Why would ostensible adversaries want to get themselves into deep and even asymmetric economic relations? Rationalist explanations point to the temptation of misrepresentation and the difficulty of making credible commitment as perennial problems in international relations. How can officials tell when their counterparts are sincere or insincere? When words are just "empty talk" and when are actions to be taken as serious reassurance? The talk will discuss relations across the Taiwan Strait in this theoretical context.