



- Fact Sheet on Taiwan's Contemporary History -

- 1945 Japan renounced its claim to Taiwan after its defeat in World War II and the Kuo Ming Tang (KMT), then in power on the mainland, occupied Taiwan.
- 1947 Taiwanese rebelled against the KMT and 10,000 to 20,000 Taiwanese perished in the rebellion.
- 1949 The KMT government of China was defeated by the Peoples Liberation Army of the Chinese Communist Party and left the mainland for Taiwan, accompanied with two million people who fled to Taiwan.
- 1971 The "Republic of China in Taiwan" (ROC) was replaced at the UN by the Peoples Republic of China when the General Assembly recognised the communist government in Beijing as the sole representative of China.
- 1986 The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was formed, which endorses the right to self-determination for the people of Taiwan.
- 1990 An active campaign is being waged by government and the DPP for a restoration of Taiwan's membership in the UN.
- 1994 The Government of Taiwan renounced its claim to represent all of China, stating that instead, it represented the people of Taiwan.
- 1996 The Taiwanese held their first democratic presidential election, despite severe pressure and military threats from the people's Republic of China.
- 1997 The pro-independence democratic opposition won a major victory by winning 12 positions, doubling the seats they now hold. Even more importantly, the opposition candidates won 44 percent of the vote, for the first time in history surpassing the Kuomintang -- which dropped to 42 percent.

On 12 June 1997, the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg adopted a Resolution in which it called on China to renounce the use of force in its disputes with Taiwan and urged for better international representation for Taiwan within international organizations.

- 1998 UN decides not to discuss "ROC" membership The General Assembly's steering committee decides not to put the issue of "ROC" membership on the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly.

On 7 May 1998 several dozen US congressmen jointly urged US Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to back Taiwan's bid to enter the World Health Organization.

- 2000 On 18 March 2000, Taiwan held its second direct presidential elections. Democratic Progressive Party candidate Chen Shui-bian won a stunning victory, making it the first time in Taiwan's history that an opposition party has won over the entrenched Kuomintang. Mr. Chen won 39.3 percent of the vote, independent candidate James Soong 36.8 percent, while KMT candidate Lien Chan came in a distant third with 23.1 percent of the vote.
- 2001 On 8 August 2001, the DPP-government of President Chen Shui-bian announced that it was re-initiating the campaign for Taiwan to enter the United Nations.
- 2002 On 3 August 2002, in a telecast to the annual conference of the World Federation of Taiwanese Associations meeting in Tokyo, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian called for a referendum on Taiwan's future. President Chen stated that holding a referendum was a basic human right of the Taiwanese that cannot be deprived or restricted, and stated: "Taiwan's future and destiny can only be decided by the 23 million people living on the island."
- 2004 In the 2004 presidential election Chen Shui-bian was re-elected for a second term over a united opposition ticket. Chen garnered 6,471,970 votes, 11 percent more of the popular vote than in 2000. Taiwan's opposition alliance has defeated President Chen Shui-bian's DPP party in parliamentary elections in December 2004.