TRANSFORMING AN INTRACTABLE CONFLICT BY THE MULTI-TRACK DIPLOMACY APPROACH: APPLICATION TO THE TAIWAN STRAIT CONFLICT

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ABSTRACT
The primary cause was the control of Chinese territory. The two political groups in Taiwan (Chinese Nationalist Party or KMT and the Democratic Progressive Party or DPP) and China are the main actors whereas Japan and the United States are the secondary actors. The conflict has escalated into war, crises and unstable peace with 4 main climax periods. The initial issue was the sovereignty dispute over China and Chinese people in both territories of the mainland China and the island of Taiwan. Due to the de-Sinification and the Taiwanisation policies as well as divergent socio-political and economic developments, the issue has evolved into cultural and political identity issue creating 3 identifiers: few Chinese, more Taiwanese and some 'Chiwenese'.

Policy recommendations: all the actors (China, KMT, DPP and US) need to change their policies, mainly by reviewing the "one China, different interpretations" principle, establishing a trilateral relationship, and supporting Taiwan's participation into international organizations. This can be achieved by applying all the nine tracts of the multitrack diplomacy (MTD) approach.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Since President Ma’s election in 2008, economic and social rapprochements have improved, and political tension has thawed between China and Taiwan. However, the occurrence of some domestic or international unpredictable events can affect the current achievements and deadlock the process. The victory of a DPP candidate during the presidential election with a preference to change the current negotiation pattern is an example. This raises the question of an adequate strategy that can pave the path for a political reunification. This research aims to investigate the applicability of the multitrack diplomacy approach in transforming the conflict for the establishment of both a durable peace and political reunification.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the conflict: Lund’s curve

Issues: Sovereignty + Identity

Policy recommendations: applying all the tracks of the multi-track diplomacy (MTD) approach.

CONCLUSION
The shifts in the issues underlying the conflict, the inefficiency of the conflict management mechanism and the divergent political patterns followed by China and the Taiwan are among the factors that have contributed to the intractability of the Taiwan Strait conflict. In the light of the findings of the research, a resolution of the conflict leading to a perpetual peace agreement is hard to reach; even if it is achieved, there is no guarantee for future political reunification. I recommend the application of all the nine tracts of the multitrack diplomacy approach which could favorably contribute to transform the conflict.

LITERATURE CITED

Note: The references list is also attached.