

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEOGRAPHIC GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 37

April 16, 2020

**TAIWAN – CARTOGRAPHIC TREATMENT**

*Note: The following guidance does not represent a change in existing policy but is rather a compendium of existing policies and practices.*

As of 1979, the United States Government recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. It established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and acknowledged the Chinese position that there is only one China and that Taiwan is part of China. The United States does not recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state.

On most U.S. Government maps that show sovereignty tints, Taiwan<sup>1</sup> is to be shown with the same color as China (see Figure 1). Exceptions can be made only when context requires that Taiwan be specifically singled out (see Figure 2).



Figure 1: detail of map of Asia



Figure 2: World Factbook map of Taiwan

As a geopolitical entity, Taiwan must be labeled using a type face distinct from and subordinate to a type face used for sovereign states such as China (see Figure 1), and also distinct from a type face used to label provinces or other administrative divisions. It must be labeled only “Taiwan” – do not use “Republic of China” or “Taiwan, Province of China.”

The city of Taipei must not be symbolized as the capital of a sovereign state.

<sup>1</sup> Taiwan includes the main island of Taiwan and other islands or island groups administered by the Taiwan authorities, including the Pescadores (Penghu Qundao), Mazu (Matsu) Islands, and Kinmen (Jinmen) Islands.

Please contact [Maps@state.gov](mailto:Maps@state.gov) with questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lee Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lee" and last name "Schwartz" clearly distinguishable.

Lee R. Schwartz

The Geographer

U.S. Department of State