

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, January 17, 2016 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

Taiwan elects first female leader in blow to China's grip on island (Main, page A2)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Read the title of this article. Locate the island of Taiwan on a map of the world or a globe. How close is China to the island of Taiwan? What does it mean to have a "grip" on something? Why do you think China has a grip on Taiwan?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. alienating
- B. barred
- C. constitutionally
- D. convenes
- E. democracy
- F. dominated
- G. inaugurated
- H. independence
- I. ingrained
- J. majority
- K. opposition
- L. resigned
- M. sovereignty
- N. status quo
- O. territory
- P. unification

1. to come together in a group for a meeting
2. an area of land that belongs to or is controlled by a government
3. to introduce (someone, such as a newly elected official) into a job or position with a formal ceremony
4. the group or party that is the greater part of a large group
5. to cause (someone) to feel that she or he no longer belongs in a particular group, society, etc.
6. the current situation; the way things are now
7. existing for a long time and very difficult to change : firmly established
8. of or relating to the system of beliefs and laws that govern a country
9. to cause (people or things) to be joined or brought together
10. feeling or showing acceptance that something unpleasant will happen or will not change
11. a form of government in which people choose leaders by voting
12. to prevent or forbid (someone) from doing something
13. a country's independent authority and the right to govern itself
14. to have control of or power over (someone or something)
15. actions or opinions that show that you disagree with or disapprove of someone or something

16. freedom from outside control or support

Comprehension

1. Taiwan elected Tsai Ing-wen as its first female president Saturday giving her pro-independence party its first _____ in the national legislature. **(Fill in the blank)**
2. Name one concern, mentioned in the article, that voters who voted for Tsai Ing-wen had in regards to China.
3. Why did the Nationalist party choose Eric Chu as a late replacement to his party's original candidate, to run against Tsai Ing-wen for the presidency?
4. Why did Eric Chu resign from his party's leadership?
5. After Tsai's win, what did the Chinese Cabinet's body for handling Taiwan affairs reaffirm its opposition to?
6. What does China claim Taiwan as?
7. What did Tsai say her victory was proof of in Taiwan?
8. Tsai also pledged to maintain the _____ with China. **(Fill in the blanks with vocabulary)**
9. According to the article, what is departing President Ma Ying-jeou is constitutionally barred from doing?
10. Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party won 68 seats in the 113-seat national legislature that has been traditionally dominated by what party?
11. In what month is Tsai set to be inaugurated?

Additional Activities

1. **Answer the following questions about the article you just read:**
 - A. Who or what is this article about?
 - B. Why do you think this article is important?
 - C. What is the most important or interesting fact you learned from this article?
2. Using the internet or library research to learn more about Taiwan and China's relationship. Then make a timeline showing key events in the relationship between the two countries. Do you think China has a legitimate claim to Taiwan – why or why not?

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 5
- B. 12
- C. 8
- D. 1
- E. 11
- F. 14
- G. 3
- H. 16
- I. 7
- J. 4
- K. 15
- L. 10
- M. 13
- N. 6
- O. 2
- P. 9

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. majority
2. That Taiwan's economy is under threat from China. They are opposed to China's demands for political unification of the two countries. (Answers may vary – only one example necessary)
3. His party's original candidate was seen as alienating voters.
4. Chu resigned from his party's leadership to take responsibility for the massive loss.
5. It reaffirmed its opposition to Taiwan independence.
6. China claims Taiwan as its own territory.
7. She said it was proof of how ingrained democracy has become in Taiwan.
8. status quo
9. He is constitutionally barred from seeking another term as president.
10. The Nationalist Party
11. May