SSI Assurances

Start of Block: Informed Consent

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InfCons We are a research team at Yale University, studying foreign policy and international relations. In this study, you will be asked to read a short scenario describing an international crisis and then answer several questions. This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes.

To be able to take the survey, you must live in the U.S. and use a non-mobile device.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate and to end participation at any time for any reason. All of your responses will be held in confidence and we do not collect identifying information such as your name or email address. The results of this survey will be used for academic purposes only.

There are no known risks associated with this study. Although this study may not benefit you personally, we hope that our results will add to the knowledge about how international crises are perceived and operate.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Yale University Human Subjects Committee: 203-785-4688, human.subjects@yale.edu. Additional information is available at: http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/participants/index.html

- ○ I have read the above information and agree to participate in this study. (1)
- ○ I do not agree to participate. (0)

End of Block: Informed Consent

Start of Block: Instruction 1

Instruct1 Below, you will read about a conflict involving the United States and China in the East China Sea. Though hypothetical, the scenario details are realistic. Imagine that you are a foreign policy advisor to the U.S. president, advising him on how to respond to the crisis. Please read the scenario carefully, as you will also be asked several questions to gauge your attention.

End of Block: Instruction 1

Start of Block: Intro + Party Manipulation

Display This Question:

If party = 1

Dem The conflict takes place in 2025. In that year, the United States is led by Democratic President Linwood Sutter, and China is led by President Zhang Wei. President Wei demands that the United States recognize China's sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands.

Display This Question:

If party = 2

Rep The conflict takes place in 2025. In that year, the United States is led by Republican President Linwood Sutter, and China is led by President Zhang Wei. President Wei demands that the United States recognize China's sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands.

Page Break

End of Block: Intro + Party Manipulation

Start of Block: Background + Crisis

Background Background:
The Diaoyu Islands are a small, uninhabited island chain located in the East China Sea between China and Okinawa, Japan. Valuable for their proximity to vast offshore oil reserves, the islands have been administered by Japan since 1972. However, both China and Japan claim sovereignty over the islands, and each state uses its own name for them: Senkaku (Japanese) and Diaoyu (Chinese).
In the past, the United States has taken no official position on this dispute. At the same time, the United States is obliged by its alliance with Japan to defend all Japanese-administered territories should conflict arise.

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Crisis1 After years of disagreement, tensions over the islands escalated. Chinese President Wei issued this statement:

"China does not desire conflict. However, Japanese control of the Diaoyu islands has become intolerable. China demands that the United States recognize China's rightful sovereignty over the islands. If the United States refuses, China is prepared to take more active measures to protect our sovereign rights in the region. China looks forward to peaceful relations with the United States and Japan once this dispute is resolved."

Timing1.5 Timing
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Crisis2 Your national security experts say that President Wei's statement is a threat: if the U.S. were to reject Wei's demand, China would try to pressure the U.S. military to withdraw from international waters near China by harassing and possibly engaging US patrols. If successful, this strategy would threaten U.S. control of vital trade routes and block security operations with regional allies.

Timing2 Timing
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AddInfo Your team of national security experts has provided you with the following additional information:

End of Block: Background + Crisis

Start of Block: Power Manipulations

Display This Question:

If Power = 1

USPower Your experts believe that it is unlikely that China could force the U.S. military to withdraw from international waters near China, as U.S. forces enjoy military superiority in the area. Your advisors are confident that China would lose a military conflict in the region, should one arise.

Display This Question:

If Power = 2

ChinaPower Your experts believe that it is likely that China could force the U.S. military to withdraw from international waters near China, as Chinese forces enjoy military superiority in the area. Your advisors are confident that China would win a military conflict in the region, should one arise.

TimingPower Timing
First Click (1)
Last Click (2)
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End of Block: Power Manipulations

Start of Block: Reputation Manipulations

Display This Question:

If Reputation = 1

ChinaRestraint Your experts note that in the past, China has been involved in similar disputes. In particular, China and Vietnam had long disagreed about sovereignty over the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. In 2020, the two countries agreed to divide the island chain between them. Since then, China has abided by the agreement and has not attempted to renegotiate its terms; Vietnam has expressed gratitude for China's commitment to the compromise accord.

Display This Question:

If Reputation = 2

ChinaGreed Your experts note that in the past, China has been involved in similar disputes. In particular, China and Vietnam had long disagreed about sovereignty over the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. In 2020, the two countries agreed to divide the island chain between them. Since then, China has pressured Vietnam to renegotiate the terms of the deal; Vietnam has expressed frustration at Chinese antagonism, and skepticism that China will ever be satisfied with a compromise accord.

TimingRep Timing
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End of Block: Reputation Manipulations

Start of Block: Summaries

Display This Question:

If party = 1

And Power = 1

And Reputation = 1

1-1-1 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Dem) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region The U.S. enjoys military superiority over China in the region China has abided by a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands Click Here for a map showing the locations of various features of the scenario. Viewing this map is necessary to complete the survey.

Display This Question:

If party = 2

And Power = 1

And Reputation = 1

2-1-1 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Rep) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region The U.S. enjoys military superiority over China in the region China has abided by a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

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Display This Question:

If party = 1

And Power = 2

And Reputation = 1

1-2-1 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Dem) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region China enjoys military superiority over the U.S. in the region China has abided by a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

Click Here for a map showing the locations of various features of the scenario. Viewing this map is necessary to complete the survey.

Display This Question:

If party = 1

And Power = 1

And Reputation = 2

1-1-2 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Dem) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region The U.S. enjoys military superiority over China in the region China has tried to alter a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

Click Here for a map showing the locations of various features of the scenario. Viewing this map is necessary to complete the survey.

Display This Question:

If party = 1

And Power = 2

And Reputation = 2

1-2-2 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Dem) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region China enjoys military superiority over the U.S. in the region China has tried to alter a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

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Display This Question:

If party = 2

And Power = 2

And Reputation = 1

2-2-1 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Rep) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest US military presence in the region China enjoys military superiority over the U.S. in the region China has abided by a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands Click Here for a map showing the locations of various features of the scenario. Viewing this map is necessary to complete the survey.

Display This Question:

If party = 2

And Power = 1

And Reputation = 2

2-1-2 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Rep) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region The U.S. enjoys military superiority over China in the region China has tried to alter a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

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Display This Question:

If party = 2

And Power = 2

And Reputation = 2

2-2-2 In summary: In 2025, China is led by President Wei, and the U.S. is led by President Sutter (Rep) China demands that the U.S. recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands If the U.S. refuses, China threatens to contest U.S. military presence in the region China enjoys military superiority over the U.S. in the region China has tried to alter a past territorial agreement with Vietnam over the Paracel Islands

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End of Block: Summaries

Start of Block: Resolve

Resolve1 How should the United States respond to China's demand for sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands? The United States should...

- ○ **Accept China's Demand**, and ask Japan to renounce its claim to the Diaoyu Islands. (0)
- ○ **Reject China's Demand**, but ask Japan to renounce its claim to the Diaoyu Islands if any conflict arises between U.S. and Chinese forces in the region. (1)
- ○ **Reject China's Demand**, but ask Japan to renounce its claim to the Diaoyu Islands only if conflict between the U.S. and China results in more than 100 American fatalities. (2)
- ○ **Reject China's Demand** even if conflict between the U.S. and China results in more than 100 American fatalities; take whatever measures necessary to maintain U.S. military presence in the region. (3)

Resolve2 Please describe to us why you chose the answer that you did above in a few sentences.

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End of Block: Resolve

Start of Block: Threat + Assurance Credibility

Threat Cred. 1 Suppose that the United States rejects China’s demand for sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands. Do you think that China will follow through on its threat to contest U.S. military

presence in the region?

- ○ Very Unlikely (0)
- ○ Unlikely (1)
- ○ As Likely as Not (2)
- ○ Likely (3)
- ○ Very Likely (4)

Threat Cred. 2 Please describe to us why you chose the answer that you did above in a few sentences.

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Assurance Cred. 1 Suppose that the United States recognizes Chinese sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands. Do you think that China will still attempt to contest U.S. military presence in the region at a later date?

- ○ Very Unlikely (4)
- ○ Unlikely (3)
- ○ As Likely as Not (2)
- ○ Likely (1)
- ○ Very Likely (0)

Assurance Cred. 2 Please describe to us why you chose the answer that you did above in a few sentences.

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Cost How many **U.S. deaths** (soldiers and civilians) do you think would result if this territorial dispute escalated into a military conflict between the US and China?

- 0-24 deaths (1)
- 25-99 deaths (2)
- 100-249 deaths (3)
- 250-1000 deaths (4)
- Greater than 1000 deaths (5)

End of Block: Threat + Assurance Credibility

Start of Block: Attention Checks

Attn1 In the scenario above, what was the balance of power between the U.S. and China?

- China enjoyed military superiority over the United States (1)
- The United States enjoyed military superiority over China (2)
- Neither nation enjoyed a favorable balance of power (3)

Attn2 In the scenario above, how did China behave during its territorial dispute with Vietnam?

- ○ China and Vietnam never reached a compromise agreement (1)
- ○ China and Vietnam reached a compromise agreement, and China has abided by the terms of that agreement (2)
- ○ China and Vietnan reached a compromise agreement, but China has pressured Vietnam to alter the terms of that agreement (3)

End of Block: Attention Checks

Start of Block: Demographic Background

Instruct3 Thanks! You're almost done; please tell us a bit about yourself.

Gender What is your gender?

- ○ Male (1)
- ○ Female (2)
- ○ Other (3)
- ○ I prefer not to answer (4)

Age How old are you (in years)?

_____

Education What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than high school (1)
- High school or GED (2)
- Some college (3)
- 2-year college degree (4)
- 4-year college degree (5)
- Masters degree (6)
- Doctoral degree (7)
- Professional degree (e.g., JD or MD) (8)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

Race What is your race?

- Caucasian (1)
- African-American (2)
- Asian (3)
- Hispanic (4)
- Native American (5)
- Pacific Islander (6)
- Other (7)
- I prefer not to answer (8)

USstate In which US state do you currently reside?

▼ Alabama (1) ... I do not reside in the United States (53)

Income What is your combined annual household income (in US dollars)?

▼ Less than $10,000 (1) ... I prefer not to answer (-98)

End of Block: Demographic Background

Start of Block: Military Background

MilExp Have you ever served in the military?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

PolKnow How frequently do you read about foreign affairs, international relations, or international history in the news, in articles, or in books?

- Everyday (4)
- 2-4 times a week (3)
- 2-4 times a month (2)
- 5-20 times a year (1)
- Less than 5 times a year (0)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

End of Block: Military Background

Start of Block: Political Background

Pol7scale Below is a 7-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

- 1. Extremely liberal (1)
- 2. Liberal (2)
- 3. Slightly liberal (3)
- 4. Moderate (4)
- 5. Slightly conservative (5)
- 6. Conservative (6)
- 7. Extremely conservative (7)
- Haven't thought much about this (8)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

Page Break

PolParty Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a **Democrat,** a **Republican** or an **Independent**?

- Democrat (1)
- Republican (3)
- Independent (2)
- Haven't thought much about this (9)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent? = Democrat

StrDem Do you think of yourself as a **strong** Democrat?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)
- I prefer not to answer (-98)

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent? = Republican

StrRep Do you think of yourself as a **strong** Republican?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (0)
- ○ I prefer not to answer (-98)

Display This Question:

If Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent? = Haven't thought much about this

Or Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent? = Independent

DemRep Do you think of yourself as **closer to the Democratic Party** or **closer to the Republican Party?**

- ○ Closer to the Republican Party (2)
- ○ Closer to the Democratic Party (1)
- ○ Neither (4)
- ○ I prefer not to answer (-98)

Page Break

feedback Thank you for taking our survey! We welcome feedback about the survey experience. Please write comments, suggestions, and questions below; we would greatly appreciate knowing if any parts of the survey were confusing or unclear.

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End of Block: Political Background