

Public Support for War in Taiwan

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Politics

China on Track to Be Ready for Taiwan Invasion by 2027, US Says



GLOBAL

China May Be the Ukraine War's Big Winner

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has given Xi Jinping a way to stir trouble for the West and make Moscow dependent on Beijing.

By Michael Schuman



New Taiwan President takes office facing angry China

Lai Ching-te has offered talks with China, which have been rebuffed

Published - May 20, 2024 07:08 am IST - TAIPEI

REUTERS



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'If war breaks out ... I will just become cannon fodder:' In Taiwan, ex-conscripts feel unprepared for potential China conflict



By Eric Cheung, CNN

8 minute read · Updated 8:36 PM EST, Fri January 20, 2023



Taiwanese public support for war

| Year | Title | Journal | Author(s) |
|------|---|---|----------------------|
| 2021 | When war hits home: Taiwanese public support for war of necessity | International relations of the Asia-Pacific | Yeh and Wu |
| 2022 | Security Studies Towards Individuals' Attitude: Military Experience and Support for Self-Defense in Taiwan | Issues and Studies | Chen et al. |
| 2023 | Public Support for Self-Defense in Taiwan: The Current State of Research | Taiwan Politics | Wu, Chen, and Yeh |
| 2023 | Taiwanese Public Opinion on the Chinese and US Military Presence in the Taiwan Strait | China Quarterly | Wu et al. |
| 2023 | National Identity, Willingness to Fight , and Collective Action | Journal of Peace Research | Wang and Eldemerdash |
| 2023 | Distributive Unfairness, National Pride, and Willingness to Fight : Evidence from Taiwan | Journal of Asian and African Studies | Wu |
| 2023 | Fighting for Taiwan? An Exploration Using List Experiments | Wenti Yu Yanjiu | Lee and Yu |

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| Year | Title | Journal | Author(s) |
|-------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 2024 | Public support for the use of force in non-Western and non-major powers: the case of a China–Taiwan war | International Political Science Review | Wu et al. |
| 2024 | How Has the War in Ukraine Shaped Taiwanese Concerns about Their Own Defense ? | Asian Survey | Rich, Banerjee, and Tkach |
| 2024 | Core Public Attitudes toward Defense and Security in Taiwan | Taiwan Politics | Lee, Chen and Chen |
| 2024 | Contextual and Situational Influences on Taiwanese Fighting Will : An Empirical Analysis From 2021 to 2023 | Chinese Political Science Review | Lee |
| 2024* | Taiwanese Willingness for Self-Defense after the Russo-Ukrainian War | Asian Survey | Wang et al. |
| 2024* | Media Sources, Partisanship, and Public Support for Self-Defense in Taiwan | Media War & Conflict | Yeh, Lin and Wu |

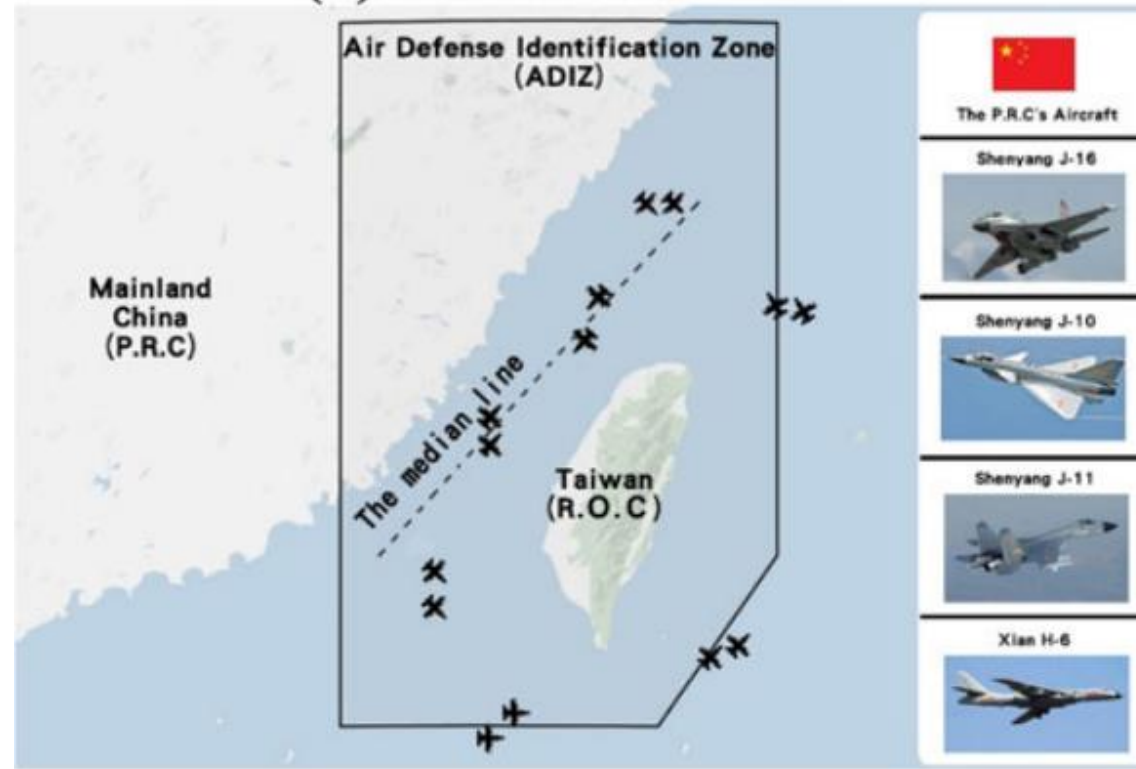
Being told about U.S. military assistance increase public willingness to fight by 7%

Table 4. Level of war support across experimental groups.

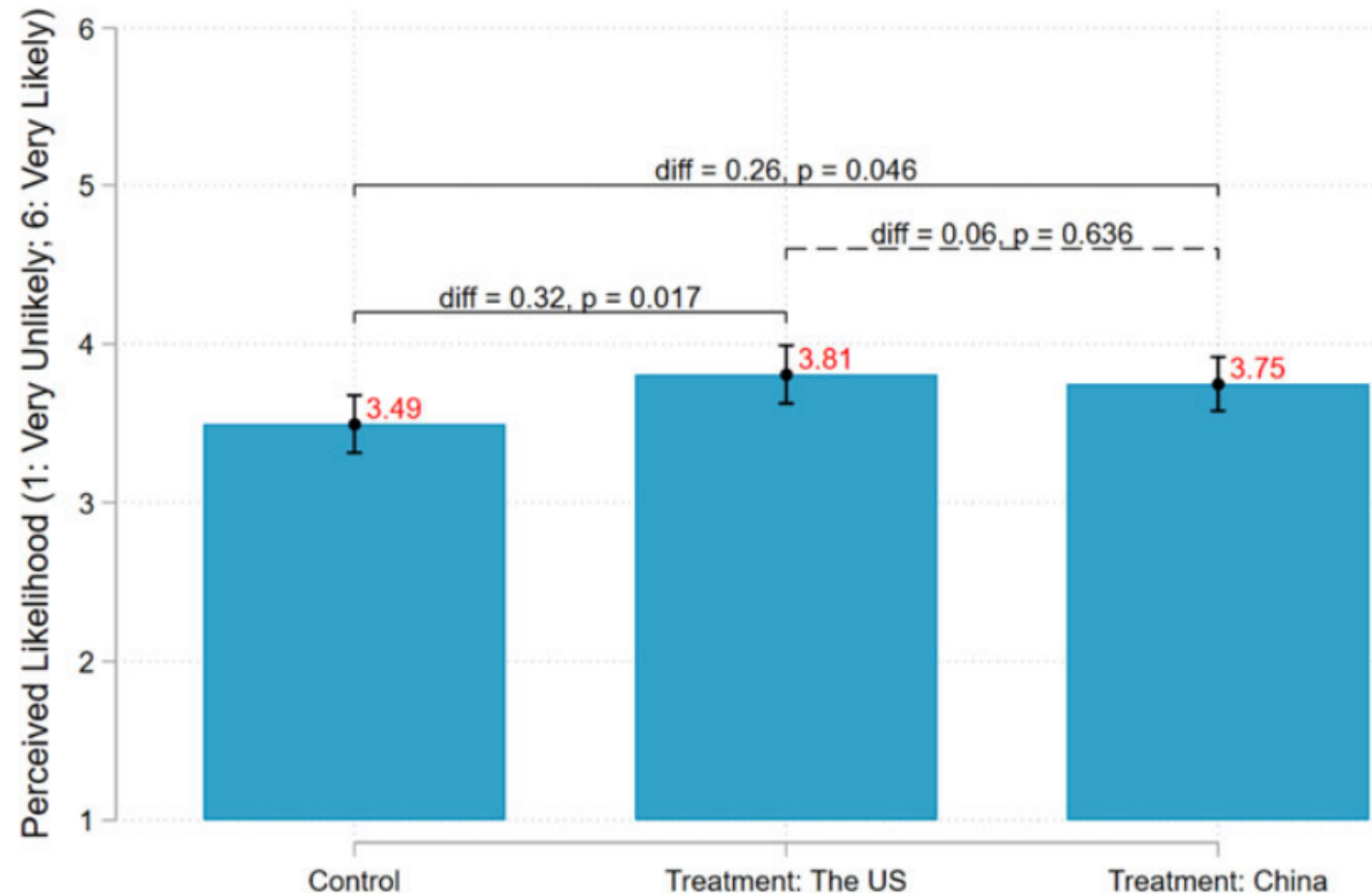
| Willingness to fight against the invasion of China (0–10) | If Taiwan declared independence | If Taiwan maintained the status quo |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| If United States will send troops to help defend Taiwan | 4.76 ^a (<i>n</i> = 237) | 4.75 ^a (<i>n</i> = 245) |
| If United States will not send troops to help Taiwan | 4.09 ^b (<i>n</i> = 253) | 3.94 ^b (<i>n</i> = 264) |



(b) Chinese Aircraft



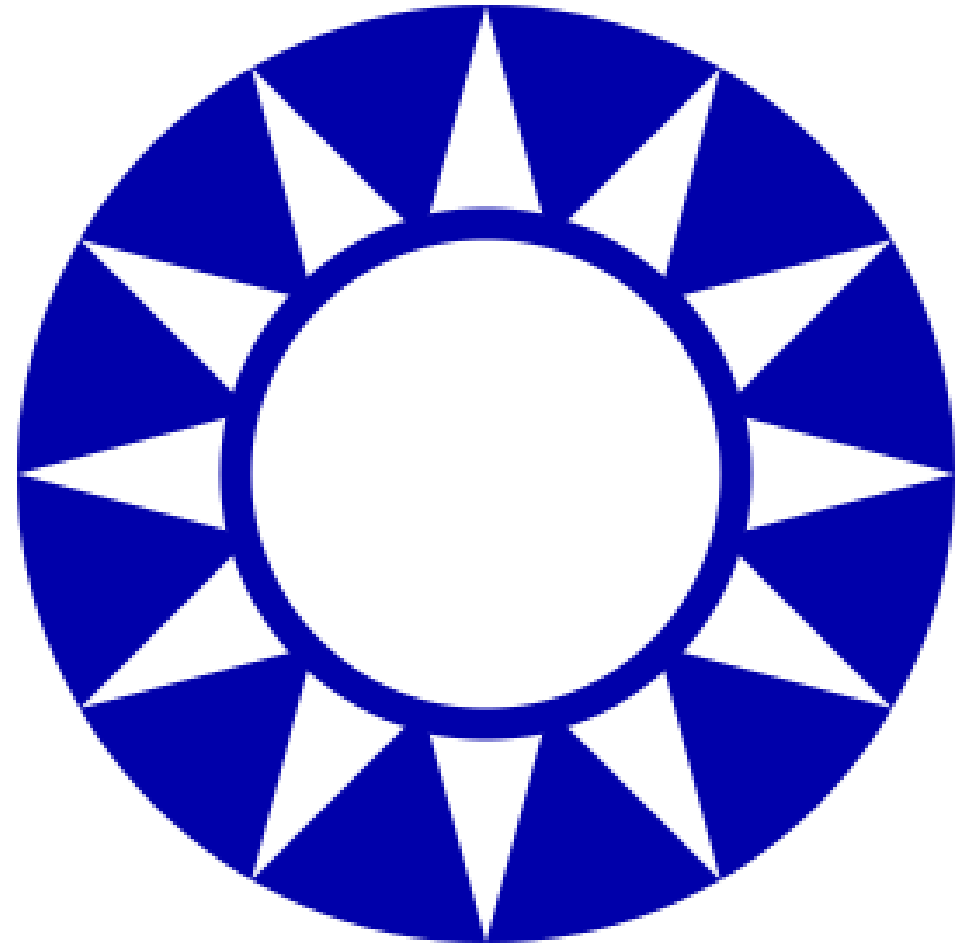
Seeing PLA planes increased citizens' belief of US military assistance



Partisanship as the Most Critical Factor



DPP

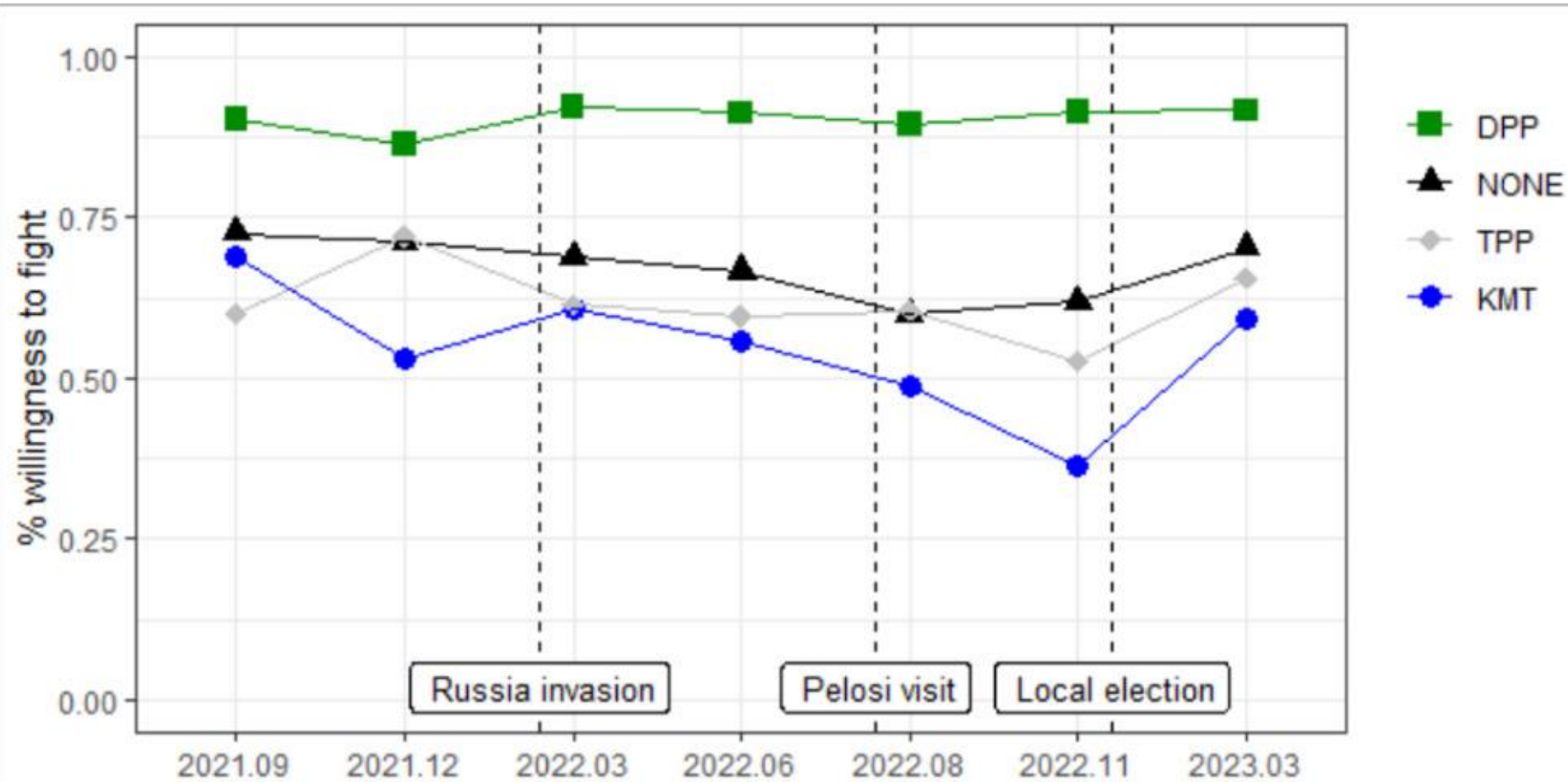


Chinese Nationalist Party, *Kuomintang* (KMT)

Comparison of KMT and DPP Supporters

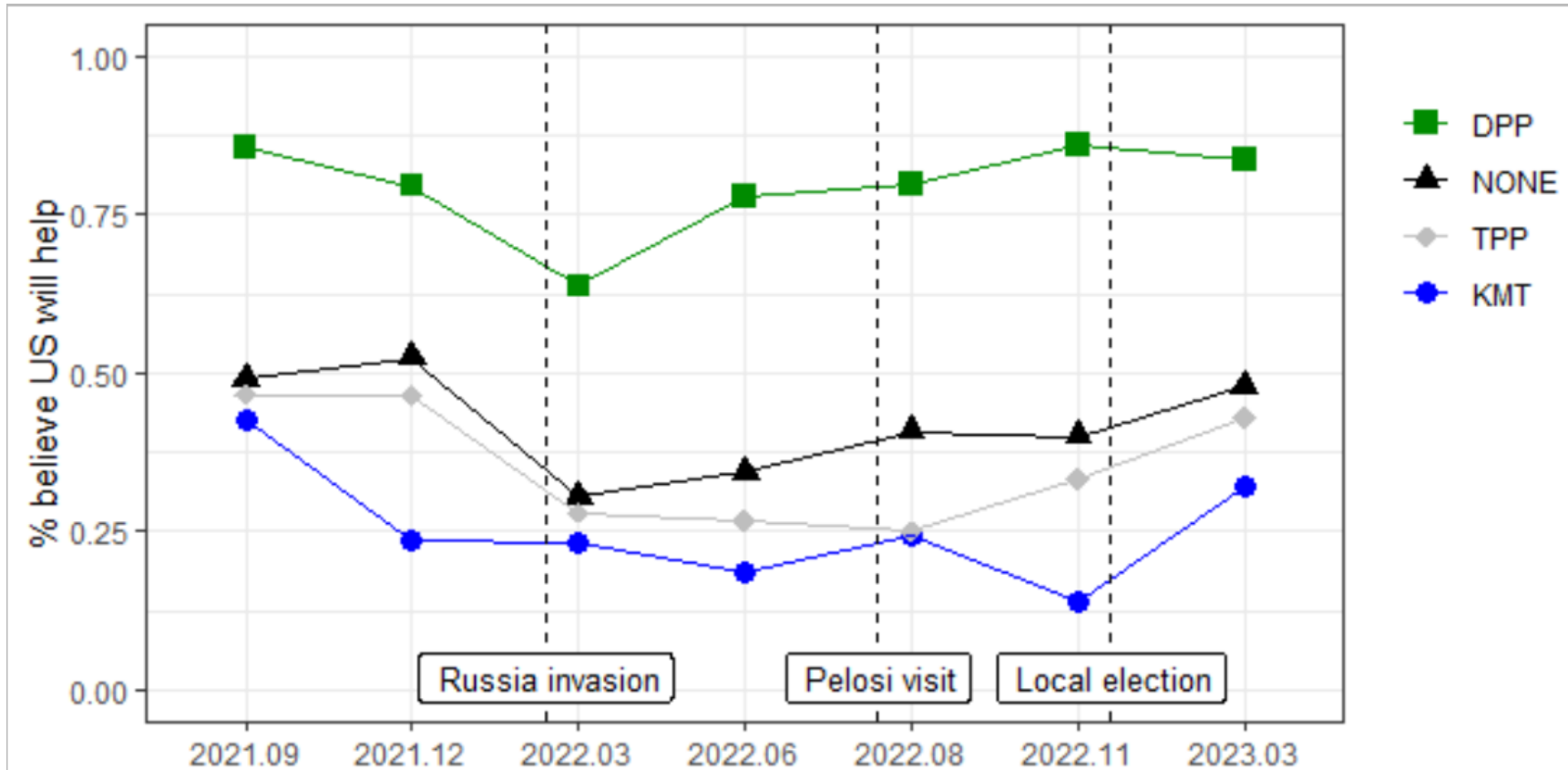
| Attitudes | DPP | KMT |
|--|-----|-----|
| Willingness to fight | ↑ | ↓ |
| Belief that the US will provide military assistance | ↑ | ↓ |
| Win against China in a war | ↑ | ↓ |
| Have confidence in the military's ability to defend Taiwan | ↑ | ↓ |
| Believe that Russia will win the war despite | ↓ | ↑ |
| Become motivated to fight by witnessing peer action | ↑ | ↓ |
| Seen themselves as Taiwanese only | ↑ | ↓ |

Partisanship and war support 2021-2023



Source: INDSR2021-2023 (n=10869), Viz: Austin Wang @UNLV

Belief that US will help and war support 2021-2023



Source: INDSR2021-2023 (n=10869), Viz: Austin Wang @UNLV

Conscription and War Support

- Chen et al. (2022) found that those who considered their military training useful were more willing to engage in self-defense (considering the training useful was associated with a 5% increase on an 11-point scale)
- Air Force – only branch correlated with higher level of war support (others: Army, Navy, Military Police, and Marines)

Taiwan enhances force posture, military recruit skills with expanded conscription

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Unanswered Questions

