

Is Taiwan a part of China?

Swedish-Taiwanese Friendship Association

The purpose of the association is to work to spread information about Taiwan and to raise an interest in its history, culture and society, to contribute to cultural exchange between the two countries and to increase mutual understanding between people in Sweden and Taiwan.

The association does not take sides in issues concerning Taiwanese domestic politics.

The association considers it self-evident that any future decision on Taiwan's political status can and will be made solely by the people in Taiwan, without economic, diplomatic or military pressure from outside.

Do you want to become a member?
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Taiwan was originally populated by Austro-nesian peoples who had lived there for thousands of years, and who today represent about two percent of the population of the island. The first ethnic Chinese immigrants arrived approximately 500 years ago. Gradually Taiwan was integrated into the Chinese Empire and became a Chinese province. Following the Sino-Japanese War, China ceded Taiwan to Japan in 1895. After World War Two, Japan surrendered Taiwan to the Allies, and it was handed over to (the Republic of) China, which was then in the midst of a brutal civil war.

After the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) won the civil war, Taiwan remained part of the capitalist Republic of China, while the CCP proclaimed the People's Republic of China on the mainland 1949. Since then, China and Taiwan have been governed by two rival

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governments and are therefore in practice two separate states, the People's Republic of China (PRC), with its capital in Beijing, and the Republic of China (ROC), with its capital in Taipei.

Initially, each of the states claimed to be the sole legitimate representative for the whole of China. Nowadays, it is only the PRC which still makes this claim, while the ROC in practice accepts that the Chinese mainland

is governed by the PRC. It is this historical fact, that both claimed to be the "real China", that is the reason why, e.g. the national airline of Taiwan is called China Airlines (while the national airline of China is called Air China).

In other words, Taiwan has only been united with China during four of the latest 125 years. And Taiwan has not been ruled by the People's Republic of China for one single day.

Whether or not Taiwan is part of China is a question of definition, depending on what we mean by "China".

