China: Geography and Demographics

Jeff Harbach, Killian Lapeyre, Patrick O’Berry, & Adam Staley
Geography of China

- Third largest country in the world – 9.6M sq km (similar to the United States)
- Shaped like a rooster – you be the judge?

22 Governing Provinces

Relevant Cities

- Shanghai - 20M (largest) – Mouth of Yangtze @ E China Sea
- Beijing – 17M (2nd largest) – Inland at tip of N China Plain
- Guangzhou – (3rd) 12M – Pearl River Port 75 miles NW of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong - 7M (7th) – Pearl River Delta
- Xian - 3.8M (19th) – Central China river plains
Topography and Climate

- Widely Varying Terrain and Climates
  - Far North- Arctic
  - Far South- Tropical
  - NW- Desert
  - East- Fertile Lands
- 2/3 Mountainous
  - E/W Mountains and Plateus in West
    - Himalayas, Hunlun, Tian Shan
  - N/S in Center/East
    - Great Wall
- Elevated Terrain in West feeds rivers for the East
  - Yangtzi (largest)
  - Huang He/Yellow River (most critical)
    - Named for silt that runs off mountains into the river
    - Large man-made boundaries help prevent flooding in many areas
- Major Cities Climate
  - Beijing – 4 distinct seasons (long hot summer) – 31°-52° in March
  - Shanghai – Subtropical Climate – summer monsoon – 45°-55° in March
  - Hong Kong –similar to Shanghai but warmer – 62°-71°
  - Xian – varying climates – 38°-57° in March
Geographical Issues

• Geography leaves only 13% of land arable for farming
  • Food Production Problems
  • Population centered in East on farming land
    • 10% destroyed in last 7-10 years by land development
• Flooding and Earthquakes
• Pollution becomes an increasing issue
  • Acid Rain polluting lakes and Rivers
  • Xian- 8 nearby rivers- most provide no water
Demographics of China

• While China is the most populated country in the world, it’s population density only ranks 78th (360/mi²)

• Five Largest Provinces account for 55% of land and 5.7% of population (Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Xizang, Qinghai, and Gansu)
Demographics of China

- Minorities are growing 7 times the rate of the Han; minorities are excluded from one-child policy. Other exemptions include: rural couples, parents without siblings, children with disabilities.

- 56 Ethnic Groups
  - Han ~ 91.9% of population (1.3BN)
  - Zhuang ~ 1.3% of population (16MM)
  - Manchu ~ 0.9% (10MM)
  - Uyghur ~ 0.8% (9MM)
  - Hui ~ 0.8% (9MM)
  - Miao ~ 0.7% (8MM)
  - Yi ~ 0.65% (7MM)
  - Tujia ~ 0.6% (6MM)
Demographics of China

• One-Child Policy was introduced in 1979. As of 2008, China estimated to have three to four hundred million fewer people as a result of this policy. Estimated that 36% of Population is subject to one-child policy.

• Gender imbalances caused by one-child policy; In the 2000 census, it was estimated that 119 boys were born for every 100 girls.

• 2004 legislation banned selective abortions of female fetuses

Shanghai Demographics & Geography

- Largest City in China  -- Over 20 Million People
- 17 Districts and 1 County; 220 towns
- Located on China’s central eastern coast at the mouth of the Yangtze River

- Originally a fishing and textiles town
- Known as the largest center of commerce and finance in mainland China; described as world’s fastest growing major economy.
Shanghai Demographics & Geography

- While official language is Standard Mandarin, the common language is Shanghainese
  - Shanghainese is a dialect Wu Chinese
  - Most Shanghai residents are descendants of immigrants from Jiangsu and Zhejiang, regions that generally speak Wu Chinese
- Although a modern metropolis, Shanghai contains some picturesque rural suburban areas.
- Shanghai has a humid subtropical climate with four distinct seasons; Average March Temperatures: hi 55 F lo 42 F
Beijing Demographics

- Second largest City in China -- Officially 17 Million People (20M more accurate)
- Capital City – Formerly Peking
- 16 Districts and 289 towns
- Population density: World: 12th; China 4th
- 16,410 Sq Kilometers; only 38% available to use

- Known as the political, cultural and educational center of China
- Sizeable international community; increasing number of South Koreans
## Ethnicities in Beijing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Han</td>
<td>12,983,696</td>
<td>95.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchu</td>
<td>250,286</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hui</td>
<td>235,837</td>
<td>1.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongols</td>
<td>37,464</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koreans</td>
<td>20,369</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tujia</td>
<td>8372</td>
<td>0.062%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhuang</td>
<td>7322</td>
<td>0.054%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miao</td>
<td>5291</td>
<td>0.039%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibetan</td>
<td>2920</td>
<td>0.022%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Han Chinese (汉族)
- 92% of PRC, 20% of world population
- Largest Ethnic Group in the World
- 1.3B people
- Confucianism influence – morality vs. law

### Manchu (满族)
- Originated in Manchuria (NE China) + RUS
- Mostly assimilated; 11M people
- Ruled: Qing Dynasty from 1644-1911
- Language virtually extinct
- One child policy exemption
- Traditionally Shaman; Now Buddhist

### Hui (回族)
- Historically Muslim; Central Asian & Arabic
- NW Concentration and Inner Mongolia
- 10M people; mostly Chinese speakers
Beijing: Socio-Economic Diversity

- GDP = $284B in 2008
- $17,000 per capita GDP (11th largest in China)

- 2nd to Shanghai in Human Development Index (HDI) and GDP Per Capital
- Home to 26 Fortune 500 Companies (3rd most behind Tokyo)
- First Post-Industrial Chinese City: 751 Finance Companies
- “Filter Effect”: Low income earners = inner city or small towns on outskirts
- Increasingly non-industrial, non-agricultural
- Poor water and air quality; Cost of living / electricity / natural gas high