



I. Introduction

Currently, there are two countries in the world which identify by the name China: The People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC). The PRC refers to



mainland China, while the ROC refers to the island off the southeastern coast of the mainland. The ROC, however, is better known as Taiwan. At present, Taiwan stands divided as a country with coalitions formed by opposing parties clashing constantly over the future of the island. The current coalition in power is the Pan-Green Coalition which aims to eventually see Taiwan as a sovereign state. The coalition is

led by the Democratic Progressive Party. The opposing party, the Pan-Blue Coalition, led by Kuomintang, desires closer ties with China and aims to unify with the PRC. Even though the majority of the island's population aims to become independent, the presence of Chinese nationalists is powerful enough to present itself as a solid opposition.

II. Background Information

A. Pre Establishment

Since the late 1600s, Taiwan has formed part of China. It remained a consistent and integral part of the mainland until the First Sino-Japanese War in 1894. This war was fought between the Qing dynasty of China and the Empire of Japan. They were primarily fighting for influence over Joseon. During this war, China was divided into three regions: Nationalist

China, which was under control of the government, Communist China, which was the government, and the areas occupied by Japan. The war ended with the Qing government suing for peace in February of 1895. Consequently, Chinese territory, such as Taiwan, was ceded to Japan. Taiwan remained a Japanese territory until the end of World War II. Following the second world war, the Chinese Civil War, which was paused in order to fight Japan, resumed. This war represented an ideological split within China, Communism vs Nationalism. By 1948, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was gaining momentum and support. Shortly thereafter, they conquered Beijing and declared victory. The CPC established that China was to become the PRC. The Nationalists were unhappy with this. Thus, they fled to Taiwan and established their own government, the Republic of China. Both the communists and nationalists proclaimed they were the rightful rulers of China.

B. Post Establishment

On October 1, 1949, the Republic of China was established in Taiwan by Chiang Kai-Shek, a Chinese nationalist. Kai-Shek established an authoritarian one party state¹ government. That same year, the ROC declared martial law² by the government of Taiwan Province and ROC Ministry of Defense. This dictated that the only legal party in the ROC was the Nationalist Party. Kai-Shek died in 1975 and the martial law was lifted by the new president, Chiang Ching-kuo. Lifting the martial permitted, for the first time in Taiwan's history, for opposing political parties to be formed. This gave natives more power within their government. Taiwan was beginning to democratize. The first step in the democratization process was the abolition of Temporary Provisions. Democratization

¹ A type of state in which one political party has the right to form the government.

² Banned the formation of new political parties, as well as enforced rule over the public.

culminated with the legislative elections of the president, Lee Tehg-hui, in 1996. Elections were held again in 2000; Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was democratically elected. The DPP was founded in 1986, but did not become legal until 1989. They support a distinct Taiwanese identity. The DPP ended the KMT's over fifty year rule. During Shui-ban's eight year term, Taiwan continued to develop. The administration attempted several reforms in order to create distance between themselves and the PRC; however, they were unsuccessful and only outraged the PRC. Tensions declined over the next few years. The pinnacle of such was marked by the first direct commercial flight from Beijing (PRC) to Taipei (ROC) in 2005. Just a few months later, this "peace" was lost when the PRC passed an Anti-Secession Law ³. This law authorized the use of force against Taiwan and the ROC government should it formally declare independence or endanger the citizens of the People's Republic of China. Protests were carried out in Taipei in response to the law. On the April 29, 2005 KMT chairman Lien Chan flew to Beijing for a meeting with the CPC Secretary General Hu Jintao. This was the first meeting between the leaders of both parties since 1949. Then, on February 11, 2014, for the first time the Mainland Affairs Council Head, Wang Yu-Chi, travelled to Nanjing and met with the Taiwan Affairs Office Head, Zhang Zhijun. A follow up meeting occurred on the same year's 25th of June in Taiwan, making Zhang the first minister-ranking PRC official to pay a visit to Taiwan ⁴. A monumental meeting between Ma Yingyeou (President of ROC at the time) met with Xi Jinping (President of the PRC) in Singapore on the November 7, 2015. On May 20, 2016, Tsai Ing-wen, member of the DPP, was elected the first female president. She is the current

³ http://en.people.cn/200503/14/eng20050314_176746.html

⁴ "First minister-level Chinese official heads to Taipei for talks". The Japan Times Online. 25 June 2014.

president of Taiwan. Although strong communication between the ROC and PRC is still in its early stages of development, the citizens of Taiwan continue to remain divided on their political views, as little progress is being made.

III. Economic Implications

Currently, Taiwan's economy is one of the most lucrative in Asia and is defined as a dynamic capitalist economy ⁵. Although it has a plethora of industries, most of the ROC's earnings are generated through exports of electronics, machinery, and petrochemicals. Due to this, the island has developed close trade ties with China and its diplomatic allies over the years. Taiwan's GDP has been actively on the rise in recent years suggesting the nation's economy is strong and the nation itself is moving forward. The Republic of China's desire for independence is currently implausible due to a multitude of factors. The reasoning behind this is the fact that the island's economy relies heavily on trade with countries which the ROC maintains diplomatic relations. This ensues problems to be caused when the discussion about independence is brought up due to the fact that many countries reject, and will reject, the ROC as an independent entity, consequently hurting the current trade relations. The ROC also has an incredibly low birth rate and a rapidly aging population which present difficulties when considering the long term status of the economy ⁶. Stating that Taiwan owes its current



⁵ <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/taiwan>

⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tw.html>

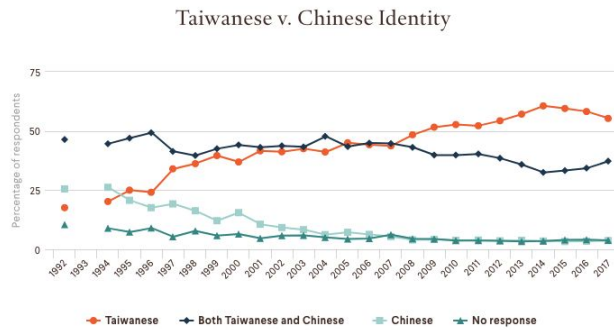
economic success to the PRC is not far from the truth. Therefore, to prepare for any sort of change in political status, the ROC must begin to lessen their reliance on the PRC and expand their market to a wider international scale.

IV. Social Implications

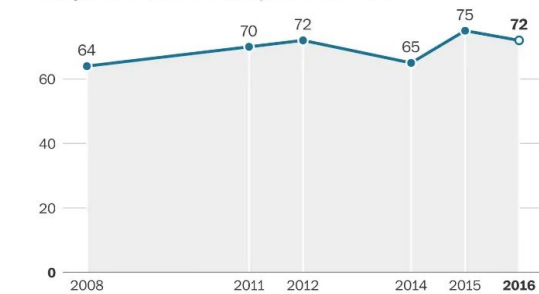
Despite their economic reliance on the PRC, a study by the National Chengchi University in 2017, reports that more

than 55% ⁷ of the people living in Taiwan consider themselves strictly Taiwanese; while 37% considered themselves both Taiwanese and

Chinese. Only 4% of the islanders consider themselves solely Chinese. Since the 1990s, the ROC does not identify itself as representing all of mainland China. In fact, its constitution differentiates between the “mainland” and the “free area.” As of 2016, over 70% ⁸ of



Percent of Taiwanese who say that Taiwan is an independent country under the name Republic of China



Source: Taiwan National Security Survey

Taiwanese see Taiwan as independent. A poll conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001, reported that 70% ⁹ of Taiwanese would agree to a name change from “ROC” to “Taiwan.” However, in order for any progress

to be made Taipei and Beijing must come to an agreement. Keeping in mind the PRC’s

⁷ <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations>

⁸ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/02/yes-taiwan-wants-one-china-but-which-china-does-it-want/>

⁹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1993608.stm>

current mentality, an agreement is far from plausible at the moment. Anna Beth Keim told Asia Society in 2016 that: “The political awakening of youth in Taiwan was driven as much by practical frustrations as by political ideals.”¹⁰ Frustrations over financial insecurity and economic inequality, as well as dissatisfaction with Taiwan’s political factions, have given a rise to a groundswell of domestic political activity—largely referred to as Taiwan’s “third force.” In sum, Taiwanese are upset and want to see action being taken.

V. Regional Implications

Any sort of decision made regarding the ROC status as an entity, will have a direct regional influence which will be specifically result in a stronger impact towards the East Asian countries. Taiwan is very important to the PRC, thus making it very dangerous. The PRC would consider any sort of independence movement an act of war by the ROC. Control over Taiwan is of utmost importance to Chinese leaders, as they believe that granting the ROC’s independence would show weakness by the PRC. The leaders fear that this change in political status could potentially lead to a coup d'etat in the mainland. That is why, the PRC has stopped at nothing to maintain their control over the ROC. Furthermore, anything other than the island’s “status quo” would lead to a re-establishing and re-defining of borders.

VI. Taiwan’s Role in the International Community

Taiwan has not had a very active role in the international community. This is due to the fact that it is not a member of the UN. Both the PRC and the ROC were fighting for

¹⁰ <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations>

China's seat during the 1970s. After years of constant campaigning in the UN, the PRC won the seat. This drastically affected the ROC, as they were left without a voice in the UN. According to the UN, there is only one China, and that is the PRC; Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. In 2007, the ROC applied for membership in the UN under the name "Taiwan."¹¹ However, they were rejected a seat by the General Assembly. In 2009, the ROC attended the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in the UN. Currently, Taiwan is recognized as a sovereign state by the Holy See, as well as 19 member states of the UN. It maintains diplomatic relations with 57 other member states of the UN, but they are unofficial. These 57 states recognize the Taiwanese government as part of the Chinese one.¹²

VII. Guide Questions

- 1) Is your delegation pro PRC or pro ROC? What plans does your delegation propose to fulfill its affiliations goals?
- 2) What other delegations share your ideologies in regards to the political status of Taiwan?
- 3) What is your delegations view on the Anti-Secession Law?
- 4) If your delegation believes in Taiwanese independence, how do they propose they establish a self-sufficient economy?
- 5) How does your delegation suggest the creation of unity amongst Taiwanese citizens?

¹¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/24/world/asia/24iht-taiwan.1.6799766.html>

¹² <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-countries-recognize-taiwan-as-a-country.html>

- 6) Should a Taiwanese identity be accepted?
- 7) Should the ROC continue to be regarded as part of the PRC in the International Community, or should it have equal or its own representation?

VIII. Useful Resources

1. For a general understanding on the topic:

<https://guidetotaipei.com/article/history-of-modern-taiwan-roc>

[Timeline_of_Taiwanese_history](#)

https://www.taiwan.gov.tw/content_3.php

2. For a deeper understanding of Taiwan:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tw.html>

3. For an introduction into Model UN:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt1LT4XKP5Q>

4. For help writing a Position Paper:

www.helpmymun.com/how-to-write-a-position-paper/

www.studygs.net/wrtstr9.htm

www.cmunc.net/position-papers/.

IX. Message from Dias

The committee will **begin on September 3rd, 2018**, thus anything occurring past said date will be impertinent to the committee. Delegates are encouraged to prepare for debate on all aspects of the ROC's current situation and are suggested to research beyond what is included in this briefing. We exhort that delegates adhere to their policies, as it is a factor that the dias will consider throughout the committee. Position papers will be due on

Tuesday, September 18 on or before 11:59 pm and must be sent to taiwanarmun@gmail.com. The dias requests that all position papers are written in **Times New Roman, font size 12** and that those be **double spaced**. Also, the header must include your **delegation** and indicate whether you are a **novice or a veteran**. Position papers should be **no shorter than 2 pages, but must not exceed 4 pages** (Bibliography is not included in the page count). Keep all pictures to a minimum size and make sure they do not coincide with the writing. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us via email. We look forward to a weekend of thought provoking debate.

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