



# Taiwan

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- Self-Introduction
- Brief introduction of Taiwan
- Own experience
  - Academic & lecturer
  - Personal

# Outline

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- Lecturer at the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies, UAB (since 2003)
- Visits to Taiwan since 2007
  - National Taiwan Normal University
  - National Taiwan University
  - Academia Sinica (中央研究院)
  - Tamkang University
- Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation
- Personal ties

**Helena Casas-Tost** 艾麗娜

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# Taiwan: the basics

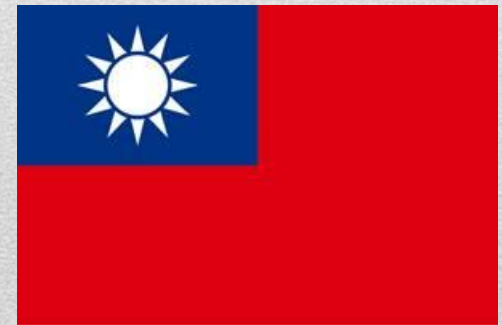
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# Taiwan

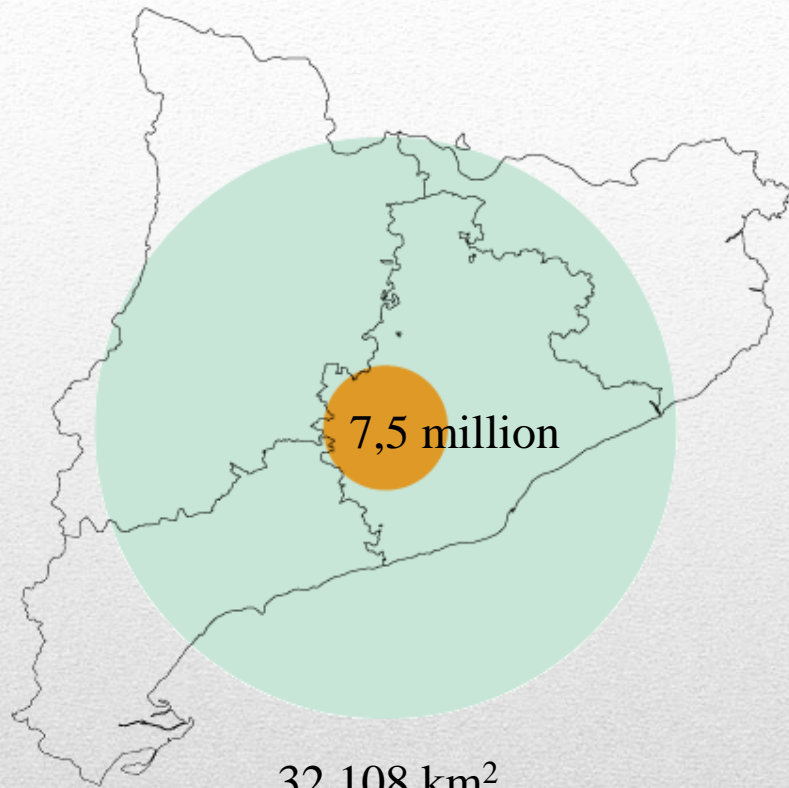
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- **Name:** Republic of China (ROC) (1911)
- **Capital:** Taipei City
- **Area:** 36.193 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population:** 23,5 million
- **Currency:** New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$ / TWD)
- **Language:** Mandarin Chinese (國語), Taiwanese, Hakka, Indigenous languages (ethnicity)
- **Religion:** Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam
- **Political system:** multiparty democracy (semipresidential republic)
- **President:** Tsai Ing-wen (2016)
- **GDP:** US\$ 530 billion (2015)



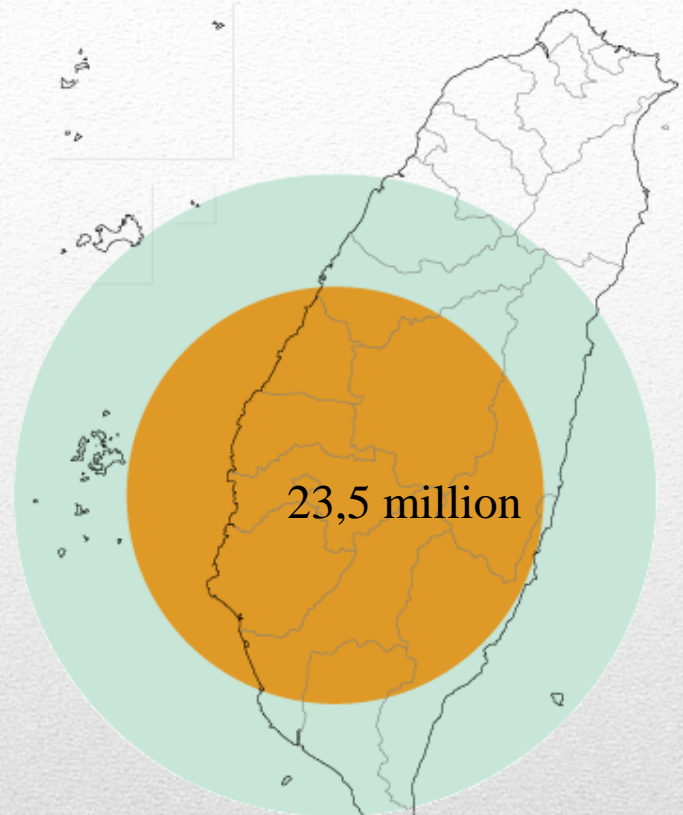
# Taiwan: the basics

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32.108 km<sup>2</sup>  
233,8 inhab./km<sup>2</sup>

# Catalonia



36.193 km<sup>2</sup> (+12,7%)  
649,3 inhab./km<sup>2</sup> (+178%)

# Taiwan

- What is Taiwan?
- Is it part of China?

# Taiwanese history

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- What is Taiwan?
- Is it part of China?
  
- Internal changes and foreign influences have shaped Taiwan, its international status and relations with other countries, and the sense of Taiwanese identity

# Taiwanese history

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- Considered beyond the pale of Chinese civilization: savages
- Maritime activity from Ming dynasty (1368-1644)
- 1600s presence of European powers
  - “Formosa”
  - Spanish settlements in Keelung and Tansui (1642)
    - Fort Santo Domingo (紅毛城)
  - Dutch Administration (1624-1663)
- Short but important to the development of commercial routes between East Asia and Europe

# Taiwan's early history

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- Cheng Ch'engkung/ Zheng Chenggong / **Koxinga** defeated and overthrew the Dutch authorities in Taiwan
- He wanted to defeat the Manchus and reestablish the Ming Dynasty on the mainland from Taiwan
- Chinese emigration from the mainland to Taiwan
- 1684 Prefecture of Fujian Province: nominal Qing dynasty rule over Taiwan

# Taiwan's early history

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- 1894-95 Sino-Japanese war
- Treaty of Shimonoseky. Ceded Taiwan and Penghu Islands to Japan
- Japanese colonial rule 50 years
  - Modernization
  - Education (Japanese language)
  - Economic development
  - Taiwan's standards of living higher than any province in China

# Japanese occupation

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- 1911 Republic of China
  - Period of unrest KMT & CCP → Chinese Civil War
    - 1945 return to Mainland rule
    - 1949 CCP established the People's Republic of China
    - Chiang Kai-shek (KMT) fled to Taiwan with the idea of reestablishing control over the Mainland
  - Authoritarian rule over the Taiwanese, repressive policies and imposition of martial law
- Disappointing return to Mainland China

# Return to Mainland rule

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- 1950, 60, 70s : Period of oppression and discrimination against native Taiwanese
  - Establish a sense of nationality
    - threat of Communism
    - guardians of China's civilization
  - Process of sinicisation Taiwan
  - Instead of muting differences, they KMT ended up emphasizing them, boosting people's identity as Taiwanese

# Republic of China

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- 1970s ROC lost its seat in the UN
- Normalization of relations between the PRC and many Western countries (Spain 1973)
- 1979 normalization of relations between US and the PRC
  - China-Taipei
  - Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (*de facto* embassies)

# International arena

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- From 1980s international and domestic factors reinforced Taiwanese sense of identity
  - De-recognition of ROC
  - Economic growth and prosperity (“Made in Taiwan”)
  - Improvements in education, communications, etc.
  - Emergence of middle class
  - Political reform → Democratization process
  - Revitalization of Taiwanese ethnicity (language, culture, origins, etc.)

# Republic of China

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- 1990s Lee Teng-Hui (KMT) “two-state theory”
- 2000s Chen Shui-bian (DPP): pro-independence
- 2008 Ma Ying-Jeou (KMT): pro-Mainland ties
- 2016 Tsai Ying-wen (DPP): pro-independence
  
- Stronger economic ties
- Lift of ban on communication
- Closer relations between PRC and ROC have emphasized the differences

# Cross-Strait relations

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- Chinese culture but with its own traits:
  - Island: influences from different peoples
  - Japanese legacy (economy and culture)
  - Cross-Strait Relations (differences reinforced)
  - Extraordinary and quick economic growth
  - Influence from the West (US)
  - Political reform
  - Nativist movements

# Taiwanese identity

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- Culturally Chinese
- Dualities in cultural life and production
  - Tradition and modernity
  - Nativism and foreignness
  - Localism and cosmopolitanism
- Every aspect of Taiwanese society and culture: literature, food, art, politics, media, architecture, etc.

# Taiwanese culture

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- Country: Easy, safe, comfortable, open, modern and traditional
- People: open, welcoming, warm, modern
- Perfect for studying Chinese
  
- Very positive experience
- Many and very good research centers and universities
- Very well equipped centers and libraries, easy to access
- Tenure-track system similar to ours (projects, funding, etc.), eager to work with other institutions

# Personal opinion

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- Very positive experience
- High academic level, motivating teaching
- Easy, convenient, comfortable, open
- Chinese traditional culture
- Chinese language (traditional script 国語—國語)
- Would recommend to study there without a doubt
  
- Negative: the weather
  - Subtropical monsoon climate (hot and humid)
  - Earthquakes and typhoons

# Students' opinions

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Thank you!

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