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By Jorge Elbaum
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Playing with fire



La titular de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi.

Sources: The Rocket to the Moon

U.S. Seeks to Diversify Conflicts to Oppose New Center of Global Power

On Thursday, former Argentine President Mauricio Macri participated in a lunch at the German embassy, along with several representatives of the countries that make up the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In that agape, in which the US ambassador Mark Stanley was present, the former president assured that the next government of the neoliberal coalition Cambiemos will move away from the BRICS, resume negotiations

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between Mercosur and the European Union and join those who challenge the policies of Moscow and Beijing.

The meeting explicitly endorsed the visit of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, ignoring the position of United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres, who explicitly defended the principle of a single and indivisible China. Although Washington does not recognize Taiwan as an independent state, the landing of the US legislator was carried out without the consent of the government of Xi Jinping.

With this visit, Washington managed to trigger a conflict in Southeast Asia, similar to the one promoted in Ukraine since 2014, when President Viktor Yanukovich was overthrown. From that event, NATO military advisers encouraged hostility against Russian-speakers, appealing to Kiev's historical grudge against its neighbors. A fraction of Ukrainians who achieved independence in 1991 sought revenge for the two military defeats suffered at the hands of the Russians in 1922 – when they opposed the integration of the Soviet Union – and in 1945, when they joined the Nazi troops.

In both Taiwan and Ukraine, belligerence has been stimulated and disseminated by the United States and its NATO partners, with the aim of weakening both countries and discrediting Vladimir Putin and Jinping, referents of those who postulate sovereign models with respect to the tripod of global neoliberal power, made up of transnational corporations, financial centers and the military-industrial complex.

The justification used by Pelosi to visit the island was enunciated by the legislator herself last Wednesday: "Today the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy. America's determination to preserve democracy, here in Taiwan and around the world, remains ironclad." That assertion was made just days after President Joe Biden visited Saudi Arabia, an absolute monarchy in which there is no political participation of its citizens.

The highest authority of the House of Representatives landed in Taipei with the custody of the aircraft carrier *Ronald Reagan*, suitable for carrying nuclear missiles. A few days before the Southeast Asia tour, President Xi Jinping warned Biden that "those who play

with fire will set themselves on fire," referring to those who try to interfere in their country's internal affairs.

In November, the midterm elections in the United States and the twentieth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party will be held. Both events influenced Pelosi's landing in Taipei. To arrive with more air at the moment of the vote, the Democrats of Pelosi and Biden have deployed a series of overacts aimed at recovering the international prominence, at a time when inflation and recession are looming over their domestic economy. In the span of a week they regained the agenda of the fight against terrorism by executing the head of Al Qaeda, the Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri, in Afghanistan. To rescue warmongering pride, they also spread Pelosi's view as a quasi-military victory over the state they have defined as a strategic enemy.

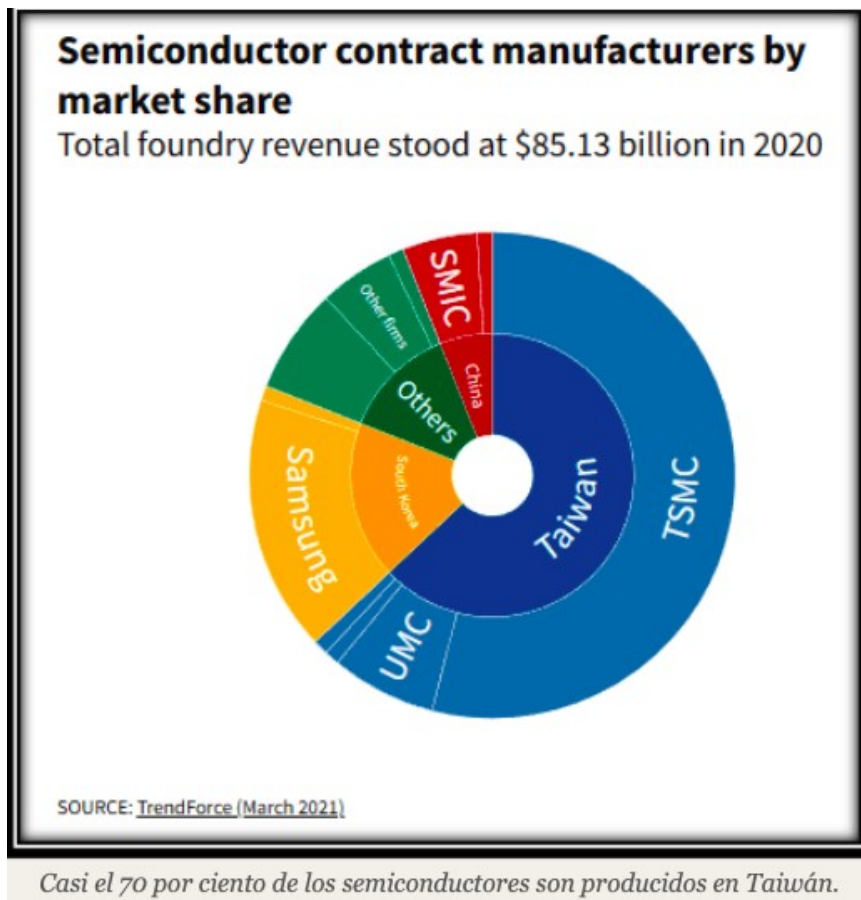
In an attempt to drag the European Union into hostility against Beijing, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Jinping "has no reason to overreact." For her part, EU Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Nabila Massrali sought to differentiate herself from NATO and argued that "the EU has an interest in preserving peace and the *status quo* in the Taiwan Strait (...) We encourage the peaceful resolution of strait issues." He further argued that the EU maintains a "clear one-China policy." As Moscow's offensive in Ukraine continues, internal contradictions within Brussels regarding energy issues and the relationship with Jinping are growing.

The conflicts in Ukraine and Taiwan have several characteristics in common:

- They were promoted by Washington with the intention of undermining the prosperity of Russia and China.
- They develop [far from the borders of the](#) United States.
- They allow Russia and China to be established as new enemies of the West, with the support provided by transnational media corporations.
- They enable the increase of the international commercialization of arms and the increase of Washington's participation in that market.
- It seeks to dismantle the bases of the economic-productive development of both countries: energy in the case of Moscow and technological (semiconductors) in the case of Beijing.

- They sponsor *proxi-type* [conflicts](#), with the dead of others
- Attempts are made to limit and/or restrict Moscow and Beijing's ties with third countries, explicitly or implicitly sanctioning those who establish strategic cooperation links with both.
- It seeks to discredit their systems of government, appealing to Eurocentric concepts of human rights and democracy.

Technologies of power



Nearly 70 percent of semiconductors are produced in Taiwan.

A few months before Pelosi's visit, Taiwanese government institutions approved \$8.6 billion in spending on arms purchases. That military budget will be allocated – according to the spokesman of the security forces – to the acquisition of cruise missiles, naval mines and surveillance systems, provided mostly by Washington.

In return, the Taipei government committed to Washington to decrease technological collaboration with Beijing in the area of semiconductors. The world's largest chip production company is Taiwan's \$500 billion TSMC. It produces about half of the semiconductors that are manufactured worldwide and especially the most sophisticated and innovative. It is considered the twenty-second most valuable company in the world and produces more than eighty percent of the microprocessors of less than 10 nanometers on the world market.

Currently the Taiwanese firm is also the only one that has in production the 3-nanometer chips, the most advanced in the world. Semiconductors are central implements in the production of much of the existing technologies, both cars and computers or televisions. If Beijing managed to influence this firm, it would establish— according to Washington analysts – the control of one of the most relevant and strategic supply chains at a global level.

In the 19 hours that Pelosi was in Taipei, a meeting was held with the president of TSMC, in which scientific-technological cooperation projects were agreed. In addition, the legislator promised the express treatment of a free trade agreement with the island and the potential relocation of Taiwanese companies in the United States. For its part, TSMC continues the site of its first plant outside of Taiwan, located in [Arizona](#), with a primary investment of 12,000 million dollars.

The need for chips motivated Beijing to create the state corporation [SMIC](#) (Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation), which has not yet managed to emulate the TSMC – in terms of its nano-production – due to the sanctions established during the government of Donald Trump, which suspended the commercialization of the inputs provided by the Dutch company [ASML](#), responsible for designing the patterns of integrated circuits in which photo-lithographs recorded with extreme ultraviolet (EUV) light are used.

Added to the conflicts in Ukraine and Taiwan is the hostility in Kosovo encouraged, once again, by NATO, aimed at weakening the Historical Slavic partner of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia. The characteristic of the world ahead can be defined as a *multipolarity in tension*.

That means the end of globalization as we know it. And the emergence of a window of opportunity capable of revaluing sovereignty and autonomous cooperation with different countries, under the sole mandate of the vindication of national interests. Exactly what the local right and NATO diplomatic delegates – sitting at Mauricio Macri's table – intend to deny or prevent.

Source: <https://www.elcohetelaluna.com/jugar-con-fuego-5/>

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