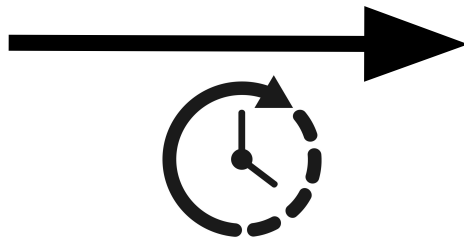




The Political Reform of Taiwan



Introduction

Taiwan, an island nation in East Asia, has experienced much political change throughout the past century.



“Taiwan’s vibrant and competitive democratic system has allowed for regular peaceful transfers of power since 2000, and protections for civil liberties are generally robust.”

–FreedomHouse.org

Taiwan

FREE

94
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	38 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	56 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

94 /100 Free

United States

FREE

83
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	33 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	50 /60

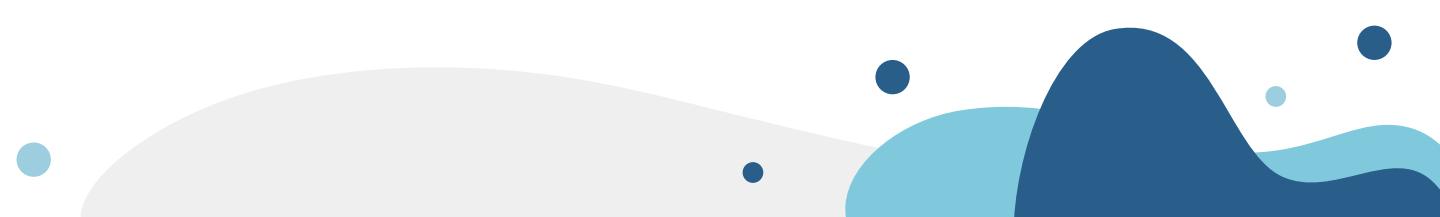
LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

83 /100 Free



Driving Question:

To what extent did the actions and resilience of the Taiwanese people cause political change in Taiwan?





Summary: Stimulus Materials

Long Walk to Freedom

Nelson Mandela

**Themes in IMP: Political change
Resilience against authority**

The Dark Side of Resilience

Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic & Derek Lusk

**Themes in IMP:
Pitfalls of resilience**





01

Contextualization



Transfer of Government

- Shift of power from Japan to Kuomintang (KMT)



Political cartoon: the Taiwanese people and the KMT. The banner says, 'We [KMT] will stand together with the people forever'" (Chiou).

February 28 Incident Start of the “White Terror”



The Horrifying Inspection, Li Jun (1947)

Key Numbers

21,000


Dead after 2/28 Incident +
the end of the White Terror

140,000

Imprisoned

38

Years of Martial Law



“Taiwan’s postcolonial [situation] entails... a nightmare of institutionalized violence... so unsettling that **comparisons to Nazis and Fascists seem accurate.**”

-Stephan J. Hartnett et al
(Hartnett et al.)





Thesis:

Ultimately, the actions and resilience of the Taiwanese people contributed the greatest in shaping the political changes in Taiwan over the past century.



02

Political Change

Impacted greatest by through the actions and
resilience of the people



Pre-KMT rule



Call for political change began during Japanese rule

- Japanese squashed all initial resistance.
- Citizens sought political and economic modernization (Fulda)



KMT rule

Authoritarian regime

- Taiwanese citizens had little voice in elections

National Security Council

- Secret police used surveillance & violence (Maclay)

Maclay and Fulda's claims about political oppression in Japanese vs KMT gov. agree



Tangwai ("outside the KMT party") Movement

**Tangwai Party gained traction with citizens,
challenging the KMT for the first time**

- Won ~30% in local 1976 elections (Chiou)

Citizens Take Action



**Purchasing
Propaganda
Magazines**



**Organizing
Protests**



Voting against KMT



Kaohsiung Incident

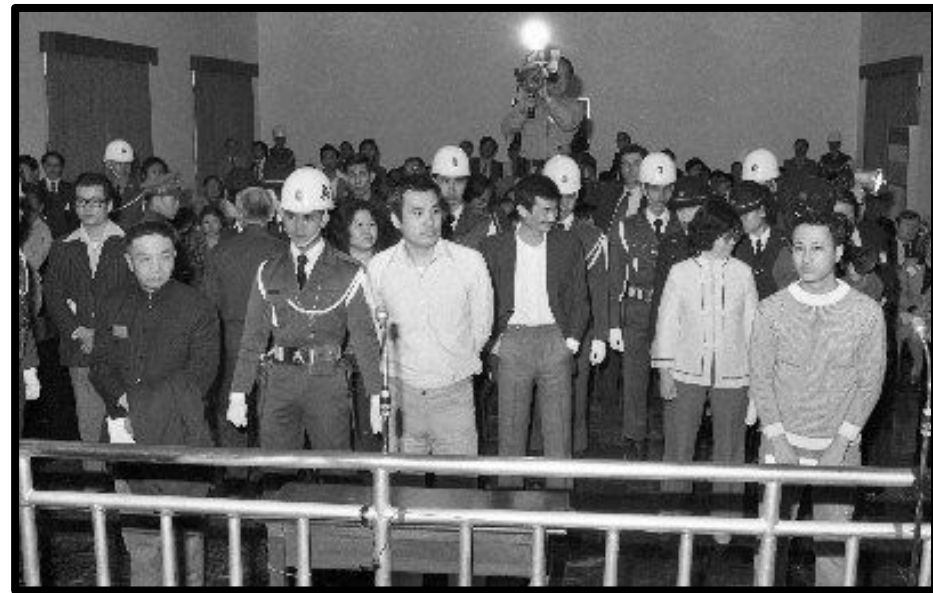
December 10, 1979

Peaceful protest attempt by locals turn into chaos, instigated by KMT police

- Over 150 arrested
- 8 known leaders interrogated and sentenced to prison (Taiwandc).



Violence in the streets,
Kaohsiung Incident



The "Kaohsiung Eight" leaders


Global lens connection



South African Apartheid Movement 1948-1990s

Citizens resisted & protested to change political/social norms

- Demonstrations for freedom turned violent



“Prison is designed to **break one’s spirit** and **destroy one’s resolve**... [But] **together our determination was reinforced**... Whatever we knew... we shared... [this] multiplied whatever courage we had”

–**Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom***
(Mandela)



Perspectives

- –South Africans and Taiwanese leaders shared similar perspectives, experiences, and struggles

- –Citizens of both countries exhibited resilience


Mandela's perspective similar to Taiwanese leaders' perspectives





03

Pitfalls of Resilience



Excess resilience can “**impede**
leadership, organizational, and
team success.”

Resilient people can become “overly
tolerant of adversity.”

-**Chamorro-Premuzic & Lusk,**
Harvard Business Review Magazine
(Chamorro-Premuzic and Lusk)



Intolerance

The LACK of tolerance = citizens taking action

- Certain conditions (like rigged elections) triggered efforts for govt. shift (Diamond)
 - Zhongli Incident: KMT caught rigging local elections, citizens rioted
- Citizens:
 - Became politically active
 - Forced govt. accountability
 - Demanded more rights



Zhongli Incident (1977)

People take action



Popularity

Anti-KMT movement attracted attention

- The Kaohsiung Incident gained worldwide regard
 - Statement pledging support issued by US-based Taiwanese independence groups following Incident (Flishchauer)



04

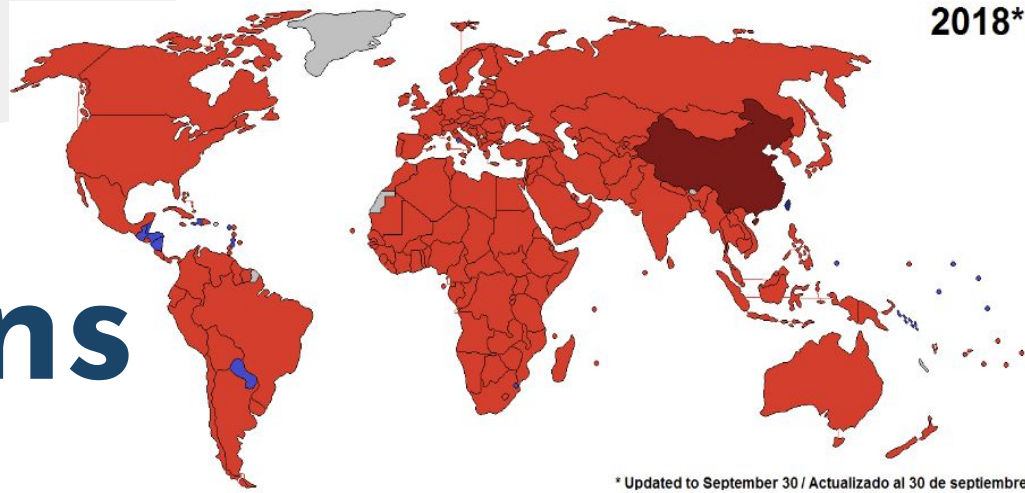
Conclusion



Democratic Reforms

- Martial law lifted in 1987
- Democratization and free elections followed (1996)
- Increase of calls for independent, separate Taiwan from China

Limitations



* Updated to September 30 / Actualizado al 30 de septiembre

■ Countries that do not officially recognize Taiwan ■ Countries that officially recognize Taiwan

- Taiwan's lack of official sovereignty in the UN
- Fragmented relationship with China
- –Uncertain relations with other countries countries



Implications

- Continual development and evolution of government systems
- Resilience = eventual change
- Hope for our world through people-led transformation of both politics AND society

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