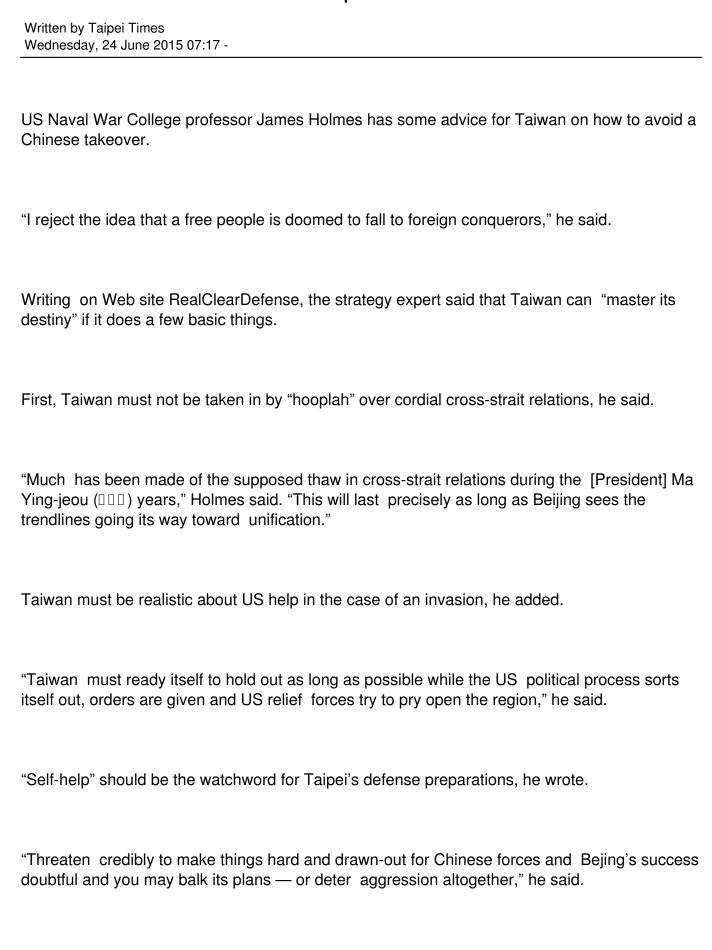
How Taiwan can avoid a Chinese takeover: expert

Taipei needs to be "pessimistic" about allied support.



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Written by Taipei Times Wednesday, 24 June 2015 07:17 -

"Events will either prove you right and you'll be ready, or you will be pleasantly surprised when American planes appear overhead and gray hulls come over the horizon," Holmes said.

"Savvy defenders" can make a cross-strait amphibious assault "hell" for the invaders, he added.

"Taiwan's topography is extraordinarily mountainous, offering numerous emplacements for anti-ship and anti-air missiles and long-range gunnery," Holmes said.

"Dug-in forces armed with such weaponry can withstand serious punishment from air and missile strikes, China's chief methods of softening up the island's defenses," the professor said.

Holmes said that thinking ahead about the worst case of Chinese forces getting ashore, Taiwan should prepare an insurgency that could help dissuade Beijing from ordering an invasion in the first place.

"Visibly preparing for protracted resistance would telegraph Taipei's seriousness and could bolster deterrence," he said.

He advised the Taiwanese navy to deploy "swarms" of lethal, missile-armed small craft around the island's periphery.

The professor said that guerrilla war at sea can work for Taiwan's defenders the way it worked for Mao Zedong's (□□□) irregular forces against Japan and Chiang Kai-shek's (□□□) Nationalists.

"The weak can win if they deploy scarce assets cunningly," he said.

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