

Interpretations of 'one China'

People's Republic of China (PRC) interpretation

[Anti-Secession Law \(2005\)](#)

Article 2: There is only one China in the world. Both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China. ... Safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included. Taiwan is part of China. The state shall never allow the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces to make Taiwan secede from China under any name.

The Anti-Secession Law is an enunciation of the PRC's legal position on the one-China principle, in which the Mainland and Taiwan are conceptualised as being a part of the same China.*

Republic of China (ROC) interpretation

[Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area \(1992\)](#)

Article 2: 1. "Taiwan Area" refers to Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu, and any other area under the effective control of the Government. 2. "Mainland Area" refers to the territory of the Republic of China outside the Taiwan Area.

The ROC interpretation is the most complicated. On paper the ROC still claims a "mainland area" as part of their territory, but the Act citing this (see above) does not define the borders of the mainland area. The constitution states that the ROC's boundaries cannot be altered without a referendum, but the constitution also does not define the boundaries of the ROC.

Australia interpretation

[Joint Communique of the Australian Government and the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China \(1972\)](#)

*The Australian Government recognises the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China, **acknowledges the position of the Chinese Government that Taiwan is a province of the People's Republic of China**, and has decided to remove its official representation from Taiwan before 25 January 1973.*

Australia does not recognise Taiwan as a sovereign nation. It does recognise the PRC as a sovereign nation. While Australia acknowledges the PRC's position that Taiwan is a province of the PRC, Australia neither supports nor opposes the PRC position. Australia maintains unofficial contacts with Taiwan promoting economic, trade and cultural interests.

United States (US) interpretation

[Joint Communique of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China \(1979\)](#)

2. *The United States of America **recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China**. Within this context, the people of the United States will maintain cultural, commercial, and other unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan.*

7. *The Government of the United States of America **acknowledges** the Chinese position that **there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China**.*

The one-China policy of the US is not the same thing as the one-China principle of the PRC. The one-China policy of the US contains more elements, such as the US interest in a peaceful process of cross-Strait dispute resolution, and its differing interpretation of Taiwan's legal status as compared to Beijing's interpretation. The US maintains unofficial contacts with Taiwan. The US recognises the PRC as the sole legal government of China. It acknowledges, but does not affirm, the PRC's One-China principle as expounded by the PRC and nonetheless maintains informal ties with Taiwan.

* The PRC uses the term 'principle' while Australia and the US use 'policy' to refer to their one-China policy.