

## Strait Democracy

October 12, 2021

“China vows ‘peaceful reunification’ with Taiwan,” was *The New York Post*’s takeaway from Chinese ruler Xi Jinping’s speech at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing over the weekend.

What fantabulous news! Peace for our time . . . in Asia.

That same message was echoed by *The Washington Post*, which also noted that Xi’s statement comes “days after sending a surge of warplanes near the island.”

With China’s massive military build-up, ongoing threats to attack, invasion drills around Taiwan, not

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to mention flying squadrons of warplanes across the Taiwan Strait and into the island nation’s air defense identification zone — 150 such incursions last week — tensions have escalated to a fever pitch.

“We are very concerned,” warned Taiwan’s Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, “that China is going to launch a war against Taiwan at some point.”

Thank goodness, then, that at this scary moment, our



Fourth Estate can herald Xi’s promise of peace!

The only problem?

The Chinese dictator gave no such assurance.

Xi merely stated a preference for Taiwan’s peaceful surrender to his one-country, one-system totalitarianism — over having to snuff out Taiwan’s freedom by missile attack and invasion, murdering millions. Which the genocidal autocrat is still threatening to do whenever the opportunity presents.

Cancel the parade.

Still, if Xi’s rhetoric constitutes “a more conciliatory approach” from Beijing, chock it up to free countries finally waking up and pushing back against the Chinazis.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, noting her nation’s position “on the front lines of democracy and freedom,” focused on the fight against Chinese “coercion.” As she eloquently wrote in *Foreign Affairs*: “[T]he future of Taiwan is to be decided by the Taiwanese through democratic means.”

Provided there is the military might to deter Chinese aggression.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.