

**IS TAIWAN'S KUOMINTANG  
DOWN AND OUT?**

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## Synopsis in English, [Chinese](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)

Despite the Kuomintang's (KMT) defeat in Taiwan's presidential election, it will continue to wield significant influence. On 13 January 2024, Taiwan's political landscape shifted dramatically as the KMT suffered a major setback in the presidential race, marking its third consecutive loss to the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), led by Lai Ching-te. While Western media celebrated this as a triumph for democracy and Taiwan's autonomy, the full narrative holds complexities. Despite Lai's victory, he secured only 40% of the popular vote, with KMT's Hou You-yi and the Taiwan's People's Party's Ko Wen-je amassing more collective support. Furthermore, the DPP lost its legislative majority, resulting in a divided government. Both major parties face voter discontent, seeking alternatives and challenging the entrenched dominance of the DPP and KMT. Amidst growing Chinese influence and shifting dynamics with the United States, Taiwan's political future remains uncertain, characterised by flux and the potential for transformative change. Both the DPP and KMT find themselves at critical crossroads in their trajectories.

### ***Chinese:***

台湾国民党大败出局了吗？

尽管国民党在台湾总统选举中失利，但将继续发挥重要影响力。2024年1月13日，台湾的政治格局发生巨大转变，国民党在总统竞选中遭遇重大挫折，连续第三次输给赖清德领导的执政的民进党。尽管西方媒体庆祝这是民主和台湾自治的胜利，但完整的故事却很复杂。尽管赖清德获胜，但他只获得了40%的选票，而国民党侯友宜和民众党柯文哲则获得了更多的选民支持。此外，民进党失去了立法院多数，结果是形成了分裂政府。两大政党都面临不满的选民在寻求替代性政党，挑战了民进党和国民党根深蒂固的统治地位。在中国影响力不断增强以及与美国关系不断变化的情况下，台湾的政治未来仍然不确定，具有不断变化和变革的潜力。民进党和国民党都发现自己正处于发展的关键十字路口。

### ***French:***

**LE KUOMINTANG DE TAÏWAN EST-IL A LA RUE?**

Malgré la défaite du Kuomintang (KMT) à l'élection présidentielle à Taiwan, il continuera d'exercer une influence significative. Le 13 janvier 2024, le paysage politique de Taiwan a radicalement changé lorsque le KMT a subi un revers majeur dans la course à la présidentielle. C'est sa troisième défaite consécutive face au Parti démocrate progressiste (DPP) au pouvoir, dirigé par Lai Ching-te. Alors que les médias occidentaux ont célébré cela comme un triomphe de la démocratie et de l'autonomie de Taiwan, le cours des événements est plus complexe. Malgré la victoire de Lai, celui-ci n'a obtenu que 40 % du

vote populaire, Hou You-yi du KMT et Ko Wen-je du Parti populaire de Taiwan rassemblant à eux deux davantage de soutien populaire. De plus, le DPP a perdu sa majorité législative, donnant lieu à un gouvernement divisé. Les deux principaux partis sont confrontés au mécontentement des électeurs, ces derniers cherchant des alternatives et remettant en question la domination bien établie du DPP et du KMT. Au milieu de l'influence chinoise croissante et des dynamiques changeantes dans les relations avec les États-Unis, l'avenir politique de Taiwan reste incertain, caractérisé par des fluctuations et un possible changement en profondeur. Le DPP et le KMT se trouvent tous deux à un carrefour critique de leur trajectoire.

***Spanish:***

**¿ESTÁ EL KUOMINTANG DE TAIWÁN ABAJO Y FUERA?**

A pesar de la derrota del Kuomintang (KMT) en las elecciones presidenciales de Taiwán, seguirá ejerciendo una influencia significativa. El 13 de enero de 2024, el panorama político de Taiwán cambió drásticamente cuando el KMT sufrió un importante revés en la carrera presidencial, marcando su tercera derrota consecutiva ante el gobernante Partido Democrático Progresista (PPD), liderado por Lai Ching-te. Si bien los medios occidentales celebraron esto como un triunfo de la democracia y la autonomía de Taiwán, la narrativa completa encierra complejidades. A pesar de la victoria de Lai, obtuvo sólo el 40% del voto popular, y Hou You-yi, del KMT, y Ko Wen-je, del Partido Popular de Taiwán, acumularon más apoyo colectivo. Además, el PPD perdió su mayoría legislativa, lo que dio lugar a un gobierno dividido. Los dos partidos principales se enfrentan al descontento de los votantes, buscan alternativas y desafían el dominio arraigado del PPD y el KMT. En medio de la creciente influencia china y la dinámica cambiante con Estados Unidos, el futuro político de Taiwán sigue siendo incierto, caracterizado por la fluctuación y el potencial de un cambio transformador. Tanto el PPD como el KMT se encuentran en una encrucijada crítica en sus trayectorias.

## Executive Summary

1. On 13 January 2024, Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) lost the most important segment of Taiwan's quadrennial presidential/vice-presidential/legislative election—the presidential contest. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Lai Ching-te won the race comfortably.
2. The Western media, which is generally pro-DPP, as well as DPP leaders, cited this as the third of such loss in succession for the KMT, suggesting a trend that foresees the DPP as Taiwan's majority party, perhaps its only important party, and the KMT in eclipse.
3. The media lauded Lai's victory, reporting that it constituted a big setback for not only the KMT but also China, linking the two (the KMT being pro-China). Neither, they said, fit with Taiwan's robust democracy. Thus, the election was portrayed as a victory for democracy.
4. It was also seen as a win for Taiwan's independence and some predict a worsening of cross-Strait relations that might bring China and the United States to war—the United States being Taiwan's protector.
5. However, Lai won but 40% of the popular vote. The KMT's Hou You-yi and Taiwan People's Party's Ko Wen-je together received more votes than Lai. The DPP also lost its majority in the legislature, spelling a divided government.
6. Opinion polls in Taiwan reflect that voters are not pleased with the DPP and the KMT, and pine for alternatives. Taiwan's residents speak of a "third force". They arguably favour regular changes of the ruling party.
7. Taiwan's populace strongly favours and supports its democracy. Yet democracy in other countries, including Taiwan's important allies, is not faring well. In Taiwan itself there were, and are, issues.

8. China and the United States weigh heavily on Taiwan's politics, democracy, economy and much more. China's influence is on the rise; America's is on the decline. This plays on whether Taiwan's residents will continue to fancy independence or choose unification.
  
9. Taiwan's political future, including its political parties, seems to be in a state of flux. The DPP is said to be in control, but there are reasons to think otherwise. The KMT is at a crossroads but may still have an important role to play in the future.