

Mr. Aitken
World Geography
Is Taiwan a Country?



Where is Taiwan

- Taiwan is an island in the Pacific, east of mainland China.
- Taiwan is about 1/4 the size of Washington State.


Chinese Civil War

- After the collapse of the Qing dynasty in 1912, the Republic of China (ROC) was formed.
- Chinese Civil War started in 1927 between the ROC and communists.
- 1949: Communists won control of mainland China. The ROC retreated to Taiwan.

Two Chinas

- Republic of China (ROC) in Taiwan continued to claim to be the legitimate government of China. 
- People's Republic of China (PRC), the communist government controlling mainland China, claimed to be the new government of China. 

Two Chinas

- "China" is one of the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council. 
- 1962: The UN recognized PRC as the legitimate government of China.
- 1972: The U.S. acknowledged "One China" policy.

U.S.: One China Policy

- Says that China is one country, and Taiwan is part of China.
- Does NOT recognize the PRC's sovereignty over Taiwan.
- Does NOT recognize Taiwan as a separate sovereign country.

U.S.: One China Policy

- US has an *embassy* in Beijing (PRC).
- US has the "American Institute in Taiwan," an unofficial embassy.
- US provides military support to Taiwan.

Separate Governments

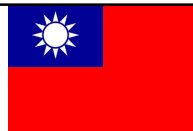
- Both the PRC and the ROC have separate governments.
- Both have their own currencies and separate trade treaties.
- Both issue their own passports.
- Both have their own police and military.

Perspective: People's Republic of China



- Allows Taiwan to operate as a separate autonomous region of China, as long as they do not claim independence.
- Says Taiwan should be brought under communist control, eventually, but has no timeline.

Perspective: Republic of China



- Taiwan unable to retake China by force. Cannot declare independence, or risk war.
- Believes communism will fail (like the USSR), and they will be restored as the legitimate government.

Official Recognition

- 19 countries recognize ROC as the legitimate government.
- 176 countries and the UN recognize the PRC government.
- 124 countries have unofficial relations with Taiwan or ROC.

