



My Nation, My Taiwan

After watching the 2001 documentary *Promises*, which examines the Israeli–Palestinian conflict from the perspectives of Palestinian and Israeli children living in communities in the West Bank and Israeli neighborhoods of Jerusalem, NTUB students were asked to write a piece entitled “My Taiwan, My Nation,” in order to examine the conception of nationhood.

The following is taken from their reflections. Students may have begun with what seems to be a fairly obvious view on just what sort of nation Taiwan is. That is, “Taiwan is a country of democracy and freedom,” (Audrey Liu, age 25), it “ranks high in terms of political and civil liberties, health care and human development,” (Sunny Pan, age 40), and “we are one of the most democratic countries in the world, we support human rights and protect freedom of press, speech and thought,” (Anthony Chen age, 34). To sum up, Taiwan is “a hidden treasure in Asia” (Leona Wang, age 29), “Taiwanese people have fortitude and the spirit of never giving up; we are willing to fight for freedom and rights” (Julia Liu, age 25), and “I love my country, Taiwan” (Ann Lin, age 39).

In spite of the above, there were occasional doubts and questions in the student’s views. Crystal Mo (age 47) asked “Is Tai-

wan a sovereign, independent nation?” Her answer was yes, “Taiwan is a de facto independent democratic country”—falling into the old “de facto” trap, which is itself a contradictory view of nationhood. She went on to question that “those who advocate that ‘Taiwan is a sovereign, independent nation’ may fall into a contradiction”—that is, that only 15 countries now recognize this so-called nation, and its “name” is not officially Taiwan at all, but the Republic of China. Mo continues that, “in essence, Taiwan is a sovereign state that is not generally recognized by the international community,” summing up the concerns of those advocating Taiwan’s independent status.

Meanwhile, “those who advocate that ‘Taiwan is not a sovereign, independent nation’ also fall into a contradiction”—that is, that Taiwan does possess most if not all of the necessary attributes that define what a nation state is. “It seems that Taiwan’s problem still has to wait for time to resolve,” writes Wilbur Dai (age 48), and he goes on worrisomely “could it be possible that Taiwan will be transformed to a communist and totalitarian country...so that political thinking on both side of the Strait can become unanimous?” With this confusion, with both “opposing claims,” “what is the truth of Taiwan’s sovereignty?” asks Mo.

Wilbur Dai adds that “When you are not a ‘state’ on any occasion that involves international politics, you simply have no place

to stand, not matter how much you contribute to the world or how good your performance is.” To make matters worse, he continues, “in the constitution of the Republic of China there isn’t any intention or indication to cut off the connection with ‘China.’ From other states’ perspectives, as long as this circumstance doesn’t change, it is just two countries fighting for the same representative right.”

Perhaps to sum up, “What is gratifying is that Taiwan is making progress, from wilderness to civilization, from Colonial period to dictatorship, from dictatorship to freedom and democracy. “Taiwan is my current home and my nation. No matter what its past or future name will be, or what story happens, we should all guard together at this moment to make this place become better and better” (Queenie Fu). “Taiwan must use a brand-new identity to make it possible to embark on a new path and enter the international community, wrote Pitt Shi. “I still hope to retain the original Taiwanese spirit,” wrote Fanny Pan (age 21), and Fiona Chang (age 21) concluded that we have “a great opportunity to shine like a bright star and show the world regarding Taiwan.” Let’s hope all this is true in Taiwan.

Readers, if you have any comments please write and we will publish it next issue. Send to dependency@ntub.edu.tw.

Translated by Gigi Chen and David Pendery. From "Europe tightens curbs as global cases top 40m," from Brussels, *Taipei Times*, October 20, 2020.

A raft of European nations, including Italy and Belgium, yesterday took desperate new measures to try to combat a second wave of SARS-CoV-2 infections as the worldwide COVID-19 caseload topped 40 million.

The latest global milestone came just hours after the number of people who have died from COVID-19 passed 250,000 in Europe, according to an Agency France-Press tally, as the pandemic rampages across much of the continent.

Many governments are seeking to avoid the full-on lockdowns imposed in the first wave as they battle to keep their economies going, but in some countries, people are chafing against the new restrictions on daily life.

歐洲收緊遏制措施，全球案件突破 4000 萬

全球確診 COVID-19 的人數已經超過 4000 萬，為了對抗第二波 SARS-CoV-2 傳染病，包含義大利、比利時在內的部分歐洲國家在昨天決定採取令人絕望的新措施來應對。

根據法國新聞社的統計，由於疫情在大部分的歐洲國家肆虐，歐洲死於 COVID-19 的人數已經超過 25 萬，創下全球最新的里程碑。

許多政府為了維持經濟發展，試圖避免在第一波疫情侵擾下所實施的全面鎖國。然而在某些國家，人民對於新的日常生活限制感到不滿。

Vocabulary

1. Desperate: Reckless or dangerous because of despair, hopelessness, or urgency (絕望, juéwàng).
2. Worldwide: Around the entire world (全球, quánqiú).
3. Milestone: An important event that marks a special time (里程碑, lǐchéngbēi).
4. Economy: The monetary and sales and products life of a country (經濟, jīngjì).
5. Life: the animate existence of an individual: (生活, shēnghuó).

Folk medicines preventing and curing COVID-19— continued from page 1

Moreover, some put ginger or garlic into their noses. Ethiopian president Sahle-Work Zewde announced that her son had recovered from the disease because she let him take a salt water steam bath. This is often used to cure the flu.

Bolivia: Chlorine dioxide

Recently, many celebrities in Bolivia have said that dinking chlorine dioxide is helpful to cure the disease. Experts say that chlorine dioxide is used for nothing other than disinfecting swimming

pools or bleaching floors. Drinking it can cause vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, hypotension, or even death. Ecuador has followed in Bolivia's steps to encourage citizens to drink this chemical. Readers may recall that Donald Trump once announced that injecting bleach into the body could fight the disease.

For treatments for COVID-19, people must take care when taking folk medicines. We must follow the advice of scientists and

doctors, and use modern medicines during this pandemic. Most folk medicines have not been approved by high-level medical professionals for treatment of diseases like COVID-19. The World Health Organization has looked with some favor on folk medicines, but says that "inappropriate use of traditional medicines or practices can have negative or dangerous effects" and that further research is needed to ascertain the usefulness and security of such practices (Wikipedia). Art by <https://www.bing.com/images/>

