WHY ARE PEOPLE ARGUING ABOUT WHO REALLY FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR TWO?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Taiwan has challenged the way China is presenting the history of World War Two after Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump praised the wartime alliance between China and the United States. Beijing presents Chinese Communist forces as the main force resisting Japan, while Taiwan argues that the Republic of China government was the recognised Allied government in China and carried much of the fighting. The dispute is connected to the Chinese Civil War, which ended in 1949 when Mao Zedong's Communists took control of mainland China and the Republic of China government moved to Taiwan. Taiwan fears that a version of wartime history led by Beijing could influence American policy towards the island. The argument shows how governments use memories of the past to support present-day political claims.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This is a clear example of history being used in modern international politics. It links World War Two to the Chinese Civil War, the creation of Communist China and the continuing dispute over Taiwan. Students can see that historical accounts are not always neutral, especially when governments use the past to justify power, territory or national identity.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Why might governments want to control the story of World War Two?"

Source: Reuters via Internazionale

https://www.internazionale.it/ultime-notizie-reuters/2026/09/28/taiwan-pushes-back-after-xi-seeks-to-win-over-trump-on-world-war-two-narrative