

## Positioning Taiwan on the Global Map of Electoral Systems

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Taiwan, like many other young democracies, began to hold competitive elections after the end of the Cold War. From a global perspective, most electoral systems remain stable after they are chosen, and those few cases of electoral reform have predominantly involved the creation of a more proportional distribution of legislative seats. This makes Taiwan a deviant case: it experienced a change in electoral system that significantly reduced the proportionality of legislative elections. Taiwan appears even more deviant when the policy effects of the new electoral system are evaluated in the context of the constitutional system. Taiwan's president-parliamentarism and its mixed-member majoritarian system are both the products of popular demand for greater efficiency, but now the legislative majority may hinder the president's capacity to fulfill his/her campaign promises. By studying Taiwan as a crucial case, this paper sheds light on the general logic of electoral engineering.

Keywords: electoral system, change in electoral system, Taiwan, young democracies, president-parliamentarism