

## China and Taiwan in historic meeting

7th November, 2015



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A historic event involving China and Taiwan will take place today, Saturday, November the 7th. Chinese president Xi Jinping and Taiwan president

Ma Ying-Jeou will meet for discussions in Singapore. It is the first summit at presidential level to take place between China and Taiwan since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. Taiwan is just 180 km from China but their relations have remained cautious and, at times, frosty for decades. China considers Taiwan as part of its territory and therefore does not regard it as a separate nation. Only 22 foreign governments recognise Taiwan as an independent country. The status of Taiwan is one of the more difficult problems in international politics to find a solution to.

The meeting between the two leaders is a major stepping stone to repair decades-old divisions. It could pave the way for similar meetings in the future. Special etiquette is already in place for the milestone encounter. The two parties have decided not to use the term "president" to address each other. Instead, they will use the word "mister". Further, the two leaders will not sign any agreements. Neither will they issue any joint statements or hold a joint press conference. A Chinese official said the meeting is to, "exchange views on promoting the peaceful development of [our] relations". A spokesman for Mr Ma said the talks, "aim to solidify relations between the two sides and keep the status quo".

Sources: *BusinessInsider / Chosun / Xinhuanet / AsiaTimes*

## Writing

All people who want independence should get independence. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*historic / president / discussions / summit / civil war / frosty / territory / status / stepping stone / decades / etiquette / milestone / agreements / press conference*

## True / False

- China and Taiwan's leaders met in Hong Kong. T / F
- It is the first meeting between their presidents since 1949. T / F
- China and Taiwan are just 180 miles apart. T / F
- Taiwan is recognized as a nation by only 22 other governments. T / F
- The article suggested there could be more meetings to come. T / F
- The two leaders will not call each other "president". T / F
- The two leaders will hold a joint press conference. T / F
- A Taiwanese spokesman said he didn't want to keep the status quo. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. involving  | a. disagreements |
| 2. take place | b. answer        |
| 3. frosty     | c. land          |
| 4. territory  | d. protocol      |
| 5. solution   | e. including     |
| 6. divisions  | f. fix           |
| 7. repair     | g. put out       |
| 8. etiquette  | h. happen        |
| 9. issue      | i. dealings      |
| 10. relations | j. unfriendly    |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Taiwan?
- How historic do you think this meeting is?
- Why do you think the meeting is taking place in Singapore?
- What is your country's relations with its neighbours like?
- Have you ever had frosty relations with someone?
- Why do only 22 governments think Taiwan is a country?
- What will happen between China and Taiwan in the future?
- What is the most difficult international problem to solve?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. A historic
  2. the first summit at
  3. the end of the Chinese civil
  4. China considers Taiwan as
  5. find a
  6. a major stepping
  7. pave the way
  8. Neither will they issue any joint
  9. hold a joint press
  10. the talks aim to solidify relations
- a. part of its territory
  - b. conference
  - c. solution to
  - d. stone
  - e. for similar meetings
  - f. event
  - g. between the two sides
  - h. war
  - i. statements
  - j. presidential level

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What divisions does your country have with its neighbours?
- b) Why will the leaders address each other as 'mister'?
- c) Why will the two leaders not hold a joint press conference?
- d) What takes place in the background to set up meetings like this?
- e) How else could the leaders 'solidify relations'?
- f) How important is the status quo?
- g) What advice would you give to the two leaders?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the two leaders?

## Spelling

1. It is the first umtmis at presidential level
2. relations have remained cuustiao
3. be part of its yrrtroeit
4. regard it as a eaastupe nation
5. Only 22 georinf governments
6. The stutas of Taiwan
7. repair decades-old doiissivn
8. Special iteetuteq is already in place
9. the milestone erucnoetn
10. issue any joint matteetnss
11. hold a joint press foeeecnrc
12. aim to yiflisod relations

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. a	7. f	8. d	9. g	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Sport

You think sport is the best thing for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, the same religion or no visa requirements.

### Role B – Trade

You think trade is the best thing for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): sport, the same religion or no visa requirements.

### Role C – Same religion

You think the same religion is the best thing for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, sport or no visa requirements.

### Role D – No visa requirements

You think no visa requirements is the best thing for good relations between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, the same religion or sport.

## Speaking – Relations

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to provide good relations between neighbouring countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Sport
- Trade
- Shared language
- Same religion
- Cultural exchanges
- No visa requirements
- Education exchanges
- Homestay programmes

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.