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Alison Kaufman is a research analyst in CNA China Studies, where she has worked on issues related to China's and Taiwan's military culture, Chinese foreign and security policy, and cross-Strait relations. Prior to joining CNA, she worked for the World Bank's China program and at China Radio International in Beijing. She has also worked as a subject matter expert on Chinese affairs for a well known consultancy. Her research interests include the historical origins of and current trends in Chinese foreign policy, Chinese nationalism, cross-Strait issues, and US-China relations.

Dr. Kaufman studied Chinese in Beijing and in Taipei. She received her B.A. in East Asian Studies from Harvard University, and holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley with a focus on Chinese political philosophy.