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Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

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## China Influence Tracker (II)

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*December 13th, 2024*

In collaboration with the [DPP China Affairs Department](#), the latest DPP U.S. Mission report provides key updates on the current cross-strait situation, tracking the CCP's malign influence to undermine Taiwan's democracy. The report assesses Chinese campaigns against Taiwan and how these activities have added complexity to the U.S.-China-Taiwan relations. Some of these tactics include but are not limited to: political interference, economic coercion, civil society subversion, information operations, and united front work. Enclosed are the key developments to date:

### ■ December 9th: China Escalates Military Pressure in Taiwan Strait Following President Lai's Return

After President Lai Ching-te concluded his South Pacific diplomatic tour and returned to Taiwan on December 6th, China intensified military activities around the Taiwan Strait. According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, from December 5th to 6th, 31 Chinese aircraft and vessels were detected, with some crossing the median line. From December 6th to 7th, another 27 military activities were recorded. Additionally, China announced the establishment of seven restricted zones in the East China Sea near Zhejiang and Fujian from December 9th to 11th, prompting Taiwan to initiate preparedness drills. During his visit

to Palau, President Lai condemned China's provocations, urging Beijing to adhere to a rules-based international order and pursue peaceful cooperation with Taiwan. He stated China's military exercises and coercion are destabilizing and called for an end to unilateral actions. China, however, sharply criticized President Lai's transit through the U.S., labeling him a "peace breaker" in the Taiwan Strait, avoiding a direct response on whether military exercise would be conducted. Instead, it reiterated its stance that the Taiwan issue is a core issue of China's interests and a "red line" in the U.S.-China relations.

### ■ December 9th: Chinese United Front Tactics Exposed by Influencers

Taiwanese influencers Bajiong (八炯) and Chen Bo-yuan (陳柏源) recently exposed Chinese United Front activities, including allegations of financial support from the Fujian United Front Work Department to recruit Taiwanese influencers for propaganda purposes. Their [video](#), which garnered over 2 million views within three days, has sparked widespread attention. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) on December 7th emphasized that China's United Front tactics have become a critical element of its cognitive warfare against Taiwan, potentially violating the *Anti-Infiltration Act* and *Cross-Strait Act*. Taiwan's Minister of Culture pledged to address violations in coordination with the MAC. DPP lawmakers warned that China's influence operations now extend to influencers and elections, urging national security agencies to implement countermeasures. Taiwan's Foreign Minister, Lin Chia-lung, highlighted China's manipulation of public opinion through disinformation, noting Taiwan's collaboration with international partners to combat such threats. While opposition figures like New Taipei Mayor Hou Yu-ih condemned external interference in Taiwan's democracy, some KMT members questioned the video's authenticity, pointing to Chen Bo-yuan's past legal issues in China. Pro-China influencers such as Chung Ming-hsuan denied the allegations, claiming innocence, further fueling public debate. This revelation underscores the depth of China's United Front efforts and its ongoing influence on Taiwan's internal discourse, demanding vigilance and collective action to address these threats.

### ■ December 9th: Hong Kong Cargo Ship Linked to PLA Drills Raises Security Concerns at Taichung Port

On December 2nd, [the Hong Kong-flagged cargo ship SCSC FORTUNE](#) docked at [Taichung Port](#), triggering national security concerns due to its

past participation in PLA special forces drills. Although government inspections found no irregularities and Taichung Port authorities reported no unusual activity during its stay, the ship departed on December 7th. DPP lawmaker Puma Shen warned that China could exploit gray-zone tactics by disguising combat-capable vessels as civilian ships to encircle Taiwan, posing a potential security threat. On December 9th, the Minister of Transportation stated the government would discuss the incident with security agencies and amend the *Commercial Port Act* if necessary. This case highlights China's potential use of commercial vessels for military purposes and underscores the need for stronger legal frameworks and preventative measures to safeguard Taiwan's security.

### ■ December 9th: Wang Jin-pyng Proposes New Cross-Strait Narrative

On December 8th, former Legislative Speaker Wang Jin-pyng introduced a new cross-strait narrative at the "Middle Way Peace Alliance" conference in Taipei, advocating "separate governance, shared sovereignty" (治權互不隸屬、主權同而不分). He emphasized respecting the reality of cross-strait division without denying historical ties, suggesting that "separate but not divided" (分治而不分立) is a pragmatic approach to fostering peace. Wang deliberately avoided mentioning the KMT-CCP's catechism "1992 Consensus," stating it is too contentious and proposed his narrative to promote cross-strait exchanges and domestic harmony if widely accepted. KMT and Ma Ying-jeou Foundation endorsed Wang's stance, viewing it as consistent with the Republic of China's Constitution and aligned with Ma's principles of "mutual non-recognition of sovereignty, mutual non-denial of governance" (主權互不承認、治權互不否認). In contrast, DPP lawmaker Puma Shen criticized it as akin to "One Country, Two Systems," while Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung warned that distinguishing sovereignty and governance risks semantic disputes. The Mainland Affairs Council stressed that discussions must safeguard Taiwan's democracy and recognize the existence of the ROC. The proposal has sparked domestic debate, but China's official response remains unclear. Whether Beijing will leverage this narrative to influence Taiwan policy warrants close observation.

### ■ December 9th: "Twin-City Forum" Sparks Controversy Over Dignity and Parity

The 15th Twin-City Forum is set to take place on December 17-18, with Shanghai Deputy Mayor Hua Yuan leading a delegation of over 100 representatives to Taiwan. The participation of only a deputy mayor from

Shanghai has raised concerns about parity and respect. DPP criticized the Taipei City Government for cooperating with China's United Front tactics and accused Taipei Mayor Chiang Wan-an of reneging on his pledge to suspend the forum if Chinese military aircraft continued to provoke Taiwan. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council emphasized that the visiting delegation should avoid political remarks or statements undermining Taiwan's status. The Taipei City Government responded by stating the forum would adhere to principles of parity, mutual respect, and goodwill. Mayor Chiang said the forum was being conducted in accordance with regulations but did not directly address the public concerns, sparking broader concerns over cross-strait exchanges and the influence of China's United Front strategies.

### **December 9th: 2024 Cross-Strait Entrepreneurs Summit Focuses on Red Supply Chain and Taiwanese Investment**

The 2024 Cross-Strait Entrepreneurs Summit was held on December 9th in Xiamen, focusing on rebuilding the red supply chain and retaining Taiwanese investments in China. KMT representatives included Liu Chao-shiuan (劉兆玄), Chen Ruey-long (陳瑞隆), and other prominent business leaders and former officials. During the summit, Chinese officials pressured Taiwanese businesses to maintain investments in China and invited them to participate in projects in sensitive regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet. Wang Huning, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, reaffirmed adherence to the "One China Principle" and the "1992 Consensus," opposing Taiwanese independence and foreign interference. He urged collaboration to advance economic integration and shared development under "Chinese-style modernization." Taiwan Affairs Office Director Song Tao called on Taiwanese businesses to "strengthen ties," emphasizing familial and economic connections between the two sides. Liu Chao-shiuan responded with proposals for new cross-strait cooperation strategies, including supply chain integration and digital economy development, to address U.S.-China technological barriers and economic challenges. The summit highlighted China's efforts to reinforce cross-strait economic ties amid global supply chain restructuring and international technological restrictions, leveraging economic and political influence over Taiwanese businesses as part of its broader United Front strategy.

### **December 7th: Controversy Over Chinese Delegation's Remarks During Taiwan Visit**

On November 27th, a delegation of Chinese academics and Olympic champions, led by Beijing Tsinghua University Party Secretary, arrived in Taiwan. During their visit to Taichung's Intercontinental Baseball Stadium, a delegation member referred to Taiwan's baseball team as "Team China Taipei" (中國台北隊), sparking accusations of undermining Taiwan's sovereignty. Ma Ying-jeou Foundation Executive Director Hsiao Hsu-tsen further fueled criticism by stating, "It can also be called China Taiwan, as we all belong to one China." On December 3rd, DPP strongly condemned the incident, labeling the foundation a tool for China's United Front efforts and accusing the delegation of deliberately diminishing Taiwan's status. Premier Cho Jung-tai emphasized that cross-strait exchanges must respect Taiwan's sovereignty and called for a comprehensive review of the incident. Meanwhile, KMT held a press conference at the Legislative Yuan, criticizing the DPP for adopting a "martial law mindset" and demanding an end to the alleged political suppression of the Ma Ying-jeou Foundation. On December 6th, President Lai Ching-te, while visiting Palau, stated that such incidents would be addressed in accordance with Taiwan's democratic legal system. He reiterated the importance of healthy and orderly cross-strait exchanges but stressed that actions undermining Taiwan's sovereignty violate the spirit of exchange and lack public support. Lai also criticized China for conducting "civil exchanges" while simultaneously deploying military aircraft and vessels to intimidate Taiwan, actions that failed to gain international respect. The Chinese State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson, Zhu Fenglian, accused the DPP of orchestrating "online bullying" against the delegation and disrupting normal cross-strait exchanges. State media outlet Xinhua praised the delegation for fostering "spiritual connections" between the two sides. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) reaffirmed on December 7th that Taiwan will not tolerate China's "dual strategy" of engaging in exchanges while simultaneously employing intimidation tactics. The MAC called on Beijing to cease such actions, undermining the foundation of cross-strait relations.

### ■ December 6th: Presidential Guard Espionage Case Highlights Chinese Infiltration Threat

A recent espionage case involving four former military personnel from the Presidential Guard has underscored the ongoing threat of Chinese infiltration in Taiwan. The individuals were accused of violating the *National Security Act* by selling classified military information to Chinese

intelligence agents for approximately NT\$2 million. The Taipei District Prosecutors Office formally indicted them on December 6th. Presidential Office spokesperson Lii Wen strongly condemned China's persistent attempts to infiltrate, divide, and suppress Taiwan, calling for unity to safeguard the nation's democracy. Lii criticized the accused for betraying their country for personal gain, emphasizing the need for severe legal consequences. The Ministry of National Defense revealed that the case was uncovered through proactive whistleblowing by military personnel, leading to a coordinated investigation with the National Security Bureau. The ministry highlighted that Chinese infiltration efforts have never ceased, and this act of treason not only endangered national security but also provoked public outrage. This case further underscores the gravity of China's infiltration tactics and the urgent need for Taiwan to bolster its national security measures to counter such threats.

### **■ November 30th: Travel Agencies Push to Lift Taiwan's "Group Travel Ban" to China Amid Political Controversy**

On November 25th, Taiwanese travel agencies petitioned the Ministry of Transportation to lift the ban on group travel to China, arguing Beijing could perceive it as a lack of sincerity. On November 29th, China's Taiwan Affairs Office seized the opportunity to claim that the root cause of cross-strait tourism issues lies with the DPP government, promising to consider expanding Chinese tourist access if Taiwan lifts the ban. In response, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council clarified on November 30th that the true obstacle is Beijing's refusal to allow Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan, noting that from January to September this year, Taiwanese travelers to China outnumbered Chinese visitors to Taiwan by a factor of 7.2. The Minister of Transportation emphasized the current focus should be on attracting more international tourists and urged Beijing to stop politicizing cross-strait tourism exchanges. Meanwhile, KMT Chair Eric Chu criticized the DPP's approach as leading to a harmful cycle that impacts public interests. This controversy highlights Beijing's strategy of leveraging Taiwan's internal tourism debate for political manipulation, attempting to shift blame onto Taiwan's government and stoke cross-strait tensions.

### **■ November 30th: China Advances "Integration and Unification" Measures to Deepen Cross-Strait Ties**

In late November, China introduced a series of "Taiwan-friendly measures" aimed at strengthening economic and cultural exchanges. On

November 25th, Fujian's Zhangzhou City announced the addition of two "National-Level Taiwan Farmers Entrepreneurship Parks" (國家級台灣農民創業園) in Nanjing and Dongshan. On November 28th, Chongqing's Taiwan Affairs Office passed the *Chongqing Taiwan Compatriots Investment Promotion Regulations* (重慶市台灣同胞投資促進條例) to attract Taiwanese investment. On November 30th, Fujian's Fuzhou City designated 17 "Taiwanese Ancestral Heritage Demonstration Sites" (台胞尋根示範點), emphasizing cultural and historical connections. These initiatives illustrate China's strategy of using economic and cultural engagement to foster Taiwanese dependence on its economy and exert political pressure to promote unification and division within Taiwan.

### ■ November 26th: China's Customs Seizure of Taiwanese Textbooks Sparks Controversy Over Diminishing Taiwan's Sovereignty

On November 24th, China's Fuzhou Customs seized high school geography textbooks published by Hanlin Publishing, citing the presence of "problematic maps" in materials sent to schools for children of Taiwanese businesspeople. On November 26th, Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) criticized the move, stating that it reflects China's ongoing attempts to diminish Taiwan's sovereignty and its increased scrutiny of printed materials. Experts suggest the action aims to sever connections between Taiwanese expat's children and Taiwan, possibly leading to the mandatory use of CCP "patriotic education materials" in the future. Scholars highlighted that this incident underscores the rise of Chinese nationalism, making Taiwanese textbooks unacceptable in China. Meanwhile, KMT legislators questioned whether it was driven by heightened cross-strait tensions.

### ■ November 25th: President Lai visits the South Pacific as KMT escalates "Lai Skepticism" campaign

President Lai Ching-te is slated to visit the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, and Palau from November 30th to December 6th, transiting through Hawaii and Guam to strengthen Taiwan's Pacific presence and democratic alliances. Anticipating potential Chinese interference, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged Beijing to exercise restraint. The KMT criticized President Lai's trip, alleging strained U.S.-Taiwan relations and lack of trust in Lai, citing the absence of higher-profile transits. KMT figures claimed Lai's pro-independence stance harms regional stability, causing delays in planning the visit, and argued that transiting in Hawaii is evidence of U.S. "disdain" for Lai. However, experts noted such transits

are standard and precedented, citing former President Ma's 2014 Hawaii stopovers, and stressed the trip's strategic and diplomatic significance. Simultaneously, former President Tsai Ing-wen attended the Halifax International Security Forum in Canada, emphasizing Taiwan's resilience against Chinese threats and urging U.S. support for Ukraine. She announced the Forum will be held in Taiwan in 2025, sparking strong discontent from China, which mobilized local Chinese communities to stage protests and disrupt her activities.

■ **November 25th: China escalates cognitive warfare against Taiwan**

China launched intensified cognitive warfare targeting Taiwan's domestic issues, labeling it a "labor hell" over the "civil servant bullying case," amplifying claims of declining approval for Lai's administration, and alleging collusion in the DPP's green energy policies. Tactics like the "protection fee narrative" and "semiconductor de-Taiwanization" aimed to sow distrust toward the U.S., reinforcing the "America Skepticism Theory." Additionally, China exploited the "Lu Li-shih incident" and "unsuitable-for-service reintegration" policy to criticize Taiwan's defense policies, amplifying "doubts on the military." These efforts seek to undermine domestic unity, weaken international cooperation, and challenge the DPP's governance and Taiwan-U.S. strategic ties.

■ **November 24th: KMT National Congress focuses on "one China" policies, opposing Taiwan independence**

At its National Congress, KMT leaders reaffirmed their opposition to Taiwan independence and commitment to cross-strait policies based on the Constitution of the Republic of China. Chairman Eric Chu emphasized defending Chinese culture and democracy. Han Kuo-yu called the KMT a key force for preserving the ROC, Chinese culture, and cross-strait peace, while Ma Ying-jeou criticized Lai Ching-te's pro-independence stance as "unnecessary, unachievable, and unrealistic," urging adherence to the "1992 Consensus." A KMT delegate proposed undisguised support for unification. They emphasized that both the KMT and DPP value democracy but differ in scope, with the KMT advocating unification within a constitutional "One China" framework.

■ **November 22nd: DPP lawmaker proposed "Lu Li-shih Clause," gained broad support**

The "Lu Li-shih Clause" (呂禮詩條款), targeting retired senior military officers receiving lifelong pensions, proposes suspending pensions for

actions harming national dignity. The proposal follows former naval officer Lu Li-shih's remarks at China's Zhuhai Airshow praising "our strong China," which undermined Taiwan's sovereignty and military values. The Veterans Affairs Council supported the amendment, citing its importance for safeguarding national security. The Mainland Affairs Council emphasized the need for serious measures to prevent misuse of free speech that harms national interests. On November 22nd, the proposal was unanimously referred to the Legislative Yuan's Internal Administration Committee for review, showcasing Taiwan's commitment to sovereignty, democracy, and countering CCP infiltration and influence.

**■ November 21st: Xi Jinping promotes Taiwan as part of China, leveraging the Biden-Xi meeting for cognitive warfare, with Ma's office actively cooperating**

Xi Jinping met with Brazilian President Lula, issuing a joint statement reaffirming the "One China Principle" and claiming Taiwan as an inseparable part of China, prompting condemnation from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for undermining Taiwan's sovereignty. Following Xi's meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden, China's propaganda media outlets release claimed Xi urged Biden to identify "Lai Ching-te" and the DPP's pro-independence stance. Hsiao Hsu-tsen, Executive Director of the Ma Ying-jeou Foundation, commented that there is no longer political room for maneuvering between Taiwan and China, though the U.S. statement omitted such remarks. The DPP accused Ma's office of assisting China's cognitive warfare by amplifying "Lai Skepticism" and "America Skepticism" conspiracy theories, labeling Ma as Beijing's mouthpiece and betraying Taiwan. Ma's office rejected these allegations as "the pot calling the kettle black," accusing the DPP of pushing Taiwan toward war for political gain. Meanwhile, China canceled a meeting between its defense minister and U.S. Secretary of Defense Austin, blaming the U.S. for harming China's core interests on Taiwan while seeking military dialogue.

**■ November 21st: Wang Jin-pyng meets Song Tao, emphasizes shared roots and "1992 Consensus"**

During his visit to Fujian on November 18th, former Legislative Speaker Wang Jin-pyng highlighted the shared cultural and ancestral ties between Taiwan and China, calling for peace and stability through mutual understanding. In his meeting with China's Taiwan Affairs Office Director Song Tao, both reaffirmed the importance of cross-strait peace,

opposing independence based on the "1992 Consensus" and promoting unification and national rejuvenation. Song welcomed those recognizing "One China" to engage in exchanges. Wang noted that Kinmen and Xiamen symbolize both peace and conflict and urged prioritizing people's interests to build a new chapter of harmony. Chinese media praised Wang's visit as pivotal for peace and reflective of Taiwanese support for closer ties. Regarding Wang's proposal to establish the "Middle Way Peace Alliance Think Tank," Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council expressed alignment with his focus on preserving the ROC's development and ensuring cross-strait stability.

### ■ November 20th: China's suppression of Hong Kong democracy draws international criticism and sparks responses from Taiwan

On November 19th, 45 pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong were sentenced in the '47 Activists Case', with Benny Tai receiving 10 years and Joshua Wong 4 years and 8 months. Taiwan's Presidential Office and Executive Yuan condemned Beijing's judicial suppression, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mainland Affairs Council called for international attention and an end to political persecution. The DPP cited the case as proof of the CCP's authoritarianism and the failure of 'One Country, Two Systems,' while civic groups warned Taiwan to stay vigilant against similar tactics. The TPP condemned Beijing and urged stronger asylum policies for Hong Kong residents. The KMT's silence drew public criticism, with Causeway Bay Books founder Lam Wing-kee questioning its anti-communist.

### ■ November 20th: Ma Ying-jeou criticizes Lai Ching-te's "Path to Peace," DPP rebuts

Former President Ma Ying-jeou accused President Lai Ching-te of using "trap options" to mislead students with his "Path to Peace" (和平之路) policy. Ma argued that Lai's options, such as "signing a peace agreement," "accepting the '1992 Consensus,'" and "maintaining Taiwan's sovereignty within the democratic alliance," could coexist and should not force students to choose only the third option. The DPP responded, emphasizing that Lai's stance is clear: peace must balance ideals with realism, uphold Taiwan's sovereignty, and that ROC and PRC are not subordinate to each other, strengthen defense, and align with global democracies. The DPP criticized Ma's unrealistic expectations of China and accused him of misleading the public.

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