

## Case Study: China



### Is China a global superpower?

- A Superpower is a large country with a large population, strong economy, great military power, and great political and cultural influence.
- The USA is a current superpower as it currently controls roughly 50% of the entire world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- China has recently overtaken the USA in the GDP it has and in 2023 it is projected to be 23 trillion dollars (\$23,000,000,000!!!!).

### How has China's population changed?

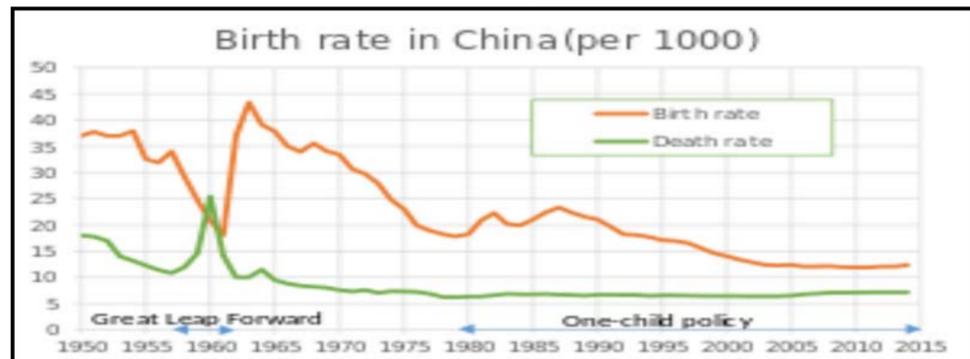
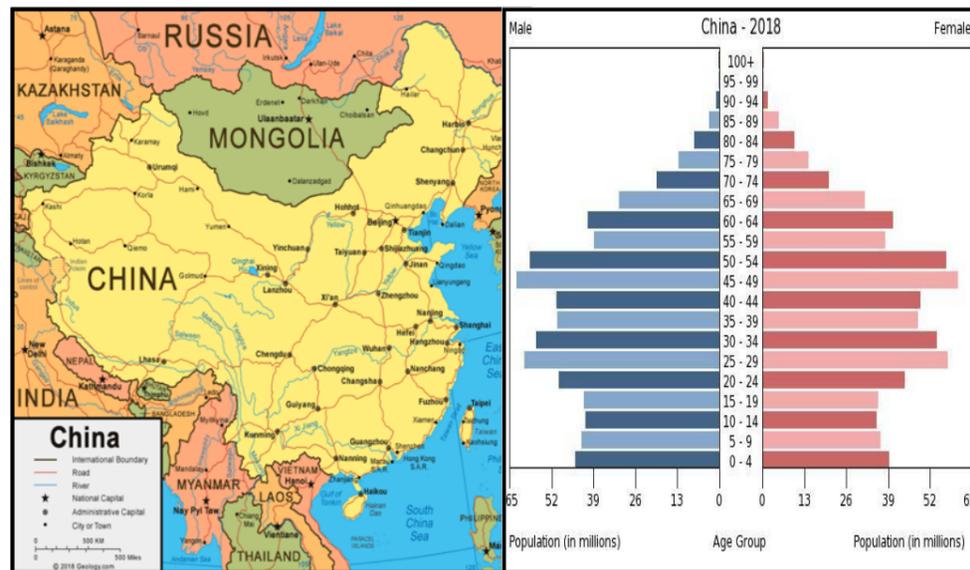
- China's One Child Policy was introduced in 1979 to try and combat overpopulation and increase the quality of life for people living there.
- The One Child Policy has led to an ageing population. This means that by 2030, there is expected to be only 2 tax payers for every elderly person living in China.
- The One Child Policy has also meant that women involved in raising children do it for a much shorter period of time which means there is a higher proportion of women who work.
- Lots of Chinese families favoured having boys, which means there is a much higher proportion of men compared to women.

### How is China creating an interdependent world?

- China has about 12% of the world's mineral resources, with only the USA and Russia possessing larger proportions.
- The government has built many new roads, rail systems and made rivers navigable. China has five of the ten largest container ports in the world.
- Since 1990, 439 million people have been lifted out of poverty, creating a growing market for consumer goods, leading to further industrial growth.
- China is located close to the strong economy and market of Japan and also the newly emerging economies of other Asian countries, such as India and South Korea.

## Key Terms

<b>Population Density</b>	The average number of people living in a place per square kilometre.
<b>Newly Emerging Economy (NEE)</b>	A country that is experiencing rapid industrial and economic growth in a relatively short period of time.
<b>Trans National Corporation (TNC)</b>	A business that has operations in more than one country e.g. McDonalds, Pepsi, Amazon.
<b>Government Policy</b>	Laws which a government may impose which everyone in that country must follow.
<b>Censorship</b>	When governments restrict or ban civil liberties for people living in a country. This can include political activity, free speech and movement.
<b>Globalisation</b>	This is how countries are coming together as one big global economy, making international trade easier.



## How sustainable is China's population?



### How is the Chinese government restricting links to the world?

- The Chinese government have used censorship to limit the influence of the outside world to people living in China.
- The Great Firewall of China censors the internet and bans Chinese citizens from being able to access websites such as Google, Facebook and Twitter. This means that people in China can't easily access anything that criticises the government.
- However, China overtook the USA as the biggest exporter of international trade in 2013 which suggests that it is starting to set up more links with the rest of the world.

### Why did China flood 3000 villages?

- The Three Gorges Dam is located in Hubei Province in Central China and produces 22,500 megawatts of electricity each year, which makes it the most productive hydroelectric dam in the world.
- The Dam is able to store water which controls flooding along the Yangtze River during the flood season. It has also made the transport of goods across China much easier, which can then be traded with other countries.
- The construction of the Dam cost over \$25 billion and made roughly 1 million people homeless. It has also destroyed habitats which has led to the extinction of animals such as the Yangtze River Dolphin (also known as the Baiji).

### Why did the Coronavirus (COVID-19) spread so quickly?

- The 2019-20 outbreak of COVID-19 started in the city of Wuhan, in Central China. It causes symptoms such as a fever and dry cough.
- The virus spread quickly to areas where there are a lot of tourists, such as Japan, Iran and Italy. This shows that globalisation of the world has meant that the virus has been able to spread more quickly.
- The virus has led to a host of social impacts, such as the quarantine of Wuhan in China and whole of Italy. Sporting fixtures across the world were also cancelled to combat the spread.
- Economic impacts have included the global stock market crashing on March 9 2020 and airline companies such as Flybe closing down.

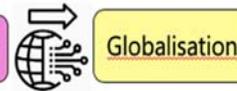


## Topic 5 – Is Asia’s population becoming unsustainable?

### Rationale (Why are we studying this?)

This topic studies the population structure of Asia. Different populations face a range of challenges and this unit will consider how **sustainable** these structures are. Further, we will study the impact of **globalisation** on resources and the ‘power’ of different countries. Difficult decisions have been made to make the continent **resilient** to change, we will judge the success of these choices.

### Core Threads in this topic...



### How is China becoming more powerful on the world stage?

A superpower is a country or region in the world that has great power compared to other countries. They have a high population, strong economy and army, and great political and cultural influence. Currently, **the USA** is the world’s superpower, but **China** is **emerging** as a new superpower in the world.



### Where is Asia?

There are **48 countries** in Asia and is home to nearly **4.5 billion people**. 1.4 billion of these people live in China! Asia also has an extremely diverse physical environment with the tallest mountain in the world (**Mount Everest**). A **population pyramid** is a graph which shows the make-up of a country’s population by gender and age. China’s population in **1970** had a huge number of people **under the age of 15** which meant the population was **increasing** massively. This mean that today there is an **ageing** population.



### How does the physical environment support the population?

Asia’s physical environment is diverse and includes **biomes** such as rainforests, deserts and the tundra. Countries such as **India** rely on physical characteristics such as the **Monsoon Season** which allows the country to grow rice. This and other forms of **agriculture** (farming) contributes **15% of India’s total GDP**.



### Why did China adopt the one-child policy?

China introduced the **One-Child Policy** in 1979 to try and solve the problem of **overpopulation**. The Policy was useful, supporting facilities such as education and healthcare. However, the policy also led to lots of baby girls being aborted or abandoned. This meant that there are now a lot **more men in China than women**. The policy ended in 2015.



### Why are there more older people in China?

Because of the One-Child Policy, the population in China is **ageing**. This means that there are much higher proportions of elderly people. This has the consequence of a much higher proportion of people who need to be looked after by the **State**.



### How is China creating an interdependent world?

China has gone a long way to create a more **interdependent** world, meaning that countries become more reliant on each other. China has done this by having a huge labour supply and **investing in infrastructure**. For example, the **Belt and Road** initiative cost \$900 billion but will boost trade across Asia to encourage **economic development**.



### How is the Chinese government restricting links to the world?

The Chinese Government have used  **censorship** to limit the influence of the outside world to people living in China. The **Great Firewall** of China censors the internet and bans Chinese citizens from being able to access websites such as **Facebook and Twitter**. Anyone that does criticise the Chinese Government can be arrested and **harshly punished**.



### Why did China flood 3000 villages?

The **Three Gorges Dam** is the most productive **hydroelectric dam** in the world. The dam has made the transport and trading of goods and products much easier. However, the dam cost over **\$25 billion** to build and made over **1 million** people homeless. It also led to the extinction of animals such as the **Yangtze River Dolphin**



### Next Steps in Learning:

Next we are looking at a unique and fascinating place that covers two continents. The Middle East has some quite unique human and physical geography. This creates some specific opportunities and challenges. The Middle East holds the potential to have conflicts over water and oil over the next 50 years.