

## **Ambassador Karl L. Rankin and U.S. Policy toward Taiwan in the 1950s**

*Su-Ya Chang*

### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the performance of Karl L. Rankin as Chief of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Taiwan from August 1950 to December 1957. It focuses on Rankin's influence on U.S. policy, his criticism of the policymaking process in Washington, and his skill as a diplomat. It argues that despite the fact that U.S. policy during this period left much to be desired and that Rankin may have unwittingly helped perpetuate the two-China situation which is against Taipei's pronounced goal, his diplomatic skill and genuine sympathy for Taiwan had nevertheless won him unequivocal trust and respect in his host country.

**Key Words:** Karl L. Rankin, Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, Taiwan Strait Crisis, Taipei Riot, Return to the Mainland