Island Fantasia

The Matsu archipelago between China and Taiwan, for long an isolated outpost off southeast China, was suddenly transformed into a military frontline in 1949 by the Cold War and the Communist–Nationalist conflict. The army occupied the islands, commencing more than 40 long years of military rule. With the lifting of martial law in 1992, the people were confronted with the question of how to move forward. This in-depth ethnography and social history of the islands focuses on how individual citizens redefined themselves and reimagined their society. Drawing on long-term fieldwork, Wei-Ping Lin shows how islanders used both traditional and new media to cope with the conflicts and trauma of harsh military rule. She discusses the formation of new social imaginaries through the appearance of 'imagining subjects', interrogating their subjectification processes and varied uses of mediating technologies as they seek to answer existential questions.

WEI-PING LIN is Professor of Anthropology at National Taiwan University. She has previously held affiliations at the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. She is the author of *Materializing Magic Power: Chinese Popular Religion in Villages and Cities* (2015, Harvard University Asia Center) which won the Academia Sinica Scholarly Monograph Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences. She edited *Mediating Religion: Music, Image, Object, and New Media* (2018, National Taiwan University Press).

Published online by Cambridge University Press

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Island Fantasia

Imagining Subjects on the Military Frontline between China and Taiwan

Wei-Ping Lin
National Taiwan University

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316519370
DOI: 10.1017/9781009023481

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009023481

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Lin, Wei-Ping, author.
Title: Island fantasia : imagining subjects on the military frontline between China and Taiwan / Wei-Ping Lin, National Taiwan University.
Other titles: Imagining subjects on the military frontline between China and Taiwan
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Series: Taiwan studies | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021025024 (print) | LCCN 2021025025 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316519370 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009010405 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009023481 (epub)
Subjects: LCSH: Lienchiang County (Taiwan)–History. | Lienchiang County (Taiwan)–Social life and customs. | Lienchiang County (Taiwan)–History, Military. | Taiwan–History, Military–1945- | BISAC: HISTORY / Asia / General | HISTORY / Asia / General
Classification: LCC DS799.8 .L56 2021 (print) | LCC DS799.8 (ebook) | DDC 951.249–dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021025024
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021025025

ISBN 978-1-316-51937-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-01040-5 Paperback

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Published online by Cambridge University Press