



by:
Dr. Piyush Chaubey

DOCTRINE *of* PORCUPINE



2nd Floor, 17A/41 WEA, Gurudwara Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005



8929879230, 8929879231



<https://momentumias.com>

Doctrine of Porcupine

The “porcupine doctrine” was proposed in 2008 by US Naval War College research professor **William S Murray**, is a strategy of asymmetric warfare focused on fortifying a weak state’s defenses to exploit the enemy’s weaknesses rather than taking on its strengths. It is about building defenses that would ensure that Taiwan “could be attacked and damaged but not defeated, at least without unacceptably high costs and risks”.

Dr Zeno Leoni identifies three defensive layers in the porcupine approach.

1. The outer layer is about intelligence and reconnaissance to ensure defense forces are fully prepared.
2. Behind this come plans for guerrilla warfare at sea with aerial support from sophisticated aircraft provided by the US.
3. The innermost layer relies on the geography and demography of the island.

The ultimate objective of this doctrine is that of surviving and assimilating an aerial offensive well enough to organize a wall of fire that will prevent the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from successfully invading.

Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense defined asymmetric systems as ones that are “*small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile and hard to be detected and countered*”, and “*associated with innovative tactics and employments*”. The geographic advantages of the Taiwan Strait shall be tapped to shape favorable conditions for us to disrupt the operational tempo of the enemy, frustrate its attempts and moves of invasion at decisive points to strike a dispersed enemy with a united blow.

Taiwan adopted the doctrine in 2017 when the then-chief of the Taiwanese military forces, **Lee Hsi-Ming**, referred to it as the “Overall Defence Concept” (ODC). Taiwan underlined its shift to an asymmetric approach by adopting the Overall Defense Concept (ODC) in 2018. The ODC was developed and introduced during the tenure of Admiral Lee, who served from 2017 to 2019. The ODC is Taiwan’s current strategy for dealing with a potential Chinese invasion in a resource-constrained environment while using its “*natural advantages, civilian infrastructure and asymmetric warfare capabilities*”. The ODC redefines “victory” in the event of a Taiwan-China war as “*foiling PLA’s mission of successfully invading and exerting political control over Taiwan*”. Under this strategy, Taiwan has stacked up large inventories of anti-air, anti-tank, and anti-ship weapons and ammunition. That includes unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and low-cost munitions like mobile coastal defence cruise missiles (CDCMs), which have the capacity to destroy China’s expensive naval vessels and naval equipment. It has also prepared its cities for guerrilla warfare in case the Chinese People’s Liberation Army succeeds in landing in Taiwan. In fact, buildings in Taipei can be turned into barracks. Taipei also has aircraft and anti-ballistic

defence systems in its arsenal which can intercept ballistic rockets and inflict primary damage on invading powers.

Michael E. O'Hanlon stated that the current policy of "strategic ambiguity" seeks to keep everyone guessing as to whether America would militarily counter a Chinese attack on its much smaller neighbor. Washington's specific response would depend on how a crisis began and unfolded. That is because America has had multiple, sometimes conflicting goals—to deter China from attack, to preserve good U.S.-China relations, and to discourage pro-independence forces within Taiwan all at once.

What more should the US use to tackle such situations?

Strategist **Bridge Colby** has laid down some of the steps that the US should use as well which are as follows:

- The United States should consider using its military superiority in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf regions to go after China's economic lifelines there, attacking shipping that is likely headed to Chinese destinations using U.S. attack submarines, long-range bombers, and other stealth aircraft based throughout the region. China gets half or more of its energy from the broader Persian Gulf and African theaters, so its vulnerability here is great.
- It should continue to reduce its collective western dependencies on key Chinese exports, like rare Earths, by stockpiling supplies and developing alternative sources. America and its allies are overdue in making such efforts. Thankfully, there is reason to think that U.S. collective insouciance is starting to end on the economic side of the ledger.

How did the China-Taiwan Issue arise?



Source: YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7MDn4etRuM>

Timeline:

- The **Kingdom of Tungning**, lasting from 1661 to 1683, was the first **Han Chinese** government to rule part of the island of Taiwan.
- From 1683, the **Qing Dynasty** ruled much of the western plains of the island as a prefecture and in 1875 divided the island into two prefectures, **Taiwan and Taipei**.
- In 1885 the island was made into a separate province to speed up development in this region. In the aftermath of the **First Sino-Japanese War**, **Taiwan and Penghu** were ceded by the **Qing Dynasty** to **Japan** in 1895 under the **Treaty of Shimonoseki**.
- The Republic of China overthrew the Qing dynasty in 1912.
- At the end of World War II, the Republic of China, on behalf of the Allied Powers, accepted the surrender of Japanese troops in Taiwan, putting Taiwan under control of a Chinese government again after 50 years of Japanese rule.
- The ROC would then claim sovereignty on the basis of the Qing dynasty's administration, **Cairo Declaration**, **Potsdam Declaration**, and **Japanese Instrument of Surrender**, but this became contested by pro-independence groups in subsequent years due to different perceptions of the said documents' legality.
- Upon losing the Chinese civil war in 1949, the ROC government retreated to Taipei, and kept control over a few islands along the coast of mainland China and in the South China Sea.

- The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established in mainland China on 1 October 1949, claiming to be the successor to the ROC.
- The ROC, which asserted control of Taiwan (as well as Penghu and other nearby islands) in 1945, had ruled mainland China and claimed sovereignty over Tibet (now controlled by the PRC as the Tibet Autonomous Region), Outer Mongolia (now Mongolia) and Tannu Uriankhai (now a part of Tuva, Russia) before losing the Chinese Civil War to the Chinese Communist Party and relocating its government and capital city from Nanjing to Guangzhou and Chengdu before arriving at Taipei as the temporary capital in December 1949.
- When Japan regained sovereignty over itself in 1952 with the conclusion of the **Treaty of Peace with Japan** (San Francisco Peace Treaty) with 48 nations, Japan renounced all claims and title over Taiwan and the Pescadores. Many claim that Japanese sovereignty only terminated at that point.
- Subsequently, the **Treaty of Taipei** was concluded between the ROC and Japan on 28 April 1952 (effective 5 August), where Japan essentially re-affirmed the terms of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, and formalized the peace between the ROC and Japan. It also nullified all previous treaties made between China and Japan.
- The ROC government has in the past actively pursued the claim as the sole legitimate government over mainland China and Taiwan. This position began to change in the early 1990s as democracy was introduced and new Taiwanese leaders were elected, changing to one that does not actively challenge the legitimacy of PRC rule over mainland China.

Sunflower Movement

- The Sunflower Movement set off a political tidal wave. Beginning in mid-March, hundreds of student protesters physically occupied Taiwan's national legislature for roughly three weeks to oppose a proposed free trade agreement with China.
- In March 2014, young protesters upended the island's political landscape by temporarily seizing control of the national legislature. Their activist opposition to a pending free trade agreement with China attracted broad public attention and support, helped prompt a change in government in early 2016, and unleashed a wave of young activism that continues to reshape Taiwanese politics.
- Participants have driven new forms of protest and activism, played meaningful roles in both new and existing parties, and encouraged the government to reassess key policy issues, including nuclear power and education. Taiwan provides a model of how activists can sometimes transition from extra-institutional protests to conventional forms of political participation.
- But even before the January 2016 election, the Sunflower Movement gave way to an inspiring explosion of enthusiastic activism. Amid this political renewal, Sunflower Movement participants formed a number of new organizations that similarly emphasized direct democracy, social justice, and Taiwanese identity.

Professor **Ming Sho Cho** stated: *"the durability of this wave of activism suggests that it had deep societal roots and was not really about just a single trade agreement. The trade controversy*

underscored several interrelated social problems that paved the way for this youthful activism and engagement. These intractable problems included worsening economic inequality; opaque, unjust, and unaccountable governing institutions and procedures; and a growing but threatened sense of Taiwanese identity." She has further added:

- One factor that has propelled this protest-based activism has been a surging sense of indigenous identity, as Taiwan has experienced the pernicious effects of having an increasingly powerful and assertive China on its doorstep.
- At the same time, the ethnic divide has become less prominent as the term Taiwanese has transitioned from being an ethnic category to being a more inclusive form of national identity.
- Some participants in the Sunflower Movement went beyond activist efforts to pressure government officials and got more directly involved in politics. These Sunflower activists seemed to reject the notion that activism that obstructs the functioning of democratic institutions cannot coincide with participation in electoral politics.
- Two strains of activism have achieved two concrete policy objectives: phasing out nuclear power and instituting education reforms. These aims likely would not have been achieved if the Sunflower Movement had not ignited a new ethos of civic contestation.



MOMENTUM IAS

2nd Floor, 17A/41, WEA, Gurudwara Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005



by. PIYUSH KUMAR

HISTORY FOUNDATION

1. Conceptual Understanding of the Subject
2. Coverage of new Dimensions
3. Theme-based booklets
4. PYQs Analysis and Doubt Sessions
5. Includes Test Series
6. Copy Correction Strictly by Faculty Only

16th September

HISTORY TEST SERIES:

History Test Series Mains 2022

26th June

Revision-cum-Answer Writing Program: 2023

28th August

History Mock Test 2022

07th August

Features:

1. As per the latest UPSC Exam Pattern
2. Model Answers for each test
3. Additional handouts for special topics
4. One to One Discussion at Karol Bagh Centre
5. Copy Correction Strictly by Faculty Only



OFFLINE@

Momentum IAS (Karol Bagh)



ONLINE@

unacademy

For UNACADEMY DISCOUNT USE BELOW CODE

For PSIR : DRPIYUSH11

For HISTORY : PIYUSHKHISTORY



by. Dr. PIYUSH Chaubey

PSIR FOUNDATION

1. Conceptual Understanding of the Subject
2. Coverage of new Dimensions
3. Theme-based booklets
4. PYQs Analysis and Doubt Sessions
5. Includes Test Series
6. Copy Correction Strictly by Faculty Only

23rd August

PSIR TEST SERIES:

PSIR Test Series Mains 2022

19th June

Revision-cum-Answer Writing Program: 2023

27th August

PSIR Mock Test 2022

28th August

Features:

1. As per the latest UPSC Exam Pattern
2. Model Answers for each test
3. Additional handouts for special topics
4. One to One Discussion at Karol Bagh Centre
5. Copy Correction Strictly by Faculty Only



OFFLINE@

Momentum IAS (Karol Bagh)



<https://momentumias.com>



+91-8929879230, +91-8929879231