
BRIDGING CULTURES, SHAPING FUTURES: PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY IN TAIWAN-SOMALILAND RELATIONS AMIDST THE TIDE OF CHINA AND U.S. INFLUENCES

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Abstract

The diplomatic relationship between Taiwan and Somaliland, both of which operate outside the formal recognition of the international community, represents a critical example of non-traditional diplomacy. This paper examines how these two non-recognized entities engage in “people-to-people” diplomacy, focusing on informal cultural exchanges, educational programs, and cooperative development initiatives. By bypassing the constraints imposed by their unrecognized status, Taiwan and Somaliland have forged a meaningful partnership that prioritizes developmental cooperation and shared democratic values. This study contributes to the anthropology of diplomacy, emphasizing the importance of informal interactions and the performative nature of sovereignty. Through case studies and ethnographic analysis, the paper provides insights into how non-recognized states can assert their presence on the international stage and influence global diplomacy despite their exclusion from formal state-centric systems.

Keywords

Taiwan, Somaliland, non-recognized states, people-centered diplomacy, sovereignty