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Trump & Taiwan

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“China Issues Donald Trump a Warning Over Taiwan,” *Newsweek* [headlined](#) Billal Rahman’s recent article.

For the last five years, I have counseled that the U.S. must [either](#) withdraw from Southeast Asia or convince the Chinese regime that we and our allies are willing to [stand up](#) to them, [militarily](#).

How will President Trump respond in a second term?

Arguing that “the United States ... is always America first,” a spokesperson for China’s Taiwan Affairs Office recently needled: “Taiwan at any time may turn from a pawn to a discarded child.”

However, Lyle Goldstein with Defense Priorities notes that “During Trump’s last four years there was quite a robust stance in favor of defending Taiwan ...” While Al Jazeera headlined a

recent [story](#), “Trump signals hard line on China with hawkish cabinet picks.”

Still, “I think Taiwan should pay us for defense,” Trump said back in June.*

“[T]hey want protection,” he [told](#) Joe Rogan last month. “The mob makes you pay money, right? But with these countries that we protect, I got hundreds of billions of dollars from NATO countries that were never paying us.”

Mr. Trump did successfully prod NATO countries into putting more money into their militaries. That seems to be his gambit with Taiwan.

And [maybe](#) it’s working.

“Taiwan is considering a massive \$15 billion military package,” *Fox News* is [reporting](#), “in a show to the incoming Trump administration that it is serious about defending itself against the threat posed by China.”

Plus, as *The Epoch Times* [illuminates](#), “A coalition of the willing is already emerging.” Countries in Europe and Asia are increasingly coming together and standing up against Chinese bullying of Taiwan.

As we await the Trump administration.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* Trump also charged that Taiwan “stole” our computer chip business. True, in the same sense that Shohei Ohtani [stole](#) 57 bases for the LA Dodgers last season.