Abstract


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After the second direct presidential elections of March 2000, Taiwan's domestic politics has become much more complicated than it was before whereas its mainland policy is literally deadlocked. The new ruling Democratic Progressive Party does not hold a parliamentary majority. Its position is further hampered by the opposition's ideological distance concerning the issue of Chinese unification. While the DPP is sharpening its independence profile, the Guomindang, the new- founded People First Party and the New Party adhere to reunification as the ultimate goal. However, all parties agree to the unconditioned political sovereignty of Taiwan before any consensus with the Beijing government is reached. The PRC has taken a wait-and-see-approach, mistrusting in the Chen administration but powerless to change the strategic impasse in the Taiwan strait. To solve the Taiwan issue, new models must be applied that would finally have to break up with the traditional understanding of the Chinese nation being represented by a unitary Chinese state.