

What has changed?  
Taiwan Before and After  
the Change in Ruling Parties

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## Acknowledgements

The original idea to publish a collection of essays comparing Taiwan in the KMT and DPP eras came out of two panels at the Inaugural European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference held at SOAS in April 2004. Within only two years this conference has become the most important event in the European Taiwan Studies calendar. We are thus grateful to the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for providing the financial support to allow the establishment and operation of the European Association of Taiwan Studies. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Cultural Division of the Taipei Representative Office in Berlin for providing generous financial support for the publication of this book.

The first group of six revised conference papers was published in a special edition of *China Perspectives* (Nov–Dec 2004, No. 56) guest edited by Chang Bi-yu and Dafydd Fell, titled “Taiwan: New government, old themes or the persistence of continuity.” This included articles on party politics, political corruption, cross-Strait relations, cultural policy, language policy and media policy. We would like to thank the anonymous reviewers and editorial staff at *China Perspectives* for their constructive and highly efficient assistance in producing this very well received special edition. We are also grateful for *China Perspectives* giving permission for revised and updated versions of these six articles to be included in this volume.

At the Second European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference held in Bochum in April 2005 a number of papers again addressed the change and continuity before and after the change of ruling parties. Thus we decided to expand the original special edition collection into a full 13-chapter edited volume that would offer a broader comparative perspective on the two eras.

Edited volumes are often delayed or even abandoned as a result of author’s failure to deliver on time. At this point we would like to thank our contributing authors for almost always meeting our strict deadlines. We gave the authors very extensive requests for revising their chapters that sometimes exceeded 200 required changes. We are grateful for the timely and positive response that our authors gave to our review process. We would also like to thank Linda Arrigo for offering to help out with proof reading some of the chapters by non native speakers of English.

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After years as individual doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, working as a team on organising the first two European Association of Taiwan Studies Conferences and editing this book has been a fresh and rewarding experience. Three editors living in separate places, from different institutions, from different countries and focusing on markedly distinct academic fields sounds a recipe for disaster in an edited volume project. However, after countless emails and hours of hard work the volume was ready for production less than nine months after it was first proposed. Therefore, we would like to thank each other for our time, dedication and cooperative spirit that has enabled the project to reach completion.

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