

## The Boiling Moat: Urgent Steps to Defend Taiwan

### Description

Episode 134 of the Irregular Warfare Podcast explores the rising risks of conflict over Taiwan and how the United States and its allies can strengthen deterrence against Beijing.

Our guests begin by assessing why deterrence is faltering globally, from the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and how those events inform Chinese perceptions of American resolve. They then discuss the stakes of a Taiwan contingency—economic, ideological, and strategic—highlighting the island's critical role in global semiconductor supply chains and as a thriving democracy on China's periphery. The conversation turns to the balance of forces across the Strait, Taiwan's defense culture, and the full spectrum of Chinese coercive activity, from gray-zone operations to potential military invasion. Finally, our guests offer recommendations for how Taiwan, the United States, and partners like Japan, Australia, and Europe can bolster deterrence before conflict breaks out.

[Matt Pottinger](#) is a distinguished national security professional who served as U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor from 2019 to 2021. He is the editor of [The Boiling Moat](#), a new volume analyzing deterrence and security dynamics across the Taiwan Strait.

[Matt Turpin](#) is a former U.S. National Security Council Director for China and a retired U.S. Army officer. He is currently a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, where his research focuses on U.S.-China relations and strategic competition.

[Ben Jebb](#) and [Katherine Michaelson](#) are the hosts for this episode. Please reach out to Ben and Katherine with any questions about this episode or the Irregular Warfare Podcast.

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