

Research Report **MUNISH '12**



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Forum: Special Political and Decolonization (GA4)

Issue: The Question of Taiwan

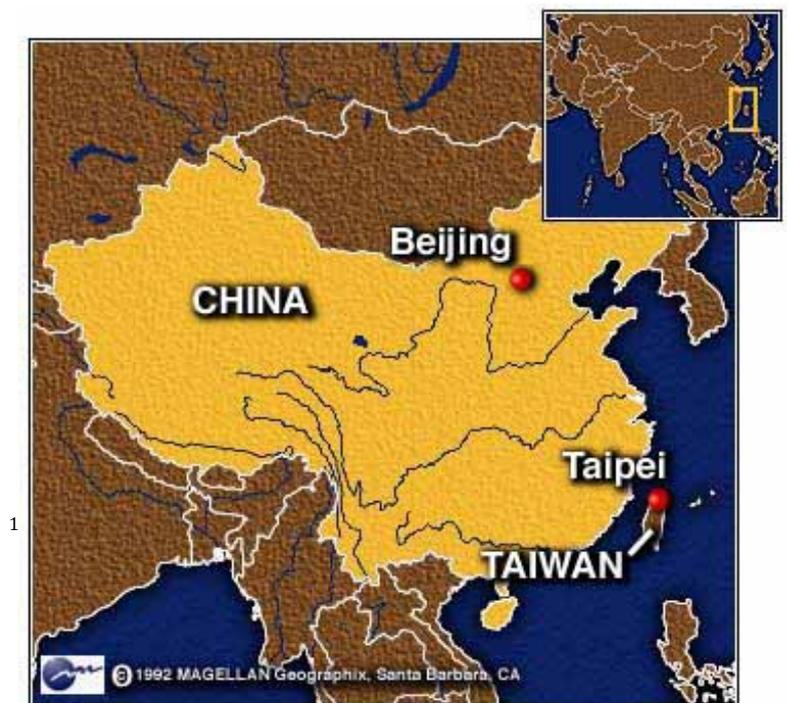
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Introduction:

The political status of Taiwan is being disputed in terms of whether Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu should remain effectively independent as a territory of the Republic of China (ROC), become unified with the existing territories that are now governed by the People's Republic of China (PRC), or gain their independence and create an entirely new nation recognized as the Republic of Taiwan. The objective is to rename or replace the Republic of China (or also known as Taiwan), to strengthen the national identity of the Taiwanese and to reject unification with the PRC and the One China, Two Systems policy.

Furthermore, it is being evaluated whether its existence as a country should be recognized and legitimate within the international community.



1 <http://wwwi.ccs.edu/~bmcintosh/Images/TAIWAN.jpg>

Definition of Key Terms

ROC

Republic of China

PRC

People's Republic of China

Treaty of Shimonoseki

Treaty signed between Japan and China in 1895

“**Article 1:** China must recognize the complete independence and autonomy of Korea, and as a result, the payment of tribute and the performance of ceremonies and formalities by Korea to China shall cease for the future.

Articles 2 & 3: China cedes to Japan in perpetuity and full independence of the Penghu group, Taiwan, and the eastern part of the bay of the Liaodong Peninsula, with all fortifications, arsenals and public property.

Article 4: China agrees to pay Japan - 200,000,000 Kuping [taels](#) - as a war indemnity

Article 5: China opens Shashih, Chungking, Soochow and Hangchow to Japan. Moreover, China is to grant Japan most-favored-nation treatment.”²

Status Quo

To unofficially treat Taiwan as a state and to officially declare no support for the government of this state making a formal declaration of independence. Status quo is a Latin term meaning “keeping things the way they are at the present time”. Not changing a thing.

One China Policy

Policy stating that the PRC is the sole government of China. That there is only one state called “China” regardless of the presence of BOTH the PRC and the ROC. In order for this to be achieved, nations which have diplomatic relations with the ROC need to break off their relations and vice versa.

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Shimonoseki?&lang=en_us&output=json

One China Principle

A principle that states that Taiwan and China are both parts of a single china. This is not the same as the One China Policy. A modified version of the One China Policy is also known as the 1992 Consensus. The 1992 Consensus is the current policy of both the PRC and the ROC governments. Under this Consensus, both these governments agree that there is only one sovereign state encompassing both Mainland China and Taiwan, but disagree about which government is the sole legitimate government of China.³

One country, Two Systems

This is a system originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping, Paramount Leader of the People's Republic of China for the case of the reunification of china suggesting that there be only one china, but regions within China (Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan) that have their own capitalist economic and political systems, though the rest of China would use the socialist system.

General Overview:

In order to better comprehend the controversy about the political and legal status of Taiwan (Formosa), it is imperative to take a closer look at the complex post-Second World War history of Taiwan. In order to better understand the Taiwan was permanently surrendered by Qing Dynasty China to Imperial Japan via **Articles 2b** and **2c** of the "Treaty of Shimonoseki" in May 1895. Years later, the Chinese Qing Dynasty was overthrown and replaced by the Republic of China (ROC). When the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out, the ROC declared the Treaty of Shimonoseki in its declaration of war on Japan. As a result of the Second World War, Japan was defeated by the Allied powers. "At the Cairo Conference, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the ROC agreed upon the terms that Taiwan was to be restored to the ROC after the War and the Potsdam declaration later outlined the terms of Japan's surrender. When Japan surrendered, it accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration and Japanese troops were directed to surrender to the representatives of the Supreme Allied Commander of the China military forces, Chiang Kai-shek." It is, to this day disputed whether Taiwan's sovereignty was indeed transferred at this time.

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One-China_policy

⁴ http://en.academic.ru/dic.nsf/enwiki/514441?&lang=en_us&output=json

On 25 October 1945, the ROC proclaimed the “Taiwan Retrocession Day”. This proclamation was entirely accepted, considering the PRC had not yet been founded. The lack of protest by any non-Chinese government remains, and is present to this day. “The situation is puzzling because of all the different parties involved and the fact that many groups have chosen to deal with the issue through a policy of deliberate ambiguity. The political solution that is accepted by many of the current groups is the perspective of the [status quo](#): to unofficially treat Taiwan as a state and to officially declare no support for the government of this state making a formal declaration of independence. It is unclear what a formal declaration of independence would consist of and can be perplexing given the fact that the PRC has never controlled Taiwan since its founding and the fact that the Republic of China, whose government controls Taiwan, is still a sovereign state.”⁵ “The status quo is accepted in large part because it does not define the legal status or future status of Taiwan, leaving each group to interpret the situation in a way that is politically suitable to its members. At the same time, a policy of status quo has been evaluated as being threatening precisely because different sides have different interpretations of what the status quo is, leading to the possibility of war”

Timeline

Date	Description of Event
1661:	In the fall of the Ming Dynasty, government officials moved out to Taiwan.
1875:.	The city of Taipei became capital city of north Taiwan
1885:	Taiwan became part of China.
1895:.	Taiwan becomes first overseas settlement for Japan
1945:	The Kuomintang party rule Taiwan.

⁵ http://www.estonia.bydgoszcz.pl/p-Political_status_of_the_Republic_of_China_and_Taiwan?&lang=en_us&output=json
1949:

1950:	The Communist party won in mainland China, General Chiang Kai-shek the Kuomintang and followers move to Taiwan. The United States stops military aid to Taiwan. Both the U.S. and the United Nations fail to give the PRC diplomatic recognition. Mao introduces One-China policy.
1954:	US president Truman agrees to protect Taiwan in the case of an unexpected act of aggression from Mainland China.
1960 – 1968:	Taiwan and US sign 'the mutual defense treaty'. Taiwan gets economic help and military assistance from US in about 30 years.
1971:	Taiwan experiences steady economic growth.
	United States and many non-communist countries sign that Taiwan is a part of the Republic of China. Taiwan is expelled from the United Nations – seat given to PRC.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America

The [United States](#) is [one of the main allies](#) of Taiwan and, since the [Taiwan Relations Act](#) passed in 1979, the United States has sold weapons and provided military training to the [Republic of China Armed Forces](#). China considers the involvement of the United States disruptive to the steadiness and self-sufficiency of the region. In January 2010, the Obama administration announced its intention to sell \$6.4 billion worth of military hardware to Taiwan. China threatened the US with economic sanctions and stated that their cooperation on both regional and international affairs could be in danger. The official position of the United States is that China is expected to "use no force or threaten to use force against Taiwan" and that Taiwan is to "exercise prudence in managing all aspects of [Cross-Strait relations](#)." The [United States](#) has formally adopted the One China Policy. And insists on not recognizing Taiwan as an independent state, and recognizing the communist government of the People's Republic of China.

Republic of India, Pakistan and Japan

These countries have formally approved the [One China](#) policy – PRC sole legitimate government of China. The United States and Japan accept PRC position that Taiwan is part of China.

Canada and the United Kingdom

In the case of Canada and the UK, agreements state that the two respective parties **take note** of Beijing's position but do not use the word **support**. Both countries have formally adopted the One China Policy.

Taiwan

“According to a November 2005 poll from the [Mainland Affairs Council](#), 37.7% of people living in the ROC favor maintaining the status quo until a decision can be made in the future, 18.4% favors maintaining the status quo indefinitely, 14% favors maintaining the status quo until eventual independence, 12% favors maintaining the status quo until eventual reunification, 10.3% favors independence as soon as possible, and 2.1% favors reunification as soon as possible.”

China

“China does not want to recognize Taiwan as an independent state. China apparently believes that, if it does not use nuclear weapons or attack the U.S. mainland, that the U.S. will not risk world condemnation by being the first to use nuclear weapons, making the conflict conventional. China believes that its people would tolerate heavy casualties to reunify Taiwan, but that the U.S. citizenry would not tolerate the heavy casualties to be expected.”⁶

Countries who maintain formal diplomatic relations with the ROC:⁷

-  Belize (1989)
-  Burkina Faso (1994)
-  Dominican Republic (1957)
-  El Salvador (1961)
-  Gambia (1995)
-  Guatemala (1960)
-  Haiti (1956)
-  Honduras (1965)
-  Kiribati (2003)
-  Marshall Islands (1998)
-  Nauru (1980–2002, 2005)
-  Nicaragua (1990)
-  Palau (1999)
-  Panama (1954)
-  Paraguay (1957)
-  Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983)
-  Saint Lucia (1984–1997, 2007)
-  Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1981)
-  São Tomé and Príncipe (1997)
-  Solomon Islands (1983)
-  Swaziland (1968)
-  Tuvalu (1979)
-  Vatican City (The Holy See) (1942)

^{2a} http://www.boogieonline.com/revolution/multi/war/taiwan.html?&lang=en_us&output=json

²⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_reunification.

UN Involvement:

Taiwan wants to become a member of the United Nations, but it lost its seat in that body in 1971 when the United Nations chose to recognize the People's Republic of China instead. The UN decided that there can only be one china in the world, to be run by the capital, Beijing.

Possible Solutions:

First option to consider, is that, If China were to be given an economic incentive, Taiwan may be able to be admitted into the UN once again. Secondly, in order to get the nations to recognize each other, one might say that the first step to solving this issue is solving territorial disputes (meaning all islands claimed both by ROC and PRC). This is a very difficult issue to solve in one step, or in one resolution, so it is important that we focus on building trust between the two nations and a possible economic partnership between the two.

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