

The Taiwan Calculus in China's Strategy Towards the North Korea-Iran Axis

by [Christina Lin \(/experts/christina-lin\)](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Dr. Christina Lin is a former visiting fellow at The Washington Institute.



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Beijing's reaction to the November 2010 North Korean attack on the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong is a case study of how China's continuing support of the North Korea-Iran axis is intimately linked with its fears of a U.S.-Taiwan alignment, among other possible scenarios. This paper explores how that axis serves as a "hidden dagger" in China's strategic calculus for countering the United States in East Asia and the Middle East and analyzes the implications for Washington's Asia Pacific allies as well as for Israel and the Gulf states.

Christina Lin is a visiting fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on China's increasing footprint in the Middle East and on ways that China, the United States, and U.S. allies can cooperate to resolve regional security issues. ❖

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