**Status of the Republic of China**

**Introduction**

Taiwan, the Republic of China, is not a member of the United Nations (UN), but it wants to participate. The People’s Republic of China opposes this. It argues, that only sovereign states can be a member in the UN. “*Any state that manages to enter into the UN system as a full member in its own right is seen by the other member states as a fully-fledged independent country*”. China also claims Taiwan as part of its territory and denies that Taiwan is a sovereign state. China want to prevent the recognition of Taiwan as a sovereign state and its membership in the UN system. So far China has been successful in this. Membership in the United Nations is impossible not to linked with the question of sovereignty. Both China and Taiwan are highly aware of this problem. However, over time the nature of the question has changed: from a fight about which government, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) with its seat in Beijing or the Republic of China (ROC) with its capital in Taipei, was the sole legitimate representative of China in the world, it has since the early 1990s evolved into consideration of whether the UN would not be able to accommodate both in some way. China refuses to move away from its position that Taiwan is a part of China and therefore cannot be represented on its own in the UN. China has the advantage in that it is a member of the United Nations, and is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

**Definition of Key Terms**

People’s Republic of China

The People’s Republic of China is one of the P5 members today and is what we today will associate with China. Furthermore, it is the China under the Chinese Communist Party’s control.

Republic of China

The Republic of China was a member of the United Nations from 1946 to 1971. It was lead under the control of the Kuomintang. The Republic of China is also know as Taiwan today.

Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was supported by the Soviet Union. It was driven off by the Kuomintang and later returned to drive the Kuomintang away from China.

Kuomintang party

Kuomintang was the party lead by Chiang Kai-shek and supported by the United States of America. It was elected to the Chines government, but was forced to flee to Taiwan after the CCP slowly gained control of China by the Red Army.

**History**

In 1912 the Republic of China was formed as a result of the Qing Dynasty’s fall. The elected president of the Republic of China was Sun Yatsen. However, he was not able to get enough support from the people and the military, which was lead by general Yina Shikai. To prevent a civil war Sun Yatsen turned over the presidency to the military general Yuna Shikai.

The new leader, Yuna Shikai, was strong and very corrupt. Furthermore, he wanted to become the next emperor of China. Many provinces opposed him and his wish to become the next emperor of China, which resulted in them declaring independence. The provinces that declared independence united against Yuna Shikai and formed an army. Yuna Shikai’s generals was aware of the upraising against him. However, they did not resist it, which resulted in Yuna Shikai stepped down in 1916.

After Yuna Shikai stepped down several regional warlords fought each other to gain control of the government. Most provinces did not recognize the new president Li Yuanhong’s government.

During the first World War China was divided as the leaders did not agree on China joining the war. Li Yuanhong did not want to join the war, however the Chinese premier, Duan Qirui, wanted to join the war with the Allies in the hope to get money to his army. As results Duan Qirui’s army defeated Li Yuanhong, desolved the governemt and joined the Allies in the war.

After the war the German colony Shandong was not given back to China. However, it was given to Japan instead, which lead to upraising in China and Japan slowly gained land.

Sun Yasten slowly reemerged and had the support from the southern provinces. He asked the West for aid but it was declined. As a result of the west declined to aid him, he turned to the Soviet Union for help. The Soviet Union wanted to help, because China was against the Western imperialism. At this point China was still divided between Sun Yasten’s government and the newly formed Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, both sides were supported by the Soviet Union. One of Sun Yasten’s men, Chiang Kai-shek, was sent to the Moscow to be trained military and politically, he was the successor of Sun Yasten. China was still divided between the warlords and Chiang Kai-shek fought them to unify China.

The CCP slowly gained strength and established its forces in Wuhan and an anti-communist government was based in Nanjing. In 1927 the CCP was driven off by Wuhan and the Kuomintang party of Chiang Kai-shek regained the control of the whole of China. The new government was recognized internationally. Several reforms and policies were implemented by the government to improve the country. This is known as the Nanjing Decade which gained positive record in economy and development of democracy.

At this time Japan was a regional power and wanted resources to support its economy, growing population, and powerful military. As a result of Japans wishes, it invaded China. Chiang Kai-shek was already fighting the CCP and could not fight the Japanese at the same time. He was kidnapped and forced to make an alliance with the CCP. The Kuomintang party was fighting the Japanese at the same time the CCP slowly gained control of China. The Kuomintang party was unable to defend themselves against Japan. As a result the CCP was now the popular party among the Chinese.

After Japan was defeated, China was still divided between the CCP and the Kuomintang. The United States supported the Kuomintang and the Soviet Union the CCP. The people of China were favoring the CCP because of the Republic of China’s, the Kuomintang, failure to improve the lives of the people. Corruption was very rampant and political and economic problems continued to hamper the country’s growth.

The fighting between the CCP’s forces and Kuomintang continued. The United States supported only by aiding weapons but no combat forces. The Communist Party continued to gain ground against their enemy. The undisciplined forces of Kuomintang were continuously defeated by Communist’s Red Army. The government lost Nanjing then moved to Guangzhou, then lost once again and moved to Chongqing, then to Chengdu, then Xichang and lastly to Taiwan. Chiang Kai-shek and his troops fled to Taiwan. On October 1, 1949, the Communist Party formed the People’s Republic of China under the control of the CCP.

**Key Issues**

*What is the Status of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan? Furthermore, Is Taiwan a state or simply a territory of the People’s Republic of China?*

The People's Republic of China (PRC) claims that the Republic of China (ROC) government is illegitimate, referring to it as the "Taiwan Authority". The ROC with its own constitution, independently elected president and armed forces, continues to view itself as a sovereign state.

President Chen Shui-bian (2000 – May 2008) fully supported the idea that the "Republic of China is an independent, sovereign country" but held the view that the Republic of China is Taiwan and Taiwan does not belong to the People's Republic of China.

**Major Parties Involved**

The Peoples Republic of China.

Taiwan (The Republic of China).

United States of America

**Timeline**

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| Year | Event |
| 1912 | The Republic of China was formed as a result of the Qing Dynasty’s fall.  Sun Yatsen was elected as the first president.  Sun Yatsen turned over the presidency over to Yuna Shikai (the military leader). |
| 1916 | Yuna Shikai stepped down.  Warlords fighting for the control of the government.  New president Li Yuanhong. |
| 1919 | Shandong was not given back to China, but to Japan instead. |
| 1921 | The Communist Party founded. |
| 1927 | The Communists Party is defeated, retreat to the countryside. |
| 1937 | Japan invades China. |
| 1945 | Japan surrender.  Kuomindang-Communist Civil War. |
| 1949 | Guomindang defeated, retreats to Taiwan.  The Communist Party formed the People’s Republic of China under the control of the CCP. |
| 1971 | UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 – The People’s Republic of China is the only legitimate representative of China in the UN. |

**Evaluation of Previous Attempts**

The previously attempt was a resolution that gained the People’s Republic of China the seat in the UN as the only legitimate representative of China in the United Nations, as stated in the UN General Assembly Resolution 2758.

**Possible Solutions**

It is a very difficult situation, since China views it as a part of their country and other countries have different opinions. However, a possible solution to the problem would be to declare Taiwan a sovereign country, since they already have their “own” government.

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