

Rhetoric vs. Reality: America's Response to China and Russia

Gul-i- Ayesha Bhatti

PhD Scholar of International Relations

Minhaj University Lahore

Prof Dr Sajid Mehmood Shahzad

Vice Chancellor

Minhaj University Lahore

Abstract

The United States is currently dealing with serious threats to its safety than it has in a long time, maybe ever. The U.S. hasn't had such powerful military rivals in Europe or Asia since the Korean War. The problem is that when the U.S. needs to respond to threats, it can't because its leadership is divided. Republicans and Democrats can't agree on how to deal with China and Russia. They also haven't explained how these threats are connected, and they don't have a long-term plan to protect American values and power. The leadership of China and Russia, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin has similar goals. They both want to make their countries strong and respected like they were in the past. But they also think that democratic countries, especially the U.S., are getting weaker. They see things like isolationism, political fighting and unrest in these countries as signs of decline. Therefore, the policy of Xi Jinping and Putin are a big problem for the U.S. Through a comprehensive analysis of diplomatic exchanges, security postures and economic interactions, the study illuminates the disjunctions or alignments between rhetorical pronouncements and tangible actions of U.S. foreign policy.

The paper provides valuable insights into the complexities of relationships and approach to manage its engagements with China and Russia.

Key Words: Geopolitics, Foreign Policy, Strategic Relations, Diplomacy, National Security, Competing Interests, Security Strategy

Introduction

The 21st century unfolds that the United States with its historical commitment to democracy, free markets and human rights, has often found itself in a position of perceived moral authority, projecting an image of steadfastness in the face of challenges from China and Russia. However, as the nuances of international relations come to the fore, it becomes evident that the rhetoric espoused by American leaders is not always demonstrated reality on the ground (Ahmad & Sharma, 2023; Kavanagh, 2013, p. 53). From diplomatic maneuverings to economic entanglements, military posturing to cultural exchanges, it explore into the core of this geopolitical dilemma, unraveling the threads that bind these nations and examining the disjunctions that often lurk beneath the surface. The narrative of America's response to China and Russia is, in many ways is a tale of juxtapositions (Eder, 2013, p. 29). At the rhetorical forefront, American leaders articulate a commitment to promoting democratic values, human rights and the rule of law on the global stage. They emphasize the importance of fostering a world order that adheres to principles of transparency, accountability and open dialogue. Yet, the reality on the ground paints a more nuanced picture (Hancock, 2007, p. 19; Burnell & Schlumberger, 2014, p. 47). In recent years, the United States has faced criticism for its selective application of these principles, with accusations of double standards and hypocrisy echoing across the international community. As America plots its relationships with China and Russia, the tension between its

professed ideals and its pragmatic considerations comes to the fore. The challenge lies in balancing the imperative of upholding democratic values with the complex web of geopolitical realities that define contemporary international relations. One arena where rhetoric and reality intersect with particular intensity is in the realm of diplomacy (Engebret, 2016, p. 23). The United States, as a global diplomatic player, often employs lofty language to assert its commitment to fostering cooperation, resolving conflicts and upholding international norms. In the context of China and Russia, this rhetoric is evident in statements emphasizing the importance of dialogue, engagement and finding common ground. However, the diplomatic dance unfolds against a backdrop of strategic competition, territorial disputes and ideological clashes (Shobert, 2018, p. 41). The rhetoric of cooperation is juxtaposed with actions that underscore a growing sense of rivalry, as seen in the contestations over issues ranging from trade practices and intellectual property to cyber warfare and military posturing. As the diplomatic maneuvers becomes apparent that the delicate balance between rhetoric and reality in the realm of diplomacy is pivotal in shaping the trajectory of complex relationships (Stanzel, 2019, p. online). Economic entanglements further illuminate the intricate interplay between rhetoric and reality in America's response to China and Russia. The global economic landscape has undergone transformative shifts, with China emerging as a formidable economic powerhouse and Russia wielding influence through its vast reserves of natural resources. The rhetoric emanating from American policymakers often emphasizes the need for fair trade practices, market access and the protection of intellectual property rights (Park, 2023, p. 144). However, the reality of economic interdependence introduces a layer of complexity. The United States, China and Russia find themselves locked in a web of economic relationships, where the pursuit of national interests intertwines with the imperatives of a globalized world. Sanctions, tariffs and trade negotiations become instruments

through which the rhetoric of economic principles is translated into tangible policies, shaping the economic contours of this intricate the geopolitical environment (Codesria, 2008, p. 82).

Militarily dynamics underscore the United States, China and Russia's rhetoric and reality. The language of deterrence, strategic alliances and military readiness permeates the discourse, projecting an image of strength and resolve. The United States, as the preeminent global military power, articulates a commitment to maintaining peace through strength while simultaneously engaging in diplomatic efforts to manage potential flashpoints. However, the reality of military posturing, exercises and geopolitical maneuverings reveals a more nuanced geopolitical environment. The specter of an arms race, territorial disputes and the militarization of strategic regions underscore the underlying tensions that challenge the rhetoric of stability and peace (Sarin, 2023, p. 193). These three states complexities of military strategy, the gap between rhetoric and reality widens, contributing to an atmosphere of strategic uncertainty with far-reaching global implications. Cultural exchanges, while often viewed as softer elements in the realm of geopolitics, play a crucial role in shaping perceptions and building bridges between nations. The rhetoric of fostering understanding, mutual respect and people-to-people connections features prominently in the narratives espoused by American leaders (Berger & Cronin, 2012, p. 79). However, the reality is shaped by an undercurrent of suspicion, fueled by ideological differences, historical grievances, and strategic competition. Cultural diplomacy becomes a terrain where the clash of values and narratives is acutely felt, as each nation seeks to project its image and influence the global narrative. The disjunctions between rhetoric and reality in cultural exchanges highlight the challenges of building genuine understanding in a world

marked by geopolitical rivalries and competing worldviews (CRS, September 02, 2021).

China's Ambitions and Geopolitical Influence

China, wants to become the most powerful country in the world by the year 2049, which is the 100th anniversary of the Communist victory in China. It also wants to bring Taiwan under its control. China seems to be ready to overcome Taiwan by 2027; it wants to be making itself very strong by 2035. Xi Jinping thinks that by taking Taiwan is as important as Mao Zedong in the history of the Communist Party of China (Xiao, August 24, 2022). But trying to take Taiwan could lead to a war, just like when Russia made a big mistake in Ukraine. Xi Jinping has already made some mistakes, like changing China's economic policies and causing problems with the COVID-19. China can't get Taiwan without going to war then it will have to choose between starting a war by blocking Taiwan's sea access or invading it. Even though Xi Jinping has made mistakes, China is still a big challenge for the United States. China's military is strong and it has more warships than the US, even though they might not be as ethical. China has improved its military forces and has more positive control over nuclear weapons. China is also getting better in space and cyberspace (Lohman & Walters, September 29, 2020).

China is not just building up its military it also trying to increase its influence all around the world. China trades with many countries and it has a program to build infrastructure called the Belt and Road Initiative. China owns or invests in many ports in different countries around the globe. They also use media and information to spread their ideas and criticize the United States (Kumar, November 02, 2021). They try to make people think that their way of doing things

is better than the Western way. Some people think that the US and China will end up in a conflict, like when Athens fought Sparta in ancient times or when Germany fought the UK before World War I. It's a complicated situation. This happened because European leaders acted in an unwise and arrogant way. The Chinese military is not fully prepared for a large scale war. So, if China decides to attack or invade Taiwan, it won't happen for a few more years (Bremmer, April 12, 2023).

From Empire Dreams to Strategic Blunders

Zbigniew Brzezinski, a political expert and former US national security adviser, once said, "Without Ukraine, Russia won't be a powerful empire." Putin agrees with this. He invaded Ukraine in 2014 and again in 2022 because he wanted to restore Russia's lost empire. However, this last attempt turned out to be a big mistake with serious long-standing concerns for Russia (Raik, October 31, 2023). Instead of weakening NATO, Russia's actions made the alliance stronger. Strategically Moscow is in a poor position now. While they managed to sell oil to China, India and other countries to balance some of the economic effect of sanctions, they also faced severe sanctions from many developed democratic countries. Many Western companies left Russia, including those in the oil and gas industry, which is crucial for Russia's economy. Thousands of young entrepreneurs and technology experts also left the country (Grob & Roth, 2023, p. online).

Regarding the Russian military, even though the war weakened its regular armed forces, Russia still has the world's largest nuclear arsenal. But Putin's prospects don't look strong. He initially hoped for a quick victory in Ukraine, but that didn't happen. He is relying on a long and tough military stalemate to wear down the Ukrainians, hoping that support from Europe and the United States will diminish next spring or summer (Aljazeera, December 02, 2023). He doesn't want

a democratic, modern and prosperous Ukraine as it could set a bad example for Russians. Since the Putin in power, Russia has been an adversary of the NATO and United States. Putin is also building new relationships with African states, Middle Eastern countries and Asian as well through the deal oil and gas and arms sale. He is doing whatever he can to create divisions between Europe and America and their influence in the world. He believes powerful nuclear weapons will prevent any military aggression against Russia, so he is challenging to the United States (Seddon, June 16, 2023). However, he has already made a significant mistake, and there's no guarantee he won't make another one.

The US Power Dynamics in a Shifting Global Geopolitics

The American economy is doing well. Businesses are investing in new areas, some with help from government programs. They are also putting money into things like reboots, bioengineering, computing and artificial intelligence (The Economic Times, June 9, 2023). This is making the United States more technologically advanced and economically strong. The Ukraine war helped the United States diplomatically to make narrative against Russia. Washington warned its friends and allies about Russia's plans, which showed they had good intelligence. This made their allies trust them more. The United States also strengthened its relationships in Asia and Europe because of China's aggressive behavior. The US military is well-funded and getting modern upgrades (O'hanlon & Miller, December 09, 2019). They are improving their nuclear weapons and buying new planes, tanks, ships and more. They also have advanced weapons like hypersonic missiles and better cyber security. "The United States spends more on defense than the next ten countries including Russia and China". On the other hand, the American government is spending a lot of money, which could weaken the economy. Politicians haven't dealt with the rising costs of programs like Social

Security, Medicare and Medicaid (McBride, Berman, & Siripurapu, December 05, 2023). This has led to concerns about what would happen if the government couldn't pay its debts. American politics are a mess, with both parties not getting along. This has caused problems and made people lose confidence in the government. The United States used to ignore a lot of countries in the global South, which is an important area for competition with China and Russia. They're trying to fix this now but they have been too slow in building relationships with countries in the Pacific. Congress has been unable to pass military funding bills on time for several years, which affects the military's ability to plan and operate effectively (Neil & Heazle, 2018, p. 113). In simple terms, the United States is economically and militarily strong but its political issues and some diplomatic missteps are causing problems. Lawmakers didn't pass a new budget but they passed something called a continuing resolution. This means the Pentagon couldn't get much budget than last year and it can't start new projects or increase spending on old ones. These resolutions control military spending until a new budget is approved which can take anywhere from a few weeks to a whole year. In 2011, the Budget Control Act called "sequestration" which reduced the federal budget by \$1.2 trillion over ten years. The military which made up only about 15 percent of federal spending had to engage half of that cut that was more than \$600 billion (Peterson, April 24, 2023). This resulted in serious and long-lasting consequences.

However in September 2023 congress made military unhappy due to politics when a senator raised question on the appointment of many high-ranking officers for months (Simpson, December 06, 2023). This not only damages training and leadership but also shows how dysfunctional the American government can be. This weakens the United States in the eyes of its rivals. Consequently, America needs stronger armed forces to deal the challenges which it has to face. Achieving

this goal isn't just about speeches in the Oval Office or in Congress. It requires a clear and repeated message. The President should engage more directly with the American people, as well as spend time with Congress men and the mass media to protect Americans. Additionally, members of Congress need to share this message with their constituents across the country that the American leadership has kept peace for 75 years among major powers, which is the longest period in many centuries (Kuper, October 04, 2023). War is very costly and poses a significant threat to security and prosperity. Ignoring events around the world like World War I, II and 9/11. The military strength, alliances and international institutions the United States has built a vital for deterring aggression (NATO, October 10, 2023). History shows that not confronting bullies only encourages more aggression. US think that Russia's invasion in Ukraine may lead to further Russian hostility in Europe or engagement with NATO states. Similarly, Russian invasion in Ukraine may increase the chances of Chinese aggression against Taiwan and a potential conflict between the Beijing and Washington (Maizland, April 18, 2023). To protect its people, to maintain security and freedom Washington must continue its role as a global leader. Once Churchill stated that "The price of greatness is responsibility (Churchill, August 29, 2008)." To build up support at home for this responsibility it is crucial to build trust with allies and show them that the U.S. will keep its promises. Divisions at home may be a message of uncertainty about America's role and credibility in the world. Even close allies are uncertain about the future of American politics whether it will continue with Biden's approach or Trump's "America First" stance.

Rethinking American Foreign Policy for a New Era

China and Russia are teaming up against America in many places. The U.S. needs a plan to engage with the world, especially in Africa, Latin America and the

Middle East where Russia and China are getting ahead. The strategy shouldn't split the world into democratic and authoritarian states. The U.S. should always support democracy and human rights but it also needs to work with oppressive governments when necessary (Ashfold, January 7, 2021). Rebuilding public support for America's global leadership is crucial but there is more to be done. Moving beyond the focus on Asia and strengthening ties with countries like Australia, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea is important but not enough. The battle between the U.S. and its allies against China, Russia and others is already happening. To make sure the U.S. is in a strong position and to avoid strategic mistakes, leaders need to challenge decades of agreement on America's global role. After 20 years of war, many Americans want to focus on domestic issues (But, December 23, 2019). However leaders should explain how the country's fate is connected to global events.

The U.S. strategy should use all its national power tools. Both Republicans and Democrats are against trade deals, and protectionism is strong in Congress (Reinsch, 2018). This has given China opportunities in the global South, providing them with markets and investment chances. Despite issues with China's Belt and Road Initiative, like putting massive debt on other countries, it has helped China expand its influence and business connections. The U.S. and its allies need to find ways to compete, especially using the private sector's strengths. U.S. development programs are just a small part of China's efforts and aren't well-connected to broader goals. Even when successful, the U.S. doesn't talk much about its achievements, like Plan Colombia or the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Public diplomacy is crucial but the U.S. has let it weaken since the Cold War, while China spends billions to promote its ideology worldwide (Minzner, 2018, p. 178).

It is considered that Russia is trying hard to spread untrue information and cause disagreements in democratic countries. The United States must come up with a plan to influence leaders and people in other countries, especially in the global South. To do this, the U.S. government needs to spend more money and coordinate its communication efforts better. There is also a need for significant changes in how the U.S. helps other governments with their security. While the U.S. military does well in training foreign forces, it should make smarter decisions about where and how to do this and work better with allies (Ferragamo, December 28, 2023). Russia is assisting African governments with their security, especially those with strict leaders and the U.S. needs a plan to counter this. The U.S. should also speed up delivering military equipment to other countries, addressing delays, particularly in sending arms to Taiwan. The U.S. needs to reconsider its strategy regarding nuclear weapons because Russia and China are becoming closer allies with strong nuclear forces. This challenges the U.S.'s ability to prevent nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran. To strengthen deterrence, the U.S. might have to change its strategy and build more nuclear weapons.

China and Russia's navies are conducting more exercises together, and they are likely to collaborate on their nuclear forces. Many agree that the U.S. Navy needs more ships and submarines, but the budget hasn't kept up with this need (Gale, November 20, 2023). The main problem is a lack of funding for the Navy and the shipbuilding industry. However, there doesn't seem to be much urgency among policymakers to fix these issues. Congress needs to change how it approves money for the Department of Defense and the Department of Defense needs to improve its slow and bureaucratic procurement processes. This is especially important in a time when being quick and flexible is crucial. The Department of Defense has recognized these problems and announced plans to fix them, but the

real challenge is making these changes effectively and quickly. But the leadership, like most members of Congress, has completely failed to comply this important responsibility. Americans must understand why American global leadership, despite its costs, is vital to maintaining peace and prosperity. Americans need to know why Ukraine's successful resistance to Russian invasion is critical to deterring China from invading Taiwan. They should to know why Chinese dominance in the Western Pacific threatens American interests. They also need to know why Chinese and Russian influence in the global South matters to American pockets.

Conclusion

China and Russia think they will be powerful in the future. Despite all the tough talk from Congress and the American government about how to deal with these enemies, not much has been done. Sometimes they announce new plans, but the money and actual action are slow or don't happen. Talking doesn't solve the problem and nobody in Washington wants to make the necessary changes quickly. This is troubling because, in a time when politicians in Washington argue a lot and don't agree, Xi Jinping and Putin have managed to get support from both sides for a strong US response to their aggression. The President and Congress have a rare chance to work together to support their words with actions that make the United States a stronger opponent and may prevent a war. Xi Jinping and Putin, along with the "conservatives," have made mistakes that hurt their countries, but they are still a threat that the United States will have to deal with for a long time. Even in the best situation, where the US government had the support of the people, strong leaders and a clear plan, these enemies would be a serious challenge. But the current situation in the US is not good: American society has become divided, Congress is stuck in arguments and incivility and past presidents have not

understood or rejected America's global role. To deal with such powerful and dangerous enemies, the United States needs to improve in all areas. Only then can they stop Xi and Putin from making more bad choices. The U.S. needs to understand that how Xi Jinping and Putin see things and reduce the chances of a disaster. This will require a smart plan and strong action. In the past, the U.S. succeeded in the Cold War because both political parties had a consistent strategy. Today, they need a similar approach. But there's a problem. The U.S. is in a tricky situation. It's facing aggressive enemies who have made mistakes, but they can't unite to defeat them. To stop leaders like Xi Jinping and Putin, the U.S. needs trust and a consistent response. However, the U.S. is not working well together and this makes its power weak and makes risky leaders take dangerous decisions that could end badly.

References

- Ahmad, F., & Sharma, A. (2023). *Geo Economic Perspective in the Global environment*. London: Routledge.
- Ashfold, E. (January 7, 2021). *America Can't Promote Democracy Abroad. It Can't Even Protect It at Home*. Retrieved October 12, 2023, from Foreign Policy: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/07/america-cant-promote-protect-democracy-abroad/>
- Berger, A. L., & Cronin, G. L. (2012). *Jewish American and Holocaust Literature: Representation in*. New York: State University of New York Press.
- Bremmer, I. (April 12, 2023). *Why China Won't Invade Taiwan Anytime Soon*. Retrieved July 23, 2023, from Times: <https://time.com/6270599/china-invade-taiwan/>
- Burnell, P., & Schlumberger, O. (2014). *International Politics and National Political Regimes*. London: Routledge.
- But, A. I. (December 23, 2019). *The Afghan war: A failure made in the USA*. Retrieved December 24, 2023, from Aljazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/12/23/the-afghan-war-a-failure-made-in-the-usa>

- Churchil, W. S. (August 29, 2008). *The Price of Greatness*. Retrieved December 07, 2023, from International Churchill Society: <https://winstonchurchill.org/old-site/learn/speeches-learn/the-price-of-greatness/>
- Codesria. (2008). *Africa Development Volume 33*. Berkeley: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.
- CRS. (September 02, 2021). *U.S.-China Strategic Competition in South and East China Seas*. Washington: US Congress.
- Aljazeera. (December 02, 2023). Retrieved December 06, 2023, from Russia boosts size of armed forces by 170,000 troops: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/2/russia-to-boost-size-of-armed-forces-by-170000-troops>
- Eder, T. S. (2013). *China-Russia Relations in Central Asia*. Vienna: Springer.
- Engbreket, K. (2016). *High-table Diplomacy: The Reshaping of International Security Institutions*. Washington DC: Greentown University Press.
- Ferragamo, M. (December 28, 2023). *Russia Growing Footprint in Africa*. Retrieved February 02, 2024, from Council on Foreign Relations: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/russias-growing-footprint-africa>
- Gale, A. (November 20, 2023). *Many agree that the U.S. Navy needs more ships and submarines but the budget hasn't kept up with this need*. Retrieved February 02, 2024, from Mint: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/era-of-total-u-s-submarine-dominance-over-china-is-ending-11700459741158.html>
- Grob, L., & Roth, J. K. (2023). *The Holocaust, Ukraine, and Endangered American Democracy*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers.
- Hancock, J. (2007). *Human Rights and US Foreign Policy*. London: Routledge.
- The Economic Times*. (June 9, 2023). Retrieved December 07, 2023, from US Congress to consider two new bills on artificial intelligence: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/us-congress-to-consider-two-new-bills-on-artificial-intellig>
- Kavanagh, D. (2013). *Politics of the Labour Party*. London: Routledge.
- Kumar, R. (November 02, 2021). *How China uses the news media as a weapon in its propaganda war against the West*. Retrieved November 23, 2023, from Reuters Institute: <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/news/how-china-uses-news-media-weapon-its-propaganda-war-against-west>

- Kuper, S. (October 04, 2023). *Is the US really a 'dysfunctional' superpower?* Retrieved December 07, 2023, from Defence Connect: <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/geopolitics-and-policy/12891-is-the-us-really-a-dysfunctional-superpower>
- Lohman, W., & Walters, R. (September 29, 2020). *Understanding the Chinese Challenge to the United States*. Retrieved December 06, 2023, from The Heritage Foundation: <https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/understanding-the-chinese-challenge-the-united-states>
- Maizland, L. (April 18, 2023). *Why China-Taiwan Relations Are So Tense*. Retrieved December 01, 2023, from Council on Foreign Relations: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>
- McBride, J., Berman, N., & Siripurapu, A. (December 05, 2023). *The U.S. National Debt Dilemma*. Retrieved December 07, 2023, from Council on Foreign Relations: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-national-debt-dilemma>
- Minzner, C. (2018). *End of an Era: How China's Authoritarian Revival is Undermining Its Rise*. London: Oxford University Press.
- NATO. (October 10, 2023). *Deterrence and defence*. Retrieved December 07, 2023, from https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_133127.htm
- Neil, A. O., & Heazle, M. (2018). *China's Rise and Australia-Japan-US Relations*. London: Edward Elgar Publishing, Incorporated.
- O'hanlon, M. E., & Miller, J. N. (December 09, 2019). *Focusing on quality over quantity in the US military budget*. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/focusing-on-quality-over-quantity-in-the-us-military-budget/>: Brookings.
- Park, J. (2023). *Eyes of a Typhoon*. Ebook: JAYSON PARK.
- Peterson, P. G. (April 24, 2023). *U.S. Defense Spending Compared to Other Countries*. Retrieved December 06, 2023, from Petter G petterson Foundation: https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053_defense-comparison
- Raik, K. (October 31, 2023). *The Dream of a European Security Order With Russia Is Dead*. Retrieved November 12, 2023, from Foreign Policy: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/10/31/russia-ukraine-war-europe-security-order-nato-peace-negotiation-settlement/>
- Reinsch, W. A. (2018, September 24). *Why Both Republicans and Democrats are Grumpy about Trade*. Retrieved February 02, 2024, from CSIS: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-both-republicans-and-democrats-are-grumpy-about-trade>
- Sarin, B. M. (2023). *Mending Fences, Cross Infiltration And Conflict Challenges Line Of Actual Control*. Nanda Nagr Indore: Guarav book center.

Seddon, M. (June 16, 2023). *Russia has sent nuclear warheads to Belarus, says Vladimir Puti*. Retrieved December 06, 2023, from Financial times: <https://www.ft.com/content/2353be6d-7573-4b24-bf76-e77f4039f957>

Shobert, B. (2018). *Blaming China*. Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

Simpson, B. D. (December 06, 2023). *Tuberville ends holdout on most high-ranking military nominations*. Retrieved December 08, 2023, from The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/tuberville-ends-holdout-on-most-high-ranking-military-nominations-217769>

Stanzel, V. (2019). *New Realities in Foreign Affairs: Diplomacy in the 21st Century*. London: Routledge.

Xiao, B. (August 24, 2022). *Why is Taiwan so important to Chinese President Xi Jinping?* Retrieved December 06, 2023, from ABC News: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-24/analysis-taiwan-and-xi-jinping/101339406>