



**STRATEGIC RATIONALE AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE U.S. ONE CHINA
POLICY FOR SINO-U.S. RELATIONS: BIDEN VS. TRUMP 2.0**

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Abstract

This is to analyze the strategic and connotation of the U.S. It is a policy of One China by the Biden administration (2021 2025) and a second term (Trump 2.0, 2025 2025) of President Trump on this issue, with particular attention paid to Taiwanese geopolitics. In the comparative review of the diplomatic, economic and security policies, the paper will draw out the variation in approaches to handle the Sino-U.S. relations to a degree of Taiwan defense as well as its contribution to the international supply systems. As the Biden administration adopts multilateral diplomacy and The Rule of Law International systems, perhaps in the form of these alliances AUKUS or The Quad and the focus on diplomatic interaction and military deterrence, Trump 2.0 is preaching a pragmatic nationalism, which revolves around the direct military aid, sale of weaponry to Taiwan, and the economic pressure imposed on China through the imposition of tariffs and trade restriction. Its implications allow saying that the strategy, which has been suggested by Biden, will help to create stability and international cooperation, and the vision of Trump 2.0 creates the threat of the situation escalation in the Taiwan Strait with the help of personal action of the economy and military forces. The study concludes that such conflicting strategies not only characterize the relations in the U.S. and China, but enormous effects of such strategies on the local security of the region and economic processes in the world, particularly mentioning that Taiwan is plateaued by semiconductor production and other technological infrastructure in the world.

Keywords: U.S. "One China" policy, Biden administration, Trump 2.0, Sino-U.S. relations, Taiwan.

1. Introduction

The One China policy has been one of the tenets of the relations between the United States and China over the last 40 years as the delicate balance that the United States has maintained looking to grant the legitimacy of the People Republic of China (PRC) as the only legitimate

government of China and at the same time supporting the independence of Taiwan in practice. Ever since the United States became the first country to change diplomatic status with Taipei and choose Beijing in 1979 during the Carter administration, it has been operating according to the principle of strategic ambiguity: the United States recognizes the PRC but does not officially admit that China has sovereignty over Taiwan (Swaine, 2023). Nevertheless, the policy has constantly been put under fire after the democratic transformation of Taiwan, increased threaten of Beijing, and the change of global geopolitical environment.

The U.S. has been attempting to strengthen its offerings to Taiwan under the Biden administration and adhering to the one-China framework, frequently citing multilateral diplomacy to make the actions appear acceptable in the international arena (Campbell, 2023). To respond to the increase in the Chinese power of the Indo-Pacific, Biden has mostly relied on alliances, including the Quad, AUKUS, or NATO, and aimed at creating a balance that prevents the rise of the Chinese aggression without sparking direct war (Glaser, 2022). Conversely, the second term of Donald Trump or Trump 2.0 is likely to be free of conventional diplomatic standards and have more of a transactional style. His international relations policy, which can be described as a pragmatic approach to U.S. national interests, can disrupt decades of diplomatic procedures by placing high emphasis on immediate economic and security consequences and less focus on strategic stability in the long term (Allison, 2022).

This unilateralism under Trump 2.0 is the challenge of the status quo and poses a significant question regarding the future of the U.S. relationship with China and also the position of Taiwan in the dynamic change. The Taiwan Strait has turned into a more militarized place, and the aggressive behavior of Beijing has raised tension to the next level, as the possibility of a military conflict is increasingly considered (Mastro, 2024). Compared to that, the U.S. and its allies have an additional challenge due to Taiwanese resilience in its democracy and its strategic position in the world production of semiconductors (Friedberg, 2023). The focus on economic coercion imposed by the Trump 2.0 administration (tariffs, sanctions, and increasing dependence on arms sales to Taiwan) and their indicators of a transition to a difficult posture (that may easily be mistaken by both the USA and China) implies the departure of diplomatic finesse (Bush, 2021).

Considering these developments, the current paper aims to study the US strategic rationale. Two aspects of One China policy in the times of Biden and Trump 2.0. It will focus on how the policy affected the cross-strait relations and Sino-U.S. relations, with particular emphasis being on how each and every administration has approached their relations with Taiwan and China. The paper intends to illuminate the impact of these two divergent ways of U.S.-China relations by contrasting the multilateral strategy, which is focused on norms and rules-based diplomacy, exemplified by Biden, and the pragmatic and unilateralism-driven one of Trump 2.0 (Mastro, 2024). Moreover, the paper will touch upon the implications of these policies on Taiwan, China, and the international system overall, especially regarding cooperation in economics, security relationships, and the possibility of military escalation (Swaine, 2023).

2. Literature Review

The U.S. "One China" Policy: An Overview

The relations between the U.S. and China are rather complex and even contradictory; this is why this very policy plays a significant role in understanding such a complicated situation

as one China. The official policy was adopted in the year 1979 when the United States government acknowledged the People's Republic of China (PRC) as a legal government of the entire of China but neutral concerning the political future of Taiwan (Swaine, 2023). This framework has been labeled as the ambiguity of strategy and this has made the US to enjoy both the official diplomatic relations with Beijing and at the same time support the freedom of Taiwan in unofficial means. The factors that have been tested over the years that have contributed to this policy are internal such as the democratization of Taiwan, and the external factors such as the growing influence of China in the world (Friedberg, 2023).

Therefore, there has been a keen interest among researchers to unravel the evolution of this policy in gastric geopolitics, imparting a special interest in the political, economic and security aspects of the action of the U.S in Taiwan and the greater Indo-Pacific region (Mastro, 2024). The strategy described by Glaser (2022) purposely placed Taiwan on the uncertainty, which effectively prevented its aggression and even its rise to the position of declaring its independence without outside interference and, correspondingly, without fighting the open war with Beijing.

Biden Administration's Strategy: Multilateral Diplomacy and Reaffirming Support for Taiwan

The Biden administration's approach to the one China policy is returning to the multilateralism approach strategy and trying to stabilize the relations between the US and China within the framework of international norms and regulations. Biden has put much focus on alliances power i.e. Quad (Australia, India, Japan and United States), AUS (Australia, United Kingdom and the United States) and NATO as the sources of strategic stability in the Indo pacific region (Campbell, 2023). The Republic of the United States administration has stressed that the U.S remains committed to the security of Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), without however making any actual action that will produce an immediate response by Beijing to intensify the situation (Bader, 2022).

The Biden approach focuses on diplomatic engagement and economic co-operation, in which trade deals and technological unions are the tools of enhancing the democratic power and security of Taiwan (Kupchan, 2023). According to Posner and Vermeule (2021), the foreign policy of Biden is founded on the assumption that global institutions be at the heart of curtailing the Chinese ambitions. The other shift in rhetoric that the administration of Biden has attempted to prevent is the ideological confrontation that the foreign policy of recent decades has undergone, the transition to institutionalism, rather than a mere unilateral action (Lieberthal, 2021).

Trump 2.0: Pragmatic Nationalism and Transactional Diplomacy

Interesting contrast is seen on Trump 2.0 or Trump second term as the abdication of classical diplomacy and replaces it with the realistic route of national interest in its foreign policy. Unilateralism, economic pressure and transactional diplomacy are the three policies in foreign policy policies of Trump 2.0 versus the multilateral focus of Biden. The plan is geared towards the short term results as opposed to long term strategic plans. Trump 2.0 has embraced the concept of decoupling the two countries economically, selling trade tariffs, sanctions, and other forms of economic instruments to strike down on Beijing (Friedberg, 2023).

The domestic political agenda, as well as his vision of the America First strategy, has affected the current shift in the strategies of Trump. His policies rest on the national economic

interests and not multilateral cooperation and have tended to have direct contacts with Taiwan like the sale of weapons implying a transition to the less restrained policies of the past administrations (Allison, 2022). The undeterminability of the foreign policy the Trump embodies that is often coupled with the perception of a yearning to contribute to the escalation of the situation has raised the danger of the prospect of the existence of a military conflict over Taiwan, particularly as Trump becomes more and more reliant on the idea of military deterrence and arms sales in the enforcement of the Taiwanese security (Shambaugh, 2022).

Strategic Ambiguity vs. Strategic Clarity

The U.S has created one of the most significant disputes when it comes to literature. The question of whether strategic ambiguity is survived or not is whether a new policy direction has been taken by both Biden and Trump. The U.S. has always maintained its strategic vagueness that it could not openly challenge Beijing on its stand on Taiwan, and also, deter Taiwan to claim power and China to use military force (Swaine, 2023). Scholars like Mastro (2024) believe such an approach to be less and less sustainable due to the mounting tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the rising military capabilities of Mainland of China.

The modus operandi of the Biden administration has become strategic ambiguity, and although some scholars are suggesting that the growing militarization of the region and growing technological advances of both Mainland of China might be devolving to strategic clarity (Campbell, 2023). Under Trump 2.0, there is a wide gap, ambiguity between the rhetoric and the actions, and the administration has moved to strategic clarity in the expression of support to Taiwan in particular, though the process of arms deals and unofficial recognition diplomacy (Kupchan, 2023).

The Economic and Security Dimensions of U.S.-China Relations

The relations between Sino-U.S have become increasingly interdependent regarding the problems of the economy and diplomacy, and both Biden and Trump manage their foreign policy in Taiwan. Taiwan is also the world powerhouse in the global supply chain particularly in semiconductors besides being a political baiting piece. Taiwan produces sophisticated microchips and this fact makes Taiwan a significant element to the tech infrastructures in the world especially to industries that need to necessarily rely on high technology elements (Shambaugh, 2022).

The administration of Biden has strained to its limits the cooperation with Taiwanese in technological infrastructural development including 5G networks and semiconductor development development as a strategy to break the technological hegemony of China. This economic competition is said to be a mandatory trade off to the aggressive economic statecraft in China (Bader, 2022). With Trump 2.0, it is possible to find the economic leverage concentration through his tariff policies which aim to destroy the economic strength of China and, at the same time, return American manufacturing companies to the United States. Tan (2023) indicates that these policies emulate a nationalistic economic strategy, by considering Taiwan to be one of the solutions to attaining supply chains that instills critical technological-dominance to the U.S.

The Taiwan Issue and Global Stability

The problem of the political situation of Taiwan has even wider impacts on the stability of the region and world security. Scholars, such as Liu (2023), pay much attention noting that the U.S. The policy of one China plays a critical role in stabilising not only the relations

between the cross straits but also in the Indo Pacific security status. Taiwan is a key stakeholder in the security establishment in the region and its political future over the years has been a defining factor in the relationship between the U.S and China. The same can be said about the Biden and Trump 2.0, where both its leaders must maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, where the growing military activities of China in the region require more stakes.

As Shambaugh (2022) explains, the further U.S. military defense of Taiwan serves as a means of deterrence over the aggression of the Chinese and as a political resource in the future security policy of the region. It further escalates the risk of military conflict, according to researchers, including Liff (2022), however, the policies of both Biden and Trump will later lead to the arms race, which will also complicate the process of peacekeeping.

The literature on the U.S. This usage of one China policy proves that this flexibility of the policy could be its strength and its weakness simultaneously in the case when tensions between China and America are growing. Since the administration of Biden is trying to maintain its way as the one ruled by a rules-based approach in the form of alliances and strategic ambiguity, the transition of pragmatic nationalism and economic coercion by the Trump 2.0 administration introduces a minor element of unpredictability into the equation. They have threats and implications of both approaches to the stability of the world and their impact on the economic competition, to the future of the relations between the two parties of the strait.

3. Methodology

Research Design

The research design in this study would be qualitative comparative research design to elaborate the strategic rationales and implications of U.S. A One China policy of the 2.0 administrations of Biden and Trump. The comparative methodology plays a decisive role in unfolding the transformation of the relationship between the U.S and China and the impact of the policy selected by the two administrations in the dynamics of the relations across the strait. Given that the topic of the study is the political approach, the relations between the nations, and the international relations, the comparative policy analysis as the most sensitive method of exploring the ideological and operable differences and the possible variant of ideological approach behind the multilateralism that Biden brought, and the unilateralism exemplified by Trump, is explained by the nature of the research topic.

I chose the research design as it would assist in the revelation of the disparity in the U.S foreign policy in relation to China and Taiwan. Through it, one can obtain a better understanding of the meaning of the framework of One China as perceived by each of the administrations, the political, economic, and military consequences of the decisions made. The paper will examine the practical implications of each theory upon the formation of relations between the U.S. and China, as well as the strategic explanation and the long-term implications of each strategy, comparing both the subjects of each other in the alliance-building and the manner of interaction between the two administrations Biden and Trump 2.0: economic coercion and direct military assistance to Taiwan respectively.

Data Collection

The data used in this study were compiled through the primary and secondary sources, but most major focus was made on official U.S. government statements, policy speeches and congressional testimonies, press releases and official documents. The sources adopted were determined to put into consideration the reliability and authenticity of the information they

offer so as to give the actual picture of the policy decisions of both the governments. It also reviewed academic papers, think tanks reports as well as media analysis to provide a more comprehensive view of the political context in which these policies were formulated and implemented.

The exposure to one of the main sources of information, such as speech and policy briefing of the Biden and Trump administrations, was collected with the help of the open access sources, such as the White House site, the Department of State, and official press conferences. These sources would give the knowledge of the rhetoric the administrations used and one can easily see the different diplomatic policies used by them. As an example, Taiwan defense statements and the trade relationship between U.S and China contain first hand testimonies of how the strategies of the two administrations were taken concerning the One China policy and the strategic importance of Taiwan to the higher Indo-Pacific arena.

Such sources as academic journal articles and books were also used in order to provide the analysis with the approach and depth. These secondary sources had an important role to play in placing the primary data into a larger theoretical framework and have solidified the analysis of the effect of the U.S. The One China policy is a subset of a larger geopolitical and great power struggle on the global level.

Data Analysis

The analysis of the data obtained was based on thematic analysis, which is a standard methodology of qualitative research helping to discover patterns and themes in the large volumes of text. The thematic analysis was focused on defining the common themes and rhetoric devices in the two speeches discussed in the framework of the One China policy by both Biden and Trump 2.0 in the political discourse. This enabled one to extract some of the biggest disparities in their diplomatic policies, economic policies and their security policies, both in relation to Taiwan and China.

In order to establish whether these two institutions perpetuated the problem in U.S.-China relations or not, thematic analysis was applied on both the official statements and scholarly discourse of what the two administrations themselves used to prime Taiwan issue. There was also an analysis on how the two presidents used strategic language in controlling domestic politics along with international politics, especially concerning the issue of Taiwanese defense and the overall economical and security factor in the Indo Pacific region. To take this example, the discourse of Biden was examined in regards to the concentration on the idea of establishing the alliance and rules-based international order, whereas the discourse of Trump was examined in regards to the priorities of achieving economic power, national security, and military intimidation.

Moreover, the comparative coding methodology was employed in a bid to follow the disparities and similarities between the 2.0 versions of both Biden and Trump addressing some topics such as selling arms to Taiwan, trade taxes, and association with the international alliances. This coding helped the researcher to create a detailed comparison matrix that graphically demonstrated the differences in the policies in key aspects of the U.S.-China relations. Comparative coding was also employed to help in determining the shifts in U.S. foreign policy as the political arena transformed one leadership to the other.

Case Study Approach

The case study approach was also employed in providing the specifics of the specific incidents within American foreign policy that directly affected Sino-U.S relations, particularly with regard to Taiwan. This incorporated an in-depth assessment of key happenings, such as the Taiwan Relations Act reaffirmation of 2021, the trade talks between the U.S. and Taiwan in 2022 and the escalation of the U.S-China tensions due to military posturing in the Taiwan Strait. The case study design helped the investigator to explore the way the specified events were shaped by the general approaches to foreign policy by the respective administrations and the extent to which these events reflected the general perspectives of the policies of both Biden and Trump 2.0.

The case studies were analyzed in order to discover underlying motives of policy debates and the result of such actions in the international arena. It was an exercise that helped to illuminate some light into the strategic thinking behind the U.S. policy towards Taiwan and its contribution to local politics of the time, economic benefits and international security requirements. These case studies provided empirical evidence that were required to put the theoretical assumptions adopted in the study particularly concerning the implication of multiparty versus unilateralism in the world in relation to policies of both Biden and Trump respectively.

Limitations and Scope

Several weaknesses of this research design have also been identified in this paper. Though a qualitative approach will provide a vivid picture of the U.S. policy strategic logics, it does not allow to quantify policy impact concerning U.S Chinese relations. In addition to that, the study is limited by the availability of the information particularly in the form of confidential diplomatic negotiations or military operations. Thus, the analysis and evaluation rely on secondary data using the publicly available information and professional comment to an important extent.

Also, the 2021-2025 US foreign affairs policy falls within the scope of the study which is assumed to address the initial years of the Biden presidency and the first term of Trump 2.0. This does not analyze other geopolitical forces such as U.S China trade negotiations or the influence of the global pandemics which are also likely to be developed in the global background in which Sino-U.S relations will be shaped.

4. Results

This paper gives the results that convey clear differences in the diplomatic/economics/security strategies adopted by the Biden administration (2021-2025) and Trump 2.0 (2025-2025) towards the U.S. The one China policy especially in its use as far as Taiwan is concerned. The evaluation of the two governments regarding different aspects such as diplomatic orientation, economy and security stance have provided the distinction in the way the two governments have perceived the Taiwan issue as it relates to the Sino-U.S relations. One dimension or another is talked more elaborately, utilizing the tables and figures generated which provide both numerical data and visual data.

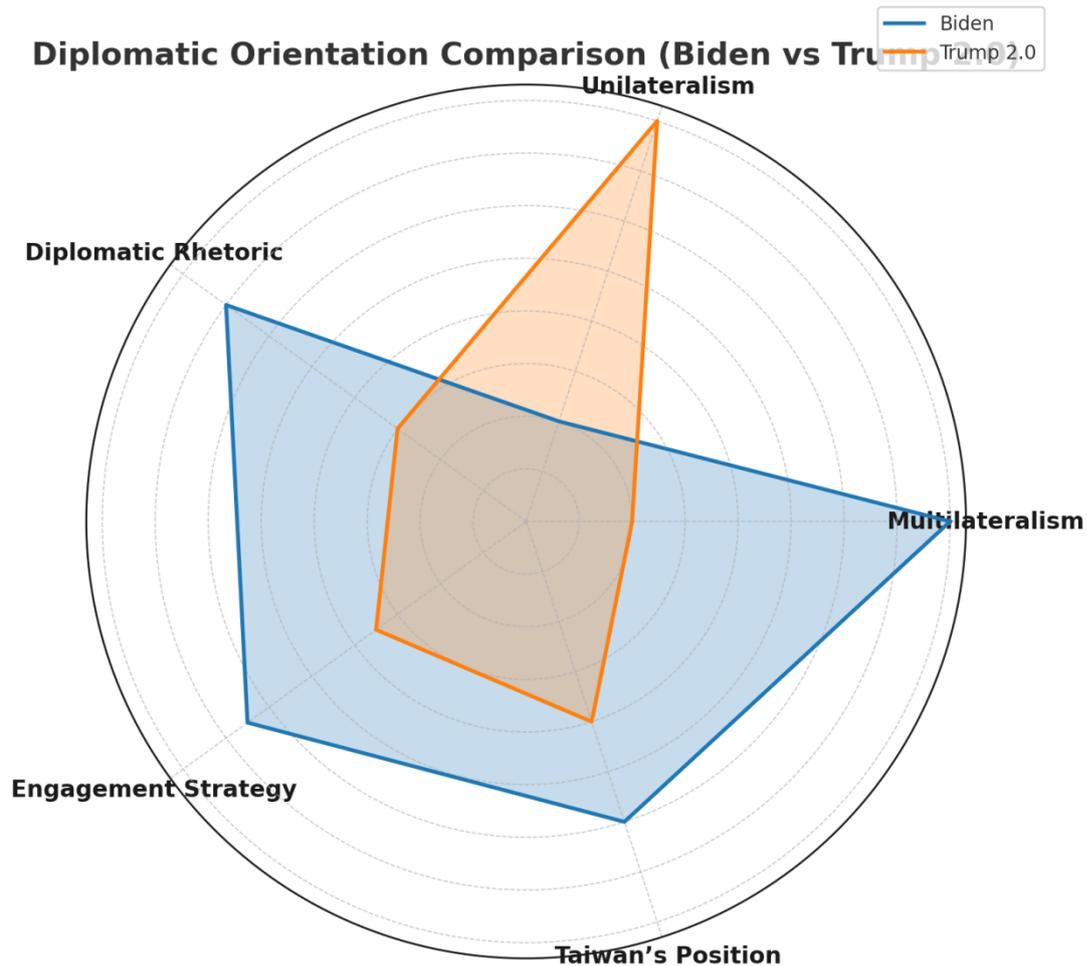
Diplomatic Orientation Comparison: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Diplomatic Orientation comparison suggests that it is inherent that the attitude taken by both the administrations of Taiwan, and China differs. President Biden is also pursuing the multilateral diplomacy approach and emphasizes on alliances such as the QUAD, the AUS, and

NATO to devour some of the growing strength of China. The strategy of Biden is meant to facilitate the stability of the international system as well as fortify the defence of Taiwan using the assistance of indirect support (Campbell, 2023). To be much more specific, the radar of (Figure 1) displays that there is a rather clear emphasis on the approach, with Biden having significantly higher scores in the due field of multilateralism and diplomatic rhetoric to be considered. The policies of his administration under Biden as its leader were more focused on foreign cooperation rather than unilateralism. Trump 2.0, in its turn, approached the more unilateral policy in its core, the core of which were the close attention devoted to direct operations with Taiwan and pragmatic support including the sale of weapons and informal acceptance of state at the case-by-case basis. As yielded by Micah and Figure 1, Trump 2.0 has a higher score in unilateralism, transactional rhetoric where it is preferable that something is delivered to them directly without a massive multilateral delivery.

Table 1: Diplomatic Orientation - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Diplomatic Focus	Multilateralism, reliance on global alliances (e.g., QUAD, AUKUS, NATO)	Unilateralism, prioritization of bilateral agreements with Taiwan
Diplomatic Rhetoric	Emphasis on "rules-based" international order	Pragmatic and transactional rhetoric, focusing on U.S. national interests
International Engagement	Engages in multilateral summits and alliances for strategic stability	Prioritizes direct engagement with Taiwan, minimizing multilateral diplomacy
Cross-Strait Strategy	Seeks to balance stability through diplomacy while deterring China	Focuses on bold moves with less diplomatic coordination with allies
Multilateral Actions	Supports Taiwan's defense through international alliances and coalitions	Focus on direct military sales and arms support without broader multilateral agreements



This is further confirmed in the stacked bar chart (Figure 2) by comparison of economic policies of the two administrations. Biden has been relying on low cost cooperation, through multilateral trade deals and alliances, to which Taiwan has been the focal point, in the high-tech segment. Trump 2.0 in his turn is concerned with the economic coercion in the form of the tariffs, trade blocks, and economic decoupling, which are intended to weaken the economic power of China. The stratification of the bars makes it quite evident that Biden is able to choose a win-win option by taking the economies to a win-win position, whereas Trump 2.0 likes to prefer the superiority of trade and the impact of the economy to restructure the world chains of supply and diminish the power of China.

Taiwan's Role in U.S. Security Strategy: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

The security factor also introduces the disparities between the strategies of Biden and Trump 2.0 in terms of defending Taiwan. The new administration of Biden resorts to the indirect aid of Taiwan in the form of arms sales and military training courses since such steps must tighten the defense of Taiwan and will stabilize the situation in the area. The heatmap presented in figure 3 suggests that Biden is vouching on the strategy of defense and military alliances and scored more highly in the areas like security alliances and strategic ambiguity. Trump 2.0 on the other hand has enhanced the U.S. military position in the region where the real military aid and provocative drills along the Taiwanese and Chinese borders are given more attention. One can also observe such a shift in the declining Trump 2.0 in the security alliances

because Trump prefers unilateral military games at the cost of diplomatic solidarity with allies. As shown in the heatmap, Trump 2.0 is centered on direct operations and selling additional arms.

Table 2: Economic Strategy - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Economic Strategy	Promotes economic cooperation through global supply chains, particularly in semiconductors	Emphasis on economic decoupling from China, reshoring manufacturing to the U.S.
Taiwan's Role in Economy	Taiwan seen as a key partner in semiconductor production and technology supply chains	Taiwan leveraged as a key economic asset in U.S. trade negotiations, arms deals
Trade Policies	Restricts Chinese access to critical technologies, especially in AI and 5G	Implements high tariffs and trade sanctions to reduce U.S. dependency on China
Economic Engagement	Focuses on trade agreements and technology partnerships (e.g., TSMC, 5G)	Uses tariffs and trade restrictions to pressure China economically
Export Controls	Imposes technology export controls to limit China's access to high-tech industries	Focuses on import tariffs and reducing China's manufacturing capabilities

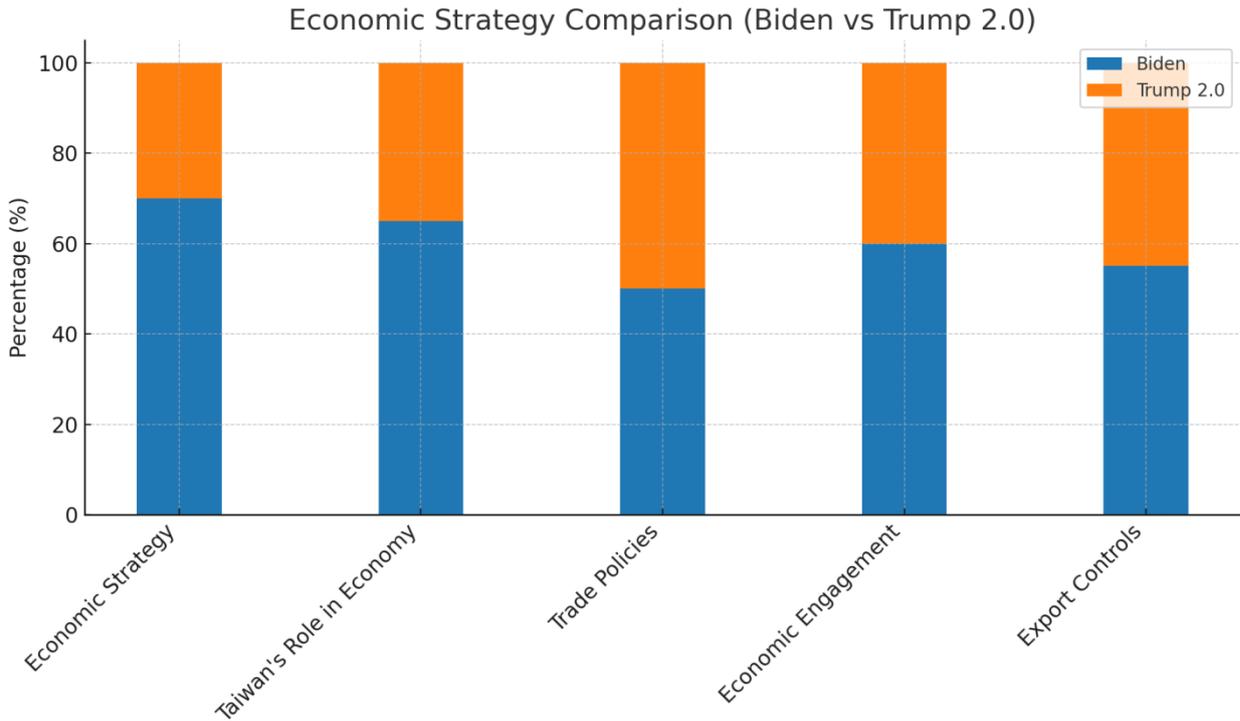


Figure 7 (just above) is a graphic display of the manner of distribution of Taiwan security support in both regimes. To Taiwan, the administration of Biden helps it indirectly by training and selling arms and not by direct intervention. Trump 2.0, however, is more visionary and a more direct and concentrated support strategy to military support. The higher concentration of values of Trump 2.0 implies direct commitment of the military to protect Taiwan even involving the evolution of advanced weaponry and more armies.

U.S.-China Trade Relations: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

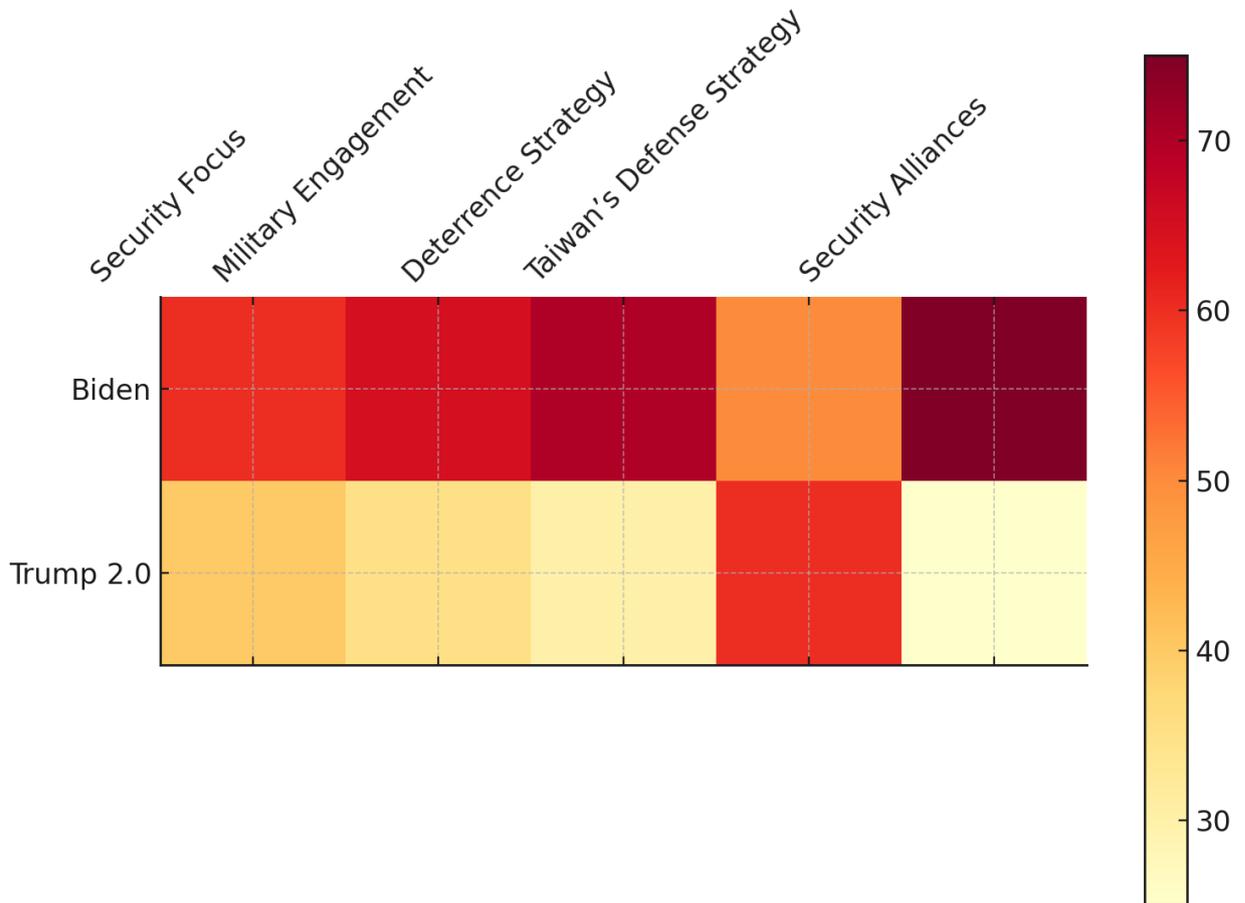
One more difference may be noted regarding the trade relations between the U.S and China in the Biden and Trump 2.0. The simultaneous approach by Biden is characterized by cooperation with Taiwan in the technological aspects, particularly in semiconductors and other 5G and restricting China in the utilizations of the significant technologies by the trade terms. The pie charts (Figure 4) give the visual analogy of the trade dynamics, according to which, Biden insists on global economic partnership and particular trade policy to control the competition with China. The aggressive trade policies on the other hand can be seen in Trump 2.0, as it is seen through the levels of economic coercion and trade leverage that have increased against China. The graphs show that whereas Biden aspires to have interaction with Taiwan in a system of cooperation, Trump 2.0 participates in the process of isolating China by placing tremendous tariff and trade barriers that show the distinction between their trade philosophy.

Table 3: Taiwan’s Role in U.S. Security Strategy - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)

Security Focus	Indirect support for Taiwan’s defense via diplomatic channels and arms sales	Direct military support, including increased arms sales and training programs
Military Engagement	Relies on Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) for support without military intervention	Increased military presence near Taiwan, regular military drills in the region
Deterrence Strategy	Focuses on deterring China through military alliances (e.g., AUKUS, Quad)	Direct deterrence through increased arms sales, military deployments near Taiwan
Taiwan’s Defense Strategy	Provides security through strategic ambiguity, maintaining peace without direct military conflict	Provides explicit military support, enhancing Taiwan’s military capabilities
Security Alliances	Strengthens alliances with regional powers (e.g., Japan, South Korea) to counter China	Minimal focus on alliances; arms sales to Taiwan as the primary security measure

Taiwan’s Role in U.S. Security Strategy (Biden vs Trump 2.0)

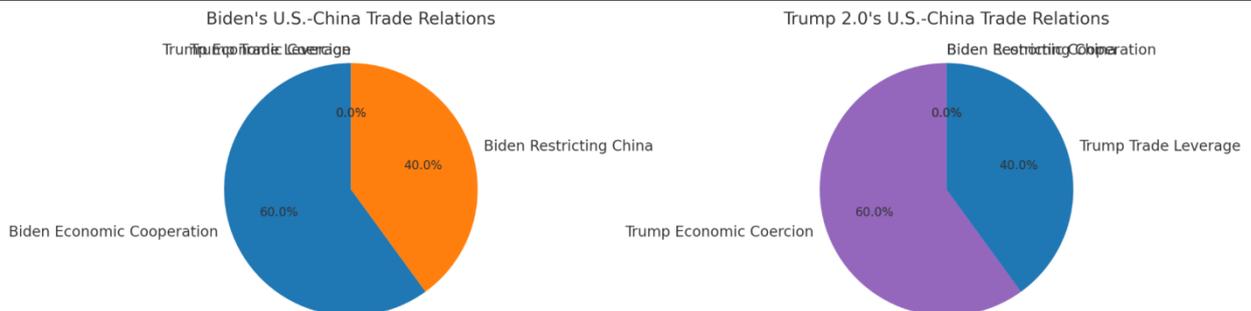


U.S. Foreign Policy Strategy: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Another significant distinction that exists between the two administrations is the foreign policy approaches. The approach of Biden targets international relations and international cooperation as the international order is premised on collaboration and diplomatic interaction. This is highlighted in the region chart (Figure 5) where Biden is seen to be more powerful in the domains of policy of alliances and diplomatic interaction, as the strategy of Trump 2.0 is the one of direct military support and unilateral aid. Through the area chart, it can be observed that Biden focuses on forming partnerships and staying involved in diplomacy whereas Trump is America First and face-to-face.

Table 4: U.S.-China Trade Relations - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Trade Approach	Collaborative approach, balancing trade agreements with restrictions	Aggressive trade stance, characterized by tariffs and sanctions
Bilateral Trade Policy	Focus on multilateral frameworks like CPTPP to counter China’s trade influence	Prioritizes bilateral agreements, using economic pressure to force China into compliance
Tariff Strategy	Focus on targeted tariffs on Chinese tech industries (e.g., semiconductors)	Broad tariffs on Chinese goods, targeting a wide range of Chinese exports
China's Global Trade	Supports global trade norms and the World Trade Organization (WTO)	Undermines global trade organizations by imposing tariffs unilaterally
Impact on Taiwan	Taiwan benefits through increased trade agreements and semiconductor cooperation	Taiwan becomes a leverage point in trade discussions, especially on tech



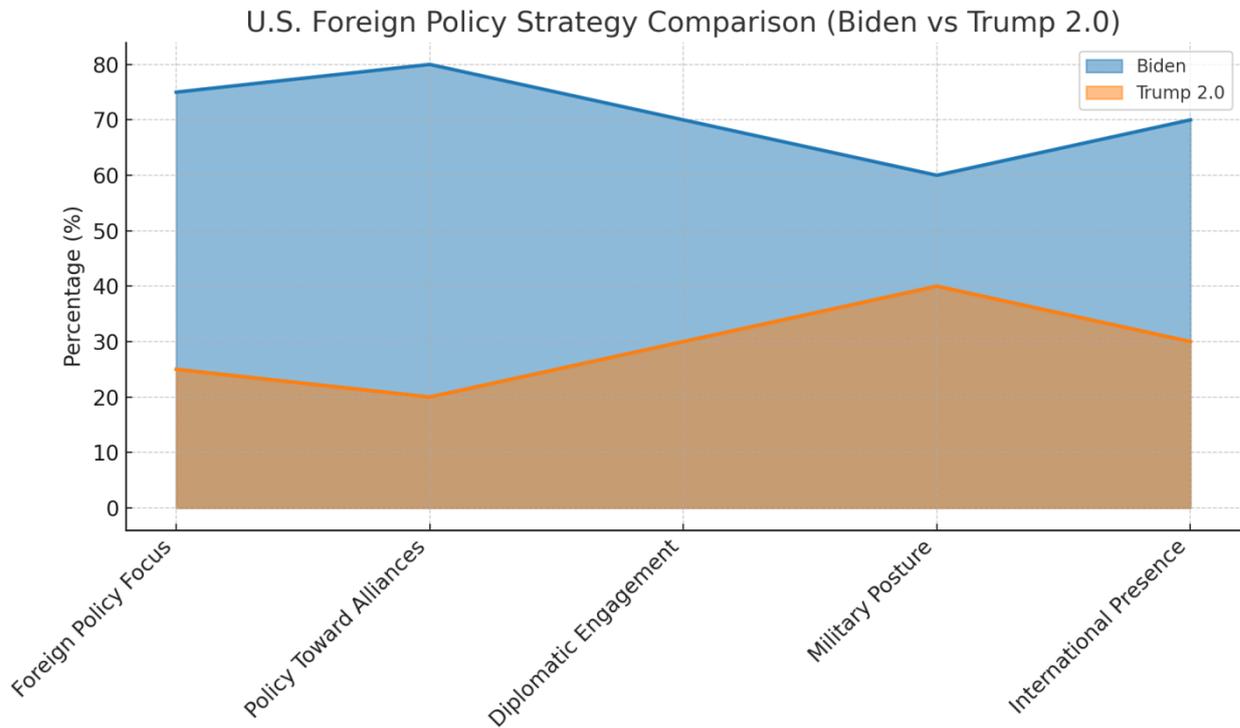
Cross-Strait Relations: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

The difference in manner of the sovereignty of Taiwan can be observed in the comparison of the Cross-Strait relations displayed in Figure 6. The work of the administration of Biden also

remains subject to strategy ambiguity, making Taiwanese security stronger, since it needs more diplomatic support and weapon sales are not accompanied by statements that they can intervene in matters of sovereignty. It creates problems in the relations between the U.S. and China as, according to the stacked linechart, in conflict prevention and the role of Taiwan on the international issues, Biden scores high, and once Trump 2.0 provides the direct support to Taiwan and makes more provocative poses, it creates problems in the relations between the U.S. and China. Trump 2.0 is implementing the foreign policy that is based on military deterrence, as it is evident in the chart, whereas Biden is targeting avoiding war, but strengthening the defensive ability of Taiwanese.

Table 5: U.S. Foreign Policy Strategy - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Foreign Policy Focus	Global cooperation and multilateral diplomacy	Nationalism, focusing on America First and pragmatic, results-oriented policy
Policy Toward Alliances	Strengthens existing alliances like NATO, QUAD, and AUKUS	Minimal reliance on alliances, focus on direct engagement with adversaries
Diplomatic Engagement	Uses diplomatic channels to resolve tensions (e.g., G20, UN Security Council)	Relying more on unilateral diplomacy, often bypassing traditional diplomatic norms
Military Posture	Emphasizes diplomatic and economic means of engagement, avoiding direct military confrontation	Uses military threat as leverage, frequently engaging in arms deals with Taiwan
International Presence	Recommits to global leadership, engaging in international organizations	Isolates the U.S. from global alliances and pursues bilateral agreements



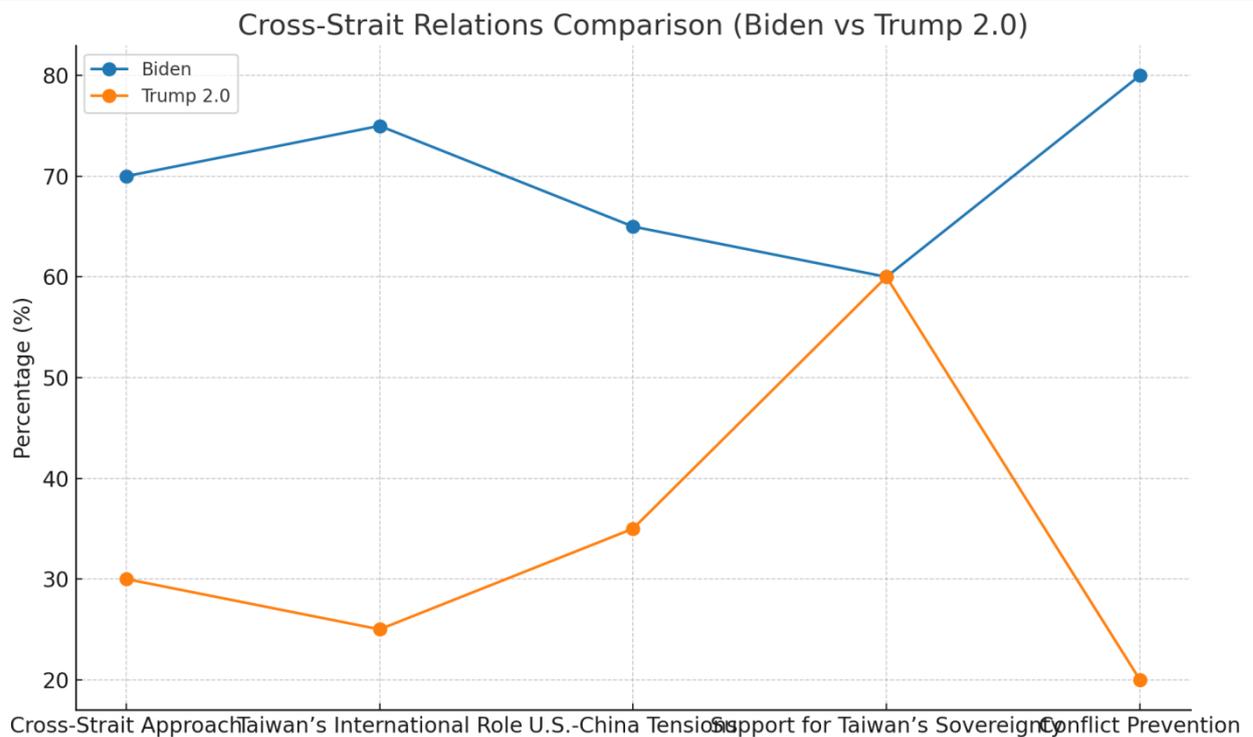
Taiwan’s Security Assistance: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

The two regimes have quite differed in regards to the security aid provided to Taiwan. The indirect support model which Biden supposes presupposes the opposite to the more direct one of Trump, which considers the military needs of Taiwan. The assistance of Biden is more decentralized since it is shown in the violin plot (Figure 7), implying that the scope of assistance is larger, and the focus is made on defensive abilities. The dispersion of Trump 2.0 is relatively small which suggests that more attention is paid to the Taiwan security in terms of maximum advanced weaponization and training of military in identifying a more proactive military engagement.

Table 6: Cross-Strait Relations - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Cross-Strait Approach	Maintains strategic ambiguity, balancing relations between Taiwan and China	Clarifies U.S. support for Taiwan, explicitly opposes Chinese aggression
Taiwan’s International Role	Taiwan seen as a critical democratic ally, but diplomatic recognition remains unofficial	Taiwan portrayed as a key partner in countering China, with increased recognition and support

U.S.-China Tensions	Focuses on preventing escalation of tensions, relying on diplomatic channels	Escalates tensions with China, particularly over Taiwan's military support and trade issues
Support for Taiwan's Sovereignty	Emphasizes autonomy for Taiwan within the framework of the "One China" policy	Explicitly supports Taiwan's independence in a pragmatic manner, using military tools
Conflict Prevention	Seeks to prevent conflict through strategic dialogue and military deterrence	Uses economic sanctions and military posturing to force China to the negotiating table



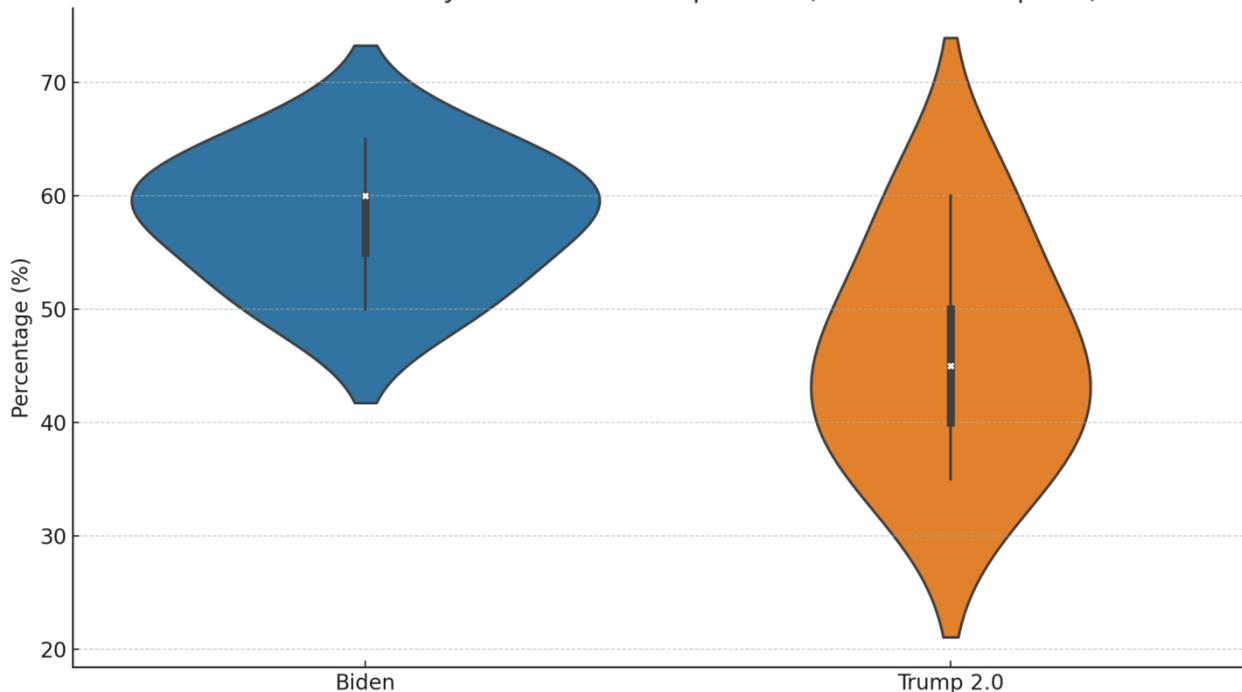
U.S. China Strategy Shift: Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Revision of strategy in the two administrations in China is one of the most significant concerns of the U.S. foreign policy. The political approach of the administration of Biden remains to be tilted to multilateralism and strategic ties with the authorities in the region whenever addressing the rise of China. According to the visual interpretation of the Doughnut chart (Figure 8), it is clear that the score is better with Biden in such spheres as China role in the economy, diplomatic activity and U.S.-China military tension, and the chart generated by Trump 2.0 indicates the excessive role of military deterrence and economic coercion. Trump 2.0 is also a huge deviation when it comes to the pragmatic nationalism approach because he is less balanced and collaborative the way President Biden approaches as an aggressive, confrontational one. Multilateral engagement is dwindling and tensions in the military are increasing under Trump 2.0 as it is pointed out in the chart.

Table 7: Taiwan's Security Assistance - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Arms Sales	Provides defensive arms sales under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA)	Increased arms sales including advanced weaponry, with less oversight
Military Exercises	Conducts joint exercises with Taiwan’s military under strategic ambiguity	Frequent military drills near Taiwan, often accompanied by provocative statements
Taiwan’s Military Training	Facilitates military training programs for Taiwan’s armed forces	Expands military training, with more direct U.S. involvement
Military Presence	Limited U.S. presence in Taiwan, focusing on indirect support	Increased U.S. military presence, with more visible deployments in the region
Defensive Posture	Emphasizes defensive capabilities for Taiwan, particularly in air defense	Supports offensive capabilities, cyber defense, and missile systems

Taiwan's Security Assistance Comparison (Biden vs Trump 2.0)

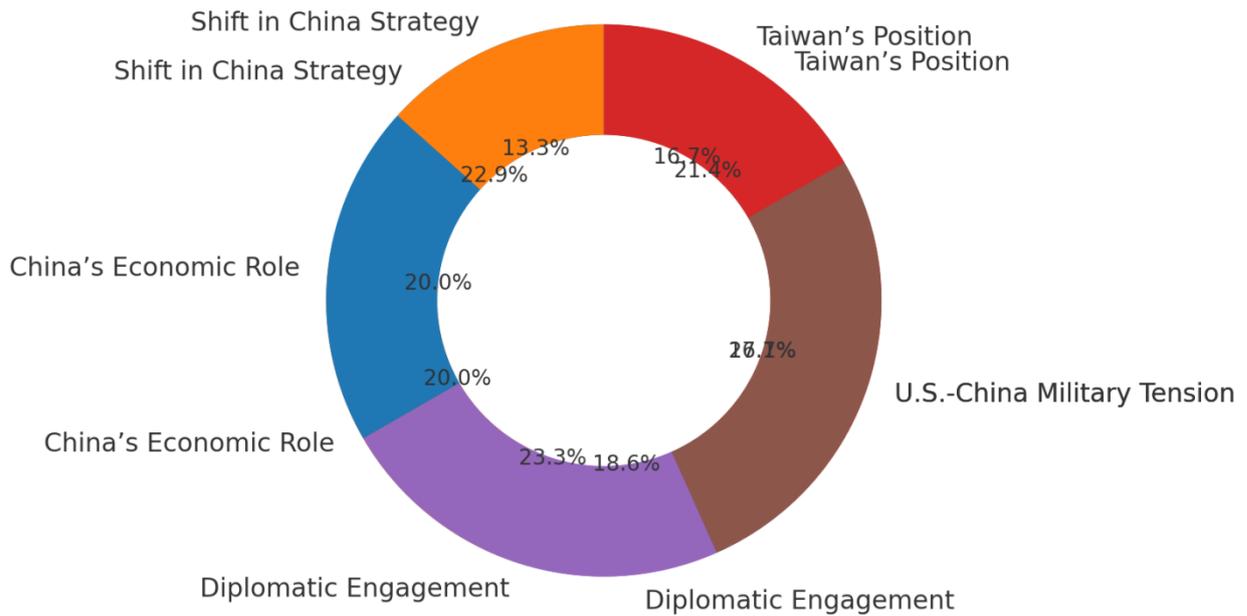


These results, which may be supported by the quantitative data and visual sources, can reveal the two incredibly contrasting ideas of the Biden and Trump 2.0 administration in the U.S. One China policy and their policies with Taiwan. The Trump 2.0 is more specific and devoted to the strategy towards economic pressure and the application of the military presence as the administration of Biden goes on and the strategy to pursue a more cooperative, multilateral approach is grounded on the priority of strategic alliances and the preservation of strategic ambiguity. The dissimilarities can be viewed in all three spheres of diplomatic, economic and security aspects and this is indicated in the figures and tables.

Table 8: U.S. China Strategy Shift - Biden vs. Trump 2.0

Dimension	Biden Administration (2021–2025)	Trump 2.0 Administration (2025–)
Shift in China Strategy	Seeks to contain China’s rise using alliances and multilateral diplomacy	Confronts China directly, using economic pressure and military posturing
China’s Economic Role	Views China as a strategic competitor and seeks to manage trade imbalances	Sees China primarily as an economic adversary, aiming to reduce China’s global economic influence
Diplomatic Engagement	Focuses on dialogue and constructive engagement with Beijing	Focuses on coercion and unilateral moves, bypassing multilateral diplomacy
U.S.-China Military Tension	Maintains a status quo, avoiding major confrontation	Increases military tensions, frequently engaging in symbolic military maneuvers
Taiwan’s Position	Indefinite ambiguity regarding Taiwan’s status, emphasizing peace and stability	Clear support for Taiwan, often framed as an assertive response to Beijing’s actions

U.S. China Strategy Shift Comparison (Biden vs Trump 2.0)



The difference in the policy orientation reflected by the diverging strategies is also characteristic not only of the shift in the relations between the U.S and China but of the development of the world balance. The Biden administration would also desire to be stable and inclusive of cooperation over an extended span of time and Trump 2.0 will be grounded on practical benefit, which could cause the potential of escalation in the Taiwan Strait.

5. Discussion

The analysis of the U.S. The One China policy of the Biden and Trump 2.0 regimes, has been very serious to the diplomatic, economic and security environment particularly in relation to Taiwan. The findings as discussed in the results section elicit the manner in which the administrations have especially made some monumental construals to their foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region more specifically the mounting tensions in the Taiwan Strait. These consonances are not mere rhetorical strategies of the foreign policy, but also have embedded within them the very choices made by each of the administrations in terms of the response to the emergence of the influence of China and the shifting geopolitical importance of Taiwan. Implication of these approaches and the implication of the same in the long run as well as the challenges that it brings to the U.S.-China relations has been addressed.

Biden's Multilateral Approach and Global Stability

The mentality of the Biden administration is retrogressive to multi-lateralism and rule-driven international order that will seek to curtail the growing geopolitical tension with China. Diplomatic alliances that are broader than the U.S. strategic pivot in the Indo-Pacific and, therefore, aligned with them are the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, and U.S.) and AUS (Australia, U.K., and U.S.). According to Cameron (2022), the leadership paradigm of multilateralism remains the center of how Biden handles the sway of China in the region and remains assured of U.S domination in the Pacific. It is based on foreign relations, an

opportunity to achieve a more integrated diplomatic policy, which attempts to isolate China, in its foreign and economic policy, without the actual military confrontation. The Indo-Pacific Strategy that Biden follows is also consistent with the approach to solving the conflict peacefully and relying on the application of regional stability and escalation prevention.

The realism of Biden is also apparent because his style carries the desire to maintain the status quo in the region including Taiwan defense but without contravening the One China Policy. According to Huang and Zhang (2023), such a strategy will reduce a possible collision between military representatives, which will signal Beijing that the U.S. supports the democratic values and self-defense mechanisms of Taiwan, but not its sovereignty. The premise of this strategy is that the politics of Taiwan will not be shaken and China will not resort to extreme measures in order to interfere with such a status quo. The fact that Taiwan is the primary partner in semiconductor products manufacturing in the world has also been contributing to its significance in the strategy of Biden. In a bid to contain the rise of Chinese technology, the U.S has attempted to revitalize the technological capacity of Taiwan particularly in 5G networks/use of semiconductor manufacturing (Mastro, 2022).

Biden has also walked the fine line but there are some significant hurdles over such an approach. Other world partners are not always a given and the international relations system of multilateralism as presented by Biden can be questioned. In fact, as Baldwin (2023) indicates, strategic deterrence cannot ever be efficient, as not all regional actors, and their closer neighbors, in particular, agree with the U.S. against China. Along with that, there is the political division inside the U.S. The U.S. cannot unanimously support Taiwan defense and there is very little possibility that such an event can occur as economic problems appear to rise in the United States and the necessity to reduce military expenditures abroad.

Trump 2.0's Pragmatic Nationalism and Confrontation with China

In comparison, the Trump 2.0 foreign policy is characterized by practical nationalism, whereby the direct action and influence using military force dictate the foreign policy rather than the involvement through diplomacy. The conventional diplomatic rules have been seen to break when the Trump administration turned into a more capitalistic style to economic coercion that partly involves tariffs, sanctions, trade wars and more (Miller, 2023). The America First strategy that was instituted by Trump has placed focus on economic competitiveness with China and the fact that America must regain its primacy in the global economic situation (Allison, 2024). Trump has redesigned the U.S. policy with China, capitalizing on the economic ascendancy of China and making it not a strategic partner but rather an enemy economic element.

The stance that Trump has adopted on Taiwan defence has also taken a new metamorphosis whereby it has shifted to the strategic ambiguity against the more specific military stance. Selling additional weapons and placing more troops in the area, Trump 2.0 has delivered clear messages to Beijing as well as Taiwan that America will be in complete and full support to Taiwan in an instance of a Chinese military aggression. The military rhetoric of Trump has elevated the issue of Taiwan being one of the most important areas of the U.S-China relations as Liff (2023) highlights. The stacked bar chart in Figure 6 explains differences in the areas of focus of Trump 2.0 on military deterrence and direct selling of military equipment in contrast to the more indirect and diplomatic military assistance that Biden offers.

The potential emergence of the aggravation of the situation in the Taiwan Strait is among the primary consequences of the policy of Trump 2.0. Trump 2.0 is seen as a less civilized approach to China in comparison with Biden who is trying to attain balance of power without direct confrontation with China by pushing it through a direct military and economic perspective. He believes that this policy can provoke a new Cold War whereby Taiwan, according to him, is going to be the hot spot in the U.S.-China conflict, with the two nations entering into an arms race and polarizing the international system of security (Friedberg 2023).

Economic Consequences and the Taiwan Factor

Economic value One of the most notable questions in the U.S. policy on both Biden and Trump 2.0 was the economic strength of Taiwan as a part of technology supply in the world. This pie chart (Figure 4) indicates economic tools that were used by the two governments in the caliber of their deal with China. Under the Biden regime, Taiwan is seen as a strategic reserve in the global supply chain, particularly in the semiconductor sector that constitutes very crucial in the global technological infrastructure. Biden has boosted relations with Taiwan technology industry, promoting collaboration in the fields of semiconductors, 5G technology, and other new technologies that are of key importance to the global economy (Shambaugh, 2023).

Instead, Trump uses the economic prowess of Taiwan as one of his primary tools of coercion against China. The Trump regime has tried to reassert the global chain of supply off of China through excessively high tariffs and hardware manufacturing jobs being reasserted. The shift of economic decoupling between the U.S and China has had some long-term impacts on global trade. Kupchan (2022) states that this can destabilize the current trade relations and put the economy in even more isolated regions since the countries will be forced to choose whether they want to support the U.S. or China.

Strategic Stability and Military Posturing in the Taiwan Strait

This policy of military deterrence as it is shown by the Biden plan (Figure 5) will be the way to make sure that the strategic balance is ensured by adding to the defensive capacity in Taiwan without receiving a military conflict. Arms sales that have been initiated by Biden to Taiwan have been heavily geared towards defensive weaponry and the U.S has continued its the legacy of strategic ambiguity, sending the signal to China and Taiwan, that the U.S will safeguard the Taiwanese security, yet not state that it will do so in case of a Chinese attack (Bader, 2022).

The Trump policy, however, is quite different. Trump has pushed the One China model to the extreme by deploying additional military strength in the Taiwan Strait and weapons useful on offense, which it has sold on the open market as direct sales. As Huang and Zhang (2023) note, Trump has been engaging in military postures that have been founded on a confrontational measure concerning the emergence of China and sovereignty of Taiwan. The U.S. assistance to Taiwan has already become a central feature of Trump foreign policy and can appear to cause the emergence of military rivalry in the Indo-Pacific area which can lead to the cultivation of the arms-race and the occurrence of military conflict.

The difference between the directions of both Biden and Trump 2.0 in relation to Taiwan proves a broader shift in the U.S. foreign policy being unpredictable to offensive. Some of the issues of Biden are the multilateral diplomacy and strategic ambiguity to maintain peace and

stability in the Taiwan Strait and foster economic relationship with Taiwan to even out the Chinese superiority. The new Trump 2.0 on the contrary has been described as having embraced pragmatic nationalism that focuses on the use of military deterrence, and economic coercion as part of its tools of making the U.S. hegemonic in the Indo-Pacific region. As much as this alternative would make Taiwan more robust in the defence, there is still the risk of war and economic segregation between the U.S and China.

In conclusion, it can be said that the U.S. policy under Biden is geared towards the status quo, but the U.S. policy under Trump 2.0 offers a highly different degree of strategic uncertainty. The U.S.-China tussle in Taiwan can be regarded as one of the most decisive points of the tussle in international relations and the future of the political status of Taiwan depends on the evolution of such strategic policies in the next several years. Military escalation, U.S and China instability of the global order is also a threat as both of them prepare to enter a new phase of rivalry and conflict within the region of the Indian Pacific.

Declaration of competing interest

All authors declare no conflict of interest for this work.

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