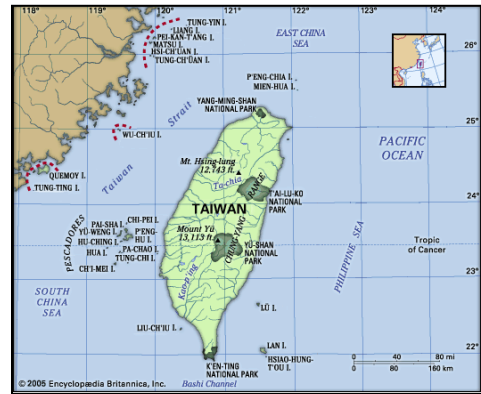


Days of Colonialism and Japanese Rule:

Residing roughly one hundred miles off the coast of mainland China, Taiwan is a relatively small island, only being about 245 miles in length and about 90 miles in width. Despite the island's small stature, it has a long history riddled with conflict and power struggles. Before the 17th century, Taiwan was self-governing, although there was no central authority on the island. During the early part of the 17th century, Taiwan was colonized by the Dutch. This would be the start of centuries of foreign nations claiming possession and governance over the island of Taiwan.



The Netherlands had control over Taiwan for about four decades, but due to an uprising from the Taiwanese tribes and a military siege from the Chinese of the Ming Dynasty, the Dutch were forced to yield their claims of the island. After the Dutch, Taiwan came under the rule of China in 1662. This rule would last for over two centuries, during which the Taiwanese would be denied the right of self governance and were granted very little independence. China's rule would come to an end in the 19th century with the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. This treaty, signed in 1895, officially ended the first Sino-Japanese War and ceded Taiwan over to the Japanese Empire.

Taiwan would be a colony under Imperial Japan for fifty years. The first few years of Japanese rule over Taiwan were marked with instability and violence. In 1895, when Japanese forces first arrived in Taiwan to claim their new possession, they were met with armed uprising from the native people. The Japanese vastly overpowered the Taiwanese, both in terms of manpower and weaponry. The resistance from Taiwan resulted in seven thousand Taiwanese soldiers being killed and thousands of civilians being slaughtered. Due to the strong Taiwanese opposition, the Japanese had to resort to extreme and harsh measures to ensure there were no

more uprisings or rebellions. The Japanese relied on the use of military police and local pacification efforts to prevent resistance and to cease the lawlessness which had taken hold of several communities throughout the island.

Despite the Japanese's efforts, the Taiwanese still sought to be severed from the Japanese Empire. In 1915, during the midst of World War I, the last major revolt would break out in Tainan County. This would come to be known as the Tapani Incident and ended with thousands of Taiwanese dead once again. After this tragedy, no more major resistance would break out against the Japanese. Small incidents of resistance were seen occasionally, but nothing of significance.



Imperial Japan's goal was to assimilate the Taiwanese people and make them a permanent part of their empire. This was attempted through implementing Japanese laws, mandating a Japanese education for Taiwanese citizens, and discouraging indigenous languages in favor of Japanese. The Japanese also motivated Taiwanese citizens to adopt Japanese names, wear Japanese style of clothing, eat Japanese food, and practice Japanese religions. The Japanese saw much success in this endeavor and the influence of the Japanese is still seen in Taiwan to this day.

After World War I, Japan became more flexible in their policy towards the Taiwanese and granted them a taste of independence. The military police force was replaced with one that consisted of Taiwanese volunteers. Taiwanese elders were permitted to take roles in their local governments, however they were never allowed to take high political positions in the central government. This flexibility in their policy is believed by many scholars to be a result of their aspiration to assimilate Taiwan into a permanent piece of their empire.

Despite all of the negatives brought about by Imperial Japan's colonization of Taiwan, there were some positives. Firstly, the Japanese promoted the rapid growth of the Taiwanese economy. To Imperial Japan, Taiwan was supposed to be profitable and a market where they could sell their manufactured goods. In order to do this, Japan needed to improve upon the Taiwanese infrastructure. The Japanese government spread electricity to more buildings, extended railway lines, constructed bridges, and made Taiwan's harbors more modernized.

Along with their improvements to the Taiwanese infrastructure, the Japanese rule also brought many advancements in public-health services, banking, and education. The Japanese education system reduced illiteracy in Taiwan greatly, though students were often taught to read Japanese, rather than their native language.

By the second World War broke, Taiwan had grown exponentially and its economy had improved greatly. Japan relied on Taiwan heavily during World War II. Firstly, the Japanese used Taiwan for agricultural and industrial production in order to supply their wartime needs. Taiwan produced food for the Japanese civilians and soldiers, as well as weaponry and ammunition to be used by the Japanese military. Secondly, the Taiwanese donated manpower to the Japanese military. Over 200,000 Taiwanese soldiers would be sent to the front lines on behalf of Japan.

Although Japan's fifty year domination over Taiwan was tarnished by its harsh rule that often led to the death of thousands, their rule also modernized Taiwan's infrastructure and caused the island to see a massive spike in its economy. The effect that Japan had on Taiwan was substantial, and can still be seen today, both in the ethnicity of the island's population and in its culture.

Post War Struggles:

World War II came to an end in 1945, as did Japan's colonial rule over Taiwan. The Japanese surrendered control of the island to the representative of the Republic of China (ROC), Chen Yi, on October 25th in Taipei Zhongshan Hall. During this period from 1945-1949, Taiwan was officially considered to be occupied by the ROC on behalf of the Allied Forces. The ROC during this period was a military dictatorship led by Chiang Kai-Shek's Chinese Nationalist Party, or the Kuomintang (KMT). The island's status would be determined later in 1951 by the Treaty of San Francisco, which is the formal treaty that was signed by 49 nations to conclude World War II. One aspect of this peace treaty was that it required Japan to forgo all of its colonies and territories outside of Japan. The Treaty of San Francisco was successful in dismantling Imperial Japan, but it was flawed when it came to the sovereignty of Taiwan, in fact the treaty was quite unclear and vague in terms of this topic. The treaty left it up in the air as to which nation Taiwan belonged to, if any.

However, before this treaty was even signed, a struggle for the control of Taiwan had already broken out. As stated previously, when Japan surrendered Taiwan, the ROC was led by the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), which at the time was headed by commander-in-chief, Chiang Kai-shek. Unfortunately, in 1946, the Chinese Civil War resumed between the Chinese Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which was led by Mao Zedong. The Chinese Civil War had initially begun in 1927, but due to the outbreak of World War II, the war was temporarily paused as the two sides came to a truce to defend the nation against the Japanese invasion.

By 1949, after three years of warfare, Mao's Red Army had won the war and Chiang, with his few remaining followers, were on the retreat. To evade Mao's pursuit, Chiang and approximately 1.2 million anti-communist supporters fled to the island of Taiwan as their last resort. Mao had fully intended, and had been preparing, to invade Taiwan and finish off his

anti-communist opposition. Unfortunately for Mao, and fortunately for Chiang, the Korean War broke out in 1950. The Korean War was sparked when the Northern Korean People's Army, a communist group, invaded the non-communist Republic of Korea in the South. The communist Northern Korean forces hoped to unify all of Korea under communism. Fearing that communist China and the Soviet Union had encouraged the North Korean attack, the U.S. quickly stepped in to aid the democratic South Korea. The United States allied with Chiang's non-communist forces in Taiwan, which prevented Mao from following through with his invasion of Taiwan.

During the time allied with the United States, Chiang had become emboldened by his newfound ally, and declared that Taiwan was the one true Republic of China. Along with his declaration of Taiwan being the one true ROC, Chiang also promised to take the mainland back. On the other hand, Mao claimed that his communist mainland was the People's Republic of China (PRC) and was the one true Chinese government. Both parties were in agreement that there was only one China, but they both disagreed as to which nation that was.

The Fight for Recognition:

After over two decades of warfare, the opposing governments continued their struggle for the title of being the one true China. However, their struggle was no longer being fought on the frontlines, rather it was being fought politically on the international scene. Each government was attempting to get political recognition from foreign nations. Initially, Chiang Kai-shek's Republic of China won on this front. Most Western nations had refused to recognize Mao and his People's Republic of China due to the fact that it was a communist regime. At the time, Western nations saw communism as the biggest threat to democracy and feared the consequences that would follow if the ideology was to spread. This sentiment was especially felt in the United States, which in the 1950s was at the height of its second Red Scare. A Red Scare is a perceived threat that communism is rising within a nation and has begun to infiltrate its government. Chiang

Kai-shek's government, the KMT, was favored by Western nations due to the fact that it was admittedly anti-communist. It is important to note here that, while the ROC may have been anti-communist, they were by no stretch of the imagination democratic. The KMT ruled over Taiwan as an authoritarian one-party state. From the start of their rule in 1949 to the end of their rule in 1987, Taiwan was under martial law and many civil liberties were forgotten in the name of fighting communism.

Not only did most Western and democratic nations recognize the ROC over the PRC, so did the United Nations. The ROC joined the United Nations as a founding member on October 24, 1945. The ROC was made one of the five permanent members of the Security Council due to its importance in the aftermath of WWII. The United Nations only recognized the ROC for the same reason that most Western nations did, the fear of communism spreading. The ROC would hold its seat on the Security Council and would be recognized by the United Nations for about three decades.

Chiang Kai-shek's influence began to diminish as the Cold War dwindled and the United States had begun to rely on the PRC more and more. Eventually, Western nations would switch their recognition of the Chinese government from the ROC to the PRC in the 1970s. The United States, under President Richard Nixon's administration, recognized the PRC and cut off official diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979. This move by the Nixon administration was done during the Sino-Soviet Split, which was the breaking off of relations and communications between the PRC and the Soviet Union. The Nixon administration thought this strategic move would counter the Soviet Union's political influence and military threat, so the United States moved its embassy from Taipei to Beijing. Despite many nations removing their connections with Taiwan, many states are still sympathetic towards Taiwan's fight for independence from the mainland.

Even the United Nations would switch its recognition in 1971 and the ROC was removed from the Security Council in favor of the PRC. Currently, only a handful states out of the 193 in the United Nations recognize the Taiwanese government as a nation and have official ties. These few states include Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Luca, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tuvalu, and the Vatican City.

Honduras was the most recent nation to sever its diplomatic ties with Taiwan and recognize the PRC government. No nation has ever simultaneously maintained official relations with both the PRC and ROC governments.

The One-China Principle:

The PRC refuses to permit the idea of “two Chinas,” nor is the nation willing to allow the idea of one China and one Taiwan. The PRC has seen Taiwan as a renegade province since 1949 and is committed to reunifying Taiwan with the mainland. The PRC has maintained this view of Taiwan since 1949 and have demonstrated numerous acts of aggression towards Taiwan in an attempt to keep the so-called “province” in line. The PRC has made many efforts to try and reunify Taiwan, but this has been met with more and more opposition from the Taiwanese people.

Taiwan’s stance on their relation with the PRC has altered over the years with the different parties that have been in control of the island. The Kuomintang was the ruling party in Taiwan from 1949 to 1987, under this leadership Taiwan was placed in a permanent state of martial law. This period of Taiwanese history is commonly referred to as the White Terror due to how many civil liberties the Taiwanese people were denied in the name of protecting against the Communist Rebellion. During the four decades of the White Terror, groups that protested for independence from the PRC were met with persecution and were often imprisoned under false allegations. The KMT does not support complete independence from the PRC, rather they

support the idea of the One-China principle, but how they see the one China as the Republic of China and maintains this claim under the ROC's Constitution. By the KMT's interpretation of their constitution, both Taiwan and the mainland are under the sovereignty of the ROC.

The KMT gets this ideology from the 1992 Consensus that was reached between the Chinese Communist Party of the PRC and the KMT party of Taiwan. It is this agreement that Beijing has as their strongest piece of evidence as to Taiwan being a province of the PRC. However, both sides interpret the agreement quite differently. The PRC saw the agreement as Taiwan agreeing to be a part of the PRC and to work towards reunification. The KMT saw the agreement as "one China, different interpretations" and the ROC was that "one China."

The KMT is no longer the dominating party within Taiwan, as the party's power and influence seemed to have died with Chiang Kai-shek's son Chiang Ching-kou. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was born in 1986 after an aging Chiang Ching-kou declared his promise to oversee political reform in Taiwan. He lifted the ban on freedom of speech and allowed for opposing political factions to be formed, which allowed for the birth of the DPP. The party was strongly opposed to the CCP and the KMT alike. The infant political party openly announced its desire for independence from the PRC and their want for the Taiwanese people to be able to construct their own identity after decades of authoritative rule by the KMT.

In 1988, Chiang-Ching-kuo died and his vice president Lee Teng-hui assumed the position as President. Lee Teng-hui, nicknamed "Mr. Democracy" and the "Father of Democracy" by the Taiwanese, was the first president of the island that was actually born in Taiwan. In 1990, Lee was elected by the Taiwan's National Assembly to a six year term as the president. Lee's election was the spark that started a period of democratic reformation within Taiwan. In 1991, he life-time legislators in the National Assembly, which only a year prior had put Lee into the presidential office, were forced to retire. The legislators were replaced with democratically elected legislators, this was the first instance of democracy in Taiwan.

When Lee's six year term had expired, the first democratic presidential election was held. This greatly outraged the Chinese Communist Party in the PRC who feared that Lee would be reelected, who had given the Taiwanese more freedoms and liberties including new radio and television broadcasts. To deter the Taiwanese people from electing the KMT candidate Lee, the PRC used their military might to threaten Taiwan. The PRC conducts missile tests in the Taiwan



Strait, the 100 mile strip of ocean which separates Taiwan from the PRC. This incident became known as the Taiwan Missile Crisis and it was the PRC's attempt to frighten the Taiwanese government to back down. Their plan did not work in the PRC's favor, rather, it backfired greatly. The United States

Navy sent its Seventh Fleet to the Taiwanese Strait and demonstrated its largest military display in Asia since the days of the Vietnam War.

The DPP has never formally endorsed the previously mentioned 1992 Consensus that was met between the CCP and KMT. Since its birth in 1996, the DPP has continued to grow in popularity and influence. A 2005 anti-secession law passed by the PRC allowed for the authorization of use of force if Taiwan were to formally declare its independence. This only further pushed Taiwanese people to support the DPP. In 2016, the DPP won in the presidential election. Its candidate was Tsai Ing-wen, a pro-independence supporter who frequently used the slogan, "Say No To China," in her campaign. Tsai went on to state that she was elected in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of China, which is a One-China principle document. She went on to explain that she would also conduct affairs and trades with the PRC in accordance with the Republic of China's constitution. These statements enraged the PRC official and the nation cut off official contact with Taiwan.

Reunification Attempts:

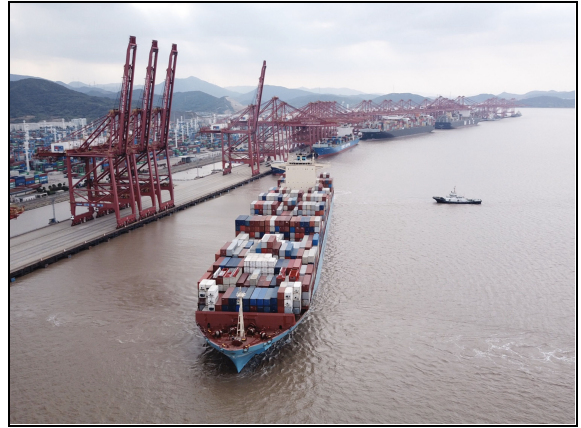
The PRC government has attempted via various means to reunify and assimilate Taiwan with the mainland. All of their attempts have been met with resistance from their Taiwanese neighbors.

One such way the PRC has tried to reel in their so-called “renegade province” was with the government model referred to as “one country, two systems.” This model would allow for two governments, the PRC and Taiwan’s democracy, to function simultaneously, but Taiwan would still be considered under the PRC as a province. However, this model has been met with extreme opposition from both of the major political parties in Taiwan, the KMT and DPP. Both parties have rejected the model, as they both only want one government system. Tsai and the DPP want Taiwan to be recognized as its own sovereign state, and the KMT party believes they are the One-China and are entitled to all of the territory under the PRC.

The “one country, two systems” model is incredibly unpopular in Taiwan and gained even more hatred when the PRC cracked down on mass protests that broke out on October 1, 2019. The protests were met with extreme police brutality and in some districts of the city live rounds were used by officers. The reason that this bloody and violent incident has any relation to the Taiwanese and their plight is due to the fact that the city of Hong Kong operated under a “one country, two systems” model since it was given back to China from the United Kingdoms in 1997. The PRC’s response to the protests in Hong Kong motivated many Taiwanese citizens to support the DPP in their fight for independence. The Taiwanese government will not accept the idea of two separate governments under the title of one nation.

Another effort that the PRC made in an attempt to reunify with Taiwan was via its economy. During the 1980s, Taiwan’s economy was rapidly expanding and strengthening. Alongside their economic boom, the island also saw its industrial industry grow exponentially and their exports boomed. The PRC’s economy was also seeing a similar growth in the 1980s

and their exports were skyrocketing. Since both territories were economically thriving, the PRC began to lower some of its economic barriers towards the island. The PRC's hope in this endeavor was that they could make the Taiwanese economy extremely dependent on the PRC's economy. Direct flights, direct ferries, and direct shipping was allowed across



the Taiwan Strait and the PRC had seemed to drop many of their hostilities towards Taiwan. The PRC believed that if they succeeded in making Taiwan economically reliant on them, then Taiwan would never try to confront them in fear of their economy collapsing.

This plan saw some initial success with the two economies intertwining more and coming to rely on one another. However, in the long run this plan has not worked out for reunification. In more recent years, the Taiwanese citizens have grown to even resist with great force against economic ties between Taiwan and the PRC. For example, in 2014, The Sunflower Movement protested against a proposed trade deal between Taiwan and the PRC. It currently seems that there is little possibility that either side would be susceptible to open communications for reunification.

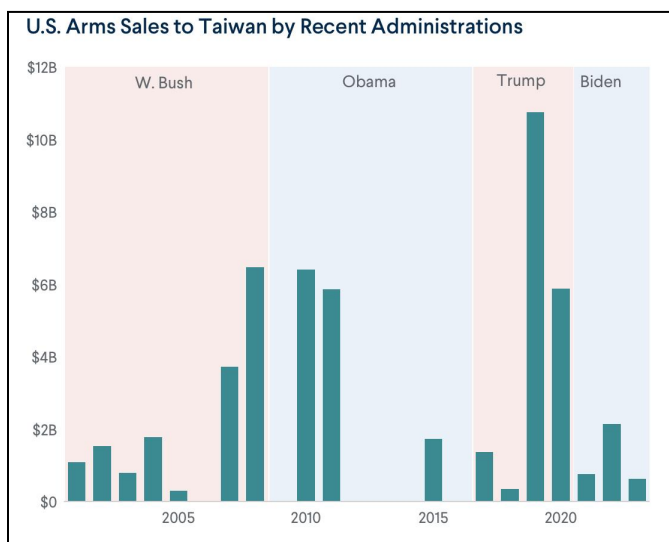
United States Relations Taiwan:

As stated prior, in 1971, the United Nations recognized the PRC. This was due to the United States allowing the passage of a resolution led by Albania. This resolution decreed that “the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations” and officially removed representation of the ROC in the United Nations. This was just the start of the United States show of affection towards the PRC. In 1979, the United States shifted its recognition from Taipei to Beijing and repudiated its defense treaty with the ROC. Although ending its official

diplomatic ties with Taiwan, the United States continued to support Taiwan and has maintained unofficial communications with the disputed territory. In the Taiwan Relations Act, the act passed by Congress that officially ended the United States relations with the ROC, it declared that they would protect Taiwan from being dominated by the PRC. However, the act did not declare full blown protection for Taiwan if it were to be invaded by the PRC.

Currently, the United States operates under a One-China policy. The United States recognized the People’s Republic of China as the One-China, and that the island of Taiwan is a renegade province of the PRC. The United States does not formally have diplomatic relations with the government of Taiwan, nor does the United States government officially support Taiwan in its struggle for independence from the PRC. With this policy, the United States hopes to maintain the status quo relationship between Taiwan and the PRC, and also to avoid the outbreak of a war over the sovereignty of Taiwan.

Despite the United States government formal policy not recognizing Taiwan, the nation continues to have unofficial communications with the “renegade province”. Along with keeping unofficial communications with Taiwan, the United States has also sold military defense weapons to Taiwan since 1979. In more recent years, the amount of arms which the United States has sold to Taiwan has increased exponentially. Under United States President Donald Trump's



administration, the United States sold over 18 billion dollars worth of weaponry to the Taiwanese government. The Trump administration also unveiled a 250 million dollar complex for its embassy that was to be built in Taipei. After his victory in the 2016 election, Trump accepted a call from Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen. This call only lasted about ten

minutes, during which Tsai congratulated Trump on his victory, and the two briefly discussed economics and security in Asia-Pacific. This was the most official communication between Taiwan and the United States since 1979, and the call resulted in anger from the PRC, who tried to downplay the importance of the ten minute conversation.

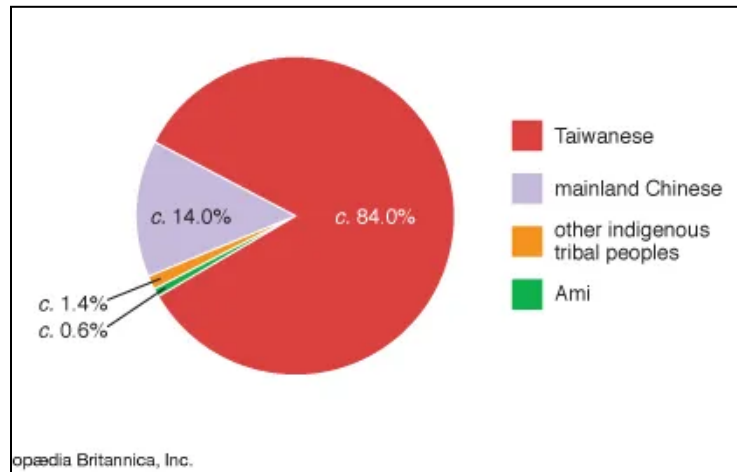
President Joseph Biden has maintained an approach to Taiwan similar to that of Trump's administration. Although the amount of arms sold to Taiwan has decreased during the Biden administration, Biden has stated numerous times that the United States would come to Taiwan's aid if the PRC were to ever invade the island. White House officials have tried their best to walk these statements back, but ultimately it would be Biden's decision as commander-in-chief of the armed forces to aid Taiwan. Under the Biden administration, the United States Congress passed the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022, which designated Taiwan as a Major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally. Also during the Biden administration, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei. Pelosi's decision to visit Taiwan sparked much controversy and resulted in the PRC performing a planned military exercise that surrounded the island. The PRC also placed sanctions on Taiwan along with this military drill.

A year later in 2023, Tsai met with the newly elected Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy. However, this time the two met on United States soil. This action resulted in even more condemnation from the PRC. The PRC responded with even more sanctions placed upon Taiwan and another show of the PRC's military superiority in the Taiwan Strait.

The United States might not officially recognize nor support Taiwan's independence, however, the United States has come to Taiwan's aid on numerous occasions. If the PRC were to take military action against Taiwan, this would most likely result in the United States military being deployed in Taiwan's defense. Nevertheless, the United States is taking all measures possible to avoid the need of military force and strives to settle this dispute diplomatically.

Current Status of Taiwan:

Over 23 million people reside on the island of Taiwan. Of that 23 million, 84 percent were born on the island of Taiwan, while 14 percent immigrated from the mainland. The remaining 2 percent is made up of various indigenous tribes. According to



a survey conducted by the National Chengchi University in 2022, found that nearly 61 of the 23 million identified as exclusively Taiwanese. The survey also found that 33 percent see themselves as mutually Taiwanese and Chinese, which is down seven percent from only a decade prior. Only a meager three percent of the residents of Taiwan identify themselves as solely Chinese. This is a view that has decreased greatly in popularity since 1994, when 26 percent of Taiwanese residents saw themselves as exclusively Chinese.

Most Taiwanese currently support maintaining the current relationship with mainland PRC. There is a growing population that calls for immediate independence, this sentiment is especially felt in the younger generations of Taiwanese residents. The majority of Taiwanese residents reject the idea of a “two systems, one country” model, but they do not wish to concede their government to the PRC. The most popular idea among the Taiwanese seems to be the idea of gradual independence that would eventually result in Taiwan being recognized as its own sovereign state.

The United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO) do not recognize Taiwan, however many states call for their inclusion in both, especially in the WHO forums. Taiwan does hold membership status in more than 40 international organizations, but they are mostly regional

organizations such as the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The island also holds observer status in several other international bodies.

Discussion Questions:

- What actions, if any, should the United Nations take in order to prevent a military invasion of Taiwan from the People's Republic of China?
- Should the People's Republic of China be required to open diplomatic relations back up with Taiwan?
- Should Taiwan be permitted entrance into more international organizations such as the World Health Organization?
- Should the People's Republic of China receive punishments for their actions towards Taiwan? Should Taiwan receive reparations for the decades of oppression the territory suffered under?

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