**CIA, Director William Burns believes China will not invade Taiwan because she has doubts it can succeed. The Russian attack of Ukraine reveals the difficulties to invade another nation.**

**Director Burns believes that while Taiwan is very different than Ukraine, President Xi Jinping (XJP) knows that the Chinese military does not have recent combat experience and has directed his troops to be ready for combat by 2027. Even then, Burns senses that XJP is not confident his military can succeed, especially if America aids Taiwan.**

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**SOURCE:**

**Despite readiness plans, China has doubts on ability to invade Taiwan, CIA chief says BY HOPE YEN, *ASSOCIATED PRESS*, FEB. 27, 2023**

U.S. intelligence shows that Chinese President Xi Jinping has instructed his country’s military to “be ready by 2027” to invade Taiwan, though he may be currently harboring doubts about his ability to do so given Russia’s experience in its war with Ukraine, CIA Director William Burns said.

Burns, in a television interview that aired Sunday, stressed that the U.S. must take “very seriously” Xi’s desire to ultimately control Taiwan, even if [military conflict is not inevitable](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-06-08/china-taiwan-nationalism-pla).

“We do know, as has been made public, that President Xi has instructed the PLA [People’s Liberation Army], the Chinese military leadership, to be ready by 2027 to invade Taiwan, but that doesn’t mean that he’s decided to invade in 2027 or any other year,” Burns told CBS’ “Face the Nation.”

“I think our judgment at least is that President Xi and his military leadership have doubts today about whether [they could accomplish that invasion](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-09-21/china-dials-down-rhetoric-taiwan),” he said.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with the Communist Party in control of the mainland. The self-governing island acts like a sovereign nation but is not recognized by the United Nations or any major country.

In 1979, President Carter [formally recognized the government in Beijing](https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-01-01-mn-278-story.html) and cut nation-to-nation ties with Taiwan. In response, Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, creating a benchmark for a continuing relationship.

Taiwan has received numerous displays of official U.S. support in the face of growing shows of force by Beijing, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory. President Biden has said that [U.S. forces would defend Taiwan](https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2022-05-22/biden-says-us-intervene-taiwan-militarily-if-necessary) if China tries to invade.

The White House says U.S. policy has not changed in making clear that Washington wants to see Taiwan’s status resolved peacefully. It is silent as to whether U.S. forces might be sent in response to a Chinese attack.

In Sunday’s interview, Burns said the support from the [U.S. and European allies for Ukraine](https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2023-02-26/russias-war-on-ukraine-enters-its-second-year) following Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion may be acting as a potential deterrent to Chinese officials for now. But Burns said the risks of a possible attack on Taiwan will grow only stronger.

“I think, as they’ve looked at Putin’s experience in Ukraine, that’s probably reinforced some of those doubts,” Burns said. “All I would say is that I think the risks of ... a potential use of force probably grow the further into this decade you get and beyond it, into the following decade as well.

“So that’s something obviously that we watch very, very carefully,” he said.