

HISTORY OF TAIWAN SLIDE SHOW
(NARRATION)

1. HISTORY OF TAIWAN

Taiwan is a semi-tropical island in the western Pacific, about 110 miles off the South-east Coast of mainland China and some 665 miles South-west of Japan, a little over 2-hour jet flying time from Tokyo.

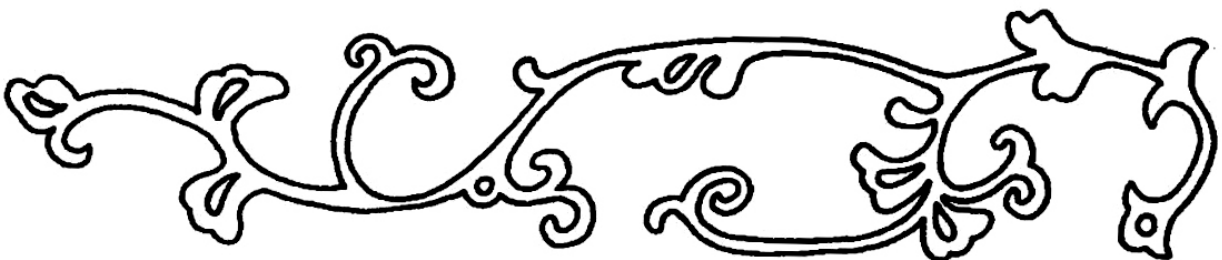
Geographically, Taiwan is roughly 240 miles in length and about 90 miles at its greatest width. It is about the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined, or little larger than Holland.

Like America, Taiwan's population has been built up from successive waves of immigration going back many centuries.

2. THE FIRST INHABITANTS OF TAIWAN

The first people to arrive were aborigines of Malay-Polynesian stock, who now number fewer than 200,000. Little is known of their early history but that different tribes settled at widely varied times in various parts of the island.

In the thirteenth century, a small settlement of Chinese fishermen appeared in the Pedescadores, off-shore islands of Taiwan, and a local government was formed. In the fourteenth century, the local government was abolished by the Ming Dynasty to prevent disturbances caused by pirates.



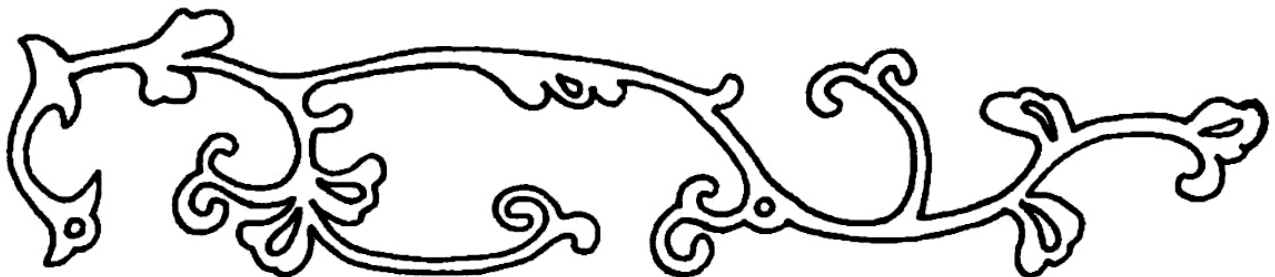
3. RULED BY THE PORTUGUESES, SPANIARDS, AND THE DUTCH
(16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES)

From its inception, foreign powers sought to make Taiwan their colony. In the 16th century, Portuguese sailors came to the island of Taiwan, en route to Japan, and called it, "Ilha Formosa", meaning "beautiful island". Thus for a long time, the island was better known internationally as Formosa rather than Taiwan.

During the 17th century, the Dutch and Spanish established settlements in Taiwan. The Dutch East India Co., based in Taiwan, controlled and exploited the southern coast of the island for about 40 years. In 1624, they founded Amping and built Fort Zeelandia and Fort Provintia. In 1626, the Spanish attacked the northern part of the island and built Fort San Salvador in Keelung and Fort San Domingo in Tamsui. Taiwan became a Dutch colony at the conclusion of a Dutch-Spanish War in 1642. Due to labor shortage, the Dutch immigrated some 100,000 Chinese labors to Taiwan during the period of their occupation.

4. TAIWAN - THE KINGDOM OF KOXINGA (1662-1683)

In 1661, eighteen years after the Ming Dynasty of China was overthrown by the Manchus, Koxinga led the remnants of Ming from China and invaded Taiwan. The Dutch were defeated and concluded their colonial rule in 1662. Taiwan became the personal kingdom of Koxinga. The people who came to Taiwan with Koxinga later became an integral part of the Taiwanese people.



5. THE CHING DYNASTY (1683-1895)

In 1683, an expedition force sent by the Ching emperor, Kang Hsi with assistance from the Dutch, succeeded in asserting nominal authority over Taiwan. For nearly two centuries thereafter, the Ching Government did virtually nothing to govern or develop Taiwan. Local administration fell to the Mandarins and, probably, to family organizations, abusive and ineffective rules ensued. Against such rules, riot and abortive independence movements took place so often that a popular Taiwanese saying referred them as a period of "Every three years an uprising; every five years a revolution".

It is questionable if China ever exercised sufficient control over Taiwan. Indeed, in 1871, the Ching Government of China stated that Taiwan was "outside its jurisdiction" and thus it could not be held responsible for what the Taiwanese had done to the Japanese nationals in Taiwan. It was only in 1887 that the Ching Government proclaimed Taiwan a province of China, with Liu Ming Chuan as its Governor. Eight years later, defeated in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, China ceded Taiwan to Japan by the treaty of Shimonoseki. Li Hung-Chang, the official of the Ching Government who negotiated the treaty, defended in his memoirs the ceding of Taiwan to Japan by stating that:

"It will some day be seen that I rendered my country a distinctive service when I gave Formosa over to Japanese enemy. This land of the brown robbers was a vile spot, in which no man would care to live."

Japanese landed Taiwan at Keelung in the north and at Amping in the south. The Taiwanese resisted their takeover.



6. THE REPUBLIC OF TAIWAN, THE FIRST REPUBLIC IN ASIA

In 1895, Taiwan was ceded to Japan by the treaty of Shimonoseki. The treaty itself provided for an interesting test of the development of the political perspectives of the Taiwanese populace. The Taiwanese were allowed a two-year period during which they might opt for Chinese nationality and move to the Chinese mainland or retain in Taiwan. Almost all of the populace opted to remain in Taiwan. Furthermore, unable to influence the Manchu (Ching) government to prevent the cessation of Taiwan to Japan, the Taiwanese revolted and established the Republic of Taiwan - the first Republic ever attempted in Asia. Within a year, the Republic was suppressed by an invading Japanese force.

Beheaded, her brave soldiers were annihilated cruelly.

7. A COLONY OF JAPAN (1895-1945)

After crushing the Republic of Taiwan and suppressing the Taiwanese resistances and oppositions, Japan annexed Taiwan into her Empire. Thus Taiwan spent 50 years colonial rule by Japan.

The Japanese ruler deprived the fundamental rights of the Taiwanese totally. The Taiwanese revolted constantly against the Japanese ruler and were suppressed. Among the many incidents was the Se Lai Am Incident in 1915, which shocked the world. Thousands of Taiwanese including innocent women and children were killed. Start of political movements in Taiwan was marked by the establishment of the "Taiwanese Cultural Association". The Japanese ruler stepped up its suppression.



In 1930, the aboriginal Taiwanese staged a revolution against the Japanese in Bu Shia. The Governor sent a troop of army to attack Bu Shia and beheaded many Taiwanese. This was referred as the "Mountain of Heads" Incident or "Bu Shia" Incident. Without much success, the Governor dispatched the Air Force and spread poison gas to conclude the incident. The world condemned the Japanese on such a use of poison gas to kill thousands of Taiwanese.

The end of Japanese rule in Taiwan was marked by the conclusion of the World War II.

Japan formally surrendered Taiwan to the Allied Forces represented by Chen Yi, a Nationalist Chinese general on October 25, 1945.

The same general, Chen Yi congratulated the Taiwanese on their good fortune for being Japanese citizens when he was dispatched to Taiwan by Chiang Kai-Shek in 1935 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Japanese rule in Taiwan. Under the Japanese rule, Taiwan initiated fantastic social and economic development that left a permanent imprint on the culture and perspectives of the Taiwanese people.

8. RULED BY THE CHIANGS (1945- ?)

Many thoughtful Taiwanese greeted the Japanese surrender with deep emotion - a mixture of elation, relief, and extraordinary anticipation of good things to come, thanks to the United States and the American people. The Japanese ruler finally left Taiwan.

Word that Taiwan offered unimaginable riches spread quickly on the Chinese mainland. Thousands of Chinese streamed in, coming principally from Shanghai. The Nationalists from mainland had quickly proved their true character. Looting was carried on. The well-established society started to disintegrate. Taiwan was again colonized.

Reacting to Maladministration, corruption, and oppression of the Nationalist Chinese authorities, Taiwanese rage exploded on February 28, 1947, in an island-wide popular uprising. In suppressing the "228 Incident", as the event is remembered by Taiwanese, as many as 20,000 Taiwanese leaders from all walks of life were massacred in March 1947 by the occupation forces and reinforcement from the Chinese mainland sent by Chiang Kai-Shek

After fleeing to Taiwan with the remnants of his military and civilian personnel, Chiang implanted himself on Taiwan on March 1, 1950 as the "President" of the "Republic of China" and the actual ruler of Taiwan, and declared a permanent state of siege under Martial Law on Taiwan.

During the early 1950s a large number of persons disappeared and mass arrest took place in the 1960s.

Freedom of speech was suspended. Notable is the banning of a popular political magazine, the "Free China". Its publisher, Lei Chen was imprisoned in 1960.

In 1964, Pen Men-Ming, a Taiwanese professor of International Law and a Department Head at the National Taiwan University together with two of his students Shieh Tsung-Ming and Wei Ting-Tsa printed thousands of copies of a Declaration of Taiwanese Independence. All three were arrested and imprisoned.

The Shanghai Joint Communique and the replacement of the UN membership by the People's Republic of China in 1971 destroyed the Chinese Nationalists' myth that it would retake the Mainland.

Under the claim that the Nationalist (KMT) government still ruled China, the Taiwanese were only allowed representation proportional to their percentage of the total population of China, giving them 3% (now about 7.3%) representation in their own homeland. Since then, there have been no popular national elections for the President in Taiwan, and for the three national congressional bodies where house "representatives" from Nanking, Peking, Shanghai, Tibet, and even Mongolia, who were elected to the offices in 1947.

Only limited local elections are permitted. But election fraude by the KMT is a prevailing fact. Simply because of protest agaist the election fraude, the candidate Yen Ming-Shen and his campaign manager Yang Ching-Hai were arrested in May 1976 and imprisoned for 15 years and to life respectively.

During the December 1975 election campaign, a local Taiwanese candidate, Pai Ya-tsan, was arrested shortly after he published a campaign statement consisting of 29 questions addressed to Chiang Ching-Kuo. Shortly after his arrest, Mr. Pai was tried in secret and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The second magazine in the past quarter century representing somewhat independent political view, the "Taiwan Political Review", was suspended in 1975 and banned from publication the next year. Its Assistant Chief-Editor Huang Hua was arrested the next year and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment allegedly for "plotting the violent overthrow of the KMT government".

Books that have been confiscated included the Bible.

Secret execution of political dissidents prevails.

The abuses of human rights by the Chinese regime in Taiwan have been well documented in many reliable publications.

On August 16, 1977, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan with nearly 200,000 members published a Declaration of Human Rights in Taiwan, appealing to President Carter and to the whole world for the support of Taiwan Independence. The August 21 issue of the "Taiwan Presbyterian Weekly" which published the Declaration was confiscated.



The resentments of the Taiwanese against the military rule by the KMT regime have been demonstrated by the protest against the KMT election fraude, which is exemplified by the Chung-Li Incident. However, the answer to the resentment is reinforcement of suppression. More magazines are banned and books are confiscated.

The silent overseas Taiwanese can no longer bear to see their relatives and friends in Taiwan continuously suppressed by the KMT regime. Demonstrations take place in Japan, the United States, and Europe.

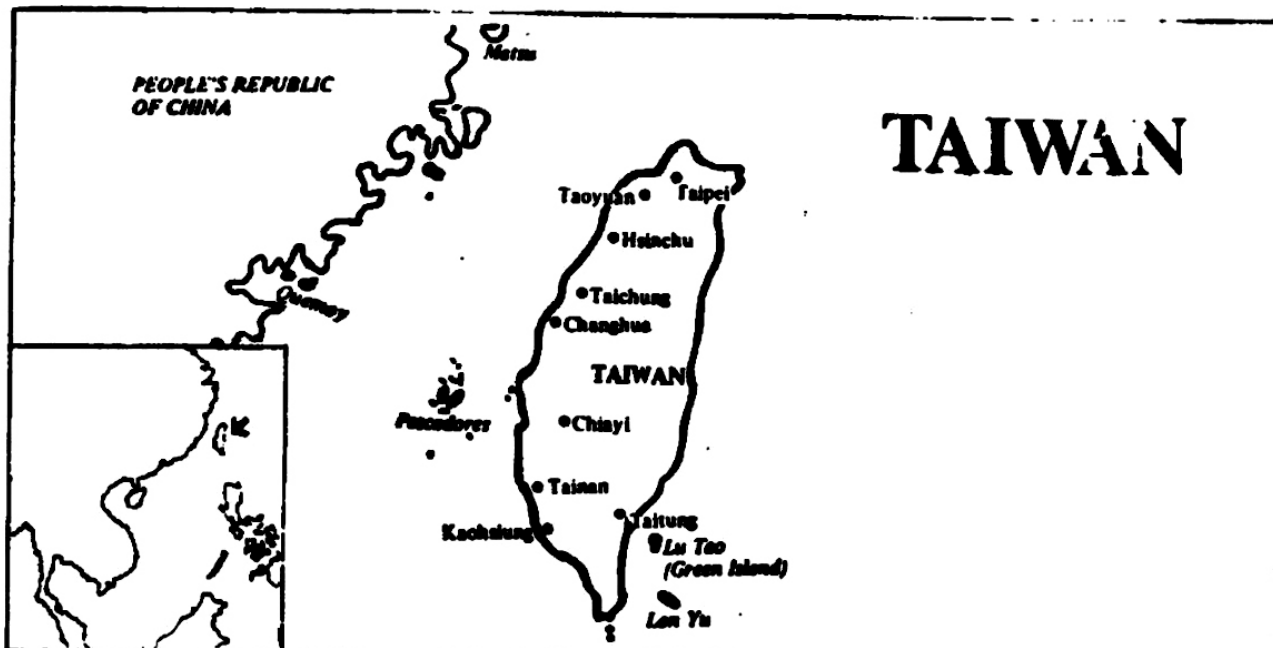
The Taiwanese are island people. For them, mainland China is a foreign country they have never visited, and one which for the past 30 years they have had no contact. With solid industrial foundation laid by the Japanese before the end of World War II and the massive inflow of post-war economic aid (from the U.S.), the Taiwanese have created an economically self-sustaining and viable entity. Taiwan was never integrated into the economy of the mainland of China and, since the communist revolution, the island-state, having had no economic contact with China, has developed an economic system completely distinct and different from its neighbor. As a result, Taiwan's economy is a part of the aggregate of market economy of the non-communist world.

9. ILHA FORMOSA - A BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

Wave after wave of immigrants and generation after generation, the inhabitants on Taiwan have been undergoing experiences distinctly Taiwanese. They have forged a distinct sense of identity and perspective in their quest to be master of their own activities and destiny. The history of Taiwan is a history of 400 years Taiwanese struggle for self-rule.



Compiled by Charles C. Yang 4/30/79



A Flower on a Rainy Night

A flower on a rainy night
 A flower on a rainy night
 Fell on the ground in wind and rain
 Out of everyone's sight
 It sighs day and night
 It has fallen not to return again.

A flower on the ground
 A flower on the ground
 Who pays attention to it?
 Merciless wind and rain, destroy its future
 The flower is withered, withered
 What can it do?

Merciless rain, merciless rain
 It has no concern for our future
 It is not mindful of our frailty
 Covering our destiny with darkness
 Causing us to fall from the branch
 Out of everyone's sight.

Raindrops, raindrops,
 Lead us into the pool of suffering
 Not mindful of our frailty
 Covering our destiny with darkness
 Causing us to fall from the branch
 Out of everyone's sight.

(This song is illegal in Taiwan because it is considered "too sad." The words were written by Chow Tien Wan and are about the history of Taiwan. The music is by Du Yueh Shen, and it was translated by Chao Seng-Song.)

雨夜花

雨夜花

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 風 加勁 雨 加勁 傷心人 巧難見
 流水流 流水流 引我人 受風雨

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