

## Taiwan - Republic of China

Vanderbilt

After Chiang Kai-shek fled mainland China and established the provisional government of the Republic of China in Taiwan, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT - also known as Guomindang or GMD) ruled continuously as a single party before Taiwan became democratic in 1992. (U.S. Department of State 2010; Nathan 1993; Riggger 2008). Note that Geddes codes Taiwan as single-party autocracy until 1999. This is because, even after Taiwan's democratisation in 1992, it would not be until the elections of 2000 that a candidate of the opposition, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) would win the presidency. In contrast to Geddes (and Cheibub et al.) we code Taiwan as a semi-presidential democracy from 1992 through 1995. This decision is based off of several sources as well as careful consideration of the Cheibub et al. coding rules and their coding decisions in subsequent years (Matsumoto 2013; Wu 2007). Therefore no SOLS changes were coded until DPP's Chen Shui-bian entered as president in March 2000. (Wu 2001; Riggger 2008)

Following two terms of Chen's DPP, the KMT regained presidency in March 2008 when Ma Ying-jeou won the presidential elections. (Riggger 2008) This leadership change was therefore coded as a SOLS change.

### References

- Gold, Thomas B. 2009. "Taiwan in 2008: My Kingdom for a Horse" *Asian Survey* 49(1): 88-97.
- Matsumoto, Mitsutoyo. 2013. President Strength and Party Leadership in Taiwan. In Yuko Kasuya (ed). *Presidents, Assemblies and Policy-making in Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nathan, Andrew J. 1993. "The Legislative Yuan Elections in Taiwan: Consequences of the Electoral System" *Asian Survey* 33(4): 424-438.
- Rigger, Shelley 2008. "Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections" *Orbis* 52(4): 689-700.
- U.S. Department of State. Background Notes "Taiwan" (November 3, 2010). <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35855.htm>>. Accessed on Jan 28, 2011.
- Wu, Yu-Shan. 2001. "Taiwan in 2000: Managing the Aftershocks from Power Transfer" *Asian Survey* 41(1): 40-48.
- Wu, Yu-Shan. 2007. Semi-presidentialism-- easy to choose, difficult to operate: the Case of Taiwan In Robert Elgie & Sophia Moestrup (eds). *Semi-Presidentialism outside Europe: A Comparative Study* (30-55). New York, Routledge.

Coded by Eelco van der Maat 2/3/2011

Checked by Michaela Mattes 02/09/2011

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/16/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/24/2014