INTRODUCTION
First inhabited by Austronesian people, Taiwan became home to Han immigrants beginning in the late Ming Dynasty (17th century). With the communist victory in the Chinese civil war in 1949, the Nationalist-controlled Republic of China government and 2 million Nationalists fled to Taiwan and continued to claim to be the legitimate government for mainland China and Taiwan based on a 1947 Constitution.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President TSAI Ing-wen
Head of Government
Premier SU Tseng-chang
Government Type
semi-presidential republic
Capital
Taipei
Legislature
unicameral Legislative Yuan (113 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income East Asian economy; most technologically advanced computer microchip manufacturing; increasing Chinese interference threatens market capabilities; minimum wages rising; longstanding regional socioeconomic inequality
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $1.143 trillion (2019 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $24,500 (2018 est.)
Industries - electronics, communications/information technology products, petroleum refining, chemicals, textiles, iron and steel, machinery, cement, food processing, vehicles
Agricultural products - rice, vegetables, pork, cabbages, poultry, sugarcane, milk, eggs, pineapples, tropical fruit
Exports $388.5 billion (2019 est.)
integrated circuits, office machinery/parts, computers, refined petroleum, liquid crystal displays (2019)
partners: China 26%, US 14%, Hong Kong 12%, Japan 7%, Singapore 7%, South Korea 5% (2019)
Imports $308.7 billion (2019 est.)
integrated circuits, crude petroleum, photography equipment, natural gas, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: China 21%, Japan 16%, US 11%, South Korea 6% (2019)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 35,980 sq km
Land: 32,260 sq km
Water: 3,720 sq km
Climate
tropical; marine; rainy season during southwest monsoon (June to August); extensive and persistent cloudiness all year
Natural Resources
small deposits of coal, natural gas, limestone, marble, asbestos, arable land

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
23.57 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.04% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Han Chinese more than 95%, indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples 2.3%
Language
Mandarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese (Min Nan), Hakka dialects, approximately 16 indigenous languages
Religion
Buddhist 35.3%, Taoist 33.2%, Christian 3.9%, folk (includes Confucian) approximately 10%, none or unspecified 18.2% (2005 est.)