

# Taiwan-China ties at crossroads

Tsai Ing-wen, the candidate of the pro-independence main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), is poised to become president of Taiwan, forcing China and Taiwan to redefine cross-strait ties

■ **1949: Chiang Kai-shek's**

Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists form own government in Taiwan after **Mao Zedong's** communists take power in China



■ **1979:** U.S. establishes diplomatic relations with China but passes law requiring defence aid to Taiwan

■ **1993:** Envoys from both sides hold first high-level official talks

■ **1996:** China fires missiles near Taiwan in attempt to influence island's first presidential elections

■ **2000:** Nationalists lose presidency with election of DPP candidate **Chen Shui-bian**



■ **2005:** Beijing passes law that makes secession by Taiwan illegal, at risk of military action

■ **2008:** High-level talks resume after Nationalist candidate **Ma Ying-jeou** is elected president



■ **2010:** China and Taiwan sign preferential trade pact

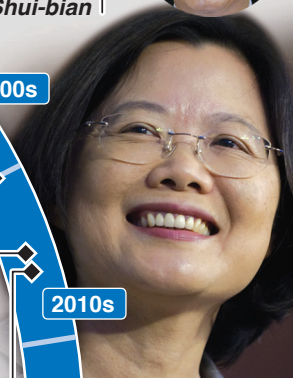
■ **2015:** China's President **Xi Jinping** and Taiwan's Ma hold historic talks in Singapore – first meeting of two sides' leaders since 1949



2000s

2010s

**Jan 16, 2016: Tsai Ing-wen, frontrunner in presidential election, is set to become most powerful female politician in Chinese world**



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