

Research Report

GA 4: Special Political

Evaluating the Situation of Taiwan With Regards to China

MUNISH '11



Please think about the environment and do not print this research report unless absolutely necessary.

Forum	GA 4
Issue:	Evaluating the situation of Taiwan with regards to China
Student Officer:	Puranjay Sudan
Position:	Chair

Introduction

Taiwan, formerly known as Formosa, is one of the world's most flourishing economies, being known as one of the Four Asian Tigers. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in Taiwan is one of the legal parties of the Republic of China which seek to make Taiwan an independent state from the People's Republic of China (PRC China). However, achieving that independence is proving to be difficult as the Kuomintang (KMT) Party of PRC China has its "one China" policy, and allowing Taiwan to gain independence would be against its core values. That is why PRC China has stated that if Taiwan were to declare independence, it would be justification for war.

Note: ROC now is another name for Taiwan.

General Overview

In 1895, the Chin dynasty lost Taiwan to the Japanese in the Treaty of Shimonoseki after the first Sino-Japanese War. After that, Taiwan made an uprising against the Japanese control, and they succeeded after the end of the Second World War, when they gained freedom in 1945. The Republic of China (ROC) became one of the founding members of the Security Council, along with the USA, UK, and USSR. In 1949, the ROC had lost mainland China to the Communist Party of China during the Chinese Civil War.

After the civil war, the ROC resettled to Taiwan, where the vast majority of the ROC's territory was situated. When mainland China was lost, the PRC established itself and assumed to be the successor state of the ROC. However, the PRC has never controlled the territories governed by the ROC.

On 25th October 1971, the ROC's seat in the UN was given to PRC China under Resolution 2758. Many countries began to recognise PRC as the legitimate representative, and began to normalise diplomatic relations with the PRC. Since 1970, the Taiwanese independence movement had been advocating the cooperation between the Taiwanese and the PRC in Taiwan, who identify Taiwan as their permanent home. On 10th December 1979, a demonstration was held in Taiwan commemorating Human Rights Day in an effort to promote and demand democracy in Kaohsiung



(Taiwan) which led to the arrest of main opposition leaders supporting the demonstration. This event is now known as the Kaohsiung Incident.

Since 1993, Taiwan began the process of appealing to the UN for a seat. However, this was rejected as the presence of the PRC, which is backed by many UN member states, makes it difficult.

In 2000, Taiwan underwent its first peaceful transfer of power from the Nationalist to the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Since then, it has been prospering as one of the “Tigers” of East Asia. Since then, the DPP have made a goal of getting the island its independence.

Taiwan’s most recent attempt to join the UN on 17th September 2008 failed as there was low voter participation. Since then, Taiwan has made no attempts to approach the UN.

Why did this issue occur?

The issue arises as PRC China is now counted as a permanent member of the UN, with veto power in the Security Council. The PRC had also stated that the independence of Taiwan would be justification for war. As the PRC is supported by many countries due to the economical and political advantages, the support for the ROC’s independence is far less than its opposition or conscious ignorance of member states in order to maintain healthy ties with the PRC. This puts the ROC at a disadvantage, resulting in it either delaying or giving up its further attempts for recognition. But the long struggle of Taiwan is why this issue is being given attention, as it is the struggle for sovereignty and peaceful independence.

Major Parties Involved

People’s Republic of China

China is the most involved party in this issue as the issue is about the possible division of its state. According to China, the independence of Taiwan will be a justification for war. As the UN is peace-oriented, along with the fact that China is one of the rising economic powers, most countries are against the move of Taiwan gaining full independence.

USA and UK

The US and UK (being in the P5) are against the motion of independence, but are in favor of Taiwan to gain observer status in the UN. They urge that Taiwan participates in UN bodies/divisions which do not require statehood, such as UN Development Programmes.

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)

The DPP is the party of Taiwan which seeks for independence. However, this process has not been pursued after many rejections to their cause, the last rejection being in 2008. They however have not fully pursued to gain observer status, which gives them the right to speak in committees and be part of debate in the UN but not vote, similar to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the UN.



Timeline

Date	Event
1895	Taiwan falls under Japanese rule. Opposition for freedom begins.
1945	Japanese give up Taiwan with the ending of WWII. ROC in effect. Becomes one of the founding members of UN SC.
1949	Mainland China lost to the Communist Party of China during Chinese Civil War. ROC resettles in Taiwan.
25/10/1971	Resolution 2758 passes. PRC recognised as sole legitimate representative of China.
10/12/1979	Kaohsiung Incident.
2000	Taiwan transfers from Nationalists to Democratic Progressive Party as their main governing body.
17/09/2008	Taiwan's latest attempt to be recognised in the UN as a member state. Motion fails.
2008 – present	No further attempts made by Taiwan to be recognised.

Possible solutions

Further attempts by member states can be made to give Taiwan its full independence and be recognised as a member state.

Motions to give Taiwan an observer status like Palestine can be made, in which Taiwan would have similar rights as to a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), where Taiwan would be able to give its input in the UN committees, but lack the power to vote.

Taiwan could also be authorised to be able to take part in UN agencies with meaningful participation, in which a position of "statehood" is not required. For example, taking part in the World Health Organisation (WHO) or any of the UN Development Programmes. This is supported by the United States of America and the European Union.

Appendices

For a list of countries that recognise the ROC, see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan#Position_of_other_countries_and_international_organizations

Resolution 2758 (PRC recognition): <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/7033401.html>



Bibliography

"China and the United Nations." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China_and_the_United_Nations>.

"EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA :: TAIWAN." *CIA - The World Factbook*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tw.html>>.

"Independence Debate." *BBC News - Home*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/asia_pac/04/taiwan_flashpoint/html/independence_debate.stm>.

"Kaohsiung Incident." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaohsiung_Incident>.

"Political Status of Taiwan." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_status_of_Taiwan>.

"Taiwan Independence Movement." *台灣獨立建國聯盟網站 / World United Formosans for Independence*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011. <<http://www.wufi.org.tw/eng/timovmnt.htm>>.

"Taiwan." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 07 Sept. 2011.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan>>.

