

## State-Religion Relations in Taiwan: From Statism and Insulationism to Checks and Balances

臺灣政教關係：從國家論、隔離論、到制衡論

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The history of state-religion relations in Taiwan from 1945 to the present can be divided into three stages. The first stage lasted from 1945 to 1987 during which the Leninist state, for the first time in Chinese history, effectively exercised tight control over religions. In the second stage from 1987 to 2000, the democratizing state gradually withdrew its control over religions while most religions tended to refrain from involvement in politics. From 2000 to the present, the democratic state and various religions have developed constructive relations of checks and balances to maximize the free exercise of religious freedom, the non-discrimination of religions, and the democratic participation of religions in politics. This paper will explore the ideology, laws and regulations, regulatory agencies, and consequences of state-religion interactions in these three stages. In conclusion, Taiwanese state-religion relations may provide a model of the state's proper intervention in religion and the religion's proper involvement in politics in democracies.