

Frequently Asked Questions toward the Association of Comprehensive Studies for Independence of the Lew Chewans: ACSILs and the Answers.

Q: What kind of association is ACSILs?

A: ACSILs has three defining characteristics: **1)** It is an association formed for and by Lew Chewans with ethnic roots in the Lew Chew Islands; **2)** Rather than engage in discussion over the possibility or impossibility of Lew Chewan independence, ACSILs engages in research, debate, and activism based on the premise of Lew Chewan independence; **3)** ACSILs calls for the complete removal of all military bases from Lew Chew.

Q: Can Lew Chew survive economically if it becomes independent?

A: **Yes.** Lew Chew can survive economically with independence. In fact, the Lew Chewan economy can improve through the efforts of Lew Chewans. For example, now only about 5% of Okinawa's economy is dependent on military bases. The military bases in Lew Chew actually prevent Lew Chewan economic development as numerous studies have shown that lands occupied by military bases would be much more efficiently used if the military bases were removed. (However, the military bases should be removed regardless of economic reasons.) With independence, Lew Chew would also be able to escape the "colonial economy" that results from control by Yamato ("Mainland Japanese") capital interests. It should be further noted that ACSILs also exists as a group that researches concrete economic policies for Lew Chew.

Direct Economic Effects of Return of the Military Bases on Okinawa		
Lands already returned	Before Return	After Return
Naha Shintoshin Area	5.2 billion yen	163.4 billion yen (32 times)
Oroku Kanagusuku Area	3.4 billion yen	48.9 billion yen (14 times)
Kuwae / Kitamae Area	0.3 billion yen	33.6 billion yen (108 times)
Total	8.9 billion yen	245.9 billion yen (28 times)
Okinawa Prefectural Gov. (2015.2.4)		
Lands agreed to be returned	Before Return	After Return
Camp Kuwae	4 billion yen	33.4 billion yen (8 times)
Camp Zukeran	10.9 billion yen	106.1 billion yen (10 times)
Air Station Futenma	12 billion yen	386.6 billion yen (32 times)
Camp Kinser	20.2 billion yen	256.4 billion yen (13 times)
Naha Military Port	3 billion yen	107.6 billion yen (36 times)
Total	50.1 billion yen	890.1 billion yen (18 times)
Okinawa Prefectural Gov. (2015.2.4)		
Lands must be returned	Before Return	After Return
Kadena Air Base	approx. 150. billion yen	10 times = 1500 billion yen ! 20 times = 3000 billion yen ! 30 times ! ? ... 40 times ! ? ...
Camp Schwab		
JASDF NAHA AIR BASE JGSDF Camp Naha		
All Other Military Bases		

Q: Would Lew Chew be safe after all military bases were removed following independence?

A: Yes, Lew Chew will be safe. The presence of military bases pulls Lew Chew into wars and other conflicts. Armed forces do not come to Lew Chew because war is there. It is the other way around: the presence of armed forces in Lew Chew attracts war. This is clearly evident when we look at the history of Lew Chew and Okinawa. Following independence, Lew Chew will be a neutral and unarmed “keystone of peace” in Asia and the rest of the world and attract international groups to its islands, thus contributing to regional and global peace.

Q: Aren't Lew Chewans and Japanese the same?

A: No, they are not. Lew Chewans are Lew Chewans. The Lew Chew Kingdom was once an independent nation. In 1609, the Japanese feudal domain of Satsuma staged a military invasion of Lew Chew and in 1879, Yamato (Japan) carried out the “Ryukyu disposition,” which was a militarily enforced annexation of Lew Chew. Such forced annexation was and still is a violation of international laws. Thus, “Okinawa Prefecture” was established by force (without going through the procedures and processes that other domains in Japan went through during Meiji Nation-State formation). In 1945, Lew Chew was used during the Battle of Okinawa as a line of defense to “protect the home territories” and in 1952, upon having its sovereignty returned, Japan abandoned all its responsibilities to Lew Chew by handing it to U.S. military authorities. Moreover, when Okinawa was “returned” to Japan in 1972, Lew Chew was deceived again when official agreements were made completely meaningless when Japan made secret arrangements with the U.S. that gave unconditional liberties to the U.S. military, including permission to bring nuclear weapons into Lew Chew. The present forced deployment of Osprey helicopters and plans to construct a new U.S. Marine air base at Henoko are more recent examples of such duplicity. These cases of historical and ongoing discrimination of Lew Chew by Japan are proof enough that Lew Chewans are not Japanese.

Q: Isn't limiting membership in this association to only ethnic Ryukyuan (Lew Chewans) exclusionary?

A: No, it is not. The only persons who can decide on the status and future of Lew Chew are Lew Chewans. (This is also based on the International Covenants on Human Rights, such as Article 1 that mandates the right to self-determination, Article 18 the right to freedom of thought, consciousness, and religion, Article 19 freedom of expression, and Article 27 the rights of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities. We go as far as to say that bearing and overcoming our own hardships is essential to our liberation process. Moreover, we limit our membership not to attack anyone, but rather to protect ourselves as Lew Chewan people. Consequently, we are not an exclusionary association.

Q: If independence is achieved and the national citizenship of Lew Chewans is changed, will their pensions (accumulated under the Japanese system) be forfeited?

A: No, they will still receive them. There are no nationality clauses for Japanese national or welfare pensions and even so-called “foreigners” are included in these systems. When Lew Chew achieves independence, Lew Chewans will be “foreigners” from the view point of Yamato (Japan), but they will still retain the right to their accumulated pensions. Upon independence, Lew Chew would enter a social security agreement with the Yamato Government that would transfer the pensions into a Lew Chewan pension system. The Yamato Government already has such an agreement with over 15 nations.

Q: Will the United Nations and the rest of the international community give support to Lew Chew?

A: Yes. In fact, the international community has already given its support to Lew Chew. For example, on August 29, 2014, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination announced to the Yamato Government its “final opinion” that the people of Lew Chew were an “indigenous ethnic group” and that their rights were to be protected and preserved. In 2010, the same committee determined that the concentration of U.S. military bases in Lew Chew was “a modern form of racial discrimination” and announced that it would widely carry out meetings with Lew Chewan representatives to monitor such racial discrimination. The UN has brought the Yamato Government under review three times (2001, 2010, and 2014) since Japan became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The people of Lew Chew have been tenacious in our proactive appeals regarding our treatment and the United Nations and other sensible people in the international community will continue to give us wide support.

Q: What does ACSILs think about the new military base constructions at Henoko and Takae and the ongoing Futenma Air Base problems?

A: We are absolutely opposed to the new military base construction projects at Henoko and Takae that are being forced through by both Japan and the U.S.! We also believe that the Futenma U.S. Marine Air Base should be moved outside of Okinawa Prefecture. In the first place, we are opposed to all military bases in Lew Chew. We squarely fight against the discrimination of Lew Chew by Japan and the U.S. We will not lose! With our own hands, it is necessary for us to become independent from Yamato, remove all military bases, and create a new Lew Chew that has relations of friendship with the world’s nations, regions, and ethnic groups and that are the islands of peace and hope that Lew Chewans have long awaited. Yamato needs to quickly liberate itself from its dependency on Lew Chew and achieve its own independence!

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