

# China Divided: The Status of Taiwan

**To the student:** This question is based on the accompanying seven documents. It has been created in order to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, try to understand the source of the document and any point of view that is presented in the document.

**Historical context:** In 1912 Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his followers established the Republic of China (ROC), a democratic government, and struggled to unify China under one Nationalist government. In 1921, however, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) began with the help of the Soviets. The invasion of the Japanese during World War II further weakened the ROC government and allowed the CCP to begin a civil war on the Mainland. The Communist People's Republic of China was established in Peking (now called Beijing) in 1949. The Republic of China government fled across the Taiwan Strait to Taipei, Taiwan, with Chiang Kai-shek as its leader. Since then, China has been a divided country with two separate governments. At first, the U.S. recognized ROC as the legitimate government of China, but in 1971 the Taiwanese government was expelled from the United Nations in favor of the People's Republic, and eight years later the U.S. also formally recognized the Beijing government. Although the U.S. and the Republic of China on Taiwan no longer have formal diplomatic ties, they continue to have friendly relations and a mutually beneficial economic relationship. The position of Mainland China is that there should be "one China," with the island restored to the People's Republic government. Taiwan continues to assert its independence and its need to be recognized as a sovereign nation that should be admitted to the UN and given diplomatic recognition by other countries.

**Task:** Using information from the following documents and your own knowledge of history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you to accomplish the writing assignment given in Part B, in which you will be asked to take a position on Taiwanese inclusion in the United Nations and write a speech that indicates reasons for your position.

## **PART A Short-Answer Questions**

**Directions:** Read and analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions in the space provided. Prepare for the reading of the documents by studying the vocabulary definitions that are given before each document.

## Document 1



### Document 1 Short-Answer Questions

1. According to the key that is provided, how many miles are between Mainland China and Taiwan? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the name of the body of water that separates Taiwan from Mainland China?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of Taiwan's capital city? \_\_\_\_\_

## Document 2



*Document 2: President Nixon meets with China's Community Party Leader, Mao Tse-Tung on February 29, 1972. National Archives, Control No. NLNP-WHPO-MPF-8649(01).*

### Document 2 Short-Answer Questions

1. According to the caption provided with Document 2, who is President Richard Nixon meeting with, and when did this happen?

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2. Do the two men look like they are on friendly terms, or are they tense?

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### Document 3 Vocabulary

**Infinitely:** endlessly, without limit.

“...As we look to the future, we must recognize that the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the United States have had great differences. We will have differences in the future. But what you must do is to find a way to see that we can have differences without being enemies in war. If we can make progress toward that goal on this trip, the world will be a much safer world and the chance particularly for all of those young children over there to grow up in a world of peace will be **infinitely** greater.”

*Document 3: Excerpt from speech by President Richard Nixon, February 17, 1972. “Remarks on Departure from the White House for a State Visit to the People’s Republic of China.” From Public Papers of President Richard Nixon, available online at <http://www.nixonfoundation.org>.*

### Document 3 Short-Answer Question

1. What reason does President Nixon give for his historic visit to China in February 1972?

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## Document 4 Vocabulary

**Reaffirmed:** Restate, declared again.

**Normalization:** To bring into a state of relieved tensions.

**Province:** Division of a country.

“...The two sides reviewed the long-standing serious disputes between China and the United States. The Chinese **reaffirmed** its position: The Taiwan question is the crucial question obstructing the **normalization** of relations between China and the United States; the Government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government of China; Taiwan is a **province** of China which has long been returned to the motherland; the liberation of Taiwan is China’s internal affair in which no other country has the right to interfere; and all U.S. forces and military installations must be withdrawn from Taiwan. The Chinese Government firmly opposes any activities which aim at the creation of ‘one China, one Taiwan,’ ‘one China, two governments,’ ‘two Chinas,’ an ‘independent Taiwan’ or advocate that ‘the status of Taiwan remains to be determined.’

“The U.S. side declared: The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. With this prospect in mind, it affirms the ultimate objective of the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan. In the meantime, it will progressively reduce its forces and military installations on Taiwan as the tension in the area diminishes...”

*Document 4: Excerpt from the Joint U.S.-China Communique, February 27, 1972, known as the Shanghai Communique. Entire text is available online at <http://asia.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/15/documents/us.china/>*

## Document 4 Short-Answer Questions

1. What is the position of the People’s Republic of China regarding Taiwan?

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2. What Chinese position does the U.S. say it does not challenge?

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## Document 6 Vocabulary

**Abridged:** Cut short.

Whereas Taiwan has dramatically improved its record on human rights and routinely holds free and fair elections in a multiparty system, as evidenced most recently by Taiwan's second democratic presidential election of March 18, 2000, in which Mr. Chen Shui-bian was elected as president;

Whereas the 23,000,000 people on Taiwan are not represented in the United Nations and many other international organizations, and their human rights as citizens of the world are therefore severely **abridged**;

Whereas Taiwan has in recent years repeatedly expressed its strong desire to participate in the United Nations and other international organizations;

Whereas Taiwan has much to contribute to the work and funding of the United Nations and other international organizations;

Whereas the world community has reacted positively to Taiwan's desire for international participation, as shown by Taiwan's membership in the Asian Development Bank and Taiwan's admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group as a full member and to the World Trade Organization as an observer;

Whereas the United States has supported Taiwan's participation in these bodies and, in the Taiwan Policy Review of September 1994, declared an intention of a stronger and more active policy of support for Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations;

Whereas Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Congress on administration efforts to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization; and

Whereas in such report the Secretary of State failed to endorse Taiwan's participation in international organizations and thereby did not follow the spirit of the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review:  
Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that--*

(1) Taiwan and its 23,000,000 people deserve appropriate meaningful participation in the United Nations and other international organizations such as the World Health Organization; and

“(2) the United States should fulfill the commitment it made in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review to more actively support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations.

Passed the House of Representatives October 3, 2000.

**Document 6: Excerpt from 106th U.S. CONGRESS, 2d Session, House Congressional RES. 390.**





