



Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.

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Let Taiwan's Voters Decide: That's called Democracy

Taiwan's vigorous democracy is in full swing in these last few hours before the January 11th voting day. Writing in the [National Interest](#) on January 5th, Kent Wang would have readers believe that President Tsai Ing-wen's unwillingness to bend to China's demand that Taiwan accept being submerged under the control of the Chinese Communist Party spells disaster for Taiwan's economy. And Tsai's re-election will also spell disaster for Taiwan's very democracy.

A strange circular argument: accept China's control and Taiwan's economy will flourish and its democracy will as well? Tell that to the people of Hong Kong.

In fact, President Tsai has proceeded on the premise that having an economy overly dependent on the PRC was not sustainable. Economic interaction with the China remains high, but Tsai's New Southbound Policy and economic exigencies – high labor and other costs in China as well as IPR theft and US tariffs - have seen Taiwanese companies moving investments into an arc from India to Australia.

The Tsai government also has an incentive program that has seen Taiwanese business onshoring from China to the tune of more than \$20 billion to date. US companies like Google and Microsoft have opened operations in Taiwan and more are on their way.

Taiwan's 2.9% GDP growth in the third quarter of this year, the highest among the Asian tigers, is proof that Tsai's policies are bearing fruit.

As for Taiwan's democracy being "hollowed out," as Wang would have it, how does he account for Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party being thoroughly whacked by his KMT in the November 18, 2018 elections? Wang's description of Taiwanese voters who may be "befuddled" by DPP policies shows his fundamental disdain for democracy and its messiness.

Let the voters decide. That's what democracy is all about.

*This material is distributed by the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S. on behalf of the Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan.
Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.*