

## Part A: Overview of the People's Republic of China

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### National Curriculum:

#### Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia is a cross-curriculum priority

*'China, India and other Asian nations are growing rapidly and the power and influence they have in all areas of global endeavour is extensive. An understanding of Asia underpins the capacity of Australian students to be active and informed citizens, working together to build harmonious local, regional and global communities, and to build Australia's social, intellectual and creative capital.'*

p. 24 Draft Geography Curriculum

### INTRODUCTION

China is a proud and ancient nation drawing upon rich and deep traditions. The year 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the Chinese Empire and the beginning of the Chinese Republic. It was also the 150th anniversary of the first concerted efforts by a Chinese government to become actively involved in international affairs and to comprehensively engage with the West.

China is the world's most populous country, with over 1.3 billion people, representing 20% of the world's population. Since the 1970s, China's economy has developed to become the third largest economy in the world, after the United States and Japan but expected to overtake US by 2030. Globally China is the: largest exporter of goods and producer of steel; third largest automotive vehicle manufacturer (after US and Japan); second largest consumer of automobiles (after US) and consumes half the world's concrete.

In the modern, globalised world China has become increasingly interconnected with the international community. Kevin Rudd at the 2010 *Australia and China in the World – 70th Morrison Lecture*, stated 'in the aftermath of the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression, China continues to be the principal engine of global economic recovery'... 'Only a decade ago, this would have been unimaginable. Three decades ago, it would have been seen as sheer fantasy'... 'We have all been beneficiaries of China's remarkable performance'. As a result China has been 'transformed from an impoverished, isolated and predominantly agrarian economy to an increasingly global, wealthy, industrial and urban-centred economy'.

Australia aims to work with China in constructing a peaceful, prosperous and environmentally sustainable Asia-Pacific Century. A strong, stable and secure partnership between Australia and China for the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be good for China, good for Australia, good for the region and good for the world.

Photograph (above): Mid Autumn Festival, Beijing. Source: Wikimedia Commons

# Part A: Overview of the People's Republic of China

## a. WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

### Map locating China



Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/china.html>

### Activities

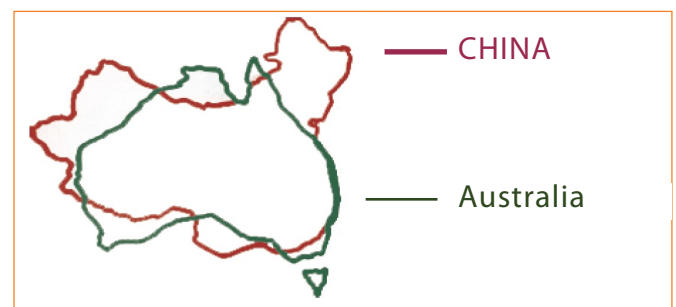
- Name the latitude and longitude of Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Lhasa
- Calculate the distance between Shanghai and Beijing
- Using Google Earth <http://www.maplandia.com/china/>. List the countries surrounding China

## b. DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT CHINA?

- 115 billionaires
- 2nd largest GDP
- Before C19th one of most advanced societies and economies in world
- 8.5 million people move from rural to urban areas a year
- 13% of global industrial production
- 50% of global output of steel
- In two weeks enough houses built to reproduce Rome. In a year replace every house in Spain, in a decade build the equivalent of Europe's entire housing stock
- 94% live eastern third country
- Coastal regions most economically developed - grows by 10 million a year
- 3rd nation to launch manned spaceflight
- Chongqing one of fastest-growing urban centre on planet. Its population is bigger than Peru or Iraq
- Largest producer and consumer of coal
- Inventions – gunpowder, toilet paper, seismological detectors

- 2.3 million people in armed forces
- World's most populous country 1.3 billion – 20% Earth's population
- 4 of world's 10 most polluted cities – air quality
- Politically maintains strict control over people
- Human rights issues – Tibet, One Child Policy
- Earthquake Sichuan 2008 - 87,000 dead or missing.
- Taoist, Buddhist and Muslim – main religions
- 15 McDonalds in 2008 and expected 2000 by 2013
- Produces 85% Christmas trees, 72% shoes, 80% toys exported to USA

### Map: Comparing size of Australia with China



### Table: Comparing basic facts between Australia and China

2011	China	Australia
Capital	Beijing	Canberra
Surface Area	9,596,960 sq km	7,686,850 sq km
Official Language	Mandarin	
Population	1,357,686,043	22,577,029
GDP	\$8.77 trillion	\$1.32 trillion
GDP per capita	\$5,383	\$46,278
GDP growth rate	11.8%	2.9%

### Activities

Refer to the following Youtubes and answer the questions below:

- Discovery Channel, China 1– <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErbMJAXr0Yw&feature=related>, 5/4/2008, 9.57min
- Discovery Channel China 2 – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCjW4ZxY2Bc&feature=related>, 5/4/2008, 10.03min
- Discovery Channel China 3.– <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLuolIYTan4&feature=related>, 5/4/2008, 9.55min
- Discovery Channel China 4 – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AQq2nrJAz8&feature=related>, 7/4/2008, 10.02min

There are also Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8 for further information on China

**Group work:** Divide the class into eight groups. Each group will summarise one Youtube article and present their summaries as an oral report to the class.



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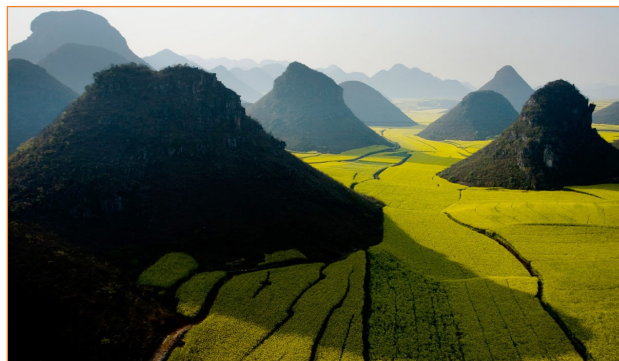
## c. WHAT ARE THE DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES ACROSS CHINA?

### Terraced fields



Source: <http://pichaus.com/agriculture-aerial-photography-geographic-@d94e04390bada3a1cb31c148fa378dfd>

### Rapeseed plants



Source: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/wallpaper/img/2008/05/may08-05-1280.jpg>

### In Guangxi, limestone pinnacles line the Li River.



Source: <http://vinounku.wordpress.com/2008/05/14/china-from-above-with-rare-photo-of-snow-covered-great-wall/>

### Chang Tang alpine steppe in northern Tibet.



Source: <http://www.myconfinedspace.com/2008/10/07/chiru-expedition-chang-tang-tibet-200>

### Yangtze River waterfalls



Source: [http://wallpapers.free-review.net/42\\_Yangtze\\_River\\_Waterfalls\\_%28China%29.htm](http://wallpapers.free-review.net/42_Yangtze_River_Waterfalls_%28China%29.htm)

### China's Taklimakan Desert



Source: [http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/marco-polo-photos/#/dunes-china-taklimakan-desert\\_11355\\_600x450.jpg](http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/marco-polo-photos/#/dunes-china-taklimakan-desert_11355_600x450.jpg)

### China's iconic Great Wall



Source: <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/great-wall-china/>

### Shenzhen urban growth – housing demands



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-urbanization-cities/>

### Activities

- Define what is meant by the word 'landscape'
- Design a collage illustrating the variety of landscapes across China. Use the Internet for your images



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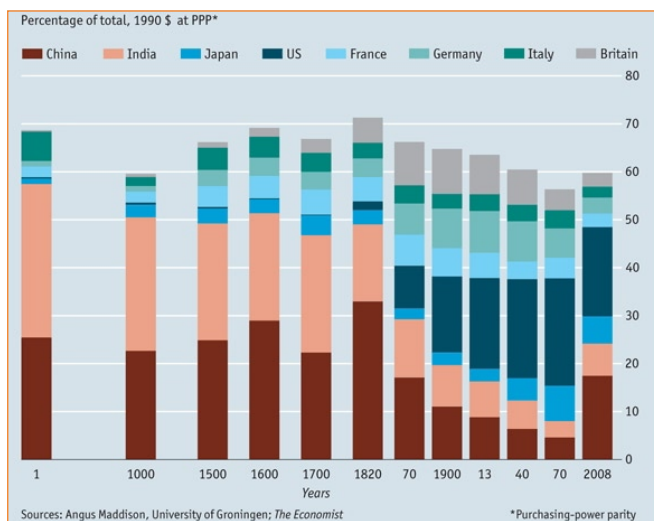


# ECONOMIC GROWTH OF CHINA

### a. Rise, fall and rise again of China

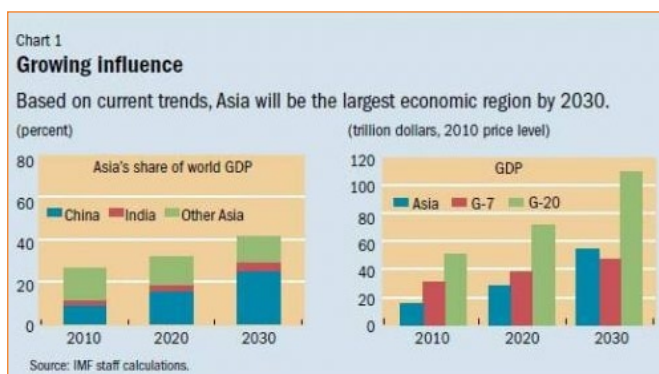
China and India were the biggest economies in the world for most of the last 2000 years, as they possessed the largest populations. Up until 200 years ago, population size was a dominant factor in economic output. After the industrial revolution followed by the information revolution, population size became less important. The Europeans followed by the North Americans developed technology, resulting in increased GDP per capita and the emergence of their wealthy economies. Now times are changing. India and China, using the latest industrial technology, are moving up the world on a GDP per capita basis. At present their emerging middle class are becoming wealthier by the day.

## Graph: History of World GDP



Source: <http://www.economist.com/node/16834943>

## Column Graphs: IMF's Finance & Development: Asia is moving into a leadership role in the world economy



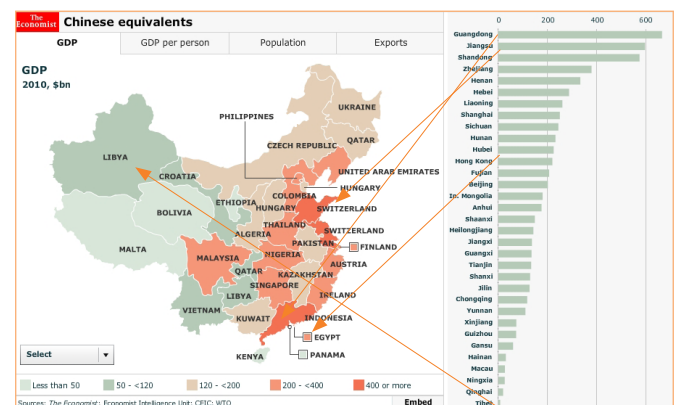
Source: [http://www.finfacts.ie/irishfinancenews/article\\_1019932.shtml](http://www.finfacts.ie/irishfinancenews/article_1019932.shtml)

Over the past decade strong policy frameworks and institutions in Asia will hopefully provide a solid foundation for future growth.

### b. Inequality

China's economic growth is generally located in coastal provinces with GDP declining further inland. For example, inland Tibet is the poorest province, with a GDP less than 1/80<sup>th</sup> of coastal Guangdong.

### Map: Chinese Provinces compared to countries with similar GDP 2010



Source: [http://www.economist.com/content/all\\_parities\\_china](http://www.economist.com/content/all_parities_china)  
Go to this site - interactive excellent map

## Interpreting maps

Refer to the map showing the economic chasm (GDP) between China's provinces by comparing their GDP with foreign countries' GDP. For example Guangdong's GDP is almost as big as Indonesia's GDP.

This map is GDP not GDP per capita (per person). For example Hong Kong is lower on the GDP scale as it has a similar GDP to Egypt. On the other hand Hong Kong is higher on the GDP per capita scale as it has a similar GDP per capita to Singapore.

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When interpreting statistics, note national figures mask large and growing development gaps between the relatively rich eastern coastal regions and the poor central and western regions.

**Table: Top Chinese Provinces compared to countries with similar GDP per capita 2010**

Rank	Province	US\$ (PPP)	Comparable country (PPP)
	Macau	72,110	Qatar
	Hong Kong	45,580	Singapore
1	Shanghai	22,983	Saudi Arabia
2	Beijing	20,841	Slovakia
3	Tianjin	19,284	Hungary
4	Jiangsu	13,714	Belarus
5	Inner Mongolia	13,108	Turkey
6	Zhejiang	12,876	Azerbaijan
7	Guangdong	12,074	Kazakhstan
8	Shandong	10,914	South Africa
9	Liaoning	10,772	Costa Rica
10	Fujian	9,969	Cuba

While China is on track nationally for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS), inequality has increased. Consequently there is a need for the Chinese government to work towards balanced regional economic growth.

## c. Increasing wealth

In 2011, there were 115 billionaires (412 in USA) in China while millions lived in poverty. Zong Qinghou, the founder of China's largest soft drink company (Wahaha), is the richest person in China with a fortune of \$12 billion. There are also 825,000 people worth over \$1.5 million and as a result consumption of luxury goods was \$9.4 billion in 2010.

The widening gap between rich and poor has prompted warnings of potential social instability and chaos.

**Table: World top 10 billionaire countries (2011)**

Rank	Country/Region	Number of billionaires	Share of world total (%)
1	United States	412	34.0
2	People's Republic of China	115	10.6
3	Russia	101	8.3
4	India	55	4.5
5	Germany	52	4.3
6	Turkey	38	3.1
7	Hong Kong	36	3.0
8	United Kingdom	33	2.7
9	Brazil	30	2.5
10	Japan	26	2.1
<b>World total</b>		<b>1210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_the\\_number\\_of\\_US\\_dollar\\_billionaire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_the_number_of_US_dollar_billionaire)

**Bar graph: World's super rich women**



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-rich-poor-inequality/>

Over half of the world's top 20 richest self-made women are Chinese, including the top three richest {The Economist online "The Great Wealth of China" Oct. 13, 2010}

**Line and column graph: By 2020, China's domestic market will account for 19% of global demand for luxury goods.**



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/china-luxury-goods-growth-chart.gif>

### Did you know?

- China is expected to be the world's largest luxury good market for the next decade
- Luxury goods sales in China is expected to rise 25% annually over five years (2011-2016), which is twice as fast as overall consumption growth in China (11%). "Prosperous Chinese are less shy about flaunting their wealth than people in other countries. On the contrary, many believe they must show off to be taken seriously." (CLSA investment group report, "Dipped in Gold: Luxury lifestyles in China", Feb. 2 2011)

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## d. Declining poverty

China has made progress towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). According to the World Bank, less than 3% of the population lives on less than a dollar-a-day, compared to more than 20% in India.

China has achieved the target of halving the number of poor people from 85 million in 1990 to 35 million in 2010. Primary education targets were achieved 13 years ahead of schedule. The mortality rate of children under five years dropped from 61 per 1,000 births in 1991 to 17.2 in 2009. The maternal mortality ratio dropped from 80 per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 31.9 in 2009. China has recently stepped up efforts to improve treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Land covered by forests increased from 16% (1998) to 20% (2008). Over 200,000 water supply projects provided millions of people access to safe drinking water.

Photograph: Shanghai has three Louis Vuitton stores



(The New York Times "In China, Cultivating the Urge to Splurge" Nov. 24, 2010)  
Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-rich-poor-inequality/>

Table: Progress of Millennium Development Indicators in China 2010



MDGs and Indicators	Progress
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b> <b>A:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day <b>B:</b> Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all <b>C:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<b>Already met</b>  <b>Potentially</b>  <b>Already met</b>
<b>Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education</b> <b>A:</b> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	<b>Already met</b>
<b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b> <b>A:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	<b>Likely</b>
<b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</b> <b>A:</b> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five mortality rate	<b>Already met</b>
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b> <b>A:</b> Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio <b>B:</b> Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	<b>Likely</b>  <b>Potentially</b>
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b> <b>A:</b> Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS <b>B:</b> Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it <b>C:</b> Halted by 2015 and reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	<b>Likely</b>  <b>Potentially</b>  <b>Likely</b>
<b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b> <b>A:</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources <b>B:</b> Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss <b>C:</b> Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation <b>D:</b> By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.	<b>Likely</b>  <b>Potentially</b>  <b>Likely</b>  <b>Likely</b>
<b>Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development</b>	<b>On-going</b>

Source: <http://www.undp.org.cn/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&catid=32&sid=6>  
Source of Information: Millennium Development Goal Report 2010



# Part A: Overview of the People's Republic of China

## CHINA AN URBAN COUNTRY

During the Great Leap Forward (1958), urbanisation in the People's Republic of China increased in conjunction with industrialisation. This growth was followed by a population decline during the Cultural Revolution (1965-1975), when millions of people were forced to move to the countryside. However, after reforms were launched in 1978, growth in the urban population again accelerated. The inflow of foreign investment to urban areas created employment which in turn stimulated rural-urban migration.

Today half the world's population is urban and half the world's most global cities are located in Asia. In 2011 China became an urban nation. China's urbanites outnumber their country cousins. At present 8.5 million Chinese rural dwellers move into cities each year. As urban growth accelerated, cities ate into the hillsides and swallowed rice fields, replacing them with towers of concrete and glass. By 2030, the urban population will top one billion. In China will be 221 cities with more than one million inhabitants and the number of new skyscrapers will be equivalent to ten New York cities. The impact will be felt worldwide in prices for commodities such as steel and copper.

Diagram: Speed of urbanisation by 2025 and 2030 in China and India



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-urbanization-cities/>

### a. Growth of large cities

It's no surprise the country with the world's largest population also has some of the world's largest cities. Britain has five urban centres of more than a million people in contrast to China with ninety. Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong are well known around the world but Chongqing is unfamiliar - even to most Chinese. It is possibly the world's largest municipality by population and one of the largest by area.

Table: Population in main cities in China

There are more than 120 built up areas with more than 1 million inhabitants.

City: 2010	Built up Area	Urban Area	Administrative Area
1. Chongqing	4,802,511	5,402,721	28,846,170
2. Shanghai	25,607,016	22,265,426	23,019,148
3. Beijing	19,980,328	19,295,000	19,612,368
4. Chengdu	6,730,749	7,123,697	14,047,625
5. Tianjin	10,290,987	11,090,044	12,937,954
6. Baoding	1,665,360	1,028,000	11,194,379
7. Guangzhou	41,230,000	11,070,654	10,810,755

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_cities\\_in\\_the\\_People%27s\\_Republic\\_of\\_China\\_by\\_population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China_by_population)

Shanghai is among the world's biggest and most important cities. With a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$256.3billion (ninth largest in the world) and growing at 9.9% per year, the city is at the centre of the Chinese economy, often referred to as the 'Manhattan of China'.

Shanghai's GDP per person is as high as Saudi Arabia's, though still below Hong Kong and Macau. Today indicators of prosperity such as income, health and education levels in rich cities like Shanghai approach those of some European nations.

Unfortunately growth appears to be too fast. The latest sign that Shanghai is struggling to cope with the large demographic shift has seen municipal authorities ordering factories to move to night shifts because energy supplies were unable to meet daytime demand for electricity.

Column graph: Fastest growing cities in China since 1985

Rank	City	GDP(CNY)	GDP(US\$)	Province
1	Shanghai	1,687,242	249,242	Shanghai
2	Hong Kong	1,523,111	225,003	Hong Kong
3	Beijing	1,377,794	203,530	Beijing
4	Guangzhou	1,060,448	156,651	Guangdong
5	Shenzhen	951,091	140,496	Guangdong
6	Suzhou	916,891	135,444	Jiangsu
115	Jiujiang	103,206	15,246	Jiangxi
116	Rizhao	102,508	15,143	Shandong
117	Suqian	101,521	14,997	Jiangsu
118	Jieyang	100,899	14,905	Guangdong
119	Qujing	100,550	14,853	Yunnan
120	Yingkou	100,200	14,800	Liaoning

Source: [http://www.china-profile.com/data/fig\\_urban\\_1.htm](http://www.china-profile.com/data/fig_urban_1.htm)

### b. Rome built in two weeks!

#### Cartoon: Give us all you've got ! by Nicholson



Source: [http://www.cairnsblog.net/2008\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html](http://www.cairnsblog.net/2008_08_01_archive.html)

The movement of Chinese farmers to cities is the biggest demographic change in human history. In China there are enough houses built to reproduce Rome in two weeks, all houses in Spain in a year and Europe's entire housing stock in a decade. As

China consumes more steel, iron ore and cement per capita than any industrial nation in history, this phenomenon underpins the strength of resource-based economies like Australia. Also any major decline in the construction industry would have serious implications on our economy.

China is currently leading the construction of skyscrapers around the globe, with 34 of world's 100 tallest buildings. The country will build up to 50,000 skyscrapers in the next 20 years, the equivalent of 10 New Yorks. At present China consumes half the world's concrete and a third of the world's steel. The Australian mining boom is feeding the Chinese construction industry with its demand for iron ore, coal, nickel, copper and aluminium.

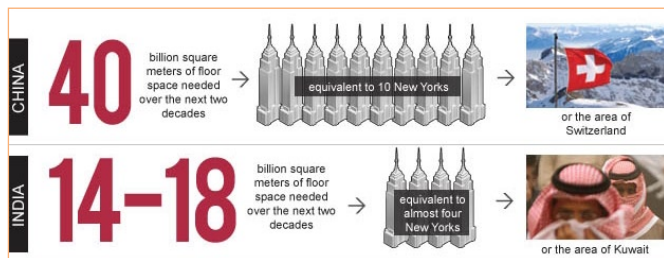
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Most of the raw material mined in Australia is exported overseas to countries such as China for processing into refined products. Energy and minerals constitute two thirds of Australia's total exports to China, and more than half of Australia's iron ore exports are to China

## c. World's largest construction market

China became the world's largest construction market in 2010. By 2020, China is predicted to account for one-fifth of the global construction industry.

Diagram: Metres of floor space



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/china-urbanization-construction-growth-rate.jpg>

## d. Downside of rapid construction

Are buildings being constructed too fast?

Photograph: Toppled 13-storey apartment building that buried one worker in Shanghai.



Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/5685963/Nine-held-over-Shanghai-building-collapse.html>

## e. China's ghost towns

New satellite pictures show massive skyscraper cities which are completely empty. Of the 35 major cities surveyed in 2010, property prices in eleven including Beijing and Shanghai were between 30 and 50 per cent above their market value. Average house prices were more than 70 per cent higher than their market value in the city of Fuzhou.

Demand for accommodation is greater than supply resulting in high price for apartments. The government aims to meet the target by constructing one million units of affordable housing in Beijing between 2011 and 2015.

Photograph: Zhengzhou New District residential towers.



Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2005231/Chinas-ghost-towns-New-satellite-pictures-massive-skyscraper-cities-STILL-completely-empty.html>

Soaring property prices and high levels of investment has fuelled the construction of several new cities. Experts fear a subsequent property crash could damage the global economy.

## Activities

They are building ten new cities a year in China. The towns are all ghost towns, waiting for people to move in. At the moment there are about 64 million empty apartments. One of the ghost cities is designed for 12 million people.

- You Tube – The Empty City – 64 million empty apartments in China, <http://www.sbs.com.au/dateline/story/watch/id/601007/n/China-s-Ghost-Cities> 14.37min
- Ghost towns photographs, <http://www.businessinsider.com/pictures-chinese-ghost-cities-2010-12?slop=1#>

## f. Poor migrant workers

Many rural citizens who move into cities can only find work as unskilled labourers in factories for low wages. As a result they are unable to afford a decent standard of living and available public services are inadequate.

Despite living in cities, migrant workers are still registered as rural residents. They have little or no social security and are charged huge fees to send their children to public schools, forcing some to forgo an education.

Photograph: Migrant workers

Source: <http://www.theneweconomy.com/international-affairs/asia/680-urbanisation-throttles-china-countryside/>





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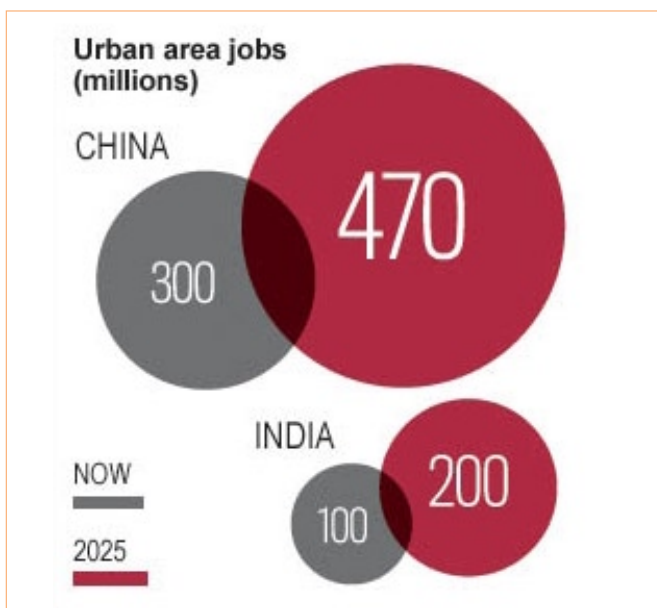
In 2010, China's rural per capita net income (\$758 a year) was less than a third of its urban equivalent. This inequality was one of the key motivating forces leading rural peasants to move to urban areas.

Today China has 145 million migrant workers (11% of China's total population), larger than the entire workforce of the United States. Out of Shenzhen's population of more than 14 million people, only 2.5 million are residents.

These rural-born migrant workers who work in urban areas are denied benefits enjoyed by city dwellers. This has resulted in 'an underclass of rural migrants living as second-class citizens in China's cities. Also China has 20 million children of migrant workers living in cities. Many attend unofficial schools set up by migrant workers. Beijing has 200 migrant schools and Shanghai 300.

Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-urbanization-cities/>

**Graph:** China currently has 145 million migrant workers (11 percent of China's total population in 2010)...larger than the entire workforce of the United States.



Source: <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-urbanization-cities/>

## g. Chongqing: Boomtown of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Photograph:** Skyline of Chongqing



Source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/SkylineOfChongqing.jpg>

Nowhere is the staggering urbanisation of the world more evident than in Chongqing. Never heard of it? Its population is bigger than Peru or Iraq, with half a million arriving every year in search of a better life.

The city is the economic centre of the upper Yangtze River. After its municipal government was given control of surrounding territory the size of many countries, it has become the world's biggest municipality with 31 million residents.

**Table: Population change of Chongqing**

Year	Population	± % change
1949	1,003,000	—
1979	6,301,000	+528.2%
1983	13,890,000	+120.4%
1996	15,297,000	+10.1%
1997*	30,220,000	+97.6%
2000	30,512,763	+1.0%
2004	30,550,000	+0.1%
2010	28,846,170	-5.6%
2011	31,000,000+	

\* Population size in 1997 was affected by expansion of administrative divisions

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chongqing>

At the heart of the government plans to revitalise western China, referred to as the 'Go West' policy, the country since 1999 has spent \$197.2 billion, mainly on roads, bridges, dams and pipelines. Most of this money stimulated the growth of Chongqing and paid for the Three Gorges Dam, the world's biggest hydroelectric project, which provides the city with power. As a result Chongqing has doubled its GDP in the past five years.

### Photograph: Bangbang army



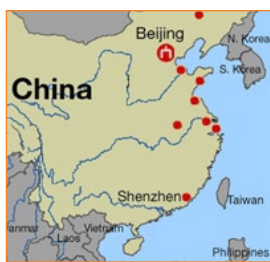
Source: <http://english.sina.com/china/p/2011/1101/410412.html>

Unfortunately its prosperity has been unequally distributed. For example, there is a contrast between the wealthy industrialist and the poor Bangbang army of about 100,000 porters. These workers arrive from rural areas with no skills and minimal education. They select the cheapest tool, a bamboo pole (or "bangbang") with rope and hang around the docks, markets and bus stations waiting for goods to carry up the steep slopes of this mountain port. Over the past two years as the city has become wealthier there has been a decline in porters as more people possess cars and many shops offer home delivery services. Furthermore, the low income of porters has led to many seeking more profitable means of earning a living.

According to the World Bank, 16 of the planet's 20 dirtiest cities are in China, and Chongqing is one of the worst. Every year, the choking atmosphere is responsible for thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of cases of chronic bronchitis. The city also produces 3.5 million kilograms of garbage every day.

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## Activity

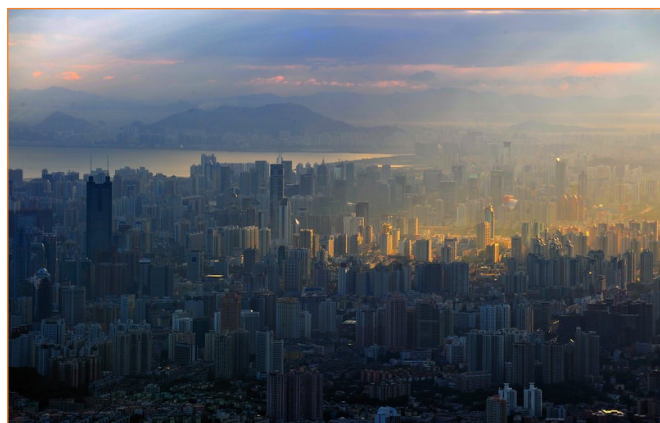
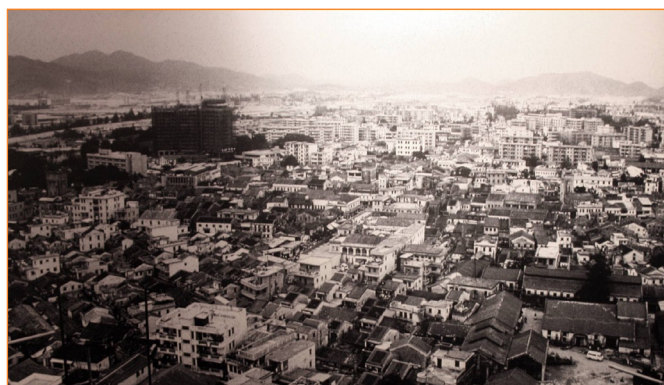


About 30 years ago, Shenzhen was a fisherman's village with a few thousand people. It is now home to 10,357,938 million people with a GDP per capita of \$14,615 and growing at 10.7% a year.

Shenzhen's Special Economic Zone, established in May 1980,

was the first special economic zone in China. This led to foreign investment and the development of industries. As a result millions of rural migrants moved to Shenzhen in search of jobs.

**Photographs: Refer to the two photographs and describe the changes over 30 years**



Source: [http://cnreviews.com/business/research-insights/stefano-negri-china-urbanization\\_20090616.html](http://cnreviews.com/business/research-insights/stefano-negri-china-urbanization_20090616.html)

**Table: Population changes**

Year	Population	±% change
1982	351,871	—
1990	1,214,800	+ 245.2%
2000	7,008,428	+ 476.9%
2010[	10,357,938	+ 47.8%

Population size may be affected by changes on administrative divisions.

The population structure polarises into two opposing extremes: intellectuals with a high level of education, and migrant workers with poor education. It was reported in June 2007 that over 20 percent of China's PhD's worked in Shenzhen.

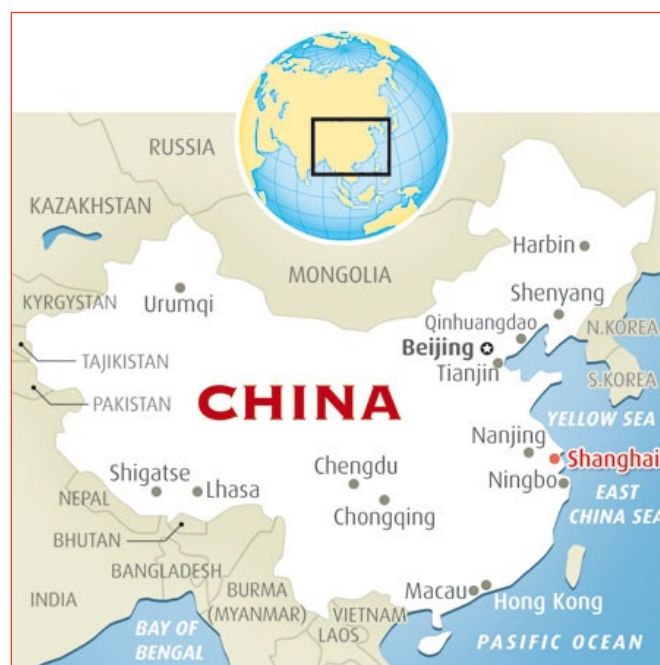
## h. Shanghai: Growing Chinese city

Shanghai is the largest city by population in China and the largest city 'proper' (not including surrounding suburban areas) in the world. The city area covers 2,642km<sup>2</sup> but if 16 districts and four counties were included the area extends to 6,341km<sup>2</sup>.

Shanghai is located on the edge of the Yangtze River Delta at latitude 31°14'N and longitude 121°29'E.

Due to its geographic location, Shanghai has become the busiest container port in the world with transport links to its vast hinterland. Shanghai's rapid development over the last two decades has led it to become a leading global city and a major financial centre with influence in commerce, culture, finance, media, fashion, technology and transport.

**Map: Location of Shanghai**



Source: [http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail\\_getNewsById.action?load=detay&link=184463](http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail_getNewsById.action?load=detay&link=184463)

### i) Shanghai the emerging global city

In 2010 the World Expo in Shanghai heralded the emergence of Shanghai as a global city (or world city). The city is deemed to be an important node in the global economic system.

Shanghai also:

- ranked fifth in the Global Financial Centres Index;
- has 787 financial institutions, of which 170 are foreign-invested;
- ranked third among worldwide stock exchanges in terms of trading volume and sixth in terms of the total capitalisation of listed companies;
- had double digit growth every year since 1992 - except during the global recession of 2008/2009; and.
- had GDP of US\$256.3billion with a GDP per capita of \$11,540 (2010).



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Shanghai is an indicator of China's development. Shanghai has 132,000 millionaires, designer shops such as Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Chanel mixed with five star hotels and luxury houses and cars.

China's government is promoting rapid urbanisation as a means to improve living standards and productivity. Over the next few years, the world's most populous nation plans to move about 300 million people from the countryside to urban areas. It is predicted Shanghai will replace Britain as the world's fourth largest economy in the next two years.

*'Just as New York City exemplified the strengths and aspirations of an emerging America in the 20th century, Shanghai perhaps will personify the capabilities and dreams of rising Asia in the 21st century.'*

Source: <http://www.newgeography.com/content/001558-shanghai-the-rise-global-city>

Photograph: Louis Vuitton Shanghai



Source: <http://pursenickety.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/lv-shanghai.jpg>

## ii) Chinese cities

Globalisation and World Cities (GaWC) identified Shanghai as an alpha city based on its connectivity through four producer services – accountancy, advertising, banking/finance, and law.

Table: Top three out of four alpha cities

Category	Cities
Alpha++	London, New York City
Alpha+	Chicago, Dubai, Hong Kong, Paris, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo
Alpha	Amsterdam, Beijing, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Frankfurt, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles, Madrid, Mexico City, Milan, Moscow, Mumbai, San Francisco, São Paulo, Seoul, Toronto and Washington

Source: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/>

## iii) Global Power City Index

This index provides a ranking of the urban competitiveness of 35 world cities based on their international 'magnetism.' This is defined as a city's 'power to attract creative people and excellent companies from around the world amidst accelerated interurban competition.' While New York, London, Paris and Tokyo top the latest version of the Global Power City Index other prominent Asian cities, such as Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore and Hong Kong, perform well in a number of specific areas.

Table: Cities ranked by category

Rank	Population of city proper	Population of metropolitan area	Metro by annual passenger ridership	Metro systems by total route length	Airport by annual passenger traffic	Number of billionaires (US dollars)	Gross Metropolitan Product at total PPPs
1	<b>Shanghai</b>	Tokyo	Tokyo	<b>Shanghai</b>	London	Moscow	Tokyo
2	Karachi	Seoul	Moscow	London	New York	New York	New York
3	Mumbai	Mexico City	Seoul	New York	Tokyo	London	Los Angeles
4	<b>Beijing</b>	New York	<b>Shanghai</b>	<b>Beijing</b>	Atlanta	<b>Hong Kong</b>	Chicago
5	Moscow	Mumbai	<b>Beijing</b>	Berlin	Paris	Istanbul	Paris
6	Istanbul	Jakarta	New York	Seoul	Chicago	Mumbai, São Paulo	London
7	São Paulo	São Paulo	Paris	Tokyo	Los Angeles		Osaka
8	<b>Tianjin</b>	Delhi	Mexico City	Moscow	<b>Beijing</b>	Taipei, Los Angeles, Beijing	Mexico City
9	<b>Guangzhou</b>	Osaka	<b>Hong Kong</b>	Madrid	<b>Shanghai</b>		Philadelphia
10	<b>Shenzhen</b>	<b>Shanghai</b>	<b>Guangzhou</b>	<b>Guangzhou</b>	Dallas		Washington,

\***Bold** – Chinese cities

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_city)



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## iv) Global Cities Index 2010

On the **Global Cities Index 2010** Shanghai is ranked 20<sup>th</sup> following Hong Kong 5<sup>th</sup>, Beijing 15<sup>th</sup> and Sydney 9<sup>th</sup>. *Foreign Policy* noted that 'the world's biggest, most interconnected cities help set global agendas, weather transnational dangers, and serve as the hubs of global integration. They are the engines of growth for their countries and the gateways to the resources of their regions'. More details go to <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/node/373401>

Photograph: Population strolling along the Bund in Shanghai



(S. Bliss)

Photograph: Shopping along Nathan Road, Shanghai



(S. Bliss)

## Activity

Summarise these photo series stories of people living in Shanghai, and the impact of urbanisation on their lives

Source: [http://www.uschina.usc.edu/article@usct?shanghai\\_street\\_stories\\_15022.aspx](http://www.uschina.usc.edu/article@usct?shanghai_street_stories_15022.aspx)

## i. Sustainable cities

China, as the most populated developing country, is facing incomparable challenges of sustainable urbanisation. The construction of buildings in Chinese cities makes an undeniable contribution to GDP, but the ecological and social issues it causes have been largely ignored. Unlimited expansion creates pollution, traffic congestion and threatens the natural environment. Also unsustainable constructed cities risk locking China on a carbon and resource intensive path of development for decades.

To cope with the increasing urbanisation, China will build skyscrapers to fill ten New York-sized cities by 2025. The 310m Pearl River Tower in Guangzhou is the most energy efficient super skyscraper built. It possesses wind turbines, solar panels, sun-shields, smart lighting, water-cooled ceilings and state-of-the-art insulation.

Expected to be built by 2020, Tianjin Eco-City is an example of a sustainable city. Spanning 30 square kilometres, it aims to showcase the latest energy-saving technologies. The city will have a light rail transit system and eco-landscapes ranging from a sun-powered solarscape to a greenery-clad earthscape for 350,000 residents.

Photograph: Tianjin Eco-City



<http://openbuildings.com/buildings/tianjin-eco-city-profile-4292>

The city will be divided into seven distinct sectors - a Lifescape, an Eco-Valley, a Solarscape, an Urbanscape, a Windscape, an Earthscape and Eco-Corridors.

Photograph: Tianjin Eco-City



<http://openbuildings.com/buildings/tianjin-eco-city-profile-4292>

## j. Urbanisation just beginning

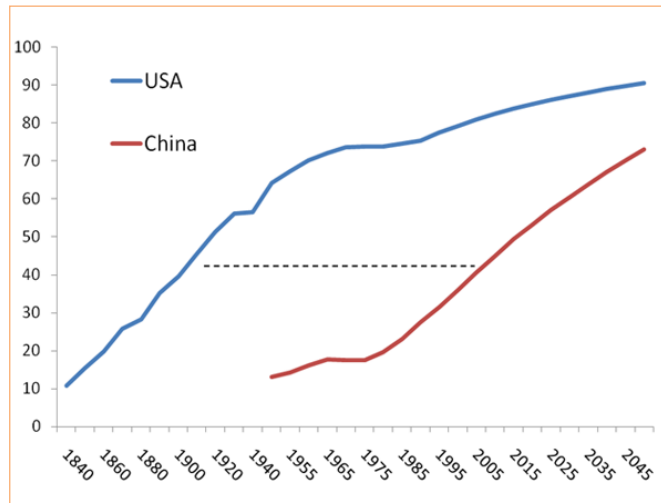
'Despite these colossal shifts, China's urbanisation still has a long way to go. In 1980, the U.S. urban population was 74% of the total; China's comparable figure was only 19%. Today, America's urban share of the population is more than 80%, whereas China's remains less than 50%. Taken into consideration China's colossal size and development level,



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this gap suggests extraordinary potential. In 2025, America will have two cities (New York and Los Angeles) with more than 10 million people, three with 5-10 million and 37 with more than a million. By then, China will have five cities with more than 10 million people, 9 with 5-10 million, and almost 130 with more than a million. Viewed this way, China's urbanisation has barely begun.' <http://www.newgeography.com/content/001906-china%E2%80%99s-urbanization-it-has-only-just-begun>

## Line graphs: Percentage of Urban Population: United States and China



Source: <http://www.newgeography.com/content/001906-china%E2%80%99s-urbanization-it-has-only-just-begun>

The government is concerned urbanisation could cause growing social unrest - particularly because half of China's urban population will be rural-urban migrants. Already

higher wages for labour and increased cost of fuel, and other commodities are affecting China's export economy. This sector traditionally provided the first job for China's urban migrants. The situation is expected to get worse if the world economy slips into a recession.

## CONCLUSION

China has replicated in decades what took centuries to occur in other countries.

Over the last 20 years:

- disposable income has increased three fold
- over 250 Chinese cities have tripled their GDP per capita
- more than 350 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty

However, urban sprawl has led to:

- shortage of resources
- pollution – air, water, land
- small cities are financially strained trying to provide public services – transport, water, energy
- insufficient skilled/trained workers

What about the next 20 years?

- +350 million rural Chinese will migrate into cities
- >200 cities bigger than 1 million (Europe has 35 and America has 9 cities bigger than 1 million)
- 50,000 new skyscrapers (or building 20 Manhattans from scratch or one Chicago every year).

Source: [http://cnreviews.com/business/research-insights/stefano-negri-china-urbanization\\_20090616.html](http://cnreviews.com/business/research-insights/stefano-negri-china-urbanization_20090616.html)



A Buddhist monk watches fireworks during the opening ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo. Photographer: Aly Song/Reuters. Source: Guardian's Eyewitness series <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/picture/2010/may/01/shanghai-world-expo-monk-eyewitness>