Good morning Capt Morse, good morning gentlemen. I am Cadet Cui. I am going to brief you on China from three perspectives. Its language. We will talk about Mandarin, Cantonese. Its economy, the achievement they have made and the problems they currently have. And US interests in China. Why China is important to us.

China has performed a series of economy reform for the last three decades. Since 1978, China has gradually become a market oriented system from a centrally planned one. According to the CIA’s World Factbook on China. China became the second largest economy in the world in 2014. In 2016, International Monetary Fund announced that Chinese yuan became the fifth currency in IMF’s Basket of global reserve currencies along with US dollar, the euro, Japanese yen, and bristsh pound. Chinese Yuan is the first to be added to SDR since the euro in 1999.

Despite the rapid economic growth China has made, there are some chanllenges the Chinese government faces Based on CIA world Factbook on China, high housing price and low domestic consumption. The average housing price in Beijing and Shanghai has exceeded New York Manhatton. Economy Crimes and corrumptions, and environment damage are the three main challenges the Chinese are facing.

Nearly 1.2 billion people (around 16% of the world's population) speak some form of Chinese as their [first language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_language). There are over 10 different types of dialects spoken in China 2

Mandarin is the most widely spoken dialect in China. There are more than 800 million people that can understand and speak Mandarin. It is based on the dialect in Beijing, the capital of China. Cantonese is widely spoken dialect in Canton province, Honkong and Marco. (Charles N. Li, Sandra A. Thompson in their paper *Mandarin Chinese: A Functional Reference Grammar* (1989) pointed out that people speak different dialects can not understand each other. However, the written form is shared by all the Chinese speakers. Unlike many other languages around the world, written Chinese uses a pictorial representation instead of a phonetic one. 16

The U.S. is China’s largest export marketand China is currently the third largest export market for the U.S.17 The U.S. welcomes a peaceful and prosperous China to play a bigger role in addressing global challenges. For instance, nuclear proliferation concerns in Iran and North Korea, which have close economy and energy ties with China.18, 19 The U.S. seeks to keep comprehensive and cooperative relationship with China. It is a key part of reinvigorated U.S. engagement with the Asia-Pacific region.20 Chinese is a highly sought language by the U.S. Government. In January 2006, the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) program was introduced by President George Washington Bush to develop the foreign language skills of American students.21 Chinese is one of six critical-need foreign languages.22 Since 2009, the Department of Defense has authorized that hundreds of non-immigrant individuals who can speak Chinese and join the military are able to become naturalized U.S. citizens by the time they complete 10 weeks of vigorous basic combat training.23

5. This background paper was on China. It briefly covered its economy, language, and the U.S. interests in China.