

Beijing vs. Taipei: Cross-Strait Relations at A Critical Crossroads

Abstract

The Cross-Strait relationship is a complex issue and analysis of this complex issue is a challenging task. With the forthcoming presidential election in Taiwan and the prospect of a possible change of Taiwan's ruling political party, the cross-strait relationship is currently at a critical crossroads. This lecture focuses on the review of theories employed to analyze this pair of relationship, covering identity and nationalism, international political economy, and international relations theories. It sketches out the basic contours of the evolving relationship between Beijing and Taipei in the early 21st century, as well as the possible directions of its future development after the 2016 presidential election. This lecture will be rich in first hand stories and up-to-date analysis from the perspective of an influential policy adviser and a leading scholar on cross-strait relations.