

Ravi,

I hope you had a nice weekend. Thank you again for your feedback. I wanted to follow up with an updated version of the op-ed below:

**The future of AI: Taiwan and the United States are symbiotic partners, not competitors**

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

ROC (Taiwan)

Taiwan sits at the heart of the global semiconductor economy. It accounts for more than 60% of global foundry revenue and over 90% of leading-edge semiconductor production, making its advanced fabrication capabilities indispensable to the world's technology industry. This concentration has naturally fueled a growing debate over the geopolitical risks of relying so heavily on Taiwan for the world's most advanced chips. Framing such dependence on Taiwan as the "risk" is an oversimplification overlooking the complexity of the global semiconductor supply chain that the AI industry relies on.

NVIDIA founder and CEO Jensen Huang has described the AI industry as a five-layer cake, with energy at its base, followed by chips, infrastructure, models, and applications. His metaphor captures a fundamental reality: AI competition is no longer confined to algorithms or computing power. It encompasses the entire ecosystem, from power generation and semiconductors to servers, data centers, and real-world applications. And at the center of this ecosystem sits the semiconductor industry, where Taiwan plays an indispensable role.

Beyond its role as a leading semiconductor producer, Taiwan is also responsible for assembling roughly 90% of the world's AI servers, making it an irreplaceable manufacturing hub for U.S. technology companies. Across the AI industry, Taiwan and the United States have built a deeply complementary and mutually reinforcing partnership. Together, they underpin the democratic world's leadership in the sector.

Recent debate in the United States has revived claims that the country lost its dominance in semiconductor manufacturing because production moved overseas. However, Taiwan did not weaken America's semiconductor industry. Taiwan's success was built on decades of Taiwan-US cooperation, specialization, and mutual trust. In fact, Taiwan has been an important partner in allowing the United States to maintain its position of technological superiority.

Jensen Huang put it plainly at the opening of a Wistron facility in Fort Worth, Texas: "Taiwan saved the American semiconductor industry, saved the American computing industry, not the opposite." His point is worth remembering. Taiwan's semiconductor success should not be understood as a story of American decline, but as a story of complementary strengths that have allowed both sides to lead.

In the chips layer of Huang's cake, the US continues to lead the world in semiconductor innovation, design, and research and development. Meanwhile, Taiwan has developed world-class strengths in advanced manufacturing, packaging, and supply chain integration. Rather than replacing the United States, Taiwan enables American innovation to reach global markets.

Since the 1970s, Taiwan has invested in technology, talent development, and industrial infrastructure, creating a semiconductor ecosystem that is highly specialized, collaborative, and difficult to replicate. US companies such as NVIDIA, Apple, AMD, Qualcomm, and Broadcom depend on Taiwan's manufacturing excellence to transform breakthrough designs into products that power the AI revolution. As Huang recently observed, Taiwan has become "the epicenter of the AI revolution."

Taiwan should not be viewed as America's competitor. It is one of the United States' most trusted strategic partners. Taiwan understands Washington's determination to strengthen domestic semiconductor production and supply chain security. Taiwanese companies have responded by making unprecedented investments in the United States. TSMC's US \$265 billion investment in Arizona, together with billions of dollars invested by over 20 other Taiwanese supply chain companies, is helping build a more robust US semiconductor ecosystem, creating jobs, expanding manufacturing capacity, and strengthening supply chain resilience. Taiwanese companies are expanding their U.S. presence because of longstanding partnerships with American companies, commercial opportunities, and their own strategic interests—not because Taiwan is being coerced into abandoning its home.

This partnership extends beyond the chips level of the cake. The United States boasts world-leading AI platforms and cloud services, while Taiwan is the world's leading manufacturer of AI servers. Through the Taiwan-US Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue, cooperation covers critical minerals, AI supply chains, digital infrastructure, drone technologies, talent development, and sovereign AI.

Looking ahead, the next stage of the AI race will center on real-world applications, from robotics and smart manufacturing to health care, transportation, and national defense. No single country can lead across every layer of this ecosystem. Success will depend on trusted partnerships among democratic nations, combining American innovation, Taiwanese advanced manufacturing, Japanese precision technologies, and Dutch semiconductor equipment expertise.

The question before us is not whether Taiwan "took away" America's semiconductor industry. The real issue is how Taiwan and the United States can continue to strengthen a partnership that has sustained decades of shared technological leadership. By working together with other like-minded democracies, we can build a secure, resilient, and trusted AI ecosystem that will drive global innovation, growth, and prosperity.

*This material is distributed by Forward Global US, Inc. on behalf of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,



**Emmett Martin**

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