

Logistics, Supply Chain Management, and Taiwanese Immigration Assessed in Light of Globalization

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Organizations regardless of size can take advantage of the market dynamics brought about by globalization. Supply chain management is crucial for large organizations, especially with regard to the costs, complexity, and risks of its large, often global, supply chains. From technology to risk management, learning what it takes to navigate transportation and logistics business management in today's volatile world is critical. Human migration has accelerated in light of globalization and rapid advances in transportation (particularly aviation) technology. This study investigated the connection between logistics and supply chain management in the age of globalization; reviewed the migration, settlement, and naturalization of Taiwanese immigrants along the West Coast of the United States; and theoretically analyzed the forces that have led to the construction of the Taiwanese immigrant community. Taiwanese immigrants and their settlement are affected by global forces, and factors such as their cross-cultural trade, the characteristics of diasporic communities, and their national identity can provide scholarly and pedagogical insights.

Keywords: logistics management, supply chain management, Taiwanese immigrant, cross-cultural trade, national identity

Introduction

Goods and people are transported by road, rail, sea, and air, and commodities such as oil can also be transported through pipelines. Service science is an interdisciplinary field focusing on the relationship between global transportation systems (such as container transportation) and businesses (touching on topics in logistics and supply chain management (SCM) (Chang, 2021). Supply chains are the arteries through which raw materials are converted into products that are delivered to the customer's doorstep, and SCM includes sourcing, design, production, warehousing, shipping, and distribution. SCM involves the flow of physical (i.e., goods, commodities, and people) and non-physical (e.g., money and information) entities in the supply chain in the pursuit of value creation. The International Monetary Fund defined globalization as "the process through which an increasingly free flow of ideas, people, goods, services, and capital leads to the integration of economies and societies" (Li & Hua, 2023). Globalization provides enormous business opportunities in the fluctuating market for organizations of all sizes.

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Overview of Logistics and Supply Chain

Logistics management is a part of SCM where information technology is used to efficiently plan, execute, and control the circulation and storage of raw materials, semi-finished products, and products to satisfy and meet consumer needs (Chang, 2021). SCM efficiently integrates the operations of suppliers, manufacturers, warehouses, and stores, and uses information technology to ensure the right number of products is delivered to the right people at the right time in the most efficient manner possible. It strives to minimize the system cost while offering a satisfactory level of service to customers (Shaokang Enterprise Management Carelessness, 2024).

Our current system of global logistics stemmed from the military logistics during the Second World War and took shape only since the 1960s. In the 1980s, logistics was divided into two main systems: (1) physical distribution and (2) physical supply (involving material management). Around the 1990s, the development of SCM became increasingly complete. By the 21st century, it was completely integrated, and logistics management was regarded as part of supply chain management (Chang, 2021).

However, sprawling global supply chains come with costs, complexity, and risks that must be managed as an organization expands, especially in light of a volatile world.

Specifically, geopolitical tensions (particularly the US-China rivalry) have led to supply chains being oriented around not only commercial efficiency but also political alignments (as evidenced in the phenomenon of friendshoring), and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of prepandemic supply chains. Furthermore, environmental concerns have meant that organizations should consider the carbon footprint of their supply chains in addition to their cost and efficiency.

Indeed, supply chains are becoming shorter (i.e., more tightly clustered around a country or region), and deglobalization headwinds are becoming stronger. Furthermore, according to a survey by Ernst & Young Global Limited in 2022, 95% of companies have experienced varying degrees of supply chain disruptions in the past 24 months (EY-Taiwan, 2022). Thus, global supply chains are becoming restructured around the principles of regionalization, localization, and diversification. The core of SCM in the age of globalization is to minimize risks, overcome business difficulties, and balance between sustainability and competitiveness. According to Shih, "the challenge for companies will be to make their supply chains more resilient without weakening their competitiveness" (Shih, 2022).

The History of Transportation Infrastructure in Taiwan

Human migration has existed since ancient times. At first glance, migration is simply a spatial transformation from one place to another. But for the development of human history, the implications behind it are in fact all-encompassing. The impact of human migration extends to technology, politics, the economy, the arts, and the flow of ideas. The push factors for migration include natural disasters, poverty, war, and religious persecution. Migration is marked by diffusion, connection, conflict, and response between communities of migrants and existing communities in the host country.

Taiwan began developing its transportation and port infrastructure in the mid-Qing dynasty. When the Republic of China government took over in 1949, it developed Taiwan's economy by engaging in import substitution, expanding exports, undertaking the Ten Major Construction Projects, and liberalizing and internationalizing the Taiwanese market. Moreover, these reforms and construction allowed Taiwan's economy

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to take off in the 1970s. Taiwan's parliamentary reform, democratic reforms, direct presidential elections, and political party rotation helped move Taiwan toward democratization (Lin, 2021). The Ten Major Construction Projects involved the construction of Taoyuan International Airport, Taichung Port, Suao Port, National Highway No. 1, the North-Link Line railway, and the high speed rail network and the electrification of the West Coast Line railway. These projects were improvements on the transportation infrastructure laid during the Qing and Japanese administrations (Lin, 2021).

International Migration

Migration has become increasingly prevalent due to globalization and technological advances. Migrants may come as students or engage in commerce or labor in their host country, and some even migrate as missionaries. Migrants rely on existing networks and draw on the practices of those that have come before to survive and thrive in their host country (Li et al., 2009, pp. 22-27). One such network is the diasporic community. Migrants grapple with cultural difference throughout the various stages of their migration and come to influence and be influenced by the culture of their home country. Migrants, when they come in substantial numbers, also have a demographic impact on the region they reside in; this is evident, for example, in the large Italian and Jewish communities in New York City.

Immigration to the United States

The United States is the first choice for Taiwanese immigrants. Push-pull theory can be used to distinguish three waves of Taiwanese immigration to the United States. The first wave of immigration (1945-1964) had approximately 12,000 Taiwanese immigrants to the United States (including naturalized and non-naturalized immigrants), and approximately 10,000 of them were international students. The second wave of immigration (1966-1979) had approximately 100,000 immigrants, and approximately 40,000 were international students. In 1965, the Hart-Celler Immigration Act, also called the Immigration and Nationality Act, was passed during the Johnson administration. This became a major pull factor for Taiwanese immigrants. The third wave of immigration (1979-present) had approximately 300,000 immigrants, and approximately 200,000 were students (Wang, 2010).

This third wave was marked by the push and pull factors of the diplomatic shock that was the United States' termination of official diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979, the annual quota of 20,000 Taiwanese immigrants set in 1982, and Taiwan's rapid economic growth in the 1980s (at >8% annually). In particular, as Taiwan's economy grew, more immigrants came to the United States through business or investment immigration rather than through studying.

Research Motivation

A series of immigration reforms in the second half of the 20th century, notably the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, caused the number of Taiwanese immigrants in American society to increase rapidly, resulting in Taiwanese immigrants becoming involved in political participation, economic activities, social structures, and cultures. Furthermore, the logistics management and SCM was driven by the growing Taiwanese economy in the 1980s and globalization introduced and applied new technologies in Taiwan, making Taiwan a global technological center.

Taiwanese immigrants after the Second World War are an essential group among Chinese immigrants. As immigration policies of the United States and Taiwan shifted (Wang, 2010), Taiwanese immigrants became

pioneers among Chinese immigrants. Their migration, settlement, economy, assimilation, and connection and interaction with the Taiwanese government are unique and have become a research subject attracting academic attention in recent years. Tang noted how the networks that first-generation Taiwanese immigrants form with people and groups in Taiwan are effective and long-lasting only when these immigrants have become financially stable. These immigrants never forgot their roots no matter how long they had lived abroad (Hung, 2006, pp. 153-196).

Taiwanese associations are a key avenue through which immigrants maintain and deepen their interpersonal networks in Taiwanese politics, business, and culture, and these networks have been constitutive of the identity of Taiwanese Americans and the development of Americanization. Lin defined Taiwanese Americans as American citizens, permanent residents, or residents originating from Taiwan, whether themselves, their parents, or ancestors (Lin, 2018).

This study defined Taiwanese Americans as Taiwanese immigrants—originally residing in Taiwan or having migrated Taiwan from China after 1949—who then immigrated to the United States, resided in the United States, and have become a permanent resident or citizen of the United States. This also includes second-generation and third-generation Taiwanese immigrants who identify first as Americans (Hsu, 2006). Some scholars have adopted a constructionist perspective to argue that the concept of "Taiwanese Americans" should encompass people who consider Taiwan to be their hometown, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, or place of birth (Shu, 2013, p. 347). We adopted this broader definition in this study.

According to statistics from the Overseas Community Affairs Council, Southern California (six counties including Log Angeles and Orange County) had more than 600 Taiwanese immigrant associations in 2000. In the 1990s, President Lee Teng-hui adopted a "pragmatic compatriot affairs" policy¹ to promote Taiwan, and the Taiwanese government started to interact with these Taiwanese compatriot associations. Since then, overseas compatriot affairs, rooted in the topic of national identity, became a battleground among various political actors, particularly Taiwanese political parties and compatriot associations across the globe. The debate over the function and existence of the Overseas Community Affairs Council persisted until the third ruling party alternation (Wang, 2021). In less than 30 years, the number of Taiwanese Americans increased to over 100,000. The Taiwanese American community actively engaged in political, economic, and cultural exchange and became the first large-scale diasporic Taiwanese community (Li & Zhang, 2010, p. 7).

Immigrants consider overseas compatriot associations, newspapers, and schools to be the three pillars of their community, and compatriot associations have also become a central unit of analysis in research on Chinese immigrant communities. For example, Lai considered four types of Chinese immigrant associations that were each defined by geography (referred to by Chinese Americans as "yi jie"), kinship (referred to by Chinese Americans as "xing jie"), voluntary association (referred to by Chinese Americans as "tang jie" and also called secret societies), or profession (i.e., guilds) in their study of the formation of early Chinese societies and Chinatowns (Mak, 1992, pp. 28-46). Hung (2016b) also conducted in-depth research on the form and development of Taiwanese compatriot associations in North America.

In general, researchers have increasingly focused on Taiwanese Americans and cross-border commerce with Taiwan. This study reviewed historical sources and interviews to understand early Taiwanese Americans, their cultural identity and connection with Taiwan, and their interaction with compatriot affairs policies.

¹ Gazette of the Legislative Yuan, 1995: 432.

Literature Review

We reviewed studies on supply chains and on Taiwanese immigration to the United States in the context of globalization and their impact on ethnic relations.

Logistics and SCM

The three pillars of global trade today are liberalization, globalization, and regionalization. International logistics centers have formed as a result of advances in transportation and information technologies, increasing product standardization, and changes to conventional supply chains (Lee, 2006). Global SCM is driven by ideas and insights. Businesses observe market trends and collect customer opinions and feedbacks to understand the products they want and how and when they want the products. Businesses then use these data to optimize their SCM operations, including sourcing, research, development, manufacturing, and last-mile logistics and delivery. For decades, customers have only been concerned with the end of supply chains, namely product delivery, and have not cared about the product source, manufacturer, and the format by which products arrive at stores. However, customers nowadays are primarily concerned about the transparency and sustainability of supply chains. They also value their ability to decide where and how they shop and the options available when they fulfill a contract.

The United States Supply Chain Council proposed the supply chain operation reference model, which divided supply chain operations into planning, sourcing, making, delivering, and returning. Responsiveness and customer experience are vital for future supply chains. Each section of the network must be adaptable to customer needs and surmount obstacles in procurement, regulations, and transportation (Liu, 2003).

Companies have long strived to lower costs and improve their competitiveness through internal management and have introduced scientific management methods such as techficiency quotient certification, manufacturing resource planning, enterprise resource planning, and lean production. Consequently, further reducing costs within large companies with proper internal management in developed countries is difficult. However, costs could still be reduced at both ends of the supply chain, namely the management of component supply and the circulation and delivery of products. This cost reduction requires further attention and research, as demonstrated by the two focuses of SCM, procurement and distribution (Liu, 2003).

Companies worldwide are focusing more on their core competencies, choosing to work on them in house as opposed to outsourcing them. However, this entails longer supply chains with more companies working in concert; this increase in supply chain complexity increases the necessity of SCM.

Studies on Overseas Taiwanese Communities and the History of Taiwanese Immigration

Conventionally, overseas compatriots are defined as immigrants from China with shared social and cultural similarities. Chinese Americans can be divided into traditional Chinese Americans, Chinese immigrants to the United States, Taiwanese immigrants to the United States, and American-born Chinese, or Taiwanese people, each with a distinct identity (Lee, 1992, pp. 133-158).

According to historians Lai and Zhou, the three types of early overseas compatriot associations among overseas Chinese were family associations, district associations or hui guans, and merchant associations (Zhou & Kim, 2001). The Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association (also known as the Six Companies) represents overseas compatriot associations in Chinatowns (Lai, 2004, pp. 39-76). Although overseas Chinese have assimilated into the United States, many first-generation immigrants are still attached to their hometown and care about China.

Taiwanese immigrants in the 1980s (known as Taiwanese Americans) had the following characteristics: First, they had a higher level of education and income. Second, most of them were in their prime. Third, the majority of them lived in cities. Fourth, they interacted with and contacted Taiwan frequently. Fifth, they had different professions and a global perspective (Shu, 2013). Since 2000, Taiwanese Americans have settled in the United States and are now in their second or third generation (Taiwanese American Conference, 2005). The term "Taiwanese American" has also gradually become a term that describes immigrants that identify with Taiwanese culture, language, and history (Shu, 2013, p. 320). Scholars such as Fong (1994), Tseng (1995), and Chee (2005) have studied the Taiwanese American community in recent research, particularly their economic, cultural, and religious activities.

Theories of International Migration

In the second half of the 20th century, globalization and labor shortages worldwide changed immigration laws and shaped international migration. Chan examined the causes and effects of migration using six theories and perspectives from economics, sociology, and political science. These theories were neo-classical economic equilibrium theory, push-pull theory, new economics explanations of migration, and dual-labor market theory from economics; migration network theory and transnational migration theory from sociology; globalization theory and world systems theory from political science (Ko, 2021).

Conventional theories and frameworks in the field of economics tend to explain migration through economics and sociology. The push-pull theory and cost-benefit analysis are both explanations that originated from the neo-classical economic equilibrium theory (Ko, 2021). (1) From a macro perspective, international labor flows are based on wage differences; that is, *ceteris paribus*, people migrate to where wages are higher. From a micro perspective, labor flows are based on rational utility maximization in the labor market on the basis of the individual's capabilities. (2) In push-pull theory, labor flows are driven by adverse conditions, or push forces, at home, and attractive conditions, or pull forces, in the destination country in addition to the capabilities of the migrant (Portes & Böröcz, 1989). (3) New economics (Lu, 2006) challenges the assumption of rational utility maximization in classical economics. In contrast to the aforementioned explanations of migrations, new economics explanations posit that migration stems from the individual's assessment of a comprehensive range of factors, including household income, risks, financial infrastructure, and medical infrastructure, for themselves and their family (Zhan, 2016). (4) Dual-labor market theory or segmented labor market theory posits that industrialization has led to a bifurcation into a capital-intensive market and labor-intensive market in developed economies and that this bifurcation underpins migration today. (5) Migration network theory states that migration is a reflection of the interpersonal relationships and networks of migrants. This also means that migration changes the networks, and thus culture, economy, and social systems, in the origin and destination country (particularly the destination country) to give rise to a new context. (6) Wallenstein's world systems theory is based on the historical-structural evolution of global capitalism beginning from 16th-century Europe and divides countries into those in the core, semiperiphery, and periphery².

The rise of globalization since the second half of the 20th century has made communities of immigrants increasingly diverse. The United States, in particular, has been increasingly viewed less as a melting pot (of

² Massey et al. Regarding these immigration theories, scholars such as Massey have provided detailed analytical introductions. Taiwan Political Science Journal, Volume 10, Issue 2, 2006, page 212.

immigrants converging on some single identity) and more as a multicultural quilt of coequal ethnic self-identities (Hung, 2016a; Chang, 2018, p. 25).

Studies on Overseas Chinese and Taiwanese Organizations

The development of overseas compatriot associations in North America is closely connected to factors such as the background of Chinese immigrants and the formation of ethnic communities (Hung, 2016b, p. 61). As the overall socioeconomic status of overseas compatriots increased, class divisions and stratification began to form in Chinatowns and diaspora communities. In North America, clans—which cared for the daily needs of Chinese workers such as finding a place for them to stay—occupied the lowest rung of such a socioeconomic hierarchy. Hui guans—formed by different clans from the same district—occupied the middle rung. The six most powerful hui guans—which were formerly known as the Six Companies and were renamed as the Chinese Strived to resolve disputes, protect their members, and defend the well-being of the overseas Chinese community. They also lent money, cared for the sick, built Chinese schools, and helped members send money back to their hometown. The Six Companies served as an informal consulate before the arrival of the Chinese Consulate-General in San Francisco.

Chen noted three main differences between contemporary Taiwanese immigrants and traditional immigrants in Chinatowns. First, Taiwanese immigrants resided in ethnically complex communities that frequently interacted with other communities around them instead of isolating themselves in Chinatowns. Second, the Taiwanese immigrant community was heterogeneous and stratified, whereas traditional Chinese immigrants lived in closed societies. Third, Taiwanese immigrants established voluntary associations that operated independently with a flat hierarchy, unlike the Chinese associations, secret societies, and family associations of Chinese immigrants⁴. Chen mentioned that Taiwanese immigrants were characterized by the large scale of immigration and the high socioeconomic status of the immigrants. Statistics from the Hakka Affairs Council revealed that 32 Hakka associations were in the United States as of 2016 (H. Zhang, Cai, C. Zhang, W. Zhang, & Dai, 2022, pp. 14-29). Xiao et al. conducted a cross-sectional study of North American associations by referencing studies related to Southeast Asian association networks to understand the development of contemporary associations. They further explored the relationships and structures of overseas Taiwanese associations to establish Taiwan as the center of association research and a platform for association networks (Xiao, H. Zhang, & W. Zhang, 2020, pp. 151-153).

Many scholars have researched Taiwanese American associations. Huang (1998) examined how Chinese associations in the United States affected democratization in Taiwan and shaped the overseas compatriot policies of the Taiwanese government. The policies for overseas compatriots in the United States were used as an example to study how Taiwanese society was changed by political factors, and how this in turn affected the interaction between Taiwanese American associations and the Taiwanese government (Huang, 1998). Pan (2008) examined overseas Chinese associations in Thailand and explained how these associations developed and evolved since the mid-19th century. Pan comprehensively reviewed factors such as ethnic relations, associations, ideologies, and policies and systems in the origin and destination countries and explored how

³ Chinese Six Companies are Gangzhou, Hopewell, Zhaoqing, Sanyi, Yanghe, and Renhe in CA.

⁴ Chen, Xiang-shui. Chen Xiang-shui graduated from the Institute of Anthropology at City University of New York in 1990 and completed his doctoral thesis: No Longer Chinatown: The Changing Pattern of Chinese Organizations in Queens, New York City.

these factors affected Thai Chinese associations. Pan (2008) also closely analyzed the development, operation, social function, and history of Thai Chinese associations. Zhou (2021) researched the economic activities and transnational connections of Taiwanese immigrants in California from 1965 to 2015 under globalization. Zhou picked 1965 as the starting point of the research period, which was when the United States revised its immigration law and began to attract Taiwanese immigrants. Zhou examined factors such as globalization, American immigration policy, and pull factors in California and used the ethnic enclave economy model to explain the flow of labor and capital in Taiwanese immigration to California (Zhou, 2021, pp. 97-128).

Immigrants to the United States face discrimination and barriers to economic opportunity, and nativist opposition to immigration is strong. Civil organizations, such as Taiwanese American associations, are highly influential because they fill in institutional gaps from inadequate public-sector coverage and provide public services. Understanding the status and function of Taiwanese American associations in the development and history of American society can improve our understanding of Taiwanese Americans.

Studies on Taiwanese Government Policies Toward Overseas Compatriots in the United States

The three key needs among compatriots in the United States in recent years are financial stability, Chinese language education for children, and community networks and activities (Zhu, Xie, & Hong, 2003). In general, the political, economic, social, and cultural policies of the Taiwanese government center on Taiwanese immigrants in the United States.

Political policies. Both China and Taiwan have competed for overseas compatriots. Since China joined the United Nations and the termination of diplomatic relations between the United States and Taiwan, both China and Taiwan have fought diplomatically, economically, and culturally for the recognition of overseas compatriots, resulting in controversy over the nature of compatriot affairs and the definition of a compatriot. Chang indicated that "we serve any compatriot that identifies with the Republic of China and loves Taiwan" (Liao, 2002, p. 4). Yang also mentioned that "we prioritize any overseas compatriot that identifies with the Republic of China" (Eastern Media International Corp., 2000). The Taiwanese government has defined the overseas compatriots that it serves. The connection between overseas compatriot associations and their right to political participation are handled in accordance with the aforementioned principles.

Economic policies. Since the 1980s, the Taiwanese economy has transitioned from a labor-intensive economy to a technology-intensive economy and from consumer-oriented industries to high value-added industries. As a result, the amount of Taiwanese investment overseas and the number of Taiwanese immigrants both increased, particularly investment and immigration in the United States. The Taiwanese government has proposed a series of policies, such as establishing credit insurance funds to help overseas compatriots obtain financial services, encouraging overseas compatriots to invest in Taiwan, assisting in the development of compatriot business associations, and training compatriot business and trade personnel to promote relationships between Taiwan and the overseas compatriot community (Tang, 2023, pp. 271-275).

Social and cultural policies. As time passed and globalization continued, the Taiwanese government fought for the recognition of overseas compatriots through aspects related to life and education. For example, the government changed compatriot education to Chinese education, hosted or sponsored cultural activities in compatriot communities, invited young people in compatriot communities to visit and study in Taiwan, and provided various types of services for compatriots to improve their daily life (Kuhn, 2008, p. 24).

Conclusion

(1) As the internet, innovative technology, and need-based global economy all grow exponentially, efficiently, and effectively integrating physical and non-physical flows in the supply chain, such as the flow of goods, money, information, business, and people, can rapidly and accurately deliver products and services and bring greater value to customers. Current supply chains are more than linear entities; they are complicated networks that can store and retrieve year-round. The core of these networks is the desire of customers to have their orders fulfilled at the time and by the format they desire. Supply chains have always been affected by global and political events as well as weather and natural events. Only one thing is certain—SCM is always changing.

(2) Without supply chains, homes or workplaces would be empty. Millions of jobs worldwide are closely connected to supply chains. Affordable products, surgical equipment, and vital resources all require supply chains. Although supply chains have become the essence of the global economy, many companies are still managing and maintaining supply chains using procedures and equipment that have been used 50 years ago.

(3) Globalization accelerated the trend of ethnical diversity. As the United States welcomed immigrants worldwide, the perception of the American society for ethnicity and immigration transitioned from the melting pot theory and cultural pluralism to multiculturalism, which placed more emphasis on equal values among ethnicities and ethnic self-identities (Chang, 1998).

(4) Taiwanese immigrants are connected to the formation, development, and history of Taiwanese American associations in Los Angeles. Their organizations, activities, characteristics, and functions should be investigated. Studies have proposed reasons and the social basis for the existence of Taiwanese American associations (Cao, 2000, pp. 445-449), but have mostly ignored political and cultural associations. Future studies can explore the causes that formed these associations and their organization to further understand the history of Taiwanese American associations. Historical sources, studies, statistics, official reports, association publications, theses and dissertations, books, research papers, Chinese and English newspapers, photographs, and images related to Taiwanese Americans in Los Angeles should be collected, compiled, and cataloged to create an archive for the study of Taiwanese Americans along the West Coast of the United States and serve as a reference.

(5) This study reviewed the format and motive of the immigration of Taiwanese Americans in Los Angeles as well as differences in their lifestyle from a macro perspective, and then compared these findings with immigrants in other areas of California to further understand the lifestyles, cultural behaviors, and identities of overseas Taiwanese immigrants. This study can serve as a useful case study and discussion for Taiwanese immigrant studies and reveal the characteristics and trends of Taiwanese immigrants in different regions under globalization (H. Zhang & J. Zhang, 2013).

The phenomena caused by Taiwanese immigrants are one of the key factors in contemporary history, and the contact between different ethnic groups and cultures highlights the complexity of these phenomena. Recent studies have focused on how cross-cultural interactions drive cultural evolution, particularly in cross-cultural commerce. New insights can be gained by comparatively analyzing the activities of Taiwanese immigrants in a global context. International migration and the contact between different cultures are characteristics of globalization and they foretell cultural convergence (Peng, 2023, p.130).

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