

# Republic of China calendar

The **Republic of China calendar**, often shortened to the **ROC calendar** or the ***Minguo** calendar*, is a calendar used in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu. The calendar uses 1912, the year of the establishment of the Republic of China (ROC) in Nanjing, as the first year.

The ROC calendar follows the tradition of using the sovereign's era name and year of reign, as did previous Chinese dynasties. Months and days are numbered according to the Gregorian calendar. The ROC calendar has been in wide use in the ROC since 1912, including in early official documents.

The ROC calendar is the official calendar used in Taiwan and Penghu since 1945, and also adopted by Overseas Chinese and Taiwanese communities. Chorographies and historical research published in mainland China covering the period between 1912 and 1949 also use the ROC calendar.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Calendar details

The Gregorian calendar was adopted by the nascent Republic of China effective 1 January 1912 for official business, but the general populace continued to use the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. The status of the Gregorian calendar was unclear between 1916 and 1921 while China was controlled by several competing warlords each supported by foreign colonial powers. From about 1921 until 1928 warlords continued to fight over northern China, but the Kuomintang-led Nationalist government controlled southern China and used the Gregorian calendar. After the Kuomintang reconstituted the Republic of China on 10 October 1928, the Gregorian calendar was officially adopted, effective 1 January 1929. The People's Republic of China has continued to use the Gregorian calendar since 1949.<sup>[2]</sup>

Republic of China calendar



A calendar commemorating the first year of the Republic of China, as well as the election of Sun Yat-sen as the provisional President of the Republic of China

Traditional Chinese

中華民國曆

Simplified Chinese

中华民国历

Transcriptions

Standard Mandarin

Hanyu

Zhōnghuá Mínguó lì

Pinyin

Wade–Giles

Chung<sup>1</sup>-hua<sup>2</sup> Min<sup>2</sup>-kuo<sup>2</sup> li<sup>4</sup>

Minguo calendar

Traditional Chinese

民國紀年

Simplified Chinese

民国纪年

Literal meaning

Republic[an] year numbering system

Despite the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, the numbering of the years was still an issue. The Chinese monarchical tradition was to use the monarch's era name and year of reign. One alternative to this approach was to use the reign of the semi-legendary Yellow Emperor in the third millennium BC to number the years.<sup>[2]</sup> In the early 20th century, some Chinese republicans began to advocate such a system of continuously numbered years, so that year markings would be independent of the monarch's era name. (This was part of their attempt to de-legitimize the Qing dynasty.)

When Sun Yat-sen became the provisional president of the Republic of China, he sent telegrams to leaders of all provinces and announced the 13th day of 11th month of the 4609th year of the Yellow Emperor's reign (corresponding to 1 January 1912) to be the first year of the Republic of China.<sup>[2]</sup> The original intention of the *Minguo* calendar was to follow the monarchical practice of naming the years according to the number of years the monarch had reigned, which was a universally recognizable event in China. Following the establishment of the Republic, hence the lack of a monarch, it was then decided to use the year of the establishment of the current regime. This reduced the issue of frequent change in the calendar, as no Chinese emperor ruled more than 61 years in Chinese history – the longest being the Kangxi Emperor, who ruled from 1662 to 1722 (Kangxi 61). (Qianlong Emperor abdicated in 1795, i.e. Qianlong 60, but the reign name of Qianlong is still used unofficially until his death in 1799 i.e. Qianlong 64.)

As most Chinese era names consisted of two Chinese characters, 民國 (*Mínguó*, "Republic") is employed as an abbreviation of 中華民國 (*Zhōnghuá Mínguó*, "Republic of China"). The first year, 1912, is called 民國元年 (*Mínguó Yuánnián*) and 2023, the "112th year of the Republic" is 民國一百一十一年, 民國112年, or simply 112.

Based on National Standards of the Republic of China CNS 7648: Data Elements and Interchange Formats—Information Interchange—Representation of Dates and Times (similar to ISO 8601), year numbering may use the Gregorian system as well as the ROC era. For example, 2 January 2023 may be written 2023-01-2 or ROC 112-01-2.

The ROC era numbering happens to be the same as the numbering used by the Juche calendar of North Korea, because its founder, Kim Il-sung, was born in 1912. The years in Japan's Taishō era (30 July 1912 to 25 December 1926) also coincide with those of the ROC era.

In addition to the ROC's *Minguo* calendar, Taiwanese continue to use the lunar Chinese calendar for certain functions such as the dates of many holidays, the calculation of people's ages, and religious functions.

## Arguments for and against

The use of the ROC era system extends beyond official documents. Misinterpretation is more likely in the cases when the prefix (ROC or 民國) is omitted.

Transcriptions
Standard Mandarin
Hanyu Pinyin Mínguó Jìnián
Wade–Giles Min <sup>2</sup> -kuo <sup>2</sup> Chi <sup>4</sup> -nien <sup>2</sup>

### Date and time notation in the Republic of China

Gregorian full date	2023年1月2日
Gregorian all-numeric date	2023-01-02 2023/01/02
ROC calendar	112-01-02 112.01.02
National Standard Time of Taiwan	09:45 上午 9:45

There have been legislative proposals by political parties of the Pan-Green Coalition that support Taiwanese independence, such as the Democratic Progressive Party, to formally abolish the ROC calendar in favor of the Gregorian calendar.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Relation to the Gregorian calendar

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To convert any Gregorian calendar year (1912 and after) to ROC calendar, subtract 1911.

ROC era	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AD	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
ROC era	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AD	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
ROC era	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
AD	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
ROC era	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
AD	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
ROC era	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
AD	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
ROC era	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
AD	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
ROC era	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
AD	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
ROC era	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
AD	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
ROC era	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
AD	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ROC era	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
AD	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
ROC era	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
AD	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ROC era	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
AD	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031

## See also

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- Chinese era name
- East Asian age reckoning
- Public holidays in Taiwan

- Juche calendar

## References

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This page was last edited on 1 January 2023, at 16:30 (UTC).

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