



# Centering Taiwan in Global Asia

National Consortium for Teaching about Asia  
October 19, 2023

Image credit: Library of Congress



# TAIWAN



Image credit: Peter Hermes Furian  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/taiwan-area-political-map-free-area-of-the-republic-of-china-gm1387802350-445634453>

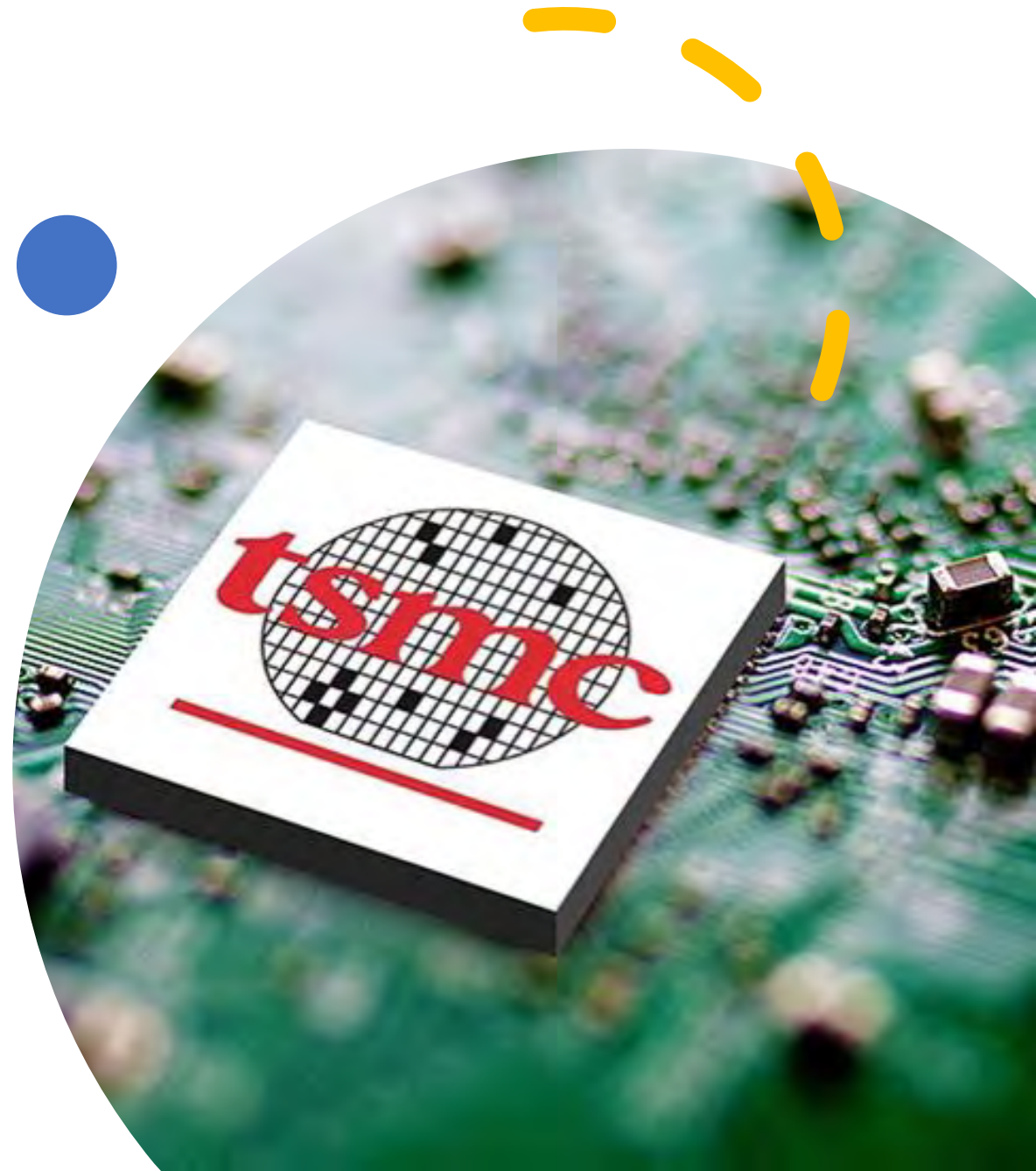


# Taiwan's outsized role in today's global economy

- Despite its tiny size and population, Taiwan plays an outsized role in the global economy today. Taiwan produces:
  - 80% of the global market's share of laptops and computer motherboards.
  - 60% of the world's network devices.
- Taiwan Semi-conductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC) makes more than half the world's computer chips.

(Source: Center for Strategic & International Studies)

(Source: Shelly Rigger's *Why Taiwan Matters*)







BUSINESS

# As Taiwan's government races to counter China, most people aren't worried about war

By Huizhong Wu | AP  
September 2, 2023 at 3:49 a.m. EDT



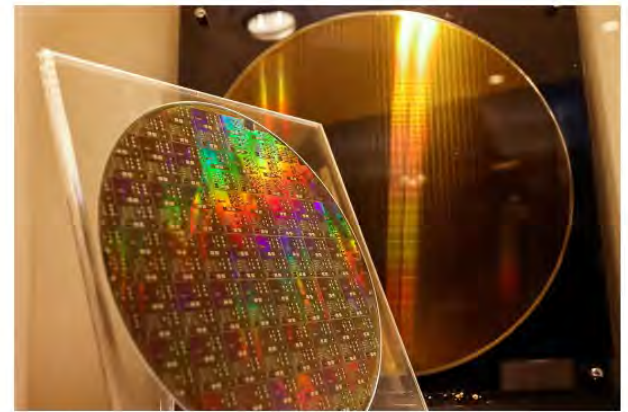
The New York Times

STRATEGIES

# How Silicon Chips Rule the World

Maintaining the flow of oil is still crucial for the world economy. But now the supply of semiconductors is also critical for commerce, and war and peace.

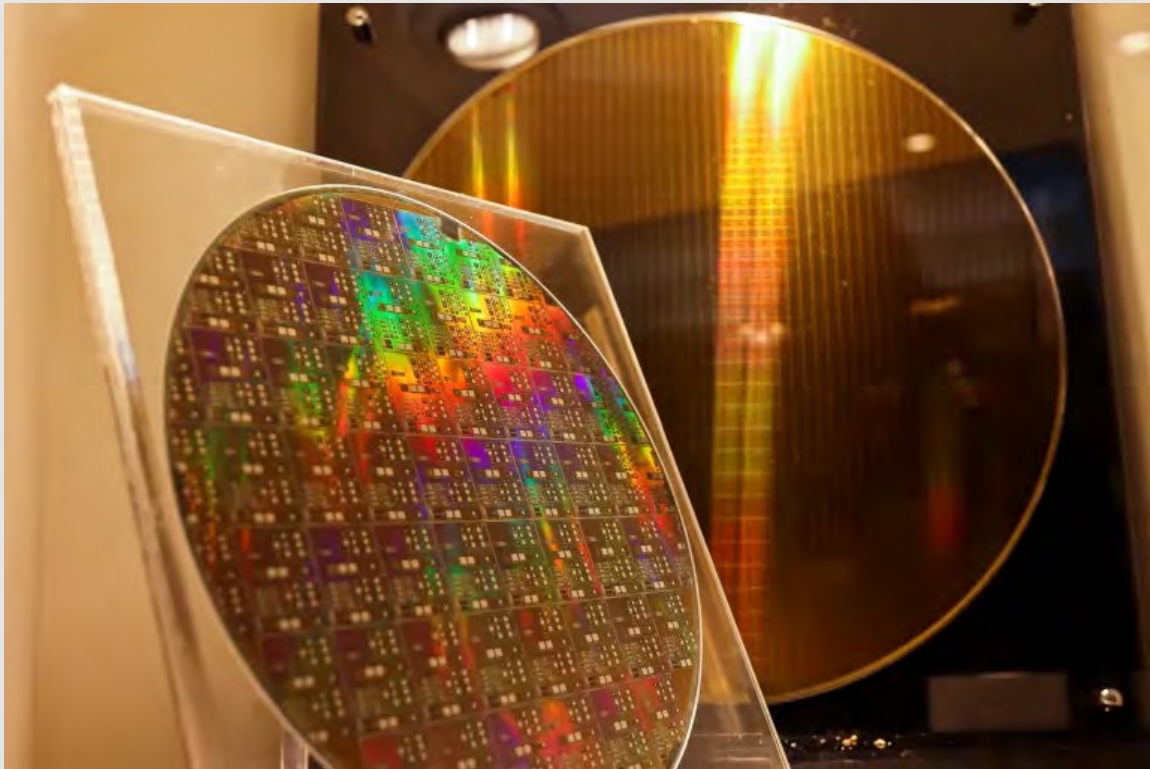
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Two wafers containing silicon chips at the Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute in Taiwan is a colossus in the global market for semiconductors, the brains of

Source: <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/03/24/strategic-competition-casts-doubt-on-one-china-policy/>

# Taiwan in the news



# The Silicon Shield

- Taiwan's dominance in manufacturing semiconductors is seen by some analysts as a deterrent against an invasion by Beijing [File: Ann Wang/Reuters]

Source:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/4/1/silicon-shield-why-taiwan-is-not-the-next-ukraine>







Taipei  
Municipal Yu  
Cheng Senior  
High School



# Suggestions for using "Centering Taiwan in Global Asia" website in the Social Studies classroom

[National Council for Social Studies \(NCSS\) Teacher Standards](#) and the five “essential characteristics of powerful social studies”.

Subject	Topic/Concept	Use of Centering Taiwan website
U.S. History (K-12)	Extermination and Displacement of Native Peoples	Displacement of Indigenous Peoples (Indigeneity & Early Settlement map page and lesson plan)
U.S. History (9-12)	Mercantilism under British Empire	Global trade networks exercised by British and Dutch colonial empires (Navigation, Trade & Piracy map page and lesson plan; Colonization map page and lesson plan)
World History (9-12)	Western imperialism and colonialism; mercantilism; Ming and Qing dynasties	Global trade networks exercised by British and Dutch colonial empires; Koxinga's flight from mainland China for Taiwan with fall of Ming dynasty (Navigation, Trade & Piracy map page and lesson plan; Colonization map page & lesson plan)
World History (9-12)	Qing dynasty; Meiji Restoration; Japanese colonization	Qing dynasty and Taiwan; Japan and Taiwan (Colonization map page and lesson plan)

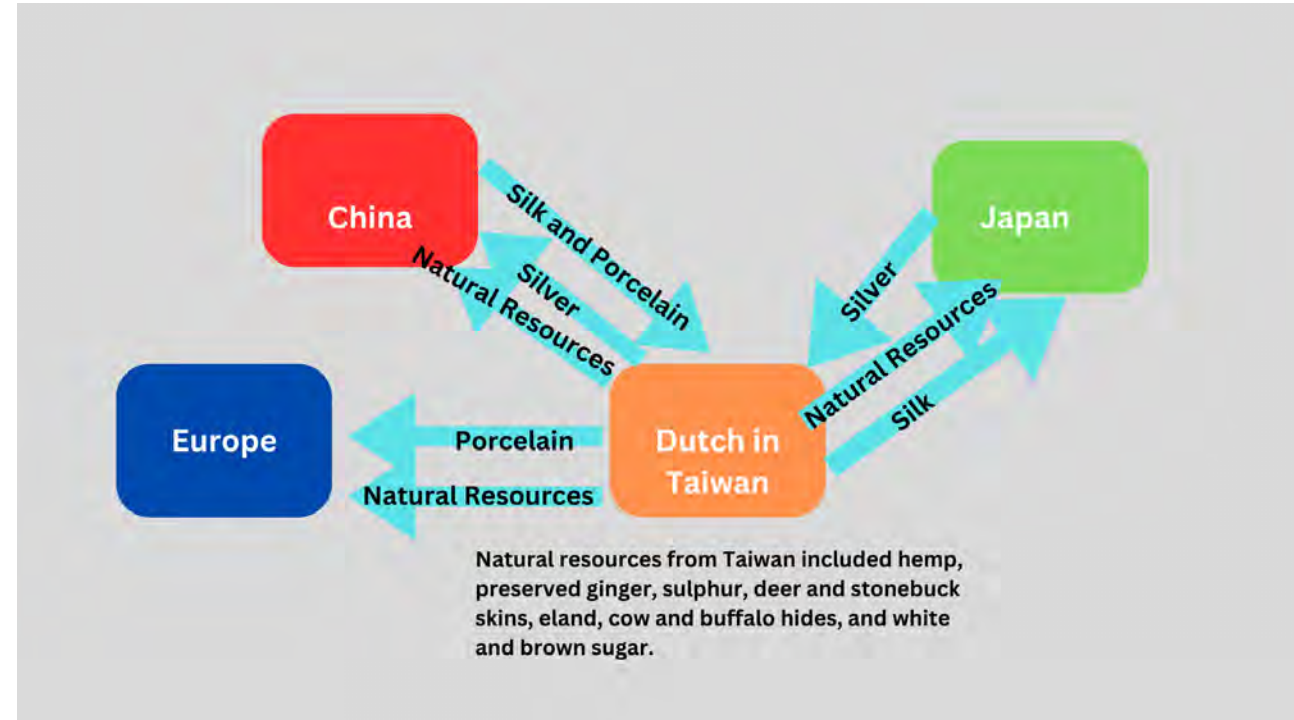


U.S. History: U.S. as a British colony  
World History: global trade

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- QUESTIONS:
- According to the trade network image, what role did the Dutch play in trade between Asia and Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century? What goods and resources did Europeans desire from Asia and why?
- Based on Taiwan's location in Asia, why might it have proved an ideal trading hub between East and West?

## 17th century trade between Asia and Europe



Graphic organizer based on information from Tsai, Shih - shan Henry, *Maritime Taiwan: Historical Encounters with the East and the West*, p. 35-37.

# Navigation, Trade & Piracy map page

Indigeneity & Early Settlement

Navigation, Trade & Piracy

Colonization



Lin Daoqian, 1550s



Li Dan, ?-1625



Zheng Zhihong, 1603-1661



Koxinga, 1624-1662



Zheng Jing, 1662-1681

**NAVIGATION, TRADE & PIRACY: OVERVIEW**

*Painting of Japanese and Dutch trade on Dejima, in Nagasaki Bay, Japan.*

Image credit

By the early 16th century, global trade networks across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas were well-developed. Within the continent of Asia, China, Japan, and the islands of Southeast Asia traded robustly, despite Ming dynasty China's decision to turn inward—known as the "splendid isolation" or *tsung chu chuan* (Manthorpe, 2008)—after famed 15th century voyages of the Ming admiral, Zheng He, came to a close. As European appetites for Asian goods increased throughout

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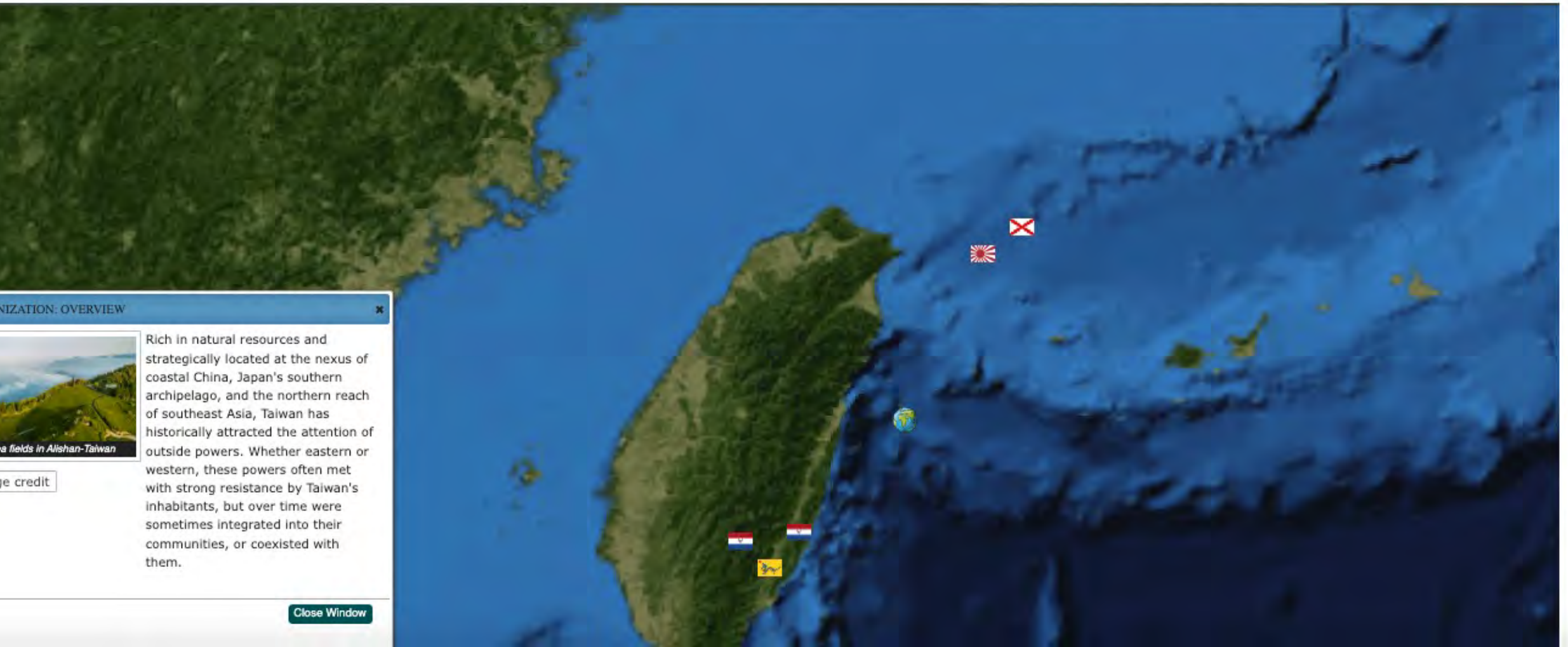


# Colonization Map page

Indigeneity & Early Settlement

Navigation, Trade & Piracy

Colonization



COLONIZATION: OVERVIEW



tea fields in Alishan-Taiwan

Image credit

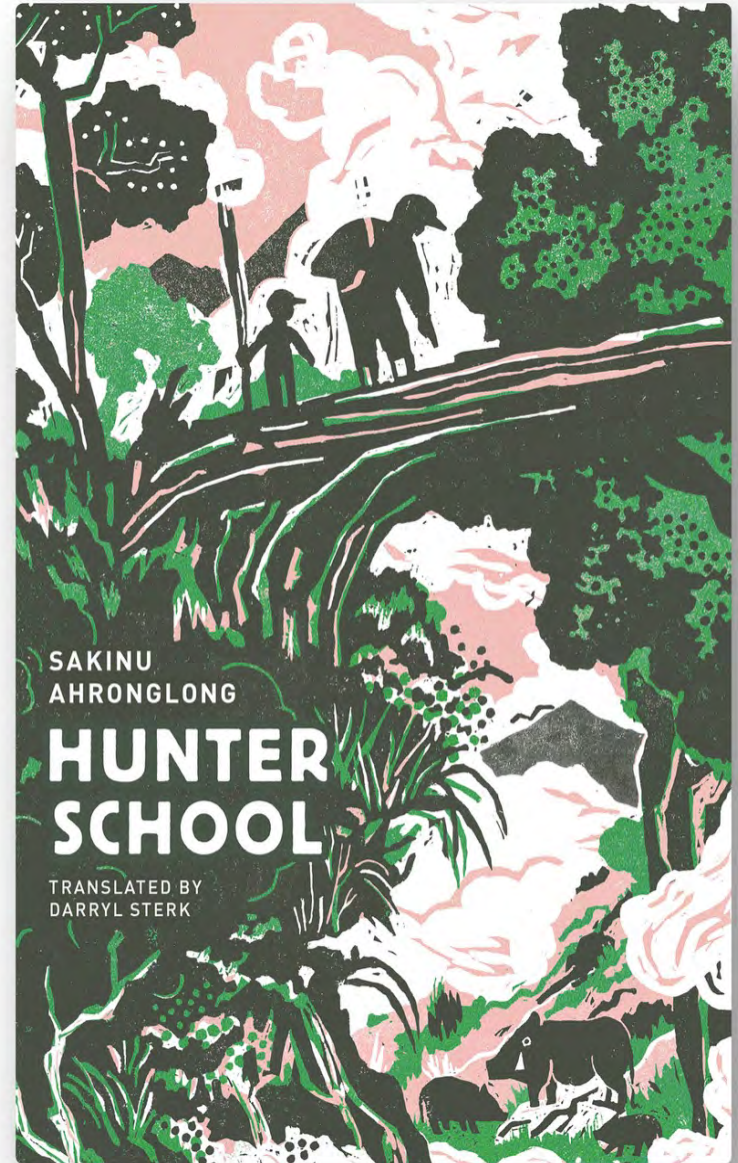
Rich in natural resources and strategically located at the nexus of coastal China, Japan's southern archipelago, and the northern reach of southeast Asia, Taiwan has historically attracted the attention of outside powers. Whether eastern or western, these powers often met with strong resistance by Taiwan's inhabitants, but over time were sometimes integrated into their communities, or coexisted with them.

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# "Centering Taiwan in Global Asia" in the ELA Classroom

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- [National Council of Teachers of English](#) standards
- World Literature example: *Hunter School* by Sakinu Ahronglong; translated by Darryl Sterk
- Themes addressed: Identity; Loss; Circle of Life; Family; Love
- For use with the "Indigeneity & Early Settlement" map page



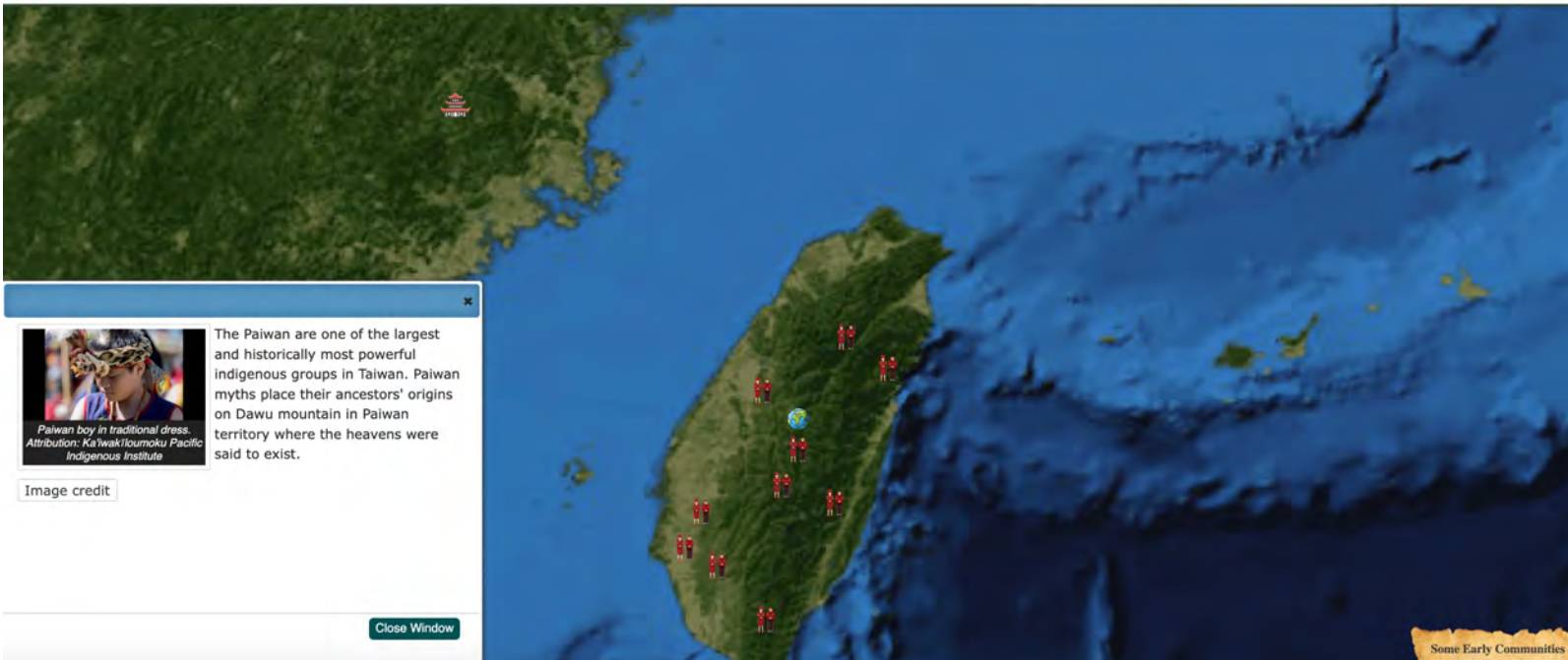



# Indigeneity & Early Settlement map page

Indigeneity & Early Settlement      Navigation, Trade & Piracy      Colonization

<      >

Tao (Yami)      Pazeh      Siraya      Paiwan      Thao



  
Paiwan boy in traditional dress.  
Attribution: Ka'wak'loumoku Pacific Indigenous Institute

The Paiwan are one of the largest and historically most powerful indigenous groups in Taiwan. Paiwan myths place their ancestors' origins on Dawu mountain in Paiwan territory where the heavens were said to exist.

Image credit

Close Window

Some Early Communities

# Resources

- Andrade, Tonio, [How Taiwan Became Chinese](#)
- <https://centeringtaiwan.pitt.edu/>
- Manthorpe, Jonathan, *Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan*. St. Martin's Press Griffin. New York. 2009.
- [Maritime Asia](#)
- <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/an-overview-of-taiwans-economy>
- Rigger, Shelley. *Why Taiwan Matters: Small Island, Global Powerhouse*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.
- Tsai, Shih-shan Henry, *Maritime Taiwan: Historical Encounters with the East and the West*. Routledge. New York. 2016.
- Wong, Maggie Hiufu. "The Rise of Bubble Tea, One of Taiwan's Most Beloved Beverages." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 30 Apr. 2020, [The Rise of Bubble Tea, One of Taiwan's Most Beloved Beverages.](#)