

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [China's Activist Shortage](#)

Article Link: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-has-too-few-young-people-to-push-democratization-by-yi-fuxian-2022-12>

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Tweet: [. @fuxianyi at @ProSyn](#) argues that political transformations tend to occur during a “youth boom” when the share of the population aged 15-29 exceeds 28%. The proportion of youth aged 15-29 in China stood at just 17% last year, and the median age was 42.

Summary: A country can be said to be having a “youth boom” when the proportion of people aged 15-29 exceeds 28%. When a country is experiencing a youth boom, it may also find itself on the path to political change – including, potentially, democratization. That was the case in Taiwan and South Korea. As the share of young people increased – from 25% in each country in 1966 to a peak of 31% in the early 1980s – so did economic growth and pro-democratic fervor. Both economies became democracies in 1987 when their populations’ median age was 26. In April 1989 – when the proportion of youth was at its peak of 31%, and the median age was 25 – student-led demonstrators occupied Tiananmen Square in Beijing. It took a bloody crackdown that June to crush the movement. The proportion of youth aged 15-29 in China stood at just 17% last year when the median age was 42.

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Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: China, Database, Demographics, Factoid, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Theory, Workforce

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