[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Stack begin](/wiki/Template:Stack_begin) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Stack end](/wiki/Template:Stack_end)

**Taiwan** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)), officially the **Republic of China** (**ROC**), is a state in [East Asia](/wiki/East_Asia). Neighboring states include the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) to the west, [Japan](/wiki/Japan) to the northeast, and the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) to the south. Taiwan is the most populous non-[UN](/wiki/United_Nations) state and the largest economy outside of the UN.

The island of Taiwan was mainly inhabited by [Taiwanese aborigines](/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines) before [Han Chinese](/wiki/Han_Chinese) began immigrating to the island in the 17th century. European settlements and the [Kingdom of Tungning](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Tungning) were established shortly before [China](/wiki/Qing_dynasty) annexed the island. Taiwan was later ceded to [Japan](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) in 1895 after China was defeated in [war](/wiki/First_Sino-Japanese_War). While Taiwan was under Japanese rule, the [Republic of China](/wiki/Republic_of_China_(1912–49)) (ROC) was established on the [mainland](/wiki/Mainland_China) in 1912. After [Japan's surrender](/wiki/Japan's_surrender) in 1945, the ROC took governance of Taiwan. However, the ROC lost control of the mainland to the [Communists](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China) during the [Chinese Civil War](/wiki/Chinese_Civil_War). In 1949, the [Communist Party of China](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China) took full control of the mainland and founded the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) (PRC). The ROC government fled to Taiwan, but has since continued to claim to be the legitimate government of all of China. Effective ROC jurisdiction has been limited to [Taiwan and its surrounding islands](/wiki/Free_area_of_the_Republic_of_China), with the main island making up 99% of its [*de facto*](/wiki/De_facto) territory. The ROC continued to represent [China at the United Nations](/wiki/China_and_the_United_Nations) until 1971, when the PRC assumed China's seat via [Resolution 2758](/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_2758), causing the ROC to lose its UN membership. [International recognition](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) of the ROC gradually eroded as most countries switched their "China" recognition to the PRC. [Template:Numrec](/wiki/Template:Numrec) and the [Holy See](/wiki/Holy_See) currently maintain official [diplomatic relations](/wiki/Diplomatic_relations) with the ROC. However, numerous other states maintain unofficial ties through [representative offices](/wiki/Taipei_Economic_and_Cultural_Representative_Office) via institutions that function as [*de facto* embassies](/wiki/De_facto_embassy) and consulates. Afterwards, due to the [One-China policy](/wiki/One-China_policy), diplomats around the world avoid mentioning the Republic of China's official name and instead use "Taiwan", the name of [the island](/wiki/Geography_of_Taiwan) the ROC is currently based in, to refer to the ROC. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan transitioned from a military dictatorship with a [one party system](/wiki/One_party_system) of governance dominated by the [Kuomintang](/wiki/Kuomintang) to a [multi-party system](/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_the_Republic_of_China) with [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage).

Taiwan maintains a [stable industrial economy](/wiki/Developed_country) as a result of rapid economic growth and [industrialization](/wiki/Industrialization), which has been dubbed the [Taiwan Miracle](/wiki/Taiwan_Miracle). Taiwan is one of the [Four Asian Tigers](/wiki/Four_Asian_Tigers) and a member of the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) and [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation). The [21st-largest economy](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) in the world, its [high-tech](/wiki/High-tech) industry plays a key role in the global economy. Taiwan is [ranked highly](/wiki/International_rankings_of_Taiwan) in terms of [freedom of the press](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press), health care,[[1]](#cite_note-1) public education, economic freedom, and human development.[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) The complications of Taiwan's history since 1945 have created a number of practical issues for its people. Key among these are the exact nature of Taiwanese national identity, the ambiguous international [political status of Taiwan](/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan), and the difficult [cross-strait relations](/wiki/Cross-Strait_relations). In Taiwan, these issues generate debate among political parties and candidates. Though the ROC renounced in 1992 the conquest of PRC-controlled territories as a national goal,[[4]](#cite_note-4) there is still dispute over whether the constitution still claims sovereignty over all of the ROC's [pre-1949 territories](/wiki/Republic_of_China_(1912–49)), including [Outer Mongolia](/wiki/Outer_Mongolia) and the entirety of the present PRC.[[5]](#cite_note-5) In practical terms, settlement of questions such as whether the ROC identifies more as "Taiwan" or "China", and what the exact nature of its identity is relative to the PRC (whether [international](/wiki/International_relations) or domestic), rests with the [political coalition](/wiki/Political_alliance) most recently elected. Meanwhile, the PRC continues to assert the One China policy, in which it is sole legal government of "China" and that Taiwan is [a province of China](/wiki/Taiwan_Province,_People's_Republic_of_China). As a result, the ROC is not recognised as a sovereign state by most countries and is not a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations). The PRC has threatened the use of military force as a response to any formal declaration by Taiwan of [national independence](/wiki/Taiwan_independence) or to any decision by PRC leaders that peaceful [Chinese unification](/wiki/Chinese_unification) is no longer possible.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

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## Names{{Anchor|Etymology}}[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Infobox Chinese](/wiki/Template:Infobox_Chinese) There are various names for the island of Taiwan in use today, derived from explorers or rulers by each particular period. The former name Formosa ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) dates from 1542,[Template:Check](/wiki/Template:Check) when [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) sailors sighted the main island of Taiwan and named it *Ilha Formosa*, which means "beautiful island".[[7]](#cite_note-7) The name "Formosa" eventually "replaced all others in European literature"[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) and was in common use in English in the early 20th century.[[8]](#cite_note-8) In the early 17th century, the [Dutch East India Company](/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) established a commercial post at [Fort Zeelandia](/wiki/Fort_Zeelandia_(Taiwan)) (modern-day [Anping](/wiki/Anping_District), [Tainan](/wiki/Tainan)) on a coastal sandbar they called "Tayouan".[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) This name was also adopted into the Chinese vernacular (in particular, [Hokkien](/wiki/Hokkien), as [Template:Zh](/wiki/Template:Zh)) as the name of the sandbar and nearby area ([Tainan](/wiki/Tainan)). The modern word "Taiwan" is derived from this usage, which is seen in various forms ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) and [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) in Chinese historical records. The area of modern-day Tainan was the first permanent settlement by Western colonists and Chinese immigrants, grew to be the most important trading center, and served as the capital of the island until 1887. Use of the current Chinese name ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) was formalized as early as 1684 with the establishment of [Taiwan Prefecture](/wiki/Taiwan_Prefecture). Through its rapid development, the entire Formosan mainland eventually became known as "Taiwan".[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) The official name of the [state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) is the "*Republic of China*"; it has also been known under various names throughout its existence. Shortly after the ROC's establishment in 1912, while it was still located on the Asian mainland, the government used the abbreviation "China" ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)) to refer to itself. During the 1950s and 1960s, after the government had fled to Taiwan due to losing the [Chinese Civil War](/wiki/Chinese_Civil_War), it was commonly referred to as "Nationalist China" (or "[Free China](/wiki/Free_area_of_the_Republic_of_China)") to differentiate it from "Communist China" (or "[Red China](/wiki/China)").[[13]](#cite_note-13) It was a member of the UN representing "*China*" until 1971, when it [lost its seat](/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_2758) to the People's Republic of China. Over subsequent decades, the Republic of China has become commonly known as "Taiwan", after the island that composes most of its controlled territory. This is the main reason for the confusing and completely different names. In some contexts, especially official ones from the ROC government, the name is written as "Republic of China (Taiwan)", "Republic of China/Taiwan", or sometimes "Taiwan (ROC)."[[14]](#cite_note-14) The Republic of China participates in most international forums and organizations under the name "[Chinese Taipei](/wiki/Chinese_Taipei)" due to diplomatic pressure from the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China). For instance, it is the name under which it has [competed at the Olympic Games since 1984](/wiki/Chinese_Taipei_at_the_1984_Summer_Olympics), and its name as an observer at the [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization).[[15]](#cite_note-15)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Prehistoric Taiwan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|upright|A young](/wiki/File:Tsou_youth_of_Taiwan_(pre-1945).jpg) [Tsou](/wiki/Tsou_people) man Taiwan was joined to the mainland in the [Late Pleistocene](/wiki/Late_Pleistocene), until [sea levels](/wiki/Sea_level) rose about 10,000 years ago. Fragmentary human remains have been found on the island, dated 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, as well as later artifacts of a [Paleolithic](/wiki/Paleolithic) culture.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) More than 8,000 years ago, Austronesians first settled on Taiwan.[Template:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The languages of their descendants, who are known as the [Taiwanese aborigines](/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines) nowadays, belong to the [Austronesian language family](/wiki/Austronesian_language_family), which also includes the [Malayo-Polynesian languages](/wiki/Malayo-Polynesian_languages) spanning a huge area, including the entire [Maritime Southeast Asia](/wiki/Maritime_Southeast_Asia) (i.e., [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language) of the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), [Malay](/wiki/Malay_language) and [Indonesian](/wiki/Indonesian_language) of [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) and [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), or the [Javanese](/wiki/Javanese_language) of [Java](/wiki/Java)), the [Pacific](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean) and [Indian Ocean](/wiki/Indian_Ocean): westernmost to the [Malagasies](/wiki/Malagasy_language) of [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar) and easternmost to the [Rapa Nui](/wiki/Rapa_Nui_people) people of [Easter Island](/wiki/Easter_Island). The aboriginal languages on Taiwan show much greater diversity than the rest of Austronesian put together, leading linguists to propose Taiwan as the [Urheimat](/wiki/Urheimat) of the family, from which seafaring peoples dispersed across Southeast Asia and the Pacific and Indian Oceans.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20)[Template:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

[Han Chinese](/wiki/Han_Chinese) began settling in the [Penghu](/wiki/Penghu) islands in the 13th century, but Taiwan's hostile tribes and its lack of trade resources valued in that era rendered it unattractive to all but "occasional adventurers or fishermen engaging in barter" until the 16th century.[[21]](#cite_note-21)

### Opening in the 17th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [left|thumb|Overview of](/wiki/File:Zeelandia_from_Dutch.jpg) [Fort Zeelandia](/wiki/Fort_Zeelandia_(Taiwan)), painted around 1635 The [Dutch East India Company](/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) attempted to establish a trading outpost on the [Penghu](/wiki/Penghu) Islands (Pescadores) in 1622, but were [militarily defeated and driven off by the Ming authorities](/wiki/Sino–Dutch_conflicts).[[22]](#cite_note-22) In 1624, the company established a stronghold called [Fort Zeelandia](/wiki/Fort_Zeelandia_(Taiwan)) on the coastal islet of Tayouan, which is now part of the main island at [Anping, Tainan](/wiki/Anping,_Tainan).[[12]](#cite_note-12)David Wright, a Scottish agent of the company who lived on the island in the 1650s, described the lowland areas of the island as being divided among 11 [chiefdoms](/wiki/Chiefdom) ranging in size from two settlements to 72. Some of these fell under Dutch control, while others remained independent.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[23]](#cite_note-23) The Company began to import laborers from [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian) and [Penghu](/wiki/Penghu) (Pescadores), many of whom settled.[[22]](#cite_note-22) In 1626, the [Spanish Empire](/wiki/Spanish_Empire) landed on and occupied northern Taiwan, at the ports of [Keelung](/wiki/Keelung) and [Tamsui](/wiki/Tamsui), as a base to extend their trading. This colonial period lasted 16 years until 1642, when the last Spanish fortress fell to Dutch forces.

Following the fall of the [Ming dynasty](/wiki/Ming_dynasty), [Koxinga](/wiki/Koxinga) (Zheng Chenggong), a self-styled Ming loyalist, arrived on the island and captured Fort Zeelandia in 1662, expelling the [Dutch Empire](/wiki/Dutch_Empire) and military from the island. Koxinga established the [Kingdom of Tungning](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Tungning) (1662–1683), with his capital at [Tainan](/wiki/Tainan). He and his heirs, [Zheng Jing](/wiki/Zheng_Jing), who ruled from 1662 to 1682, and [Zheng Keshuang](/wiki/Zheng_Keshuang), who ruled less than a year, continued to launch raids on the southeast coast of mainland China well into the [Qing dynasty](/wiki/Qing_dynasty) era.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

### Qing rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|Hunting deer, painted in 1746](/wiki/File:Taiwanese_aboriginese_deerhunt1.png) In 1683, following the defeat of Koxinga's grandson by an armada led by Admiral [Shi Lang](/wiki/Shi_Lang) of southern Fujian, the [Qing dynasty](/wiki/Qing_dynasty) formally annexed Taiwan, placing it under the jurisdiction of Fujian province. The Qing imperial government tried to reduce piracy and vagrancy in the area, issuing a series of edicts to manage immigration and respect aboriginal land rights. Immigrants mostly from southern Fujian continued to enter Taiwan. The border between taxpaying lands and "savage" lands shifted eastward, with some aborigines becoming [sinicized](/wiki/Sinicized) while others retreated into the mountains. During this time, there were a number of conflicts between groups of [Han Chinese](/wiki/Han_Chinese) from different regions of southern Fujian, particularly between those from [Quanzhou](/wiki/Quanzhou) and [Zhangzhou](/wiki/Zhangzhou), and between southern Fujian Chinese and aborigines.

Northern Taiwan and the Penghu Islands were the scene of subsidiary campaigns in the [Sino-French War](/wiki/Sino-French_War) (August 1884 to April 1885). The French occupied Keelung on 1 October 1884, but were [repulsed from Tamsui](/wiki/Battle_of_Tamsui) a few days later. The French won some tactical victories but were unable to exploit them, and the [Keelung Campaign](/wiki/Keelung_Campaign) ended in stalemate. The [Pescadores Campaign](/wiki/Pescadores_Campaign), beginning on 31 March 1885, was a French victory, but had no long-term consequences. The French evacuated both Keelung and the Penghu archipelago after the end of the war.

In 1887, the Qing upgraded the island's administration from [Taiwan Prefecture](/wiki/Taiwan_Prefecture) of [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian) to [Fujian-Taiwan-Province](/wiki/Taiwan_Province#History) ([福建臺灣省](/wiki/Zh:福建臺灣省)), the twentieth in the empire, with its capital at [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei). This was accompanied by a modernization drive that included building China's first railroad.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

### Japanese rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Japanese colonial soldiers march Taiwanese captured after the](/wiki/File:Xilaian_Incident.jpg) [Tapani Incident](/wiki/Tapani_Incident) from the [Tainan](/wiki/Tainan) jail to court, 1915. As the Qing dynasty was defeated in the [First Sino-Japanese War](/wiki/First_Sino-Japanese_War) (1894–1895), Taiwan, along with [Penghu](/wiki/Penghu) and [Liaodong Peninsula](/wiki/Liaodong_Peninsula), were ceded in full sovereignty to the [Empire of Japan](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) by the [Treaty of Shimonoseki](/wiki/Treaty_of_Shimonoseki). Inhabitants on Taiwan and Penghu wishing to remain Qing subjects were given a two-year grace period to sell their property and move to mainland China. Very few Taiwanese saw this as feasible.[[24]](#cite_note-24) On 25 May 1895, a group of pro-Qing high officials proclaimed the [Republic of Formosa](/wiki/Republic_of_Formosa) to resist impending Japanese rule. Japanese forces entered the capital at Tainan and quelled this resistance on 21 October 1895.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Guerrilla fighting continued periodically until about 1902 and ultimately took the lives of 14,000 Taiwanese, or 0.5% of the population.<ref name = msu>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Several subsequent rebellions against the Japanese (the [Beipu Uprising](/wiki/Beipu_Uprising) of 1907, the [Tapani Incident](/wiki/Tapani_Incident) of 1915, and the [Wushe Incident](/wiki/Wushe_Incident) of 1930) were all unsuccessful but demonstrated opposition to Japanese [colonial](/wiki/Colonialism) rule.

[thumb|right|General](/wiki/File:Ando_Rikichi_surrender.jpg) [Chen Yi](/wiki/Chen_Yi_(Kuomintang)) (right) accepting the [surrender](/wiki/Japanese_Instrument_of_Surrender) of General [Rikichi Andō](/wiki/Rikichi_Andō) (left), the last Japanese Governor-General of Taiwan, in [Zhongshan Hall](/wiki/Zhongshan_Hall).

[Japanese colonial](/wiki/Taiwan_under_Japanese_rule) rule was instrumental in the industrialization of the island, extending the railroads and other transportation networks, building an extensive sanitation system, and establishing a formal [education system](/wiki/Education_in_Taiwan).[[26]](#cite_note-26) Japanese rule ended the practice of [headhunting](/wiki/Headhunting).[[27]](#cite_note-27) During this period the human and natural resources of Taiwan were used to aid the development of Japan and the production of [cash crops](/wiki/Cash_crop) such as rice and sugar greatly increased. By 1939, Taiwan was the seventh greatest sugar producer in the world.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Still, the Taiwanese and aborigines were classified as second- and third-class citizens. After suppressing Chinese guerrillas in the first decade of their rule, Japanese authorities engaged in a series of bloody campaigns against the mountain aboriginals, culminating in the [Wushe Incident](/wiki/Wushe_Incident) of 1930.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Around 1935, the Japanese began an island-wide [assimilation project](/wiki/Japanization) to bind the island more firmly to the Japanese Empire and people were taught to see themselves as Japanese under the Kominka Movement, during which time Taiwanese culture and religion were outlawed and the citizens were encouraged to adopt [Japanese surnames](/wiki/Japanese_surname).[[30]](#cite_note-30) During World War II, tens of thousands of Taiwanese served in the Japanese military.[[31]](#cite_note-31) For example, former ROC President [Lee Teng-hui's](/wiki/Lee_Teng-hui) elder brother served in the Japanese navy and died while on duty in the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) in February 1945. The [Imperial Japanese Navy](/wiki/Imperial_Japanese_Navy) operated heavily out of Taiwanese ports. The "[South Strike Group](/wiki/The_Japanese_Navy_Taiwan_and_South_Pacific_Mandate_political_project)" was based at the [Taihoku Imperial University](/wiki/Taihoku_Imperial_University) in Taipei. Many of the Japanese forces participating in the [Aerial Battle of Taiwan-Okinawa](/wiki/Aerial_Battle_of_Taiwan-Okinawa) were based in Taiwan. Important Japanese military bases and industrial centers throughout Taiwan, like Kaohsiung, were targets of heavy [American bombings](/wiki/Raid_on_Taipei).[[32]](#cite_note-32) Also during this time, over 2,000 women were forced into sexual slavery for Imperial Japanese troops, now euphemistically called "[comfort women](/wiki/Comfort_women)."[[33]](#cite_note-33) In 1938, there were 309,000 [Japanese settlers](/wiki/Japanese_people) in Taiwan.[[34]](#cite_note-34) After World War II, most of the Japanese were [expelled and sent to Japan](/wiki/World_War_II_evacuation_and_expulsion).[[35]](#cite_note-35)

### After World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|220px|Republic of China troops celebrating](/wiki/File:19451025_中國戰區臺灣省受降典禮後_臺灣省警備總司令部全體官兵合影.jpg) [Taiwan's retrocession](/wiki/Retrocession_Day) at [Zhongshan Hall](/wiki/Zhongshan_Hall), 1945. However, the said retrocession has been questioned in the light of [international law](/wiki/International_law).[[36]](#cite_note-36) On 25 October 1945, the [U.S. Navy](/wiki/U.S._Navy) ferried ROC troops who were on behalf of the [Allied Powers](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) to Taiwan in order to accept the formal surrender of Japanese military forces in [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei), as part of [General Order No. 1](/wiki/General_Order_No._1) for temporary [military occupation](/wiki/Military_occupation). General [Rikichi Andō](/wiki/Rikichi_Andō), governor-general of Taiwan and commander-in-chief of all Japanese forces on the island, signed the receipt and handed it over to General [Chen Yi](/wiki/Chen_Yi_(Kuomintang)) of the ROC military to complete the official turnover. Chen Yi proclaimed that day to be "[Taiwan Retrocession Day](/wiki/Retrocession_Day)", but the [Allies](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) considered Taiwan and the Penghu Islands to be under military occupation and still under Japanese sovereignty until 1952, when the [Treaty of San Francisco](/wiki/Treaty_of_San_Francisco) took effect.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) The ROC administration of Taiwan under [Chen Yi](/wiki/Chen_Yi_(Kuomintang)) was strained by increasing tensions between Taiwanese-born people and newly arrived mainlanders, which were compounded by economic woes, such as [hyperinflation](/wiki/Hyperinflation). Furthermore, cultural and linguistic conflicts between the two groups quickly led to the loss of popular support for the new government.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The shooting of a civilian on 28 February 1947 triggered island-wide unrest, which was suppressed with military force in what is now called the [February 28 Incident](/wiki/February_28_Incident). Mainstream estimates of the number killed range from 18,000 to 30,000. Those killed were mainly members of the Taiwanese elite.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41)

### Chinese Nationalist one-party rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:For](/wiki/Template:For)

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Chiang_Kai-shek_in_full_uniform.jpeg)[Chiang Kai-shek](/wiki/Chiang_Kai-shek), leader of the [Kuomintang](/wiki/Kuomintang) from 1925 until his death in 1975|alt=A Chinese man in military uniform, smiling and looking towards the left. He holds a sword in his left hand and has a medal in shape of a sun on his chest.

After the end of World War II, the Chinese Civil War resumed between the Chinese Nationalists ([Kuomintang](/wiki/Kuomintang)), led by [Chiang Kai-shek](/wiki/Chiang_Kai-shek), and the [Communist Party of China](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China), led by [Mao Zedong](/wiki/Mao_Zedong). By 1949, a series of Chinese Communist offensives led to the defeat of the Nationalist army, and the Communists founded the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) on 1 October.[[42]](#cite_note-42) In December 1949, Chiang evacuated his government to Taiwan and made Taipei the [temporary capital](/wiki/Temporary_capital) of the ROC (also called the "wartime capital" by Chiang Kai-shek).[[43]](#cite_note-43) Some 2 million people, consisting mainly of soldiers, members of the ruling Kuomintang and intellectual and business elites, were evacuated from mainland China to Taiwan at that time, adding to the earlier population of approximately six million. In addition, the ROC government took to Taipei many national treasures and much of China's [gold reserves](/wiki/Gold_reserves) and foreign currency reserves.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) From this point onwards, the Kuomintang was reduced to control of Taiwan, [Kinmen](/wiki/Kinmen), [Matsu Islands](/wiki/Matsu_Islands), and two major islands of [Dongsha Islands](/wiki/Dongsha_Islands) and [Nansha Islands](/wiki/Nansha_Islands). The Kuomintang continued to claim sovereignty over all "China", which it defined to include [mainland China](/wiki/Mainland_China), Taiwan, [Outer Mongolia](/wiki/Outer_Mongolia) and [other areas](/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_the_Republic_of_China). On mainland China, the victorious Communists claimed they ruled the sole and only China (which they claimed included Taiwan) and that the Republic of China no longer existed.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Martial law, declared on Taiwan in May 1949,[[48]](#cite_note-48) continued to be in effect after the central government relocated to Taiwan. It was not repealed until 1987,[[48]](#cite_note-48) and was used as a way to suppress the political opposition in the intervening years.[[49]](#cite_note-49) During the [White Terror](/wiki/White_Terror_(Taiwan)), as the period is known, 140,000 people were imprisoned or executed for being perceived as anti-KMT or pro-Communist.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Many citizens were arrested, tortured, imprisoned and executed for their real or perceived link to the Communists. Since these people were mainly from the intellectual and social elite, an entire generation of political and social leaders was decimated. In 1998 law was passed to create the "Compensation Foundation for Improper Verdicts" which oversaw compensation to White Terror victims and families. President Ma Ying-jeou made an official apology in 2008, expressing hope that there will never be a tragedy similar to White Terror.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Initially, the United States abandoned the KMT and expected that Taiwan would fall to the Communists. However, in 1950 the conflict between [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea) and [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea), which had been ongoing since the Japanese withdrawal in 1945, escalated into full-blown war, and in the context of the Cold War, US President [Harry S. Truman](/wiki/Harry_S._Truman) intervened again and [dispatched the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet](/wiki/First_Taiwan_Strait_Crisis) into the [Taiwan Strait](/wiki/Taiwan_Strait) to prevent hostilities between Taiwan and mainland China.<ref name=1950-US-DoD>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> In the [Treaty of San Francisco](/wiki/Treaty_of_San_Francisco) and the [Treaty of Taipei](/wiki/Treaty_of_Taipei), which came into force respectively on 28 April 1952 and 5 August 1952, Japan formally renounced all right, claim and title to Taiwan and Penghu, and renounced all treaties signed with China before 1942. Neither treaty specified to whom sovereignty over the islands should be transferred, because the [United States](/wiki/United_States) and the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) disagreed on whether the ROC or the PRC was the legitimate government of China.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Continuing conflict of the Chinese Civil War through the 1950s, and intervention by the United States notably resulted in legislation such as the [Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty](/wiki/Sino-American_Mutual_Defense_Treaty) and the [Formosa Resolution of 1955](/wiki/Formosa_Resolution_of_1955).

[thumb|With President Chiang Kai-shek, the U.S. President](/wiki/File:U.S._President_Eisenhower_visited_TAIWAN_美國總統艾森豪於1960年6月訪問臺灣台北時與蔣中正總統-2.jpg) [Dwight D. Eisenhower](/wiki/Dwight_D._Eisenhower) waved to crowds during his visit to [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei) in June 1960. As the Chinese Civil War continued without truce, the government built up military fortifications throughout Taiwan. Within this effort, KMT veterans built the now famous [Central Cross-Island Highway](/wiki/Central_Cross-Island_Highway) through the [Taroko Gorge](/wiki/Taroko_Gorge) in the 1950s. The two sides would continue to engage in sporadic military clashes with seldom publicized details well into the 1960s on the China coastal islands with an unknown number of [night raids](/wiki/Project_National_Glory). During the [Second Taiwan Strait Crisis](/wiki/Second_Taiwan_Strait_Crisis) in September 1958, Taiwan's landscape saw [Nike-Hercules missile](/wiki/Nike-Hercules_missile) batteries added, with the formation of the 1st Missile Battalion Chinese Army that would not be deactivated until 1997. Newer generations of missile batteries have since replaced the Nike Hercules systems throughout the island.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the ROC maintained an authoritarian, single-party government while its economy became industrialized and technology oriented. This rapid economic growth, known as the [Taiwan Miracle](/wiki/Taiwan_Miracle), was the result of a fiscal regime independent from mainland China and backed up, among others, by the support of US funds and demand for Taiwanese products.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) In the 1970s, Taiwan was economically the second fastest growing state in Asia after Japan.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Taiwan, along with Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore, became known as one of the [Four Asian Tigers](/wiki/Four_Asian_Tigers). Because of the Cold War, most Western nations and the United Nations regarded the ROC as the sole legitimate government of China until the 1970s. Later, especially after the termination of the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, most nations switched [diplomatic recognition](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) to the PRC (see [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758](/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_2758)).

Up until the 1970s, the government was regarded by Western critics as undemocratic for upholding [martial law](/wiki/Martial_law), for severely repressing any political opposition and for controlling media. The KMT did not allow the creation of new parties and those that existed did not seriously compete with the KMT. Thus, competitive democratic elections did not exist.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[Template:SfnpTemplate:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)[[57]](#cite_note-57) From the late 1970s to the 1990s, however, Taiwan went through reforms and social changes that transformed it from an authoritarian state to a democracy. In 1979, a pro-democracy protest known as the [Kaohsiung Incident](/wiki/Kaohsiung_Incident) took place in [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung) to celebrate [Human Rights Day](/wiki/Human_Rights_Day). Although the protest was rapidly crushed by the authorities, it is today considered as the main event that united Taiwan's opposition.[[58]](#cite_note-58)

### Democratization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Chiang Ching-kuo](/wiki/Chiang_Ching-kuo), [Chiang Kai-shek's](/wiki/Chiang_Kai-shek) son and successor as the president, began to liberalize the political system in the mid-1980s. In 1984, the younger Chiang selected [Lee Teng-hui](/wiki/Lee_Teng-hui), a Taiwanese-born, U.S.-educated technocrat, to be his vice president. In 1986, the [Democratic Progressive Party](/wiki/Democratic_Progressive_Party) (DPP) was formed and inaugurated as the first opposition party in the ROC to counter the KMT. A year later, Chiang Ching-kuo lifted martial law on the main island of Taiwan (martial law was lifted on Penghu in 1979, Matsu island in 1992 and Kinmen island in 1993). With the advent of democratization, the issue of the [political status of Taiwan](/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan) gradually resurfaced as a controversial issue where, previously, the discussion of anything other than unification under the ROC was [taboo](/wiki/Taboo).

After the death of Chiang Ching-kuo in January 1988, Lee Teng-hui succeeded him as president. Lee continued to democratize the government and decrease the concentration of government authority in the hands of mainland Chinese. Under Lee, Taiwan underwent a process of [localization](/wiki/Taiwanese_localization_movement) in which Taiwanese culture and history were promoted over a pan-China viewpoint in contrast to earlier KMT policies which had promoted a Chinese identity. Lee's reforms included printing banknotes from the Central Bank rather than the Provincial Bank of Taiwan, and streamlining the [Taiwan Provincial Government](/wiki/Taiwan_Province) with most of its functions transferred to the [Executive Yuan](/wiki/Executive_Yuan). Under Lee, the original members of the [Legislative Yuan](/wiki/Legislative_Yuan) and [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_the_Republic_of_China), elected in 1947 to represent mainland Chinese constituencies and having held the seats without re-election for more than four decades, were forced to resign in 1991. The previously nominal representation in the Legislative Yuan was brought to an end, reflecting the reality that the ROC had no jurisdiction over mainland China, and vice versa. Restrictions on the use of [Taiwanese Hokkien](/wiki/Taiwanese_Hokkien) in the broadcast media and in schools were also lifted.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Democratic reforms continued in the 1990s, with Lee Teng-hui re-elected in 1996, in the first direct presidential election in the history of the ROC.[[59]](#cite_note-59) During the later years of Lee's administration, he was involved in corruption controversies relating to government release of land and weapons purchase, although no legal proceedings commenced. In 2000, [Chen Shui-bian](/wiki/Chen_Shui-bian) of the [Democratic Progressive Party](/wiki/Democratic_Progressive_Party) was elected as the first non-Kuomintang (KMT) President and was re-elected to serve his second and last term since 2004. Polarized politics has emerged in Taiwan with the formation of the [Pan-Blue Coalition](/wiki/Pan-Blue_Coalition) of parties led by the KMT, favoring eventual [Chinese reunification](/wiki/Chinese_unification), and the [Pan-Green Coalition](/wiki/Pan-Green_Coalition) of parties led by the DPP, favoring an eventual and official declaration of [Taiwanese independence](/wiki/Taiwanese_independence).[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn)[Template:Clarification needed](/wiki/Template:Clarification_needed)

On 30 September 2007, the ruling DPP approved a [resolution](/wiki/Resolution_(law)) asserting a separate identity from China and called for the enactment of a new [constitution](/wiki/Constitution) for a "normal country". It also called for general use of "Taiwan" as the country's name, without abolishing its formal name, the Republic of China.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The Chen administration also pushed for referendums on national defense and UN entry in the 2004 and 2008 elections, which failed due to voter turnout below the required legal threshold of 50% of all registered voters.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The Chen administration was dogged by public concerns over reduced economic growth, legislative gridlock due to a pan-blue, opposition-controlled Legislative Yuan and corruption involving the First Family as well as government officials.[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) The KMT increased its majority in the Legislative Yuan in the [January 2008 legislative elections](/wiki/Republic_of_China_legislative_election,_2008), while its nominee [Ma Ying-jeou](/wiki/Ma_Ying-jeou) went on to [win the presidency](/wiki/Republic_of_China_presidential_election,_2008) in March of the same year, campaigning on a platform of increased economic growth and better ties with the PRC under a policy of "[mutual nondenial](/wiki/Special_non-state-to-state_relations)".[[61]](#cite_note-61) Ma took office on 20 May 2008, the same day that President Chen Shui-bian stepped down and was notified by prosecutors of [possible corruption charges](/wiki/Chen_Shui-bian_corruption_charges). Part of the rationale for campaigning for closer economic ties with the PRC stems from the strong economic growth China attained since joining the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization). However, some analysts say that despite the election of Ma Ying-jeou, the diplomatic and military tensions with the PRC have not been reduced.[[64]](#cite_note-64)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|(video) Looking down at](/wiki/File:Taiwan-fromair_Dec2013.ogv) [Taoyuan](/wiki/Taoyuan_City) from the air. [thumb|right|upright|Taiwan is mostly mountainous in the east, with gently sloping plains in the west. The](/wiki/File:Taiwan_NASA_Terra_MODIS_23791.jpg) [Penghu Islands](/wiki/Penghu_Islands) are west of the main island.

The total area of the [current jurisdiction of the Republic of China](/wiki/Free_area_of_the_Republic_of_China) is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[65]](#cite_note-65) making it the world's [137th-largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) country/dependency, smaller than [Switzerland](/wiki/Switzerland) and larger than [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium).

The island of Taiwan lies some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) off the southeastern coast of mainland China, which lies across the [Taiwan Strait](/wiki/Taiwan_Strait), and has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[65]](#cite_note-65) The [East China Sea](/wiki/East_China_Sea) lies to the north, the [Philippine Sea](/wiki/Philippine_Sea) to the east, the [Bashi Channel](/wiki/Bashi_Channel) of the [Luzon Strait](/wiki/Luzon_Strait) directly to the south, and the [South China Sea](/wiki/South_China_Sea) to the southwest. All are [arms](/wiki/Arm_(geography)) of the [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean). The shape of the main island of Taiwan is similar to a [sweet potato](/wiki/Sweet_potato) or [tobacco leaf](/wiki/Tobacco_leaf) seen in a south-to-north direction, and therefore, Taiwanese (especially [Min Nan](/wiki/Min_Nan) speakers) often call themselves "children of the Sweet Potato."[[66]](#cite_note-66) The island is characterized by the contrast between the eastern two-thirds, consisting mostly of rugged mountains running in five ranges from the northern to the southern tip of the island, and the flat to gently rolling [Chianan Plains](/wiki/Chianan_Plain) in the west that are also home to most of Taiwan's population. Taiwan's highest point is [Yu Shan](/wiki/Yushan_(mountain)) (Jade Mountain) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert);[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) Taiwan is the world's [fourth-highest island](/wiki/List_of_islands_by_highest_point).

The [Penghu Islands](/wiki/Penghu_Islands), [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) west of the main island, have an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). More distant islands controlled by the Republic of China are the [Kinmen](/wiki/Kinmen), [Wuchiu](/wiki/Wuchiu) and [Matsu Islands](/wiki/Matsu_Islands) off the coast of [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian), with a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and the [Pratas Islands](/wiki/Pratas_Islands) and [Taiping Island](/wiki/Taiping_Island) in the South China Sea, with a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and no permanent inhabitants.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Taiwan lies on the [Tropic of Cancer](/wiki/Tropic_of_Cancer), and its general [climate](/wiki/Climate) is marine [tropical](/wiki/Tropical_climate).[[67]](#cite_note-67) The northern and central regions are subtropical, whereas the south is tropical and the mountainous regions are temperate.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The average rainfall is 2,600 mm per year for the island proper; the [rainy season](/wiki/East_Asian_rainy_season) is concurrent with the onset of the summer [East Asian Monsoon](/wiki/East_Asian_Monsoon) in May and June.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The entire island experiences hot, humid weather from June through September. [Typhoons](/wiki/Typhoon) are most common in July, August and September.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) During the winter (November to March), the northeast experiences steady rain, while the central and southern parts of the island are mostly sunny.

## Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:DabajianMountain.jpg)[Dabajian Mountain](/wiki/Dabajian_Mountain) The island of Taiwan lies in a complex [tectonic](/wiki/Tectonics) area between the [Yangtze Plate](/wiki/Yangtze_Plate) to the west and north, the [Okinawa Plate](/wiki/Okinawa_Plate) on the north-east, and the [Philippine Mobile Belt](/wiki/Philippine_Mobile_Belt) on the east and south. The upper part of the crust on the island is primarily made up of a series of [terranes](/wiki/Terrane), mostly old [island arcs](/wiki/Island_arc) which have been forced together by the collision of the forerunners of the [Eurasian Plate](/wiki/Eurasian_Plate) and the [Philippine Sea Plate](/wiki/Philippine_Sea_Plate). These have been further uplifted as a result of the detachment of a portion of the Eurasian Plate as it was [subducted](/wiki/Subduction) beneath remnants of the Philippine Sea Plate, a process which left the crust under Taiwan more buoyant.[[68]](#cite_note-68) The east and south of Taiwan are a complex system of belts formed by, and part of the zone of, active collision between the North Luzon Trough portion of the [Luzon Volcanic Arc](/wiki/Luzon_Volcanic_Arc) and South China, where accreted portions of the [Luzon Arc](/wiki/Luzon_Volcanic_Arc) and Luzon forearc form the [eastern Coastal Range](/wiki/Haian_Range) and parallel inland [Longitudinal Valley](/wiki/Huatung_Valley) of Taiwan respectively.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The major seismic faults in Taiwan correspond to the various suture zones between the various [terranes](/wiki/Terrane). These have produced major quakes throughout the history of the island. On 21 September 1999, a 7.3 quake known as the "[921 earthquake](/wiki/1999_Jiji_(Chichi)_earthquake)" killed more than 2,400 people. The [seismic hazard map](/wiki/Seismic_hazard_map) for Taiwan by the USGS shows 9/10 of the island as the highest rating (most hazardous).[[70]](#cite_note-70)

## Political and legal status[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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The political and legal statuses of Taiwan are contentious issues. The [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) (PRC) claims that the Republic of China government is illegitimate, referring to it as the "Taiwan Authority". The ROC, however, with its own constitution, independently elected president and armed forces, continues to view itself as a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state). The territory being controlled by the state has never been controlled by the PRC.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72) Internationally, there is controversy on whether the ROC still exists as a state or a defunct state per [international law](/wiki/International_law) due to the loss of membership/recognition in the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and lack of wide [diplomatic recognition](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition). In a poll of Taiwanese aged 20 and older taken by [TVBS](/wiki/TVBS) in March 2009, a majority of 64% opted for the status quo, while 19% favored independence and 5% favored "unification".[[73]](#cite_note-73)

### Relations with the PRC[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:2015_Ma–Xi_Meeting_08.jpg)[2015 Ma–Xi meeting](/wiki/2015_Ma–Xi_meeting) The political environment is complicated by the potential for military conflict should Taiwan make overt actions toward de jure independence; it is the official PRC policy to use force to ensure reunification if peaceful reunification is no longer possible, as stated in its [anti-secession law](/wiki/Anti-secession_law), and for this reason there are substantial military installations on the [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian) coast.[[74]](#cite_note-74)<ref name=2004NatDefRpt>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> However, in recent years, the PRC has moved towards promoting peaceful relations, including stronger economic ties,[[75]](#cite_note-75) with the current ROC government aimed at unification through the [one country, two systems](/wiki/One_country,_two_systems) formula or maintaining the status quo under the [1992 Consensus](/wiki/1992_Consensus).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78)

### National identity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

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Roughly 84% of Taiwan's population descends from Han Chinese who migrated from China between 1661 and 1895. Another significant fraction descends from Han Chinese who immigrated from China in the 1940s and 1950s. The shared cultural origin combined with several hundred years of geographical separation, some hundred years of political separation and foreign influences, as well as hostility between the rival ROC and PRC have resulted in national identity being a contentious issue with political overtones. Since democratization and the lifting of martial law, a distinct Taiwanese identity (as opposed to Taiwanese identity as a subset of a Chinese identity) is often at the heart of political debates. Its acceptance makes the island distinct from mainland China, and therefore may be seen as a step towards forming a consensus for *de jure* Taiwan independence.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The [pan-green](/wiki/Pan-green) camp supports a distinct Taiwanese identity, while the [pan-blue](/wiki/Pan-blue) camp supports a Chinese identity only.[[120]](#cite_note-120) The KMT has downplayed this stance in the recent years and now supports a Taiwanese identity as part of a Chinese identity.[[132]](#cite_note-132)[[133]](#cite_note-133) According to a survey conducted in March 2009, 49% of the respondents consider themselves as Taiwanese only, and 44% of the respondents consider themselves as Taiwanese and Chinese. 3% consider themselves as only Chinese.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Another survey, conducted in Taiwan in July 2009, showed that 82.8% of respondents consider the ROC and the PRC as two separate countries with each developing on its own.[[134]](#cite_note-134) A survey conducted in December 2009 showed that 62% of the respondents consider themselves as Taiwanese only, and 22% of the respondents consider themselves as both Taiwanese and Chinese. 8% consider themselves as only Chinese. The survey also shows that among 18- to 29-year-old respondents, 75% consider themselves as Taiwanese only.[[135]](#cite_note-135) In the latest survey conducted by [National Chengchi University](/wiki/National_Chengchi_University) in 2014 and published in early 2015, 60.6% of respondents identified themselves exclusively as Taiwanese, 32.5% identified themselves as both Taiwanese and Chinese and 3.5% identified themselves as Chinese.

{| class="wikitable" center;" |+Percentage of Taiwanese residents who consider themselves Taiwanese, Chinese, or Taiwanese and Chinese according to various surveys. |- ! Survey ! Taiwanese ! Chinese ! Taiwanese and Chinese |- |[Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission](/wiki/Research,_Development,_and_Evaluation_Commission), Executive Yuan (April 2008) | style="background:#9f9;"|**67.1%** |13.6% |15.2% |- |Common Wealth Magazine (December 2009)[[135]](#cite_note-135)| style="background:#9f9;"|**62%** |8% |22% |- |National Chengchi University (January 2015)[[136]](#cite_note-136)| style="background:#9f9;"|**60.6%** |3.5% |32.5% |- |TVBS Poll Center (October 2012)[[137]](#cite_note-137)| style="background:#9f9;"|**75%** |15% |(not an option for this question) |- |TVBS Poll Center (October 2012)[[138]](#cite_note-138)| style="background:#9f9;"|**55%** |3% |37% |}

## Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:IDF_Pre-production.jpg)[Republic of China Air Force](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Air_Force) [Indigenous Defense Fighter](/wiki/AIDC_F-CK-1_Ching-kuo)|alt=A light fighter aircraft on the ground surrounded by two men who are maintaining it. [thumb|](/wiki/File:Kee_Lung_(DDG-1801)_and_Ma_Kong_(DDG-1805)_shipped_in_Zhongzheng_Naval_Base_20130504b.jpg)[Republic of China Navy](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Navy) [Kidd-class destroyers](/wiki/Kidd-class_destroyer) |alt=Two of the navy's present destroyers. [thumb|](/wiki/File:Thunderbolt_2000_MLRS_Side_View_20111105a.jpg)[Republic of China Army](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Army) [Thunderbolt-2000](/wiki/Thunderbolt-2000)

The [Republic of China Army](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Army) takes its roots in the [National Revolutionary Army](/wiki/National_Revolutionary_Army), which was established by [Sun Yat-sen](/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen) in 1925 in [Guangdong](/wiki/Guangdong) with a goal of reunifying China under the Kuomintang. When the [People's Liberation Army](/wiki/People's_Liberation_Army) won the [Chinese Civil War](/wiki/Chinese_Civil_War), much of the National Revolutionary Army retreated to Taiwan along with the government. It was later reformed into the Republic of China Army. Units which surrendered and remained in mainland China were either disbanded or incorporated into the People's Liberation Army.

Today, the Republic of China maintains a large and technologically advanced military, mainly as defense against the constant threat of invasion by the PRC under the [Anti-Secession Law of the People's Republic of China](/wiki/Anti-Secession_Law_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China).<ref name=2004NatDefRpt/> From 1949 to the 1970s, the primary mission of the military was to "retake the mainland" through [Project National Glory](/wiki/Project_National_Glory). As this mission has shifted to defense, the ROC military has begun to shift emphasis from the traditionally dominant Army to the [air force](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Air_Force) and [navy](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Navy).

Control of the armed forces has also passed into the hands of the civilian government.<ref name=towards>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>[[139]](#cite_note-139) As the ROC military shares historical roots with the KMT, the older generation of high-ranking officers tends to have Pan-Blue sympathies. However, many have retired and there are many more non-mainlanders enlisting in the armed forces in the younger generations, so the political leanings of the military have moved closer to the public norm in Taiwan.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The ROC began a force reduction program, Jingshi An (translated to streamlining program), to scale down its military from a level of 450,000 in 1997 to 380,000 in 2001.[[140]](#cite_note-140) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the armed forces of the ROC number approximately 300,000,[[141]](#cite_note-141) with nominal reserves totaling 3.6 million [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[142]](#cite_note-142) Conscription remains universal for qualified males reaching age eighteen, but as a part of the reduction effort many are given the opportunity to fulfill their draft requirement through alternative service and are redirected to government agencies or defense related industries.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Current plans call for a transition to a predominantly professional army over the next decade.[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145) Conscription periods are planned to decrease from 14 months to 12.[[146]](#cite_note-146) In the last months of the Bush administration, Taipei took the decision to reverse the trend of declining defense spending, at a time when most Asian countries kept on reducing their military expenditures. It also decided to modernize both defensive and offensive capabilities. Taipei still keeps a large military apparatus relative to the island’s population: defense expenditures for 2008 were NTD 334 billion (approximately U.S. $10.5 billion), which accounted for 2.94% of GDP.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:ROCMC_Forgmen_Balance_a_Inflatable_Boat_Over_Their_Heads_While_Heading_toward_the_Pier_20141123.jpg)[Republic of China Marine Corps](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Marine_Corps) Amphibious Reconnaissance and Patrol Unit [thumb|](/wiki/File:ROCMP_Guard_at_Hsinchu_AFB_20120602.jpg)[Republic of China Military Police](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Military_Police) is a separate branch in the armed forces. In the picture, this is a military policeman standing guard in [Hsinchu Air Base](/wiki/Hsinchu_Air_Base).

The armed forces' primary concern at this time, according to the *National Defense Report*, is the possibility of an invasion by the PRC, consisting of a naval blockade, airborne assault, and/or missile bombardment.<ref name=towards/> Four upgraded [*Kidd*-class destroyers](/wiki/Kidd_class_destroyer) were purchased from the United States, and commissioned into the [Republic of China Navy](/wiki/Republic_of_China_Navy) in 2005–2006, significantly upgrading Taiwan's air defense and submarine hunting abilities.[[147]](#cite_note-147) The Ministry of National Defense planned to purchase diesel-powered submarines and Patriot anti-missile batteries from the United States, but its budget has been stalled repeatedly by the opposition-[Pan-Blue Coalition](/wiki/Pan-Blue_Coalition) controlled legislature. The defense package was stalled from 2001 to 2007 where it was finally passed through the legislature and the US responded on 3 October 2008, with a $6.5 billion arms package including PAC III Anti-Air defense systems, AH-64D Apache Attack helicopters and other arms and parts.[[148]](#cite_note-148) A significant amount of military hardware has been bought from the United States, and, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), continues to be legally guaranteed by the [Taiwan Relations Act](/wiki/Taiwan_Relations_Act).[[88]](#cite_note-88) In the past, [France](/wiki/France) and the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) have also sold military weapons and hardware to the ROC, but they almost entirely stopped in the 1990s under pressure of the PRC.[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[150]](#cite_note-150) The first line of defense against invasion by the PRC is the ROC's own armed forces. Current ROC military doctrine is to hold out against an invasion or blockade until the US military responds.[[151]](#cite_note-151) There is, however, no guarantee in the Taiwan Relations Act or any other treaty that the United States will defend Taiwan, even in the event of invasion.[[152]](#cite_note-152) The joint declaration on security between the US and Japan signed in 1996 may imply that Japan would be involved in any response. However, Japan has refused to stipulate whether the "area surrounding Japan" mentioned in the pact includes Taiwan, and the precise purpose of the pact is unclear.[[153]](#cite_note-153) The [Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty](/wiki/Australia,_New_Zealand,_United_States_Security_Treaty) (ANZUS Treaty) may mean that other US allies, such as [Australia](/wiki/Australia), could theoretically be involved.[[154]](#cite_note-154) In practice, the risk of losing economic ties with China may prevent Australia from taking action.[[155]](#cite_note-155) The United States, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, Chile, and Peru conduct maritime exercises in the [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean) every 2 years called [RIMPAC](/wiki/RIMPAC). They are conducted to promote stability and to be able to respond in case of an armed conflict in the region – that includes an invasion of Taiwan by China.[[156]](#cite_note-156)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|250px|alt=A map showing the island of Taiwan, China and Mongolia. Taiwan and other nearby small islands are highlighted in dark blue and are identified as the "](/wiki/File:ROC_Administrative_and_Claims.svg)[Free Area](/wiki/Free_Area_of_the_Republic_of_China)" of the ROC. China is highlighted in light blue and is identified as an area claimed by the ROC and controlled by the PRC. Mongolia is highlighted in red. Other minor areas are highlighted in different colors for being claimed by the ROC but controlled by other countries including Russia, Japan or Pakistan among others.|[Template:Citation needed span](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed_span) [Template:Taiwan Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Taiwan_Labelled_Map)

According to the 1947 constitution, written and promulgated whilst the ROC government still controlled mainland China, the territory of the ROC consisted of [provinces](/wiki/Province_(China)), [special municipalities](/wiki/Special_municipality_(Republic_of_China)), special administrative regions and autonomous regions ([Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia) and [Tibet](/wiki/Tibet)), which were given extremely high levels of [autonomy](/wiki/Autonomy).<ref name=art119>[Template:Citation needed span](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed_span)</ref>

Accordingly, when the ROC retreated to Taiwan in 1949, its claimed territory consisted of 35 provinces, 12 special municipalities, 1 special administrative region and 2 autonomous regions. However, since its retreat, the ROC has controlled only [Taiwan Province](/wiki/Taiwan_Province) and some islands of [Fujian Province](/wiki/Fujian_Province,_Republic_of_China). The ROC also controls the [Pratas Islands](/wiki/Pratas_Islands) and [Taiping Island](/wiki/Taiping_Island) in the [Spratly Islands](/wiki/Spratly_Islands), which are part of the disputed [South China Sea Islands](/wiki/South_China_Sea_Islands). They were placed under [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung) administration after the retreat to Taiwan.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Since 1949, the government has made some changes in the area under its control. [Taipei](/wiki/Taipei) became a special municipality in 1967 and Kaohsiung in 1979. The two provincial governments were "streamlined", with their functions transferred to the central government (Fujian in 1956 and Taiwan in 1998).[[158]](#cite_note-158) In 2010, [New Taipei](/wiki/New_Taipei), [Taichung](/wiki/Taichung) and [Tainan](/wiki/Tainan) were upgraded to [special municipalities](/wiki/Special_municipality_of_Taiwan). And in 2014, Taoyuan County was also upgraded to a [special municipality](/wiki/Taoyuan_City). This brought the top-level divisions of the ROC to their current state:[[159]](#cite_note-159)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **colspan=5|Division type** | **Total** |
| **1st** | [Special municipality](/wiki/Special_municipality_(Republic_of_China)) (直轄市 *zhíxiáshì*) (6) | Province (省 *shěng*) (2) (Streamlined) | | | | 22 |
| **2nd** | [City](/wiki/Provincial_city_(Taiwan)) (市 *shì*) (3) | [County](/wiki/County_(Taiwan)) (縣 *xiàn*) (13) | | |
| **3rd** | [District](/wiki/District_(Taiwan)) (區 *qū*) (170) | | [County-controlled city](/wiki/County-controlled_city) (縣轄市 *xiànxiáshì*) (13) | [Urban Township](/wiki/Township_(Taiwan)) (鎮 *zhèn*) (39) | [Rural Township](/wiki/Township_(Taiwan)) (鄉 *xiāng*) (146) | 368 |
| **4th** | [Urban Village](/wiki/Village_(Taiwan)) (里 *lǐ*) | | | | [Rural Village](/wiki/Village_(Taiwan)) (村 *cūn*) | 7,835 |
| **5th** | Neighborhood (鄰 *lín*) | | | | | 147,877 |

According to Article 4 of the Local Government Act, laws pertaining to special municipalities also apply to counties with a population exceeding 2 million. This provision does not currently apply to any county, although it previously applied to Taipei County (now [New Taipei City](/wiki/New_Taipei)) and Taoyuan County (now [Taoyuan City](/wiki/Taoyuan_City)).

## Economy and industry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:101.portrait.altonthompson.jpg)[Taipei 101](/wiki/Taipei_101) held the world record for skyscraper height from 2004 to 2010.|alt=Photo of Taipei 101 tower against a blue sky. The quick industrialization and rapid growth of Taiwan during the latter half of the 20th century has been called the "[Taiwan Miracle](/wiki/Taiwan_Miracle)". Taiwan is one of the "[Four Asian Tigers](/wiki/Four_Asian_Tigers)" alongside [Hong Kong](/wiki/Hong_Kong), [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) and [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore).

Japanese rule prior to and during World War II brought changes in the public and private sectors, most notably in the area of public works, which enabled rapid communications and facilitated transport throughout much of the island. The Japanese also improved public education and made it compulsory for all residents of Taiwan.

By 1945, [hyperinflation](/wiki/Hyperinflation) was in progress in mainland China and Taiwan as a result of the war with Japan. To isolate Taiwan from it, the Nationalist government created a new currency area for the island, and began a price stabilization program. These efforts significantly slowed inflation.

When the KMT government fled to Taiwan it brought millions of [taels](/wiki/Tael) (where 1 tael ~1.2 [ozt](/wiki/Troy_ounce)) of [gold](/wiki/Gold) and the foreign currency reserve of mainland China, which, according to the KMT, stabilized prices and reduced hyperinflation.[[160]](#cite_note-160) Perhaps more importantly, as part of its retreat to Taiwan, the KMT brought the intellectual and business elites from Mainland China.[[161]](#cite_note-161) The KMT government instituted many laws and [land reforms](/wiki/Land_reform) that it had never effectively enacted on mainland China. The government also implemented a policy of [import-substitution](/wiki/Import_substitution_industrialization), attempting to produce imported goods domestically.

In 1950, with the outbreak of the Korean War, the United States began an aid program which resulted in fully stabilized prices by 1952.[[162]](#cite_note-162) Economic development was encouraged by American economic aid and programs such as the [Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction](/wiki/Joint_Commission_on_Rural_Reconstruction), which turned the agricultural sector into the basis for later growth. Under the combined stimulus of the land reform and the agricultural development programs, agricultural production increased at an average annual rate of 4 per cent from 1952 to 1959, which was greater than the population growth, 3.6%.[[163]](#cite_note-163) In 1962, Taiwan had a (nominal) per-capita gross national product (GNP) of $170, placing its economy on a par with those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On a [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) (PPP) basis, its GDP per capita in early 1960s was $1,353 (in 1990 prices). By 2011 per-capita GNP, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP), had risen to $37,000, contributing to a [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) (HDI) equivalent to that of other developed countries. Taiwan's HDI in 2012 is 0.890, (23rd, very high), according to the UN's new "Inequality-adjusted HDI" calculation method.

In 1974, Chiang Ching-kuo implemented the [Ten Major Construction Projects](/wiki/Ten_Major_Construction_Projects), the beginning foundations that helped Taiwan transform into its current export driven economy. Since the 1990s, a number of Taiwan-based technology firms have expanded their reach around the world. Well-known international technology companies headquartered in Taiwan include personal computer manufacturers [Acer Inc.](/wiki/Acer_Inc.) and [Asus](/wiki/Asus), mobile phone maker [HTC](/wiki/HTC), as well as electronics manufacturing giant [Foxconn](/wiki/Foxconn), which makes products for Apple, Amazon, and Microsoft. [Computex Taipei](/wiki/Computex_Taipei) is a major computer expo, held since 1981.

[thumb|alt=Two THSR 700T trains|](/wiki/File:THSR_700T_Modern_High_Speed_Train.jpg)[Taiwan High Speed Rail](/wiki/Taiwan_High_Speed_Rail), with trains running at speeds near [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), links Taipei and the southern port city of Kaohsiung in just 96 minutes. Today Taiwan has a dynamic, capitalist, export-driven economy with gradually decreasing state involvement in investment and foreign trade. In keeping with this trend, some large government-owned banks and industrial firms are being [privatized](/wiki/Privatization).[[164]](#cite_note-164) Real growth in [GDP](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) has averaged about 8% during the past three decades. Exports have provided the primary impetus for industrialization. The trade surplus is substantial, and foreign reserves are the world's fifth largest.[[165]](#cite_note-165) The Republic of China has its own currency, the [New Taiwan dollar](/wiki/New_Taiwan_dollar).

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the economic ties between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China have been very prolific. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), more than US$150 billion[[166]](#cite_note-166) have been invested in the PRC by Taiwanese companies, and about 10% of the Taiwanese labour force works in the PRC, often to run their own businesses.[[167]](#cite_note-167) Although the economy of Taiwan benefits from this situation, some have expressed the view that the island has become increasingly dependent on the Mainland Chinese economy. A 2008 white paper by the Department of Industrial Technology states that "Taiwan should seek to maintain stable relation with China while continuing to protect national security, and avoiding excessive 'Sinicization' of Taiwanese economy."[[168]](#cite_note-168) Others argue that close economic ties between Taiwan and Mainland China would make any military intervention by the PLA against Taiwan very costly, and therefore less probable.[[169]](#cite_note-169) Taiwan's total trade in 2010 reached an all-time high of US$526.04 billion, according to Taiwan's Ministry of Finance. Both exports and imports for the year reached record levels, totaling US$274.64 billion and US$251.4 billion, respectively.[[170]](#cite_note-170) [thumb|Rice paddy fields in](/wiki/File:Paddy_field,_Yilan_02.jpg) [Yilan County](/wiki/Yilan_County,_Taiwan) In 2001, [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture) constituted only 2% of GDP, down from 35% in 1952.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Traditional labor-intensive industries are steadily being moved offshore and with more capital and technology-intensive industries replacing them. High-technology industrial parks have sprung up in every region in Taiwan. The ROC has become a major foreign investor in the PRC, [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand), [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia), and [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam). It is estimated that some 50,000 Taiwanese businesses and 1,000,000 businesspeople and their dependents are established in the PRC.[[172]](#cite_note-172) Because of its conservative financial approach and its entrepreneurial strengths, Taiwan suffered little compared with many of its neighbors from the [1997 Asian financial crisis](/wiki/1997_Asian_financial_crisis). Unlike its neighbors, South Korea and Japan, the Taiwanese economy is dominated by small and medium-sized businesses, rather than the large business groups. The global economic downturn, however, combined with poor policy coordination by the new administration and increasing bad debts in the banking system, pushed Taiwan into [recession](/wiki/Recession) in 2001, the first whole year of negative growth since 1947. Due to the relocation of many manufacturing and labor-intensive industries to the PRC, unemployment also reached a level not seen since the 1970s oil crisis. This became a major issue in the [2004 presidential election](/wiki/Republic_of_China_presidential_election,_2004). Growth averaged more than 4% in the 2002–2006 period and the unemployment rate fell below 4%.[[173]](#cite_note-173) The ROC often joins international organizations (especially ones that also include the People's Republic of China) under a politically neutral name. The ROC is a member of governmental trade organizations such as the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) under the name Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu ([Chinese Taipei](/wiki/Chinese_Taipei)) since 2002.[[174]](#cite_note-174)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The [Ministry of Transportation and Communications](/wiki/Ministry_of_Transportation_and_Communications_(Republic_of_China)) of the Republic of China is the cabinet-level governing body of the transportation network in Taiwan. Taiwan has an extensive highway network, classified into five levels: National highways, provincial highways, county routes, township routes, and special routes, with the first four being common. Taiwan also has an extensive bus network, which are mostly run by private bus companies. There are two rail systems in Taiwan: [Taiwan Railway Administration](/wiki/Taiwan_Railway_Administration) and [Taiwan High Speed Rail](/wiki/Taiwan_High_Speed_Rail). The [Taipei Metro](/wiki/Taipei_Metro) and the [Kaohsiung Mass Rapid Transit](/wiki/Kaohsiung_Mass_Rapid_Transit) serve the [Taipei metropolitan area](/wiki/Taipei_metropolitan_area) and [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung), respectively. The [Taoyuan Metro](/wiki/Taoyuan_Metro) and [Taichung Metro](/wiki/Taichung_Metro) are currently under construction. Major airports include [Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport](/wiki/Taiwan_Taoyuan_International_Airport), [Taipei Songshan Airport](/wiki/Taipei_Songshan_Airport), [Kaohsiung International Airport](/wiki/Kaohsiung_International_Airport), and [Taichung Airport](/wiki/Taichung_Airport). The four international seaports are the [Port of Keelung](/wiki/Port_of_Keelung), the [Port of Kaohsiung](/wiki/Port_of_Kaohsiung), the [Port of Taichung](/wiki/Port_of_Taichung), and the [Port of Hualien](/wiki/Port_of_Hualien).

## Education, research, and academia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The higher education system was established in Taiwan by Japan during the colonial period. However, after the Republic of China [took over](/wiki/Retrocession_Day) Taiwan from Japan in 1945, the system was promptly replaced by the same system as in mainland China which mixed with features of the Chinese and American educational systems.[[175]](#cite_note-175) The educational system includes six years of elementary school, three years of middle school, three years of high school, and four years of university.[[176]](#cite_note-176) The system has been successful in that pupils in Taiwan boast some of the highest test scores in the world, especially in [mathematics](/wiki/Mathematics) and [science](/wiki/Science);[[177]](#cite_note-177) However, it has also been criticized for placing excessive pressure on students and eschewing creativity in favor of rote memorization.[[178]](#cite_note-178)[[179]](#cite_note-179) Many Taiwanese students attend cram schools, or [bushiban](/wiki/Bushiban), to improve skills and knowledge on problem solving against exams of subjects like mathematics, nature science, history and many others. Courses are available for most popular subjects. Lessons are organized in lectures, reviews, private tutorial sessions, and recitations.[[180]](#cite_note-180)[[181]](#cite_note-181) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the [literacy rate](/wiki/Literacy_rate) in Taiwan is 97.15%.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Taiwan's population is about 23.4 million,[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) most of whom are on the island proper. The remainder live on [Penghu](/wiki/Penghu) (101,758), [Kinmen](/wiki/Kinmen) (127,723), and [Matsu](/wiki/Matsu_Islands) (12,506).[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Taiwan_bunun_dancer.jpg)[Bunun](/wiki/Bunun_people) dancer in traditional aboriginal dress The ROC government reports that over 95% of the population is [Han Chinese](/wiki/Han_Chinese), of which the majority includes descendants of early Han Chinese immigrants who arrived in Taiwan in large numbers starting in the 17th century. Alternatively, the ethnic groups of Taiwan may be roughly divided among the "Taiwanese" (84%, including Hakka), mainland Chinese (14%), and indigenous peoples (2%).[[67]](#cite_note-67) The [Hoklo people](/wiki/Hoklo_people) are the largest Han subgroup (70% of the total population), whose ancestors migrated from the coastal southern [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian) region across the [Taiwan Strait](/wiki/Taiwan_Strait) starting in the 17th century. The [Hakka](/wiki/Hakka_people) comprise about 15% of the total population, and descend from Han migrants to [Guangdong](/wiki/Guangdong), its surrounding areas and Taiwan. Additional people of Han origin include and descend from the 2 million Nationalists who fled to Taiwan following the communist victory on the mainland in 1949.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The indigenous [Taiwanese aborigines](/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines) number about 533,600 and are divided into 16 recognized groups.[Template:Sfnp](/wiki/Template:Sfnp) The [Ami](/wiki/Amis_people), [Atayal](/wiki/Atayal_people), [Bunun](/wiki/Bunun_people), [Kanakanavu](/wiki/Kanakanavu), [Kavalan](/wiki/Kavalan_people), [Paiwan](/wiki/Paiwan_people), [Puyuma](/wiki/Puyuma_people), [Rukai](/wiki/Rukai_people), [Saisiyat](/wiki/Saisiyat_people), [Saaroa](/wiki/Saaroa), [Sakizaya](/wiki/Sakizaya_people), [Sediq](/wiki/Sediq_people), [Thao](/wiki/Thao_people), [Truku](/wiki/Truku_people) and [Tsou](/wiki/Tsou_people) live mostly in the eastern half of the island, while the [Yami](/wiki/Yami_people) inhabit [Orchid Island](/wiki/Orchid_Island).[[182]](#cite_note-182)[[183]](#cite_note-183)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese) is the official national language and is spoken by the vast majority of the population of Taiwan. It has been the primary language of instruction in schools since the end of Japanese rule. As in [Hong Kong](/wiki/Hong_Kong) and [Macau](/wiki/Macau), [Traditional Chinese](/wiki/Traditional_Chinese) is used as the writing system in Taiwan.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The 70% of the population belonging to the [Hoklo](/wiki/Hoklo_people) ethnic group speak [Taiwanese Hokkien](/wiki/Taiwanese_Hokkien) (a variant of the [Min Nan](/wiki/Min_Nan) speech of [Fujian](/wiki/Fujian) province) as their mother tongue, in addition to Mandarin, and many others have some degree of understanding. The Hakka ethnic group (15% of the population) use [Hakka Chinese](/wiki/Hakka_Chinese). Most *waishengren*[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) speak primarily Mandarin. Although Mandarin is the language of instruction in schools and dominates television and radio, non-Mandarin [Chinese varieties](/wiki/Varieties_of_Chinese) have undergone a revival in public life in Taiwan, particularly since restrictions on their use were lifted in the 1990s.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Taiwan's indigenous languages, the [Formosan languages](/wiki/Formosan_languages), do not belong to the Chinese or Sino-Tibetan language family, but rather to the [Austronesian language family](/wiki/Austronesian_languages). Their use among Taiwan's aboriginal minority groups has been in decline as usage of Mandarin has risen.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Of the 14 extant languages, five are considered [moribund](/wiki/Moribund_language).[[185]](#cite_note-185)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Main sanctuary of](/wiki/File:Fo_Guang_Shan_Monastery_13.jpg) [Fo Guang Shan](/wiki/Fo_Guang_Shan) Monastery near [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung) The [Constitution of the Republic of China](/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Republic_of_China) protects people's [freedom of religion](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion) and the practices of belief.[[186]](#cite_note-186) There are approximately 18,718,600 religious followers in Taiwan [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) (81.3% of total population) and 14–18% are non-religious. According to the 2005 census, of the 26 religions recognized by the ROC government, the five largest are: Buddhism (8,086,000 or 35.1%), Taoism (7,600,000 or 33%), [Yiguandao](/wiki/Yiguandao) (810,000 or 3.5%), Protestantism (605,000 or 2.6%), and Roman Catholicism (298,000 or 1.3%).[[187]](#cite_note-187) The CIA World Factbook reports that over 93% of Taiwanese are adherents of a combination of the [polytheistic](/wiki/Polytheistic) [ancient Chinese religion](/wiki/Chinese_folk_religion), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism), and [Taoism](/wiki/Taoism); 4.5% are adherents of [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity), which includes [Protestants](/wiki/Protestants), [Catholics](/wiki/Catholics), and other, non-denominational, Christian groups; and less than 2.5% are adherents of other religions.[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[188]](#cite_note-188) [Taiwanese aborigines](/wiki/Taiwanese_aborigines) comprise a notable subgroup among professing Christians: "...over 64% identify as Christian... Church buildings are the most obvious markers of Aboriginal villages, distinguishing them from Taiwanese or Hakka villages."[[189]](#cite_note-189) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Confucius_temple_Kaohsiung_amk.jpg)[Confucian temple](/wiki/Confucian_temple) at [Lotus Lake](/wiki/Lotus_Lake) in [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung) [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism) is a philosophy that deals with secular moral ethics, and serves as the foundation of both [Chinese](/wiki/Culture_of_China) and [Taiwanese culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Taiwan). The majority of [Taiwanese people](/wiki/Taiwanese_people) usually combine the secular moral teachings of Confucianism with whatever religions they are affiliated with.

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), there were 14,993 temples in Taiwan, approximately one place of worship per 1,500 residents. 9,202 of those temples were dedicated to [Taoism](/wiki/Taoism). In 2008, Taiwan had 3,262 Churches, an increase of 145.[[190]](#cite_note-190)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The figures below are the 2011 estimates for the twenty largest urban populations within administrative city limits; a different ranking exists when considering the total [metropolitan area populations](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Taiwan#Metropolitan_areas_in_Taiwan) (in such rankings the [Taipei-Keelung metro area](/wiki/Taipei–Keelung_metropolitan_area) is by far the largest agglomeration).

[Template:Largest cities of the Republic of China (Taiwan)](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_the_Republic_of_China_(Taiwan)) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Public health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Update](/wiki/Template:Update) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:National_Taiwan_University_Hospital_Taipei.jpg)[National Taiwan University Hospital](/wiki/National_Taiwan_University_Hospital)

[Health care](/wiki/Health_care) in Taiwan is managed by the Bureau of National Health Insurance (BNHI).[[191]](#cite_note-191) The current program was implemented in 1995, and is considered to be a form of social insurance. The government health insurance program maintains compulsory insurance for citizens who are employed, impoverished, unemployed, or victims of natural disasters with fees that correlate to the individual and/or family income; it also maintains protection for non-citizens working in Taiwan. A standardized method of calculation applies to all persons and can optionally be paid by an employer or by individual contributions.[[192]](#cite_note-192) BNHI insurance coverage requires co-payment at the time of service for most services unless it is a preventative health service, for low-income families, veterans, children under three years old, or in the case of catastrophic diseases. Low income households maintain 100% premium coverage by the BNHI and co-pays are reduced for disabled or certain elderly peoples.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

According to a recently published survey, out of 3,360 patients surveyed at a randomly chosen hospital, 75.1% of the patients said they are "very satisfied" with the hospital service; 20.5% said they are "okay" with the service. Only 4.4% of the patients said they are either "not satisfied" or "very not satisfied" with the service or care provided.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Taiwan has its own Center for Disease Control, and during the [SARS](/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome) outbreak in March 2003 there were 347 confirmed cases. During the outbreak the [Centers for Disease Control](/wiki/Centers_for_Disease_Control_(Republic_of_China)) and local governments set up monitored stations throughout public transportation, recreational sites and other public areas. With full containment in July 2003, there has not been a case of SARS since.[[194]](#cite_note-194) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the BNHI Facility Contract Distribution facilities total 17,259, including:[[195]](#cite_note-195){| class="wikitable" |+ |- ! Number !!Subject |- |style="width:50px;text-align:right;"| 16,174 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| outpatient-only facilities |- |align="right"| 5,701 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| dental clinics |- |align="right"| 2,422 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| Chinese medicine clinics |- |align="right"| 1,085 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| inpatient/outpatient facilities |- |align="right"| 437 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| local community hospitals |- |align="right"| 35 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| Chinese medicine hospitals |- |align="right"| 123 |style="padding-left:0.5em;"| academic medical centers |}

Basic coverage areas of the insurance include: [Template:Columns](/wiki/Template:Columns)

In 2004, the infant mortality rate was 5.3 with 15 physicians and 63 hospital beds per 10,000 people. The life expectancy for males was 73.5 years and 79.7 years for females according to the World Health Report.

In July 2013, the Department of Health was restructured as the [Ministry of Health and Welfare](/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_and_Welfare_(Republic_of_China)).[[196]](#cite_note-196)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:taiwan.nch.ntnu.apo-hsu.2005-10a.altonthompson.jpg)[Apo Hsu](/wiki/Apo_Hsu) and the [NTNU](/wiki/National_Taiwan_Normal_University) Symphony Orchestra on stage in the [National Concert Hall](/wiki/National_Concert_Hall_(Taiwan)) The cultures of Taiwan are a hybrid blend of various sources, incorporating elements of traditional Chinese culture, attributable to the historical and ancestry origin of the majority of its current residents, Japanese culture, traditional Confucianist beliefs, and increasingly Western values.

After their move to Taiwan, the [Kuomintang](/wiki/Kuomintang) imposed an official interpretation of traditional Chinese culture over Taiwan. The government launched a [program](/wiki/History_of_the_Kuomintang_cultural_policy) promoting [Chinese calligraphy](/wiki/Chinese_calligraphy), [traditional Chinese painting](/wiki/Chinese_painting), [folk art](/wiki/Chinese_folk_art), and [Chinese opera](/wiki/Chinese_opera).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The status of Taiwanese culture is debated.[[197]](#cite_note-197) It is disputed whether Taiwanese culture is a regional form of Chinese culture or a distinct culture. Reflecting the continuing controversy surrounding the [political status of Taiwan](/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan), politics continues to play a role in the conception and development of a Taiwanese cultural identity, especially in the prior dominant frame of a Taiwanese and [Chinese](/wiki/China) dualism. In recent years, the concept of Taiwanese [multiculturalism](/wiki/Multiculturalism) has been proposed as a relatively apolitical alternative view, which has allowed for the inclusion of mainlanders and other minority groups into the continuing re-definition of Taiwanese culture as collectively held systems of meaning and customary patterns of thought and behavior shared by the people of Taiwan.[[198]](#cite_note-198) [Identity politics](/wiki/Identity_politics), along with the over one hundred years of political separation from mainland China, has led to distinct traditions in many areas, including [cuisine](/wiki/Taiwanese_cuisine) and [music](/wiki/Music_of_Taiwan).

[thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:2008TIBE_Day1_Hall1_Opening_TouhWang.jpg)[Wang Tuoh](/wiki/Wang_Tuoh), a Taiwanese writer, literary critic and politician One of Taiwan's greatest attractions is the [National Palace Museum](/wiki/National_Palace_Museum), which houses more than 650,000 pieces of Chinese bronze, jade, calligraphy, painting, and porcelain and is considered one of the greatest collections of Chinese art and objects in the world.[[199]](#cite_note-199) The KMT moved this collection from the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City) in Beijing in 1933 and part of the collection was eventually transported to Taiwan during the Chinese Civil War. The collection, estimated to be one-tenth of China's cultural treasures, is so extensive that only 1% is on display at any time. The PRC had said that the collection was stolen and has called for its return, but the ROC has long defended its control of the collection as a necessary act to protect the pieces from destruction, especially during the [Cultural Revolution](/wiki/Cultural_Revolution). Relations regarding this treasure have warmed recently; Beijing Palace Museum Curator Zheng Xinmiao said that artifacts in both Chinese and Taiwanese museums are "China's cultural heritage jointly owned by people across the Taiwan Strait."[[200]](#cite_note-200) The classical music culture in Taiwan is highly developed and features artists such as violinist [Cho-Liang Lin](/wiki/Cho-Liang_Lin), pianist [Ching-Yun Hu](/wiki/Ching-Yun_Hu), and the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society Artist Director [Wu Han](/wiki/Wu_Han_(pianist)). [Karaoke](/wiki/Karaoke), drawn from contemporary Japanese culture, is extremely popular in Taiwan, where it is known as KTV. KTV businesses operate in a hotel-like style, renting out small rooms and ballrooms varying on the number of guests in a group. Many KTV establishments partner with restaurants and buffets to form all-encompassing elaborate evening affairs for families, friends, or businessmen. Tour buses that travel around Taiwan have several TV's, equipped not for watching movies, but primarily for singing Karaoke. The entertainment counterpart of a KTV is an MTV, being found much less frequently out of the city. There, movies out on DVD can be selected and played in a private theater room. However, MTV, more so than KTV, has a growing reputation for being a place that young couples will go to be alone and intimate.

Taiwan has a high density of 24-hour convenience stores, which, in addition to the usual services, provide services on behalf of financial institutions or government agencies such as collection of parking fees, utility bills, traffic violation fines, and credit card payments.[[201]](#cite_note-201) They also provide a service for mailing packages.

Taiwanese culture has also influenced other cultures. [Bubble tea](/wiki/Bubble_tea) and milk tea are available in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Europe, and North America. [Taiwan television shows](/wiki/List_of_Taiwanese_television_series) are popular in Singapore, Malaysia, and other Asian countries. [Taiwanese films](/wiki/Cinema_of_Taiwan) have won various international awards at film festivals around the world. [Ang Lee](/wiki/Ang_Lee), a Taiwanese director, has directed critically acclaimed films such as: [*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*](/wiki/Crouching_Tiger,_Hidden_Dragon); [*Eat Drink Man Woman*](/wiki/Eat_Drink_Man_Woman); [*Sense and Sensibility*](/wiki/Sense_and_Sensibility_(film)); [*Brokeback Mountain*](/wiki/Brokeback_Mountain); [*Life of Pi*](/wiki/Life_of_Pi_(film)); and [*Lust, Caution*](/wiki/Lust,_Caution). Other famous Taiwanese directors include [Tsai Ming-Liang](/wiki/Tsai_Ming-Liang), [Edward Yang](/wiki/Edward_Yang), and [Hou Hsiao-hsien](/wiki/Hou_Hsiao-hsien).

### Literature, philosophy, and the arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Cinema, television, music, and performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [upright||thumb|right|](/wiki/File:2011_Women's_British_Open_-_Tseng_Yani_(7)_cropped.jpg)[Yani Tseng](/wiki/Yani_Tseng) with the 2011 Women's British Open trophy [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) is Taiwan's [national sport](/wiki/National_sport) and it is a popular spectator sport. Two of the most famous Taiwanese baseball pitchers are [Chien-Ming Wang](/wiki/Chien-Ming_Wang) and [Wei-Yin Chen](/wiki/Wei-Yin_Chen); both are starting pitchers in [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball). Other notable players playing in the United States include [Chin-hui Tsao](/wiki/Chin-hui_Tsao) who played for the [Colorado Rockies](/wiki/Colorado_Rockies) (2003–2005) and the [Los Angeles Dodgers](/wiki/Los_Angeles_Dodgers) (2007), [Hong-Chih Kuo](/wiki/Hong-Chih_Kuo), [Fu-Te Ni](/wiki/Fu-Te_Ni), and [Chin-lung Hu](/wiki/Chin-lung_Hu). The [Chinese Professional Baseball League](/wiki/Chinese_Professional_Baseball_League) in Taiwan was established in 1989,[[202]](#cite_note-202) and eventually absorbed the competing [Taiwan Major League](/wiki/Taiwan_Major_League) in 2003. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the CPBL has four teams with average attendance of approximately 3,000 per game.

Besides baseball, [basketball](/wiki/Basketball) is Taiwan's major sport.[[203]](#cite_note-203) Taekwondo has also become a mature and successful sport in recent years. In the 2004 Olympics, [Chen Shih-hsin](/wiki/Chen_Shih-hsin) and [Chu Mu-yen](/wiki/Chu_Mu-yen) won the first two gold medals in women's flyweight event and men's flyweight event, respectively. Subsequent taekwondo competitors such as [Yang Shu-chun](/wiki/Yang_Shu-chun) have strengthened Taiwan's taekwondo culture.

Taiwan participates in international sporting organizations and events under the name of "[Chinese Taipei](/wiki/Chinese_Taipei)" due to [its political status](/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan). In 2009, Taiwan hosted two international sporting events on the island. The [World Games 2009](/wiki/World_Games_2009) were held in [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung) between 16 and 26 July 2009. Taipei hosted the [21st Summer Deaflympics](/wiki/21st_Summer_Deaflympics) in September of the same year. Furthermore, Taipei will host the Summer [Universiade](/wiki/Universiade) in 2017.[[204]](#cite_note-204) Taiwan is also a major Asian country for [Korfball](/wiki/Korfball). In 2008, Taiwan hosted the World Youth Korfball Championship and took the silver medal.[[205]](#cite_note-205) In 2009, Taiwan's korfball team won a bronze medal at the World Game.[[206]](#cite_note-206) [Yani Tseng](/wiki/Yani_Tseng) is the most famous Taiwanese [professional golfer](/wiki/Professional_golfer) currently playing on the U.S.-based [LPGA Tour](/wiki/LPGA_Tour). She is the youngest player ever, male or female, to win five [major championships](/wiki/Women's_major_golf_championships) and had been ranked number 1 in the [Women's World Golf Rankings](/wiki/Women's_World_Golf_Rankings) for 109 consecutive weeks from 2011 to 2013.[[207]](#cite_note-207)[[208]](#cite_note-208)[[209]](#cite_note-209)

### Foods, cuisine, and shopping[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|right|A calendar that commemorates the first year of the Republic as well as the election of](/wiki/File:ROC_calendar.jpg) [Sun Yat-sen](/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen) as the provisional President|alt=A calendar with a picture of a Chinese man in the center. On top of it stands a flag with five horizontal stripes (red, yellow, blue, white, and black).

### Calendar[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Taiwan uses two official calendars: the [Gregorian calendar](/wiki/Gregorian_calendar) and the [Minguo calendar](/wiki/Minguo_calendar). The latter numbers years starting from 1911, the year of the founding of the Republic of China. For example, 2007 is the "96th year of the Republic" (民國96年),[[210]](#cite_note-210) while its months and days are numbered according to the Gregorian calendar.

Usually, year numbering may use the Gregorian system as well as the ROC era system. For example, 3 May 2004, may be written 2004-05-03 or 93–05–03. The use of two different calendar systems in Taiwan may be confusing, in particular for foreigners. For instance, products for export marked using the Minguo calendar can be misunderstood as having an expiration date 11 years earlier than intended.[[211]](#cite_note-211) Taiwan also uses the [lunar calendar](/wiki/Lunar_calendar) for traditional festivals such as the [Chinese New Year](/wiki/Chinese_New_Year), the [Lantern Festival](/wiki/Lantern_Festival), and the [Dragon Boat Festival](/wiki/Dragon_Boat_Festival).[[212]](#cite_note-212)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

* [Index of Taiwan-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Taiwan-related_articles)
* [Outline of Taiwan](/wiki/Outline_of_Taiwan)
* [List of tourist attractions in Taiwan](/wiki/List_of_tourist_attractions_in_Taiwan)

[Template:Portal bar](/wiki/Template:Portal_bar)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

### Citations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

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### Works cited[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

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* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)
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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

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* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* Fravel, M. Taylor (2002) "Towards Civilian Supremacy: Civil-military Relations in Taiwan's Democratization", [Armed Forces & Society](/wiki/Armed_Forces_&_Society) 29, no. 1: 57–84
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

### Overviews and data[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Taiwan](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/taiwan.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Taiwan country profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1285915.stm) [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Taiwan flashpoint](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/asia_pac/04/taiwan_flashpoint/html/history.stm) BBC News
* [Background Note: Taiwan](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm) US Department of State
* [Taiwan Travel Information and Travel Guide](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/taiwan) Lonely Planet
* [Taiwan's 400 years of history](http://www.taiwandc.org/history.htm) New Taiwan, Ilha Formosa
* [Key Development Forecasts for Taiwan](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=TW) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [Taiwan](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/580902/Taiwan) *Encyclopædia Britannica* entry
* [Chinese Taipei](http://www.oecd.org/countries/chinesetaipei/) [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)

### Government agencies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

* [Office of the government](http://www.taiwan.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=999)
* [Office of the President](http://english.president.gov.tw/)
* [Executive Yuan](http://web.archive.org/web/20090708171314/http://www.ey.gov.tw:80/mp?mp=11)
* [Judicial Yuan](http://www.judicial.gov.tw/en/)
* [Control Yuan](http://www.cy.gov.tw/mp21.htm)
* [Examination Yuan](http://www.exam.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=5)
* [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](http://web.archive.org/web/20050509192147/http://www.mofa.gov.tw/webapp/mp?mp=6)
* [Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office in the US](http://www.taiwanembassy.org/US/mp.asp?mp=12)
* [National Assembly](http://www.na.gov.tw/en/index-en.jsp)
* [Taiwan, The Heart of Asia](http://eng.taiwan.net.tw/), Tourism Bureau, Republic of China (Taiwan)

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