

PLS 339: Political Systems of Asia
Paige Johnson Tan

Chinese Romanization and Asian Names

Chinese Romanization

How do you take a language written in a non-Western script or character system and transfer the sounds to our Roman alphabet? This is problem of “romanization.”

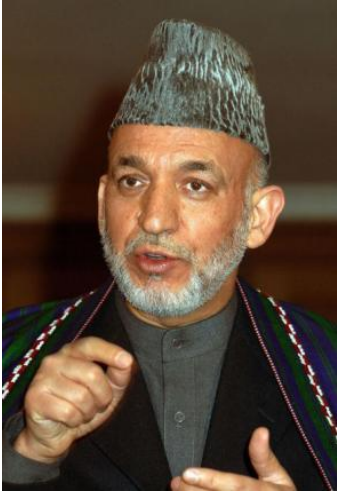
Chinese has been romanized in several different ways over the past several hundred years. We will concentrate in this class on the current “Pinyin” system of romanization institutionalized by mainland China in 1979. You know it is Pinyin when you see lots of x’s, q’s, and z’s. Taiwan still uses the older Wade-Giles romanization system. You can tell the romanization is Wade-Giles (almost always) when you notice a lot of apostrophes floating around. There is also a “traditional” means of romanizing Chinese personal and place names (these are still in use in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and elsewhere in Southeast Asia). Keep in mind that in Mandarin Chinese, the pronunciation of these names and places has remained the same. It is only our means of romanizing that has changed.

Traditional	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	What? Who?	Important Sound/Symbol
Chungking Canton/ Kwangchow	Ch’ung-ch’ing Kuang-chou	<i>Chongqing</i> <i>Guangzhou</i>	Nationalist WWII capital. Prominent commercial city in southern China’s Guangdong province.	Q=“ch” Zh=“j” (closeness of G/K)
Peking ---	Pei-ching Mao Tse-tung	Beijing <i>Mao Zedong</i>	China’s capital. China’s paramount leader 1949 - 1976.	(closeness of P/B, K/CH/J) Z=“z,” D=“d”
---	Teng Hsiao-p’ing	Deng Xiaoping	China’s paramount leader 1978 - 1997.	X=“hs” (closeness of D/T)
Chiang Kai-shek	Chiang Chieh-shih	<i>Jiang Jieshi</i>	Nationalist leader of China (1927-1949). President of Republic of China on Taiwan to 1976.	
Formosa	T’ai-wan	<i>Taiwan</i>	“Renegade province” of China or bastion of “Free China.” Taiwan island has been the site of the Republic of China government since the Nationalists lost the civil war with the Communists in 1949.	Use of apostrophe.
Taipei ---	T’ai-pei T’ien-an-men	<i>Taipei</i> <i>Tiananmen</i>	Capital of Taiwan. Gate of Heavenly Peace (Beijing).	(P/B) Remember to say the “an.”

Asian Names (by Country).

****Refer to the Voice of America Pronunciation Guide <http://names.voa.gov/> if you ever unsure of how to pronounce a leader's name.****

Afghanistan. Varies by ethnic group. President Hamid Karzai. Refer to President Karzai.



Brunei. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. Refer to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. Other members of the royal family referred to by given name. Prince Jefri.



Cambodia. Prime Minister Hun Sen. Refer to PM Hun Sen.



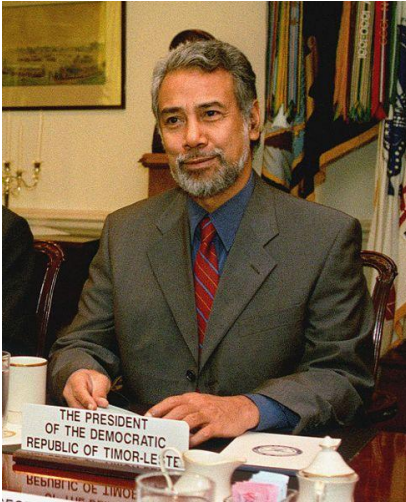
Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi. Refer to Suu Kyi or Aung San Suu Kyi. Ky=J sound, so "Sue Jee."



China. Chinese President Hu Jintao. Surname is Hu, "Who Jin-tauw". Refer to President Hu. Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao "One jee-a-bauw." Surname is Wen. Refer to PM Wen.



East Timor. Prime Minister is Xanana Gusmao. This is a nom de guerre. Refer to PM Gusmao (Gus-mauw). President is Jose Ramos Horta. “Zho-say Ramos Horta.” Refer to President Ramos Horta.



India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Refer to PM Singh (“Sing”).



Indonesia. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Refer to President Yudhoyono, “You-dough-yo-no.” Many Indonesians, particularly Javanese, have only one name. Therefore, former President Suharto was just Suharto.



Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama Yukio (Japanese order). Refer to PM Hatoyama. (Japanese is usually pronounced just like it looks).



Korea. Korean President Lee Myung-bak “Lee Mee-yung-back.” Surname is Lee. Refer to President Lee.



Laos. President Choummaly Sayasone. Refer to President Choummaly Sayasone.

Malaysia. Prime Minister Najib Razak. For many Malay names, last name/names are father’s name. Refer to PM Najib.



Pakistan. President Asif Ali Zardari. Refer to President Zardari. Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani. Refer to Prime Minister Gilani.



Philippines. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Macapagal is maiden name. Arroyo is married surname. Refer to President Arroyo.



Singapore. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Surname is Lee. Refer to PM Lee.



Taiwan. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou. Surname is Ma. Refer to President Ma.



Thailand. Prime Minister Prime Minister Abhisit Wetchachiva. Refer to PM Abhisit.



Vietnam. President: Nguyen Minh Triet (“Noo-we-in Min Tree-et”). Surname is Nguyen, but refer to President Triet. General Secretary of the Communist Party: Nong Duc Manh, (“Nong Dook M-eye”). General Secretary Manh. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, (“Noo-we-in Tan Dung”). Refer to as PM Dung. Exception: Ho Chi Minh (nom de guerre), refer to Ho.

