BACKGROUND: In descriptive cataloging practice the RDA jurisdictional heading China is used for all the governments that have controlled the mainland of China for all time periods, including the People's Republic of China. The use of the corporate heading China (People's Republic, 1949--) was discontinued when AACR2 was implemented. Thus, in corporate headings, China also designates the People's Republic of China, established in 1949. This coincides with subject cataloging policy concerning the use of China that has been in effect since 1973.

The corporate heading China (Republic : 1949--) is used in descriptive cataloging to designate the post-1948 Republic of China; the jurisdictional heading Taiwan designates the province of Taiwan that is part of the Republic of China. However, in subject cataloging practice, the jurisdictional heading Taiwan is used for both the post-1948 Republic of China and the island of Taiwan.

For instructions on Hong Kong and assignment of the heading Hong Kong (China), see H 978.

1. China. Use China as a heading or as a geographic subdivision for works discussing mainland China or the People's Republic of China, regardless of time period.

If it is necessary to designate a particular historical period, use the appropriate period subdivision. Period subdivisions after 1949 designate the People's Republic of China.  

Examples:

651 #0 $a China $x History $y Song dynasty, 960-1279.
650 #0 $a Education $z China $x History $y 1949-1976.
651 #0 $a China $x Politics and government $y 1937-1945.

2. Taiwan. Assign the heading Taiwan for works on the island of Taiwan, regardless of time period, and the post-1948 Republic of China.  

Examples:

651 #0 $a Taiwan $x History $y 1895-1945.
651 #0 $a Taiwan $x Foreign relations $z United States.

As a geographic subdivision, use Taiwan directly after topics. Divide indirectly through Taiwan for localities on Taiwan.  

Examples:

650 #0 $a Education $z Taiwan.
650 #0 $a Housing $z Taiwan $z Taipei.
H 925 China and Taiwan

2. Taiwan. (Continued)

Do not use the corporate heading China (Republic : 1949- ). However, for names of individual government agencies used as subjects, assign corporate headings as established in the name authority file, even if they are formulated as subheadings of China (Republic : 1949- ). Example:


Corporate headings formulated as subheadings of Taiwan designate corporate bodies of the provincial Taiwan government, regardless of time period, for example, Taiwan. Min zheng ting.

Do not assign China to a work issued by the Republic of China if the work deals only with Taiwan. Instead, assign Taiwan. For works that make a special effort to describe actual conditions on both Taiwan and mainland China, assign the headings Taiwan and China as appropriate.