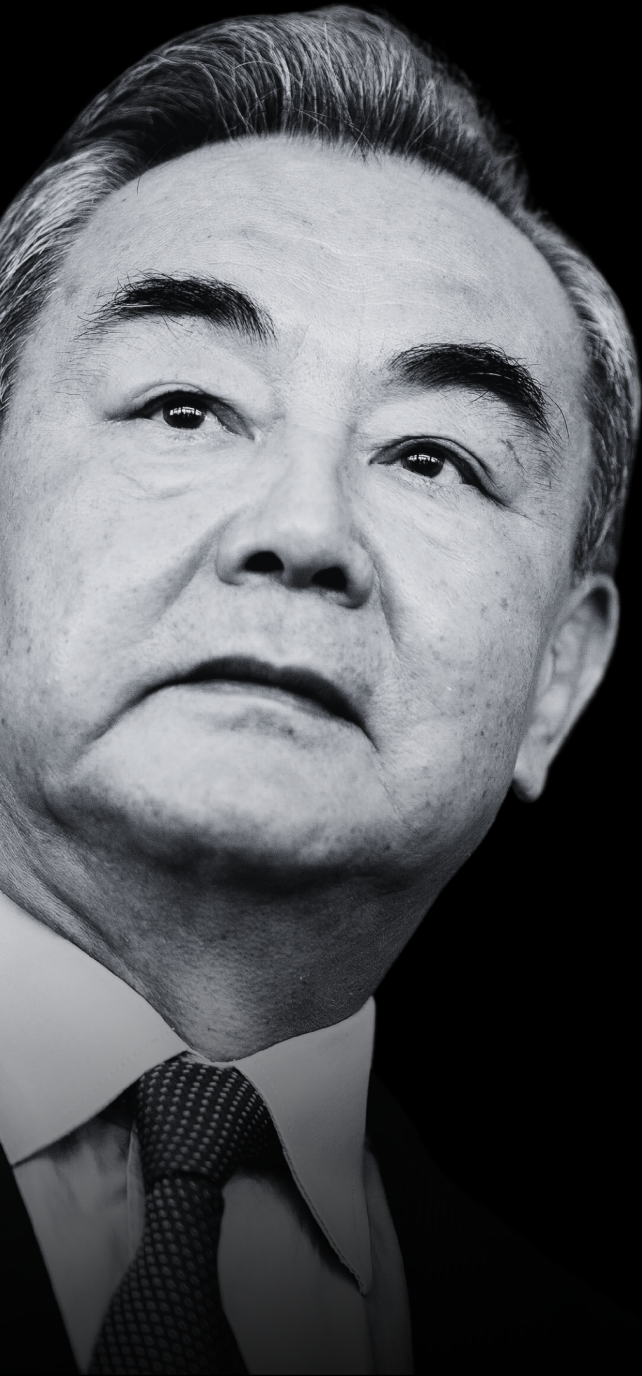


21st century

PING-PONG

DIPLOMACY



Executive Summary

The United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan was on a three-day mission from August 27 to August 29 to the People's Republic of China where he met the Foreign minister of China and Politburo member Wang Yi, the Vice-Chair of the Powerful Central Military Commission Zhang Youxia and on his last leg of trip met and discussed with Xi the President of China.

The visit aimed to manage the strain in the relations between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China. This report recommends increasing the level of Dialogue between senior officials from both the US and Chinese administrations and maintaining the communication channel to manage the growing rivalry between the two states.





Background



Early Relations (1949-1979): Following the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, U.S.-China relations were largely non-existent due to the Cold War. The U.S. severed formal diplomatic ties and imposed an embargo on China.

Normalization of Relations (1972-1979): A major turning point occurred when President Nixon visited China in 1972, leading to a slow normalization of ties. In 1979, the U.S. officially recognized the People's Republic of China, establishing diplomatic relations under President Carter.

Economic Engagement (1980s-2001): Following China's economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping, the U.S. and China expanded trade. The U.S. supported China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, believing it would integrate China into the global economic system and foster domestic reforms.

Challenges and Conflicts (2000s-Present): Several issues arose despite the benefits of U.S.-China trade. These include China's currency manipulation, human rights violations, intellectual property theft, and the growing geopolitical competition, especially regarding Taiwan and the South China Sea.



Geopolitical Context

The visit by the United States National Security Advisor came amidst heightened tensions in the South China Sea, especially the recent flare-ups between the Philippines and China in the Sabina Shoal, Second Thomas Shoal, and Scarborough Shoal.

The visit also comes against the backdrop of the increased Cross-strait tensions between Taiwan and China as China has become increasingly irritated with the new Taiwanese administration led by DPP (Democratic Progressive Party) leader and current president William Lai Ching-Te as the Chinese consider him as a separatist.

The visit also comes amidst the gruesome Russo-Ukraine conflict and simmering tensions in the West Asia region following the wider fallout of the Israel-Hamas war and tensions between the Western countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran.





Implications

Geopolitical Implications: The visit by the US NSA to China where he met Chinese FM Wang Yi, CMC Vice Chair Zhang Youxia, and Chinese President Xi was to manage the strain in the relations between the two states. The visit can instill cool feelings between the countries, as the United States is just two months away from the presidential elections.

Economic Implications: The visit by the American National Security Advisor could lead to the American Administration slowing its tendency of opening a trade war front against the Chinese economy as the Biden Administration has imposed significant tariffs on imports including semiconductor chips and Electric Vehicles from China.

Security Implications: The visit by the US NSA can and has led to engagement between the Chinese and American Defence forces particularly the southern theater command of the PLA of PRC and the Indo-Pacific Command of the United States Defence Forces.



Analysis

Best-case scenario: The visit can lead to a potential last phone call between Biden and Xi before Biden steps down as president of the United States. A potential visit by Biden to China in an official capacity before he steps down in January 2025.

Most likely scenario: The most likely scenario is that the United States and the Chinese administration maintain the line of communication and continue low-level official dialogue between the states.

Worst-likely scenario: The talks fail to prevent the strain on the relations and the matters escalate between the states including likely interference of the United States in the South China Sea to help the Philippines through invoking the MDP treaty which binds the United States to come to the rescue of Philippines in the event of aggression against the state of Philippines, escalation in the cross-strait relations.



Recommendations

Diplomatic Recommendations: Both sides should engage in meaningful dialogue through regular maintenance of the Line of Communication and regular dialogue to prevent any miscalculation that could lead to violent confrontations between the states.

Economic Recommendations: Both sides should review their economic ties periodically and should make efforts to de-escalate the trade tensions and further economic Disruption, ensuring market stability.

Policy Recommendations: Policymakers from both sides should create policies encouraging engagement between the United States and China and should discourage confrontationist policies.



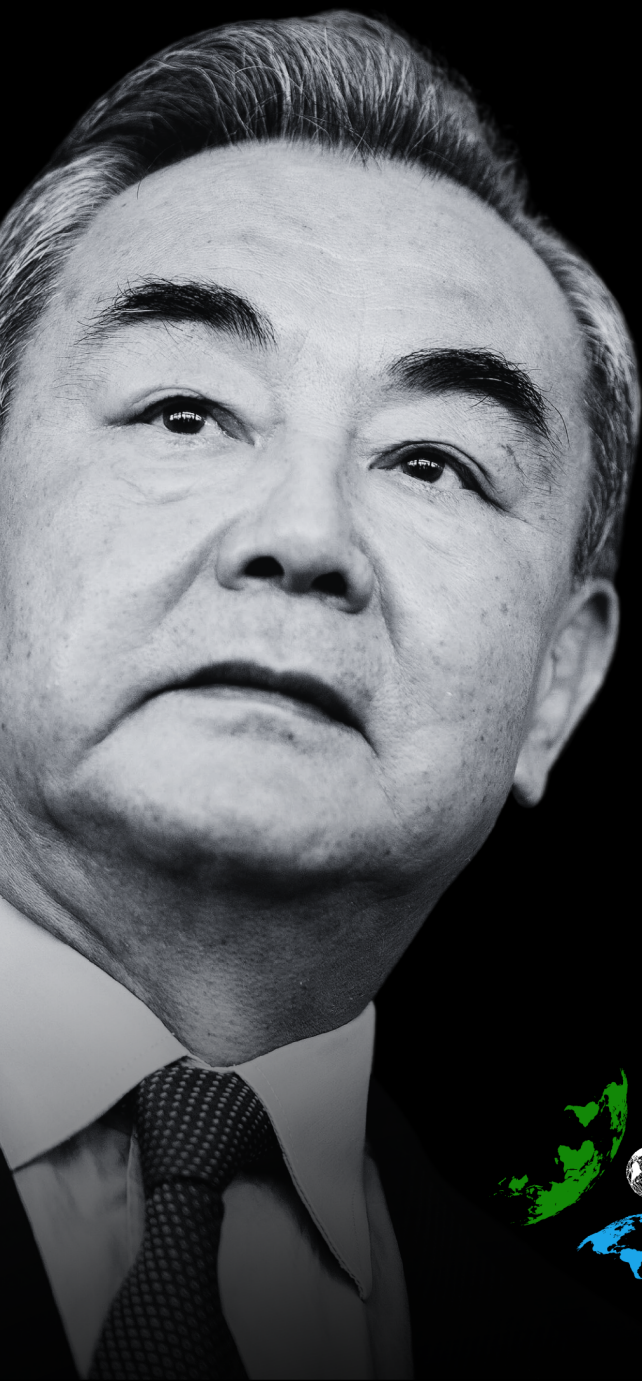


Conclusion

The visit by the United States National Security Advisor to China just two months away from the US Presidential Elections reaffirms the understanding between the states to calculate their actions and prevent any mishaps and miscalculations between them that could lead to instability in the region and which would manage the strain in the relations and the great power rivalry.



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