



Taiwan = 臺灣

How big is Taiwan?

- The area is about 14,000 square miles.
- Taiwan's population is a bit more than 23 million.
- The capital Taipei, is located on the northern end of the island



Taiwan's climate



- Subtropical; monsoon (rain).
- Hot and humid.
- Now the temperature in Taipei can be as high as 70 degrees. During the summer, it can reach beyond 100 degrees. Winters are mild with the temperatures of around 50 degrees.

- Typhoon
- Earthquake



History

- In 1949 there was a civil war in China
- The communists won and the democrats retreated to Taiwan or the Republic of China
- Since then China has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province
- Taiwan, however, views themselves as a separate country

History: Politics

- **After the retreat of the democratic peoples to Taiwan Chiang Kai-shek was elected by the congress of democratic China or the mainland to the office of president**
- **Chiang Kai-shek died in term and his son Chiang Ching-kuo was elected the next president also by the congress of democratic China**

History: Politics

- **Chiang Ching-kuo then died during his term and Vice President Lee Teng-hui assumed power**
- **While serving his term as president Lee modified the laws for elections**
 - **Presidents were to be elected directly by the people and serve terms**
- **Lee was then the first president directly elected by the people in 1996**

History: Politics

- **The next election took place in 2000, where Democratic Progressive Party candidate Chen Shui-bian was elected the current president**
- **This election was significant as the party in control, the KMT, ended their 50-year reign in the presidency as the DPP took control**

Independence From the PRC

- **Since 1949: the ROC and the PRC governed as separate territories**
- **1979: Beijing launches intensive United Front Campaign**
 - **Taipei responds with “Three No’s Policy”**

No contact

No negotiation

No Compromise

Geographical Features of the Taiwan Strait

- There is a Taiwan Strait located between Fujian Province and Taiwan Province of China and constituted as a critical corridor connecting the East China Sea to the South China Sea. Actually the Strait itself is regarded as part of the East China Sea.  map

TAIWAN TODAY



Geographical Features

- The Taiwan Strait is one of the important fishing grounds in China, and there are about 700 fish species, among which 100 species are economic.
- The coastal areas of the Taiwan Strait deposit rich sand reserves. Recently, oil and gas has been discovered around the Taiwan Strait.
- In addition, the Taiwan Strait is traditionally used as an important navigational waterway both for China and for the rest of the world. For China, it is a critical sea route from north to south, and also between Taiwan and Fujian Provinces.

Historical and political implications

- Taiwan strait could be the most dangerous war zone in East Asia that could bring the United States into it.
- In case of armed conflict, Beijing would define a “war zone” in the Taiwan Strait and direct neutral shipping in order to protect its right of innocent passage.

Cross-Strait Talks ??

Every time Taiwan thought they made progress, Beijing would suspend negotiations.

PRC

One China Two Systems

The People's Republic of China asserts that there is only "One China" and Taiwan is an inalienable part of it.



Is the economic rise of china, a threat to the western world?



Joseph Nye: “If we treat China as the enemy, it will become the enemy because of how it perceives what we do.”

Why the US sees china as a threat?

Three different logics have been constructed to substantiate the "China threat" thesis.

The reason for American concern mainly arises from its hegemonic status in the world politics and the ideological incompatibility of China with the Western value system.

First, ideological and cultural factors make China a threat.

Second, geopolitical and geoeconomic factors.

Third, the collapse of China.



Reasons for Distrust

- Incompability with western ideology?
- The clash of civilizations? (“the unholy alliance between the islamic and Confucian cultures?”)
- US hegemony threatened

The more legitimate reasons for distrust

- Recent increase in China's military spendings
- Chinese attempts to buy US Oil Reserves (CNOOC – Unocal)
- Discouraging neighbouring countries from harboring US bases (Uzbek.)
- Chinese relationships with “problem countries”: Iran, Sudan, and Venezuela

Will China Become A Democracy?

- Tiananmen Square 1989
- General Hypothesis:

Economic Development ---(+)--> Political Development

- **Optimists:**

-- Seeds of Democracy Have Been Planted

- **Pessimists:**

a) Low GNP per Capita

b) Exchange Economic Rewards for Political Silence

c) Peasants are Conservative Majority

**Their major trading partners comprising 70% of Taiwan's international trade are US, Japan, Hong Kong, China, the ASEAN area and Europe
Machinery and electrical equipment is both the largest export and import commodity**