



Interaction

Help

About Wiki

Communit

Recent cha

Contact pa

In other projects

- [Wikimedia Commons](#)
- [Wikibooks](#)
- [Wikinews](#)
- [Wikiquote](#)
- [Wikivoyage](#)

Languages

- Aoñh
- Адыгэбзэ
- Адыгабзэ
- Afrikaans
- Akan
- Alemannisch
- العربية
- /English
- Արցախ
- العربية
- Aragonés
- Հայերեն
- ᲬᲚᲐᲛᲗᲣᲚᲘᲗ
- Armãneashti
- Arpetan
- Български
- Asturianu
- Awari'e
- Aeap
- Аymar aru
- Azərbaycanca
- تۆرکجه
- Bali
- Bamanankan
- Беларуская
- Banjar
- Bân-lâm-gú
- Basa Banyumasan

Башҡортса  
Беларуская  
Беларуская (тарашкевіца)  
Български  
Bikol Central  
Bislama  
Български  
Boarisch  
Босански  
Bosanski  
Brezhoneg  
Буряад  
Català  
Чӕвар  
Čebuano  
Čeština  
Chamorro  
Chavacano de Zamboanga  
Chi-Chewa  
ChiShona  
ChiTumbuka  
Corsu  
Cymraeg  
Dansk  
Dawisarnegiella  
Deutsch  
Deutsch  
ދިވެހިބަސް  
Diné bizaad  
Dolnosorbiski  
Dzongkha  
Eesti



Coordinates: 35°N 103°E

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**China** (simplified Chinese: 中国; traditional Chinese: 中國; pinyin: *Zhōngguó*; literally: 'Middle State'), officially the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** (simplified Chinese: 中华人民共和国; traditional Chinese: 中華人民共和國; pinyin: *Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó*), is a country in **East Asia** and is the **world's most populous country**, with a population of around **1.428 billion** in 2017. Covering approximately 9,600,000 square kilometers (3,700,000 sq mi), it is the **third largest country by area**.<sup>[1]</sup> Governed by the **Communist Party of China**, the state exercises jurisdiction over 22 provinces,<sup>[4]</sup> five autonomous regions, four direct-controlled municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Chongqing), and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

China is a **unitary one-party socialist republic** and is one of the few existing **socialist states**. Political dissidents and **human rights** groups have denounced and criticized the **Chinese government** for **human rights abuses**, **suppression of religious and ethnic minorities**, **censorship**, and **mass surveillance**, and cracking down on protests **such as in 1989**. The Chinese government says that the right to subsistence and **economic development** is a prerequisite to other types of human rights and that the notion of human rights should take into account a country's present economic level.

	Contents	[hide]
1	Names	
2	History	
2.1	Prehistory	
2.2	Early dynastic rule	
2.3	Imperial China	
2.4	Late imperial	
2.5	Republic (1912–1949)	
2.6	People's Republic (1949–present)	
3	Geography	
3.1	Landscape and climate	
3.2	Biodiversity	
3.3	Environmental issues	
3.4	Political geography	
4	Politics	
4.1	Communist Party	
4.2	Government	
4.3	Administrative divisions	
4.4	Foreign relations	
4.4.1	Trade relations	
4.4.2	Territorial disputes	
4.4.3	Emerging superpower status	
4.5	Sociopolitical issues, human rights and reform	
5	Military	
6	Economy	
6.1	Economic history and growth	
6.1.1	Technology, e-commerce, and innovation	
6.2	China in the global economy	
6.3	Class and income inequality	
7	Science and technology	
7.1	Historical	
7.2	Modern era	
8	Infrastructure	
8.1	Telecommunications	
8.2	Transport	
8.3	Water supply and sanitation	
9	Demographics	
9.1	Ethnic groups	
9.2	Languages	
9.3	Urbanization	
9.4	Education	
9.5	Health	
9.6	Religion	
10	Culture	
10.1	Literature	
10.2	Cuisine	
10.3	Sports	
11	See also	
12	Notes	
13	Footnotes	
14	References	
15	Further reading	
16	External links	
16.1	Government	
16.2	General information	
16.3	Studies	
16.4	Travel	

<div>People's Republic of China</div> <div>中华人民共和国 (Chinese)</div> <div>Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó (Pinyin)</div>	
<div><div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div></div></div> <div>Flag</div>	<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div></div> <div>National Emblem</div>
<div>Motto:</div> <div>"Serve the People"</div> <div>为人民服务</div> <div>Wèi rénmin fúwù</div>	
<div>Anthem:</div> <div>"March of the Volunteers"</div> <div>义勇军进行曲</div> <div>Yìyǒngjūn Jìnxíngqǔ</div>	
<div><div><div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>	
Land controlled by the People's Republic of China shown in dark green; land claimed but not controlled shown in light green.	
<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>CHINA</div></div></div><div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>KAZAKHSTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>KYRGYZSTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>TAJIKISTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>MONGOLIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Hainan</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Shenyang</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Beijing</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Tianjin</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Dalian</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Xinbei</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Nanjing</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Wuhan</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Chongqing</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Guangzhou</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Macau</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Hong Kong</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Lao PDR</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>VIENTIANE</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>LAOS</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>VIET NAM</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>PHILIPPINES</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SINGAPORE</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>INDONESIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>MYANMAR</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>NEPAL</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>INDIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>BHUTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>Uzbekistan</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>AFGHANISTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>PAKISTAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>IRAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>IRAQ</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>JORDAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SYRIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>LEBANON</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>ISRAEL</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>EGYPT</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SAUDI ARABIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>OMAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>QATAR</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>BAHRAIN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>KUWAIT</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SAUD</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>YEMEN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SOUDAN</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>ETHIOPIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>KENYA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>UGANDA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>RWANDA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>BURUNDI</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>CAMEROON</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>CONGO</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>ANGOLA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>MOZAMBIQUE</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>MAURITIUS</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>SEYCHELLES</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>REUNION</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>FRENCH POLYNESIA</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>NEW CALEDONIE</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div><span>GUADALUPPE</span></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span>&lt;</span></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>	
Capital	Beijing
Largest city	Shanghai (urban area) Chongqing (city proper)
Official languages <div>Recognised regional languages</div>	Standard Chinese <sup>[a]</sup> Mongolian · Uyghur · Tibetan · Zhuang · various others
Official script	Simplified Chinese <sup>[b]</sup>
Ethnic groups	Majority Han 55 minorities <sup>[c]</sup> 1.30% Zhuang 0.86% Man (Manchu) 0.79% Uygur (Uyghur) 0.79% Hui 0.72% Miao 0.65% Yi 0.62% Tujia 0.47% Mongol 0.44% Zang (Tibetan) 0.26% Buyei 0.15% Joseon (Korean) and others
Religion	See <i>Religion in China</i>
Demonym(s)	Chinese
Membership	UN, WTO, SCO, APEC, BRICS, BCIM, G20
Government	Unitary Marxist-Leninist <sup>[1]</sup> one-party socialist republic <sup>[2]</sup> Xi Jinping <sup>[d]</sup>
<div><div><div>• Party General Secretary and President</div><div>• Premier</div><div>• Congress Chairman</div><div>• Conference Chairman</div><div>• First Secretary of the Party Secretariat</div><div>• Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission</div><div>• First Vice Premier</div><div>• Vice President</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Li Keqiang</div><div>Li Zhanshu</div><div>Wang Yang</div><div>Wang Huning</div><div>Zhao Leji</div><div>Han Zheng</div><div>Wang Qishan<sup>[e]</sup></div></div></div>
Legislature	National People's Congress
Formation	
<div><div><div>• First pre-imperial dynasty</div><div>• First imperial dynasty</div><div>• Republic established</div><div>• Proclamation of the People's Republic</div><div>• Current constitution</div><div>• Last polity admitted</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>c. 2070 bce</div><div>221 bce</div><div>1 January 1912</div><div>1 October 1949</div><div>4 December 1982</div><div>20 December 1999</div></div></div>



Na Vosa Vakaviti  
Nederlands  
Nedersaksies  
■■■■■■■  
日本語  
Napulitano  
Нохчийн  
Nordfriisk  
Norfuk / Pitkern  
Norsk bokmål  
Norsk nynorsk  
Nuoumand  
Novial  
Occitan  
Олык марий  
■■■■■  
Oromoo  
Oʻzbekcha/Ўзбекча  
■■■■■■■  
Pälzisch  
Pangasinan  
پنجابی  
Papiamentu  
پښتو  
Patois  
Перем Коми  
ᄒᆞᆫ말글  
Picard  
Piemontèis  
Tok Pisin  
Plattdüütsch  
Polski  
Ποντιακά  
★ Portugés  
Qaraqalpaqsha  
Qimtitarqa  
Reo tahiti  
★ Română  
Romani čhib  
Rumantsch  
Runa Simi  
Русиньскый  
Русский  
Саха тыла  
Sakizaya  
Gagana Samoa  
Sängö  
~~Sanskrit~~  
Sardu  
★ Scots  
Seeltersk  
Sesotho  
Sesotho sa Leboa  
Setswana  
Shqip  
Sicilianu  
සිංහල  
Simple English  
سنڌي  
SiSwati  
Slovenčina  
Slovensčina  
Словѣньскъ /  
словѣньскы  
Ślůnski  
Soomaaliga  
کوردی  
Sranantongo  
Српски / srpski  
Srpskohrvatski /  
српскохрватски  
★ Sunda  
Suomi  
Svenska  
Tagalog  
■■■■■  
Taqbaylit  
Tarandine  
Татарчәл/tatarça  
தமிழ்  
Tetun  
Ἑλληνικά  
Тоҷикӣ  
Lea faka-Tonga  
OMY  
Tssetshestahese  
Tshivenda  
Türke  
Türkmençe  
Twi  
Тыва дыл  
Thucjongjarg  
Удмурт  
Українська  
ئۇرۇقچە / Uyghurche  
Vahuengh  
Veneto  
Vepsän kel'  
Tiếng Việt  
Volapük  
Võro  
文言  
West-Vlams  
Winaray  
Wlof  
吴语

Yangming further critiqued and expanded Neo-Confucianism with concepts of [individualism](#) and equality of [four occupations](#).<sup>[66]</sup> The [scholar-official](#) stratum became a supporting force of industry and commerce in the tax boycott movements, which, together with the famines and defense against [Japanese invasions of Korea \(1592–1598\)](#) and [Manchu invasions](#) led to an exhausted treasury.<sup>[67]</sup>

In 1644, Beijing was captured by a coalition of peasant rebel forces led by [Li Zicheng](#). The [Chongzhen Emperor](#) committed suicide when the city fell. The Manchu [Qing dynasty](#), then allied with Ming dynasty general [Wu Sangui](#), overthrew Li's short-lived [Shun dynasty](#) and subsequently seized control of Beijing, which became the new capital of the Qing dynasty.

### Late imperial

The **Qing dynasty**, which lasted from 1644 until 1912, was the last imperial dynasty of China. Its **conquest of the Ming** (1618–1683) cost 25 million lives and the **economy of China shrank drastically**.<sup>[68]</sup> After the **Southern Ming** ended, the further conquest of the **Dzungar Khanate** added Mongolia, Tibet and Xinjiang to the empire.<sup>[69]</sup> The centralized autocracy was strengthened to crack down on **anti-Qing sentiment** with the policy of valuing agriculture and restraining commerce, the **Hajin** ("sea ban"), and ideological control as represented by the **literary inquisition**, causing social and technological stagnation.<sup>[70][71]</sup> In the mid-19th century, the dynasty experienced Western imperialism in the **Opium Wars** with Britain and France. China was forced to pay compensation, open treaty ports, allow **extraterritoriality** for foreign nationals, and cede **Hong Kong** to the British.<sup>[72]</sup> under the 1842 **Treaty of Nanking**, the first of the **Unequal Treaties**. The **First Sino-Japanese War** (1894–95) resulted in Qing China's loss of influence in the **Korean Peninsula**, as well as the cession of Taiwan to **Japan**.<sup>[73]</sup>

The Qing dynasty also began experiencing [internal unrest](#) in which tens of millions of people died, especially in the [White Lotus Rebellion](#), the failed [Taiping Rebellion](#) that ravaged southern China in the 1850s and 1860s and the [Dungan Revolt](#) (1862–77) in the northwest. The initial success of the [Self-Strengthening Movement](#) of the 1860s was frustrated by a series of military defeats in the 1880s and 1890s.

In the 19th century, the great [Chinese diaspora](#) began. Losses due to emigration were added to by conflicts and catastrophes such as the [Northern Chinese Famine of 1876–79](#), in which between 9 and 13 million people died.<sup>[74]</sup> The [Guangxu Emperor](#) drafted a [reform plan](#) in 1898 to establish a modern [constitutional monarchy](#), but these plans were thwarted by the [Empress Dowager Cixi](#). The ill-fated anti-foreign [Boxer Rebellion](#) of 1899–1901 further weakened the dynasty. Although Cixi sponsored a program of reforms, the [Xinhai Revolution](#) of 1911–12 brought an end to the Qing dynasty and established the [Republic of China](#).

**Republic (1912–1949)**

*Main article: Republic of China (1912–1949)*

On 1 January 1912, the Republic of China was established, and [Sun Yat-sen](#) of the [Kuomintang](#) (the KMT or Nationalist Party) was proclaimed provisional president.<sup>[75]</sup> However, the presidency was later given to [Yuan Shikai](#), a former Qing general who in 1915 proclaimed himself [Emperor of China](#). In the face of popular condemnation and opposition from his own [Beiyang Army](#), he was forced to abdicate and re-establish the republic.<sup>[76]</sup>

After Yuan Shikai's death in 1916, China was politically fragmented. Its Beijing-based government was internationally recognized but virtually powerless; regional warlords controlled most of its territory.<sup>[77][78]</sup> In the late 1920s, the Kuomintang, under [Chiang Kai-shek](#), the then Principal of the [Republic of China Military Academy](#), was able to reunify the country under its own control with a series of deft military and political manoeuvrings, known collectively as the [Northern Expedition](#).<sup>[79][80]</sup> The Kuomintang moved the nation's capital to [Nanjing](#) and implemented "political tutelage", an intermediate stage of political development outlined in Sun Yat-sen's [San-min program](#) for transforming China into a modern democratic state.<sup>[81][82]</sup> The [political division](#) in China made it difficult for Chiang to battle the [communist People's Liberation Army](#) (PLA), against whom the Kuomintang had been warring since 1927 in the [Chinese Civil War](#). This war continued successfully for the Kuomintang, especially after the PLA retreated in the [Long March](#), until Japanese aggression and the 1936 [Xi'an Incident](#) forced Chiang to confront [Imperial Japan](#).<sup>[83]</sup>



A detail from *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*, a 12th-century painting showing everyday life in the Song dynasty's capital, *Bianjing* (present-day *Kaifeng*)

### People's Republic (1949–present)



A 19th-century depiction of the **Taiping Rebellion** (1850–1864)

Mao at the Tiananmen Gate, the date becoming the new country's first [National Day](#).<sup>[95]</sup> In 1950, the People's Liberation Army [captured Hainan](#) from the ROC<sup>[96]</sup> and [incorporated Tibet](#).<sup>[97]</sup> However, remaining Kuomintang forces continued to wage [an insurgency in western China](#) throughout the 1950s.<sup>[98]</sup>

The regime consolidated its popularity among the peasants through land reform, which included the execution of between 1 and 2 million landlords.<sup>[99]</sup>



Sun Yat-sen proclaiming the establishment of the ROC in 1912

various countries.<sup>[107]</sup>

Jiang Zemin, Li Peng and Zhu Rongji led the nation in the 1990s. Under their administration, China's economic performance pulled an estimated 150 million peasants out of poverty and sustained an average annual gross domestic product growth rate of 11.2%.<sup>[108][109]</sup> The country joined the [World Trade Organization](#) in 2001, and maintained its high rate of economic growth under Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao's leadership in the 2000s. However, the growth severely impacted the country's resources and environment,<sup>[110][111]</sup> and caused [major social displacement](#).<sup>[112][113]</sup> Living standards continued to improve rapidly despite the [late-2000s recession](#), but political control remained tight.<sup>[114]</sup>

Preparations for a decadal leadership change in 2012 were marked by [factional disputes and political scandals](#).<sup>[115]</sup> During the [18th National Communist Party Congress](#) in November 2012, Hu Jintao was replaced as [General Secretary of the Communist Party](#) by Xi Jinping.<sup>[116][117]</sup> Under Xi, the Chinese government began large-scale efforts to reform its economy,<sup>[118][119]</sup> which has suffered from structural instabilities and slowing growth.<sup>[120][121][122]</sup> The [Administration](#) also announced major reforms to the [one-child policy](#) and prison system.<sup>[123]</sup>

## Geography

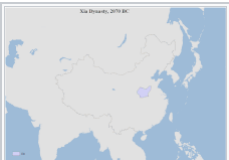
Main article: [Geography of China](#)

China's landscape is vast and diverse, ranging from the **Gobi** and **Taklamakan Deserts** in the arid north to the **subtropical** forests in the wetter south. The **Himalaya**, **Karakoram**, **Pamir** and **Tian Shan** mountain ranges separate China from much of **South** and **Central Asia**. The **Yangtze** and **Yellow Rivers**, the third- and sixth-longest in the world, respectively, run from the **Tibetan Plateau** to the densely populated eastern seaboard. China's coastline along the Pacific Ocean is 14,500 kilometers (9,000 mi) long and is bounded by the **Bohai**, **Yellow**, **East China** and **South China** seas. China connects through the Kazakh border to the **Eurasian Steppe** which has been an artery of communication between East and West since the Neolithic through the **Steppe route** – the ancestor of the terrestrial **Silk Road(s)**.

IPA	[ʈʂʊŋ.wəʋ]
other Mandarin	
Xiao'erjing	خۇجۇ
Wu	
Romanization	tson <sup>21</sup> gho <sup>2</sup>
Gan	
Romanization	tung <sup>1</sup> fa <sup>4</sup> or Chungfa
Hakka	
Romanization	dung <sup>24</sup> fa <sup>11</sup>
Phák-fa-sṳ̌	Chṳ̌ng-fá
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Jǔng'wáh or Jǔng'wäh
Jyutping	Zung1waa4
IPA	[ʈʂʊŋ.wä] or [ʈʂʊŋ.wä˥]
Southern Min	
Hokkien POJ	Tiong-hōa
Tâi-lô	Tiong-huâ
Eastern Min	
Fuzhou BUC	Dǔng-huá
Tibetan name	
Tibetan	ཁུང་གོ་
Transcriptions	
Tibetan Pinyin	Krung-go
Zhuang name	
Zhuang	Cungguek
Mongolian name	
Mongolian script	<span>ᠬᠤᠷᠭᠤᠭ᠎ᠠ</span>
Transcriptions	
SASM/GNC	Dumdadu ulus
Uyghur name	
Uyghur	خۇجۇڭگى
Transcriptions	
Latin Yéziq	Junggo
Manchu name	
Manchu script	<span>ᡵᡠᡩᡠᡳᡵᡠᡳᡤᡠᡵᡠᡳᡩᡠᡵᡠᡳ</span>
Romanization	Dulimbai Gurun



The Terracotta Army (c. 210 bce) discovered outside the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor, now Xi'an



## Chinese Dynasties in Chronological Order



The **Eight-Nation Alliance** invaded China to defeat the anti-foreign **Boxers** and their Qing backers. The image shows a celebration ceremony inside the Chinese imperial palace, the **Forbidden City** after the signing of the **Boxer Protocol** in 1901.



Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong  
toasting together in 1946 following the  
end of World War II



Xitsonga  
יידיש  
Yorùbá  
粵語  
Zazaki  
Zèùws  
Žemaitėška  
中文

Edit links

## Landscape and climate



Deng Xiaoping with U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1979

China's climate is mainly dominated by



Li River near Guilin, Guangxi

The territory of China lies between **latitudes** 18° and 54° N, and **longitudes** 73° and 135° E. China's landscapes vary significantly across its vast territory. In the east, along the shores of the **Yellow Sea** and the **East China Sea**, there are extensive and densely populated **alluvial plains**, while on the edges of the Inner Mongolian plateau in the north, broad **grasslands** predominate. Southern China is dominated by hills and low mountain ranges, while the central-east hosts the **deltas** of China's two major rivers, the **Yellow River** and the **Yangtze River**. Other major rivers include the **Xi**, **Mekong**, **Brahmaputra** and **Amur**. To the west sit major mountain ranges, most notably the Himalayas. High **plateaus** feature among the more arid landscapes of the north, such as the **Taklamakan** and the **Gobi Desert**. The world's highest point, **Mount Everest** (8,848 m), lies on the Sino-Nepalese border.<sup>[125]</sup> The country's lowest point, and the world's third-lowest, is the dried lake bed of **Ayding Lake** (−154m) in the **Turpan Depression**.<sup>[126]</sup>

**dry seasons** and wet **monsoons**, which lead to pronounced temperature differences between winter and summer. In the winter, northern winds coming from high-latitude areas are cold and dry; in summer, southern winds from coastal areas at lower latitudes are warm and moist.<sup>[127]</sup> The climate in China differs from region to region because of the country's highly complex **topography**.

A major environmental issue in China is the continued **expansion of its deserts**, particularly the Gobi Desert.<sup>[128]</sup><sup>[129]</sup> Although barrier tree lines planted since the 1970s have reduced the frequency of **sandstorms**, prolonged drought and poor agricultural practices have resulted in **dust storms** plaguing northern China each spring, which then spread to other parts of East Asia, including Japan and Korea. China's environmental watchdog, **SEPA**, stated in 2007 that China is losing 4,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1,500 sq mi) per year to desertification.<sup>[130]</sup> Water quality, **erosion**, and **pollution control** have become important issues in China's relations with other countries. Melting **glaciers** in the Himalayas could

potentially lead to **water shortages** for hundreds of millions of people.<sup>[131]</sup>

China has a very agriculturally suitable climate and has been the largest producer of rice, wheat, tomatoes, brinjal, grapes, water melon, spinach in the world.<sup>[132]</sup>



Mao Zedong proclaiming the establishment of the PRC in 1949



Köppen-Geiger climate classification map for China.<sup>[124]</sup>



Ynderitu Lake in the **Badain Jaran Desert** in Inner Mongolia

## Biodiversity

*Main article: **Wildlife of China***



A giant panda, China's most famous **endangered** and **endemic** species, at the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding** in Sichuan

China is one of 17 **megadiverse countries**,<sup>[133]</sup> lying in two of the world's major **ecozones**: the **Palearctic** and the **Indomalaya**. By one measure, China has over 34,687 species of animals and vascular plants, making it the third-most biodiverse country in the world, after **Brazil** and **Colombia**.<sup>[134]</sup> The country signed the **Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity** on 11 June 1992, and became a party to the convention on 5 January 1993.<sup>[135]</sup> It later produced a **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**, with one revision that was received by the convention on 21 September 2010.<sup>[136]</sup>

China is home to at least 551 species of **mammals** (the third-highest such number in the world),<sup>[137]</sup> 1,221 species of birds (eighth),<sup>[138]</sup> 424 species of reptiles (seventh)<sup>[139]</sup> and 333 species of amphibians (seventh).<sup>[140]</sup> Wildlife in China share habitat with and bear acute pressure from the world's largest population of *Homo sapiens*. At least 840 **animal species are threatened, vulnerable or in danger of local extinction** in China, due mainly to human activity such as habitat destruction, pollution and poaching for food, fur and ingredients for **traditional Chinese medicine**.<sup>[141]</sup> Endangered wildlife is protected by law, and as of 2005, the country has over 2,349 **nature reserves**, covering a total area of 149.95 million hectares, 15 percent of China's total land area.<sup>[142]</sup> The **Baiji** was confirmed extinct on 12 December 2006.<sup>[143]</sup>

China has over 32,000 species of vascular plants.<sup>[144]</sup> and is home to a variety of forest types. Cold **coniferous** forests predominate in the north of the country, supporting animal species such as **moose** and **Asian black bear**, along with over 120 bird species.<sup>[145]</sup> The understory of moist **conifer** forests may contain

thickets of **bamboo**. In higher montane stands of **juniper** and **yew**, the bamboo is replaced by **rhododendrons**. **Subtropical** forests, which are predominate in central and southern China, support as many as 146,000 species of flora.<sup>[146]</sup> Tropical and seasonal **rainforests**, though confined to **Yunnan** and **Hainan Island**, contain a quarter of all the animal and plant species found in China.<sup>[145]</sup> China has over 10,000 recorded species of **fungi**,<sup>[146]</sup> and of them, nearly 6,000 are **higher fungi**.<sup>[147]</sup>

## Environmental issues

*Main article: **Environmental issues in China***

*See also: **Water resources of China** and **Energy policy of China***

In recent decades, China has suffered from **severe environmental deterioration and pollution**.<sup>[148]</sup><sup>[149]</sup> While regulations such as the 1979 Environmental Protection Law are fairly stringent, they are poorly enforced, as they are frequently disregarded by local communities and government officials in favor of rapid economic development.<sup>[150]</sup> Urban air pollution is a severe health issue in the country, yet matters have been improving in recent years; the **World Bank** estimated in 2016 that only 1 of the world's 20 **most-polluted cities** is located in China, making significant improvements since previous rankings.<sup>[151]</sup><sup>[152]</sup><sup>[153]</sup> China is the country with the second highest death toll because of air pollution, after **India**. There are approximately 1 million deaths caused by exposure to ambient air pollution.<sup>[154]</sup><sup>[155]</sup> China is the **world's largest carbon dioxide emitter**.<sup>[156]</sup> The country also has significant **water pollution** problems: 8.2% of China's rivers had been polluted by industrial and agricultural waste in 2019, and were unfit for use.<sup>[157]</sup><sup>[158]</sup> In 2014, the internal freshwater resources per capita of China reduced to 2,062m<sup>3</sup>, and it was below 500m<sup>3</sup> in the **North China Plain**, while 5,920m<sup>3</sup> in the world.<sup>[159]</sup><sup>[160]</sup><sup>[161]</sup>



The traffic in Beijing

In China, heavy metals also cause environmental pollution. Heavy metal pollution is an inorganic chemical hazard, which is mainly caused by lead (Pb), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), cobalt (Co), and nickel (Ni). Five metals among them, Pb, Cr, As, Cd, and Hg, are the key heavy metal pollutants in China. Heavy metal pollutants mainly come from mining, sewage irrigation, the manufacturing of metal-containing products, and other related production activities. High level of heavy metal exposure can also cause permanent intellectual and developmental disabilities, including reading and learning disabilities, behavioral problems, hearing loss, attention problems, and disruption in the development of visual and motor function. According to the data of a national census of pollution, China has more than 1.5 million sites of heavy metals exposure. The total volume of discharged heavy metals in the waste water, waste gas and solid wastes are around 900,000 tons each year from 2005–2011.<sup>[162]</sup>

However, China is the world's leading investor in **renewable energy** and **its commercialization**, with \$52 billion invested in 2011 alone;<sup>[163]</sup><sup>[164]</sup><sup>[165]</sup> it is a major manufacturer of renewable energy technologies and invests heavily in local-scale renewable energy projects.<sup>[166]</sup><sup>[167]</sup><sup>[168]</sup> By 2015, over 24% of China's energy was derived from renewable sources, while most notably from **hydroelectric power**: a total installed capacity of 197 GW makes China the **largest hydroelectric power producer** in the world.<sup>[169]</sup><sup>[170]</sup> China also has the largest power capacity of **installed solar photovoltaics system** and **wind power system** in the world.<sup>[171]</sup><sup>[172]</sup> In 2011, the Chinese government announced plans to invest four trillion yuan (US\$619 billion) in water infrastructure and **desalination** projects over a ten-year period, and to complete construction of a flood prevention and anti-drought system by 2020.<sup>[160]</sup><sup>[173]</sup> In 2013, China began a five-year, US\$277 billion effort to reduce air pollution, particularly in the north of the country.<sup>[174]</sup>



Wind turbines in Hunan



The **Three Gorges Dam** is the largest hydroelectric dam in the world.

## Political geography

*Main articles: **Borders of China** and **Territorial changes of the People's Republic of China***

The People's Republic of China is the **second-largest** country in the world by land area<sup>[175]</sup> after **Russia**, and is the third largest by total area, after Russia and Canada.<sup>[1]</sup> China's total area is generally stated as being approximately 9,600,000 km<sup>2</sup> (3,700,000 sq mi).<sup>[176]</sup> Specific area figures range from 9,572,900 km<sup>2</sup> (3,696,100 sq mi) according to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*,<sup>[177]</sup> to 9,596,961 km<sup>2</sup> (3,705,407 sq mi) according to the UN Demographic Yearbook,<sup>[4]</sup> and the CIA World Factbook.<sup>[7]</sup>

China has the **longest combined land border in the world**, measuring 22,117 km (13,743 mi) from the mouth of the **Yalu River** (Amnok River) to the **Gulf of Tonkin**.<sup>[7]</sup> China borders 14 nations, more than any other country except Russia, which also borders 14.<sup>[178]</sup> China extends across much of East Asia, bordering **Vietnam**, **Laos**, and **Myanmar (Burma)** in Southeast Asia; **India**, **Bhutan**, **Nepal**, **Afghanistan**, and **Pakistan**<sup>[6]</sup> in South Asia; **Tajikistan**, **Kyrgyzstan** and **Kazakhstan** in Central Asia; and **Russia**, **Mongolia**, and **North Korea** in **Inner Asia** and **Northeast Asia**. Additionally, China shares maritime boundaries with **South Korea**, **Japan**, **Vietnam**, and the **Philippines**.

## Politics

*Main article: **Politics of China***

*See also: **List of current Chinese provincial leaders***

China's **constitution** states that The People's Republic of China "is a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and



peasants," and that the state organs "apply the principle of democratic centralism."<sup>[179]</sup> The PRC is one of the world's only **socialist states explicitly aiming to build communism**. The Chinese government has been variously described as communist and socialist, but also as authoritarian and corporatist,<sup>[180]</sup> with heavy restrictions in many areas, most notably against **free access to the Internet**, **freedom of the press**, **freedom of assembly**, **the right to have children**, **free formation of social organizations** and **freedom of religion**.<sup>[181]</sup> Its current political, ideological and economic system has been termed by its leaders as a "**consultative democracy**" "**people's democratic dictatorship**", "**socialism with Chinese characteristics**" (which is **Marxism** adapted to Chinese circumstances) and the "**socialist market economy**" respectively.<sup>[182][183]</sup> According to Lutgard Lams, "President Xi is making great attempts to 'Sinicize' Marxist-Leninist Thought 'with Chinese characteristics' in the political sphere."<sup>[184]</sup>

**Communist Party**

See also: *Communist Party of China*



Communist Party of China is the founding and ruling political party of China.

Since 2018, the main body of the **Chinese constitution** declares that "the defining feature of **socialism with Chinese characteristics** is the leadership of the **Communist Party of China** (CPC)."<sup>[185]</sup> The 2018 amendments constitutionalized the *de facto* **one-party state** status of China,<sup>[185]</sup> wherein the **General Secretary (party leader)** holds ultimate power and authority over state and government and serves as the **paramount leader of China**.<sup>[186]</sup> The **electoral system** is pyramidal. Local People's Congresses are **directly elected**, and higher levels of People's Congresses up to the **National People's Congress** (NPC) are **indirectly elected** by the People's Congress of the level immediately below.<sup>[179]</sup> The political system is decentralized, and provincial and sub-provincial leaders have a significant amount of autonomy.<sup>[187]</sup> **Another eight political parties**, have representatives in the NPC and the **Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference** (CPPCC).<sup>[188]</sup> China supports the Leninist principle of "**democratic centralism**",<sup>[179]</sup> but critics describe the elected National People's Congress as a "**rubber stamp**" body.<sup>[189]</sup>



The Great Hall of the People where the **National People's Congress** convenes



The **Zhongnanhai**, a headquarter of the **Chinese government** and **Communist Party of China**.

**Government**

Main article: *Government of China*

The **President** is the titular **head of state**, elected by the **National People's Congress**. The **Premier** is the **head of government**, presiding over the **State Council** composed of four vice premiers and the heads of ministries and commissions. The incumbent president is **Xi Jinping**, who is also the **General Secretary of the Communist Party of China** and the **Chairman of the Central Military Commission**, making him China's **paramount leader**. The incumbent premier is **Li Keqiang**, who is also a senior member of the **CPC Politburo Standing Committee**, China's *de facto* top decision-making body.<sup>[190][116]</sup>

There have been some moves toward political liberalization, in that open contested elections are now held at the village and town levels.<sup>[191][192]</sup> However, the party retains effective control over government appointments: in the absence of meaningful opposition, the CPC wins by default most of the time. In 2017, Xi called on the communist party to further tighten its grip on the country, to uphold the unity of the party leadership, and achieve the "Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation".<sup>[193][194]</sup> Political concerns in China include the growing gap between rich and poor and government corruption.<sup>[195]</sup> Nonetheless, the level of public support for the government and its management of the nation is high, with 80–95% of Chinese citizens expressing satisfaction with the central government, according to a 2011 survey.<sup>[196]</sup>

**Administrative divisions**

Main articles: *Administrative divisions of China*, *Districts of Hong Kong*, and *Municipalities of Macau*

The People's Republic of China is divided into 22 **provinces**, five **autonomous regions** (each with a designated minority group), and four **municipalities**—collectively referred to as "**mainland China**"—as well as the **special administrative regions** (SARs) of **Hong Kong** and **Macau**. Geographically, all 31 provincial divisions of mainland China can be grouped into six regions: **North China**, **Northeast China**, **East China**, **South Central China**, **Southwest China**, and **Northwest China**.

China considers **Taiwan** to be its 23rd province, although Taiwan is governed by the **Republic of China** (ROC), which rejects the PRC's claim.<sup>[197]</sup> Conversely, the ROC claims sovereignty over all divisions governed by the PRC.



**Xi Jinping**  
General Secretary and President



**Li Keqiang**  
Premier



Provinces (省)					Claimed Province
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anhui</b> (安徽省)</li><li>• <b>Fujian</b> (福建省)</li><li>• <b>Gansu</b> (甘肃省)</li><li>• <b>Guangdong</b> (广东省)</li><li>• <b>Guizhou</b> (贵州省)</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hainan</b> (海南省)</li><li>• <b>Hebei</b> (河北省)</li><li>• <b>Heilongjiang</b> (黑龙江省)</li><li>• <b>Henan</b> (河南省)</li><li>• <b>Hubei</b> (湖北省)</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hunan</b> (湖南省)</li><li>• <b>Jiangsu</b> (江苏省)</li><li>• <b>Jiangxi</b> (江西省)</li><li>• <b>Jilin</b> (吉林省)</li><li>• <b>Liaoning</b> (辽宁省)</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Qinghai</b> (青海省)</li><li>• <b>Shaanxi</b> (陕西省)</li><li>• <b>Shandong</b> (山东省)</li><li>• <b>Shanxi</b> (山西省)</li><li>• <b>Sichuan</b> (四川省)</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Yunnan</b> (云南省)</li><li>• <b>Zhejiang</b> (浙江省)</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Taiwan</b> (台湾省) <i>governed by R.O.China</i></li></ul></div>
Autonomous regions (自治区)		Municipalities (直辖市)		Special administrative regions (特别行政区)	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Guangxi</b> (广西壮族自治区)</li><li>• <b>Inner Mongolia / Nei Menggu</b> (内蒙古自治区)</li><li>• <b>Ningxia</b> (宁夏回族自治区)</li><li>• <b>Xinjiang</b> (新疆维吾尔自治区)</li><li>• <b>Tibet / Xizang</b> (西藏自治区)</li></ul></div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Beijing</b> (北京市)</li><li>• <b>Chongqing</b> (重庆市)</li><li>• <b>Shanghai</b> (上海市)</li><li>• <b>Tianjin</b> (天津市)</li></ul></div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hong Kong / Xianggang</b> (香港特别行政区)</li><li>• <b>Macau / Aomen</b> (澳门特别行政区)</li></ul></div>	

**Foreign relations**

Main article: *Foreign relations of China*

The PRC has diplomatic relations with 175 countries and maintains [embassies in 162](#). Its [legitimacy](#) is disputed by the Republic of China and a few other countries; it is thus the largest and most populous [state with limited recognition](#). In 1971, the PRC replaced the Republic of China as the sole representative of China in the United Nations and as one of the five permanent members of the [United Nations Security Council](#).<sup>[198]</sup> China was also a former member and leader of the [Non-Aligned Movement](#), and still considers itself an advocate for [developing countries](#).<sup>[199]</sup> Along with Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, China is a member of the [BRICS](#) group of emerging major economies and hosted the group's [third official summit](#) at [Sanya, Hainan](#) in April 2011.<sup>[200]</sup>

Under its interpretation of the [One-China policy](#), Beijing has made it a precondition to establishing diplomatic relations that the other country acknowledges its claim to Taiwan and severs official ties with the government of the Republic of China. Chinese officials have protested on numerous occasions when foreign countries have made diplomatic overtures to Taiwan,<sup>[201]</sup> especially in the matter of armament sales.<sup>[202]</sup>



Diplomatic relations of China

Much of current Chinese foreign policy is reportedly based on Premier [Zhou Enlai](#)'s [Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence](#), and is also driven by the concept of "harmony without uniformity", which encourages diplomatic relations between states despite ideological differences.<sup>[203]</sup> This policy may have led China to support states that are [regarded as dangerous](#) or repressive by Western nations, such as [Zimbabwe](#), [North Korea](#) and [Iran](#).<sup>[204]</sup> China has a [close economic and military relationship](#) with Russia,<sup>[205]</sup> and the two states often vote in unison in the UN Security Council.<sup>[206][207][208]</sup>

#### Trade relations

China became the world's largest trading nation in 2013, as measured by the sum of imports and exports.<sup>[209]</sup> By 2016, China was the largest trading partner of 124 other countries.<sup>[210]</sup> In 2019, China's exports of goods and services was \$2.5 trillion and imports was \$2.1 trillion, thus resulting in \$4.6 trillion of foreign trade.<sup>[211]</sup> In recent decades, China has played an increasing role in calling for [free trade areas](#) and security pacts amongst its Asia-Pacific neighbours. China became a member of the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO) on 11 December 2001. In 2004, it proposed an entirely new [East Asia Summit](#) (EAS) framework as a forum for regional security issues.<sup>[212]</sup> The EAS, which includes [ASEAN Plus Three](#), India, Australia and New Zealand, held its inaugural summit in 2005. China is also a founding member of the [Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#) (SCO), along with Russia and the Central Asian republics.

China has had a long and complex trade relationship with the United States. In 2000, the [United States Congress](#) approved "permanent normal trade relations" (PNTR) with China, allowing Chinese exports in at the same low tariffs as goods from most other countries.<sup>[213]</sup> China has a significant [trade surplus](#) with the United States, its most important export market.<sup>[214]</sup> In the early 2010s, US politicians argued that the [Chinese yuan](#) was significantly undervalued, giving China an unfair trade advantage.<sup>[215][216][217]</sup>

Since the turn of the century, China has followed a policy of [engaging with African nations](#) for trade and bilateral co-operation.<sup>[218][219][220]</sup> In 2012, Sino-African trade totalled over US\$160 billion.<sup>[221]</sup> China maintains healthy and highly diversified trade links with the European Union. China has furthermore strengthened its ties with major South American economies, becoming the largest trading partner of [Brazil](#)<sup>[222]</sup> and building strategic links with Argentina.<sup>[223]</sup>

China's [Belt and Road Initiative](#) has expanded significantly over the last six years and, as of 2019, includes 137 countries and 30 international organizations.<sup>[224]</sup>

#### Territorial disputes

*Main article: [Foreign relations of China § International territorial disputes](#)*

*See also: [List of wars involving the People's Republic of China](#) and [Cross-Strait relations](#)*

Ever since its establishment after the second [Chinese Civil War](#), the PRC has claimed the [territories](#) governed by the [Republic of China](#) (ROC), a separate political entity today commonly known as Taiwan, as a part of its territory. It regards the [island of Taiwan](#) as its [Taiwan Province](#), [Kinmen](#) and [Matsu](#) as a part of [Fujian Province](#) and islands the ROC controls in the [South China Sea](#) as a part of [Hainan Province](#) and [Guangdong Province](#). These claims are controversial because of the complicated [Cross-Strait relations](#), with the PRC treating the [One-China policy](#) as one of its most important diplomatic principles.<sup>[225]</sup>

In addition to Taiwan, China is also involved in other international territorial disputes. Since the 1990s, China has been involved in negotiations to resolve its disputed land borders, including a [disputed border with India](#) and an undefined border with [Bhutan](#). China is additionally involved in multilateral disputes over the ownership of several small islands in the East and South China Seas, such as the [Senkaku Islands](#) and the [Scarborough Shoal](#).<sup>[226][227]</sup> On 21 May 2014 [Xi Jinping](#), speaking at a conference in Shanghai, pledged to settle China's territorial disputes peacefully. "China stays committed to seeking peaceful settlement of disputes with other countries over territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests", he said.<sup>[228]</sup>

#### Emerging superpower status

China is regularly hailed as a [potential new superpower](#).<sup>[229][230]</sup> with certain commentators citing its rapid economic progress, growing military might, very large population, and increasing international influence as signs that it will play a [prominent global role](#) in the 21st century.<sup>[231][232]</sup> Others, however, warn that [economic bubbles](#) and demographic imbalances could slow or even halt China's growth as the century progresses.<sup>[233][234]</sup> Some authors also question the definition of "superpower", arguing that China's large economy alone would not qualify it as a superpower, and noting that it lacks the military power and cultural influence of the United States.<sup>[235]</sup> Others – namely, [IRENA](#) – have argued that China's investment in renewable energy has positioned it to be a likely superpower in that area, especially due to a shift in global trade relations.<sup>[236]</sup>

#### Sociopolitical issues, human rights and reform

*See also: [Human rights in China](#), [Hukou system](#), [Social welfare in China](#), [Elections in China](#), [Censorship in China](#), [Feminism in China](#), [Ethnocide of Uyghurs in China](#), and [Sex trafficking in China](#)*

The [Chinese democracy movement](#), social activists, and some members of the Communist Party of China have all identified the need for social and political reform. While economic and social controls have been significantly relaxed in China since the 1970s, [political freedom](#) is still tightly restricted. The [Constitution of the People's Republic of China](#) states that the "fundamental rights" of citizens include [freedom of speech](#), [freedom of the press](#), the [right to a fair trial](#), [freedom of religion](#), [universal suffrage](#), and [property rights](#). However, in practice, these provisions do not afford significant protection against criminal prosecution by the state.<sup>[237][238]</sup> Although some criticisms of government policies and the ruling [Communist Party](#) are tolerated, censorship of political speech and information, most notably on the Internet,<sup>[239][240]</sup> are routinely used to prevent collective action.<sup>[241]</sup> By 2020, China plans to give all its citizens a personal "Social Credit" score based on how they behave.<sup>[242]</sup> The [Social Credit System](#), now being piloted in a number of Chinese cities, is considered a form of [mass surveillance](#) which uses [big data analysis](#) technology.<sup>[243][244]</sup> In 2005, [Reporters Without Borders](#) ranked China 159th out of 167 states in its Annual World Press Freedom Index, which indicates a very low level of press freedom.<sup>[245]</sup> In 2014, China ranked 175th out of 180 countries.<sup>[246]</sup>

Rural migrants to China's cities often find themselves treated as [second class citizens](#) by the [hukou household registration](#) system, which controls access to [state benefits](#).<sup>[247][248]</sup> Property rights are often poorly protected.<sup>[247]</sup> However, a number of rural taxes have been reduced or abolished since the early 2000s, and additional social services provided to rural dwellers.<sup>[249][250]</sup>

A number of foreign governments, foreign press agencies, and [NGOs](#) also routinely criticize [China's human rights record](#), alleging widespread [civil rights](#) violations such as detention without trial, [forced abortions](#),<sup>[251]</sup> forced confessions, [torture](#), restrictions of fundamental rights,<sup>[181][252]</sup> and [excessive use of the death penalty](#).<sup>[253][254]</sup> The government suppresses popular protests and demonstrations that it considers a potential threat to "social stability", as was the case with the [Tiananmen Square protests of 1989](#).



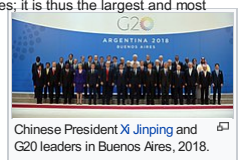
Candlelight vigil in Hong Kong on the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests

[Falun Gong](#) was first taught publicly in 1992. In 1999, when there were about 70 million practitioners,<sup>[255]</sup> the [persecution of Falun Gong](#) began, resulting in mass arrests, extralegal detention, and alleged reports of torture and deaths in custody.<sup>[256][257]</sup> The Chinese state is regularly accused of large-scale repression and human rights abuses in [Tibet](#) and [Xinjiang](#), including violent police crackdowns and [religious suppression](#).<sup>[258][259]</sup> At least one million members of [China's Muslim Uyghur](#) minority have been detained in [mass detention camps](#), termed "Vocational Education and Training Centers", aimed at changing the political thinking of detainees, their identities, and their religious beliefs.<sup>[260]</sup> The camps were established under [General Secretary Xi Jinping's administration](#).<sup>[261]</sup> In January 2019 the United Nations asked for direct access to the detention camps after a panel said it had received "credible reports" that 1.1 million Uyghur, Kazakhs, Hui and other ethnic minorities had been detained in these camps.<sup>[262]</sup> The state has also sought to control offshore reporting of tensions in Xinjiang, intimidating foreign-based reporters by detaining their family members.<sup>[263]</sup>

The Chinese government has responded to foreign criticism by arguing that the right to subsistence and economic development is a prerequisite to other types of human rights, and that the notion of human rights should take into account a country's present level of [economic development](#).<sup>[264]</sup> It emphasizes the rise in the Chinese [standard of living](#), [literacy rate](#), and average [life expectancy](#) since the 1970s, as well as improvements in workplace safety and efforts to

combat natural disasters such as the perennial [Yangtze River](#) floods.<sup>[265][266][267]</sup> Furthermore, some Chinese politicians have spoken out in support of democratization, although [others remain more conservative](#).<sup>[268]</sup> Some major reform efforts have been conducted. For instance, in November 2013 the government announced plans to relax the one-child policy and abolish the much-criticized [re-education through labour](#) program,<sup>[123]</sup> although human rights groups note that reforms to the latter have been largely cosmetic.<sup>[269]</sup> During the 2000s and early 2010s, the Chinese government was increasingly tolerant of NGOs that offer practical, efficient solutions to social problems, but such "third sector" activity remained heavily regulated.<sup>[269]</sup> After [Xi Jinping](#) succeeded [General Secretary of the Communist Party of China](#) in 2012, human rights in China have become worse.<sup>[270]</sup>

The [Global Slavery Index](#) estimated that in 2016 more than 3.8 million people were living in "conditions of modern [slavery](#)", or 0.25% of the population, including victims of human trafficking, forced labor, forced marriage, child labor, and state-imposed forced labor. All except the last category are illegal. The state-imposed forced system was formally abolished in 2013 but it is not clear the extent to which its various practices have stopped.<sup>[271]</sup> The Chinese penal system includes labor prison factories, detention centers, and re-education camps, which fall under the heading [Laogai](#) ("reform through labor"). The Laogai Research Foundation in the United States estimated that there were over a thousand slave labour prisons and camps, known collectively as the Laogai.<sup>[272]</sup> Prisoners are not paid at all, and need their families to send money to them. Prisoners who refuse to work are beaten, and some are beaten to death. Many of the prisoners are political or religious dissidents, and some are recognized internationally as prisoners of conscience. A Chinese leader said that they want to see two products coming out of the prisons: the man who has been reformed, and the product made by the man. [Harry Wu](#), himself a former prisoner of the



Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#) and G20 leaders in Buenos Aires, 2018.



On 21 May 2014, China and [Russia](#) signed a \$400 billion [gas deal](#). Starting 2019, Russia plans to [provide natural gas](#) to China for the next 30 years.



Map depicting territorial disputes between the PRC and neighbouring states. For a larger map, [see here](#).



March in memory of Chinese [Nobel Peace Prize](#) laureate [Liu Xiaobo](#) who died of organ failure while in government custody in 2017





Laogai, filmed undercover footage of the Laogai, and was charged with stealing state secrets. For this, **Harry Wu** was sentenced to 15 years in prison, but only served 66 days before being deported to the United States.<sup>[273]</sup>

2019–2020 Hong Kong protests

In 2019 a world-first study called for the mass retraction of more than 400 scientific papers on **organ transplantation**, because of fears the organs were obtained unethically from Chinese prisoners. The study was published in the medical journal *BMJ Open*. A report published in 2016 found a large discrepancy between official transplant figures from the Chinese government and the number of transplants reported by hospitals. While the government says 10,000 transplants occur each year, hospital data shows between 60,000 and 100,000 organs are transplanted each year. The report provided evidence that this gap is being made up by executed **prisoners of conscience**.<sup>[274]</sup>

## Military

*Main articles: **Military history of China before 1911** and **People's Liberation Army***

With 2.3 million active troops, the **People's Liberation Army** (PLA) is the largest standing military force in the world, commanded by the **Central Military Commission** (CMC).<sup>[275]</sup> China has the second-biggest military reserve force, only behind **North Korea**. The PLA consists of the **Ground Force** (PLAGF), the **Navy** (PLAN), the **Air Force** (PLAAF), and the **People's Liberation Army Rocket Force** (PLARF). According to the Chinese government, China's military budget for 2017 totalled US\$151.5 billion, constituting the **world's second-largest military budget**, although the **military expenditures-GDP ratio** with 1.3% of GDP is below world average.<sup>[276]</sup> However, many authorities – including SIPRI and the U.S. **Office of the Secretary of Defense** – argue that China does not report its real level of military spending, which is allegedly much higher than the official budget.<sup>[276][277]</sup>



Aircraft carrier Liaoning, the first aircraft carrier commissioned into the People's Liberation Army Navy Surface Force

As a recognized **nuclear weapons** state, China is considered both a major regional military power and a **potential military superpower**.<sup>[278]</sup> According to a 2013 report by the **US Department of Defense**, China fields between 50 and 75 nuclear ICBMs, along with a number of SRBMs.<sup>[279]</sup> However, compared with the other four **UN Security Council** Permanent Members, China has relatively limited **power projection** capabilities.<sup>[280]</sup> To offset this, it has developed numerous power projection assets since the early 2000s – its **first aircraft carrier** entered service in 2012,<sup>[281][282][283]</sup> and it maintains a substantial fleet of **submarines**, including several **nuclear-powered attack** and **ballistic missile** submarines.<sup>[284]</sup> China has furthermore established a **network of foreign military relationships along critical sea lanes**.<sup>[285]</sup>

China has made significant progress in modernising its air force in recent decades, purchasing Russian fighter jets such as the **Sukhoi Su-30**, and also manufacturing its own modern fighters, most notably the **Chengdu J-10**, **J-20** and the **Shenyang J-11**, **J-15**, **J-16**, and **J-31**.<sup>[281][286]</sup> China is furthermore engaged in developing an indigenous **stealth aircraft** and numerous **combat drones**.<sup>[287][288][289]</sup> **Air** and **Sea denial** weaponry advances have increased the regional threat from the perspective of Japan as well as Washington.<sup>[290][291]</sup> China has also updated its ground forces,

replacing its ageing **Soviet-derived tank** inventory with numerous variants of the modern **Type 99 tank**, and upgrading its battlefield **C3I** and **C4I** systems to enhance its **network-centric warfare** capabilities.<sup>[292]</sup> In addition, China has developed or acquired numerous advanced missile systems,<sup>[293][294]</sup> including **anti-satellite missiles**,<sup>[295]</sup> **cruise missiles**<sup>[296]</sup> and submarine-launched nuclear ICBMs.<sup>[297]</sup> According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's** data, China became the world's third largest exporter of major arms in 2010–14, an increase of 143 percent from the period 2005–09.<sup>[298]</sup> SIPRI also calculated that China surpassed Russia to become the world's second largest arms exporter by 2020.<sup>[299]</sup> Chinese officials stated that spending on the military will rise to U.S. \$173B in 2018.<sup>[300]</sup> In the period of 2014–2018, China was the fifth largest exporter of major arms in the world, with an increase of 2.7% compared to the previous period.<sup>[301]</sup> In August 2018, China tested its first **hypersonic flight**. The China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA) claims to have successfully conducted the test with the aircraft *Starry Sky-2* that touched a speed of **Mach 6** – which is six times the speed of sound, that can carry nuclear missiles.<sup>[302]</sup>



Chinese, Russian and Mongolian national flags set on armored vehicles during the large-scale military exercise Vostok 2018 in Eastern Siberia



APLAir force Chengdu J-20 stealth fighter aircraft

## Economy

*Main articles: **Economy of China**, **Agriculture in China**, and **List of Chinese administrative divisions by GDP***

Since 2010, China had the **world's second-largest economy** in terms of nominal GDP,<sup>[304]</sup> totalling approximately US\$13.5 trillion (90 trillion Yuan) as of 2018.<sup>[305]</sup> In terms of **purchasing power parity** (PPP GDP), China's economy has been the largest in the world since 2014, according to the World Bank.<sup>[306]</sup> According to the World Bank, China's GDP grew from \$150 billion in 1978 to \$13.6 trillion by 2018.<sup>[307]</sup> China's economic growth has been consistently above 6 percent since the introduction of **economic reforms in 1978**.<sup>[308]</sup> China is also the world's **largest exporter** and **second-largest importer** of goods.<sup>[309]</sup> Between 2010 and 2019, China's contribution to global GDP growth has been 25% to 39%.<sup>[310][311]</sup>

China had the largest economy in the world for most of the past two thousand years, during which it has seen cycles of prosperity and decline.<sup>[312][313]</sup> Since economic reforms began in 1978, China has developed into a highly diversified economy and one of the most consequential players in international trade. Major sectors of competitive strength include manufacturing, retail, mining, steel, textiles, automobiles, energy generation, green energy, banking, electronics, telecommunications, real estate, e-commerce, and tourism. China has three out of the ten largest stock exchanges in the world—Shanghai, Hong Kong and Shenzhen—that together have a market capitalization of over \$10 trillion, as of 2019.<sup>[314]</sup>

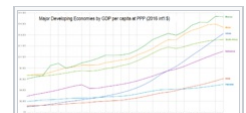
China has been the world's No. 1 manufacturer since 2010, after overtaking the US, which had been No. 1 for the previous hundred years.<sup>[315][316]</sup> China has also been No. 2 in high-tech manufacturing since 2012, according to US **National Science Foundation**.<sup>[317]</sup> China is the second largest retail market in the world, next to the United States.<sup>[318]</sup> China leads the world in e-commerce, accounting for 40% of the global market share in 2016<sup>[319]</sup> and more than 50% of the global market share in 2019.<sup>[320]</sup> China is the world's leader in electric vehicles, manufacturing and buying half of all the plug-in electric cars (BEV and PHEV) in the world in 2018.<sup>[321]</sup> China had 174 GW of installed solar capacity by the end of 2018, which amounts to more than 40% of the global solar capacity.<sup>[322][323]</sup>



Shanghai World Financial Center, Jin Mao Tower and Shanghai Tower, Lujiazui

As of 2018, China was first in the world in total number of billionaires and second in millionaires—there were 658 Chinese billionaires<sup>[324]</sup> and 3.5 million millionaires.<sup>[325]</sup> However, it ranks behind over 70 countries (out of around 180) in per capita economic output, making it a middle income country.<sup>[326]</sup> Additionally, its development is highly uneven. Its major cities and coastal areas are far more prosperous compared to rural and interior regions.<sup>[327]</sup> China brought more people out of extreme poverty than any other country in history<sup>[328]</sup>—between 1978 and 2018, China reduced extreme poverty by 800 million. China reduced the extreme poverty rate—per international standard, it refers to an income of less than \$1.90/day—from 88% in 1981 to 1.85% by 2013.<sup>[329]</sup> According to the World Bank, the number of Chinese in extreme poverty fell from 756 million to 25 million between 1990 and 2013.<sup>[330]</sup> China's own national poverty standards are higher and thus the national poverty rates were 3.1% in 2017<sup>[331]</sup> and 1% in 2018.<sup>[332]</sup>

In 2019, China overtook the US as the home to the highest number of rich people in the world, according to the global wealth report by **Credit Suisse**.<sup>[333][334]</sup> In other words, as of 2019, 100 million Chinese are in the top 10% of the wealthiest individuals in the world—those who have a net personal wealth of at least \$110,000.<sup>[335]</sup>



China and other major developing economies by GDP per capita at purchasing-power parity, 1990–2013. The rapid economic growth of China (blue) is readily apparent.<sup>[333]</sup>

## Economic history and growth

*Main article: **Economic history of China (1949–present)***

From its founding in 1949 until late 1978, the People's Republic of China was a Soviet-style centrally **planned economy**. Following Mao's death in 1976 and the consequent end of the **Cultural Revolution**, **Deng Xiaoping** and the new Chinese leadership began to **reform the economy** and move towards a more market-oriented **mixed economy** under one-party rule. **Agricultural collectivization** was dismantled and farmlands privatized, while foreign trade became a major new focus, leading to the creation of **Special Economic Zones** (SEZs). Inefficient **state-owned enterprises** (SOEs) were restructured and unprofitable ones were closed outright, resulting in massive job losses. Modern-day China is mainly characterized as having a market economy based on private property ownership,<sup>[338]</sup> and is one of the leading examples of **state capitalism**.<sup>[339][340]</sup> The state still dominates in strategic "pillar" sectors such as energy production and **heavy industries**, but private enterprise has expanded enormously, with around 30 million private businesses recorded in 2008.<sup>[341][342][343][344]</sup> In 2018, private enterprises in China accounted for 60% of GDP, 80% of urban employment and 90% of new jobs.<sup>[345]</sup>

In 2015, China's Middle Class became the largest in the world.<sup>[346]</sup> By 2019, there were more Chinese than Americans in the richest 10% of the people in the world.<sup>[347]</sup> Since economic liberalization began in 1978, China has been among the world's fastest-growing economies,<sup>[348]</sup> relying originally on investment- and export-led growth, but now shifting more to consumption.<sup>[349][350][351]</sup> In 2018, 76% of growth in China's GDP came from consumption.<sup>[352]</sup> According to the IMF, China's **annual average GDP growth** between 2001 and 2010 was 10.5%. In the years immediately following the financial crisis of 2007, China's economic growth rate was equivalent to all of the **G7** countries' growth combined.<sup>[353]</sup> According to the **Global Growth Generators** index announced by **Citigroup** in February 2011, China has a very high 3G growth rating.<sup>[354]</sup> Its high productivity, low labor costs and relatively good infrastructure have made it a global leader in manufacturing.

China ranks No. 1 in the production of steel, aluminum and automobiles—China's global market shares are 50% in steel,<sup>[355]</sup> 50% in aluminum<sup>[356]</sup> and 30% in automobile manufacturing.<sup>[357]</sup> China has also been increasingly turning to automation, becoming the world's largest market for industrial robots in 2013. Between 2010 and 2015, China installed 90,000 industrial robots, or one-third of the world's total.<sup>[358]</sup> In 2017, China bought 36% of all the new industrial robots in the world.<sup>[359]</sup> China's plan is to also domestically design and manufacture 100,000 industrial robots by 2020.<sup>[360]</sup> However, the Chinese economy is highly energy-intensive and inefficient;<sup>[361]</sup> China became the world's largest **energy consumer** in 2010,<sup>[362]</sup> relies on coal to supply over 70% of its energy needs, and surpassed the US to become the world's largest oil importer in 2013.<sup>[363][364]</sup>

In the last decade, China has become **#1 in the world** in terms of installed solar power capacity, hydro-power and wind power. According to the **World Economic Forum**, China will account for 40% of the global renewable energy by 2022.<sup>[365]</sup> In addition, official GDP figures are seen as unreliable and there have been several well-publicized cases of data manipulation.<sup>[366][367][368]</sup> In the early 2010s, China's economic growth rate began to slow amid domestic credit troubles, weakening international demand for Chinese exports and fragility in the global economy.<sup>[369][370][371]</sup> China's GDP was smaller than Germany's in 2007; however,



People's Bank of China in Beijing is the central bank of the People's Republic of China.



The Shanghai Stock Exchange building in Shanghai's Lujiazui financial district. Shanghai has the 25th-largest city GDP in the world, totalling US\$304 billion in 2018.

by 2017, China's \$12.2 trillion-economy became larger than those of Germany, UK, France and Italy combined.<sup>[372]</sup> In 2018, the IMF reiterated its forecast that China will overtake the US in terms of nominal GDP by the year 2030.<sup>[373]</sup> Economists also expect China's middle class to expand to 600 million people by 2025.<sup>[374]</sup>

Tourism is a major contributor to the economy. In 2017, this sector contributed about CNY 8.77 trillion (US\$1.35 trillion), 11.04% of the GDP, and contributed direct and indirect employment of up to 28.25 million people. There were 139.48 million inbound trips and five billion domestic trips.<sup>[375][376]</sup> China is now No. 1 in the number of skyscrapers (buildings taller than 200m), accounting for about 50% of world's total.<sup>[377]</sup> In four years—2015 through 2018—China built 310 skyscrapers, while the corresponding number for the US was 33.<sup>[378][379][380][381]</sup>

#### Technology, e-commerce, and innovation

China is one of the world's most technologically advanced nations.<sup>[382][383]</sup> It is the world's largest e-commerce market, amounting to 42% of the global market by 2016<sup>[384]</sup> and is expected to account for 55% of global e-commerce retail sales in 2019 (more than three times as large as the US market).<sup>[385]</sup> China's e-commerce market had online sales of more than \$1 trillion in 2018, according to *PwC*<sup>[386]</sup> and is expected to be just under \$2 trillion in 2019.<sup>[387]</sup> China's **e-commerce** industry took off in 2009, marked by the growth of internet giants **Tencent** and **Alibaba** – purveyors of products such as **WeChat** and **Tmall** – that have become ubiquitous in contemporary Chinese life. Tencent's **WeChat Pay** and Alibaba's **Ali Pay** have helped China become a world leader in mobile payments, which amounted to about \$30 trillion in China in 2017 and more than \$40 trillion in 2018.<sup>[388][389]</sup>

China is also second only to the United States in **venture capital** activity and is home to a large number of **unicorn** startup companies.<sup>[390][391]</sup> In 2018, China attracted \$105 billion of venture capital investments, amounting to 38% of global VC investments that year.<sup>[392]</sup> In late 2018, the world's most valuable startup was **ByteDance**, a Chinese company;<sup>[393]</sup> and the two most valuable **artificial intelligence** (AI) startups in the world were **SenseTime** and **Face++**, both from China.<sup>[394]</sup> In 2017, China's State Council released its Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, which declared AI technology a priority economic growth and investment sector.<sup>[395]</sup> In 2018, China created 97 "unicorns" – startups that are worth more than \$1 billion – which amounted to 1 unicorn every 3.8 days.<sup>[396]</sup> Chinese smartphone brands – **Huawei**, **Xiaomi**, **Oppe**, **Vivo**, **OnePlus** etc. – have captured more than 40% of the global market.<sup>[397][398]</sup> By 2019, Huawei had become the world's largest telecom infrastructure provider, surpassing **Nokia** and **Ericsson**, and had taken the lead in **5G** technology.<sup>[399]</sup> The company also entered the consumer **smartphone** and **enterprise** services markets,<sup>[399]</sup> and is the world's third-largest smartphone company, after **Apple** and **Samsung**.<sup>[400][401]</sup>

Other Chinese tech giants include DJI (world's largest drone maker with 70% market share),<sup>[402]</sup> BOE (world's largest flat-panel display maker),<sup>[403]</sup> Didi (world's largest and most valuable ride-sharing company)<sup>[404]</sup> and BYD (world's largest plug-in vehicle maker—including both BEV and PHEV)<sup>[405]</sup> China also the most number of supercomputers—227 out of the Top 500 (as of 2019).<sup>[406]</sup>

China is also the world leader in patents, accounting for 1.54 million patents or almost half of all global patents in 2018.<sup>[407]</sup> China's spending on R&D has been growing rapidly in the last decade, amounting to \$277 billion in 2017.<sup>[408]</sup>

#### China in the global economy

Share of world GDP (PPP) <sup>[409]</sup>	
Year	Share
1980	2.32%
1990	4.11%
2000	7.40%
2010	13.89%
2018	18.72%

China is a member of the **WTO** and is the world's largest trading power, with a total international trade value of US\$4.62 trillion in 2018.<sup>[410][411]</sup> Its **foreign exchange reserves** reached US\$3.1 trillion as of 2019,<sup>[412]</sup> making its reserves by far the world's largest.<sup>[413][414]</sup> In 2012, China was the world's largest recipient of inward **foreign direct investment** (FDI), attracting \$253 billion.<sup>[415]</sup> In 2014, China's foreign exchange remittances were \$US64 billion making it the second largest recipient of remittances in the world.<sup>[416]</sup> China also invests abroad, with a total outward FDI of \$62.4 billion in 2012.<sup>[415]</sup> and a number of major takeovers of foreign firms by Chinese companies.<sup>[417]</sup> China is a major owner of **US public debt**, holding trillions of dollars worth of U.S. **Treasury bonds**.<sup>[418][419]</sup> China's undervalued exchange rate has caused friction with other major economies,<sup>[216][420][421]</sup> and it has also been widely criticized for manufacturing large quantities of counterfeit goods.<sup>[422][423]</sup>

China ranks 17th in the world in Global Innovation Index, not too far from the US, which ranks 6th.<sup>[425]</sup> China ranks 27th out of 137 countries in the 2017–2018 **Global Competitiveness Index**.<sup>[426]</sup> above many advanced economies and making it by far the most competitive major emerging economy. This is largely owing to its strength in infrastructure and wide adoption of communication and information technology. However, it lags behind advanced economies in labor market efficiency, institutional strength, and openness of market competition, especially for foreign players attempting to enter the domestic market.<sup>[427]</sup> In 2018, *Fortune's* **Global 500** list of the world's largest corporations included **120 Chinese companies**.<sup>[337]</sup> Many of the largest **public companies** in the world were Chinese, including the **world's largest bank by total assets**, the **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China**.<sup>[428]</sup>

Following the 2007–08 financial crisis, Chinese authorities sought to actively wean off of its dependence on the U.S. Dollar as a result of perceived weaknesses of the international monetary system.<sup>[429]</sup> To achieve those ends, China took a series of actions to further the **internationalization of the Renminbi**. In 2008, China established **dim sum bond** market and expanded the Cross-Border Trade RMB Settlement Pilot Project, which helps establish pools of offshore RMB liquidity.<sup>[430][431]</sup> This was followed with bilateral agreements to settle trades directly in renminbi with Russia.<sup>[432]</sup> **Japan**,<sup>[433]</sup> **Australia**,<sup>[434]</sup> **Singapore**,<sup>[435]</sup> the **United Kingdom**,<sup>[436]</sup> and **Canada**.<sup>[437]</sup> As a result of the rapid internationalization of the renminbi, it became the eighth-most-traded currency in the world, an emerging international **reserve currency**.<sup>[438]</sup> and a component of the IMF's **special drawing rights**; however, partly due to capital controls that make the renminbi fall short of being a fully convertible currency, it remains far behind the Euro, Dollar and Japanese Yen in international trade volumes.<sup>[439]</sup>

#### Class and income inequality

See also: *Income inequality in China*

China has had the world's largest middle class population since 2015,<sup>[440]</sup> and the middle class grew to a size of 400 million by 2018.<sup>[441]</sup> China's middle-class population (if defined as those with annual income of between US\$10,000 and US\$60,000) had reached more than 300 million by 2012.<sup>[442]</sup> Wages in China have grown exponentially in the last 40 years—real (inflation-adjusted) wages grew seven-fold from 1978 to 2007.<sup>[443]</sup> By 2018, median wages in Chinese cities such as Shanghai were about the same as or higher than the wages in Eastern European countries.<sup>[444]</sup> More than 75 percent of China's urban consumers are expected to earn between 60,000 and 229,000 RMB per year by 2022.<sup>[445]</sup> China has the world's second-highest number of billionaires, with nearly 400 as of 2018, increasing at the rate of roughly two per week.<sup>[446][447]</sup> China's domestic retail market was worth over 20 trillion yuan (US\$3.2 trillion) in 2012<sup>[448]</sup> and is growing at over 12% annually as of 2013,<sup>[449]</sup> while the country's luxury goods market has expanded immensely, with 27.5% of the global share.<sup>[450]</sup> However, in recent years, China's rapid economic growth has contributed to severe consumer inflation,<sup>[451][452]</sup> leading to increased government regulation.<sup>[453]</sup> China has a high level of economic inequality,<sup>[454]</sup> which has increased in the past few decades.<sup>[455]</sup> In 2012, China's official **Gini coefficient** was 0.474.<sup>[456][457]</sup> A study conducted by **Southwestern University of Finance and Economics** showed that China's Gini coefficient actually had reached 0.61 in 2012, and top 1% Chinese held more than 25% of China's wealth.<sup>[458]</sup> By 2018, China's GINI index had risen to 0.467, according to the World Bank.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Science and technology

*Main articles: Science and technology in China, Chinese space program, List of Chinese discoveries, List of Chinese inventions, and History of science and technology in China*

#### Historical

China was once a world leader in science and technology up until the **Ming dynasty**.<sup>[459]</sup> Ancient **Chinese discoveries and inventions**, such as **papermaking**, **printing**, the **compass**, and **gunpowder** (the **Four Great Inventions**), became widespread across East Asia, the Middle East and later to Europe. Chinese mathematicians were the first to use **negative numbers**.<sup>[460][461]</sup> By the 17th century, Europe and the Western world surpassed China in scientific and technological advancement.<sup>[462]</sup> The causes of this early modern **Great Divergence** continue to be debated by scholars to this day.<sup>[463]</sup>

After repeated **military defeats** by the European colonial powers and **Japan** in the 19th century, Chinese reformers began promoting modern science and technology as part of the **Self-Strengthening Movement**. After the Communists came to power in 1949, efforts were made to organize science and technology based on the model of the **Soviet Union**, in which scientific research was part of central planning.<sup>[464]</sup> After Mao's death in 1976, science and technology was established as one of the **Four Modernizations**.<sup>[465]</sup> and the Soviet-inspired academic system was gradually reformed.<sup>[466]</sup>

#### Modern era



Huawei headquarters in **Shenzhen**.<sup>[467]</sup> Huawei is the world's largest telecoms-equipment-maker and the second-largest manufacturer of **smartphones** in the world.<sup>[467]</sup>

Since the end of the Cultural Revolution, China has made significant investments in scientific research<sup>[468]</sup> and is quickly catching up with the US in R&D spending.<sup>[469]</sup> In 2017, China spent \$279 billion on scientific research and development.<sup>[470]</sup> According to **OECD**, China spent 2.11% of its GDP on Research and Development (R&D) in 2016.<sup>[471]</sup> Science and technology are seen as vital for achieving China's economic and political goals, and are held as a source of national pride to a degree sometimes described as "techno-nationalism".<sup>[472]</sup> Nonetheless, China's investment in basic and applied scientific research remains behind that of leading technological powers such as the United States and Japan.<sup>[468][473]</sup> According to the **US National Science Board**, China had, for the first time, more science and engineering publications than the US, in 2016.<sup>[474]</sup> Also, in 2016, China spent \$409 billion (by PPP) on Research and Development.<sup>[475]</sup> In 2018, China is estimated to have spent \$475 billion (by PPP), second only to the USA.<sup>[476]</sup> In 2017, China was No. 2 in international patents application, behind the US but ahead of Japan.<sup>[477]</sup> Chinese tech companies Huawei and ZTE were the top 2 filers of international patents in 2017.<sup>[478][479]</sup> Chinese-born scientists have won the **Nobel Prize in Physics** four times, the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** and **Physiology or Medicine** once respectively, though most of these scientists conducted their Nobel-winning research in western nations.<sup>[1]</sup>

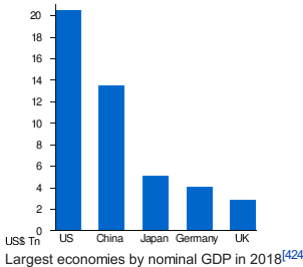
China is developing its education system with an emphasis on **science, mathematics and engineering**; in 2009, China graduated over 10,000 PhD engineers, and as many as 500,000 **BSc** graduates, more than any other country.<sup>[485]</sup> In 2016, there were 4.7 million STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) graduates in China, which was more than eight times the corresponding number for the US.<sup>[486]</sup> China also became the world's largest publisher



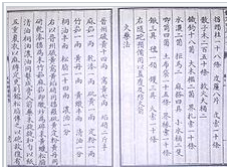
The headquarters of the oil company **Sinopec** in **Beijing**. Sinopec was China's largest and the world's third-largest company by revenue in 2014, with a total annual revenue of over US\$450 billion.<sup>[337]</sup>



Headquarters of **Alibaba Group** in **Hangzhou**. Alibaba is the world's largest retailer and e-commerce company, **one of the largest Internet** and AI companies.



Largest economies by nominal GDP in 2018<sup>[424]</sup>



Earliest known written formula for gunpowder, from the *Wujing Zongyao* of 1044 ce



of [scientific papers](#), by 2016.<sup>[487]</sup> Chinese technology companies such as [Huawei](#) and [Lenovo](#) have become world leaders in telecommunications and personal computing,<sup>[488][489][490]</sup> and Chinese [supercomputers](#) are consistently ranked among the [world's most powerful](#).<sup>[491][492]</sup> China is also expanding its use of industrial [robots](#); from 2008 to 2011, the installation of multi-role robots in Chinese factories rose by 136 percent.<sup>[493]</sup> China has been the world's largest market for industrial robots since 2013 and will account for 45% of newly installed robots from 2019–2021.<sup>[494]</sup>

The [Chinese space program](#) is one of the world's most active, and is a major source of national pride.<sup>[495][496]</sup> In 2018, China successfully launched more satellites (35) than any other country, including the USA (30).<sup>[497]</sup> In 1970, China launched its first satellite, [Dong Fang Hong 1](#), becoming the fifth country to do so independently.<sup>[498]</sup> In 2003, China became the third country to independently send humans into space, with [Yang Liwei](#)'s spaceflight aboard [Shenzhou 5](#); as of 2015, [ten Chinese nationals](#) have journeyed into space, including two women. In 2011, China's first space station module, [Tiangong-1](#), was launched, marking the first step in a project to assemble [a large manned station](#) by the early 2020s.<sup>[499]</sup> In 2013, China successfully landed the [Chang'e 3](#) lander and [Yutu](#) rover onto the lunar surface.<sup>[500]</sup> In 2016, China's 2nd space station module, [Tiangong-2](#), was launched from [Jiuquan](#) aboard a [Long March 2F](#) rocket on 15 September 2016. Then [Shenzhou 11](#) successfully docked with Tiangong-2 on 19 October 2016. In 2019, China became the first country to land a probe—[Chang'e 4](#)—on the far side of the moon.

## Infrastructure

A 2016 report by [McKinsey](#) consulting group, revealed that China has been annually spending more on infrastructure than North America and Western Europe combined.<sup>[501][502]</sup>

### Telecommunications

*Main article: [Telecommunications in China](#)*

China is the largest telecom market in the world and currently has the [largest number of active cellphones](#) of any country in the world, with over 1.5 billion subscribers, as of 2018.<sup>[503]</sup> It also has the world's largest number of [internet](#) and [broadband users](#), with over 800 million Internet users as of 2018—equivalent to around 60% of its population—and almost all of them being mobile as well.<sup>[504]</sup> Almost entire China's population had access to 4G network by 2017.<sup>[505]</sup> By 2018, China had more than 1 billion 4G users, accounting for 40% of world's total.<sup>[506][507]</sup> In terms of unique mobile subscribers as percentage of population, China came in at 82%, placing the country No. 3 in the world (as of 2018).<sup>[508]</sup> As of early 2019, the average mobile connection speed in China was 30 Mbit/s (megabits per second),<sup>[509]</sup> which is 9% slower than the US.<sup>[510]</sup> As for fixed broadband in China, the average download speed was 76 Mbit/s;<sup>[511]</sup> and 60% of fixed broadband Chinese users (or 200 million Chinese households) were able to access the Internet at 100 Mbit/s or higher (as of 2018).<sup>[512][513][514]</sup> China is making rapid progress in 1 Gbit/s (1000 Mbit/s) internet, and 42% of Chinese homes are expected to have 1 Gbit/s broadband link by 2023.<sup>[515]</sup> In 2018, China had 378 million fixed broadband users and 87% of them were fiber-optic users, making China No. 1 in the world in deployment of fiber-optic cables for broadband.<sup>[516]</sup> By the end of 2017, China had 29 million kilometers of fiber-optic cable.<sup>[517]</sup> In 2019, China is expected to account for 24% of the world's spending on IoT or internet-connected devices.<sup>[518]</sup> Since 2011 China has been the nation with the most installed telecommunication bandwidth in the world. By 2014, China hosted more than twice as much national bandwidth potential than the U.S., the historical leader in terms of installed telecommunication bandwidth (China: 29% versus US:13% of the global total).<sup>[519]</sup> China is making rapid advances in 5G—by late 2018, China had started large-scale and commercial 5G trials.<sup>[520]</sup> In early 2019, Shanghai railway station introduced 5G WIFI that has an internet speed of 1,200 Mbit/s.<sup>[521][522]</sup>

[China Mobile](#), [China Unicom](#) and [China Telecom](#), are the three large providers of mobile and internet in China. China Telecom alone served more than 145 million broadband subscribers and 300 million mobile users; China Unicom had about 300 million subscribers; and China Mobile, the biggest of them all, had 925 million users, as of 2018.<sup>[523][524][525]</sup> Combined, the three operators had over 3.4 million 4G base-stations in China.<sup>[516]</sup> Several Chinese telecommunications companies, most notably [Huawei](#) and [ZTE](#), have been accused of spying for the Chinese military.<sup>[526]</sup> British intelligence—[GCHQ](#) and [NCSC](#)—said in 2019 that there have been no evidence of malicious activity or spying by Huawei.<sup>[527][528]</sup>

China is developing its own [satellite navigation](#) system, dubbed [Beidou](#), which began offering commercial navigation services across Asia in 2012<sup>[529]</sup> and it started providing global services by the end of 2018.<sup>[530][531]</sup> Now China belongs to the elite group of three countries—US and Russia being the other two members—that provide global satellite navigation.

### Transport

*Main article: [Transport in China](#)*



The Duge Bridge is the highest bridge in the world.

Since the late 1990s, China's national road network has been significantly expanded through the creation of a network of [national highways](#) and [expressways](#). In 2018, [China's highways](#) had reached a total length of 142,500 km (88,500 mi), making it the [longest highway system in the world](#);<sup>[532]</sup> and China's railways reached a total length of 127,000 km by 2017.<sup>[533]</sup> By the end of 2018, China's [high-speed railway](#) network reached a length of 29,000 km, representing more than 60% of the world's total.<sup>[534]</sup> In 1991, there were only six bridges across the main stretch of the Yangtze River, which bisects the country into northern and southern halves. By October 2014, there were [81 such bridges and tunnels](#). China has the world's largest market for automobiles, having surpassed the United States in both auto sales and [production](#). Sales of passenger cars in 2016 exceeded 24 million.<sup>[535]</sup> A side-effect of the rapid growth of China's road network has been a significant rise in traffic accidents,<sup>[536]</sup> with [poorly enforced traffic laws](#) cited as a possible cause—in 2011 alone, around 62,000 Chinese died in road accidents.<sup>[537]</sup> However, the Chinese government has taken a lot of steps to address this problem and has reduced the number of fatalities in traffic accidents by 20% from 2007 to 2017.<sup>[538]</sup> In urban areas, bicycles remain a common mode of transport, despite the increasing prevalence of automobiles – as of 2012, there are approximately 470 million bicycles in China.<sup>[539]</sup>

[China's railways](#), which are [state-owned](#), are among [the busiest in the world](#), handling a quarter of the world's rail traffic volume on only 6 percent of the world's tracks in 2006.<sup>[540][541]</sup> as of 2017, the country had 127,000 km (78,914 mi) of railways, the [second longest network in the world](#).<sup>[542][543]</sup> The railways strain to meet enormous demand particularly during the [Chinese New Year](#) holiday, when the [world's largest annual human migration](#) takes place.<sup>[541]</sup> In 2013, Chinese railways delivered 2.106 billion passenger trips, generating 1,059.56 billion passenger-kilometers and carried 3.967 billion tons of freight, generating 2,917.4 billion cargo tons-kilometers.<sup>[542]</sup>

China's [high-speed rail \(HSR\) system](#) started construction in the early 2000s. By the end of 2018, [high speed rail in China](#) had over 29,000 kilometers (18,020 miles) of dedicated lines alone, a length that exceeds rest of the world's high-speed rail tracks combined, making it the [longest HSR network in the world](#).<sup>[544][*better source needed*]</sup> With an annual ridership of over 1.1 billion passengers in 2015 it is the world's busiest.<sup>[545]</sup> The network includes the [Beijing–Guangzhou–Shenzhen High-Speed Railway](#), the single longest HSR line in the world, and the [Beijing–Shanghai High-Speed Railway](#), which has [three of longest railroad bridges in the world](#).<sup>[546]</sup> The HSR track network is set to reach approximately 30,000 km (19,000 mi) by the end of 2019.<sup>[547][548]</sup> The [Shanghai Maglev Train](#), which reaches 431 km/h (268 mph), is the fastest commercial train service in the world.<sup>[549]</sup> In May 2019, China released a prototype for a [maglev](#) high-speed train that would reach a speed of 600 km/h (375 mph); and it is expected to go into commercial production by 2021.<sup>[550]</sup>

Since 2000, the growth of rapid transit systems in Chinese cities has accelerated. As of January 2016, 26 Chinese cities have [urban mass transit systems](#) in operation and 39 more have metro systems approved<sup>[551]</sup> with a dozen more to join them by 2020.<sup>[552]</sup> The [Shanghai Metro](#), [Beijing Subway](#), [Guangzhou Metro](#), [Hong Kong MTR](#) and [Shenzhen Metro](#) are among the [longest](#) and [busiest](#) in the world.

There were [approximately 229 airports in 2017](#), with around 240 planned by 2020. More than two-thirds of the airports under construction worldwide in 2013 were in China.<sup>[553]</sup> and [Boeing](#) expects that China's fleet of active commercial aircraft in China will grow from 1,910 in 2011 to 5,980 in 2031.<sup>[553]</sup> In just five years—from 2013 to 2018—China bought 1000 planes from Boeing.<sup>[554]</sup> With rapid expansion in [civil aviation](#), the [largest airports in China](#) have also joined the ranks of the [busiest in the world](#). In 2018, Beijing's [Capital Airport](#) ranked second in the world by [passenger traffic](#) (it was 26th in 2002). Since 2010, the [Hong Kong International Airport](#) and [Shanghai Pudong International Airport](#) have ranked first and third in [air cargo tonnage](#).

Some 80% of China's airspace remains restricted for [military use](#), and [Chinese airlines](#) made up eight of the 10 worst-performing Asian airlines in terms of delays.<sup>[555]</sup> China has over 2,000 [river and seaports](#), about 130 of which are open to foreign shipping. In 2017, the Ports of [Shanghai](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Shenzhen](#), [Ningbo-Zhoushan](#), [Guangzhou](#), [Qingdao](#) and [Tianjin](#) ranked in the Top 10 in the world [in container traffic](#) and [cargo tonnage](#).<sup>[556]</sup>



The Port of Shanghai's deep water harbor on Yangshan Island in the Hangzhou Bay is from 2010 the world's busiest container port.

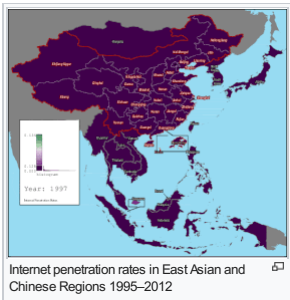
## Water supply and sanitation

*Main article: [Water supply and sanitation in China](#)*

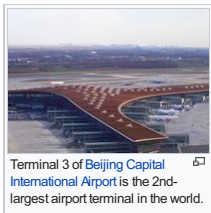
Water supply and sanitation infrastructure in China is facing challenges such as rapid urbanization, as well as [water scarcity](#), [contamination](#), and [pollution](#).<sup>[557]</sup> According to data presented by the



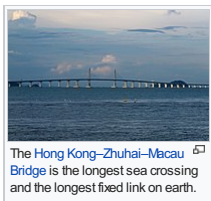
Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, one of the first Chinese spaceport



Internet penetration rates in East Asian and Chinese Regions 1995–2012



Terminal 3 of Beijing Capital International Airport is the 2nd-largest airport terminal in the world.

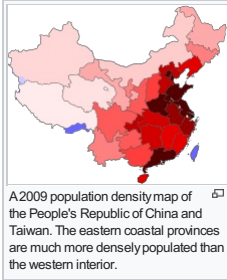


The Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge is the longest sea crossing and the longest fixed link on earth.

**Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation** of **WHO** and **UNICEF** in 2015, about 36% of the rural population in China still did not have access to **improved sanitation**.<sup>[568]</sup> In June 2010, there were 1,519 **sewage treatment plants** in China and 18 plants were added each week.<sup>[569]</sup> The ongoing **South–North Water Transfer Project** intends to abate water shortage in the north.<sup>[560]</sup>

Demographics

Main article: *Demographics of China*



The **national census of 2010** recorded the population of the People's Republic of China as approximately 1,370,536,875. About 16.60% of the population were 14 years old or younger, 70.14% were between 15 and 59 years old, and 13.26% were over 60 years old.<sup>[561]</sup> The population growth rate for 2013 is estimated to be 0.46%.<sup>[562]</sup> China used to make up much of the world's poor; now it makes up much of the world's middle class.<sup>[563]</sup> Although a middle-income country by Western standards, China's rapid growth has **pulled hundreds of millions**—800 million, to be more precise<sup>[564]</sup>—of its people out of poverty since 1978. By 2013, less than 2% of the Chinese population lived below the international poverty line of US\$1.9 per day, down from 88% in 1981.<sup>[329]</sup> China's own standards for poverty are higher and still the country is on its way to eradicate national poverty completely by 2019.<sup>[565]</sup> From 2009–2018, the unemployment rate in China has averaged about 4%.<sup>[566]</sup>

Given concerns about population growth, China implemented a two-child limit during the 1970s, and, in 1979, began to advocate for an even stricter limit of one child per family. Beginning in the mid 1980s, however, given the unpopularity of the strict limits, China began to allow some major exemptions, particularly in rural areas, resulting in what was actually a "1.5"-child policy from the mid-1980s to 2015 (ethnic minorities were also exempt from one child limits). The next major loosening of the policy was enacted in December 2013, allowing families to have two children if one parent is an only child.<sup>[567]</sup> In 2016, the one-child policy was replaced in favor of a **two-child policy**.<sup>[568]</sup> Data from the 2010 census implies that the **total fertility rate** may be around 1.4, although due to underreporting of births it may be closer to 1.5–1.6.<sup>[569]</sup>

According to one group of scholars, one-child limits had little effect on population growth<sup>[570]</sup> or the size of the total population.<sup>[571]</sup> However, these scholars have been challenged. Their own counterfactual model of fertility decline without such restrictions implies that China averted more than 500 million births between 1970 and 2015, a number which may reach one billion by 2060 given all the lost descendants of births averted during the era of fertility restrictions, with one-child restrictions accounting for the great bulk of that reduction.<sup>[572]</sup>

The policy, along with traditional preference for boys, may have contributed to an imbalance in the **sex ratio** at birth.<sup>[573][574]</sup> According to the 2010 census, the sex ratio at birth was 118.06 boys for every 100 girls,<sup>[575]</sup> which is beyond the normal range of around 105 boys for every 100 girls.<sup>[576]</sup> The 2010 census found that males accounted for 51.27 percent of the total population.<sup>[575]</sup> However, China's sex ratio is more balanced than it was in 1953, when males accounted for 51.82 percent of the total population.<sup>[575]</sup>

Ethnic groups

Main articles: *List of ethnic groups in China*, *Ethnic minorities in China*, and *Ethnic groups in Chinese history*

China legally recognizes 56 distinct ethnic groups, who altogether comprise the *Zhonghua Minzu*. The largest of these nationalities are the ethnic Chinese or "Han", who constitute more than 80% of the total population.<sup>[10]</sup> The Han Chinese – the world's largest single ethnic group<sup>[577]</sup> – outnumber other ethnic groups in every provincial-level division except **Tibet** and **Xinjiang**.<sup>[578]</sup> Ethnic minorities account for about less than 25% of the population of China, according to the 2010 census.<sup>[10]</sup> Compared with the 2000 population census, the Han population increased by 66,537,177 persons, or 5.74%, while the population of the 55 national minorities combined increased by 7,362,627 persons, or 6.92%.<sup>[10]</sup> The 2010 census recorded a total of 593,832 foreign nationals living in China. The largest such groups were from South Korea (120,750), the United States (71,493) and Japan (66,159).<sup>[579]</sup>



Languages

Main articles: *Languages of China* and *List of endangered languages in China*



There are as many as 292 **living languages** in China.<sup>[580]</sup> The languages most commonly spoken belong to the **Sinitic branch** of the **Sino-Tibetan language family**, which contains **Mandarin** (spoken by 70% of the population),<sup>[581]</sup> and **other varieties of Chinese language**: **Yue** (including **Cantonese** and **Taishanese**), **Wu** (including **Shanghaiese** and **Suzhounese**), **Min** (including **Fuzhounese**, **Hokkien** and **Teochew**), **Xiang**, **Gan** and **Hakka**. Languages of the **Tibeto-Burman branch**, including **Tibetan**, **Qiang**, **Naxi** and **Yi**, are spoken across the **Tibetan** and **Yunnan–Guizhou Plateau**. Other ethnic minority languages in southwest China include **Zhuang**, **Thai**, **Dong** and **Sui** of the **Tai-Kadai family**, **Miao** and **Yao** of the **Hmong–Mien family**, and **Wa** of the **Austroasiatic family**. Across northeastern and northwestern China, local ethnic groups speak **Altaic languages** including **Manchu**, **Mongolian** and several **Turkic languages**: **Uyghur**, **Kazakh**, **Kyrgyz**, **Salar** and **Western Yugur**. **Korean** is spoken natively along the border with **North Korea**. **Sarikoli**, the language of **Tajiks** in western **Xinjiang**, is an **Indo-European language**. **Taiwanese aborigines**, including a small population on the mainland, speak **Austronesian languages**.<sup>[582]</sup>

**Standard Mandarin**, a variety of Mandarin based on the **Beijing dialect**, is the official national language of China and is used as a **lingua franca** in the country between people of different linguistic backgrounds.<sup>[583][584]</sup> Mongolian, Uyghur, Tibetan, Zhuang and various other languages are also regionally recognized throughout the country.<sup>[585]</sup>

**Chinese characters** have been used as the **written script** for the Sinitic languages for thousands of years. They allow speakers of mutually unintelligible Chinese varieties to communicate with each other through writing. In 1956, the government introduced **simplified characters**, which have supplanted the older **traditional**

**characters** in mainland China. Chinese characters are **romanized** using the **Pinyin system**. Tibetan uses an **alphabet** based on an **Indic script**. Uyghur is most commonly written in **Persian alphabet** based **Uyghur Arabic alphabet**. The **Mongolian script used in China** and the **Manchu script** are both derived from the **Old Uyghur alphabet**. **Zhuang** uses both an official **Latin alphabet script** and a traditional **Chinese character script**.

Urbanization

See also: *List of cities in China*, *List of cities in China by population*, and *Megalopolises in China*

China has urbanized significantly in recent decades. The percent of the country's population living in urban areas increased from 20% in 1980 to over 55% in 2016.<sup>[586][587][588][589]</sup> It is estimated that China's urban population will reach one billion by 2030, potentially equivalent to one-eighth of the world population.<sup>[587][588]</sup> As of 2012, there are more than 262 million **migrant workers** in China, mostly rural migrants seeking work in cities.<sup>[590]</sup>

China has over 160 cities with a population of over one million,<sup>[591]</sup> including the seven **megacities** (cities with a population of over 10 million) of Chongqing, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Shenzhen, and Wuhan.<sup>[592][593][594]</sup> Shanghai is China's **most populous urban area**.<sup>[595][596]</sup> while Chongqing is its **largest city proper**.<sup>[597]</sup> By 2025, it is estimated that the country will be home to 221 cities with over a million inhabitants.<sup>[597]</sup> The figures in the table below are from the 2010 census.<sup>[598]</sup> and are only estimates of the urban populations within administrative city limits; a different ranking exists when considering the total municipal populations (which includes suburban and rural populations). The large "**floating populations**" of migrant workers make conducting censuses in urban areas difficult;<sup>[599]</sup> the figures below include only long-term residents.



v · t · e									
Largest cities in China									
Sixth National Population Census of the People's Republic of China (2010)									
	Rank	Name	Province	Pop.	Rank	Name	Province	Pop.	
 Shanghai	1	Shanghai	–	20,217,700	11	Chengdu	Sichuan	6,316,900	 Chongqing
	2	Beijing	–	16,446,900	12	Nanjing	Jiangsu	6,238,200	
 Beijing	3	Chongqing	–	11,871,200	13	Shenyang	Liaoning	5,718,200	 Guangzhou
	4	Guangzhou	Guangdong	10,641,400	14	Hangzhou	Zhejiang	5,578,300	
	5	Shenzhen	Guangdong	10,358,400	15	X'an	Shaanxi	5,399,300	
	6	Tianjin	–	9,562,300	16	Harbin	Heilongjiang	5,178,000	
	7	Wuhan	Hubei	7,541,500	17	Suzhou	Jiangsu	4,083,900	
	8	Dongguan	Guangdong	7,271,300	18	Qingdao	Shandong	3,990,900	
	9	Hong Kong	–	7,055,071	19	Dalian	Liaoning	3,902,500	
	10	Foshan	Guangdong	6,771,900	20	Zhengzhou	Henan	3,677,000	

Education

Main articles: *Education in the People's Republic of China* and *List of universities in China*

Since 1986, compulsory education in China comprises **primary** and **junior secondary school**, which together last for nine years.<sup>[601]</sup> In 2010, about 82.5 percent of students continued their education at a three-year senior secondary school.<sup>[602]</sup> The **Gaokao**, China's national university entrance exam, is a prerequisite for entrance into most higher education institutions. In 2010, 27 percent of secondary school graduates are enrolled in higher education.<sup>[603]</sup> This number increased significantly over the last years, reaching a tertiary school enrollment of 50 percent in 2018.<sup>[604]</sup> Vocational education is available to students at the secondary and **tertiary** level.<sup>[605]</sup>

In February 2006, the government pledged to provide completely free nine-year education, including textbooks and fees.<sup>[606]</sup> Annual education investment went from less than US\$50 billion in 2003 to more than US\$250 billion in 2011.<sup>[607]</sup> However, there remains an inequality in education spending. In 2010, the annual education expenditure per secondary school student in Beijing totalled ¥20,023, while in **Guizhou**, one of the **poorest provinces in China**, only totalled ¥3,204.<sup>[608]</sup> Free compulsory education in China consists of primary school and junior secondary school between the ages of 6 and 15. In 2011, around 81.4% of Chinese have received secondary education.<sup>[609]</sup> By 2007, there were 396,567 primary schools, 94,116 secondary schools, and 2,236 higher education institutions in China.<sup>[610]</sup>

As of 2018, 96% of the population over age 15 are literate.<sup>[611]</sup> In 1949, only 20% of the population could read, compared to 65.5% thirty years later.<sup>[612]</sup> In 2009, Chinese students from Shanghai achieved the world's best results in mathematics, science and literacy, as tested by the **Programme for International Student Assessment** (PISA), a worldwide evaluation of 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance.<sup>[613]</sup> Despite the high results, Chinese education has also faced **both native and international criticism** for its emphasis on rote memorization and its gap in quality from rural to urban areas.<sup>[614]</sup>

There is an increasing number of top-ranked international universities seeking influence in China in recent years. **Washington University in St. Louis** established an **EMBA** program with **Fudan University** in 2002 which has since been constantly ranked as one of the best in the world.<sup>[615][616]</sup> **Columbia Global Centers** Beijing opened in 2009, and **Harvard Institute Shanghai** opened in 2010.<sup>[617]</sup> Two years later, **Stanford University** established an academic center in **Peking University**.<sup>[618]</sup> The year after, in 2013, **Duke Kunshan University** was put into operation.<sup>[619]</sup> Subsequently, the **Yale Center Beijing**, and **NYU Shanghai** were both established in 2014.<sup>[620][621]</sup>

## Health

*Main article: **Health in China***

*See also: **Pharmaceutical industry in China***

The **National Health and Family Planning Commission**, together with its counterparts in the local commissions, oversees the health needs of the Chinese population.<sup>[622]</sup> An emphasis on public health and preventive medicine has characterized Chinese health policy since the early 1950s. At that time, the Communist Party started the **Patriotic Health Campaign**, which was aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene, as well as treating and preventing several diseases. Diseases such as **cholera**, **typhoid** and **scarlet fever**, which were previously rife in China, were nearly eradicated by the campaign. After **Deng Xiaoping** began instituting **economic reforms** in 1978, the health of the Chinese public improved rapidly because of better nutrition, although many of the free public health services provided in the countryside disappeared along with the People's Communes. Healthcare in China became mostly privatized, and experienced a significant rise in quality. In 2009, the government began a 3-year large-scale healthcare provision initiative worth US\$124 billion.<sup>[623]</sup> By 2011, the campaign resulted in 95% of China's population having basic health insurance coverage.<sup>[624]</sup> In 2011, China was estimated to be the world's third-largest supplier of **pharmaceuticals**, but its population has suffered from the development and distribution of **counterfeit medications**.<sup>[625]</sup>

As of 2017, the average life expectancy at birth in China is 76 years,<sup>[626]</sup> and the **infant mortality** rate is 7 per thousand.<sup>[627]</sup> Both have improved significantly since the 1950s.<sup>[4]</sup> Rates of **stunting**, a condition caused by **malnutrition**, have declined from 33.1% in 1990 to 9.9% in 2010.<sup>[630]</sup> Despite significant improvements in health and the construction of advanced medical facilities, China has several emerging public health problems, such as respiratory illnesses caused by **widespread air pollution**,<sup>[631]</sup> hundreds of millions of **cigarette smokers**,<sup>[632]</sup> and an increase in **obesity** among urban youths.<sup>[633][634]</sup> China's large population and densely populated cities have led to serious disease outbreaks in recent years, such as the 2003 outbreak of **SARS**, although this has since been largely contained.<sup>[635]</sup> In 2010, air pollution caused 1.2 million premature deaths in China.<sup>[636]</sup>

The 2019-20 **coronavirus pandemic** was first identified in **Wuhan** in December 2019.<sup>[637][638]</sup>

## Religion

*Main article: **Religion in China***

*See also: **Xinjiang re-education camps***

The government of the People's Republic of China officially espouses **state atheism**,<sup>[641]</sup> and has conducted **antireligious campaigns** to this end.<sup>[642]</sup> Religious affairs and issues in the country are overseen by the **State Administration for Religious Affairs**.<sup>[643]</sup> **Freedom of religion** is guaranteed by China's constitution, although religious organizations that lack official approval can be subject to state persecution.<sup>[252][644]</sup>

Over the millennia, Chinese civilization has been influenced by various religious movements. The "three teachings", including **Confucianism**, **Taoism**, and **Buddhism** (**Chinese Buddhism**), historically have a significant role in shaping Chinese culture,<sup>[645][646]</sup> enriching a **theological and spiritual framework** which harkens back to the early **Shang** and **Zhou dynasty**. Chinese popular or folk religion, which is framed by the three teachings and other traditions,<sup>[647]</sup> consists in allegiance to the *shen* (神), a character that signifies the "energies of generation", who can be **deities** of the environment or **ancestral principles** of human groups, concepts of civility, **culture heroes**, many of whom feature in **Chinese mythology** and history.<sup>[648]</sup> Among the most popular **cults** are those of **Mazu** (goddess of the seas),<sup>[649]</sup> **Huangdi** (one of the two **divine patriarchs** of the Chinese race),<sup>[649][650]</sup> **Guandi** (god of war and business), **Cai Shen** (god of prosperity and richness), **Pangu** and many others. China is home to many of the world's tallest religious statues, including the tallest of all, the **Spring Temple Buddha** in **Henan**.

Clear data on religious affiliation in China is difficult to gather due to varying definitions of "religion" and the unorganized, diffusive nature of Chinese religious traditions. Scholars note that in China there is no clear boundary between **three teachings** religions and local folk religious practice.<sup>[645]</sup> A 2015 poll conducted by **Gallup International** found that 61% of Chinese people self-identified as "convinced atheist",<sup>[651]</sup> though it is worthwhile to note that Chinese religions or some of their strands are definable as **non-theistic** and **humanistic** religions, since they do not believe that divine creativity is completely transcendent, but it is inherent in the world and in particular in the human being.<sup>[652]</sup> According to a 2014 study, approximately 74% are either non-religious or practise Chinese folk belief, 16% are Buddhists, 2% are Christians, 1% are Muslims, and 8% adhere to other religions including **Taoists** and **folk salvationism**.<sup>[653][640]</sup> In addition to Han people's local religious practices, there are also various **ethnic minority groups in China** who maintain their **traditional autochthon religions**. The various folk religions today comprise 2–3% of the population, while Confucianism as a religious self-identification is common within the intellectual class. Significant faiths specifically connected to certain ethnic groups include **Tibetan Buddhism** and the **Islamic religion** of the **Hui**, **Uyghur**, **Kazakh**, **Kyrgyz** and other peoples in Northwest China.

## Culture

*Main articles: **Chinese culture** and **Culture of the People's Republic of China***



The **Temple of Heaven**, a center of **heaven worship** and an UNESCO World Heritage site, symbolizes the **Interactions Between Heaven and Mankind**.<sup>[654]</sup>

Since ancient times, Chinese culture has been heavily influenced by **Confucianism**. For much of the country's dynastic era, opportunities for social advancement could be provided by high performance in the prestigious **imperial examinations**, which have their origins in the **Han dynasty**.<sup>[655]</sup> The **literary emphasis** of the exams affected the general perception of cultural refinement in China, such as the belief that **calligraphy**, **poetry** and **painting** were higher forms of art than dancing or drama. Chinese culture has long emphasized a sense of deep history and a largely inward-looking national perspective.<sup>[231]</sup> Examinations and a **culture of merit** remain greatly valued in China today.<sup>[656]</sup>



A **moon gate** in a Chinese garden.

The first leaders of the People's Republic of China were born into the traditional imperial order, but were influenced by the **May Fourth Movement** and reformist ideals. They sought to change some traditional aspects of Chinese culture, such as rural land tenure, **sexism**, and the Confucian system of education, while preserving others, such as the family structure and culture of obedience to the state. Some observers see the period following the establishment of the PRC in 1949 as a continuation of traditional Chinese dynastic history, while others claim that the Communist Party's rule has damaged the foundations of Chinese culture, especially through political movements such as the **Cultural Revolution** of the 1960s, where many aspects of traditional culture were destroyed, having been denounced as "regressive and harmful" or "vestiges of **feudalism**". Many important aspects of traditional Chinese morals and culture, such as Confucianism, art, literature, and performing arts like **Peking opera**,<sup>[657]</sup> were altered to conform to government policies and propaganda at the time. Access to foreign media remains heavily restricted.<sup>[658]</sup>



Beijing's **Peking University**, one of the **top-ranked universities in China**.<sup>[600]</sup>

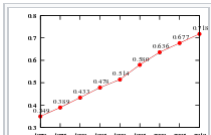
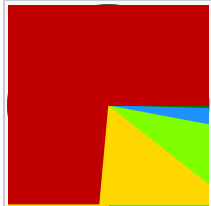


Chart showing the rise of China's **Human Development Index** from 1970 to 2010



Religion in China (CFPS 2014)<sup>[639][640][note 1]</sup>

■ **Non-religious / Chinese folk religion** (including local **cults** to deities and ancestors, **Confucianism**, **Taoism**, **Chinese Buddhism**) (73.56%)  
■ **Buddhism** (15.87%)  
■ **Other religions, including folk salvationism and Taoist sects** <sup>[note 2]</sup> (7.60%)  
■ **Christianity** (2.53%)  
■ **Islam** <sup>[note 3]</sup> (0.45%)



**Fenghuang County**, an ancient town that harbors many architectural remains of **Ming** and **Qing** styles.



Today, the Chinese government has accepted numerous elements of traditional Chinese culture as being integral to Chinese society. With the rise of [Chinese nationalism](#) and the end of the Cultural Revolution, various forms of traditional Chinese art, literature, music, film, fashion and architecture have seen a vigorous revival,<sup>[659][660]</sup> and folk and variety art in particular have sparked interest nationally and even worldwide.<sup>[661]</sup> China is now the [third-most-visited country in the world](#),<sup>[662]</sup> with 55.7 million inbound international visitors in 2010.<sup>[663]</sup> It also experiences an enormous volume of [domestic tourism](#); an estimated 740 million Chinese holidaymakers travelled within the country in October 2012.<sup>[664]</sup>

## Literature

*Main article: [Chinese literature](#)*

Chinese literature is based on the literature of the [Zhou dynasty](#).<sup>[665]</sup> Concepts covered within the [Chinese classic texts](#) present a wide range of [thoughts](#) and subjects including [calendar](#), [military](#), [astrology](#), [herbology](#), [geography](#) and many others.<sup>[666]</sup> Some of the most important early texts include the *[I Ching](#)* and the *[Shujing](#)* within the [Four Books and Five Classics](#) which served as the Confucian authoritative books for the state-sponsored curriculum in dynastic era.<sup>[667]</sup> Inherited from the *[Classic of Poetry](#)*, [classical Chinese poetry](#) developed to its floruit during the Tang dynasty. [Li Bai](#) and [Du Fu](#) opened the forking ways for the poetic circles through romanticism and realism respectively.<sup>[668]</sup> [Chinese historiography](#) began with the *[Shiji](#)*, the overall scope of the historiographical tradition in China is termed the [Twenty-Four Histories](#), which set a vast stage for Chinese fictions along with [Chinese mythology](#) and [folklore](#).<sup>[669]</sup> Pushed by a burgeoning citizen class in the [Ming dynasty](#), Chinese classical fiction rose to a boom of the historical, town and [gods and demons fictions](#) as represented by the [Four Great Classical Novels](#) which include *[Water Margin](#)*, *[Romance of the Three Kingdoms](#)*, *[Journey to the West](#)* and *[Dream of the Red Chamber](#)*.<sup>[670]</sup> Along with the [wuxia](#) fictions of [Jin Yong](#) and [Liang Yusheng](#),<sup>[671]</sup> it remains an enduring source of popular culture in the [East Asian cultural sphere](#).<sup>[672]</sup>

In the wake of the [New Culture Movement](#) after the end of the Qing dynasty, Chinese literature embarked on a new era with [written vernacular Chinese](#) for ordinary citizens. [Hu Shih](#) and [Lu Xun](#) were pioneers in modern literature.<sup>[673]</sup> Various literary genres, such as [misty poetry](#), [scar literature](#), [young adult fiction](#) and the [xungen literature](#), which is influenced by [magic realism](#),<sup>[674]</sup> emerged following the Cultural Revolution. [Mo Yan](#), a xungen literature author, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012.<sup>[675]</sup>

## Cuisine

*Main article: [Chinese cuisine](#)*

Chinese cuisine is highly diverse, drawing on several millennia of culinary history and geographical variety, in which the most influential are known as the "Eight Major Cuisines", including [Sichuan](#), [Cantonese](#), [Jiangsu](#), [Shandong](#), [Fujian](#), [Hunan](#), [Anhui](#), and [Zhejiang](#) cuisines.<sup>[677]</sup> All of them are featured by the precise skills of shaping, heating, colorway and flavoring.<sup>[678]</sup> Chinese cuisine is also known for its width of [cooking methods](#) and ingredients,<sup>[679]</sup> as well as [food therapy](#) that is emphasized by [traditional Chinese medicine](#).<sup>[680]</sup> Generally, China's staple food is rice in the south, wheat based breads and noodles in the north. The diet of the common people in pre-modern times was largely grain and simple vegetables, with meat reserved for special occasions. And the bean products, such as [tofu](#) and [soy milk](#), remain as a popular source of protein.<sup>[681]</sup> Pork is now the most popular meat in China, accounting for about three-fourths of the country's total meat consumption.<sup>[682]</sup> While pork dominates the meat market, there is also the vegetarian [Buddhist cuisine](#) and the pork-free [Chinese Islamic cuisine](#). Southern cuisine, due to the area's proximity to the ocean and milder climate, has a wide variety of seafood and vegetables; it differs in many respects from the wheat-based diets across dry northern China. Numerous offshoots of Chinese food, such as [Hong Kong cuisine](#) and [American Chinese food](#), have emerged in the nations that play host to the [Chinese diaspora](#).

## Sports

*Main articles: [Sport in China](#) and [China at the Olympics](#)*



Beijing National Stadium at night.

China has become a prime sports destination worldwide. The country gained the hosting rights for several major global sports tournaments including the [2008 Summer Olympics](#), the [2015 World Championships in Athletics](#), the [2019 FIFA Basketball World Cup](#) and the upcoming [2022 Winter Olympics](#).

China has one of the [oldest sporting cultures](#) in the world. There is evidence that [archery](#) (*shèjiǎn*) was practiced during the [Western Zhou dynasty](#). [Swordplay](#) (*jiǎnshù*) and [cuju](#), a sport loosely related to [association football](#)<sup>[683]</sup> date back to China's early dynasties as well.<sup>[684]</sup>

[Physical fitness](#) is widely emphasized in Chinese culture, with morning exercises such as [qigong](#) and [t'ai chi ch'uan](#) widely practiced,<sup>[685]</sup> and commercial [gyms](#) and private fitness clubs are gaining popularity across the country.<sup>[686]</sup> Basketball is currently the most popular spectator sport in China.<sup>[687]</sup> The [Chinese Basketball Association](#) and the American [National Basketball Association](#) have a huge following among the people, with native or ethnic Chinese players such as [Yao Ming](#) and [Yi Jianlian](#) held in high esteem.<sup>[688]</sup> China's professional football league, now known as [Chinese Super League](#), was established in 1994, it is the largest football market in Asia.<sup>[689]</sup> Other popular sports in the country include [martial arts](#), [table tennis](#), [badminton](#), [swimming](#) and [snooker](#). [Board games](#) such as [go](#) (known as *wéiqí* in Chinese), [xiangqi](#), [mahjong](#), and more recently [chess](#), are also played at a professional level.<sup>[690]</sup> In addition, China is home to a huge number of [cyclists](#), with an estimated 470 million bicycles as of 2012.<sup>[639]</sup> Many more traditional sports, such as [dragon boat racing](#), [Mongolian-style wrestling](#) and [horse racing](#) are also popular.<sup>[691]</sup>

China has [participated in the Olympic Games](#) since 1932, although it has only participated as the PRC since 1952. China hosted the [2008 Summer Olympics](#) in Beijing, where its athletes received 51 gold medals – [the highest number of gold medals](#) of any participating nation that year.<sup>[692]</sup> China also won the most medals of any nation at the [2012 Summer Paralympics](#), with 231 overall, including 95 gold medals.<sup>[693][694]</sup> In 2011, [Shenzhen](#) in Guangdong, China hosted the [2011 Summer Universiade](#). China hosted the [2013 East Asian Games](#) in Tianjin and the [2014 Summer Youth Olympics](#) in [Nanjing](#); the first country to host both regular and Youth Olympics. Beijing and its nearby city [Zhangjiakou](#) of [Hebei province](#) will also collaboratively host the [2022 Olympic Winter Games](#), which will make Beijing the first city in the world to hold both the Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics.<sup>[695]</sup>

## See also

- [Index of China-related articles](#)
- [Outline of China](#)
- [Public holidays in China](#)
- [Chinas](#)

## Notes

- ↑ CFPS 2014 surveyed a sample of 13,857 families and 31,665 individuals.<sup>[640]:27, note 4</sup> As noted by Katharina Wenzel-Teuber of China Zentrum, German institute for research on religion in China, compared to CFPS 2012, CFPS 2014 asked the Chinese about personal belief in certain conceptions of divinity (i.e. "Buddha", "Tao", "God of the Christians/Jesus", "Heavenly Lord of the Catholics") rather than membership in a religious group.<sup>[640]:27</sup> It also included regions, such as those in the west of China, that were excluded in CFPS 2012,<sup>[640]:27, note 3</sup> and unregistered Christians.<sup>[640]:28</sup> For these reasons, she concludes that CFPS 2014 results are more accurate than 2012 ones.
- ↑ CFPS 2017 found that 5.94% of the population declared that they belonged to "other" religious categories besides the five state-sanctioned religions. An additional 0.85% of the population responded that they were "Taoists". Note that the title of "Taoist", in common Chinese usage, is generally attributed only to the [Taoist clergy](#). CFPS 2014 found that a further 0.81% declared that they belonged to the popular salvationist sects, while CFPS 2012 found 2.2%, and CGSS 2006–2010 surveys found an average 3% of the population declaring that they belonged to such religions, while government estimates give higher figures (see the "statistics" section of the present article).
- ↑ CFPS 2014 surveyed predominantly people of [Han ethnicity](#). This may have resulted in an underestimation of Muslims. CGSS 2006–2010 surveys found an average 2–3% of the population of China declaring to be Muslim.

## Footnotes

- ↑ [Portuguese](#) (Macau only), [English](#) (Hong Kong only).
- ↑ In the special administrative regions of [Hong Kong](#) and Macau, [Traditional Chinese characters](#) are used. The [Mongolian script](#) is used in [Inner Mongolia](#) and the [Tibetan script](#) is used in the [Tibetan Autonomous Region](#), alongside simplified Chinese.
- ↑ Ethnic minorities that are recognized officially.
- ↑ [Xi Jinping](#) holds four concurrent positions: [General Secretary of the Communist Party of China](#) (*de facto* paramount leader), [President of the People's Republic of China](#) (head of state), and [Chairman of the Central Military Commission](#) (Commander-in-chief) for both state and party.<sup>[3]</sup>
- ↑ According to the official [Orders of precedence in China](#) (i.e. party comes first), the order of Wang would be inferior to the members of the Standing Committee of Politburo of CPC as he was not appointed office in the 19th Central Committee.
- ↑ The area given is the official United Nations figure for [the mainland](#) and excludes [Hong Kong](#), [Macau](#) and [Taiwan](#).<sup>[4]</sup> It also excludes the [Trans-Karakoram Tract](#) (5,800 km² or 2,200 sq mi), [Aksai Chin](#) (37,244 km² or 14,380 sq mi) and other territories in dispute with India. The total area of China is listed as 9,572,900 km² (3,696,100 sq mi) by the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.<sup>[5]</sup> For further information, see [Territorial changes of the People's Republic of China](#).
- ↑ This figure was calculated using data from the CIA World Factbook.<sup>[7]</sup>
- ↑ The [Hong Kong Dollar](#) is used in [Hong Kong](#) and [Macau](#) while the [Macanese pataca](#) is used in Macau only.
- ↑ Motor vehicles and metros drive on the right in mainland China. [Hong Kong](#) and [Macau](#) use left-hand traffic except several parts of metro lines. The majority of the country's trains drive on the left.
- ↑ The total area ranking relative to the United States depends on the measurement of the total areas of China and the United States. See [List of countries and dependencies by area](#) for more information.
- ↑ This number excludes the disputed 23rd province of [Taiwan](#), which China claims but has no jurisdiction over. See [Administrative divisions](#)
- ↑ "Rich people" is defined here as the wealthiest 10% of the global population. As of 2019, this group holds assets of at least US\$109,400.
- ↑ "[...] Next into this, is found the great China, whose kyng is thought to bee the greatest prince in the worlde, and is named Santoa Raia".<sup>[17][18]</sup>



The stories in *Journey to the West* are common themes in Peking opera.



Foods from different regional cuisines: *laziji* from Sichuan cuisine; *xiaolongbao* from Jiangsu cuisine; *rice noodle roll* from Cantonese cuisine; and *Peking duck* from Shandong cuisine<sup>[676]</sup>



[Go](#) is an abstract strategy board game for two players, in which the aim is to surround more territory than the opponent and was invented in China more than 2,500 years ago.



n. <sup>^</sup> "[...] The Very Great Kingdom of China".<sup>[19]</sup> (Portuguese: ...*O Grande Reino da China*...).<sup>[20]</sup>

o. <sup>^</sup> Although this is the present meaning of *guó*, in *Old Chinese* (when its pronunciation was something like /ʈʰʷək/)<sup>[26]</sup> it meant the walled city of the Chinese and the areas they could control from them.<sup>[27]</sup>

p. <sup>^</sup> Its use is attested from the 6th-century *Classic of History*, which states "Huangtian bestowed the lands and the peoples of the central state to the ancestors" (皇天既付中國民越厥疆土于先王).<sup>[28]</sup>

q. <sup>^</sup> Owing to Qin Shi Huang's earlier policy involving the "burning of books and burying of scholars", the destruction of the confiscated copies at Xianyang was an event similar to the *destructions* of the *Library of Alexandria* in the west. Even those texts that did survive had to be painstakingly reconstructed from memory, luck, or forgery.<sup>[49]</sup> The *Old Texts* of the *Five Classics* were said to have been found hidden in a wall at the Kong residence in Qufu. Mei Ze's "rediscovered" edition of the *Book of Documents* was *only shown to be a forgery in the Qing dynasty*.

r. <sup>^</sup> According to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the total area of the United States, at 9,522,055 km<sup>2</sup> (3,676,486 sq mi), is slightly smaller than that of China. Meanwhile, the CIA World Factbook states that China's total area was greater than that of the United States until the coastal waters of the *Great Lakes* was added to the United States' total area in 1996. From 1989 through 1996, the total area of US was listed as 9,372,610 km<sup>2</sup> (3,618,780 sq mi) (land area plus inland water only). The listed total area changed to 9,629,091 km<sup>2</sup> (3,717,813 sq mi) in 1997 (with the Great Lakes areas and the coastal waters added), to 9,631,418 km<sup>2</sup> (3,718,711 sq mi) in 2004, to 9,631,420 km<sup>2</sup> (3,718,710 sq mi) in 2006, and to 9,826,630 km<sup>2</sup> (3,794,080 sq mi) in 2007 (territorial waters added).

s. <sup>^</sup> China's border with Pakistan and part of its border with India falls in the disputed region of *Kashmir*. The area under Pakistani administration is claimed by India, while the area under Indian administration is claimed by Pakistan.

t. <sup>^</sup> Tsung-Dao Lee,<sup>[480]</sup> Chen Ning Yang,<sup>[480]</sup> Daniel C. Tsui,<sup>[481]</sup> Charles K. Kao,<sup>[482]</sup> Yuan T. Lee,<sup>[483]</sup> Tu Youyou<sup>[484]</sup>

u. <sup>^</sup> The national life expectancy at birth rose from about 31 years in 1949 to 75 years in 2008,<sup>[628]</sup> and infant mortality decreased from 300 per thousand in the 1950s to around 33 per thousand in 2001.<sup>[629]</sup>

References

1. <sup>^</sup> "President Xi is making great attempts to 'Sinicize' Marxist-Leninist Thought 'with Chinese characteristics' in the political sphere," states Lutgard Lams, "Examining Strategic Narratives in Chinese Official Discourse under Xi Jinping" *Journal of Chinese Political Science* (2018) volume 23, pp 387–411 at p. 395.






















































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












































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<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Politics</span></div></div>	Law <span> </span> <span>·</span> Judicial system <span> </span> <span>·</span> Human rights (LGBT) <span> </span> <span>·</span> Law enforcement <span> </span> <span>·</span> Naming laws <span> </span> <span>·</span> Nationality law <span> </span> <span>·</span> Penal system <div> <div>Government <div> <div>Civil service<span> </span><span>·</span> Constitution<span> </span><span>·</span> Elections<span> </span><span>·</span> Environmental policy<span> </span><span>·</span> Foreign relations<span> </span><span>·</span> National People's Congress (Standing Committee)<span> </span><span>·</span> National security<span> </span><span>·</span> Political parties and movements (Communist Party (General Secretary<span> </span><span>·</span> Politburo)<span> </span><span>·</span> Democratic Parties<span> </span><span>·</span> Anti-democratisation<span> </span><span>·</span> Pro-democratisation)<span> </span><span>·</span> President (Vice President)<span> </span><span>·</span> State Council (Premier<span> </span><span>·</span> Vice Premier)</div> </div> <div>Military <div> <div>Central Military Commission<span> </span><span>·</span> People's Liberation Army (Ground<span> </span><span>·</span> Navy<span> </span><span>·</span> Air<span> </span><span>·</span> Rocket<span> </span><span>·</span> Strategic Support)<span> </span><span>·</span> People's Armed Police (Coast Guard)<span> </span><span>·</span> Militia</div> </div> </div> </div></div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Economy</span></div></div>	Agriculture <span> </span> <span>·</span> Banking (Central bank) <span> </span> <span>·</span> Economic history <span> </span> <span>·</span> Energy <span> </span> <span>·</span> Finance system <span> </span> <span>·</span> Foreign aid received <span> </span> <span>·</span> Foreign aid program <span> </span> <span>·</span> Historical GDP <span> </span> <span>·</span> Poverty <span> </span> <span>·</span> Reform <span> </span> <span>·</span> Renminbi (currency) <span> </span> <span>·</span> Science and technology (history) <span> </span> <span>·</span> Special Economic Zones (SEZs) <span> </span> <span>·</span> Standard of living <span> </span> <span>·</span> Telecommunications <span> </span> <span>·</span> Tourism <span> </span> <span>·</span> Transport
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Culture</span></div></div>	Archaeology <span> </span> <span>·</span> Archives <span> </span> <span>·</span> Art <span> </span> <span>·</span> Cinema <span> </span> <span>·</span> Cuisine <span> </span> <span>·</span> Dance <span> </span> <span>·</span> Gardens <span> </span> <span>·</span> Libraries <span> </span> <span>·</span> Martial arts <span> </span> <span>·</span> Media <span> </span> <span>·</span> Music <span> </span> <span>·</span> Parks <span> </span> <span>·</span> Philosophy <span> </span> <span>·</span> Religion <span> </span> <span>·</span> Smoking <span> </span> <span>·</span> Sports <span> </span> <span>·</span> Tea culture <span> </span> <span>·</span> Tourism <span> </span> <span>·</span> Variety arts <span> </span> <span>·</span> World Heritage Sites <span> </span> <span>·</span> Literature <div> <div>Society <div> <div>Anthem<span> </span><span>·</span> Chinese Dream<span> </span><span> </span><span>·</span> Corruption<span> </span><span>·</span> Crime<span> </span><span>·</span> Emblem<span> </span><span>·</span> Education<span> </span><span>·</span> Flag<span> </span><span>·</span> "Generation Y"<span> </span><span>·</span> Harmonious Socialist Society<span> </span><span>·</span> HIV/AIDS<span> </span><span>·</span> Intellectualism<span> </span><span>·</span> Languages<span> </span><span>·</span> Poverty<span> </span><span>·</span> Public health (food safety (incidents))<span> </span><span>·</span> Public holidays<span> </span><span>·</span> Rural life<span> </span><span>·</span> Sexuality<span> </span><span>·</span> Socialism with Chinese characteristics<span> </span><span>·</span> Social issues<span> </span><span>·</span> Social relations<span> </span><span>·</span> Social structure<span> </span><span>·</span> Social welfare<span> </span><span>·</span> Suicide<span> </span><span>·</span> Terrorism<span> </span><span>·</span> Time zones<span> </span><span>·</span> Urban life<span> </span><span>·</span> Water supply and sanitation<span> </span><span>·</span> Women<span> </span><span>·</span> <i>Xiaokang</i> (middle-class)<span> </span><span>·</span> Primary stage of socialism</div> </div> <div>Demographics <div> <div>Emigration<span> </span><span>·</span> Ethnic groups<span> </span><span>·</span> Internal migration<span> </span><span>·</span> Statistics<span> </span><span>·</span> Urbanization</div> </div> </div> </div></div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Outline<span> </span><span>·</span> Index</span></div></div>	<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Category<span> </span><span>·</span> Portal</span></div></div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Articles related to China</span></div></div>	
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>v</span> <span>t</span> <span>e</span></div></div>	<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Countries and dependencies of Asia</span></div></div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Sovereign states</span></div></div>	<div>Afghanistan<span> </span><span>·</span> Armenia<span> </span><span>·</span> Azerbaijan<span> </span><span>·</span> Bahrain<span> </span><span>·</span> Bangladesh<span> </span><span>·</span> Bhutan<span> </span><span>·</span> Brunei<span> </span><span>·</span> Cambodia<span> </span><span>·</span> <b>China</b><span> </span><span>·</span> Cyprus<span> </span><span>·</span> East Timor (Timor-Leste)<span> </span><span>·</span> Egypt<span> </span><span>·</span> Georgia<span> </span><span>·</span> India<span> </span><span>·</span> Indonesia<span> </span><span>·</span> Iran<span> </span><span>·</span> Iraq<span> </span><span>·</span> Israel<span> </span><span>·</span> Japan<span> </span><span>·</span> Jordan<span> </span><span>·</span> Kazakhstan<span> </span><span>·</span> North Korea<span> </span><span> </span><span>·</span> South Korea<span> </span><span> </span><span>·</span> Kuwait<span> </span><span>·</span> Kyrgyzstan<span> </span><span>·</span> Laos<span> </span><span>·</span> Lebanon<span> </span><span>·</span> Malaysia<span> </span><span>·</span> Maldives<span> </span><span>·</span> Mongolia<span> </span><span>·</span> Myanmar<span> </span><span>·</span> Nepal<span> </span><span>·</span> Oman<span> </span><span>·</span> Pakistan<span> </span><span>·</span> Philippines<span> </span><span>·</span> Qatar<span> </span><span>·</span> Russia<span> </span><span>·</span> Saudi Arabia<span> </span><span>·</span> Singapore<span> </span><span>·</span> Sri Lanka<span> </span><span>·</span> Syria<span> </span><span>·</span> Tajikistan<span> </span><span>·</span> Thailand<span> </span><span>·</span> Turkey<span> </span><span>·</span> Turkmenistan<span> </span><span>·</span> United Arab Emirates<span> </span><span>·</span> Uzbekistan<span> </span><span>·</span> Vietnam<span> </span><span>·</span> Yemen</div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>States with limited recognition</span></div></div>	<div>Abkhazia<span> </span><span>·</span> Artsakh<span> </span><span>·</span> Northern Cyprus<span> </span><span>·</span> Palestine<span> </span><span>·</span> South Ossetia<span> </span><span>·</span> Taiwan</div>
<div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span>Dependencies and special administrative regions</span></div></div>	<div> <div>Australia <div> <div>Christmas Island<span> </span><span>·</span> Cocos (Keeling) Islands</div> </div> </div> <div>China <div> <div>Hong Kong<span> </span><span>·</span> Macau</div> </div> </div> <div>United Kingdom <div> <div>Acrotiri and Dhekelia<span> </span><span>·</span> British Indian Ocean Territory</div></div></div></div>



