

Is Taiwan the Pawn in Neo-Con Push for an Anti-China War?

by Leni Rubinstein

A recent Pentagon study which contains an unambiguous threat to bomb China's Three Gorges Dam, is causing a political earthquake in Asia. One of the major reasons for concern is that the current leadership in Taiwan is highly susceptible to being used as a pawn in this neo-con scenario, as my recent visit to the island showed.

"The two-year-old party and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) are but two sides of the same coin. These pitiful Taiwan independence advocates are being used by outsiders, and they don't even know it! . . . We are just now at a time when cooperation between Taiwan and mainland China is building a new China, with a revival of the great Chinese tradition. So, how can some people be creating opportunities for foreign hegemonists, and leaving to their descendants an untenable strategic position that is bound to bring disaster?"

This warning—from a "wake-up" document issued in 1995 by Chiang Kai-shek's son, the late Gen. Chiang Wei-kuo—was precise. The then-President Lee Teng-hui had called for converting the Kuomintang (the party created by Sun Yat-sen) into a Taiwanese Kuomintang (i.e. a "two-year-old party"). Chiang Wei-kuo rightly stated that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's principle "To pursue freedom and equality for all of China," was being abandoned, and accused the same interests that had launched the two earlier Japanese wars against China, of being behind Lee Teng-hui's actions. This seems to be what's happening today.

The Scene 'On the Ground' in Taiwan

As described in an earlier report in *EIR*, in the four years that pro-independence President Chen Shui-bian has held office, his party, the DPP, has taken control over the media and key positions in state-owned companies, and, importantly, has rapidly pursued the promotion of the "de-sinification"

of Taiwan. Taiwanese "consciousness" is emphasized, the change to a new "Taiwanese" flag has been promoted, and the text books used to teach history have been changed to stress that the history of Taiwan is separate from the history of China. The recent election campaign leading up to the Presidential elections March 20, in which Chen Shui-bian won the (still disputed) election by 0.2%, was very local and divisive, and the DPP ran a strictly anti-China campaign. Everything negative (real or imagined) in the island of Taiwan, with its 23 million inhabitants, stemmed, according to the DPP, from China—from the high unemployment, and the bad economy, to the threat that "Chinese women are going to come and steal your husbands."

Two examples of the DPP's anti-China propaganda stand out: First, on May 20, the day of the inauguration of Chen Shui-bian, Chen had his staff distribute the flag of the Republic of China (Taiwan)—with his name and that of the vice president on it—to the approximately 10,000 invited supporters; they were supposed to wave it at special moments. Most people threw the flag on the ground; they would not touch it, let alone wave it. The ground was littered with flags.

Secondly, Taiwan possesses the world's greatest collection of Chinese artifacts, from many centuries, brought over to Taiwan by Chiang Kai-shek in 1949. Before Chen Shui-bian took office four years ago, the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, built to exhibit these treasures, was always promoted in the papers as a "must see." In the last couple of years, this has not been the case. If you were visiting Taiwan for the first time today, you would hardly know the museum exists! With the excuse of renovation, only a very small part of the artifacts is being shown, while a major part of the museum is used for exhibitions from abroad. The director, Tu Cheng-sheng, appointed by Chen Shui-bian, has been rewarded for

these efforts by being appointed Taiwan's new education minister!

The general "mood" in Taiwan is one of insecurity. The question being asked is: "What is going to happen in the future." The island is split fifty-fifty for or against China.

A number of leading scholars emphasized to *EIR* that the situation is extremely dangerous, and that, if you are a native Chinese reader, and can read "between the lines," the Chinese government's statements just before the inauguration were the most serious ever. They stated that Taiwan's leaders must choose between recognizing their country as part of China, or "following their separatist agenda to cut Taiwan from the rest of China, and, in the end, meet their own destruction by playing with fire." Former parliamentarian Fung Hu-Hsiang stated that this was the most serious situation since 1958, and warned that Beijing is ready to cancel the Olympics in 2008, and attack, should Taiwan declare independence.

A leading military analyst, Andrew Yang, secretary general of the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, said that this is China's strongest and highest-level warning against Taiwan independence so far. Yang stated, that if Taiwan did not accept the offer to become part of China, Beijing would begin preparations for the "worst-case scenario." "It means take it or leave it. It is the final offer."

Escalation Toward Confrontation

The people contacted by *EIR* believed that Chen Shui-bian and his government are waiting for the outcome of the U.S. Presidential elections, before taking any new initiatives regarding a new constitution and escalating their drive towards independence. Although the direction of the international strategic situation will be determined by the developments in the United States, the preparations for a further escalation toward military confrontation are taking place.

Some indications: Shintaro Ishitara, who is the virulently anti-China Governor of Tokyo, as well as a close friend of Lee Teng-hui, visited Taiwan during Chen Shui-bian's inauguration; he had a very busy schedule, including a meeting with President Chen and Vice-President Lu, at which he stated that many Japanese politicians are not satisfied with their government's Taiwan policy, and proposed that Tokyo serve as a pioneer in the process of initiating an improved process of cooperation with Taiwan.

Another collaborator of Lee Teng-hui, Koh Se-kai, was just appointed top representative of Taiwan to Japan. Koh lived in exile in Japan for 33 years, because of his pro-independence activities. In 1975, while living in Japan, he drafted a "Constitution for the Taiwan Republic." Close collaborators of Koh, while in exile, were National Policy Advisor Alice King, and Chairman of World United Formosans for Independence, Ng Chiau-tong. Upon his appointment, Koh stated that he thought an important aspect of his new position would be to bolster Japan's role in defending Taiwan's security, on the basis of the U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines in 1999, under which the United States and Japan are responsible for the

security of "areas surrounding Japan."

According to Koh: "It is not only the U.S.'s responsibility to defend Taiwan's security; Japan also shares that responsibility. The U.S. is mandated to come to Taiwan's defense under the Taiwan Relations Act, while Japan is mandated through its obligation for regional security under the U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines. Therefore, it is very important for Taiwan to ensure that Japan is obligated to defend Taiwan."

Meanwhile, a renewed discussion is taking place about Taiwan acquiring medium-range ballistic missiles, and becoming part of the theater missile defense system (TMD). At a conference entitled "New Vision of Taiwan Strategic Security Based on the Taiwan Entity," held in Taipei May 26, senior advisor to the National Security Council Lin Wen-cheng, called for Taiwan to join a future TMD, stressing "Offense is the best defense—Taiwan needs to develop some kind of offensive capability. To develop medium-range ballistic missiles is one of the options that Taiwan should consider to increase its deterrent power."

This echoes the report issued by the Pentagon May 28, with respect to the Peoples' Liberation Army's combat capability, which has caused shockwaves. It stated: "Taiwan's air force already has a latent capability for airstrikes against China . . . Leaders have publicly cited the need for ballistic and land-attack cruise missiles. Since Taipei cannot match Beijing's ability to field offensive systems, proponents of strikes against the mainland apparently hope that merely presenting credible threats to China's urban population or high-value targets, such as the Three Gorges Dam, will deter Chinese military coercion."

To escalate the crisis, pro-independence supporters, led by former president Lee Teng-hui, at the end of May, started a campaign to push for a new constitution. Under the leadership of Lee, Ng Chiao-tong, chairman of the World United Formosans for Independence (and close collaborator of Taiwan's new representative to Japan, Koh, mentioned above), is organizing seminars and conferences across Taiwan for this purpose, and intends to campaign to gain international support as well. "What we want is to create a new constitution through a referendum, and we hope that sovereignty issues, such as the scope of Taiwan's territory, will be addressed. It should state that Taiwan's territory is Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu," Ng stated.

While the opposition parties have shown no leadership in opposing the independence drive, Taiwan's young people are open to an alternative. In a series of classes to university students, this author, without much difficulty, had joyous occasions in "liberating" the youth from this insane theater. While they are initially mostly anti-American and/or anti-China, when briefed on the insanity of the financial and economic collapse and the neo-con strategy of preventive wars, and LaRouche's international youth movement's campaign for a new renaissance and community of principle among sovereign nation states, most of Taiwan's youth quickly transformed their outlook to that of world citizens.