

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1. When was Taiwan originally inhabited by indigenous peoples?

- the 17th century
- 30,000 years ago
- the 19th century
- about 700 years ago

2. Who took control of Taiwan after World War II?

- Japan
- the Republic of China (ROC)
- the United Nations
- the Communist Party

3. Which political party has been in office during most of the ROC rule?

- the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
- the Democratic Party (DP)
- the Indigenous Party (IP)
- the Kuomintang Party (KMT)

4. When did Taiwan begin its period of democratization?

- the late 19th century
- the early 20th century
- the 1970s and 1980s
- the late 1990s and early 2000s

5. What is Taiwan's current political system?

- democracy
- communism
- monarchy
- authoritarian

6. What is the current status of Taiwan's international recognition?

- widely recognized
- limited recognition
- no recognition
- The lecturer doesn't say.

Discuss these questions with a friend or classmate.

1. What information in the lecture did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. What do you think might have contributed most to Taiwan's economic success? Why?
3. What are the advantages / disadvantages of living on an island?
4. Would you like to visit Taiwan? Why? / Why not?
5. What other interesting information do you know about Taiwan?
6. What three questions would you like to ask a person who lives in Taiwan?

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Audio Script

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, has a rich and complex history that dates back thousands of years. The island was originally inhabited by indigenous peoples, who were later joined by Chinese settlers in the 17th century. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Taiwan was colonized by Japan, which greatly influenced the island's culture and economy. After World War II, the Republic of China (ROC) took control of Taiwan and ruled the island.

The indigenous peoples of Taiwan have a long history on the island, with some evidence of human habitation dating back 30,000 years. These peoples developed unique cultures, languages, and traditions, which have largely been preserved to this day. In the 17th century, Chinese settlers began to arrive on the island, and over time the two groups intermarried and merged their cultures.

In 1895, Japan took control of Taiwan as part of its expanding empire. The Japanese ruled Taiwan with a firm hand, suppressing local cultures and promoting Japanese language and customs. During this time, Taiwan's economy was modernized and the island became a major agricultural and industrial center.

After World War II, the ROC took control of Taiwan and has ruled the island up to the present day. For much of this time, the ROC government was dominated by the Kuomintang (KMT), a political party that had ruled China prior to the communist revolution in 1949. In 1949, the KMT was forced to flee to Taiwan after losing the Chinese Civil War to the Communist Party.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Taiwan underwent a period of democratization, with increasing political and economic liberalization. This led to the emergence of new political parties, a growing middle class, and an increasingly vibrant civil society. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan's political system stabilized, and the island emerged as a prosperous democracy with a thriving economy.

Today, Taiwan is a thriving democracy with a dynamic economy and a rich culture. The island is home to a vibrant tech industry, a thriving film and entertainment industry, and a growing tourism sector. Despite its success, however, Taiwan continues to face challenges, including political tensions with China and limited international recognition.

ANSWER KEY

1. 30,000 years ago
2. the Republic of China
3. the Kuomintang Party
4. the 1970s and 1980s
5. democracy
6. limited recognition