

China Is Laughing At Trump's Twitter Feed

By [Mitchell Blatt](#)

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Donald Trump's phone call with Taiwan's Republic of China president Tsai Ying-wen upended 37 years of precedent in U.S. foreign policy and potentially raised tensions with China, but his tweets afterwards didn't help matters.

Since the phone call made the news, Trump tweeted, "The President of Taiwan CALLED ME" in an attempt to deflect some of the responsibility, and then added, "Interesting how the U.S. sells Taiwan billions of dollars of military equipment but I should not accept a congratulatory call." (Taiwan's government said that both sides agreed to the call ahead of time and agreed that Tsai would formally initiate the call, [according to the Straits Times](#).)

What these tweets show is Trump is ignorant of world affairs and doesn't give much consideration to how his words could affect foreign relations. Does he not know the rest of the world can read his Twitter feed, too? More likely he just doesn't care.

Since 1979, the U.S. has had diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. China demands that any country with whom they have diplomatic relations not recognize Taiwan as an independent country. While America continues to have under-the-table relations with Taiwan, America doesn't openly recognize Taiwan as a country and doesn't have an official embassy on the island. (The American Institute in Taiwan, technically a non-profit organization, serves the functions of an embassy.)

To call Tsai the President of Taiwan is taken by many in China as to imply that Taiwan is a sovereign nation.

Next he tweeted about the fact that America sells weapons to Taiwan. (He could have also mentioned the fact that his company is trying to develop hotels in Taiwan.)

Of course everyone knows that Taiwan has a de facto president and that America sells them weapons—he's not sharing confidential information. But such comments and actions could unnecessarily provoke China. He could start a conflict through his own ignorance.

Moreover, the DPP, which supports greater autonomy from China and pushes for formal recognition of independence, could use Trump's ignorance to push for its own agenda. A DPP legislator praised the call as a breakthrough [in the Straits Times](#).

His tweets were widely shared on China's Weibo microblog:

iPad 10:38 AM 79% s.weibo.com

大家正在搜：岑丽... 首页 视频 发现 游戏

精选

王江雨Law  

川普和蔡英文通电话，特地发推文周告天下，口称“台湾总统”，破了美国后任总统的记录，显然毫不在乎大陆反应。这只是川普咬的第一口，以后此类挑衅层出不穷，国内那些欢呼川普上台的不知该怎样自我安慰？

 

今天09:13 来自 iPhone 7 Plus

收藏 | 转发 105 | 评论 46 | 16

对原微博的评论

 **StevenZ-H**：呵呵，寄希望【川普】？本身就错的，没人这么傻吧。台湾牌本来就是美国的牌，打这么早，也不用急吼吼的去批判，比小布什上台的【撞机】小多了。稳定自己的方向盘，不能被川普议题牵着走。

今天 09:25 来自 微博 weibo.com | 回复 | 11

Wang Jingyu, a professor of law at the National University of Singapore, remarked about how Trump called Tsai the “President of Taiwan” and said there was a risk of provocation. “How can the people in China who welcomed Trump taking office console themselves?”

iPad 10:49 AM 76% s.weibo.com

大家正在搜：岑丽... 首页 视频 发现 游戏

30分钟前 来自 iPhone 6s

收藏 | 转发 | 评论 | 1

扭腰村民 

也许是巧合，今天川普召见了约翰-博尔顿，有名的右翼对华强硬派。他一直主张跟台湾密切关系以的心保守主义外交顾问。Again, Chinese Trumpsters, be careful what you wish for!



30分钟前 来自 微博 weibo.com

收藏 | 转发 4 | 评论 2 | 2

ThomasChen  

川普又發一推，寫的是：台灣每年買幾十億美金的武器，怎麼我就不能接一通道賀電話？真搞笑！

To that effect, another Weibo user said, “Chinese Trumpsters, be careful what you wish for!”

There was a narrative in China that Trump, due to his calls to stay out of foreign interventions and threats to withdraw from Korea and Japan, would be better for China than “warmongering” Hillary Clinton. Now one can see that complete ignorance of the world can be more dangerous than cold-hearted pursuit of a nation’s national interests.



Thomas Chen, a news editor for Sina, wrote that Trump’s comments about weapons were “very funny!”

Wei Peng wrote, “Trump must be receiving widespread criticism from America’s diplomatic circle.”

Mitchell Blatt moved to China in 2012, and since then he has traveled and written about politics and culture throughout Asia. A writer and journalist, based in China, he is the lead author of Panda Guides Hong Kong guidebook and a contributor to outlets including [The Federalist](#), [China.org.cn](#), [The Daily Caller](#), and [Vagabond Journey](#). Fluent in Chinese, he has lived and traveled in Asia for three years, blogging about his travels at [ChinaTravelWriter.com](#). You can follow him on Twitter at [@MitchBlatt](#).

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