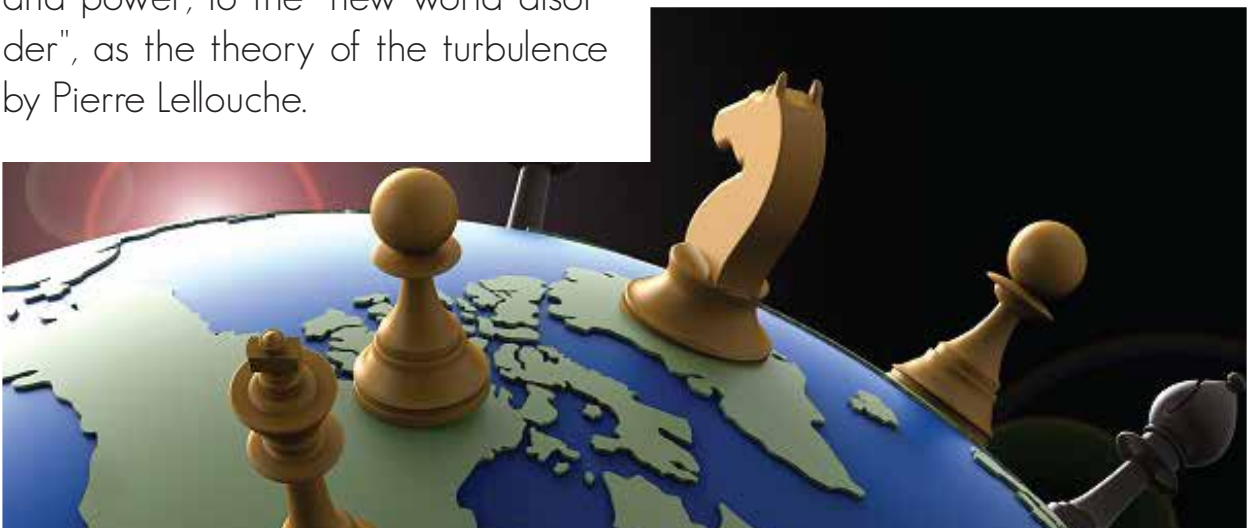


GEOPOLITICS

This discipline is simply about drawing political objectives, taking into consideration the spatial characteristics on which a certain society is based, with its aspirations and needs. It serves to scrutinize the future, considering conjunctural realities, but having history as a reference and backdrop. At the end of the Second World War, Geopolitics was associated with violent expansionism, which, in reality, was due more to the way in which different leaders executed their objectives than to the concept and scope of Geopolitics itself.

Apart from classical theories, since 1945 a number of other geopolitical theories have been developed ranging from the "new world order", grouping countries according to their politics and power, to the "new world disorder", as the theory of the turbulence by Pierre Lellouche.

Today and worldwide, without referring to any particular country or group of countries in general, it seems to be clear that there are two major trends that are opposite to each other. A political leadership that fosters freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and another that although proclaims the same principles, ends with the oppression of the people, directly by force, or by deception with populist gifts or with the directed exacerbation of some collective feeling of a certain social group. And so, several countries whose peoples have learned to live in freedom and democracy, have occasionally fallen into various forms of tyranny that lasted long enough to do enormous damage to society.



* Pierre Lellouche: Politician and French strategist, born in Tunis in May 1951. From his book "The new world".

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA or CONTINENTAL CHINA

The geopolitical expansion of the People's Republic of China is as evident as its economic and commercial expansion. Just as a small example, on March 20 a conference with the title "Negotiating with China" was held in Asunción.

While the initiative is welcomed and applauded, and the good intention of its national promoters is more than certain, it should be noted that the second point to be included was precisely one of a fundamentally geopolitical nature: "UN PAÍS, DOS SISTEMAS." Once again, it is worth remembering that geopolitical impulses are absolutely rational and useful; however, they must be operationalized with the restraint and considerations demanded by a much more informed and attentive world society.

We must recognize their signals in a timely manner, in such a way as to avoid loss of time and money with appearances and irreverent improvisations.

The free world community rushes to the aid of Venezuela to save it from a cynical and ferocious tyranny, which has impoverished it and caused an unprecedented diaspora in that sister nation.

On the other hand, it seems ironic that so few countries accompany Taiwan's efforts to remain sovereign in an environment perhaps much more dangerous and potentially more hostile than northern South America and the Caribbean.

The presence of the Chinese giant, which in just under 4 decades since opening up to state capitalism has taken an unprecedented economic leap, but with great inequality in its domestic repercussions, and which is currently experiencing a slowdown as acknowledged in a recent announcement by their own Chinese Prime Minister, Li Keqiang, coinciding with forecasts of the International Monetary Fund that estimate a reduction of its annual growth of up to 5.6% for the year 2023, against a sustained growth of more than 10% per year which China had until 2015.

With a gross national debt of almost three times its GDP, and greater economic demands by the manufacturing sector, the uncertainty increases and can generate other objectives to distract from the internal problems.

An example of this is the insistence by Continental China in the policy of "UN PAÍS, DOS SISTEMAS", evidently with the final intention of annexing Taiwan, judging by their way of approaching opposition leaders within the Taiwanese democracy and not with the legally constituted government. China does not rule out the use of its enormous military force, which in fact, has already displayed strategic measures around the island and particularly in the Strait of Formosa that separates it from the continent.

Taiwan, actually does not require a new direction with its more than 23 years of authentic and efficient democracy of shared prosperity, and even less that of an authoritarian regime such as that of President Xi Jinping who has managed to amend the Constitution for his indefinite re-election and, among other things, established in the first article of the new Magna Carta the leadership and the primacy of the Communist Party.

President Xi Jinping is also the General Secretary of the Communist Party and supreme head of the Central Military Commission.

The international community should accompany Taiwan more strongly and not leave it alone at the expense of a tyranny that will only destroy its democracy and its freedom and will certainly generate instability in that region with unpredictable consequences. A slow and indolent international diplomacy will only stimulate the ambition of the strongest.



* Data from the Institute of International Finance (IIF, for its acronym in English) show that between fourth quarter of 2008 and the first of 2018 China's gross debt exploded from 171% to 299% of the GDP.

PARAGUAY AND TAIWAN

Paraguay, without maritime coasts that facilitate international trade, is unlikely to become a large producer of heavy industry. Nevertheless, apart from our thriving agro-agriculture and the production of clean and renewable energy, we could target and develop computer technology and create other production niches that the market may prefer, as Taiwan has done. For this, we must invest in professional training and build confidence in ourselves to persevere and win.

Paraguay has shown a number of times to be fully supportive of Taiwan's foreign policy, perhaps without much relative material strength but with much moral conviction and dignity, supported by our nation's history that includes the two international wars that we have fought.

Taiwan has much to share with Paraguay and us with Taiwan, not only in terms of more fluid trade and direct investments from Taiwan into our country, but also with our strong support for its government and citizens in the international arena.

Happily, in the Honorable Chambers of Senate and Congress, our national Senators and Congressmen have already raised their voices in this same direction, during their respective ordinary sessions of Wednesday, March 13 and Thursday, March 14, 2019, by means of this Declaration: "REJECTION OF THE DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINA POPULAR REPUBLIC FOR THE FALSE ASSURANCE THAT TAIWAN IS PART OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA," referring to the speech delivered by President Xi Jinping on March 2, 2019, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the so-called "MESSAGE TO COMPATRIOTS IN TAIWAN," in which he makes it clear that mainland China does not grant legitimacy to the Government of Taiwan and that it does not rule out the possibility of the use of force to annex it, under the pretext that there is "UNA SOLA CHINA."

Both Chambers of the Legislative Powers of Paraguay, also SUPPORT, as expressed in the same document, the Government and People of the Republic of Taiwan in their struggle for full international recognition of their status as a sovereign, free and democratic country.

* Both statements are of the same tenor and duly approved by consensus.

CONCLUSION

It is clearly shown that Paraguay is on the side of political leadership that respects freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It condemns all forms of dictatorship and colonialism and is forever free and independent. On the global stage, Paraguay subscribes to respect for international law and participates in solidarity with the community of nations.

The relationship between Paraguay and Taiwan continues to deepen over time and their mutual support is increasingly necessary for coincidences in political leadership and, it must be said, for the complementary interests of both nations. Despite the distance, thanks to an active and present diplomacy, each country seems to recognize the most significant needs of the other and above all it seems that the means exist for a just and more efficient collaboration.

The following are general guidelines that can help further consolidate cooperation between the two States:

- a. Increase the commercial relationship between both countries.
- b. Propose and work on direct investments from Taiwan in Paraguay.
- c. Expand cooperation in Paraguay's tertiary education formalized in the fields of engineering, computing and communications in general.
- d. Provide mutual support on issues of State Security.
- e. Definitely, accompany and unfailingly promote respect regarding the sovereignty of Taiwan, as a free and independent nation, as well as its inclusion in all supranational organizations of different nature and its full recognition by the international community.

