
United Nations Project

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CHINA

Key events

1970-present

- **1972** US President Nixon visits China to normalize relations between countries.
- **1976** Mao's death resulted in the "Gang of Four" trying to take power then getting arrested which ended in the downfall of the cultural revolution.
- **1989** 1 million students protest in Tiananmen Square for Democracy
- **1992** China and Russia sign document agreeing on friendly ties.
- **1997** China regains Hong Kong which had previously been under British rule.
- **2006** After 13 years of building the Three Gorges River Dam is completed over the Yangtze.'
- **2008** Beijing was chosen for the Olympic games.
- **2010** China passes Japan becoming officially the world's 2nd largest economy.
- **2010** China became the world's largest exporter

Economics

China had the world's largest economy in 1820 but is the 2nd largest today. The Chinese are communist capitalists. It blends socialist and capitalist elements. China's businesses used to be owned by the government. Each year China's GDP increases 10%. China's economy now is more market-oriented as it used to be a closed centrally planned system. The disadvantages China's economy struggles with is reducing its high domestic savings rate and low domestic consumption. Another downside is China's unsuccess in creating high-wage jobs for the middle class. The advantages of china's economic growth has decreased poverty.

China's the world's biggest producer of aluminum and steel. Many centuries before China was an empire with a feudal economy. In 1921 the Communist Party came into existence. For much of the 20th century China's economy was bad because of conflict factors and being behind the industrial revolution. In the 1970s China began reforms that led to economic growth since. China has become an industrial powerhouse



Political structure

China's current leader is Xi Jinping. He is the leader of the Communist Party of China and the President of the People's Republic of China. He worked up ranks and first became elected general secretary of the communist party, Chair of the Military Commission and President of the People's Republic of China. The Communist party and the military is controlled by the Politburo Standing Committee. The government is divided into 4 branches legislative, executive, judicial and the military. It is concentrated into one position though, the Paramount leader. The paramount leader has the titles of; the General Secretary of the Communist Party, General Secretary of the Central Committee, Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and President of the country. The legislative branch has the national people's congress which is the highest department. Since 1949 the communist party has ruled. This system is better for governmental decision making and development but has downsides like the lack of individual freedom.

Culture

Chinese culture dates back the farthest and is one of the most complex. Over 1 billion people live in China where there lies 56 ethnic minority groups. Tradition varies based on geographic location and ethnicity. These ethnic groups and china's long history have a great influence on its culture. The Han Chinese is the largest group with 900 people. The government is atheist yet is tolerant of Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism. Any other is illegal. About 25% practice Taoism and Confucianism. Confucianism's beliefs and value systems have a great influence on china's society as a whole. Agriculture employs over 300 million farmers therefore rice is a major food source. Popular styles of chinese cooking are Cantonese and Szechuan. These dishes include the idea of stir-fried and using peanuts, sesame, and ginger for flavor. The dinner table is important in the chinese culture for discussing and socializing.



Physical structure

China is the world's third largest country. It's located in southeast asia. It's about 18,000 kilometers long. Since its so big it has a variety of terrain. The south is wet with some rainforests. The north-west has deserts and the west has the himalayas. The himalayas have some of the highest mountains in the world. China's geography is very important to the country. There are over 1 billion people in China currently. Since 1970 the population has steadily increased. Since china's population is so large they took efforts to slow the growth by putting the one-child policy in effect in 1979.

