Conceptions of Chinese Democracy

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Key Dates

1866: Sun Yat-sen is born in Guongdong Province in China
1886: Chiang Kai-shek is born in Zhejiang Province in China
1910: Chiang Ching-kuo is born in Zhejiang Province in China
1911: Ching dynasty is overthrown
1912: Sun serves as provisional president of the new Republic of China (ROC)
1924: Sun delivers the Săn Mín Chữ Yi lectures in Guangzhou
1925: Sun passes away in Peking
1928: Chiang Kai-shek assumes the presidency of the ROC for the first time
1946: New ROC constitution promulgated in Nanjing meant to mark the transition to democracy
1948: The “Temporary Provisions Effective during the Period of Communist Rebellion” added to the ROC constitution, strengthening the power of the executive branch
1948: Martial law declared on Taiwan in response to the 2/28 Incident, in which antigovernment protests were forcefully suppressed
1949: Chinese Communists win Chinese civil war; Nationalist government retreats to Taiwan
1971: Richard Nixon visits mainland China to open negotiations for normalizing relations with the People’s Republic of China (PRC)
1975: Chiang Kai-shek passes away in Taipei
1978: Chiang Ching-kuo assumes presidency of the ROC
1978: United States normalizes relations with the PRC and breaks ties with the ROC
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1986:   Democratic Progressive Party founded in Taipei
1987:   Martial law lifted on Taiwan
1988:   Chiang Ching-kuo passes away in Taipei
1990–1993:   The “Temporary Provisions Effective during the Period of Communist Rebellion” removed from the constitution and further democratic reforms implemented, including direct popular presidential elections
1996:   Lee Teng-hui elected president in the first direct, popular presidential election in the ROC