

Taiwan Public Opinion on National Security Issues

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Taiwan National Security Studies Surveys

(2002, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

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Stabilizing and Destabilizing Factors in the Taiwan Straits

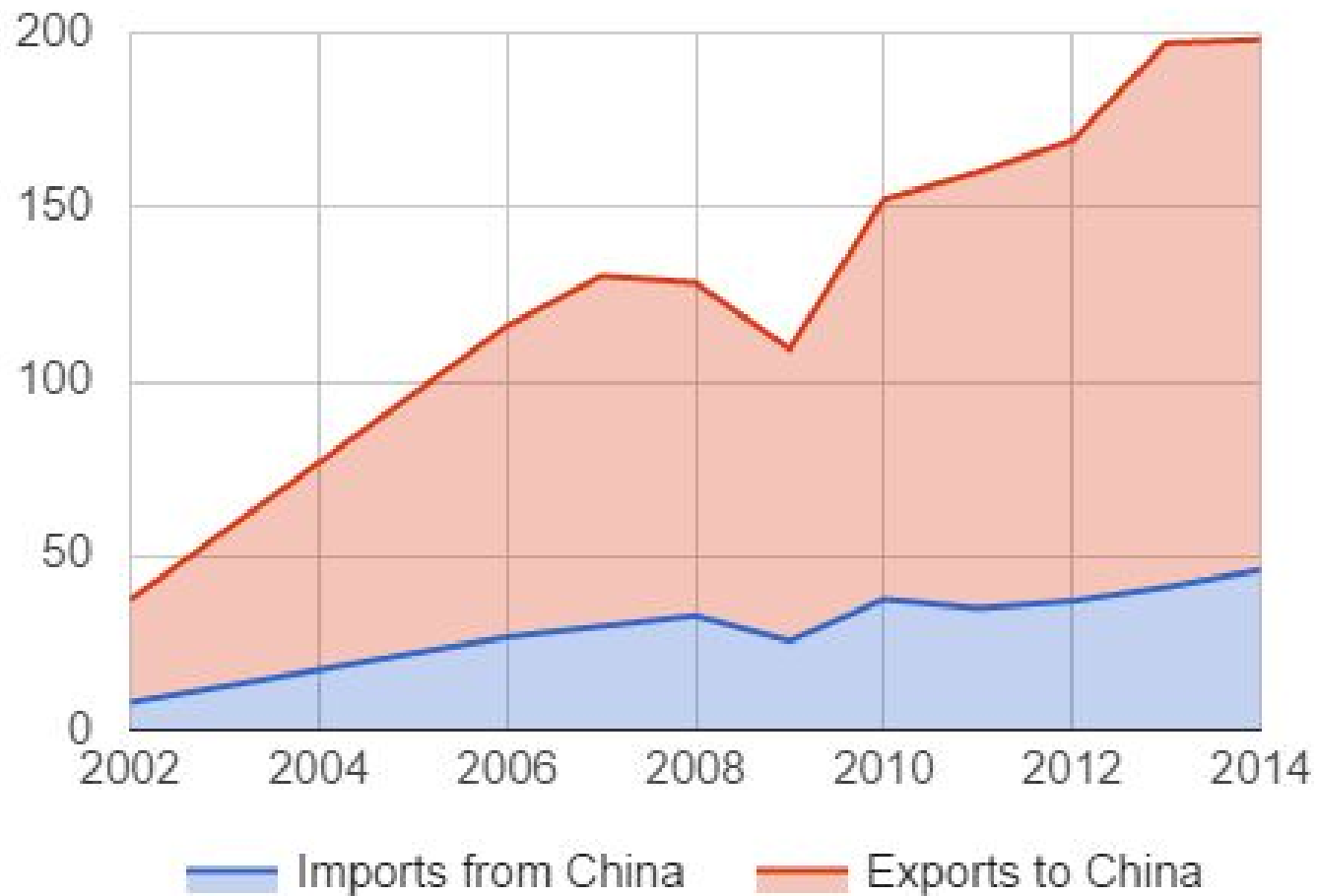
- China's Military Threat
- U.S. Security Commitment to Taiwan
- Trade Across the Taiwan Strait
- Democratization/Domestic Politics in Taiwan

Strong Ties Between China and Taiwan

- How many times have you been to the mainland China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)?
(0) 50%, (1-2) 26%, (3 or more) 24%
- Does anyone in your family work or do business in China?
YES: 15%



Total Trade Value between China and Taiwan



2014 Bilateral Trade

Taiwan - China = \$152.0b + \$46.3b = \$198.3b

US - Japan = \$66.8 + \$134 = \$200.8b

US - China = \$123.7 + \$466.8 = \$590.5b

A majority of Taiwanese support strengthening economic relation with China.

Some people in our society think that Taiwan should strengthen its economic and trade relation with China, but others believe that Taiwan should weaken the relations. Which position do you agree with more?

Strengthen 61.9% Weaken 38.1%

(45.1%, 28.6%, No Answer:26.3%)

Economic Dependence and Political Coercion

Some people believe that if Taiwan's economy overly depends on China, then China might use its economic leverage to coerce Taiwan to make political concession. Do you agree with this view?

Agree 66.4% Disagree 33.6%

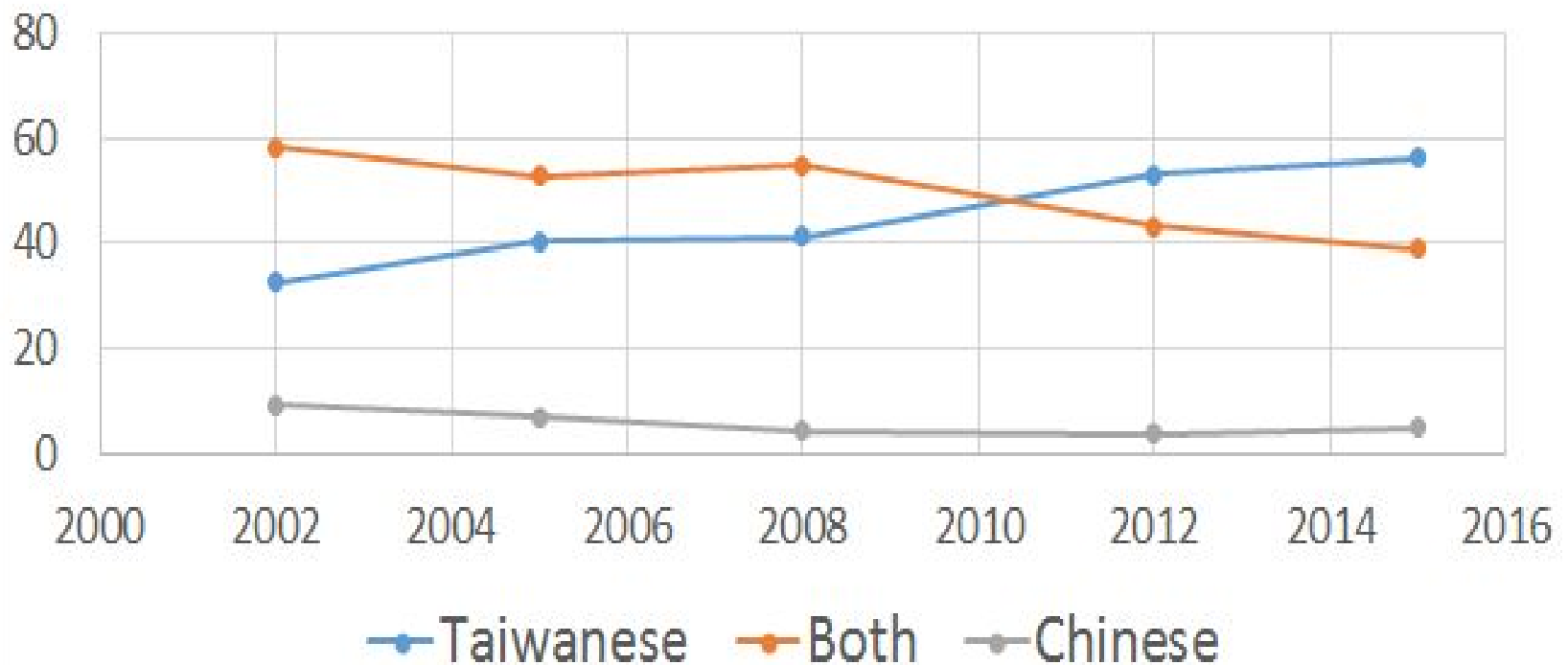
(61.9%, 31.3%, No Answer:6.8%)

Trade, Coercion and Vote Choice

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	
Less Trade/Coercion	61%	10%	31%	43%
More Trade/Coercion	27%	27%	44%	29%
More Trade/No Coercion	12%	64%	26%	28%
	60%	27%	13%	

More Taiwanese have come to identify themselves as Taiwanese and not Chinese.

Do you consider yourself a Taiwanese, a Chinese, or both?



Identification and Vote Choice

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	NA
Taiwanese	78%	30%	49%	63%
Both	21%	59%	47%	34%
Chinese	1%	12%	4%	4%
	64%	24%	12%	

Taiwanese Feel Low Affinity with China

Please rate your feelings toward the United States (China, Japan), where 0 indicates very cold and 10 indicates very warm feeling.

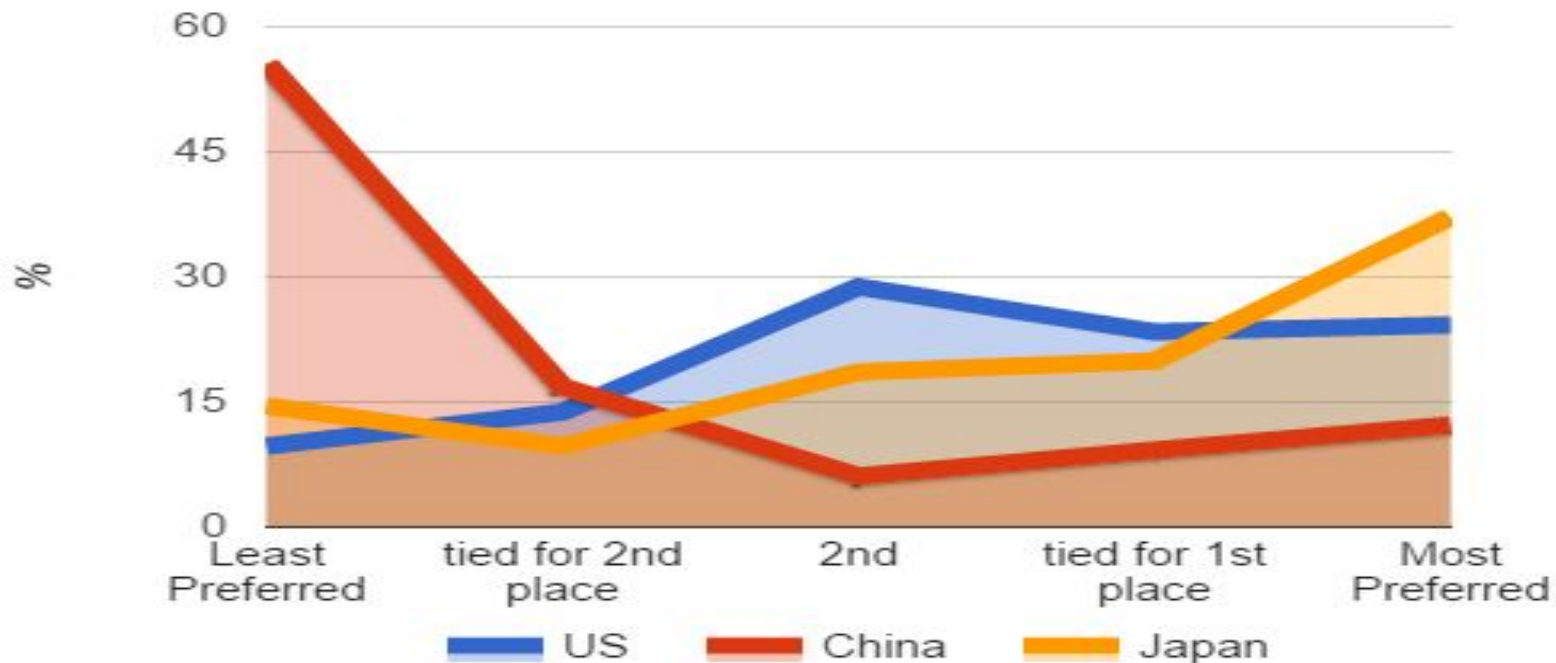
Rankings

ACJ	3.14%	CAJ	3.97%	JAC	21.13%
AJC	12.45%	CJA	3.77%	JCA	2.20%
A(CJ)	5.54%	C(AJ)	2.93%	J(AC)	9.10%
(AC)J	5.54%	(CJ)A	2.51%	(ACJ)	12.87%
(AJ)C	14.85%				

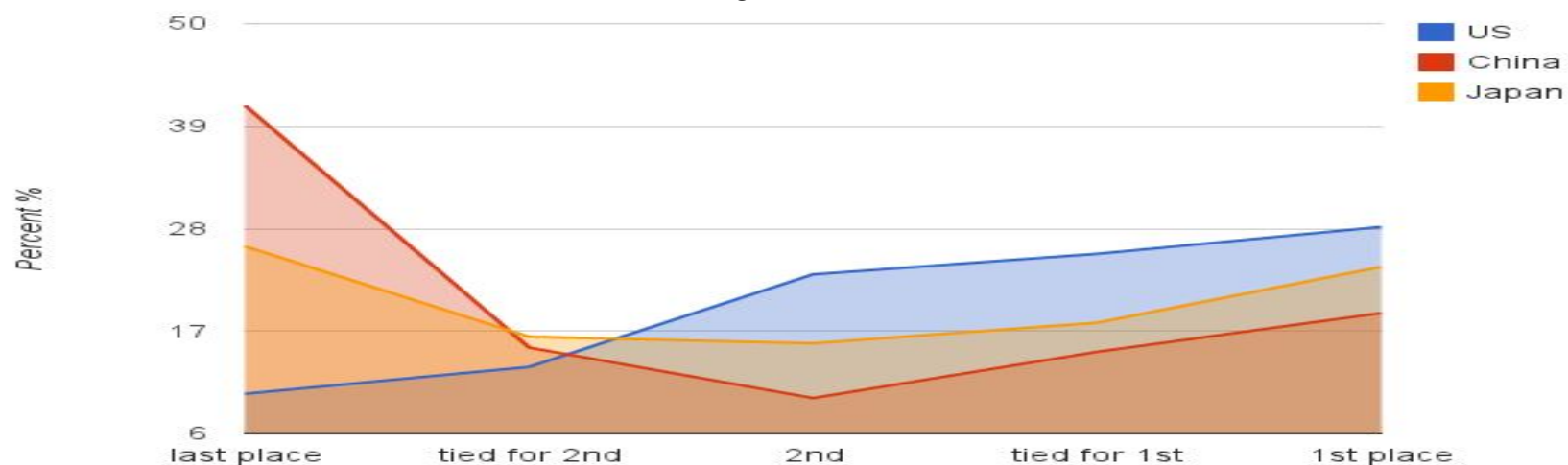
Taiwanese like Japan over US, and over China.

	3rd	tied for 2nd	2nd	tied for 1st	1st place
US	9.72	13.81	28.81	23.41	24.25
China	55.58	16.81	6.12	9.24	12.24
Japan	14.53	9.72	18.61	19.93	37.21

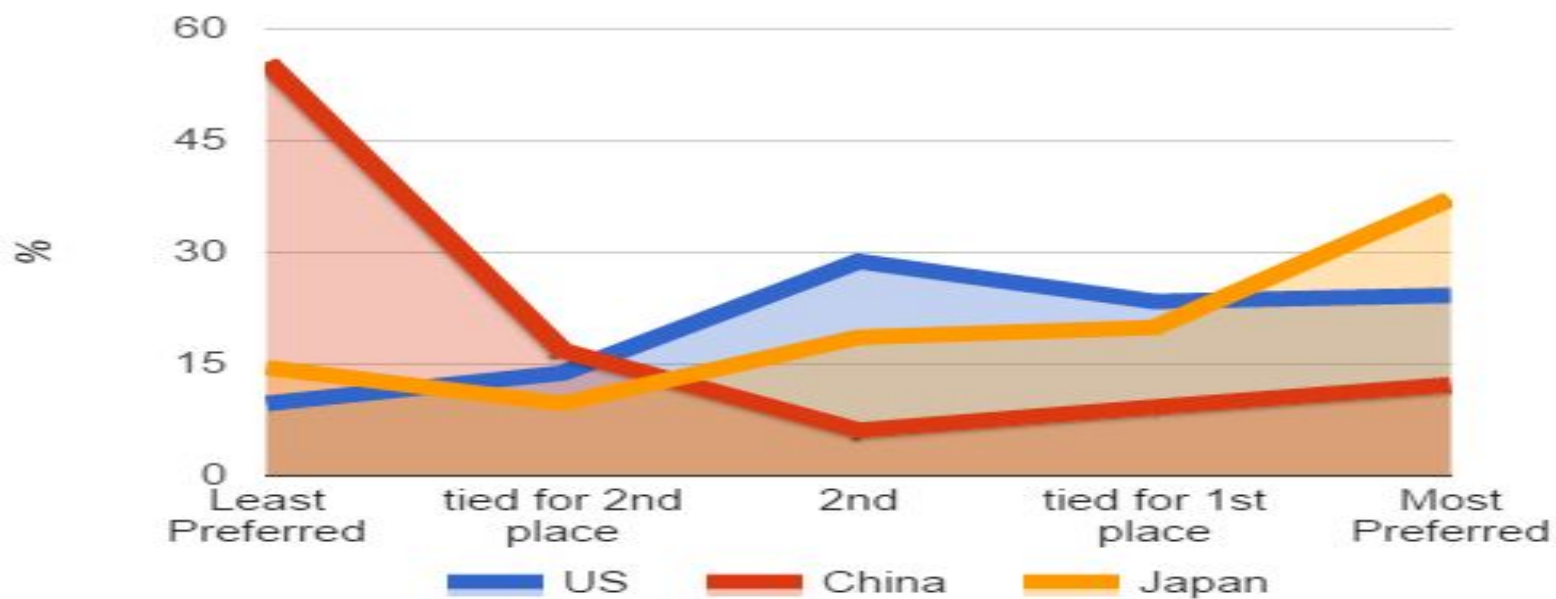
Preference Rankings



Preference Rankings 2012



Preference Rankings 2015



Attitudes Toward Independence

If a declaration of independence by Taiwan would cause China to attack Taiwan, do you favor Taiwan independence?

YES	NO	NA
30.4%	56.2%	13.4%
35.1%	64.9%	

If a declaration of independence by Taiwan would not cause China to attack Taiwan, do you favor Taiwan independence?

YES	NO	NA
67.4%	19.9%	12.7%
77.2%	22.8%	

Independence is gaining momentum in Taiwan.

	YES	Only if No War	NO
2003	27.3%	46.6%	25.4%
2004	31.2%	42.8%	25.6%
2005	34.2%	39.2%	25.5%
2008	29.8%	44.1%	25.7%
2011	34.6%	44.6%	19.9%
2012	36.7%	41.7%	20.9%
2013	42.7%	39.0%	18.1%
2014	40.9%	37.3%	20.8%
2015	36.5%	40.6%	23.0%

Attitude on Taiwan Independence and Vote Choice

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	NA	
YES	56%	6%	19%	31%	40%
Only if No War	38%	42%	44%	42%	40%
NO	6%	53%	37%	27%	20%
	39%	14%	7%	40%	

Attitudes Toward Unification

If there is a significant difference between Taiwan and the Mainland's political, economic, and social conditions, do you favor unification?

YES	NO	NA
15.2%	71.9%	12.9%
17.5%	82.5%	

If there is little difference between Taiwan and the Mainland's political, economic, and social conditions, do you favor unification?

YES	NO	NA
25.4%	62.8%	11.8%
28.8%	71.2%	

Unification is losing support in Taiwan.

	YES	Only if Similar	NO
2003	20.0%	43.4%	36.5%
2004	13.9%	35.3%	50.8%
2005	16.3%	39.3%	44.4%
2008	15.8%	36.6%	47.6%
2011	13.1%	26.1%	60.8%
2012	11.0%	26.9%	62.1%
2013	11.8%	22.0%	66.1%
2014	12.1%	18.8%	69.2%
2015	11.4%	18.3%	70.3%

Prospect for Independence and Unification

Some people believe that China and Taiwan will become united in the future, but some people believe that Taiwan will eventually become independent from China. Which position do you agree with more?

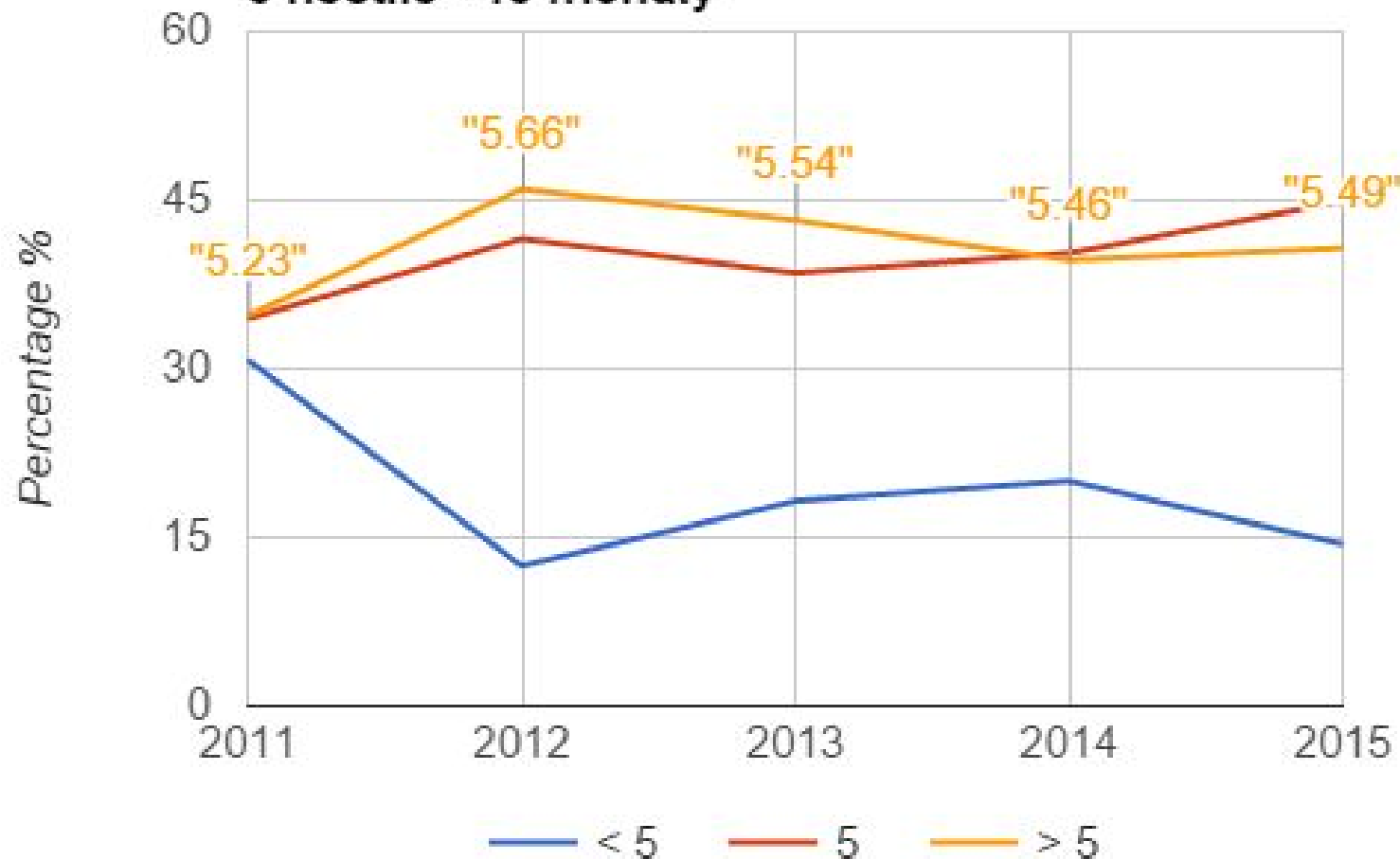
	Unification 42.0%	Independence 36.5%	NA 21.5%	
YES/YES	24.6%	64.9%	10.5%	36.5%
NO/YES	49.7%	35.6%	14.7%	40.6%
NO/NO	66.0%	12.2%	21.8%	23.0%

Preference vs. Expectation

- More and more Taiwanese prefer not to unite with China even if there is little difference between their political, economic, and social conditions. Surprisingly, however, a majority of the Taiwanese believe that China and Taiwan will become united in the future.

Perceptions of Taiwan's Security Environment

**Between 0 and 10, in your opinion, are Taiwan
and China in a friendly or hostile relations now?
0 hostile - 10 friendly**



If Tsai Ing-wen won the 2016 presidential election, would you worry that it would heighten the tension between Taiwan and Mainland China?

Very worried:	11.8%
Somewhat worried:	17.3%
Not so worried:	36.2%
Not worried at all:	34.8%

Will China Attack Taiwan if Taiwan declares independence?

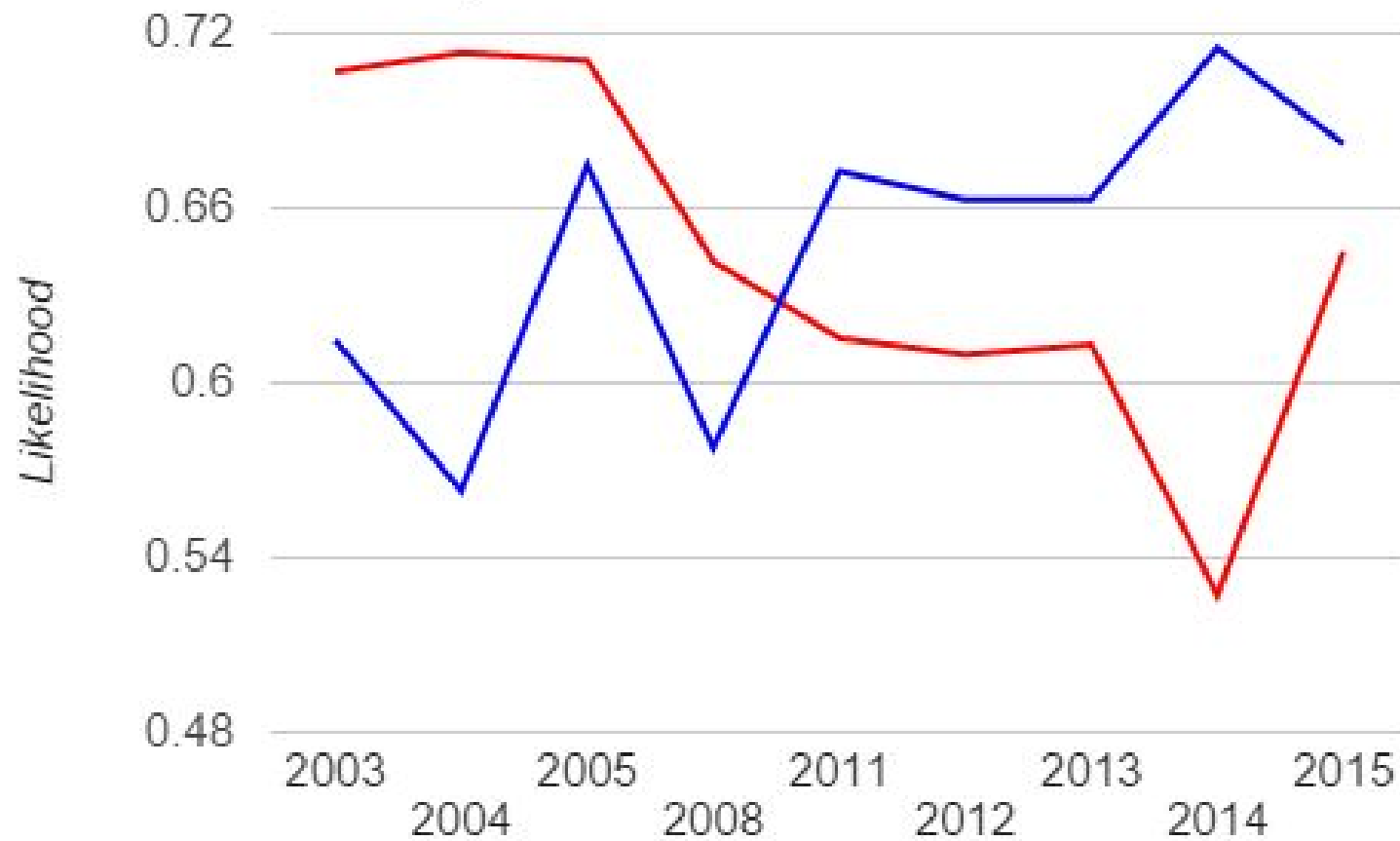
	Tsai	Chu	Soong	NA	
Will Not Attack	43%	24%	28%	35%	36%
Will Attack	57%	77%	72%	65%	64%
	35%	14%	7%	44%	

Will the US send troops to help Taiwan?

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	NA	
Will not Help	19%	45%	31%	39%	32%
Will Help	81%	55%	69%	61%	68%
	36%	13%	7%	44%	

Tsai's supporters are less worried about China's military threat and are more confident in the American security commitment than are the rest of the people.

Perceptions of the China Threat and the US Security Commitment



Do you think our military is capable of defending Taiwan against an attack from China?

Yes: 10.8% No: 89.2%

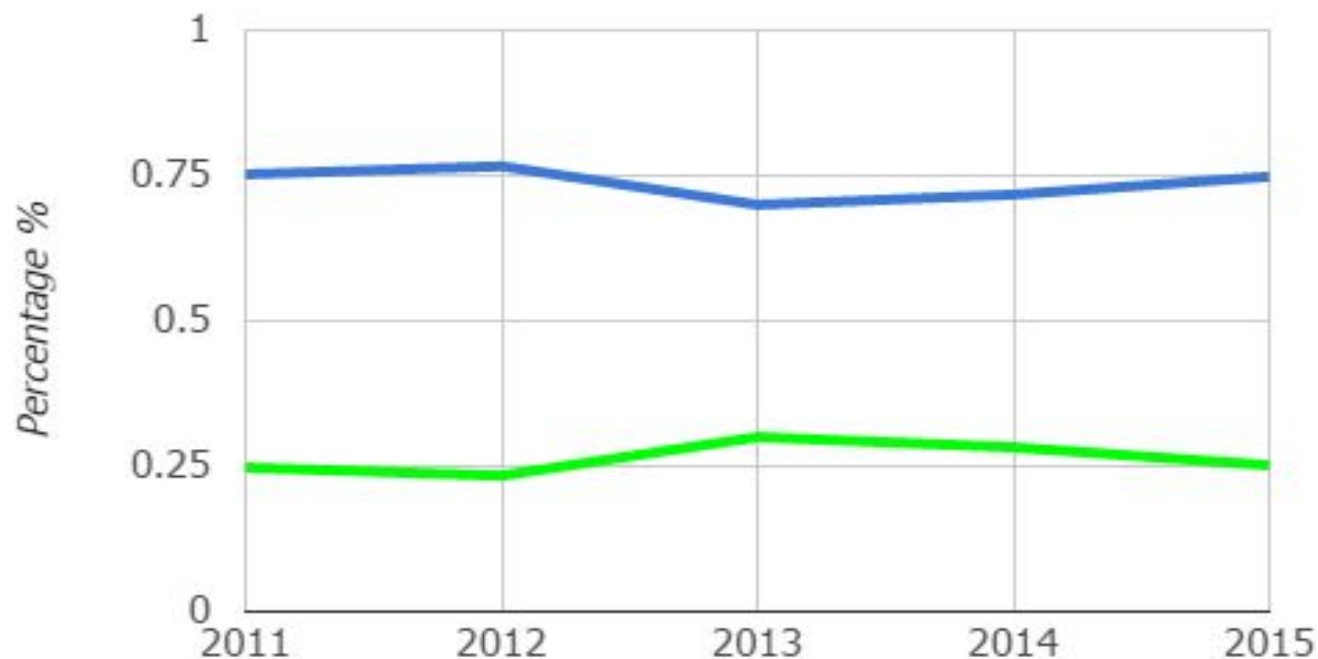
If war breaks out between Taiwan and the Mainland, do you think most of the people on Taiwan will resist?

Will resist: 59.7%

Will not resist: 30.6%

NA:9.5%

Some people believe that Taiwan is already an independent nation. Its name is ROC. And there is no need to seek further independence. Do you agree or disagree with this view?



‘Republic of China on Taiwan’ and Vote Choice

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	
Disagree	36%	13%	27%	29%
Agree	64%	87%	73%	71%
	64%	24%	12%	

‘One China with own interpretation’ has a strong majority support in Taiwan.

Some people believe that Taiwan and China could develop their relations under the ‘one China with own interpretation’, do you support this position?

Yes: 64.3% No: 35.7%

‘One China with own interpretation’ and Vote Choice

	Tsai	Chu	Soong	
Disagree	45%	12%	31%	35%
Agree	55%	88%	69%	65%
	63%	24%	13%	

Chinese and American foreign policies can affect Taiwanese public opinions on the independence and unification issues.

- More than 40% of the electorate has conditional preferences on the independence issue and 18% has conditional preferences on the unification issue. The existence of voters with conditional preferences makes it possible for China and the US to influence Taiwan's domestic politics.