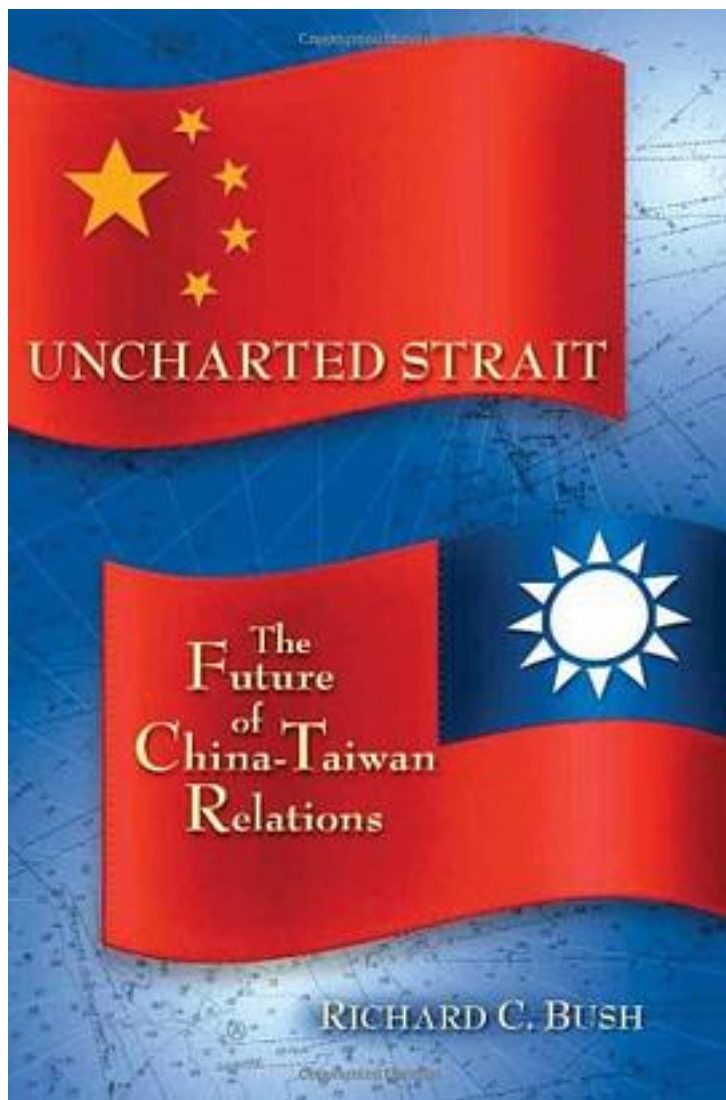


Uncharted Strait



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出版者:Brookings Institution Press

出版时间:2013-1-29

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780815723844

The future of the Taiwan Strait is more wide open than at any other time in recent decades. Tensions between China and Taiwan have eased since 2008, but the movement toward full rapprochement remains fragile. Whether the two sides of the Strait can sustain and expand a cooperative relationship after decades of mutual distrust and fear is still uncertain.

In *Uncharted Strait*, Richard Bush, who specialized in Taiwan issues during almost twenty years in the U.S. government, explains the current state of relations between China and Taiwan. He discusses what led to the current situation and then extrapolates the likely future of cross-Strait relations. Bush also explains America's stake, analyzing possible ramifications for U.S. interests in the critically important East Asia region as well as recommending steps to protect those interests.

As Bush explains, current engagement between Beijing and Taipei increases the likelihood of a peaceful long-term solution to their six-decade dispute. Whether, when, and how that might happen, however, is shrouded in uncertainty. The Taiwan Strait is now uncharted water, and both shores worry about the shoals that may lurk below the surface. China still fears the island's permanent separation, either because it makes an overt move to de jure independence or continues to refuse unification on Beijing's terms. Taiwan fears subordination to an authoritarian regime, an adversary from the past that may not have its best interests at heart. And the United States fears instability in East Asia.

作者介绍:

Richard C. Bush holds the Michael H. Armacost Chair at the Brookings Institution, where he directs the Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies. He served as chairman and managing director of the American Institute in Taiwan, 1997–2002. His previous books include *The Perils of Proximity: China-Japan Security Relations* and *Untying the Knot: Making Peace in the Taiwan Strait*, both published by Brookings.

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