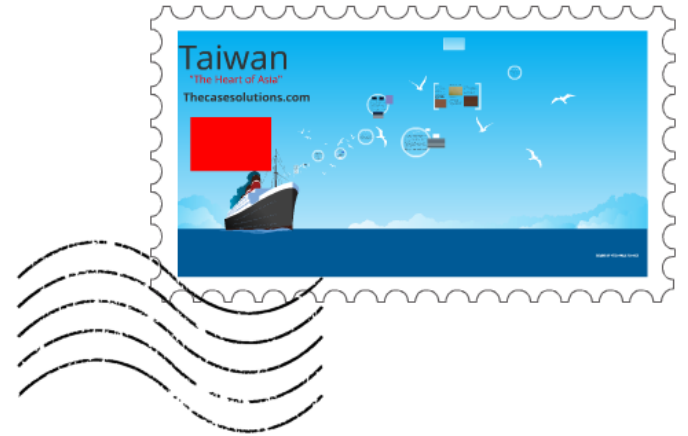


# Taiwan: A Concise Profile, 2014



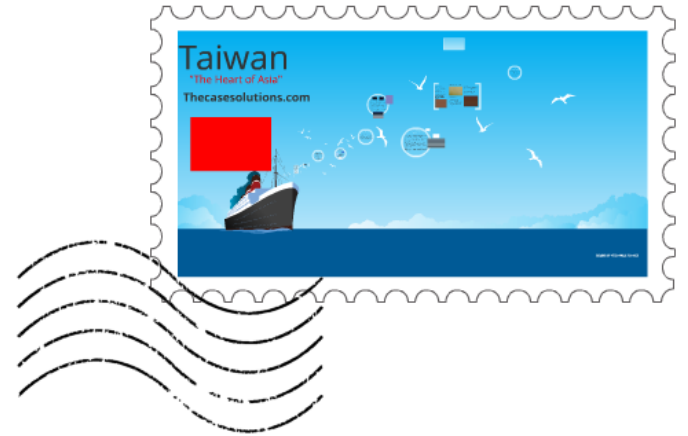
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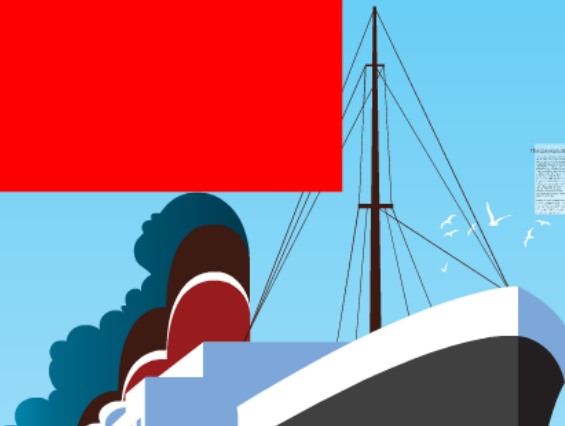
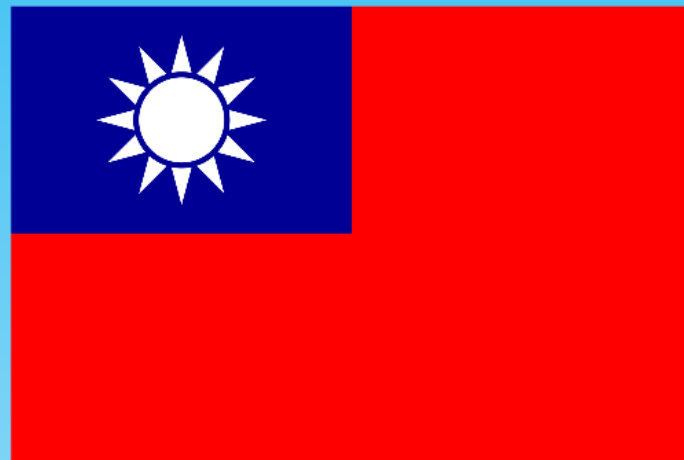
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# Taiwan

"The Heart of Asia"

[Thecasesolutions.com](http://Thecasesolutions.com)



## Brief History

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For thousands of years, Taiwan was home to the nine plains tribes. During the 15th century, Han Chinese began crossing the Taiwan Strait. In 1662, Ming loyalist Koxinga returned to Taiwan and drove out the occupying Dutch, establishing ethnic Chinese control over the island. When China was defeated in the First Sino-Japanese War with Japan in 1895, Taiwan was ceded to Japan as a colony and the Japanese occupied Taiwan from 1895 to 1945. After Japan's defeat in World War II, Japan relinquished control of Taiwan, reestablishing Chinese control over the island to this day.

Taiwan has rapidly started to become a modern country, increasing living standards for its people. Because of its geography, most people live on the coastal plain; 75% of its population live in cities, working in factories.



# Facts

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President:  
Ma Ying-jeou  
(President of China)



Premier:  
Jia Yi-huah  
(Premier of China)

### Ethnicity/race:

Taiwanese (including Hakka) 84%,  
mainland Chinese 14%, aborigine 2%

### Religion:

Mixture of Buddhist, Confucian, and  
Taoist 93%, Christian 4.5%, other 2.5%

Literacy rate: 96.1% (2003)

### Major Trading Partners:

China, U.S., Hong Kong, Japan,  
Singapore (2012)

# Culture

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Taiwan's population is mostly Han Chinese who were born on the mainland or have ancestors that were. They are divided into three groups based on the dialect: Taiwanese, Hakka, and Mandarin. Taiwan also has a small population of aborigines who comprise about 2 percent of the total population.

Most people in Taiwan have traditional values based on Confucian ethics; however, pressures from industrialization are now challenging these values. Still, some traditional values remain strong, including piety toward parents, ancestor worship, a strong emphasis on education and work, and the importance of "face." Since industrialization, women enjoy greater freedom and a higher social status, individual creativity is regarded as equally important as social conformity and acquiring material goods and recognition is increasingly important.

Some tensions exist between social groups. The majority of people in Taiwan came from or have ancestors who came from mainland China before 1949. They are known as Taiwanese and enjoy the highest standard of living in Taiwan. Because of their wealth and numbers, they also have the greatest influence on economic and political issues.

Mainlanders are people who arrived in Taiwan after mainland China fell to the Communists in 1949. Many Mainlanders work for the government. Tensions between Taiwanese and Mainlanders have eased substantially. The aborigines, who live mainly in rural villages, are the least privileged social group in Taiwan.

# Location

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Taiwan is off the Eastern coast of China. It is an island roughly about 36,000 square kilometers (13,900 square miles) large. This means that Taiwan is slightly larger than Delaware and Maryland combined, similar in size as the Netherlands.



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Most people live on the western part of Taiwan. The rest of Taiwan consist of hills and mountains of the Central Range, which average heights of 1000-3000 feet.

Eastern Taiwan has smaller plains and steep cliffs that plunge into the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Yushan (Jade Mountain) is the highest mountain in North East Asia at a staggering elevation of 3952 meters. (Over 12,950 feet)

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