



# **What power politics? The Nature of Power Relations in the East Asia and the Position of the Republic of China (Taiwan)**

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# Goals of the presentation

- What is power and how to use it?
- How much power does Taiwan have?
- What power can Taiwan use in which situations?

# Power: the concept

- A **capability** of an actor to **achieve** and/or sustain a desired **situation**
  - Issue specific!
- Power estimation:
  - 1. sources of power (*ex-ante*)
  - 2. outcomes (*ex-post*)

# Sources of a state power

- Direct capabilities
  - Economy
  - Military
  - others, including quantity and quality of population, legitimacy of government, ability of government to mobilize people...
- Systemic level
  - Institutional setting
  - Structural position
- Societal level
  - Perceptions of people among countries

# Goals of Taiwan

- Security, prosperity, freedom
  - human security to its people
  - continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth
  - preserving of democratic political system and values
- Ways of achieving the goals:
  - 1. *De jure* independence
  - 2. Sustained current *status quo* – with conditions
  - 3. Unification with the Mainland China on favorable terms

# Significant successes of Taiwan in FP

- Preserving of the status quo
- Membership in some international organizations
- FTA with New Zealand and Singapore
- Fishing agreement with Japan
- Sustained position in South China Sea

# Significant failures of Taiwan in FP

- Failure to reach recognized independence
- Missing membership in some international organization, such as the UN
- Little progress in FTA

# Preliminary conclusion: Taiwan applicable sources of power in FP

- 1. structural position
- 2. direct capabilities (esp. economy)
- 3. societal perceptions
- 4. institutional setting



# Further questions for research

- What are the goals of Taiwan in FP?
- What are the successes/failures of Taiwan in FP?
- How Taiwan perceives its power?
- How Taiwan perceives power of other regional actors?
- How Taiwan perceives the East Asian region and its position within?