BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

CHINA

1. This background paper is a brief introduction to China from three perspectives. It will cover the languages, economy, and United States’ interests in China.

2. Over one billion people speak some type of Chinese as their [first language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_language) in the world. It is the official language in China, Taiwan, and one of the official languages in Singapore and United Nation **(Note)**. There are around ten different types of spoken Chinese **(Note)**. The varieties of Chinese are usually caused by different dialects in China. Mandarin is the most widely spoken Chinese. It is based on the dialect in Beijing, the capital of China. There are over 960 million people can speak and understand Mandarin. In Shanghai, the most populous city in China, and its vicinity, there are about 80 million people speak Shanghainese or Wu. In Canton province, Hong Kong and Marco, there are about 60 Million people speak Cantonese, which is the third most spoken Chinese. The most spoken varieties are mutually impossible to understand. However, the written form is shared by all the Chinese speakers (Note).

3. Since 1978, China has performed a series of economy reform from a centrally planned one to a market-oriented system. In 2010, China became the world's largest exporter. As of 2014, China has the second economy in the world. China's per capita income is still below the world average. Despite the rapid economic growth in the last three decades, the Chinese Government faces numerous economic challenges including: (a) reducing its high domestic savings rate and correspondingly low domestic consumption; (b) facilitating higher-wage job opportunities for the aspiring middle class, including rural migrants and increasing numbers of college graduates; (c) reducing corruption and other economic crimes; and (d) containing environmental damage and social strife related to the economy's rapid transformation. Economic development has progressed further in coastal provinces than in the interior, and by 2014 more than 274 million migrant workers and their dependents had relocated to urban areas to find work. One consequence of population control policy is that China is now one of the most rapidly aging countries in the world. Deterioration in the environment - notably air pollution, soil erosion, and the steady fall of the water table, especially in the North - is another long-term problem. China continues to lose arable land because of erosion and economic development. The Chinese government is seeking to add energy production capacity from sources other than coal and oil, focusing on nuclear and alternative energy development.

4. Individuals who join the Army through this program are able to move from non-immigrant visa or asylee/refugee/Temporary Protected Status (TPS) directly to citizenship. In most cases participants in the program will become naturalized U.S. citizens by the time they graduate from ten weeks of Basic Combat Training or accept a commission as Army Officers.

I think the Obama Administration’s rebalance policy has done a reasonable job of identifying and affirming those interests diplomatically. We’ve reaffirmed our alliances in the region with Japan, the Philippines, and Korea. We are attempting to negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership, which will further pull those countries together—negotiations have stalled, but it’s a good initiative—and I think the U.S. has reacted reasonably well to things like the creation of the ADIZ[4] by maintaining our independence and right to travel over international waters.

But the rebalance policy is failing for want of power, primarily because of the defense cuts in the U.S. over the last four years and the chaotic atmosphere they’ve created in the Department of Defense.

4. Conclusion This background paper was on China. It covered the language, economy, and United States’ interests in China.