

Taiwan's quest for international space: constraints and possibilities

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This paper explores two things: one, the implications of Taiwan's quest for international space for its foreign-policy choices; two, the implications of such a quest for the study of International Relations. The paper examines the constraints on Taiwan's quest: it suggests that the constraints come in the main from China putting political pressure on Taiwan as well as on other actors in world affairs; they also come in relatively smaller measures from other actors in the international community as well as from the country's own domestic reservations. The paper focuses on Taiwan's participation in intergovernmental organizations and assesses the possibilities of the country's increasing involvement in the activities of these organizations. The paper concludes with a discussion on what we can learn from Taiwan's experience in this quest in order to inform or even revise our understanding of international relations.

爭取國際空間：臺灣外交關係的局限與契機

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本次討論會主要探討兩件事：一、臺灣對國際空間的爭取，影響其外交政策的選擇；二、這個爭取對國際關係的研究具有何種意義。此處審視了臺灣取得國際空間的種種局限：主要來自中國在國際事務上對臺灣施加政治壓力，另一個相對較小的限制則是來自其他國際事務及臺灣的內部爭議。我的焦點放在臺灣參與跨政府組織的情況，以及評估在這些組織活動中，臺灣加入的可能性。這篇報告探討我們能否從臺灣尋求國際空間的經驗中，獲得或修正我們對國際關係的認識。