

U.S.-China Relations under the Obama Administration: Challenges for Taiwan

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Abstract

The first Obama administration seemed to be lack of initiatives when it comes to promote national interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific, especially amid the increasing political and economic influence of China in the region. It has been argued that if the second Obama administration and the Chinese government under its new leader Xi Gin-ping could work together and overcome a seemingly everlasting structural impediment of distrust and mistrust between the two nations, it would do a tremendous good not only for their respective interest but also for stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Yet, the second Obama administration's policy toward China should be part of the overall U.S. policy of reengage and rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific. Facing a changing strategic landscape in the Asia-Pacific region in general and an evolving U.S.-China relationship in particular, Taiwan's policy toward both the U.S. and China should be more prudent and contributive in helping to create a stable, prosperous Asia-Pacific community with an emphasis of a widely shared value of democracy in the region.

Keywords: Obama administration, Xi government, Asia-Pacific, Taiwan, value of democracy