

REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

In its final years, the Qing dynasty, China's last, suffered from a kind of political and moral paralysis. Efforts at modernization met with stony opposition from deeply conservative officials and institutions. Reform campaigns vainly strove to overcome endemic bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption. In fact, the very idea of adapting western social or political institutions to Chinese society met with passionate resistance. The first Opium War (1839-42), the Anglo-French War (1856-58), the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95), and the Boxer Rebellion (1900) had all resulted in defeats for China and the granting of major concessions to various foreign powers. Therefore, fear and resentment of all things foreign was widespread.

By 1900 however, revolutionary groups had begun to form throughout the country as progressive elements, especially in the army, realized that western ideals and practices were China's only hope for survival in the new century. On October 10th, 1911, a group of revolutionary army officers began a revolt that soon spread to all parts of South China. On December 2nd, the revolutionaries captured Nanjing (Southern Capital) establishing the first "republic" in all of China's long history. On December 28th, delegates to the provisional revolutionary government of this republic elected Dr. Sun Yat Sen, affectionately known as "Zhong Shan" (Central Mountain), to be its first president. In March 1912 the capital was moved to Beijing (Northern Capital) and the child-emperor (Pu Yi) was forced to abdicate the imperial throne.

Various political betrayals and the machinations of certain provincial warlords soon caused the collapse of this "first" Chinese republic. Sun's reaction was to use his "Nationalist Party", the "Guo Min Dang" (GMD) to revive it. Under the military leadership of Sun's successor, Chiang Kai Shek, and with communist participation and Soviet support, this was partially achieved in the 1920s. Chiang soon broke with the communists, who had been working to undermine his authority, and drove them west and north into the province of Gansu near the Mongolian border. Mao Ze Dong and his supporters came very close to defeat at this time. Indeed, the only thing that saved them from total collapse was the timely arrival of the Japanese army.

The Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and their invasion of North China proper in 1937, and the widespread death and destruction that followed, soon overwhelmed all of Chiang's attempts to establish any sort of effective central authority. China was thrown into utter chaos and anarchy. Mao Ze Dong and the communists cooperated to some extent (whenever it was to their advantage) with Chiang's "Nationalist" forces and the Allies against the Japanese during World War II. But, immediately after Japan's surrender, they threw everything they had, including considerable Soviet support, into the final struggle for complete control of the country. Civil war raged across China from end to end between 1946 and 1949, compounding the damage done by the Japanese. In the end, a string of communist victories forced Chiang and the surviving Nationalists to seek refuge on the island of Taiwan.

The "Guo Min Dang"

The Chinese "National People's Party" (Guo Min Dang) governed all or part of mainland China from 1928 to 1949 and subsequently ruled Taiwan under General Chiang Kai Shek and his successors. Originally a revolutionary league working for the overthrow of the Chinese monarchy, the Nationalists became a political party in the first year of the Chinese republic (1912) and participated in the first Chinese parliament until this was dissolved by a coup d'état in 1913. After Sun's death in 1925, leadership of the party passed to Chiang Kai Shek, who brought most of China under its control by reducing the power of the country's regional warlords.

Nationalist rule under Chiang became increasingly conservative and dictatorial during this period, though it stopped short of true totalitarianism. Its program rested on Sun Yat Sen's "Three Principles of the People": nationalism, democracy, and people's livelihood. Nationalism demanded that China develop its assets until it was the equal of other nations, but the Japanese invasion and the struggle against the communists largely made this impossible. The realization of democracy through successive constitutions also met with little success, and for the same reasons. Equally ineffective were attempts to improve the people's livelihood and eliminate corruption. By 1949, defeat on the mainland produced a flood of refugees to the last remaining Nationalist refuge, the island of Taiwan. Consisting of over two million persons, including large numbers of Chinese soldiers and most of Chiang's government, the GMD "invasion" quickly dominated all political life on the island. Taiwan, and a few small coastal islands, thus effectively became the new Chinese Republic, with its capital established at Taipei. For years to come, Nationalist "mainlanders" held virtually all legislative, executive, and judicial posts.

The Formative Years

Many Taiwanese welcomed Chiang and the Nationalists as liberators who drove out the hated Japanese. Much to their chagrin, however, Nationalist objectives toward Taiwan were not concerned primarily with the well being of the local population. Japanese colonial institutions remained largely in place and Taiwan's resources were to be exploited toward reestablishing Chiang once more on the mainland. Resistance to these policies would lead to many deaths and much hard feeling between native Taiwanese and mainland Nationalists for decades to come.

The communists inability to land sufficient forces on Taiwan to finish off Chiang and his supporters proved to be the deciding factor in Nationalist survival until the outbreak of the Korean War changed the picture entirely. When North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950, President Truman, assuming communist Chinese complicity in the action from the outset, interposed the 7th Fleet between them and Taiwan. As the war in Korea wore on, the United States vastly increased its economic and military aid to Taiwan and American support for Chiang and the GMD became a cornerstone of American defense policy. Chiang and the GMD, therefore, came under the protective wing of US military might, virtually guaranteeing their continued survival.

After the "Bandung Conference" in April 1955, there was substantial hope that Beijing might limit its tactics to the "peaceful liberation" of Taiwan. During the initial stages of talks that began in August between the United States and China, it seemed that this hope might be formalized in a treaty mutually renouncing the use or threat of force in the Taiwan area. These talks broke down, however, and by 1958, Beijing had adopted a more militant approach. In August 1958, communist artillery bombarded Quemoy and issued an ultimatum demanding the surrender of the island's Nationalist garrison. This threat was to be broken by yet another interposition of US naval power combined with a behind-the-scenes withdrawal of Soviet support.

In its first two decades on Taiwan, the "Guo Min Dang" began to lose some of its original militancy. At first, most officials, at least publicly, believed that their presence on the island would be temporary. Later, as younger mainlanders and Taiwanese rose to positions of authority, Taiwan itself became more the focus of attention. Yet, the strongest voices associated with Chiang continued to insist on the inevitability of the GMD's reconquest of the mainland. The approved scenario held that this would begin with an uprising in China, followed by a popular demand for a Nationalist return. The certainty of this view waned over the years, but in the mid-1960s the

intensification of the Vietnam War and the upheavals caused by the "Cultural Revolution" revived the hopes of many. Thus, economic modernization, despite its success, was never considered as the main goal. Modernization would provide the necessary basis, it was argued, to build up power and international prestige, and to assure support from allies in the GMD's eventual counterattack.

The key to external support was the United States, the policy of which was indicated by its position concerning the "seating question" at the United Nations. Until 1970 the United States was able to postpone consideration of resolutions to replace Taipei's representatives with those of Beijing. US firmness at the UN and other evidence of US fidelity encouraged Chiang's government in the belief that its international position was reasonably secure. During the 1960s this spirit of confidence and lessening of tension was reinforced by an increased American demand for Taiwanese goods, which transformed Taiwan from an aid client of the United States to a trading "partner". Earlier fervor for returning to the mainland was quietly transformed into a pursuit of individual economic success. As age and poor health began to take its toll, Chiang began to turn over the supervision of domestic affairs to his son, Chiang Qing Guo, who became deputy premier in 1969 and premier in 1972. After his father's death in April 1975, he became chairman of the GMD and, in 1978, president of Taiwan.

Since 1970

Domestically, the transition from Chiang Kai Shek to Chiang Qing Guo was accompanied by a gradual shift from a more autocratic to a more populist style. Chiang Qing Guo's political associates recruited more Taiwanese into higher positions in the GMD and the military, and the President made frequent visits to all parts of the country. Between 1969 and 1971, US restrictions on trade and travel by Americans to China were eased, and the United States began to explore alternatives to opposing Beijing's representation in the United Nations. Meanwhile, a number of countries severed diplomatic relations with Taipei, and in 1971 Taiwan was ousted from the United Nations and the People's Republic seated. After President Nixon's historic visit to Beijing in 1972, the United States established quasi-diplomatic relations with the People's Republic.

For Taipei, the new US-China relationship came as a devastating setback. Nationalist officials began to prepare the island for greater international isolation, but a cooling of this relationship in the mid-1970s provided a temporary reprieve. That reprieve ended when the US established formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic in 1979. In the associated normalization agreement, the United States accepted an end to all official US defense ties with Taiwan and acknowledged the position that there is but one China, and that Taiwan is a part of it. The US further agreed to end any future support for an independent Taiwan. Subsequently, however, the US Congress passed the "Taiwan Relations Act", authorizing continued social and economic ties. The United States also unilaterally stated that it would continue to sell arms to Taiwan.

In the early 1980s the GMD rejected overtures from the People's Republic for negotiations toward eventual reunification. Domestically, several scandals jolted Taiwanese financial confidence, as evidence emerged that rich Taiwanese businessmen wielded influence over GMD officials and could neutralize government regulations. Chiang Qing Guo opened communications with the Chinese Communist mainland and with the domestic political opposition in 1985. The "Democratic Progressive Party" (DPP) was formed in 1986, and in 1987 the GMD lifted martial law, which had been in effect since 1949!

A New Generation

In January 1988, Chiang Qing Guo died. His chosen successor, Vice President Lee Teng Hui, became Taiwan's first "Taiwanese" president. Despite the struggle between conservatives and progressives, political democratization continued. Taiwan's legislative and local elections in December 1989 were the first in which parties other than the GMD were allowed to participate.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's resulted in dramatic changes in world diplomacy and the balance of power. These changes encouraged Taiwan to attempt normalizing relations with the People's Republic by establishing organs for managing ongoing economic and social intercourse and for negotiating possible eventual reunification. Political liberalization focused renewed attention on social problems and fostered a major cultural renaissance within the country as well.

Political Pluralism

In December 1994, the Republic of China passed another milestone on its remarkable march toward full democracy. The results of the gubernatorial and mayoral elections, pitting the ruling Nationalist Party against the Democratic Progressive Party, its main rival, and the upstart "New Party", indicated that Taiwan's eight-year-old democracy was settling into what was basically a two-party system. Voters delivered a split verdict. DPP candidate Chen Shui Bian's election as mayor of Taipei gave his party its greatest electoral victory yet, but GMD incumbent Wu Ten Yi, triumphed in Gaoxiong, Taiwan's second-largest city. In the first election ever held for provincial governor of Taiwan, GMD incumbent James Sung returned to office with a comfortable majority. The election also indicated that in media-saturated Taiwan, personality and image might be more important than party affiliation. The DPP's reaffirmation of its commitment to the formal independence of Taiwan elicited another warning from the government that Taiwan and the People's Republic were judicially equal parts of a single China.

Taiwan completed its remarkable ten-year march toward democracy in 1996 with its first-ever direct presidential election. It was the first time in the history of China that ordinary citizens had had an opportunity to select their leader in a democratic election. Incumbent Lee Teng Hui, easily won a second term, defeating the DPP candidate, Peng Ming Min. Lee's triumph was unwittingly aided by the PRC. China threatened to use military force against Taiwan if it ever dared to declare formal independence. It then fired live missiles into Taiwan's northern and southern coastal waters to drive the point home. By standing firm against these threats, Lee enhanced his image and guaranteed his election.

Reunification?

The widespread perception that social order was deteriorating in Taiwan was reinforced in 1997 by the kidnapping and brutal murder of Pai Xiao Yen, the teenage daughter of popular television entertainer Pai Ping Ping. The slaying, the third in a series of high-profile killings on the island, triggered mass demonstrations in Taipei in May of that year. Protesters criticized the government for not doing enough to enforce law and order and demanded the resignation of the Cabinet.

President Lee tried unsuccessfully to mollify public opinion by engineering a limited cabinet shakeup. Premier Lien Chan announced that he would step down once the National Assembly had adopted the constitutional changes agreed upon by the GMD and DPP. Meeting in extended session, the National Assembly (Yuan) accomplished this task by midsummer, and Lien kept his promise to resign. In his place President Lee appointed GMD legislator Vincent Xiu, who had previously held a series of top diplomatic and economic posts. Xiu promised to focus on improving social order, enhancing the quality of life, undertaking a program of spiritual revitalization, and pursuing economic development while enhancing national security and improving ties with the mainland.

One week before Beijing reestablished its sovereignty over Hong Kong, Taiwan conducted large-scale (live-fire) land and naval exercises, which international observers interpreted as proof that Taiwan can and will resist any attempts at forced reunification. On June 28th, 1997 an estimated 70,000 people attended a "Say No to China" anti-reunification rally in Taipei. The government later urged China to protect basic freedoms in Hong Kong and made it clear that Taiwan would not allow itself to be absorbed in a similar manner. Taiwanese leaders have repeatedly rejected Hong Kong's return to Chinese control under a "one country, two systems" pledge of local autonomy, and have stated categorically that this would be unacceptable to them. In municipal elections, held in November of that same year, the DDP scored major upset victories, emphasizing the strength of pro-independence passions among the Taiwanese electorate. For the foreseeable future, barring some sudden and dramatic upheaval, the reunification issue will continue to simmer: it made the news again in October, 2004.

FOREIGN WEAPONS

All foreign weapons are of US origin.

TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT INFANTRY DIVISION: 1990

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B), 1x81mm M29 Mortar(1+), 0-1x106mm M40 RcR/Jeep
 Motorized Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B)/V150, 1x81mm M29/V150 Mortar(1+), 0-1xV150/TOWII
 Support Company: 2x"Kuen Wu-1" ATGM/Jeep, 1x4.2" M1 Mortar(2)/Truck, 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Anti-Tank Company: 3x"Kuen Wu-1" ATGM/Jeep
 Tank Company: 4xM41 or M24/90
 Recon Company: 3xJeep/HMG[R] 1xTL3 Infantry(R)/Truck, 1xM8 Armored Car[R]

Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company
 Motorized Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ/Truck, 3xMotorized Company, 1xSupport Company
 Tank Battalion: 1xM41 or M24/90 (HQ), 3xTank Company, 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Artillery Battalion: 3x105mm M101(3)/Truck
 Heavy Artillery Battalion: 3x155mm M114A1(3)/Truck

2-3xBrigade Headquarters: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 1xRecon Company, 1xAnti-Tank Company

Infantry Division: 6xInfantry Battalion, 1xMotorized Battalion, 1xTank Battalion, 3xArtillery Battalion, 1xHeavy Artillery Battalion
 (The above battalions may be divided among the division's "Brigade Headquarters" as you see fit.)

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
 Rocket Battery: 1x126mm "Gong Feng III"(12)/Truck
 Engineer Company: 3xTL3 /Truck
 Anti-Aircraft Company: 3x40mm/L60 "Bofors"/Truck

- Notes:**
- 1) The "Kuen Wu-1" (or Kun-Wu-1) is the Taiwanese version of the Russian AT-3 "Sagger".
 - 2) Approximately one Motorized Battalion in three was equipped with V150s as of 1990. The remainder used truck transport.
 - 3) Approximately one Tank Battalion in three was equipped with M24/90s as of 1990.
 - 4) Infantry may be upgraded to Type (A) after 1995.
 - 5) Taiwan's Army contains ten Infantry Divisions.
 - 6) There are also seven (Reserve) "Light" Infantry Divisions, each with one Motorized and six Infantry Battalions.

MECHANIZED DIVISION: 1990

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Mechanized Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B)/M113A1, 1x81mm M125(1+), 1xM901/TOWII
 Mechanized Support Company: 1x4.2" M106(2), 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Motorized Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B)/V150, 1x81mm M29/V150 Mortar(1+), 1xV150/TOWII
 Motorized Support Company: 1x4.2" M1/V150 Mortar(2), 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Anti-Tank Company: 3x"Kuen Wu-1" ATGM/V150
 Tank Company: 4xM41(Type 64)
 Recon Company: 3xJeep/HMG[R] 1xTL3 Infantry(R)/Truck, 1xM8 Armored Car[R]

Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ/M577, 3xMechanized Company, 1xMechanized Support Company
 Motorized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ/V150, 3xMotorized Company, 1xMotorized Support Company
 Tank Battalion: 1xM41(Type 64) (HQ), 3xTank Company, 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Artillery Battalion: 3x105mm M108(3)
 Heavy Artillery Battalion: 3x155mm XT-69(3), 1x203mm M110A2

2-3xBrigade Headquarters: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 1xRecon Company, 1xAnti-Tank Company

Infantry Division: 6xInfantry Battalion, 2xTank Battalion, 2xArtillery Battalion, 1xHeavy Artillery Battalion
 (The above battalions may be divided among the division's "Brigade Headquarters" as you see fit.)

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
 Rocket Battery: 1x126mm "Gong Feng III"(12)/Truck
 Engineer Company: 3xTL3 /Truck
 Anti-Aircraft Company: 1xTL3 M730 Chaparral, 2xM42 Duster
 Aviation Group: 9xAH-1W "Super Cobra", 6xOH-58D "Kiowa"

- Notes:** 1) The "Kuen Wu-1" (or Kun-Wu-1) is the Taiwanese version of the Russian AT-3 "Sagger".
 2) Approximately one Infantry Battalion in four is "Motorized". The remainder are "Mechanized".
 3) Infantry may be upgraded to Type (A) after 1995.
 4) The Type 64 tank is a modified US M41.
 5) The 155mm "XT-69" is a Taiwanese self-propelled gun similar in performance to the US 155mm M109A2.
 6) The Taiwanese Army currently contains two Mechanized Divisions.

ARMORED BRIGADE: 1990

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 80, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Mechanized Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(B)/M113A1, 1x81mm M125(1+)
 Mechanized Support Company: 2xM901/TOWII, 1x4.2" M106(2), 1xJeep/HMG[R]
 Tank Company: 3xM48A5 or M60A3
 Anti-Aircraft Company: 1xTL3 M730 Chaparral, 2xM42 Duster

Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) HQ/M577, 3xMechanized Company, 1xMechanized Support Company
 Tank Battalion: 1xM48A5 (HQ), 3xTank Company
 Artillery Battalion: 3x155mm M109A2(3), 1x203MM M110A1(2)

Armored Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(B) GHQ/M577, 2xTank Battalion, 1xMechanized Battalion, 1xArtillery Battalion, 1xAnti-Aircraft Company

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
 Super Heavy Artillery Battalion: 3x175mm M107(3)
 Rocket Battery: 1x117mm "Gong Feng VI"(12)/Truck
 Engineer Company: 3xTL3 /Truck

- Notes:** 1) The "Kuen Wu-1" (or Kun-Wu-1) is the Taiwanese version of the Russian AT-3 "Sagger".
 2) Approximately one Infantry Battalion in four is "Motorized". The remainder are "Mechanized".
 3) Infantry may be upgraded to Type (A) after 1995.
 4) Tank units in the six Taiwanese Armored Brigades may be equipped with M60A3s beginning in 1995.

TACTICAL NOTES

In its August 2000 annual defense "White Paper", Taiwan outlined its position vis-a-vis war with mainland China. This document stated the country's belief that the greatest threat to its security comes from China's "Dong Feng" M-9 and M-11 ballistic missiles, of which the PLA currently has some four hundred. It stated that any future Chinese invasion would be preceded by multi-wave, multi-directional, saturation attacks by these missiles armed with nuclear warheads. The attack would be followed by an invasion force composed of the 70,000-man PLA 31st Army Group, stationed in neighboring Fujian province, backed up by a follow-on force of approximately 250,000 troops and over 2,000 tanks drawn from throughout China. The PLA Navy is capable of deploying some three hundred "landing craft" (including fishing vessels), while its air force can land two airborne regiments supported by approximately 1,000 combat aircraft. To counter this, the Taiwanese army can call on ten regular infantry divisions, two mechanized divisions, two airborne brigades, and six armored brigades, totaling approximately 200,000 men, 1,500 tanks, and 300 combat aircraft. The country's seven "reserve" divisions, however, could not be activated in time to be useful. Taiwan has estimated that little warning would be given before an invasion takes place. In such a scenario, Taiwan's standing army would bear the burden of stopping the PLA.

To supplement its conventional defense capability, Taiwan plans to produce a "Deterrent Force" capable of striking the PLA on its home ground, including a powerful arsenal of cruise missiles and long-range strike aircraft capable of deep penetration attacks. In addition, Taiwan expects to isolate any invasion force by attacking its naval supply line. The same cruise missiles it intends to use as a deterrent force would be used to sink Chinese shipping in the Formosa Strait. On land, Taiwan intends to engage the PLA in a bloody and single-minded campaign of attrition, trading man-for-man if necessary to drive the PLA into the sea at any cost.

The stated tactical policies of both the PRC and Taiwan suggest that any Chinese invasion of Taiwan will meet with the most fanatical resistance. Although, in reality, this would be a human tragedy of immense proportions, from a wargamer's prospective the possibilities are numerous and exciting. Scenarios based on a China-Taiwan war should include lots of "stand-up" fights between PLA troops determined not to be driven into the sea and Taiwanese troops equally determined to drown them! Armored "Meeting-Engagements", "Hasty Assaults", and desperate "Rear Guard" actions should all be common. Night actions, cut-and-thrust maneuvering, and even combat in a radioactive environment are possible. Epic stuff!

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Military Reforms

Taiwan, like so many other states, is in the midst of a major military reorganization program. Mainland China is still considered the primary enemy, but defense policy has shifted away from the idea of retaking the mainland to that of homeland defense. This involves denying the Chinese Navy access to the Formosa Strait and maintaining air superiority over it. It also includes plans to resist and repel any Chinese ground force on Taiwan itself. But, offensive action has not been entirely ruled out. Recently, the threat of attack

by ballistic missiles launched from the mainland has resulted in calls for Taiwan to develop an "Active Defense" capability able to strike beyond its own territory as well. Developing this kind of modern military power and flexibility costs a lot of money. Maintaining a large, professional military establishment is costly as well. Doing these things in what is rapidly becoming a true democracy requires more than simply issuing edicts. The "people" have to be behind the government for anything real to be accomplished.

The effort to streamline Taiwan's military structure and manpower requirements began in earnest in 1996, when President Li Teng Hui instituted the (Jing Shi) "Force Restructuring" program. This program has reduced the armed forces by ten percent so far, to around 400,000. The next phase will reduce the military still further, down to 350,000 by 2005. Even General Staff personnel have felt the pinch. Their numbers have been reduced by two-thirds since 1997! In addition, the army's divisional structure is undergoing a complete overhaul. All divisions are to be eventually replaced by semi-independent "Combined Armored Brigades" (CABs) designed to make more efficient use of manpower while actually improving mobility and combat effectiveness.

Of perhaps greater long-term significance is the new "National Defense Law", which has consolidated Taiwan's old "two-headed" command structure. Before, the "Military Command" system and the "Military Administration" system were separate entities. The "Chief of the General Staff" (CGS) was not a cabinet post and could operate independently of the "Yuan" (Congress). This made him more powerful than the Defense Minister! Now, the Defense Minister is effectively in charge and the CGS is subordinate to him. This effectively puts a civilian in charge of Taiwan's military for the first time in its history, a vital requisite for a truly democratic society.

Weapons Upgrades

Recently, the US sold Taiwan approximately US\$87 million in military equipment. This included state-of-the-art radio technology, electronic warfare systems and related equipment, and most significantly, two hundred-forty "Hellfire II" air-to-surface anti-tank missiles and related hardware. Taiwan is producing its own 5.56mm assault rifle (the T86) developed by the Xin Ho Corporation. This weapon has a higher muzzle-velocity than the M16, is lighter, and is fitted with a laser-dot sight, night-vision capability, high intensity flashlight, and a 40mm grenade launcher! The army's entire fleet of trucks is to be replaced in the next eight years with the purchase of nearly 10,000 light, medium, and heavy tactical-transport vehicles. Taiwan is also developing a domestically designed main-battle-tank (MBT). This vehicle is to combine heavy firepower with increased rough terrain mobility.

Also of significance is the "Ray Ting (Thunder) 2000" multiple-rocket system. The RT2000 has entered production and is to replace the "Gong Feng" (Worker Bee) MRL in the next few years. The RT2000 is mounted on an eight-wheeled US M977 HEMTT and can fire 117mm (15 per pod), 180mm (9 per pod), and 230mm (6 per pod) rockets in interchangeable pods giving it enormous flexibility. It is also only a third as expensive as the US MLRS system which Taiwan was originally going to purchase!

Changing the Guard

On November 15th, 2002, Taiwan praised Jiang Zemin for smoothly transferring power at the top of China's Communist Party, but were reluctant to predict how strained ties between the island and China would evolve under new leadership. The praise came despite Jiang's stacking the party's new leadership with picked cronies and retaining personal control of the "Central Military Commission", which commands the world's largest army. "This kind of thinking is of course not democratic, but he has realized power has its limits," Taiwanese media spokesmen said.

The Liberty Times said the fact that Jiang continues to cling to power while in retirement would make any significant political reforms difficult. "The leadership succession at the Chinese Communist Party's sixteenth congress is the sole show of Jiang Zemin and has nothing to do with the 1.3 billion people on the mainland." The China Post said: "Mainland China has a long way to go before it can even catch up with Taiwan in terms of democracy. Unification is unlikely before democracy prevails in mainland China." Few Taiwan newspapers were prepared to make any sweeping predictions concerning how bilateral relations might evolve.

The mass-circulation China Times pinned its hopes on the new Chinese leaders, expecting them to handle bilateral ties in a more practical way. "We hope the new generation of Chinese communist leaders will try to listen to the voice of the Taiwan people and take practical measures to ease bilateral relations," it said. Beijing remains deeply suspicious of Taiwan's popular President, Chen Shui Bian. Chen has mellowed his pro-independence rhetoric since taking power, but has said unification should not be considered the island's only option.

The PRC has been actively pursuing economic and cultural exchanges with Taiwan. In the words of China's new Party chief, Hu Jin Tao, "I firmly believe if all Chinese, including Taiwanese compatriots, work together, unification of the motherland will be realized at an early date. China and Taiwan should put aside political differences to resume talks." Hu's offer is welcomed by the Taiwanese as long as there are no preconditions.

2002 TAIWANESE ARSENAL

Vehicles:	460xM60A3, 450xM48A5 & 650xType 64(M41) Tanks, 1,100xM113 & 300xV150 APCs
AT Weapons:	1,000xTOW, 1,000+"Kuen Wu" ATGMs, & 480x106mm M40 RcRs
Artillery:	500x105mm M101 & 450x155mm M114A1 Towed Guns, 300x105mm M52/M108 & 155mm M109A2/A5, 75x203mm M110A2, & 175mm M107 SP Guns, 117mm & 126mm "Gong Feng" MRLs, 60mm, 81mm, 107mm, & 120mm
Mortars	
Anti-Aircraft:	3x"Patriot" Batteries, 36x"I-Hawk" Launchers, 74x"Avenger" & 61x(Dual-Mount) "Stinger" AAGMs, 300x20mm & 40mm AAGs (incl. M42 "Dusters")
SSMs:	"Xiong Feng" & "Qing Feng" Missile Systems (Coast Defense)
Combat Aircraft:	96xF-5E/F, 127xF-CK-1A "Qing Guo", 140xF-16A/B, 58x"Mirage" 2000-5Di/Ei
Helicopters:	64xAH-1W "Super Cobra", 13xOH-58D "Kiowa", 100xUH-1 "Huey", 17xS-70D "Blackhawk"
Small Arms:	9mm FN35 & .45 cal M1911 Pistols, 9mm & .45 cal M3A1 Submachineguns, 5.56mm M16A1, Type 65 & 7.62mm M14 Rifles, 5.56mm Type 75, M60, Type 74, .30 cal M1919 & .50 cal M2HB Machineguns & 3.5" M20 ATGLs

- Notes:
- 1) Since late 2000, Taiwan has been progressively upgrading its M108 and M109 SP Guns to M109A5 standards.
 - 2) One Hundred RT2000 modular MRL systems of several types are on order to replace the current "Gong Feng" systems.
 - 3) Three CH-47SD "Heavy Lift" Helicopters were delivered in 2001. Six more are on order.
 - 4) Taiwan plans to purchase twenty-five new "tactical utility" helicopters to replace some of its aging UH-1s.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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POSTSCRIPT

The following observations on the origins of the Republic of Taiwan were submitted by David Lee. David, a former member of the Taiwanese Marine Corps, has been one of my closest and most trusted friends for many years. David and his family have distinguished themselves in defense of the Chinese Republic for generations. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his generous support, encouragement through the years, as well as his contribution to the chapters on Chinese history and politics.

"Stalin joined the war against Japan at the last possible moment, after working out a deal with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill guaranteeing that Manchuria would fall into the Soviet Union's "sphere of influence". By this ploy, he effectively circumvented the authority of General Chiang Kai Shek as commander-in-chief of the Chinese Theater. Stalin's forces also stripped and dismantled practically every factory and piece of industrial hardware in Manchuria, shipping them home to the Soviet Union.

After "V-J Day", Russian forces diligently passed all captured Japanese weapons and equipment to Mao Ze-Dong and the Chinese communists. In many cases, these weapons were more modern and of better quality than those of Chiang and the Nationalists, giving Mao a considerable advantage in the civil war that followed hard on the heels of the Japanese surrender.

One of the conditions of the "Marshall Plan", a program designed to assist the recovery of many war ravaged countries, was that the Nationalists drastically reduce the size of the Chinese army, with which they complied. The communists never considered any such program. After the war, the Chinese economy was in a shambles. To many soldiers (especially officers) and their families, the army represented the only opportunity of maintaining a decent standard of living. Millions of these men, driven out of the Nationalist forces, had no other choice but to serve the communists."

The Chinese communists, therefore, manipulated the war and its aftermath for their own military and political benefit, regardless of the consequences to the average Chinese citizen. Mao Ze-Dong was often quoted as saying that Imperial Japan, in the end, proved to be his greatest benefactor.

David Lee