Preface

China has a magnificent civilization that dates back at least 4000 years. Although the infrastructure in many parts of the Chinese mainland today remains underdeveloped, the country is now emerging and looks to become an ambitious superpower in the 21st century and as a new economic powerhouse in Asia. Since undergoing economic reform in the 1980s, the **People's Republic of China** (PRC) has transformed itself into a vibrant export economy that supplies the world with textiles, toys, household electronics and many other products.

Today, the PRC is a country of great contrasts. It is a developing country where many people in rural areas subsist on an income of less than US\$ 1 a day, but is also as a nuclear power and a member of the exclusive club of nations with a manned space program. China is seen by some as a huge market and land of opportunity but regarded by others as a threat to the Asia-Pacific region and world peace—the PRC's new economic and military might also creates concerns about a shift in the balance of power in East Asia, with worries particularly prevalent in Japan and the US

The rise of the PRC has resulted in an enormous demand for information about the country, its people, rulers, history and culture. This book presents basic information and the most relevant data about the greater China area in a single volume. It focuses on the China mainland (under administration of the PRC) and the Taiwan area (under administration of the Republic of China, abbrev. ROC), since the mainstream culture in both the PRC and the ROC is unquestionably Chinese. To make this comprehensive reference book more useful, I have added traditional Chinese characters for all important terms as well as personal and geographical names.

Many important aspects of China and its culture, like history, arts or religion, certainly deserve a much more detailed description than the cursory glance this book provides, but since I am trying to offer a general, brief introduction to all aspects, I had to focus on the most basic content.

Why "Greater China"?

The political conflict that has existed across in the Taiwan Strait for decades proves that interpreting the term "China" is not easy—China is not only a geographical term, but also has political and cultural connotations. Over many years it has become common practice to use the word "China" as a substitute for the PRC and vice versa. Although this is convenient, it remains a fact that the PRC is not completely identical with China. Tibet and Xinjiang are controlled by the PRC government, but a majority of the population in those places is not ethnic Chinese, and the mainstream culture in these two regions is not Chinese either. Tibet and Xinjiang were incorporated into the Qing empire through an imperialist policy that was continued by the Chinese communists. On the other hand, Taiwan is culturally part of China, but not a province of the PRC.

Despite the fact that there are two states governing the greater China area, most available reference books about China deal with the PRC only. The political rift between the PRC and the ROC, combined with Taiwan's diplomatic isolation in the international arena, seems sufficient reason to many authors to exclude Taiwan from books about China. The title of my book "The Greater China Factbook" indicates that its content is not exclusively about the PRC, but also includes Taiwan. I chose the term "greater China" instead of "China" deliberately to avoid misunderstandings, because the rulers of the PRC and the ROC disagree about the meaning of terms like "China" or "nation". For the PRC, China includes Taiwan—"there is only one China in the

world, Taiwan Province is an integral part of the territory of the PRC", as Beijing puts it. Supporters of Taiwan independence, on the other hand, object to the claim that Taiwan belongs to China, and they promote the establishment of a Taiwanese nation.

Taiwan's relations with China have been difficult since 1945. After the end of Japanese colonial rule (1895-1945) when Taiwan became a part of the ROC, the people who had lived on the island for generations initially welcomed the Chinese government but before long grew deeply dissatisfied with the rule of the KMT, as it was corrupt and oppressive. Since the 2-28 uprising in 1947 and the decade of bloody repression (sometimes referred to as "white terror") that followed, a deep rift had grown between Taiwanese and the mainlanders living on the island.

Since the 1970s the PRC has been continually pressuring Taiwan and maneuvering to isolate the ROC internationally, an approach that has failed to generate a desire among the people of Taiwan to unite with the mainland. In fact, the biggest factor contributing to the growth of the Taiwan independence movement is probably Beijing's policy towards Taiwan, and surveys have shown a growing number of people in Taiwan regard themselves not as Chinese, but as both Chinese and Taiwanese or as Taiwanese only, a sign that they are developing their own identity to differentiate themselves from people on the mainland. As the communist regime continues to ignore the progressing democratization of the ROC and the feelings of the people in Taiwan, the future task of actually integrating Taiwan and China will prove to be extremely complicated, should Beijing ever gain control over the island without first changing its attitude and authoritarian system.

Some readers, especially those favoring Taiwan independence, may resent the inclusion of Taiwan in a book about China and the listing of Taiwan among the Chinese provinces. They should understand that this book is definitely not a statement about the "Taiwan question", because it's not I, but the people of Taiwan, who should have the last word in decisions about political unification between Taiwan and China or the declaration of an independent state. Yet regardless of the political factors, it is undeniable that the majority of people living in Taiwan today have ethnic, cultural and linguistic roots in Mainland China (although it can be argued that people who have a shared culture and shared ethnic origin do not necessarily have to belong politically to one nation-state). Since the culture and the language of China and Taiwan are so closely connected, a work about China like this one must not omit Taiwan. However, this book does not advocate the PRC's "one China" principle either: Although Taiwan is culturally a part of China, it is not a part of the PRC, and according to surveys the majority of the people living in Taiwan—which is becoming a vibrant and contentious democracy—do not want Taiwan to be annexed by the non-democratic PRC.

Other readers might believe that this book focuses too much on Taiwan or that Taiwan is getting much more attention here than other provinces like, say, Anhui or Zhejiang. They should consider that in the world's media and in most publications Taiwan is often neglected or ignored. The inclusion of facts and details about Taiwan in this book is an attempt to address that common imbalance. Ignoring Taiwan also risks a description of the cross-strait tensions that will represent the PRC's version of the issues instead of providing a multi-faceted analysis.

This book is intended to be non-partisan, so inevitably supporters of the CCP, the KMT/"blue camp" or the DPP/"green camp" will find content they might not like or agree with; I am aware that I cannot please everybody. For me, facts matter more than considerations of political correctness in the PRC, the ROC, or elsewhere.

As this book went to press, relations between China and Taiwan were still tense. It is impossible to predict the future development of cross-strait relations and whether that path will eventually lead to unification or to Taiwan's independence, but I sincerely hope a peaceful solution will be found that will ultimately benefit the people living in the Taiwan area. I also hope that the reader, irrespective of his or her political opinion, regards this book as what it is supposed to be—a useful tool, a comprehensive database and a rich source of information about the greater China area.

Tilman Aretz Taipei, July 2007

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Nomenclature

For most names concerning places on the Chinese mainland this book uses Hanyu Pinyin, except for some personal names that have long been familiar to Western readers in the older Wade-Giles style form of romanization. Established spellings of Cantonese place names have been retained, e. g. writing "Hong Kong" rather than "Xianggang". Names in Taiwan are spelled in the form commonly used in mainstream Taiwanese media and publications. No accents are included to indicate the tones in Mandarin Chinese or for the long "o" which occurs in many Japanese names such as Tokyo and Kyoto.

Pronunciation guide to modern Chinese

Since the pronunciation of Mandarin Chinese (putonghua 普通話/guoyu 國語) and Chinese dialects such as Cantonese (guangdonghua 廣東話) is quite different from Western languages, the accurate transliteration (or romanization) has always been a problem. Various systems have been developed over time. This book uses the Hanyu Pinyin system, except for some names or expressions that have already become common knowledge (e. g. Peking or Chiang Kai-shek). The sounds themselves are explained with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For the reader's reference, other popular transliteration systems (Mandarin Phonetic Symbols [MPS], Wade Giles, Gwoyeu Romatzyh [GR], and Tongyong) are briefly introduced as well, but less popular romanization systems like Yale (yelu pinyin 耶魯拼音) or MPS II (guoyu ershi 國語二式) will be skipped here. Please note that some Chinese sounds have been described as approximations of English sounds but do not have an exact equivalent in the English language.

Hanyu Pinyin

Hanyu Pinyin 漢語拼音 was developed in the PRC in 1958 and was introduced by the PRC government as the official romanization for Mandarin Chinese in 1979. In the same year it was also adopted as the standard romanization for modern Chinese by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Although today Hanyu Pinyin is the most popular romanization system for Mandarin in the world and has become the international standard since it is also used by the UN, the ROC central government in Taipei still rejects the use of Hanyu Pinyin. In Taiwan, there co-exist several romanization systems, including Wade Giles and Tongyong.

IPA

The IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet, *guoji yinbiao* 國際音標) was first published in 1888 by the Association Phonétique Internationale (International Phonetic Association), a group of French language teachers founded by Paul Passy (1859-1940). Thanks to its universal applicability, it is used today throughout the world by dictionary publishers for the explanation of sounds in any language. The tables below provide both IPA transcriptions of Mandarin Chinese sounds and their Hanyu Pinyin equivalents.

The sounds of Mandarin Chinese

In the Chinese writing system, each character corresponds to one syllable. In Mandarin Chinese, each syllable maximally consists of two parts: an initial sound and a final sound. Initials are always consonants, and finals always contain at least one vowel or sonorant consonant (i.e. [3-]). Most Mandarin Chinese syllables consist of a combination of an initial and a final. Some syllables consist of a final sound only, or a combination of final sounds. These syllables are described as "zero-initial". Altogether, there are 61 separate sounds (21 initials and 40 finals), which can be combined to form approximately 1600 distinctive syllables. A comprehensive list of all possible Mandarin syllables is provided on pages 14 to 15 of this chapter.

Initiala		
Initials <u>Hanyu-Pinyin</u>	<i>IPA</i>	Closest English equivalent (British English)
b-	<u>р</u>	like the English "b" in "buy", but shorter
c-	ts ^h	like the "ts" in hats, except that the tongue is pressed against
C		the back teeth
ch-	tş ^h	pronounced like the "ch" in choose, except that the tongue is
CII	.6	curled backward toward the soft palate
d-	t	like the English "d" in "day", but shorter
f-	f	like the English "f" in "fan"
	k	like the English "g" in "go", but shorter
g- h-		like the "ch" sound in the Scottish word "loch"
_	X	
j-	tς	like the "dg" in the English "edgy", except that the tongue is
1_	k ^h	placed further back in the mouth
k-	K	like the "k" in "key", but aspirated more strongly. Think of
1		the word "key" spoken in anger
l-		like the "l" in "lead"
m-	m	like the "m" in "mother"
n-	n h	like the "n" in "never"
p-	p ^h	like the "p" in "pencil", but aspirated more strongly. Think of
	h	the word "pencil" spoken in anger
q-	t¢ ^h	like the "ch" in cheap, except that the tongue is placed further
		back in the mouth
r-	,	r in raw
S-	S	like the "s" in "see", except that the tongue is pressed against
		the back teeth
sh-	Ş	pronounced like the "sh" in "shoe", except that the tongue is
		curled backward toward the soft palate
t-	t ^h	like the "t" in "tower", but aspirated more strongly. Think of
		the word "tower" spoken in anger
X-	Ģ	no English equivalent, but its pronunciation comes close to
		the [hj] in "human"
Z-	ts	like the "ds" in "lids", except that the tongue is pressed
		against the back teeth
zh-	tş	pronounced like the "j" in "jaw", except that the tongue is
		curled backward toward the soft palate.
T. 1		
Finals	TD.4	
Hanyu-Pinyin	IPA .	Closest English equivalent (British English)
a	a	as in "hard"
ai	aı	as in "buy"
an	an	as in "pond"

**		
ai	aı	as in "buy"
an	an	as in "pond"
ang	aŋ	as in "tongs"
ao	ลบ	as in "how"
e	٧	no English equivalent, closest to the "u" in "luck"
ei	ei	as in "reins"
en	ən	as in "thicken"
eng	٧ŋ	no English equivalent, closest to the "ung" in "hung"

er	અ	no British English equivalent, closest to the "ir" in the
		American English "bird", except that the tongue is curled backward toward the soft palate
-i/yi	i	like the "ee" in bee (after b, d, j, l, m, n, p, q, t, x)
-i	Į	after z, c, and s: pronounced like the "r" in "raw" except that
	·	the tongue is curling backward toward the soft palate
-i	l	after sh, ch, zh and r: pronounced like the "l" in "light",
		except that that the tongue is curled backward toward the soft
		palate
-ia/ya	ia	as in "eon"
-iao/yao	iaʊ	as in "meow"
-ian/yan	iεn	as in "yen"
-iang/yang	iaŋ	sounds like a combination of the "ee" in see, the "a" in father
		and the "ng" in "sing". No English equivalent
-ie/ye	iε	no English equivalent, closest to the "ye" in "yes"
-in/yin	in	as in "mean" but shorter
-ing/ying	iŋ	"ee" in "see" plus the "ng" in "sing". No English equivalent
-iong/yong	yuŋ	no English equivalent, closest to the pronunciation of the
• /	•	family name of C. G. Jung
-iu/you	ioυ	no English equivalent, closest to the "io" in "radio"
ng	ŋ	like the "ng" in "sing"
0	0	as in the exclamation "oh!"
-ong/weng	uəŋ	sounds like a combination of the "oo" in shoe and the "ung"
011	077	in "hung". No English equivalent
ou	០ប	no British English equivalent, closest to the American English pronunciation of the "ow" in "show"
-u/wu	u	after most initial sounds or in isolation, pronounced like the
u, wu	u	"oo" in "loop"
-u/yu	У	after j, q, and x, pronounced like the "u" in the French "tu"
, y	,	(no English equivalent)
-ü	у	appears only after l and n, pronounced like the "u" in the
	,	French "tu" (no English equivalent)
-ua/wa	ua	ua in Chihuahua (combination of "u" and "a")
-uai/wai	uai	sounds like why (combination of "u", "a" and "i")
-uan/wan	uan	sounds like "wan" (combination of "u" "a" and "n")
-uan/yuan	yuan	after j, q, and x, sounds somewhat like the acronym "U. N."
		No English equivalent
-uang/wang	uaŋ	sounds like a combination of the "ue" in sue, the "a" in father
		and the "ng" in "sing". No English equivalent
-ue/yue	yε	combination the "u" in French "tu" and the "e" in "bet". No
		English equivalent
-üe	yε	like "ue", but appears only after l and n
-ui/wei	uei	sounds like "way"
-un/wen	uən	sounds like "one"
-un/yun	yən	after j, q, and x, sounds like the French article "une". No Eng-
		lish equivalent
-uo/wo	uo	like the "Duomo" in Milan (combination of "u" and "o")

Exampl	es				
Hanyu-		Hanyu-		Hanyu-	
<u>Pinyin</u>	IPA	Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	<i>IPA</i>
bao	раʊ	cang	ts ^h aŋ	chun	tş ^h uən
he	Хλ	ji	tçi	juan	tçyuan
lai	laı	lü	ly	luo	luo
nen	nən	qun	tɕʰyən	ran	ıan
shuang	şuaŋ	weng	uəŋ	WO	uo
wu	u	xiong	ç yuŋ	ye	iε
yi	i	ying	iŋ	yong	yuŋ
yu	У	zei	tsei	zhi	tşĮ
zhuan	tşuan				

Notes

[-i/yi etc.]: For cases in which a second Pinyin transcription appears, the second version is used when that final sound appears as the only sound in a syllable. Otherwise, the first transcription will be used.

The superscript h in IPA is used to mark aspiration, a feature often occurring in voiceless stop consonants, such as p, t, and k. It is helpful to think of aspiration as a puff of air released with the sound. For example, the "p" in "pill" is accompanied by a puff of air, whereas the "p" in "spill" is not. Note that the pairs b/p, d/t, and g/k in Hanyu Pinyin are transcribed as p/p^h , t/t^h , and k/k^h in IPA. This is because there are no real voiced stops (b, d, g) in Mandarin Chinese, only voiceless stops that are always aspirated and voiceless stops that are never aspirated. The unaspirated stops sound very similar to shorter versions of the voiced stops, so Hanyu Pinyin transcribes them as b, d, and g for the non-native Mandarin speaker's convenience.

Weaknesses of Hanyu Pinyin: Letters for some initial consonants were chosen rather arbitrarily (zh, q, x, r, z); u in the final position can have two different sounds: [u] and [y] as in gu and qu, final [i] can have three different pronunciations, and the active use of the symbol ü (like in lü) is inconvenient for most users with computers without a default German or Turkish keyboard. But altogether most of the romanizations in Hanyu Pinyin pronounced by people without any knowledge of the Chinese language can be quite close to the correct sounds.

The syllables in Mandarin Chinese

There are 416 syllables in Mandarin Chinese, irrespective of the four tones. The following list shows the syllables in alphabetical order in Hanyu Pinyin.

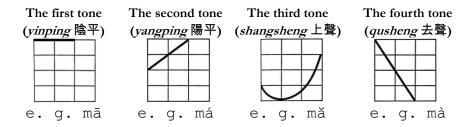
- **A**—a, ai, an, ang, ao,
- **B**—ba, bai, ban, bang, bao, bei, ben, beng, bi, bian, biao, bie, bin, bing, bo, bu,
- C—ca, cai, can, cang, cao, ce, cen, ceng, cha, chai, chan, chang, chao, che, chen, cheng, chi, chong, chou, chu, chua, chuai, chuan, chuang, chui, chun, chuo, ci, cong, cou, cu, cuan, cui, cun, cuo,
- **D**—da, dai, dan, dang, dao, de, dei, den, deng, di, dia, dian, diao, die, ding, diu, dong, dou, du, duan, dui, dun, duo,
- **E**—e, ê, ei, en, eng, er,
- F—fa, fan, fang, fei, fen, feng, fo, fou, fu,
- G—ga, gai, gan, gang, gao, ge, gei, gen, geng, goug, gu, gua, guai, guan, guang, gui, gun, guo,

- **H**—ha, hai, han, hang, hao, he, hei, hen, heng, hm, hng, hong, hou, hu, hua, huai, huan, huang, hui, hun, huo,
- J—ji, jia, jian, jiang, jiao, jie, jin, jing, jiong, jiu, ju, juan, jue, jun,
- K-ka, kai, kan, kang, kao, ke, kei, ken, keng, kong, kou, ku, kua, kuai, kuan, kuang, kui, kun, kuo,
- L—la, lai, lan, lang, lao, le, lei, leng, li, lia, lian, liang, liao, lie, lin, ling, liu, lo, long, lou, lu, lü, luan, lüe, lun, luo,
- **M**—m, ma, mai, man, mang, mao, me, mei, men, meng, mi, mian, miao, mie, min, ming, miu, mo, mou, mu,
- N—n, na, nai, nan, nang, nao, ne, nei, nen, neng, ng, ni, nian, niang, niao, nie, nin, ning, niu, nong, nou, nu, nü, nuan, nüe, nuo,
- **O**—o, ou,
- P-pa, pai, pan, pang, pao, pei, pen, peng, pi, pian, piao, pie, pin, ping, po, pou, pu,
- Q-qi, qia, qian, qiang, qiao, qie, qin, qing, qiong, qiu, qu, quan, que, qun,
- R—ran, rang, rao, re, ren, reng, ri, rong, rou, ru, ruan, rui, run, ruo,
- **S**—sa, sai, san, sang, sao, se, sen, seng, sha, shai, shan, shang, shao, she, shei, shen, sheng, shi, shou, shu, shua, shuai, shuan, shuang, shui, shun, shuo, si, song, sou, su, suan, sui, sun, suo,
- T-ta, tai, tan, tang, tao, te, teng, ti, tian, tiao, tie, ting, tong, tou, tu, tuan, tui, tun, tuo,
- **W**—wa, wai, wan, wang, wei, wen, weng, wo, wu,
- **X**—xi, xia, xian, xiang, xiao, xie, xin, xing, xiong, xiu, xu, xuan, xue, xun,
- Y—ya, yai, yan, yang, yao, ye, yi, yin, ying, yo, yong, you, yu, yuan, yue, yun,
- **Z**—za, zai, zan, zang, zao, ze, zei, zen, zeng, zha, zhai, zhan, zhang, zhao, zhe, zhei, zhen, zheng, zhi, zhong, zhou, zhu, zhua, zhuai, zhuan, zhuang, zhui, zhun, zhuo, zi, zong, zou, zu, zuan, zui, zun, zuo.

The Chinese tones

One major obstacle for foreigners learning Chinese are the tones (shengtiao 聲調), a linguistic phenomenon unknown in most Western languages. Standard Mandarin has four tones, with the same syllable pronounced in a different tone having a different meaning. The first tone in Mandarin (diyisheng 第一聲 or yinping 陰平) has a high, level pitch; the second tone (di'ersheng 第二聲 or yangping 陽平) is a rising tone, rising from a medium to a high pitch; the third tone (disansheng 第三聲 or shangsheng 上聲) has a comparatively low pitch, first falling and than rising to a medium level; and the fourth tone (disisheng 第四聲 or qusheng 去聲) is short and falling. Some dictionaries also list a fifth tone (rusheng 入聲 or qingsheng 輕聲) which is actually no tone at all, but basically short and unstressed. Example: The syllable ma in the first tone means "mother" (mā 媽), in the second tone "hemp" (má 麻), in the third tone "horse" (mā 馬), and in the fourth tone "to scold" (mà 罵). In the unstressed fifth tone, the syllable ma indicates a question (ma 嗎).

Compared to other Chinese dialects, the four tones of Mandarin are still quite easy to master. Cantonese has at least 9 tones, the *Min-nan* dialect (*minnan hua* 閩南話, known as "Amoy dialect" in English, prevalent in the southern part of Fujian province and in Taiwan) has 7 tones, and the Hakka dialect (*kejiahua* 客家話) boasts 16 tones. Other Asian languages have tones as well—Thai for example has 5 tones and Vietnamese 6 tones (in some provinces 5 tones).



Other popular romanization and transliteration systems

MPS

MPS (Mandarin Phonetic Symbols) is not a romanization but a transliteration using 38 special symbols. MPS was created by the Chinese-born Taiwanese linguist and philosopher Woo Tsin-hang 吳敬恆 (1865-1953) and first introduced in China in 1913 under the name "National Language Symbols" (guoyin zimu 國音字母) or "Sound-annotating Symbols" (zhuyin zimu 注音字母). The name was changed in 1930 to MPS (zhuyin fuhao 注音符號). It is still widely used in the ROC and is renowned for its accuracy, which equals that of Hanyu Pinyin. However, MPS is suitable only for people with at least some knowledge of written Chinese, and for active use in computers software with Chinese character support is required.

Table: Mandarin Phonetic Symbols (MPS) — Hanyu Pinyin

′ 5—b	ㄉ —d	≪ —g	Ч—j	业—zh	7-z
ダ—p	去—t	5—k	<q< th=""><th>彳—ch</th><th>ち—c</th></q<>	彳—ch	ち—c
П—m	3—n	Г—h	Т—x	ア —sh	ム—s
仁 —f	カ —l			□ —r	

——yi/y-/-i-	Y—a	另—ai	¬—an	儿—er
メ—wu/w-/-u-	で ⊸o	Ղ —еі	′ ј—en	几—ng
⊔ —yü/y-/-u-/-ü-	さ —e	幺—ao	尤—ang	
	せ—e	ヌ—ou	ム—eng	

Note: In Hanyu Pinyin, the "ü" for the U-sound appears only behind l- and n-, otherwise the spelling for that sound is u.

Wade Giles

The Wade Giles romanization system can be traced back to the British diplomat and Sinologist Thomas Wade (1818-1895, known in China as Wei Tuoma 威妥瑪), who developed it based on the Peking dialect in the middle of the 19th century. Its present, modified form was published in 1912 in the Chinese-English Dictionary by British diplomat and linguist Herbert Allen Giles (1845-1935, known in China as Zhai Lisi 翟理斯). Before the adoption of Hanyu Pinyin it was the most popular romanization system and today is still widely used in the Overseas Chinese community.

Although justifiable from a linguistic point of view, the use of apostrophes reduces the convenience significantly; some similarly written syllables (chun/ch'un, chuan/ch'uan) can have two different sounds; in some cases there are two different spellings for one sound (e. g. ke and ko,

cho and chuo, chin and tsin); the active use of the symbol ü (like in chün) is inconvenient for most users with computers without default German or Turkish keyboard.

Gwoyeu Romatzyh

The Gwoyeu Romatzyh romanization system (guoyu luomazi 國語羅馬字, abbrev. GR), also called Kwoyue Romatzyh or Guoryuu Romatzyh, was created in the 1920s and was the ROC's official system of romanizing Chinese after 1932. Today, it is little known and seldom used, but it has the unique feature of incorporating the tone of a character into its romanized spelling—in general, the vowel in the first tone remains unchanged, in the second tone an "r" is added after the vowel, in the third tone the main vowel is doubled, and in the fourth tone an "h" is added after the vowel. The unstressed fifth tone is indicated by a dot before the word. Variations according to the phonetic composition of the syllable in question make the system highly complicated, and the ROC replaced the tone spellings with the use of tone marks (with the unstressed fifth tone unmarked) in 1984.

Tongyong

The Tongyong romanization system (tongyong pinyin 通用拼音) was created by Yu Bo-cyuan 余伯泉 in Taiwan in 1998 and has many similarities with Hanyu Pinyin. It was announced by the ROC Ministry of Education (MOE) as the official romanization system for Mandarin Chinese in late 2000, and the MOE claims Tongyong can also be used for Hakka, Taiwanese, and the languages of Taiwan's indigenous tribes.

The similarities between Hanyu Pinyin and Tongyong are striking. Since some of Tongyong's initial consonants are less arbitrary then Hanyu Pinyin's, it is probably more suitable for people who don't speak Chinese. The spelling of the "ü" sound with [-yu] is more standardized and coherent, and it is also more user-friendly than Hanyu Pinyin on standard typewriters and computers without a German or Turkish keyboard.

Although the ROC central government adopted Tongyong in August 2002, it is not yet widely used in the Taiwan area, and many foreigners on the island are confused by the fact that many road signs use Wade Giles, while some use Hanyu Pinyin or MPS II, and others use Tongyong.

Comparative tables

Initials

Hanyu-Pinyin	MPS	Wade Giles	GR	Tongyong
b	5	p	b	b
c	ち	ts'	ts	c
ch	彳	ch'	ch	ch
d	分	t	d	d
f	ロ	f	f	f
g	<<	k	g	g
h	r	h	h	h
j	Ч	ch/ts	j	j
k	亏	k'	k	k
1	り	1	1	1

m	П	m	m	m
n	3	n	n	n
p	夕	p'	p	p
q	<	ch'/ts'	ch	c
r		j	r	r
S	4	S	S	S
sh	尸	sh	sh	sh
t	太	ť'	t	t
X	T	hs	sh	S
Z	P	tz	tz	\mathbf{z}
zh	出	ch	j	jh

Finals

MPS Y 男 号	<i>Wade Giles</i> a ai	<i>GR-1/2/3/4 (tones)</i> a/ar/aa/ah	<i>Tongyong</i> a
历			a
	ai		
马	a.	ai/air/ae/ay	ai
,	an	an/arn/aan/ann	an
尤	ang	ang/arng/aang/anq	ang
幺	au	au/aur/ao/aw	ao
	e	e/er/ee/eh	e
	e	e/e/ee/eh	e
7	-ei	-ei/-eir/-eei/-ey	-ei
4	en	(e)n/(er)n/(ee)n/(e)nn	en
L	-eng	(e)ng/(er)ng/(ee)ng/(e)nq	-eng
儿	erh	el/erl/eel/ell	er
_	-i	i/yi/yii (-ii)/yih (-ih)	-i
-Y	-ia	ia/ya/yea (-ea)/yah (-iah)	-ia
一马	-ien	ian/yan/-ean/-iann	-ian
一尢	-iang	iang/yang/-eang/-ianq	-iang
一幺	-iao	iau/yau/yeau (-eau)/yaw (-iaw)	-iao
ーせ	-ieh	ie/ye/yee (-iee)/yeh (-ieh)	-ie
-4	-in	in/yn/-iin/-inn	-in
ーム	-ing	ing/yng/-iing/-inq	-ing
ロム	-iung	iong/yong/-eong/-ionq	-yong
ーヌ	-iu	iou/you/yeou (-eou)/yow (-iow)	-iou
兀	ng	ng	ng
乙	-O	o/or/oo/oh	-O
メム	-ung	ueng/weng/-oong/-onq	-ong
ヌ	ou	ou/our/oou/ow	ou
乂	-u	u/wu/-uu/-uh	-u
Ц	-ü	iu/yu/-eh/-iuh	-yu
XY	-ua	ua/wa/-oa/-uah	-ua
人历	-uai	uai/wai/-oai/-uay	-uai
メラ	-uan	uan/wan/-oan/-uann	-uan
口马	-üan	iuan/yuan/-euan/-iuann	-uan
	ら尤幺させてらムルーーーーーーーーロー兀でメヌメロメメメーン・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・	った ang au t e e e ci en ceng erh ci ang cian cian cian cian cian cian cian cian	カー

-uang	人尤	-uang	uang/wang/-oang/-uanq	-uang
-ue/-üe**	口せ	-üe	iue/yue/-eue/-iueh	-yue
-ui	XZ	-uei	uei/wei/-oei/-uey	-uei
-un	メ与	-un	uen/wen/-oen/-uenn	-un
-un*	4	-ün	iun/yun/-eun/-iunn	-yun
-uo	人て	-O	uo/wo/-uoo/-uoh	-uo
W	X	W	w/u	W
wu	X	u	u/wu/-uu/-uh	w/-u
у	一/山	У	y/i	y
yi	_	yi	i/yi/-ii/-ih	yi/-i
yu	Ц	yü	iu/yu/-eh/-iuh	yu

Examples

Hanyu-Pinyin	MPS	Wade Giles	GR-1/2/3/4 (tones)	Tongyong
bao	5幺	pao	bau/baur/bao/baw	bao
cang	ち尤	tsang	tsang/tsarng/tsaang/tsanq	cang
chun	イメ与	ch'un	chuen/chwen/choen/chuenn	chun
dian	分一马	tien	dian/dyan/dean/diann	dian
fen	ヒケ	fen	fen/fern/feen/fenn	fen
guai	《乂历	kuai	guai/gwai/goai/guay	guai
he	厂さ	ho	he/her/hee/heh	he
ji	4-	chi	ji/jyi/jii/jih	ji
juan	니니写	chuan	jiuan/jyuan/jeuan/jiuann	jyuan
kai	万历	k'ai	kai/kair/kae/kay	kai
lü	为凵	lü	liu/lyu/leh/liuh	lyu
luo	为乂ご	lo	luo/lwo/luoo/luoh	lwo
mou	口ヌ	mou	mou/mour/moou/mow	mou
niang	ろ一尢	niang	niang/nyang/neang/nianq	niang
pie	ターせ	p'ieh	pie/pye/piee/pieh	pie
qun	くロケ	ch'un	chiun/chyun/cheun/chiunn	cyun
ran	口马	jan	ran/rarn/raan/rann	ran
sa	LY	sa	sa/sar/saa/sah	sa
shuang	尸人尤	shuang	shuang/shwang/shoang/shuanq	shuang
tui	去	t'ui	tuei/twei/toei/tuey	tui
weng	メム	weng	ueng/weng/woeng/wenq	wong
wo	人て	WO	uo/wo/woo/woh	wo
wu	人	wu	u/wu/wuu/wuh	W
xiong	Tロム	hsiung	shiong/shyong/sheong/shionq	siong
xue	Tロせ	hsüeh	shiue/shyue/sheue/shiueh	syue
ye	ーせ	yeh	ie/ye/yee/yeh	ye
yi	-	yi	i/yi/yii/yih	yi
ying	-L	ying	ing/yng/yiing/yinq	ying
yong	ロム	yung	iong/yong/yeong/yonq	yong
yu	Ц	yü	iu/yu/yeu/yuh	yu

zei	アへ	tzei	tzei/tzeir/tzeei/tzey	zei
zhi	坐	chih	jy/jyr/jyy/jyh	jhih
zhuan	坐メワ	chuan	juan/jwan/joan/juann	jhuan

Comparison Hanyu Pinyin—Tongyong Pinyin

Similar (with MPS equivalent):

b 勺, p 夕, m 口, f 匸, d 分, t 去, n 弓, l 为, g 《, k 丂, h 厂, j 丩, ch 彳*, sh ፆ*, r 집*, z 卪*, c ち*, s ム*, a Ү, o ʊ, e ʊ, e ʊ, e ʊ, ei 飞**, ao 幺, ou ヌ**, an ㄢ, en ㄣ**, er 儿, ang 尤, eng L**, (y) i -, (w) u L**, yu L**

*Exception 1:

Different spellings for single sibilants ch 彳, sh ア, r 回, z ア, c ち, s ム.

Hanyu Pinyin	Tongyong	MPS	Hanyu Pinyin	Tongyong	MPS
chi	chih	4	shi	shih	ア
ri	rih		zi	zih	P
ci	cih	ち	si	sih	4

**Exception 2:

Different spellings for combination $- \chi$, $- \chi \gamma$ and for $\chi \gamma$, $\chi \zeta$ without initial consonant.

-iu	-iou	-ーヌ	-ui	-uei	7 乂-
wen	wun	メ与	weng	wong	メム

***Exception 3:

Spelling for ப similar except when in final position -니 and combinations -ロセ, -ロラ, -ロム.

-u/-ü*	-yu	- 니	-ue/-üe*	-yue	-ロせ
-uan	-yuan	-니	-un	-yun	-44
-iong	-yong	-ロム (*German un	<i>mlaut</i> in Hanyu l	Pinyin only at	fter l- and n-!)

Different spellings in initial positions: $\langle -, \top -, \Psi(-) \rangle$

q-	c-	ζ-	X-	S-	T-
zh-	jh-	坐 -	zhi	jhih	业

Examples

jiong	jyong	니니 <i>스</i>	juan	jyuan	니니写
lü	lyu	为凵	nue	nyue	ろ山せ
qiu	ciou	くーヌ	qun	cyun	くロケ
xin	sin	T-5	xu	syu	TU
xiang	siang	Tー尤	zhui	jhuei	ツメ へ

Conversion table Wade Giles—Hanyu-Pinyin—MPS

Wade Giles	Hanyu- Pinyin	MPS	Wade Giles	Hanyu- Pinyin	MPS
ah	a	Y	ai	ai	历
an	an	9	ang	ang	尤
ao	ao	幺	cha	zha	坐 Y
ch'a	cha	4 Y	chai	zhai	坐
ch'ai	chai	彳历	chan	zhan	坐 写
ch'an	chan	彳弓	chang	zhang	业 尤
ch'ang	chang	彳尢	chao	zhao	坐幺
ch'ao	chao	彳幺	che	zhe	坐さ
ch'e	che	彳 古	chei	zhei	坐
chen	zhen	出与	ch'en	chen	14
cheng	zheng	出し	ch'eng	cheng	14
chi	ji	4-	ch'i	qi	くー
chia	jia	I-Y	ch'ia	qia	$\langle -Y$
chiang	jiang	リー 尤	ch'iang	qiang	く一尢
chiao	jiao	4一幺	ch'iao	qiao	く一幺
chieh	jie	니ㅡせ	ch'ieh	qie	くーせ
chien	jian	4-5	ch'ien	qian	くーラ
chih	zhi	坐	ch'ih	chi	1
chin	jin	4-5	ch'in	qin	〈一 与
ching	jing	リーム	ch'ing	qing	くーム
chiu	jiu	リーヌ	ch'iu	qiu	くーヌ
chiung	jiong	니니스	ch'iung	qiong	くロム
cho	zhuo	出入て	ch'o	chuo	彳乂で
chou	zhou	出ヌ	ch'ou	chou	17
chu	zhu	坐 乂	ch'u	chu	彳 メ
chü	ju	ЧШ	ch'ü	qu	くロ
chua	zhua	业	ch'ua	chua	彳 メY
chuai	zhuai	坐乂历	ch'uai	chuai	彳乂历
chuan	zhuan	坐乂弓	ch'uan	chuan	彳 乂写
chüan	juan	니니딩	ch'üan	quan	くロラ
chuang	zhuang	坐乂尤	ch'uang	chuang	彳乂尤
chüeh	jue	니니난	ch'üeh	que	く口せ
chui	zhui	坐	ch'ui	chui	彳 太乀
chun	zhun	出メケ	ch'un	chun	イメ 与
chün	jun	445	ch'ün	qun	くロケ
chung	zhong	出メム	ch'ung	chong	イメム
chuo	zhuo	出入て	ch'uo	chuo	彳乂で
ê	e	さ	eh	ê	せ
ei	ei	1	en	en	4
eng	eng	4	erh	er	儿
fa	fa	ΓY	fan	fan	ビ 写
fang	fang	仁 尤	fei	fei	Lブ
fen	fen	Ľ 与	feng	feng	_工 人

fo	fo	ここ ここ	fou	fou	ヒヌ
fu	fu	仁	ha	ha	ΓY
hai	hai	厂历	han	han	厂马
hang	hang	厂尤	hao	hao	厂幺
hei	hei	厂 へ	hen	hen	厂 与
heng	heng	厂 ム	hm	hm	厂口
hng	hng	厂兀	ho	he	厂さ
hou	hou	厂 ヌ	hsi	xi	T一
hsia	xia	T-Y	hsiang	xiang	丁一尤
hsiao	xiao	丁一幺	hsieh	xie	Tーせ
hsien	xian	T-9	hsin	xin	Tー与
hsing	xing	Tーム	hsiu	xiu	Tーヌ
hsiung	xiong	TUL	hsü	xu	TЦ
hsüan	xuan	TUS	hsüeh	xue	Tロせ
hsün	xun	TU5	hu	hu	厂人
hua	hua	$\Gamma X Y$	huai	huai	厂人历
huan	huan	厂乂马	huang	huang	厂人尤
hui	hui	アメへ	hun	hun	厂メ与
hung	hong	厂メム	huo	huo	厂人て
i	yi	-	jan	ran	09
jang	rang	口 尤	jao	rao	囚幺
je	re	口さ	jen	ren	05
jeng	reng	口ム	jih	ri	回
jo	ruo	囚人で	jou	rou	ロヌ
ju	ru	口人	juan	ruan	ロメワ
jui	rui	口人人	jun	run	ロメ与
jung	rong	日メム	ka	ga	«Y
k'a	ka	万Y	kai	gai	巜历
k'ai	kai	万	kan	gan	《写
k'an	kan	59	kang	gang	《尤
k'ang	kang	万尤	kao	gao	《幺
k'ao	kao	万幺	ke	ge	((さ
k'e	ke	万 さ	kei	gei	% \(\(\)
k'ei	kei	57	ken	gen	《 与
k'en	ken	5-5	keng	geng	《 ム
k'eng	keng	5人	ko	ge	(くさ
k'o	ke	うさ	kou	gou	(マ
k'ou	kou	ラ ヌ	ku	gu	《乂
k'u	ku	万人	kua	gua	《 メ Y
k'ua	kua	5×Y	kuai	guai	《 乂 历
k'uai	kuai	万 人 历	kuan	guan	《 乂 写
k'uan	kuan	万人ワ	kuang	guang	《 人 尤
k'uang	kuang	万 人 尤	kuei	gui	// X \
k'uei	kui	万人	kun	gun	《メ与
k'un	kun	万人与	kung	gong	《メム
k'ung	kong	ラメム	kuo	guo	《 人 て
k'uo	kuo	万人で	la	la	bҮ

lai	lai	为	lan	lan	为马
lang	lang	为尤	lao	lao	为幺
le	le	り さ	lei	lei	为乀
leng	leng	カ ム	li	li	为一
lia	lia	カー Y	liang	liang	为一尢
liao	liao	为一幺	lieh	lie	り ーせ
lien	lian		lin	lin	カー 与
ling	ling	カーム	liu	liu	カーヌ
lo	luo	分乂で	loh	lo	りて
lou	lou	カヌ	lu	lu	为乂
lü	lü	カ ロ	luan	luan	分乂弓
lüeh	lüe	り 口せ	lun	lun	カメ与
lung	long	カメム	m	m	П
ma	ma	ПΥ	mai	mai	门历
man	man	ПБ	mang	mang	口尤
mao	mao	口幺	me	me	口さ
mei	mei	Пζ	men	men	П5
meng	meng	П	mi	mi	Π
miao	miao	门一幺	mieh	mie	ローせ
mien	mian	ローラ	min	min	ロー5
ming	ming	ローム	miou	miu	ローヌ
mo	mo	ПТ	mou	mou	ロヌ
mu	mu	口人	n	n	3
na	na	3 Y	nai	nai	3 历
nan	nan	39	nang	nang	ろ尤
nao	nao	38	ne	ne	ろさ
nei	nei	37	nen	nen	34
neng	neng	34	ng	ng	兀
ni	ni	3-	niang	niang	ろー尤
niao	niao	3一幺	nieh	nie	ろーせ
nien	nian	3-5	nin	nin	ろーり
ning	ning	3 ーム	niu	niu	ろーヌ
no	nuo	ろくて	nou	nou	ろヌ
nu	nu	3 人	nü	nü	3山
nuan	nuan	3 义 写	nüeh	nüe	ろ山せ
nung	nong	ろメム	O	O	ट
ou	ou	ヌ	pa	ba	5Y
p'a	pa	ΥY	pai	bai	勺牙
p'ai	pai	夕	pan	ban	59
p'an	pan	女 号	pang	bang	ク 尤
p'ang	pang	夕 尤	pao	bao	勺幺
p'ao	pao	文幺	pei	bei	57
p'ei	pei	タて	pen	ben	55
p'en	pen	タケ	peng	beng	ケム
p'eng	peng	タム	pi	bi	ケー
p'i	pi	ター	piao	biao	勺一幺
p'iao	piao	ター幺	pieh	bie	クーせ

p'ieh	pie	ターせ	pien	bian	5-5
p'ien	pian	ターラ	pin	bin	5-5
p'in	pin	ターケ	ping	bing	ケーム
p'ing	ping	ターム	po	bo	クさ
p'o	po	夕で	p'ou	pou	タヌ
pu	bu	与 メ	p'u	pu	タメ
sa	sa	LY	sai	sai	ム历
san	san	45	sang	sang	ムオ
sao	sao	48	se	se	ムさ
sen	sen	45	seng	seng	41
sha	sha	アY	shai	shai	尸历
shan	shan	79	shang	shang	尸尤
shao	shao	尸幺	she	she	アさ
shei	shei	アへ	shen	shen	アケ
sheng	sheng	アム	shih	shi	尸
shou	shou	アヌ	shu	shu	尸人
shua	shua	アメY	shuai	shuai	尸人历
shuan	shuan	アメラ	shuang	shuang	尸人尤
shui	shui	アメへ	shun	shun	アメ与
shuo	shuo	アメて	SO	suo	ムメて
sou	sou	ムヌ	ssu	si	4
su	su	ムメ	suan	suan	ムメワ
sui	sui	ムメて	sun	sun	ムメケ
sung	song	ムメム	szu	si	4
ta	da	分 Y	t'a	ta	άΥ
tai	dai	分历	t'ai	tai	去历
tan	dan	分马	t'an	tan	去 写
tang	dang	分尤	t'ang	tang	去尤
tao	dao	分 幺	t'ao	tao	女幺
te	de	分さ	ťe	te	去さ
tei	dei	分 て	ten	den	分り
teng	deng	カム	t'eng	teng	ムム
ti	di	为一	ťi ·	ti	太一
tia	dia	カーY	tiao	diao	分一幺
t'iao	tiao	去一幺	tieh	die	クーせ
t'ieh	tie	ムーせ	tien	dian	分一 马
t'ien	tian	去一 写	ting	ding	カーム
t'ing	ting	ムーム	tiu	diu	カーヌ
to	duo	分 人で	t'o	tuo	女人で
tou	dou	カヌ ロン	t'ou	tou	ムヌ
tsa	za	PY	ts'a	ca	ちY
tsai	zai	ア	ts'ai ts'an	cai	ち
tsan	zan			can	
tsang	zang	下尤 下幺	ts'ang ts'ao	cang	ち 尤 ち幺
tsao	zao ze	アさ アさ	ts ao ts'e	cao	ラム ちさ
tse	ze	アス		ce	り ロ り
tsei	zei	F X	tsen	zen	トラ

ts'en	cen	ちり	tseng	zeng	アム
ts'eng	ceng	ちム	tsi	ji	4-
ts'i	qi	くー	tsiang	jiang	·山一尤
ts'iang	qiang	く一尢	tsiao	jiao	4一幺
tsieh	jie	リーせ	ts'ieh	qie	くーせ
tsien	jian	4-5	ts'ien	qian	くーラ
tsin	jin	4-5	ts'in	qin	くー与
tsing	jing	4-6	ts'ing	qing	くーム
tsiu	jiu	リーヌ	ts'iu	qiu	くーヌ
tso	zuo	アメご	ts'o	cuo	ちくて
tsou	zou	アヌ	ts'ou	cou	ちヌ
tsu	zu	卫乂	ts'u	cu	ちメ
tsü	ju	ЧШ	ts'ü	qu	く口
tsuan	zuan	卫乂马	ts'üan	quan	くロラ
ts'uan	cuan	ちメワ	tsüeh	jue	니니せ
tsui	zui	アメて	ts'ui	cui	ちメへ
tsun	zun	アメ与	ts'un	cun	ちメ与
tsün	jun	444	tsung	zong	アメム
ts'ung	cong	ちメム	tu	du	分乂
t'u	tu	太	tuan	duan	分乂马
t'uan	tuan	去乂马	tui	dui	分人乀
t'ui	tui	去 乂 乀	tun	dun	分メ与
t'un	tun	ムメ 与	tung	dong	分メム
t'ung	tong	去メム	tuo	duo	分叉で
t'uo	tuo	去乂て	tzu	zi	P
tz'u	ci	ち	wa	wa	XY
wai	wai	乂历	wan	wan	メワ
wang	wang	人尤	wei	wei	ノス
wen	wen	メ与	weng	weng	メム
wo	wo	人で	wu	wu	人
ya	ya	-Y	yai	yai	一历
yang	yang	一尤	yao	yao	一幺
yeh	ye	ーせ	yen	yan	一马
yin	yin	-4	ying	ying	ーム
yo	yo	ーて	yu	you	ーヌ
yü	yu	Ц	yuan	yuan	口马
yüeh	yue	니난	yün	yun	115
yung	yong	UL			