

**Book review** by Todd Shugart for the closed Facebook group [The Aviation Enthusiast Book Club](#)

**Title:** Modern Taiwanese Air Power (The Republic of China Air Force Today)

**Author:** Roy Choo and Peter Ho

**Publisher:** Harpia Publishing

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**Pages/Format:** 96 page softback

The small island nation of the Republic of China otherwise known as Taiwan has a rich history of military aviation and this book attempts to explain the current strategy of deterrence to mainland China, the present day organisation of the Republic of China Air Force (ROCAF), and short summaries of each aircraft currently flown by this incredibly capable and modern air arm. There is a short history of the ROCAF in the beginning and then it dives right into the order of battle, initial training, and an extensive look at the current strategy of containment or how it would respond to People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) offensive strikes against Taiwan. This is based on an accurate assessment of the PLAAF threat and the possibility of "Grey-zone warfare." This is a soft power approach of encirclement from the air during specific operations and it is seen as coercion or intimidation by the PLAAF against Taiwan. The book is divided into five parts covering the creation and early period of the ROCAF, an examination of the current ROCAF force structure, a look at its air power strategy, a review of the current fleet of aircraft, and the future of ROCAF projects and aspirations.

The sections on the individual aircraft types in the ROCAF inventory are very detailed and richly enhanced with larger well produced photographs. Upgrades and various munitions are discussed in each section as well. The indigenous AIDC F-CK-1 C/d Ching-Kuo lightweight fighter is well covered along with future upgrades and a new model coming out in late 2021. Multi-engine aircraft are represented in their entirety as well. The standard airlift C-130 Hercules along with the suspected special electronic jamming C-130HE are described in detail. The E-2K Airborne Early Warning/Control, P-3C maritime patrol aircraft, and various other multi-engine types are discussed. Trainers and air rescue helicopters get a brief mention and then it's on to future programs and prospects.

The publishing standard is up to the usual high quality expected from Harpia books and while its compact size may surprise some readers, it actually contains the most detailed and modern analysis of the ROCAF seen in decades. The detailed information and superb selection of photos that are reproduced to a very high standard make for an enjoyable and highly informative read. There is an abbreviation section, a bibliography, and an index. Two standout items are the full colour maps which show ROCAF and PLAAF airbases with the combat radii towards Taiwan of the PLAAF fighters, bombers, and reconnaissance aircraft and the final chapter showing the unique patches of each ROCAF unit in full colour artwork. While this reviewer may be slightly biased, this book is the most accurate and up to date summary of ROCAF aircraft, bases, units, and airpower strategy that I have ever seen. If you have an interest in this subject, the Chinese threat to Taiwan, or even if you want to learn more about the ROCAF than this is the book for you. I highly recommend Modern Taiwanese Airpower to professional military institutions, enthusiasts, and historians alike.