

# Country Briefing – France

## *Political Briefing*

### **National Strategy**

While geographically distant from East Asia France holds serious concerns in regard to China's attempted annexation of Taiwan. Furthermore France has interests and territories in the Indo-Pacific including New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna and French Polynesia. France also have close ties to the United States via NATO and have also taken part in military drills organized by the QSD.

France possesses a strong navy, comprising modern frigates, destroyers and submarines allowing the prosecution of air, sea, and land targets. This includes the French Navy's nuclear-powered *Charles de Gaulle* (the only non-US nuclear-powered carrier in the world) providing remarkable capabilities of force projection.

For air power France operates modern fighter aircraft that can be used in an expeditionary role like the Dassault Rafale, though no basing agreement has currently been negotiated to allow them into theater.

Finally, while the intrinsically naval/amphibious nature of a conflict limits the applicability of most conventional ground forces, some specific units are well-adapted to these environments. Special forces including France's prestigious *Commandos Marine* provide remarkable versatility, and can be used for infiltration, sabotage, and battlefield intelligence collection. France maintains a number of larger formations that could move to the Pacific to provide additional combat power if need be, though first basing rights for ground troops must be negotiated.

### **Strategic Objectives**

France must aim to prevent the collapse of Taiwan; economically, politically, but most importantly, militarily. With our choice to enter this conflict we have staked our identity as a great power on its outcome, and to retreat back in shame would be a greater blow than our failure in the Crise du canal de Suez in 1956.



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