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Sommario/riassunto	Why did the Truman administration reject a pragmatic approach to the Taiwan Strait conflict--recognizing Beijing and severing ties with Taipei--and instead choose the path of strategic ambiguity? Dean Chen sheds light on current US policy by exploring the thoughts and deliberations of President Truman and his top advisers, among them Dean Acheson, John Foster Dulles, Livingston Merchant, and Dean Rusk. Chen also highlights the very unambiguous, and continuing, liberal aims of US Taiwan policy.