

Survey of China

Lecture 1

**Introduction: Phases of Economic and Social Development  
in Contemporary China**

Lecturer: Xiang Nan

## Professor SUN Tao



- Head, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Research Interests: political studies, government studies, public management, urban governance.

# Self-introduction



- PhD in **Sociology**, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
  - Thesis: “Institutional Factors and Socio-economic Inequality in Educational Achievement: A Comparative Study of Hong Kong and Taipei”
- MSc in **Comparative Social Policy**, The University of Oxford
  - Thesis: “Explaining the Different Levels of Youth Unemployment in Denmark and Sweden: from Macro-economic and Demographic Factors to Institutional Features”
- BA in **English Language and Literature**, Fudan University
  - Thesis: “Gender Construction in Children’s Literature -- Levine and Hyman’s Rewriting”

# Contact Information

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- QQ Group: Name+Student ID
- Teaching Assistant: Miss LI Siyu (QQ:1416381023)

# Syllabus: 10 Lectures + 2 Extracurricular Activities

Lecture	Teaching Contents
1	Introduction to Social Development in Contemporary China
2	Social Structure of China
7	Social Welfare System of China
8	Population of Chinese Society
3	An overview of government development in Contemporary China
4	The party and government system of China and their governance practices
5	Relations between Central and Local Government: Decision-making and Implementation
6	Local Governments and Government Operation in Urban and Rural Areas
9	Group Presentation
10	Summary and Reflection

## Goal

- To provide an overview of Chinese society
- To understand the governing practices of the Chinese Communist Party and the government
- Presentation + Summary

# Assessment

## ➤ **Class Attendance & Participation (20%)**

- Ask for leave: written notice with valid reasons.
- Absence over 1/3 classes: Fail

## ➤ **Final-term exam (50%)**

- Multiple Choice Question, Fill-in-the-blank, Short Essay

## ➤ **Group Presentation (30%)**

- Topics related to Chinese Society or the governing practices of the Chinese Communist Party and the government

## General reference (Not required)

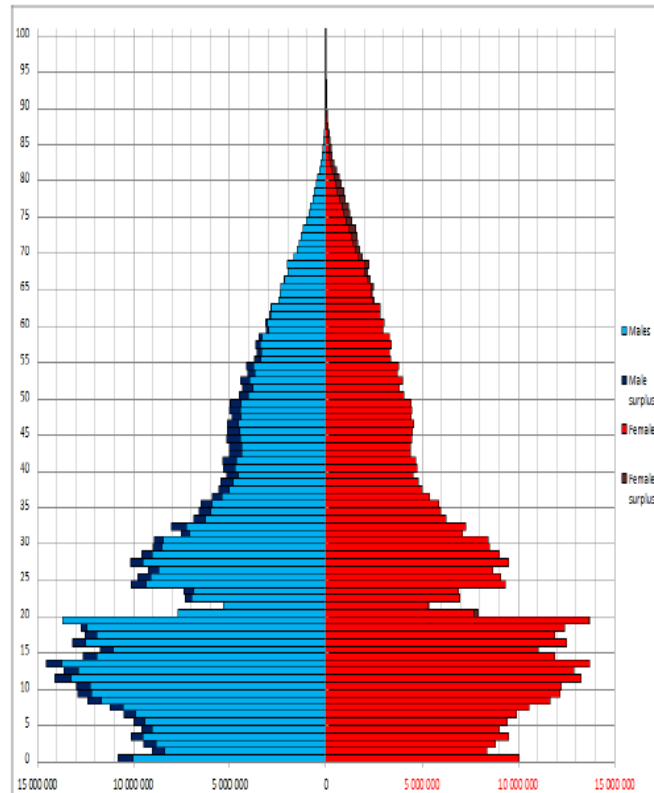
- Li, L. L. & Shi, L. (2020). *Contemporary Chinese Society: Basic Systems and Daily Life*. Beijing: Renmin University of China Press.
- Zhu, G. (2016). *Decision Making and Implementation: Interpretation of the Processes of the Chinese Government*. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press.

- **Concepts**

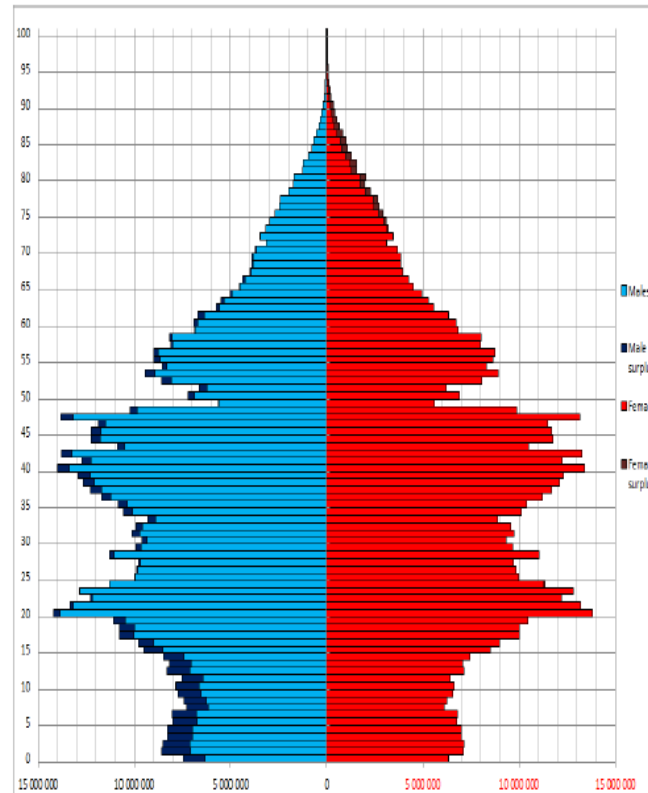


# Population Structure

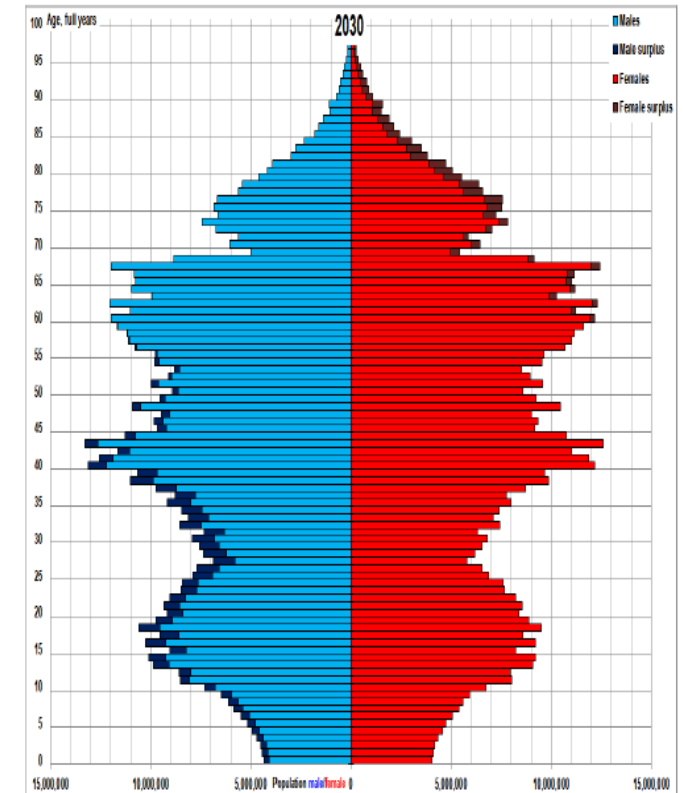
CHINA'S POPULATION PYRAMID IN 1982  
(3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CENSUS)



CHINA'S POPULATION PYRAMID IN 2010  
(6<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CENSUS)



Predicted China's population pyramid in 2030  
(8<sup>th</sup> national census)



# Social Structure

(sociological concept)  
stable structure of relations  
formed by all elements  
constituting a society



Structure of Social Status

## Mapping China's Urban-Rural Divide



Urban-rural Structure

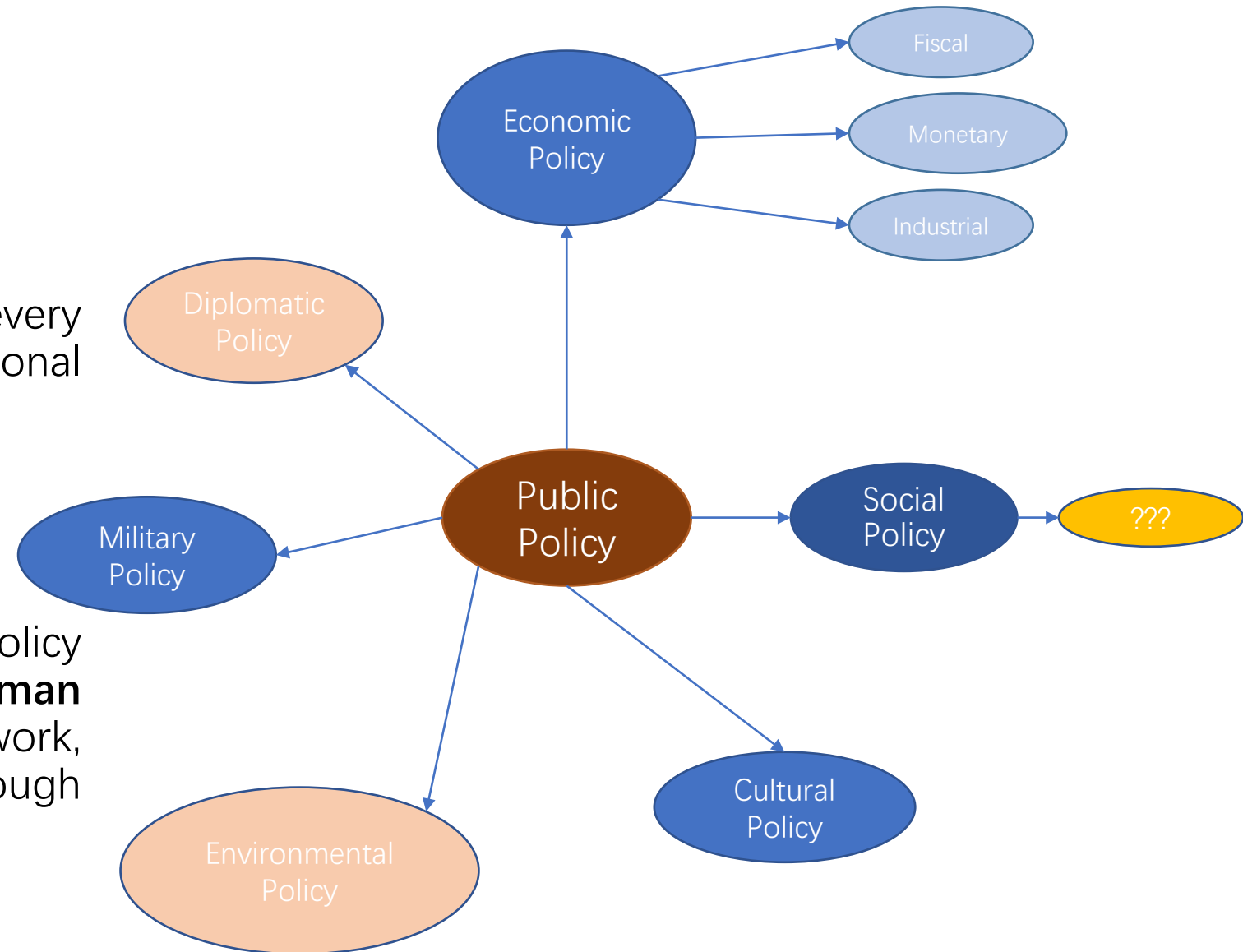
# Social Welfare

- **Public Policy:**

government policies that affect every member of a nation-state or a subnational jurisdiction.

- **Social Policy :**

- an important **component** of public policy made by the government **to meet human needs** (for social security, education, work, health, housing, wellbeing, etc.) through **social welfare provision**.



# • Main Phases of Economic and Social Development in Contemporary China

# 1. Socialist Planned Economy: 1949-1978

## ➤ Production

- Rural Area: People's communes
- Urban Area: State-owned enterprises

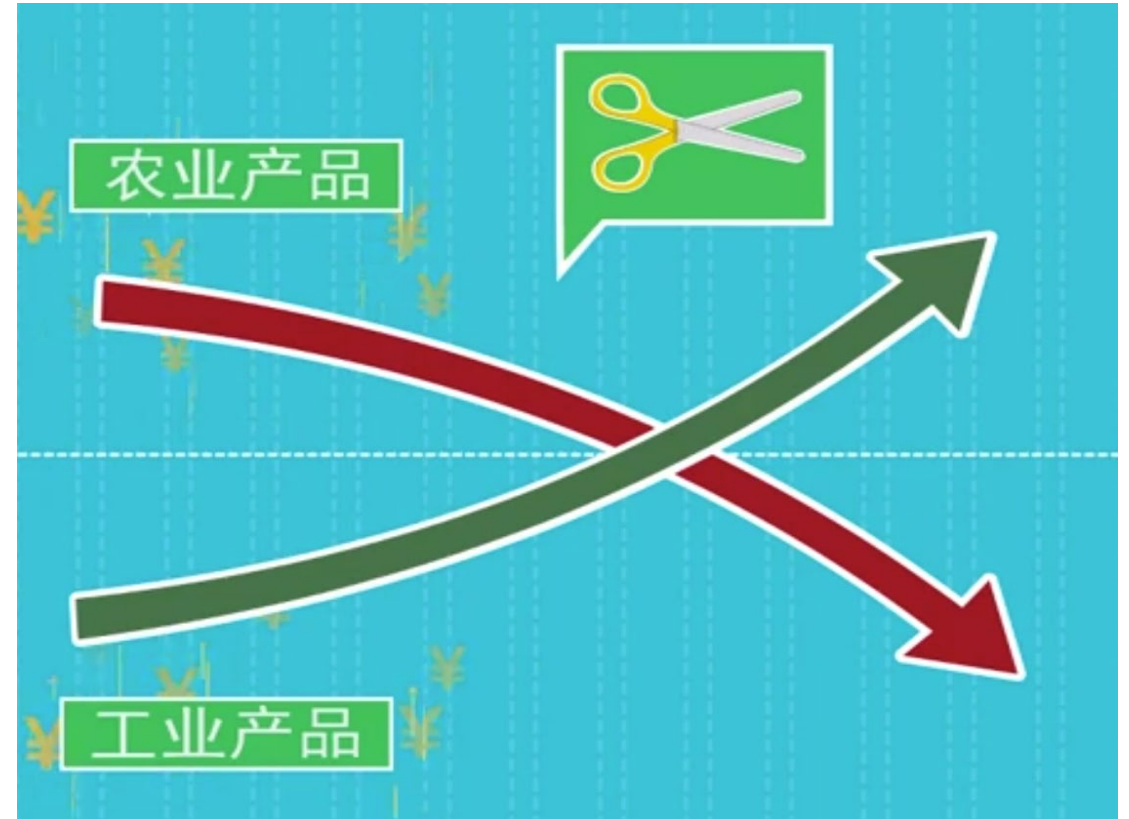
# 1. Socialist Planned Economy: 1949-1978

➤ Goal: rapid (urban) industrialization

“price scissors” policy

“household registration (hukou)” policy

- Urban-rural disparities in economic development and income





## ➤ Social Welfare

- Rural Area: People's communes
- Urban Area: State-owned enterprises
  - ✓ Employment: work arrangement; lifetime employment
  - ✓ Mini-welfare state: **basic wages**, housing, pension, childcare
- Characteristic:
  - ✓ collective/ egalitarian
  - ✓ urban-rural welfare difference
- Consequences:
  - ❑ Heavy fiscal burden for the government
  - ❑ Low productivity of state-owned enterprises



## 2. Socialist Commodity/Market Economy (1978-)

### Economic Reforms

- ❑ To enhance productivity
- ❑ To reduce fiscal burden

- (1) Rural Area:

- **Household responsibility system**
  - (gradual disbanding of communes)

- (2) Urban Area:

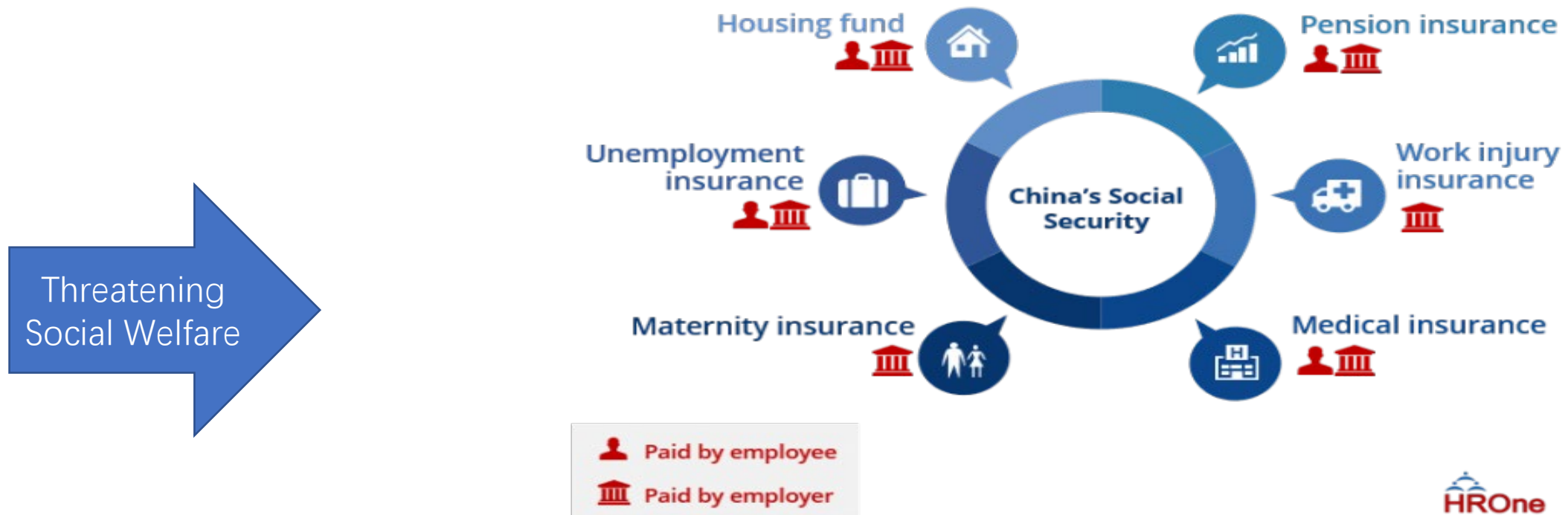
- **State-owned enterprise reforms**

- Employment contract + Bankruptcy law (1986)  
(vs lifetime employment, laid-off workers)
- Legalize the status of private sector (1999)  
(non-standard/ temporary employment)



# Social Welfare Reforms

- “5 insurance + 1 fund” 五险一金 system first built in Cities in 1990s

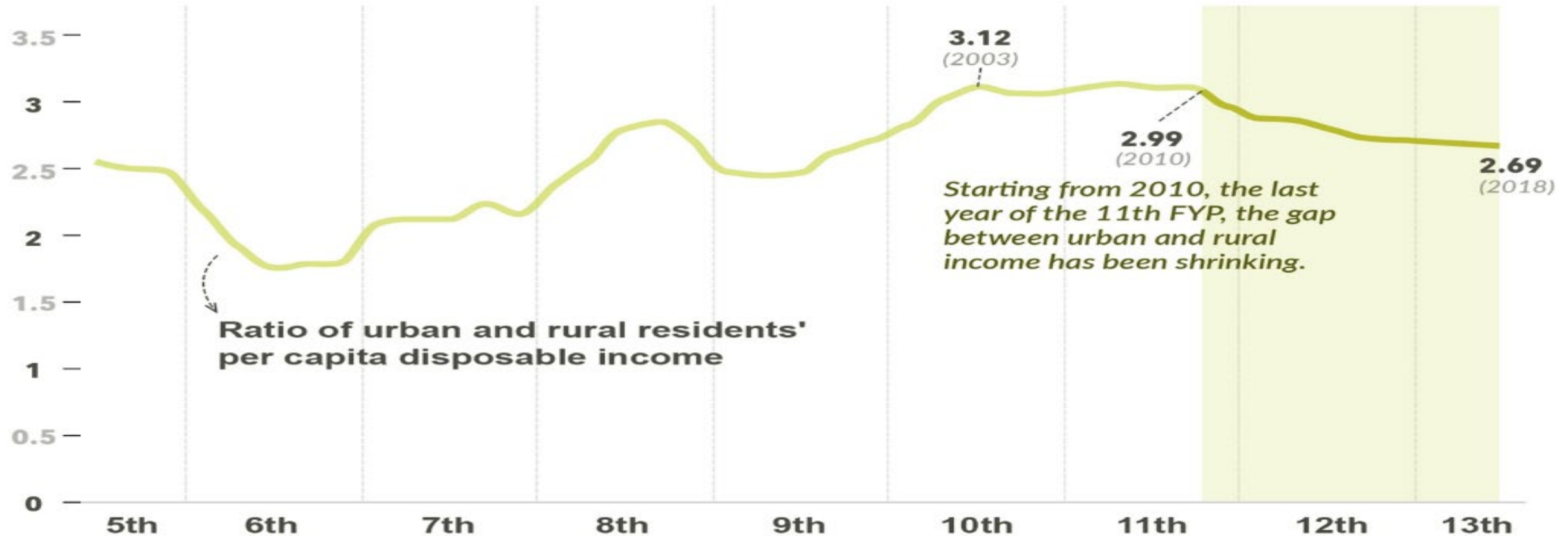


Consequences:

- Urban-rural welfare segregation
- Increasing social inequality: Increased fees and unaddressed needs of the poor

# Urban-rural Disparity

## Urban-rural income disparity



# Summary

## China's economic development, urban-rural disparity and social welfare

Time Period	Economic Background	Urban-rural Disparity in Income	Social Welfare
Pre- 1978	Socialist planned economy		Collective welfare system
1978-1990s	Socialist market economy	Increasing	Urban-focused
Post 2000s	(Scientific socio-economic development)	Gradually decreasing	Welfare expansion