

**REPUBLIC  
OF  
CHINA**  
A REFERENCE BOOK

**DIXSON D. S. SUNG**  
*EDITORIAL DIRECTOR*

**LAWRENCE C. HO**  
*EDITOR IN CHIEF*

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## Foreword

The predecessor of the *Republic of China: A Reference Book* was the *China Year Book*, an important publication detailing developments in the Republic of China, published annually from 1951 to 1980 by China Publishing Company under the sponsorship of the Republic of China Government Information Office. Since 1980, much time and thought has been devoted to a new layout and design; more topics were added as well. The first revised edition was published in 1983.

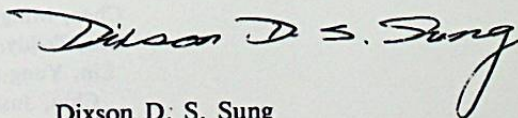
Over the past three years, major changes have taken place in the politics, economy, and society of the Republic of China. A timely revision of the book thus became a necessity. In producing this new edition, the Hilit Publishing Company Ltd. has reviewed all available data and added relevant information and illustrations to the new book in order to provide its readers with the most current and comprehensive understanding of the Republic of China.

A special feature of the latest edition is that the most recent section of the Chronology, a recording of significant events in this country from January, 1984 to June, 1985, has been moved from the rear to the front of the book and is now accompanied

by meaningful illustrations. In the historical section, emphasis has been placed on national development efforts and achievements over the past three decades in the Taiwan, Kinmen, and Matsu areas. A chapter concerning natural resources conservation and environmental protection has been newly added to the volume's "Social Development" section; it summarizes the efforts of the government to improve and preserve both wilderness and inhabited areas in the Republic of China on Taiwan and the progress made.

This is the first reference book produced by Hilit totally in English. We hope that it will prove an outstanding work—a proud venture in our efforts to expand our publication domain and provide our readers with reliable and worthwhile reference materials.

We are deeply grateful to the Government Information Office for the assistance it has provided; without it, publication of this volume would surely have been impossible. We also wish to express our appreciation to thirty-one other government organizations and nineteen editorial advisors (a list follows) for their invaluable contributions and their comments on the draft.



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## Major Contributors

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# Contents

## Part I Chronology since 1984

## Part II General Information

- |           |  |            |
|-----------|--|------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>National Symbols</b>  | <b>35</b>  |
|           | National Flag, National Flower, Orders.  |            |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Geographical Features</b>   | <b>39</b>  |
|           | Location; Land Form; Coastline, Islands, and Oceans; Inland Waters; Climate; Rainfall; Political Regions.  |            |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>People</b>  | <b>43</b>  |
|           | Formation and Expansion of the Han People, Minority Groups.  |            |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Language and Written Characters</b>   | <b>47</b>  |
|           | Language, Written Characters.  |            |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Philosophy and Religion</b>   | <b>51</b>  |
|           | Chinese Philosophy, Chinese Religion.  |            |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Chinese Art</b>   | <b>65</b>  |
|           | Calligraphy, Painting, Sculpture, Bronzes, Pottery and Porcelain, Other Art Forms.   |            |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Chinese Literature</b>  | <b>73</b>  |
|           | The Classical Age, The Middle Epoch, T'ang Poetry, Sung Tz'u, Yuan Ch'u, Fiction of the Ming and Ch'ing Dynasties, Modern Literature.  |            |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Pre-Republican History</b>  | <b>77</b>  |
|           | Ancient History, Shang and Chou Dynasties, Ch'in-Han Period and Origin of Chinese Institutions, Population Movements and Social Changes, Sui and T'ang Dynasties, From Sung Dynasty to the 19th Century, The Crumbling Empire. |            |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Republic of China before 1949</b>   | <b>89</b>  |
|           | Early Years of the Republic, Northern Expedition, ROC 1929-1937, Japanese Aggression, Communist Rebellion.   |            |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Republic of China on Taiwan</b>   | <b>97</b>  |
|           | Removal to Taiwan, A Success Story, Test of Strength, A New Era.   |            |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Chinese Mainland under Communism</b>  | <b>103</b> |
|           | Cultural Revolution, Collaboration with the U.S., Purge of Lin Piao, Internal Strife, Disastrous Year of 1976, T'ienanmen Square Riot, Arrest of "Gang of Four," Temporary Coalition, Uneasy Balance,                          |            |

Party Shake-up, Reversal for Liu, Cancellation of "Four Greats," Fall of Hua Kuo-feng, Economic Adjustment, Recent Developments.

## Part III Government System and Operation

- |           |  |            |
|-----------|--|------------|
| <b>12</b> | <b>The Constitution</b>  | <b>113</b> |
|           | Fundamental Principles, Road to Constitutionalism, Contents of the Constitution, The Temporary Provisions.               |            |
| <b>13</b> | <b>National Assembly</b>   | <b>117</b> |
|           | Functions, Delegates, Plenary Sessions, Committee on Constitutional Research.  |            |
| <b>14</b> | <b>The Presidency</b>  | <b>121</b> |
|           | Functions, Office of the President, National Security Council.   |            |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Central and Local Government</b>  | <b>125</b> |
|           | Characteristics of the Government System, Central Government System, Local Government System.                            |            |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Political Parties</b>   | <b>143</b> |
|           | The Kuomintang, The Young China Party, The China Democratic Socialist Party.   |            |
| <b>17</b> | <b>National Defense</b>  | <b>153</b> |
|           | Organization, Armed Forces Buildup, National Defense Industry, Chinese Communists' Armed Threat, Armed Forces Academies. |            |

## Part IV Territory under Control

- |           |   |            |
|-----------|---|------------|
| <b>18</b> | <b>Taiwan Province</b>  | <b>159</b> |
|           | History, Physiographic Setting, Climate, Natural Vegetation and Soils, Population, Self-Government in Taiwan, Taiwan Provincial Assembly, Taiwan Provincial Government, Local Self-Government, Penghu Islands (Pescadores). |            |
| <b>19</b> | <b>City of Taipei</b>   | <b>173</b> |
|           | History, Land Area, Geography, Population, Taipei City Council, City Government.  |            |
| <b>20</b> | <b>City of Kaohsiung</b>  | <b>181</b> |
|           | History, Geography, Population, Kaohsiung City Council, City Government, Education and Culture, Industry and Commerce, Port and Airport, Mass Media.  |            |



- 21 **Kinmen and Matsu** 187  
Kinmen Islands, Matsu Islands.
- 22 **Pratas (Tungsha) Islands and Spratly (Nansha) Islands** 191  
Tungsha Chuntao, Nansha Chuntao.

## Part V Economy and Finance

- 23 **The Performance of Economic Development** 193  
Phases of Economic Development, Policies of Economic Development, Direction of Future Efforts.
- 24 **Agriculture** 199  
Production in 1984, Land Reform, Agricultural Planning, The Development of Agricultural Technology, Farm Mechanization, International Cooperation.
- 25 **Industry** 209  
History of Industrial Development, 1984 Industrial Performance, Current Situation, Future Development.
- 26 **Energy** 215  
Energy Consumption, Energy Supply, Energy Policy, Energy Sources, Forecast.
- 27 **Transportation** 221  
Railway Transportation, Highway Transportation, Civil Aviation, Harbor Service, Shipping.
- 28 **Foreign Trade** 227  
A Brief Review, Trade Performance in 1984, Analysis of Foreign Trade by Commodities, Analysis of Foreign Trade by Countries or Areas, Future Trends.
- 29 **Finance and Banking** 233  
Public Finance, Money and Banking, Central Bank Operations.
- 30 **Foreign Investment** 237  
Investment Incentives, Investment Climate, Investment Services, Potential for Future Investment, Investment Statistics.
- 31 **Tourism** 241  
The Tourist Industry, Points of Interest.
- 32 **Telecommunications, Postal, and**

**Meteorological Services** 249  
Telecommunications Service, Postal Service, Meteorological Service.

- 33 **Major Development Projects** 255  
Ten Construction Projects, 12 New Development Projects, 14 Key Projects.

- 34 **Commercial and Industrial Organizations** 263  
Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce, Chinese National Federation of Industries, China External Trade Development Council, Taipei World Trade Center, Euro-Asia Trade Organization, Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei, Taiwan Importers and Exporters Association.

## Part VI Education, Sports, and Cultural Activities

- 35 **Education** 267  
Background of Education in China, Education from 1912 to 1949, Education in Taiwan.
- 36 **Universities** 275  
National Taiwan University, National Tsinghua University, National Chiao Tung University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chengkung University, National Chungshing University, National Central University, National Sun Yat-sen University, National Taiwan Institute of Technology, National Yangming Medical College, Soochow University, Tunghai University, Tamkang University, Fu Jen Catholic University, Chinese Culture University, Feng Chia University, Chung Yuan Christian University.
- 37 **Science and Technology** 283  
National Science Council, Academia Sinica, Industrial Technology Research Institute, The Science-Based Industrial Park, National Taiwan Science Hall, National Museum of Natural Science.
- 38 **Educational and Cultural Institutes** 291  
Academia Historica, National Palace Museum, National Institute for Compilation and Translation, National Institute of Educational Materials, National Taiwan Arts Center, National Museum of History, Taiwan Provincial Museum, National Central Library, Public Libraries, University and College Libraries, Cultural Centers.

- 39 **Cultural Activities** 297  
Literature and Arts Awards, Fine Arts, Theater, Dance, Music, Motion Pictures.
- 40 **Sports and Recreation** 303  
History, Government Policy, Sports Organizations, Facilities and Activities, Major Achievements in Sports.
- 41 **Mass Communications** 309  
Newspapers, Press Organizations, News Agencies, Foreign Correspondents, Books, Magazines, Records and Cassettes, Video Cassettes, Journalism Education, Radio Broadcasting, Television, Advertising.

## Part VII Social Development

- 42 **The Performance of Social Development** 317
- 43 **Labor** 319  
Labor Force, Labor-Management Relations, Industrial and Mining Safety, Labor Education, Labor Organizations.
- 44 **Social Security and Welfare** 323  
Social Insurance, Social Welfare, Social Assistance, Community Development, Police Service, Foreign Residents.
- 45 **Cooperative System** 327  
Single-Purpose Cooperatives, Multi-Purpose Cooperatives, Cooperative Farms, The Cooperative Bank of Taiwan.
- 46 **Public Health** 329  
Health Administration; Medical Manpower; Health and Medical Care Services; Health Promotion Programs; Drug, Food, and Cosmetic Control; Communicable Disease Control; Chinese Medicine, Chinese Pharmacy, and Acupuncture Research; International Cooperation; Conclusion.
- 47 **Natural Conservation and Environmental Protection** 337  
Natural Conservation, Environmental Protection.
- 48 **Civic Organizations** 343  
Asian Pacific Anti-Communist League, World Anti-Communist League, Confucius-Mencius Society, The Red Cross Society, Pacific Cultural Foundation, Family Planning Association, Friends of the Armed

Forces Association, Sino-American Cultural and Economic Association, YMCA of the Republic of China, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Republic of China Jaycees, YWCA of Taiwan, Taipei YWCA.

- 49 **Veteran Guidance** 349

## Part VIII International Relations

- 50 **Foreign Policy and Foreign Affairs** 351  
Background, Foreign Policy, Foreign Relations after 1949.
- 51 **ROC and Asian Pacific Countries** 353
- 52 **ROC and Middle East Countries** 355
- 53 **ROC and African Countries** 357  
Republic of China and Malawi, Republic of China and South Africa, Republic of China and Kingdom of Swaziland, Relations between the Republic of China and Other African Countries.
- 54 **ROC and European Countries** 359
- 55 **ROC and North American Countries** 361  
Republic of China and the United States of America, Republic of China and Canada.
- 56 **ROC and Latin American Countries** 363
- 57 **ROC and International Organizations** 365
- 58 **Overseas Chinese Affairs** 367  
Overseas Chinese Population, Overseas Chinese Communities, Service to Overseas Chinese, Education.
- 59 **Government Public Relations** 369  
Public Relations Agencies, Visitors Exchange Program, Publications and Periodicals, Audio-Visual Communications.

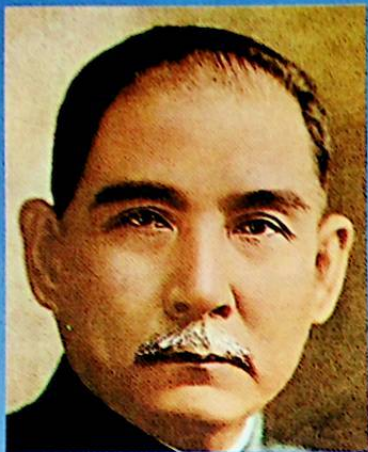
## Part IX Chronology 373

## Part X Who's Who in ROC 401

## Part XI Appendixes

- 1 **Important Documents of the Year** 455  
• President Chiang's Address to the National

Assembly at the 1984 Constitution Day Ceremony.	3	<b>Government Directory</b>	<b>487</b>
• "Peaceful, Happy, Prosperous".	4	<b>Chinese Capsule History and Dynastic Table</b>	<b>491</b>
• Major Points of Premier Yu Kuo-hwa's Oral Administrative Report to the Legislative Yuan.	5	<b>China and the World</b>	<b>497</b>
• Premier Yu Kuo-hwa's Statement to the Chinese People of Hongkong and Kowloon.	6	<b>List of Members of the National Assembly and the Legislative and Control Yuans</b>	<b>501</b>
• Dr. Sun Chen's Lecture on the Socio-Economic Problem Confronting Us Today: Quality of Life, Willingness to Invest, and the Proper Order of Economic Development.		<b>Index</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>2 The ROC Constitution</b>	<b>475</b>		



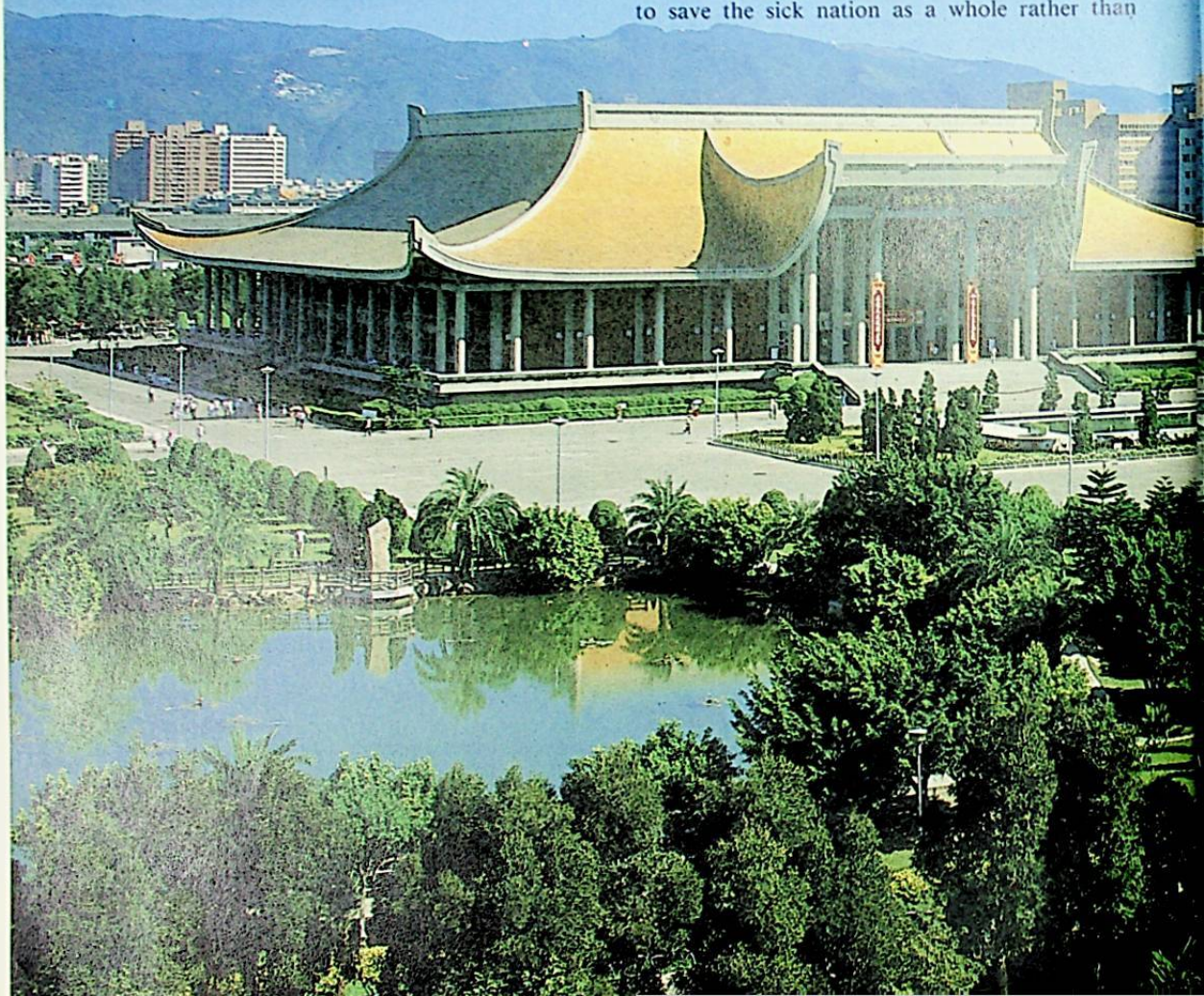
## Dr. Sun Yat-sen

### National Father

Sun Yat-sen, also known as Sun Wen, was born in a coastal village near Hsiangshan in Kwangtung Province in 1866. He died in Peiping in 1925.

Ever since his youth, Sun Yat-sen had seen the weakness of the corruptive Manchu government and realized the dangers China was facing. As early as 1885, at the age of 20, he had made up his mind to topple the Ch'ing dynasty and save China.

Sun Yat-sen was educated in both Chinese and Western schools. At 13, he sailed with his mother to Hawaii, where he went to school in Iolani College and the Oahu College. He returned home in 1883 to follow up further studies in Chinese classics and history. Later, he went to Hongkong to attend Queen's College and the Hongkong Medical College from which he graduated in 1892. But he gave up his lucrative professional practice in medicine for the sake of the revolution. He wanted to save the sick nation as a whole rather than



merely individual patients.

In 1894, Sun founded his first revolutionary organization, the *Hsing Chung Hui* (Society for Rebuilding China) with a group of overseas Chinese youths in Honolulu.

In the 16 years following 1895, Dr. Sun and his followers staged ten uprisings against the Manchu government, all ending in failure. Their success came finally on October 10, 1911 when Wuchang, the capital of Hupch, was taken by the revolutionaries. Thereafter, other provincial capitals and important cities fell one after another into the hands of the revolutionary army and the whole nation was soon joining the side of the revolutionary forces. Dr. Sun was elected Provisional President of the new-born republic and was inaugurated on Jan. 1, 1912.

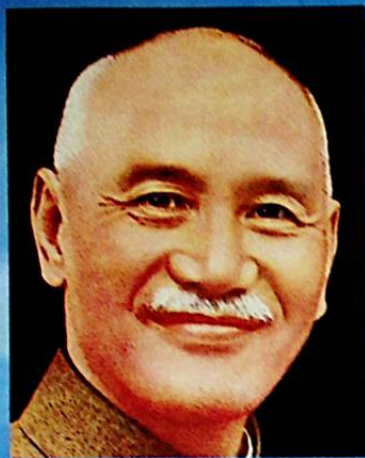
Dr. Sun summarized his political ideals in a set of doctrines called the Three Principles of the

People—the Principle of Nationalism, the Principle of Democracy, and the Principle of People's Livelihood. It was his aspirations to build an independent, democratic, and prosperous China through realization of these principles.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen categorically negated the necessity of implementing Communism in China. He believed that class struggle, an intrinsic element of Communism, is not a requirement for human progress. He made this clear in a joint declaration issued with Soviet envoy Adolf Joffe in 1923 that the Communist system was not suitable for China. He also pointed out that cooperation, rather than class struggle, is the motive force for social development.

Prior to his death, Dr. Sun urged his compatriots to continue uniting and building the nation through peaceful means. That wish was accomplished by his successor, Chiang Kai-shek, less than three years later.





## Chiang Kai-shek

### The Late President

Chiang Chung-cheng, better known as Chiang Kai-shek, was born on October 31, 1887 at Chikow in the district of Fenghua in Chekiang Province of China.

In his early childhood, Chiang Kai-shek was under the strict guidance of his devoted mother. At 19, he went to Japan to study military science, where he deliberately inured himself to hardship by performing menial services.

Chiang's revolutionary career began in 1908 when he joined the *Tung Meng Hui*, a revolutionary party led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic of China. Immediately after the Wuchang Uprising broke out in 1911, he returned home to command a unit of revolutionary forces that later covered Hangchow, the capital of Chekiang Province.

When Yuan Shih-kai betrayed the national revolution by coercing the parliament into electing him to the presidency in 1913, Dr. Sun proclaimed the Second Revolution. Chiang Kai-shek was the first to join the reformed party and became a loyal supporter and close associate of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.



After Dr. Sun's death in 1925, Chiang Kai-shek successfully foiled a Communist plot to cripple the Kuomintang, and suppressed a rebellion in Kwangtung Province, two significant events that consolidated the foundation of revolution.

Under Chiang Kai-shek's leadership, China launched the historic Northern Expedition on August 10, 1926. By 1928, the whole nation was united and the Commander-in-chief was elected Chairman of the National Government. (He was elected President by the National Assembly on March 29, 1948.)

Japan started its all-out assault on China in 1937. China had to fight a war of resistance for eight years, half of which was without outside help. Even for the second half of it, during which the United States and Britain joined in the Pacific War against Japan as a result of the Pearl Harbour Incident, the limited support China received from the Allies could hardly compensate for the heavy losses it suffered in terms of lives and materiel. By the end of the war, China was almost totally exhausted.

The Chinese Communists would not allow the government to have a breathing spell. With arms

turned over by the Russians from the surrendered Japanese armies, they began an all-out rebellion against the Central Government immediately after the war under Russian support. The Chinese mainland was overrun by the Communists and the government moved its seat to Taipei in 1949.

When the late President passed away on April 5, 1975, the profound grief shown by the Chinese people at home and abroad was unique. He is respected for his unparalleled achievements in a career distinguished through thick and thin with his compatriots. He is especially remembered for his example in a life-long observance of such virtues as loyalty, filial piety, benevolence, and personal integrity.

In his last testament, President Chiang Kai-shek urged his countrymen to "realize the Three Principles, recover the mainland, rejuvenate our national culture, and remain in the democratic camp." These admonitions remain as guideposts for the government and people of the Republic of China on their way to continue national reconstruction.

