Alexis Rodriguez

ENG 1101 D448

Prof. Wu

April 10, 2023

Unit 3 Genre Project Outline and Transcript for TEDtalk

Semiconductors are the New Oil: Why Taiwan’s Future is Worth Fighting For

Outline

I. Introduction

1. A hook starting with 2 questions, 1 relating to importance, 1 relating to relatability
2. My credibility, how long I studied this topic
3. History of the investments made by Taiwan on Semi-Micro conductors
4. Talk about modern technologies that the audience may own, parts have most likely come from Taiwan.
   1. How it got to this point
   2. Why does China want Taiwan?
   3. How even with the US funds and China Funding Semi-Conductor production it won’t be anything close to Taiwan
   4. Lead into since the US can’t keep up, they will secure a vital resource to have an advantage, similar to oil.
   5. How are all countries involved reacting?
5. Explain that China has become more assertive
6. United States asserting dominance
7. NATO + Allied Nations becoming more aggressive on authoritarian countries
   1. Possibilities
   2. China bringing the war to the American home front
   3. Economies will crumble
   4. How successful will the United States be
   5. Conclusion

My aim for this talk is to raise awareness among the audience about the potential risks and implications of a military conflict between China and the US over Taiwan. I hope that this talk will inspire the audience to educate themselves about this issue and to take action to support peace and stability in the region and the world.

**Semiconductors are the New Oil: Why Taiwan’s Future is Worth Fighting For**

Let me ask you, what is the most important country in the world? That is a difficult question as every country has a part in this world, especially via trade. Answers may be US, and China as they are in the security council alongside three other countries.  Another question, how important are your devices? After all, you need them for school, jobs, checking your bank account, or maybe even to watch people throw it back on TikTok?

While you can easily answer the second question, the first question may be a little unclear. Ever since the tenth grade studying the conflict of Russia and Ukraine, even before the war. As I was researching, I found out that such a similar situation in the Indo-Pacific. What if I told you that Taiwan is the most important country in the world? This small island in the Indo-Pacific is more important than countries like the United States, China, United Kingdom, Australia, Japan and so many others especially in modern day.

How could such a small island be so important? Well to be brief, During World War II, the newly formed People’s Republic of China fought the Republic of China and kicked them off their mainland and had them retreat to an Island, Taiwan. After World War II Taiwan invested an incredible amount of money in semiconductors, they saw that they would be the most profitable to the global market. In which they were dead right.

Now look at your phone, it has invisible blood seeping through it’s internal organs. That phone or laptop has caused pain and anguish down the line. That phone is like a hot dog, you don’t know what's in your phone and you most likely don’t want to know. Ignorance is bliss afterall. Phones rely on a range of resources and technologies. One being a microchip, and no it’s not potato chips alright. Your phone has a small bit of semiconductor material that contains an electronic circuit. Semiconductors are made from pure elements, typically silicon or germanium. In a process called doping, small amounts of impurities are added to these pure elements causing large changes in the conductivity of the material. Without semiconductors we would have no smartphones, TVs, computers, video games, advanced medical equipment or advanced weapons. Advanced weapons, afterall the military needs to protect us. I would also love to talk about phone batteries as I’ve been also studying about them, but since it’s not the main focus I will just say the cobalt needed for it is obtained by child labor. For semiconductors, they are not made by child labor but they can be a cause of a deadly military conflict soon.

China wants Taiwan to reunite with the mainland, and they will try every way possible including military force. They chose diplomacy, offering economic aid, peace, and security, Taiwan refused. Last resort, military force. Now worry has been sparking as China has been building a huge navy, in fact the largest navy in the world right now, and the largest army in the world. They have 1,350 ballistic and cruise missiles, and plan to increase nuclear warheads by roughly 300% by twenty-thirty. Right now, China has roughly four-hundred nukes, so that means they would have twelve hundred nukes by twenty-thirty. China also has been Increasing their war games near Taiwan, sending fighter jets near or in their airspace, playing monopoly and kicking their ass…okay maybe not that last one. The Chinese military aggression always met and ended with the United States ships and aircraft carriers moving close to Taiwan to threaten China back. Even US allies in the region are being bullied. Just a couple weeks ago 100 Chinese vessels were bullying Filipino ships. One hundred! They are taking more aggressive measures. The US is also taking more aggressive matters. Due to the war in Ukraine the United States went from deterrence to outright denial. So, if China were to attack Taiwan they will have United States ships, aircraft carriers, fighters, bombers on the standby in front of the Island with allies.

Other than semi-micro conductors, should we really care about Taiwan? Afterall the United States is investing fifty-billion dollars into a semi-micro conductor factory in Arizona, a joint project with Taiwan. Well, the semiconductors in the Arizona factory will not be as advanced as Taiwan’s. The factory to be opened in twenty-twenty four produces five-nanometer chips; meanwhile, Taiwan is soon to be mass producing three nanometer chips and already putting mass research in two nanometer chips. Which means they will be faster, and more reliable. Yet my computer will still probably freeze while playing minecraft. Taiwan produces the most advanced chips in the world, accounting for ninety percent of the global supply. If China threatens this supply and initiates military action on Taiwan, everything electronic that’s new, modern, up to date will start raising in price significantly, including the new iPhone, absolutely terrifying right? (gesture)

Not as terrifying as being in war though. Seriously, the United States mainland has never seen war or at least drastic violence by a foreign nation on the Homefront so American citizens have been spoiled in that regard. Other than Japan hitting Pearl Harbor and 911, that could change. The United States has guaranteed Taiwan, saying that it would go to war with China if It were to attack & invade Taiwan. That means the United States, NATO (thirty-one countries) alongside other allies to aid the US against China are Japan, South Korea, Australia, and the Philippines. US & NATO also counts Japan, South Korea, & even Taiwan to be a very close partner to NATO, counting as an unofficial member to NATO.

An Air Force General, Mike Minihan, has predicted that we would go to war with China in 2025. And while the Pentagon dismissed it as an unofficial statement, the Pentagon has also said in the past that a military conflict with China is one hundred going to happen. As the CIA Chief says that Xi Jinping gave orders to the Chinese Military to invade Taiwan in twenty-twenty seven.  It does not mean they will though.. Let's look at a similar scenario. Before the war between Russia and Ukraine, The US predicted it would happen in late January or early February, they had a margin of error of two weeks. In this case it’s probably one to two years. With all these different dates, one thing remains consistent, this war is going to happen this decade.

Something to keep in mind is since China is a near-peer adversary to the United States and are increasing their cyber warfare capabilities and military satellites, we can easily see China not only disrupting our quality of life, but also such as turning off power grids, disrupting supply chains, water and gas. As if the gas problems weren’t already bad. (sarcasm) In regard to their cyber warfare capabilities, they can use TikTok in their favor in spreading misinformation, propaganda or continue to use TikTok as a major spying app. Because lip singing is worth to be spied on. In addition to disrupting supply chains, since we won’t get Chinese goods, many jobs will be lost. Unemployment will rise, prices will rise. Nothing as bad as China could theoretically send missiles and other destruction weapons to strike at the United States, by the Geneva convention it's illegal to strike civilians but that hasn't stopped Russia. So, they can disrupt civilian life or outright start killing them for the American citizens to protest to end the war.

Everyone has a part to do in war even when we are comfortable on the other side of the world. Despite being far from the front line, are you willing to sacrifice part of your comfortable life so others can even have a chance at life? Every moment people hesitate during war, it costs lives.

The biggest disruption to people’s lives is receiving a draft letter. In other words you are about to find out the next call of duty in real time. As the US released information on a simulation of a war between the US and China for Taiwan in twenty-twenty six the US will face losses, and even recruitment now they are falling short by 20k, so a draft is likely during wartime. I read the draft letter and women won't be drafted. They start drafting twenty-six yr. old males then decrease all the way to eighteen-year-olds; then once they reach eighteen, they go twenty six and above. Any college student majoring in a field that can benefit from war like engineering won’t be drafted. So thankfully I'm good.

We have to take into account the economic factors too. Most Americans don’t care where their products come from. We may occasionally recognize our products are made in China, like keyboards, clothing, handbags. Even look at you right now, that shirt is most likely made in China, that backpack most likely made in China. Hell, I’m probably made in China! We may know of the word sanctions. If China faced sanctions that means, we won't get our normal stuff. But what if I told you that China already bypasses current sanctions by duplicating the company under a new company with a new name and therefore that company isn't sanctioned. Would you be willing to even do research if a company is Chinese owned? Would you purchase an item from China knowing that your money is funding a military that is killing people, making them suffer?

Now when you go on your device, just know why it’s in your hands.

**Creator’s Statement:**

The Unit 3 Genre Project was definitely my favorite, I put a lot of effort into it. How I managed to create a decent presentation was a simple task. Since I did a lot of leadership speeches and read a lot of political documents, I mean a LOT of political documents. I knew how to format my TedTalk. I’ve read and listened to political, government documents ranging from military, speeches, presidential discussions since 10th grade. Subconsciously and consciously I've been gathering information based on how people structure their speeches. I knew that my subject would be very technical and therefore difficult to understand or pay attention to. So I had to get creative. I love asking people questions as not only it gets their attention, it involves them and it gets people to truly wonder. So I had to start off with 2 questions, 1 question “What is the most important country?” was a good start off point as answers may vary. The 2nd question “how important are your devices?” was a very easy question, it was done like that on purpose. If I was confident in their answer to the 2nd question then I know the 1st question’s answer will catch them off guard leading people to wonder more. In the 2nd paragraph, I just wanted to support my credibility by showing i’ve done mass research for many years, a while i’m not an expert, I can be justified to be well versed in the subject.

As with any political subject there is history so I had to briefly explain the history as to why certain countries, China and Taiwan, have a disagreement with one another. That’s just to give the audience knowledge as to why. As I mentioned before in the script that Taiwan is important for Semiconductors I had to explain what were Semiconductors and why they were important. As I wanted everyone to be on the same page I had to explain the main aspects, who, why and what. I then further explained how China could be a threat, this is just to fear monger, especially when I talk about how China is increasing their nuclear weapons by 300%. It was technically unneeded at first glance, but I kept it there so I can grab their attention as nuclear weapons are indeed a terrifying subject to a lot of people. By now I mention Russia and Ukraine 3 times in the script, I do that to add more fear however more sense as it’s more modern. It’s a good way to compare and contrast. Speaking of modernity, I also talk about how China and the US are getting more aggressive with one another in modern day by describing a showdown between both of them a couple of weeks ago. I continue to fear monger as well as provide information, as the US may provide a solution I.E the Arizona factory i explain how Taiwan is still more important and due to their importance it could easily start World War III by involving NATO and other US allies. I then say reputable sources claiming that in this decade a war with China is likely and since people are afraid of war that will grab their attention.

I had to then talk about the negative impacts of the war and make it relatable as I talk about TikTok Briefly to make people consider researching TikTok and it’s possibility of it being a spy tool. I continue to fear monger as i bring up China could kill US citizens just like how Russia is killing innocent civilians as well and right after when people think they may be safe since the US is far from the frontline I grab their attention as I bring up the draft.

Lastly, I had to end it off with making people question what they do on a regular basis. Shopping. People shop for the cheapest item, typically chinese. They will then connect the dots and as they do i bring up that their dollar could end up in a war being used to hurt them. I had to lastly close with a phrase that will make them remember this topic. “Now when you go on your device, just know why it’s in your hands.” This was so intentional. As now everytime they look at their phone they will remember this topic, they will remember how important Taiwan is to the process of them having a phone, and they will remember my TedTalk every single time. 