

SIGNIFICANCE OF REVISING ONE CHINA POLICY

Author: Palani Selvi M, B.Sc.,

Abstract

In this paper, the author describes ‘One China Policy’. The One China Policy acknowledges that there is only one Chinese Government. Even though China is sharing its borders with 14 countries, it is claiming the territory from 23 countries. In this paper, the author mentioned all 23 countries. China is also controlling some territories in India and there are some border disputes between China and India. China is also against India to become a permanent member of the UNO. China is also encouraging Pakistan and North Korea and tries to control all over the world. Hence, many experts said that India should reconsider its One China Policy. In this paper, the author tells about the reason why India should reconsider its One China Policy? In this paper, the author gave a brief-expression about the historical background of the One China Policy. The author analyzed the evaluation of the One China Policy and gave a brief presentation and also expressed the view of PRC (People’s Republic of China) and ROC (Republic of China). To make more interesting about the research paper, the author mentions some treaties in her research paper. She suggested that India should rethink its One China Policy. The author hopes that this research paper will help the readers to learn about the One China Policy.

Keywords: One China Policy, Taiwan, China control over other countries

Introduction

The motto of the One China Policy is that ‘there is only one China in the World and Taiwan is part of China’. But Taiwan doesn’t accept that it was a part of China. The status of Taiwan has been one of the most intricate issues in both International Law and International relations arenas for the past decades. Recently, Panama cut ties with Taiwan and accepts the ‘One China Policy’ and the Government of the Republic of Panama recognizes that there is only one China in the world. The China will send an ambassador and establish an embassy in Panama and vice versa on the Panamanian site. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), was widely recognized as the only legitimate Chinese government until the UN passed a resolution in 1971. This resolution replaced the Republic of China with the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The conflict between the ROC and PRC is still a sensitive issue. Due to prolonged conflict between India and China at the Line of Actual Control and Chinese belligerence, many experts raised a claim that India should rethink its One China Policy.



Historical background

The cross-strait relation between China and Taiwan has been divided into three stages. The first stage is between 1895 and 1945. The Republic of China was Asia’s first constitutional republic which was formed by the Chinese Nationalist Party. During the time of the Republic of China’s formation, Taiwan was not within the control of China. It was under the control of Japan under the ‘Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895’.

The second stage is between 1945 and 1949. It was the time period of the Second World War, China fought against Japan under the command of the ROC government. After the Second World War, China officially took over Taiwan. China and Japan both signed a treaty named ‘Treaty of Taipei’. According to this treaty, the Japan surrendered Taiwan to China.

According to the Cairo Declaration in 1943 and Potsdam Declaration in 1945, Japan should restore the stolen territories to the Republic of China

The third stage arises after 1949; the People’s Republic of China (PRC) was formed by the Chinese Communist Party. The PRC defeated the ROC, the only legitimate government of

China, in both the United Nations and the diplomatic circle. The Soviet Union attempts to remove the ROC from the UN. Finally, the UN passed a resolution 2758 to remove ROC; one of the UN's founding members from the UN.

Evolution of the policy

There was a cold war between the PRC and the ROC that how has the sole rightful government of all China. Before the 1970s policy, the eastern bloc of China was maintained by the ROC and after the 1970s policy, much of the eastern bloc was maintained by the PRC. Though the ROC no longer portrays itself as the sole legitimate government of China, the position of PRC remains the same until the early 2000s. Due to the Anti-Secession Law of 2005, the position of the PRC was revised, it makes that there is One China whose sovereignty is indivisible. All the PRC law have the suffix "of the People's Republic of China" but the Anti-Secession Law is an exception.

Policy position in the PRC

The PRC does not accept the ROC passports. If a Taiwan resident likes to visit China, he (or) she must use a Taiwan Compatriot Entry Permit.

Policy position in the ROC

According to ROC, the One China means the Republic of China (ROC). They held that the Taiwan is part of China and the Chinese mainland is part of China as well. Since 1949, China has been temporarily divided and each side of the Taiwan Strait is administered by a separate political entity. In February 1991, the ROC adopted the 'Guidelines for National Unification'. These were done for the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the nation.

In 1992, the public opinion regarding the One China Policy was evolved. The Pan-Blue Coalition parties, the People First Party and the New Party, accept the One China Policy. In 2013, the

Republic of China established diplomatic relations with the Kiribati. If any country would like to trade with Taiwan, then they should recognize the ROC as the sole legitimate government of China.

China control over Tibet

Since 1951 Tibet has been occupied and ruled by China. Tibetan leaders were forced by the PRC to sign a treaty named ‘Seventeen Point Agreement’. According to this treaty, China can establish a civil and military headquarter at Lhasa, capital of Tibet. China held that the ‘Seventeen Point Agreement’ was the legal contract between the two governments. But the Tibetan people including the 14th Dalai Lama held that the treaty was signed under duress. After the death of the 10th Panchen Lama, a six-year-old boy holds the position as 11th Panchen Lama but three days after the announcement, China kidnapped the boy and his family and instead put another boy as 11th Panchen Lama. Since 17th May 1995, the original 11th Panchen Lama has not been seen.

Nearly 35,000 Chinese troops were invaded, Tibet. They raped and murdered nearly 1.2 million Tibetans (one-fifth of the country’s population) and imprisoned many people. 1,73,221 Tibetans were killed in the prison; 1,56,758 Tibetans were executed by the Chinese; 4,32,705 Tibetans were killed in the protest; 3,42,970 Tibetans were died due to starvation; 92,731 Tibetans were killed in the public; 9,002 Tibetans were committed suicide due to the torture by Chinese¹.

There is no freedom of speech, religion, press and arbitrary detainments are in Tibet. Nearly 1,00,000 Tibetans including the 14th Dalai Lama fled into India as refugees. Since 1951 human rights have been abused in Tibet by China.

¹ Sudhana Shetty Shetty, What Is The Conflict Between Tibet & China? Know About It, The Logical Indian website, (Mar.22,2017).
<https://thelogicalindian.com/story-feed/awareness/conflict-between-tibet-and-china/>

China control over other countries

On 20th July 2011, China made an agreement called ‘2011 agreement’ with Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. According to this agreement, China should cooperate with ASEAN countries but still, China controls over other countries in the South China Sea. China has land borders with only 14 countries but it is claiming territory from 23 countries. Even China controls Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei which is 1000 kilometers away from China. The following is a list of China’s current claim over other countries:

1. Afghanistan
2. Bhutan
3. Brunei
4. Burma
5. Cambodia
6. India
7. Indonesia
8. Japan
9. Kazakhstan
10. Kyrgyzstan
11. Laos
12. Malaysia
13. Mongolia
14. Nepal
15. North Korea
16. Pakistan
17. Philippines
18. Russia
19. Singapore
20. South Korea
21. Taiwan
22. Tajikistan



BRILLOPEDIA

23. Vietnam

The reason why India should reconsider “One China Policy”

The One China Policy was initiated by India between December 1949 and April 1950. India was the first country to use “One China” and it declared that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. But the Indian government started to deviate from One China Policy when China issued stapled Visas against the usual visas to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.

When Honorable Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi came into power in 2014, he invited the representatives of Taiwanese government and that of the Tibet government-in-exile to his swearing-in ceremony. Through this, a strong signal was sent to China that despite One China Policy, India recognizes Taiwan and Tibet unofficially.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang remarked on the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, in which he said, the establishment of new Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh included China’s territory and India changes its administrative divisions that affect China’s Sovereignty. To this remark, a spokesperson of Indian Ministry of External Affairs responded that “The matter of reorganization of the state is completely an internal affair of India and we don’t expect other countries to comment on our internal affairs”.

The India China border dispute can be taken as an apt reason to reconsider India’s One China Policy. And India can start engaging with Taiwan more seriously. According to Namrata Hasija, a research associate at the Delhi based Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, India should directly get involved with Taiwan across economic and strategic sectors instead of seeing Taiwan through the China lens.

China has an idea of creating a road from Galwan valley to Gilgit Baltistan(GB) which connects Kasahgar-Islamabad road in GB. They are the part of Pakistan occupied India. So this shows that China tends to occupy Indian Territory. When China refuses to follow “One India Policy”, which means Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan and Aksai Chin are part of Indian Territory and supporting Pakistan in the Kashmir issue, why India has to stick to “One China Policy”.

The Indian government has recently banned 59 Chinese apps. The doors of road, telecom and railways sectors have been closed on the participation of Chinese firms. On this line, India has to rethink its support to the “One China Policy” as well.

Recently India is elected as a non permanent member of UN Security Council. While Germany, Norway and Ukraine have congratulated India on its victory, China gave a lukewarm response to the victory of India. It is important to note that India played an important role in China’s inclusion in the United Nation Security Council (UNSC).



It is the time for India to accept the offers from Taiwan for co-operation in several key sectors like the semiconductor industry, electronic chip manufacturing, 5G etc... This will help to reduce India’s dependence on china in electronic and communication industries. Taiwan extends hands to deepen its ties with India, particularly in economic, military and intelligence. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-Wen launched a “New southbound policy”, which helps in intensifying trade and economic ties with South Asian, South-East Asian and the South Pacific countries and India has been given more focus on this policy. The Indian government should provide scholarship to those who learn Mandarin from Taiwan instead of China.

According to former Deputy National Security Advisor Arvind Gupta, India should support Tibet in having Self-rule, Dalai Lama should be more recognized and he should be given position in diplomatic engagements.

Conclusion

Sticking to One China Policy is a hurdle to India as it restricts India from having ties with countries like Taiwan. India needs to rethink and revise its “One China Policy” and India should be ready to predict Chinese intention once it begins to revise the policy. Taiwan plays a significant role in the international arena nowadays. So, improving bilateral trade, cultural and commercial ties with Taiwan is a boon to India in many aspects.



BRILLOPEDIA