

Taiwan's Hedging Strategy Under the Influence of US-China Competition and Cooperation

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Abstract

In the case of East Asian strategies towards a rising China and the existing U.S. influences, unless the dominant powers insist, decision makers have enough space hedging without leaning to either side. The “Pivot to Asia” policy by the previous Obama’s administration and Trump’s “Indo-Pacific” policy in 2017 has shown that there is not only economic cooperation between Beijing and Washington, but the continuous military competitions also need our attention between these two great powers. Thus, Tsai Ing-wen’s administration has adopted a more practical position that is best described as “hedging” yields with more flexible options. This paper aims to show the comprehensive studies in decisions by Ma Ying-jeou and Tsai Ing-wen to adopt hedging strategies. The findings demonstrate that Taiwan has continuously managed its policy by using hedge over the current regional affairs.

Key Words: foreign policy, hedging, the US-China-Taiwan relations, international relations theory, China studies