

CHAPTER 6

Survey Results in Terms of National Origin

The results of the survey, firstly in the aggregate and then in terms of national origin, will be described here to illuminate the foreigners' political inclinations on cross-strait relations. We will show the number of respondents collected from each country represented and disaggregate the surveys collected from those who were born from among the highest frequency countries collected to see if nationality is correlated with political inclinations regarding the cross-strait relationship. We will then group the countries according to their level of economic development to see if the two groups diverge in their political thinking. Finally we will disaggregate the countries represented in the respondent pool by geographic region.

6.1 Aggregate Results

A total of 300 surveys were collected for the study. Of the total respondent pool, 2.3% supported unification now, 10.0% supported independence now, 16.6% supported status quo now unification later, 24% supported status quo now independence later, 21.6% supported status quo now and decide either unification or independence later, 8.3% supported status quo forever, 14.3% did not answer the question, and 2.6% either marked more than one choice or created their own answer choice — what we will refer to as “weird” responses.

Table 6-1: Aggregate Results of Foreigner’s Political Inclinations Survey

	Total	1- Unification now	2- Independence now	3- Unification later	4- Independence later	5- Decide later	6- Status quo forever	0- No answer	W- Weird answer
No. (%)	300 (100)	7 (2.3)	30 (10.0)	50 (16.6)	72 (24.0)	65 (21.6)	25 (8.3)	43 (14.3)	8 (2.6)

This means that the answer choices could be ranked as follows according to frequency of responses from the total survey pool: 1) status quo now independence later (24.0%) 2) status quo now decide unification or independence later (21.4%), 3) move toward unification later (16.6%), 4) no response (14.3%) 5) independence now (10%), 6) status quo forever (8.3%), 7) move toward unification now (2.3%). This means as a whole, the foreigners were least likely to support unification now and most likely to support independence later.

Taken together, this means that 18.9% support unification now or later, 35% support independence now or later. This means that those supporting independence now or later outnumbered those supporting unification now or later by almost 2:1. Moreover, 70.5% of the respondents favor to keep the status quo for now, and to take any definitive action, either to keep the situation like the status indefinitely or to eventually move toward either unification or independence later. Meanwhile, 20.6% of the respondents would like to see action taken now. There might be many reasons the 43 respondents, who accounted for the 14.3% of survey sample, did not answer the last question.

It could be that some of the respondents did not understand the question, especially from the surveys we had translated into Thai and Indonesian. Also, some respondents might have gotten tired towards the end of the survey, since the question regarding the unification/independence issue was placed last on the survey.

6.2 Political Inclinations in Terms of Highest Frequency Countries

The respondent sample represents people from 50 countries, 3 of the respondents noted their dual citizenship. They represented the following countries (with number of respondents):

Table 6-2: Frequency of Respondents in Terms of National Origin

Argentina 2	Italy 1	Sweden 1
Australia 2	Japan 5	Switzerland 1
Austria 5	Kiribati 2	Tajikistan 1
Belgium 2	Lithuania 2	Thailand 51
Belize 2	Macedonia 1	Turkey 2
Burkina Faso 1	Malaysia 6	UK 14
Canada 27	Marshall Is.1	USA 45
Chile 3	Mexico 3	Vietnam 2
Colombia 1	Myanmar 5	South Korea 4
Costa Rica 3	New Zealand 3	Dual Citizenship indicated 4
Croatia 1	Nicaragua 2	“Europe” 2
Czech Republic1	Norway 1	
Estonia 2	Panama 1	
France 8	Peru 2	
Germany 5	Philippines 3	
Holland 1	Poland 3	
India 4	Russia 3	
Indonesia 50	South Africa 5	
Ireland 2	St. Christopher and Nevis 2	

The 6 countries with highest frequency in number of respondents were: Thailand (51), Indonesia (50), USA (45), Canada (27), UK (14) and France (8). 3

Table 6-3: Political Inclinations in Terms Highest Frequency Countries of Respondent Pool

	Thailand	Indonesia	USA	Canada	UK	France
195 (%)	51 (100)	50 (100)	45 (100)	27 (100)	14 (100)	8 (100)
1-Unification now	2 (3.9)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.2)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2-Independence now	0 (0)	9 (18.0)	7 (15.5)	4 (14.8)	3 (21.4)	0 (0)
3-Unification later	11 (21.5)	6 (12.0)	4 (8.8)	2 (7.4)	3 (21.4)	0 (0)
4-Independence later	2 (3.9)	5 (10.0)	18 (40)	13 (48.1)	4 (28.5)	2 (25)
5-Decide later	5 (9.8)	8 (16.0)	10 (22.2)	3 (11.1)	3 (21.4)	2 (25)
6-Status quo forever	7 (13.7)	4 (8.0)	2 (4.4)	4 (14.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (50)
0-No answer	21 (41.0)	17 (34.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (7.1)	0 (0)
W-weird answer	3 (5.8)	0 (0)	3 (6.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

3.9% of Thai respondents supported unification now, which is the highest of the six highest frequency countries supporting the answer choice, though only marginally, followed by Canadians at 3.7%. No respondents from the UK or France supported unification now, however since only 14 surveys from the former and 8 from the later were collected, more surveys would probably need to be collected from them in order to obtain a more confident result. Answer 2 — independence now — was rated highest by respondents from the UK at 21.4%, followed by Indonesia by 18%, USA with 15.5% and Canada with 14.8%. No respondents from France or Thailand supported independence now, despite the later group having 51 total respondents in the survey. Citizens of

Thailand and the UK rated question three almost equally at 21.5% and 21.4% respectively, representing the 2 groups with highest frequency for the question among the 6.

The rate at which Canadians supported question 4 — independence later — appears most frequent among the six countries at 48.1%, followed by Americans with 2 in 5 supporting the option and the UK at 28.5%, followed by France at 25%. Noteworthy is the rates in which Canadians, Americans, UK and France supported independence later are much higher than those respondents from Indonesia (10%) and Thailand (3.9%). Taken together, this means that the Canadians support independence either now or later most, with 62.9% marking either response 2 or 4, followed by Americans with 55.5%, followed by UK with 49.9%, followed by Indonesians with 28% and by the French with 25%. With the exception of Thailand all respondents from the 6 highest frequency questions favored independence or unification now or in the future. The exception however, Thailand, rated unification now or later much higher with 25.4% supporting it, verses only 3.9% supporting independence now or later.

As for response 5 — decide either unification or independence later — the French were the ones who rated it highest out of the 6 highest frequency countries with 25%. However, this figure is based on only 8 questionnaires collected from French people. The French were followed by Americans with 22.2%, the UK with 21.4%, Indonesians with 16%, Canadians with 11.1% and Thais with 9.8%. Among the surveys collected from respondents of the 6 countries, the French also rated answer 6 the highest, with 50% in support of it, followed by Canadians with 15.8%, Thailand with 13.7%, Indonesia with 8% and USA 4.4%. No respondents from the UK supported answer 6 for cross-Strait policy.

Indonesians and Thais were most likely to leave the last question blank with 41% and 34% respectively. This is contrast to Canadians, people from the UK and Americans, none of whom left the final response blank. In fact the number of surveys collected from Thais and Indonesians with the last question left blank accounted for 88.3% of the total number of surveys with the last question left blank that was collected from the total pool of respondents collected.

6.3 Political Inclinations in Terms of Country's Level of Development

I then divided the countries into developed and underdeveloped countries. Generally, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Central Intelligence Agency include the following countries as developed, and all other countries considered underdeveloped.

- Bermuda
- Canada
- United States
- Hong Kong (PRC)
- Japan
- Macau (PRC)
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Andorra
- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Faroe Islands (Denmark)
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Lichtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- Vatican City (Holy See)
- Australia
- New Zealand

Thus under this classification, 132 of the respondents were from developed countries as opposed to 166 who hailed from underdeveloped countries. The results of our survey suggest that those foreigners who come to Taiwan from developed countries are, on the whole, more likely to be pro-independence, while those from underdeveloped countries are more likely to be pro-unification. Of respondents from developed countries, 14.3% supported independence now and 37.1% supported keeping the status quo and moving toward independence in the future, which correspondingly for the underdeveloped world is 8.3% and 13.8%, respectively. Taken together this means that a little over a half of those respondents supported independence at some point in time.

Table 6-4: Foreigner’s Political Inclinations in Terms of Their Country’s Level of Development

	Total	1- Unification now	2- Independence now	3- Unification later	4- Independence later	5- Decide later	6- Status quo forever	0- No answer	W- Weird answer
A No. (%)	132 (100)	2 (1.5)	19 (14.3)	18 (13.6)	49 (37.1)	28 (21.2)	10 (7.5)	2 (1.5)	4 (3)
B No. (%)	166 (100)	4 (2.4)	11 (8.3)	31 (18.6)	23 (13.8)	37 (22.0)	15 (9.0)	41 (24.6)	4 (2.4)

Note: A= Developed Country; B=Underdeveloped Country

This is in contrast to the corresponding figures of respondents from underdeveloped countries with 8.3% supporting independence now and 13.8% supporting status quo now and independence in the future, or 22.1% supporting independence at some point in time. In terms of unification, respondents from the developed world supported unification now only 1.5% of the time, while they supported unification in the future 13.6% of the time, meaning they supported unification with China at some point about 15% of the time. In comparison, the aggregate figure for respondents from underdeveloped countries supported unification at some point in time, at 40.6%, is more than two-and-a-half times more likely than members of the developed world. Moreover, with so many Thais and Indonesians represented in the survey, it should be unsurprising that the figure for those who have left the final question blank is markedly higher for the grouping of underdeveloped countries than for developed countries — 24.6% verses 1.5%

However, the discrepancies between the developed and undeveloped countries seem to be minimal when it comes to the two groupings’ inclinations on keeping the status quo indefinitely, and on deciding the unification/independence at a later date. 21.2% of respondents from developed countries said that they supported maintaining the status quo and moving toward independence or unification at a later; this figure is comparable to the underdeveloped world at 22%. Similarly, 7.5% of respondents from the former said they supported status quo forever, while 9% of those from underdeveloped countries supported status quo forever.

6.4 Political Inclinations in Terms of Country's Geographic

Region

I then divided the respondents by continent. This yielded 6 respondents from Africa, 133 from Asia (Includes Middle East, India and Central Asia), 10 from Central America, 57 from Europe, 75 from North America, 8 from Oceania, 8 from South America and 3 with dual citizenship.

Table 6-5: Foreigners' Political Inclinations in Terms of Their Country's Geographic Region

	Total	1- Unification now	2- Independence now	3- Unification later	4- Independence later	5- Decide later	6- Status quo forever	0- No answer	W- Weird answer
Africa No. (%)	6 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (16.7)	4 (66.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (16.6)
Asia No. (%)	133 (100)	4 (3.0)	13 (9.7)	25 (18.7)	11 (8.2)	25 (18.7)	14 (10.5)	38 (28.5)	3 (2.2)
Central America No. (%)	10 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (10.0)	4 (40.0)	3 (30.0)	0 (0)	2 (20.0)	0 (0)
Europe No. (%)	57 (100)	1 (1.7)	5 (8.7)	10 (17.5)	21 (36.8)	14 (24.5)	4 (7.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)
North America No. (%)	75 (100)	2 (2.6)	12 (16.0)	6 (8.0)	32 (42.6)	13 (17.3)	7 (9.3)	1 (1.3)	3 (4.0)
Oceania No. (%)	8 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (25.0)	1 (12.5)	3 (37.5)	0 (0)	2 (25)	0 (0)
South America No. (%)	8 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (62.5)	0 (0)	3 (37.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

It was a shame that for Central America, Oceania and South America yielded so few results, as South Americans seem like the biggest anomaly. Namely, 5 of the 8 respondents said they were in support of status quo now and unification later (62.5%),

with the remaining 3 supporting the status quo now and moving either unification or independence later (37.5). Respondents from Asia supported unification later and status quo now/decide unification or independence later (18.7%), accounting for the group's two most popular choices. The highest rated answer for respondents from Oceania was also question 5 — status quo now, decide either unification or independence later.

Aside from South Americans, people from Oceania and Asians, answer 4 — independence later was the most popular response with 4 of the 6 respondents from Africa who chose that response, 42.6% of North Americans, and 36.8% of Europeans. North Americans were also most likely to support independence now with 16% supporting it, which is in contrast to Europeans at 8.7% and 0% of people from Oceania. Among all the continents few seemed to support unification now with 3% of people from Asia supporting it, followed by 2.6% of North Americans, followed by 1.7% of people from Oceania. No respondents from other continents chose answer 1.

6.4 Summary

In this section we have shown that the most popular answer among the respondents in the aggregate is independence later with 24.0%, which was followed by status quo now, decide later 21.6%. The least popular answer was unification now with only 2.3%. Independence now, status quo forever both accounted for less than 10% of the respondent pool each. In terms of national origin as a useful independent variable influencing political inclinations on the cross-strait relationship, we found that among the highest frequency countries, an overwhelming of those in USA and Canada favored independence later 40% and 48.1%, respectively, while the policy option was also popular for those from the UK with 28.5%. However, the proportion of those from UK who favored unification later 21.5% surpassed those favoring independence later (3.9%) by almost 6 fold.

Another finding is that those from Thailand and Indonesia tended to answer the question regarding cross-strait relationship least frequently with 41% and 34%, respectively — which compares to 0% for respondents from the UK, Canada and France while those from the UK only skipped the question 7.1% of the time. Based on these figures, it should be unsurprising then, that those from developed parts of the world tended to rate independence later at 37.1%, substantially higher than those from the

underdeveloped world at only 13.8%. Moreover, those from the developed neglected to answer the question regarding cross-strait relations only 2% of the time, while the corresponding figure for those hailing from the underdeveloped world was 24.6% of the time. In both the underdeveloped and developed world, those favoring unification at some point in time was substantially lower than those favoring independence at some point in time. Meanwhile, regionally speaking people 5 out of 8 South American favored independence later, while Asians and Europeans favored the corresponding figure 18.7% and 17.5%, respectively, of the time.