



## The UK position on Taiwan

The UK Government's position on the One China Policy as per FCDO evidence to Foreign Affairs Committee in 2005:

"Under the terms of a 1972 agreement with China, HMG **acknowledged** the position of the government of the PRC that Taiwan was a province of China and **recognised the PRC Government as the sole legal government of China** [... This] remains the basis of our relations with Taiwan. We also make clear that we consider the Taiwan issue is one to be settled by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. We are strongly opposed to any use of force and urge both sides to engage in constructive dialogue."

More recently the Government has consistently stated that the UK supports Taiwanese engagement in international organisations "where statehood is not a requirement".

“ The Taiwan Policy Centre believes the UK position on Taiwanese participation should be to support membership where it is in the interests of the international community for Taiwan to be represented. ”



## The UK, Taiwan & China

The UK has had diplomatic relations with China for hundreds of years.

In 1861, the British consulate opened on Fort San Domingo in Taipei. Joseph Henry Longford was appointed Consul at Tainan on 4 February 1896.

Dr. Hsieh Pao, appointed on the 4th of June 1948, was the last Republic of China Ambassador to the UK.

The United Kingdom broke off diplomatic relations with the Republic of China and recognised the People's Republic of China from 6 January 1950. The United Kingdom however maintained a Consulate in Tamsui until 13 March 1972.

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## Q&A

When was Taiwan part of China?  
- **1683-1895 (Qing Dynasty)**

When did China relinquish sovereignty over Taiwan? - **1895 (Treaty of Shimonoseki)**

Has Taiwan ever been a part of the PRC? - **No**

Does the PRC have any legal claim to sovereignty over Taiwan? - **No**

When was Taiwan part of Japan?  
- **1895~1946 (Empire of Japan)**

When did Japan relinquish sovereignty over Taiwan? - **1952 (Treaty of San Francisco)**

Did Japan hand Taiwan back to the ROC or the PRC? - **No. It specifically relinquished sovereignty to no other state.**

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## The One China Principle

The One China Principle holds that Taiwan is a part of China. This is often confused with the 'One China Policy'.

The One China Principle is mostly referred to by officials, academics, and media in Taiwan and China when discussing the context in which the two sides can meet and negotiate absent official relations.

**EXAMPLE:** The best-known form of the 'One China Principle' is the so-called 1992 Consensus which the Chinese Communist Party and many Kuomintang (KMT) leaders in Taiwan interpret as there being one sovereign state encompassing China and Taiwan, but with neither side recognising the other as the legitimate government of this state.

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## Is Taiwan A Country?

Yes. Taiwan meets all the conditions and characteristics of a self-determining nation-state under the Montevideo Convention 1933, which formally defines statehood as requiring:

- ✓ a permanent population
- ✓ a defined territory government; and
- ✓ capacity to enter into relations with the other states.

Also feat.

Taiwan has its own ... currency, military, legal system, language(s), national Post Office, Coast Guard, national education, exams, and certification systems, own national health system, airspace and EEZ waters, national parks, Parliament and President, tax system, customs and immigration systems, own police force ...

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