



Issue: 1971 : The recognition of the People's Republic of China and its membership in the UN

Committee: Historical Security Council

Chair(s): Paillargue Salomé & Dumont-Decock Mahault



**“The UN wasn't created to take mankind into paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell”
-Dag Hammarskjöld**

Introduction:

In 1971, a significant diplomatic shift occurred when the United Nations (UN) officially recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) and granted it membership, while simultaneously expelling the Republic of China (ROC), which had previously held China's seat at the UN.

This replacement is called resolution 2758.

Summary of things to know :

People's Republic of China (PRC)

The official name of the communist government in China, led by the Chinese Communist Party, established in 1949

The Chinese Civil War (1927-1950) ended with the victory of the Chinese Communist Party, establishing the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the mainland in 1949

The PRC claims sovereignty over Taiwan and considers Taiwan to be a part of its territory

It is governed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and has a one-party socialist system.

socialist one-party state

Republic Of China (ROC)

The government that retreated to Taiwan after losing the Chinese Civil War to the Communists and claimed to be the legitimate government of all of China.

The Republic of China (ROC), led by the Nationalists (Kuomintang), retreated to Taiwan, where it continued to claim sovereignty over all of China.

The ROC was the government of all of China before the Chinese Civil War, after which it retreated to Taiwan while the CCP established the PRC on the mainland

It has its own government, military, and constitution, and it operates as a separate and self-governing entity.

democratic nation

→ The PRC is China + Taiwan (because it considers that it is a part of its territory)

← only Taiwan



Territories controlled by the People's Republic of China (PRC) (purple) and the Republic of China (ROC) (orange).

General overview:

Story between the « two china » :

In 1945, when the United Nations was created, China, under the Republic of China (ROC), was one of its founding members. Back then, the ROC, led by the Kuomintang, governed both mainland China and Taiwan. However, after a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the CCP established the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing in 1949, forcing the ROC to retreat to Taiwan.

The PRC claimed to be the rightful successor of the ROC, while Taiwan's Kuomintang insisted that the Republic of China still existed. Both claimed to be the true Chinese government and didn't have diplomatic relations with countries recognizing the other. The ROC represented China in the UN until Resolution 2758 was passed, recognizing the PRC as the legitimate representative of China.

Key informations :

Taiwan's (ROC) Representation:

Until 1971, the ROC held the seat representing China at the United Nations, a situation that became increasingly untenable as most nations began recognizing the PRC.

Diplomatic Recognition:

Prior to 1971, only a few countries officially recognized the PRC (eg: India) with most countries maintaining diplomatic relations with the ROC.

A turning point was U.S. National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger's secret visit to Beijing in July 1971, which paved the way for the normalization of relations between the United States and China.

In 1971, Henry Kissinger, a top U.S. official, secretly visited China. This was a big deal because the U.S. didn't have relations with China at the time. This secret visit helped the U.S. and China have diplomatic relations, and it changed the Cold War dynamics. It eventually led to the U.S. recognizing China as a country and building a new diplomatic relationship.

UN General Assembly Resolution 2758:

On October 25, 1971, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758.

This resolution recognized the PRC as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations" and expelled the ROC.

The PRC was admitted to the UN, taking its place as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Implications:

The recognition of the PRC had significant geopolitical implications during the Cold War, as the United States shifted its stance from supporting the ROC to engaging with the PRC as part of its strategy against the Soviet Union.

It also marked a major step in the normalization of diplomatic relations between the PRC and other countries.

One-China Policy:

The recognition of the PRC by the UN contributed to the international adoption of the "One-China" policy, which acknowledges the PRC as the sole legitimate government of China and does not recognize Taiwan as a separate sovereign state.

Continued Tensions:

The issue of Taiwan's status continues to be a source of tension between the PRC and Taiwan, as well as a sensitive topic in international relations.

The recognition of the People's Republic of China and its membership in the UN in 1971 was a pivotal moment in the history of international diplomacy, reshaping the geopolitical landscape and contributing to the evolving dynamics of the Cold War era.

Official treaty of the resolution 2758

<https://treaties.un.org/pages/HistoricalInfo.aspx>

On this page, you can find a table that shows all the historical differences between the "two Chinas"

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Chinas#:~:text=name%20%22China%22,-,Two%20Chinas,\(ROC\)%20\(orange\).](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Chinas#:~:text=name%20%22China%22,-,Two%20Chinas,(ROC)%20(orange).)

Major actors:

* **United States:**

The United States, under President Richard Nixon and his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, initiated the policy shift toward recognizing the PRC and played a pivotal role in the diplomatic efforts.

* **People's Republic of China (PRC):**

Led by Premier Zhou Enlai, the PRC actively sought recognition and membership in the UN.

* **Republic of China (ROC) or Taiwan:**

The ROC, which had previously represented China at the UN, lost its seat as a result of Resolution 2758. Taiwan continued to claim to be the legitimate government of China but was no longer recognized as such within the UN.

* **Soviet Union (URSS):**

The Soviet Union was a key player in international diplomacy during the Cold War and influenced the discussions surrounding the recognition of the PRC in the UN.

Other UN member states :

● **United Kingdom:**

The United Kingdom, one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, had an influential voice in the discussions surrounding the PRC's recognition.

● **France:**

France, another permanent member of the UN Security Council, also had a significant say in the recognition of the PRC.

● **Canada:**

Canada was among the Western countries that shifted their recognition from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China during this period.

● **Japan:**

Japan's stance on recognizing the PRC was important, given its proximity to China and its role in regional politics.

● **Australia:**

Australia, like Canada, made a policy change in recognizing the PRC during this period.

● **Pakistan:**

Pakistan was among the early countries to recognize the PRC and played a supportive role in advocating for its admission to the UN.

● **India:**

India, a prominent member of the Non-Aligned Movement, also supported the PRC's recognition and membership in the UN.

● **African Nations:**

Many African countries were part of the coalition supporting the PRC's recognition, as the PRC had been actively engaged in diplomatic relations and aid programs on the African continent.

The Historical Security Council (HSC).

→ A Historical MUN Committee is a committee that takes place in the past and simulates a topic and committee from a completely different perspective than a regular committee.

- In this committee the delegates are called upon to make important decisions concerning political crises that could reshape the course of history as it's known.
- Furthermore, the Security Council's composition and participating Nations are based on the chosen historical period and any event following the starting year can't be mentioned as it hadn't happened in the simulated setting yet.
- The Security Council must take its decisions in the interest of international peace and maintain a secure environment for the citizens of the world: its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the formulation of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action.
- In the case of the Historical Security Council, present member States will reprise the geopolitical structure pertinent to the period in which the forum is set for the duration of the conference (e.g. Russia will be the USSR if the setting takes place between 1945 and 1991).

→ What makes this forum unique?

is that Historical Security Council's delegates will immerse themselves in times of engaging geopolitical issues, trying to solve them to the best of their abilities: it is an extraordinary and remarkable experience that will enrich your understanding of the past that shaped today's world.

* As a delegates in this committee:

In your hands, you have the power to change the course of history.

- You may identify solutions that remedy the problems of the past, but you may, instead, also create greater obstacles that bring about further downfall.
- Therefore, only a true understanding of the events and their influences will guide you to the brightest future, and only a true execution of diplomacy will help you avoid our dark past.
- Furthermore, delegates have to use their extensive research as the critical foundation for all arguments and solutions to crises.



BUT YOU SHOULD NOT:

(time travel is difficult !!)

- Base decisions on what you deem "future" information
- Act while forgetting the intentions and international relations of your country at that time
- Use as an argument or mention something that happened in the "future"

GOOD LUCK !