



(U) CHINA VS TAIWAN



(U) This infographic provides a China vs Taiwan perspective. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), is an island separated from China by the Taiwan Strait. It has been governed independently of mainland China, officially the People's Republic of China (PRC), since 1949. The PRC views the island as a renegade province and vows to eventually "unify" Taiwan with the mainland. In Taiwan, which has its own democratically elected government and is home to twenty-three million people, political leaders have differing views on the island's status and relations with the mainland. After 1949, and throughout much of the Cold War, Taiwan enjoyed substantial international recognition as the Republic of China, especially due to the U.S.-led anti-communist campaign, and the mainland's own isolationist and ideological posture. However, in 1971, the PRC garnered enough votes in the UN General Assembly to expel Taiwan as the Republic of China, and to admit the PRC as the representative of China to the UN.

Chinese and Taiwanese armed forces

	 China	 Taiwan
Total active forces	2,035,000	169,000
Ground forces 	965,000	94,000
Navy 	260,000	40,000
Air force 	395,000	35,000
Reserves 	510,000	1,657,000
Tanks 	4,800	650
Aircraft 	3,348+	691+
Submarines 	59	4
Naval ships* 	86	26
Artillery 	9,550	2,093

*Only includes ships classified as principal surface combatants, such as aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates

Source: The Military Balance 2023, IISS



China

Taiwan

Economic overview

one of the world's top two economies; sustained growth due to export relations, its manufacturing sector, and low-wage workers; only major economy to avoid COVID-19 economic decline; recovery efforts slowing due to longstanding poverty imbalances and other institutional issues; state-sponsored economic controls

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

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$24.861 trillion (2021 est.)

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.143 trillion (2019 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$17,600 (2021 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$47,800 (2019 est.)

Why is Taiwan important for the rest of the world?

- Much of the world's everyday electronic equipment - from phones to laptops, watches and games consoles - is powered by computer chips made in Taiwan.

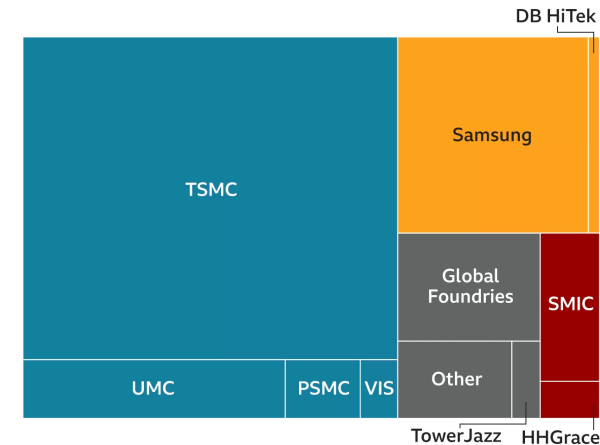
Why is Taiwan important for China?

- Seizing Taiwan would cement CCP control of the Western Pacific, threaten critical U.S. interests, and give the CCP unprecedented leverage over the global economy.

Taiwan dominates the global production of computer chips

Global foundry market share, by country and company 2021

Taiwan 65% South Korea 18% China 5% Other 12%



Source: Trendforce 2021



Sources:

- <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>
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