

Taiwan Rising

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Motivation

Taiwan has long been defined by outsiders, including Dutch, Ming/Qing-era Chinese, Japanese, and Americans. Taiwanese, however, have built a thriving open society that should not be seen as a client state of empires.

Project Description

A character-driven general audience nonfiction book, with maps and images, describing contemporary life in Taiwan, punctuated by intercorrelated chapters explaining the island's historical eras.

Context

This project follows my three award-winning books of immersive reporting in China, including *The Last Days of Old Beijing* and *In Manchuria*, which blend depictions of historical and contemporary life, as well as *Benjamin Franklin's Last Bet*, a unique biography of the founder's death. My work aims to illuminate overlooked corners.



A general audience
nonfiction book
explaining historical and
contemporary **Taiwan**
to Western readers.



Project Deliverables

- By the end of the one-year funding period I expect to have completed my research here on the island, as well as at the Library of Congress and National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- Within one-to-two years, this funding will allow me to both pitch a book proposal—my mid-term exam—and complete the manuscript—my final exam.

Potential Impact

There is a dearth of reporting from contemporary Taiwan, both in media and upon bookshelves.

If I am successful, Western readers will better understand Taiwan and the immense changes that have taken place here in the last 20 years. The United States is skilled at entering wars in countries it knows little about, and my hope is to inform leaders that Taiwan is far more than a pawn in a geopolitical game.

