REVIEW ESSAY: Between De Jure and De Facto Statehood: Revisiting the Status Issue for Taiwan Barry Bartmann University of Prince Edward Island Canada HYPERLINK "mailto:bartmann@uoelish.ca" bartmann@uoelish.ca Abstract This paper revisits the status prospects for Taiwan in light of recent events in Kosovo and Tibet. In both cases, and certainly in Taiwan itself, the long standing contest between claims for self determination and the tenacious defence of the principle of the territorial integrity of states has emerged once again to dominate the analysis of these cases. This contest is particularly dramatic in the divided international response to the independence of Kosovo. In the case of Tibet, widespread international support for Tibet is in sharp contrast to the furious and determined resistance of China. Taiwan's anomalous status remains that of a legal sovereign state, the Republic of China, enjoying some measure of recognition and formal diplomacy and a de facto state whose international relations are confined to pseudo diplomatic channels, extensive though they are. The paper considers the prospects for changes in the current anomalous status of the island state. Keywords: Taiwan, China, statehood, sovereignty, de facto states, self-determination, secession © 2008 – Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, Island Studies Journal, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2008, pp. 113-128