

We are incredibly proud to affirm the resolution; Resolved: The United States should establish a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan.

Because American economic and military influence is slowly eroding in the Asia-Pacific and around the world, Our Sole Argument is Challenging China.

Lotta Danielsson of NBR in 2020 finds that while Taiwan is attempting to diversify away from Chinese economic chokeholds, they are still completely dependent on Chinese trade and will continue leaning closer to China absent a comprehensive trade agreement with the US.

Because of this chokehold on Taiwan, China has completely taken control of the Taiwanese economy. David Sacks from the Council on Foreign Relations writes in 2021 that China has cut tourism to Taiwan, banned imports, and has marginalized Taiwan from various trade agreements.

However, the US establishing a comprehensive trade agreement with Taiwan can CHANGE the status quo. Danielsson concludes that this bilateral trade agreement would encourage Taiwanese participation in trade deals by providing political cover for other nations to follow suit.

While some analysts argue that China would seize this chance to retaliate economically or militaristically, Dan Blumenthal, Director of Asian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute explains in 2019 that a trade agreement between the US and Taiwan would actually dissuade Beijing from retaliating by allowing Taiwan to engage China from a position of economic strength, backed by the US and the rest of the international community,

The impact of integrating Taiwan into further trade deals is immense. Christopher Findlay from the University of Adelaide writes in an empirical meta-analysis that bilateral and regional trade agreements act as a formal means for massive spikes in investment into the Asia-pacific region, paving the way for long-term economic growth.

And specific to trade, Senior Policy Analyst at the Heritage Foundation, Gabriella Smith writes in 2022 that a bilateral trade agreement would increase US GDP by 246 million dollars and Taiwan's GDP by over 640 million, all while decreasing Chinese trade value by 1 billion annually.

But even beyond economic benefits, establishing a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan would be instrumental for western geopolitics.

For the USA, Christine McDaniel of George Mason University writes in 2021 that with allies questioning American leadership and credibility in the Asia-Pacific, one of the best ways to reaffirm American commitments is through a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan.

Not only would a stronger Taiwanese economy further American strategic interests in Asia, but it would divert Taiwan from falling under Chinese influence

For Taiwan, Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow at the CATO institute explains in 2020 that such a pact would solidify Taiwan's integration within the international community by making it difficult for Beijing to demand their exclusion from international trade agreements.

For these reasons, upholding western influence in the global sphere is critical as Hal Brands, Professor of Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins University writes in 2020: as China builds more and more economic power, it will slowly gain increasing geopolitical influence, reshaping the international order, and establishing autocratic waves around the world alienating democratic ideals.

Whether it's replicating the norms that allow for the oppression of Uighurs or extending neo-colonialist ideals to nations around the world, halting Chinese influence in areas struggling between embracing liberal democracies or reverting to authoritarian rule is of the utmost importance.

Overall, because we believe that a bilateral trade deal would drastically improve the economies of the US and Taiwan all while upholding American geopolitical influence, Justin and I are extremely proud to affirm the resolution today.

Thank You.