

**Championing Human Rights:
Taiwan's Role as a Beacon of Freedom in the Global Arena**

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- 1) Taiwan is targeted by the PRC:
 - a) CCP narrative “reunification” (annexation) of Taiwan
historic/scientific certainty (Marxist nationalist perspective)
 - b) geopolitical perspective – important if China wishes to be
hegemon not just in East Asia but globally – Taiwan first island
chain keystone (Qin Dynasty “all under heaven” map expanded)
 - c) **existence of free and democratic Taiwan undercuts CCP’s
regime legitimacy narrative (CCP knows best, will achieve
greatness for Chinese people, political control is inevitable–
hence true democracy incompatible; moreover, alien concept
outside Chinese tradition imposed by West)**

- 2) Document Number 9 (2013) *Communiqué on the Current State of
the Ideological Sphere* (關於當前意識形態領域情況的通報) –
alien ideological threats emanating from the West that challenge
the CCP’s control of China and the legitimacy of its right to rule:
 - a) “constitutional democracy” – including (i) “separation of
powers” and (ii) “general elections”
 - b) “universal values”: defies time and space, transcends nation
and class, and applies to all humanity”(contrast with Lee Kuan
Yew “Asian values” and justification for authoritarianism)

- 3) Post-martial law Taiwan: Direct popular election of Lee Teng-hui in
1996/thriving democracy

4) Universal values – short answer, ROC's contributions to UDHR

- P.C. Chang (張彭春)
- UNESCO Lo Chung-shu (羅忠恕), "Human Rights in the Chinese Tradition"
- Grounded in Confucian thought: "rights" understood in relationship with reciprocal duties, human dignity in terms of benevolence (仁).
- Article 29(1): "Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible."

5) Long Answer Chinese tradition two strands political thought:

- a) Legalism: proto-totalitarian; PRC compatible (Wang Huning)
- b) Confucianism: proto-democratic; concepts compatible with democracy, human rights, universal values, constitutionalism

6) Confucianism – monarchy presumed, yet people paramount:

- Mencius: "The people are of supreme importance; the altars to the gods of earth and grain come next; last comes the ruler."
- Book of Documents/Mencius cites: "Heaven sees with the eyes of the people, and hears with the ears of the people."
- Right to Rule/Mandate of Heaven (天命) qualified
- "If the prince made serious mistakes, they would remonstrate with him, but if repeated remonstrations fell on deaf ears, they would depose him.... the King [King Hsuan of Ch'i] blanched at this."
- Legitimate to overthrow a tyrant/tyrannicide: "A man who mutilates benevolence is a mutilator, while one who cripples

rightness is a crippler. He who is both a mutilator and a crippler is an 'outcast.' I have indeed heard of the punishment of the 'outcast Tchou,' but I have not heard of any regicide."

- 7) Significance of death of Li Keqiang “Men act, and Heaven watches.” (“人在幹，天在看”)
- 8) Significance with regards to Chinese Democracy and Constitutionalism
 - a) Sun Yat-sen ROC constitution rejects Western three-branch model for five-branch model (五權分立); also Republic of China’s 1947 Constitution, which governs Taiwan today
 - (i) Examination Yuan (考試院)
 - (ii) Control Yuan (監察院)
 - b) scholar-official class (士大夫) schooled in Confucian classics, selected through a meritocratic examination system regardless of class background (in theory)
 - c) check on imperial power, oversight function: Remonstrance – Mencius (above)
 - d) Classic of Filial Piety – “when a case of unrighteous conduct is concerned, a son must by no means keep from remonstrating with his father, not a minister from remonstrating with his ruler.”
 - e) Two additional branches constitute a form of constitutionalism that is rooted in, and not alien to, the Chinese tradition
 - f) Current debate over abolishing these branches, one should pause and reflect – counter CCP Document No. 9 narrative

9) Democratic Taiwan: Counternarrative to CCP tyranny

- constitutional democracy—including separation of powers and general elections—and universal values not alien/Western compatible with Chinese tradition
- Taiwanese exceptionalism plays into CCP's hands
- Lai Ching-te: emphasize ROC Taiwan, including pre-1945 retrocession ROC
- Can't only play defense – need an offense as well
- Beacon in Global Arena, Beacon in the Sinosphere