

East Asia National Resource Center

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TAIWAN

Taiwan is the 7th largest economy in Asia. The People's Republic of China (PRC) have identified Taiwan as part of its territory and its most important core interest, since the Kuomintang (Nationalists) government retreated to the island in 1949 following defeat in the Chinese civil war. Taiwan is surrounded by states such as the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the west, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south. The island of Taiwan has an area of 35,808 square kilometres (13,826 sq mi). Taiwan's mountain ranges dominate the eastern two thirds and plains in the western third, where its highly urbanised population is concentrated. Taipei is the capital and largest metropolitan city of Taiwan!

6000 years ago, the Taiwanese indigenous peoples settled the island of Taiwan. In the 17th century, Dutch rule opened the island to mass Han immigration. After a brief rule by the Kingdom of Tungning, the island was annexed in 1683 by the Qing dynasty of China, and ceded to the Empire of Japan in 1895. Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, the Republic of China, which had overthrown and succeeded the Qing in 1911, took control of Taiwan on behalf of the World War II Allies. China has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, when the defeated Nationalist government fled to the island as the Communists, under Mao Zedong, swept to power.

Taiwan is a semi-presidential republic with a popularly-elected president who appoints the head of government. It is a developed country which ranks 15th in GDP per capita. Its export-oriented industrial economy is the 21st-largest in the world, with major contributions from steel, machinery, electronics and chemicals manufacturing. The state is ranked highly in terms of political and civil liberties, education, health care and human development. The US is Taiwan's most important friend and protector. Despite its diplomatic isolation, Taiwan has become one of Asia's major economic players, and one of the world's top producers of computer technology.



The Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.
Credit: [BoogieMan](#)

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K-12 RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS

- [History Timeline](#)
A historical timeline on Taiwan focuses on recorded history dating from about 400 years ago. A very well thought of resource put together by the Taiwan Government.
- [Taiwan: Facts & History](#)
A friendly pocket guide for quick facts on Taiwan including it's government, population, religion, language, climate, geography, economy, and history.
- [Post-Coloniality Taiwan Culture](#)
An interesting peer-reviewed article on post-colonial Taiwan and issues that propelled new theoretical development.
- [Religions in Taiwan](#)
A brief introduction to Taoism (Daoism), Buddhism, Christianity, and other religions in Taiwan.
- [Taiwan's Culture & Festivals](#)
Insight into Taiwan's indigenous festivals, parades, events, and public holidays.
- [Languages Spoken in Taiwan](#)
A quick introduction to the different languages spoken in Taiwan.
- [Beautiful Landscapes in Taiwan](#)
Taiwan is blessed with some of the highest mountains on any island in the world, stunning coastal scenery and forests exceptionally rich in wildlife and birdlife. Its towns and cities showcase a fascinating blend of modernity and tradition. This wonderful resource provides you details on different regions of Taiwan. A great travellers guide!

POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY TOPICS

- [Advancing 21st Century Competencies in Taiwan](#)
The nine-year curriculum and twelve-year curriculum are two of the major education innovations in the past 20 years in Taiwan. A very detailed resource on the evolving Taiwan's schooling system, competency framework, policy & practices, issues and challenges.

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- [What is behind the China-Taiwan divide?](#)
China sees Taiwan as a breakaway province that will eventually be part of the country again, but many Taiwanese want a separate nation. Read on to learn where they are at now.
- [Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan](#)
The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Taiwan offers a comprehensive overview of both contemporary Taiwan and the Taiwan studies field. Each contribution summarises the major findings in the field and highlights long-term trends, recent observations and possible future developments in Taiwan.
- [Politics in Taiwan](#)
A detailed description of the political and electoral system in Taiwan.

NEWS, MAGAZINES, AND JOURNALS

- [Taipei Times](#)
The Taipei Times launched on June 15, 1999, with the mission of presenting a voice long absent in the Taiwanese media: an English-language journal of record for national and international readers, presented from a Taiwanese perspective.
- [Taiwan Today](#)
Taiwan Today is a relaunch of Taiwan Journal, an English-language weekly newspaper first published in 1964. Taiwan Today covers various aspects of Taiwan including arts, economics, environment, politics and society.
- [Taiwan News](#)
Taiwan News began publication in 1949 as “China News.” Founded by James Wei, It was the first English-language newspaper in Taiwan. Its ongoing mission is to report on both Taiwanese society as well as modern global trends, building a bridge of communication between cultures and nations.
- [Taiwan Review](#)
Taiwan Review is a general-interest monthly publication providing in-depth discussion of various aspects of Taiwan including arts, economics, environment, politics and society. TR was first published in April 1951 as Free China Review. It changed its name to Taipei Review in April 2000 and its current moniker in March 2003.

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LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITY IDEAS

Elementary (Prek-5)	Middle School (6-8)	High School (9-12)
Asia Unit Study: Taiwan	The Taiwan Straits Crises: 1954–55	Taiwan: Identity Politics
Activities for Kids	Taiwan: Cultural Exploration	Introduction to Taiwan and the “Problem” of Sovereignty
Taiwan: Virtual Field Trip	Powerpoint on Taiwan	The U.S.-Taiwan Textile Trade Case
Taiwan: Worksheets & Activities		Confucius and Confucianism
Taiwan Geography: Maps & Flag		Sister-State Relationship
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS		
		<p>ASSE High School Exchange Program Taiwan</p> <p>Program Description: As an ASSE exchange student in Taiwan you will have the unique opportunity of experiencing first hand the amazing contrast created by the beauty and serenity of the Taiwanese countryside, and the hustle and bustle of the rapidly growing city of Taipei. Spend an ASSE exchange year in a land of such fascinating polarity, learning the language and immersed in the culture, gain a priceless insight into a culture so vastly different from your own.</p> <p>Eligibility: High School</p>

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		Student Fee: School Year: \$9950; Summer Immersion: \$6000 Scholarship: Available
		Meiji Taiwan Internship Program Description: Meiji’s internships are individually customized to suit students needs. You will have the chance to further deepen your expertise in your current professional field or equip yourself with a completely new skillset. Learn more about the different industries and their emphasis on certain areas of business. Eligibility: 18 years+ Fee: Price Calculator Scholarship: Available

References

“The Official Website of the Republic of China.” *Government Portal of the Republic of China, Taiwan*, www.taiwan.gov.tw/about.php.

“Taiwan Country Profile.” *BBC News*, BBC, 1 Feb. 2019, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16164639.

“World Bank Country and Lending Groups.” *World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk*, datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519.

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