

**THE CHINA POLICY OF TAIWAN'S
DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY
FROM 1986 TO 2012**

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Executive Summary

1. Since the founding of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in 1986, its China policy has experienced three adjustment cycles, generally three swings between radicalization and moderation to deal with different political challenges and opportunities.
2. The three adjustments were officially documented by one Clause and two Resolutions incorporated into the Party Charter in 1991, 1999, and 2007.
3. The DPP's radical pro-independence image was first officially publicized by the Party Charter's Taiwan Independence Clause in 1991. In 1999, to prepare for the 2000 presidential election, the DPP moderated its radical stance on important pro-independence issues with "Resolution on Taiwan's Future".
4. When the DPP came into power from 2000 to 2004, it made further concession on pro-independence issues in the first two years, but became confrontational in cross-strait affairs in the last two years.
5. In its second term of office (2004-2008), the DPP administration witnessed gradual radicalization of its China policy. In 2007, it added "Normal Nation Resolution" to the Party Charter, proclaiming its return to its radical line.
6. After a devastating defeat in 2008, the DPP began moderating its China policy. Compared to the KMT administration's open-door China policy, the DPP's moderate China policy is still too vague, too conservative, and too defensive. This led to its defeat again in the 2012 presidential election.
7. After the KMT won a second term, even DPP core supporters have also begun to approve of the KMT's China policy. The DPP thus has no choice but to further adjust its China policy if it hopes to become more competitive in the coming 2016 presidential election.