

as varied and as controversial as the role of religions in contemporary eastern Asian societies, Japanese politics, and population growth and mobility, this section contains much of interest and intellectual substance.

Although the general level of scholarship and writing is high, it is only to be expected that in a work by twenty-four authors themes should become blurred and that the forty-three chapters should vary in readability. For example, Chapter 3, on “Basic social structures and family systems”, is muddled by the use of terms like “virilocal”, “uxorilocal” and “neolocal” residences, and Malay and Japanese words, not usually expected to be part of the vocabulary of a first-year university student. On the other hand, the same author’s brief examination of “Family change in post-war Japan and China” (Chapter 32) is jargon-free and lucid. The succinct introduction to “Religious traditions in Asia” (Chapter 4), is a model of clarity, as are many of the other chapters.

In summary, with over half the book concerned with the period since World War II, there is considerable emphasis on the ideological, political and economic influence of the West. The reader gets little feeling for the long Asian tradition of assimilation and adaptation of outside cultures, religions and political and economic systems to Asian needs. The book as a whole conveys the impression that the last fifty years are much more important in Asian development than were all the previous centuries of the region’s existence.

That said, this book is probably as good as any single volume treatment of such a vast and complex subject could hope to be. The essays are intellectually stimulating. It will spur the discerning undergraduate, at whom the work is aimed, to raise many questions and search for answers. The book might also provide a painless introduction to the region for general readers, Western businessmen, or travellers.

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***Taiwan in the Asia-Pacific in the 1990s.* Edited by Gary Klintworth.**
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Emerging impressively in the international community through tremendous efforts at managing successful economic development and industrial restructuring, and effecting courageous political democratization in the

last few years, Taiwan, formally known as the Republic of China (ROC), has become one of the largest economic powers in the global economy in terms of gross national product, trade, and export of capital. However, due to the entanglement in the "one China" issue with the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan continues to suffer from its political handicap in the international arena.

Up to July 1995, there were only thirty countries that recognized the ROC as an independent country, while the rest of the world sees the ROC as an ambiguous political entity and/or "a part of China". The end of the Cold War and the continuous economic recession in Western societies have relatively soothed the political tension between countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and brought about a new momentum for economic growth. This development has, indeed, provided Taiwan with an unprecedented opportunity to wield its economic strength as a means of foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region. To improve its industrial competitiveness, maintain the progress of economic development, extend its economic power, and secure its political and economic environment, Taiwan has been pushing for the establishment of a regional operation centre, parallel to its ambitious Six-Year National Development Plan (1990–96), in the Asia-Pacific.

Taiwan in the Asia-Pacific in the 1990s is a collection of essays derived from a conference held in Canberra, Australia, on 1–2 April 1993. The conference was the first on Taiwan ever held in Australia. It brought together those who study specific aspects of Taiwan's recent political reforms and economic development; those who look at the development of the conceptual "Greater China"; and those who explore the opportunity and possibility of a regional operation centre by the Taipei government. Inevitably, in this wide-ranging study of Taiwan there is some degree of overlap, though in different perspectives. There are also areas not covered, such as both multinational and indigenous industrialist interests in shaping "Greater China" and its importance to Taiwan's future, which could be very useful in strengthening the argument of progressing regional economic integration as Taiwan, along with Hong Kong, is becoming an integrated part of the Chinese economy.

Taiwan's bold efforts at democratization have, on the one hand, brought about societal, political and party ideological diversities and, on the other, has resulted in the ruling party, the Kuomintang (KMT), losing relative political dominance. Hung-mao Tien and Yun-han Chu highlight the crucial period of political reform led by President Lee Teng-hui since he came to power in 1988. The drastic change of political circumstance in the process of democratization is in reality a consequence of the power struggle between the "Taiwanese" and the "mainlanders" within and

outside the KMT. As a result, the transformation of power-sharing has been mixed with the political issues of Chinese unification and Taiwanese independence. The largest opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), has steadily increased its share of the popular vote to well over 30 per cent. Tien and Chu therefore presume that there is now a two-party system in Taiwan, as the rising DPP could win power in the forthcoming elections. However, in 1993 the KMT suffered serious divisions resulting in the establishment of the New Party (NP) that took about 10 per cent of the popular vote away from the KMT in the provincial governorship and municipal mayoralty elections of 1994. Thus, with the NP coming into the ring, a three-way contest could gradually take shape in local and national elections in the future.

C.L. Chiou stresses that the Taiwanese search for their native roots and the establishment of a "Taiwanese consciousness" and a "Taiwanese national" identity have been part of the anti-KMT political campaign and the basis for the demands for democracy. Indeed, he is of the view that for whatever reasons claimed by the Taiwanese, the real political motive has been to share more political power. The DPP's increased influence in the policy-making process, and the KMT's efforts to Taiwanize its élite within the party, have not only transformed the cultural identity but also intensified the national identity issue between the Taiwanese and mainlanders, and between the hardliners and reformists within the KMT. The increasing "Taiwanese" sharing of political power has resulted in the transformation of the national identity of Taiwan in the 1990s.

Jou Juo Chu adopts the Gramscian approach of Marxism, which highlights the state and its role as an instrument in perpetuating the values of the dominant class, to analyse the national identity of the ROC since it settled in Taiwan in 1949. Before the 1970s, the KMT had completely dominated the state mechanism and tended to use coercive and ideological measures to win over the Taiwanese and so strengthen its power in Taiwan. The one-party authoritarian system, the one-China claim, and the national goal of unifying China and Taiwan stemmed from the "Chinese-oriented unionism" on which the early KMT's hegemony was based. Since the 1970s, however, change in the international environment, particularly the United States' derecognition of the ROC, has made it increasingly difficult for the KMT to maintain its legitimate claim over all of China. Moreover, Taiwan's industrialization has, to a large extent, contributed to the emerging Taiwanese political movement that has since forged a "Taiwanese-oriented separatism". During the 1990s, the KMT under its new leaders has been trying to develop an "island-China separatism" which is based on the redefinition of the one-China policy and which will enable it to sort out the antagonistic identity issue at home and to gain an independent

international personality abroad. This "island-China separatism" which proposes a policy of either "two Chinas" or "one China and one Taiwan" is obviously opposed by the PRC.

In terms of the ROC's changing role in the Asia-Pacific region, Tuan Y. Cheng's concise study covers most aspects of economic issues that Taiwan has faced in the region. Among other things, he notes the impressive effect that Taiwan's trade, and export of capital in the region has had on diplomatic benefits to Taipei and the further integration of economic ties between China and Taiwan. His view that Taiwan's future foreign relations will be based on managing its relationships with China is one that is widely shared in Taiwan. Similarly, Tzong-shian Yu discusses Taiwan's emerging economic role and changes in the regional economic structure under a new framework of two economic superpowers: the United States and Japan. He traces the current economic trends of regionalism and suggests that Taiwan should make use of its capital, technology exchange programmes, and its experiences of economic development to contribute more to regional economic co-operation. Both Cheng and Yu conclude by pointing out that the establishment of a regional operation centre is a crucial step for Taiwan to maintain and improve its emerging role in the new Asia-Pacific economic order. For the successful establishment of the regional operation centre, Sheng-yi Lee emphasizes that much will depend on how Taiwan comes to terms with China and on its ability to attract more foreign investment.

Government policies for economic development in the past and present are examined in detail by Shirley W.Y. Kuo. She focuses on the government's experiences in its export-led policy, and the current development of trade liberalization, financial deregulation, and internationalization of Taiwan's economy in the new trade-triangle relationship between Japan, the Asian Newly Industrialized Economies (ANIEs), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Being one of the leading architects of the Six-Year National Development Plan, she regards the plan and its effects as the driving force boosting Taiwan's economic growth in the years ahead.

"Greater China" attracts a large part of the discussion in this volume. The emergence of this conceptual economic grouping of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong has resulted from industrial restructuring processes in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and China's commitment to step up economic reforms. Today, the major concern for Taiwan is how to generate technical, financial, and managerial powers needed to sustain the development of "Greater China" and how to make best use of all resources and markets for manufacturing in order to manage Taiwan's leading economic role within "Greater China". The discussion of "Greater China" in this volume

is probably overly optimistic and is based on the assumption of economic complementarity, because it has become more obvious that industrial competition is increasing among China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, as Chinese economic development moves ahead.

One of the most impressive chapters in this volume is Denis Simon's "gravitational" approach to Taiwan's industrial restructuring. According to him, the Taiwanese economy is currently locked into five orbital paths: the United States, Japan, China, the NIEs, and ASEAN. His analysis complements the focus on Taiwan's economic relationship with the United States and Japan in this volume, although it is limited to technology co-operation. Technology upgrading is critical for Taiwan to survive industrial competition within these orbital paths in the years ahead. Traditional joint ventures have been replaced by a new form of network-oriented co-operation. Taiwan, therefore, has become one of the most popular partners for the industries of developed countries.

Although a general introduction and a conclusion are absent, the substantive arguments, suggestions, and analysis put forth in this comprehensive volume about Taiwan's current position in the Asia-Pacific make for interesting reading, and its insights will be useful not only to academics but also to policy-makers, and those in the private sector.

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