

## China

**Official name:** People's Republic of China (not to be confused with the Republic of China, the formal name for Taiwan)

**Type of Government:** Single-Party Socialist State

**Paramount Leader:** President Xi Jinping (term ends 2022)

**Capital City:** Beijing

**Ideology:** Officially communist, but in practice capitalist with strong state control over private sector and little tolerance for political dissent

**Region:** Asia-Pacific (same as Republic of Korea and Australia)

**Neighbours:** Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Taiwan and Vietnam.



### DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 1.3 billion. China is the largest country by population in the world.
- **Religion:** Officially secular; 23% of the population is said to be religious.
- **Age:** About 21% of the population are 14 years or younger. 71% between 15-64 years old. 8% over 65 years old. China has a "one-child policy" to control population growth. Median age is 37 years, life expectancy is 75 years (typical for middle-income country).
- **Ethnicities:** China officially recognizes 56 ethnic groups; the largest is Han Chinese that constitute 91.51% of the population. Ethnic tension is acute in Tibet.
- **Language:** Mandarin, spoken by over 70% of the population.

### ECONOMY

- China is the world's second largest economy, with a GDP of US\$12.4 trillion and inflation of 2.6%
- China's poverty rate is 13.4%: poverty, particularly in rural areas, is still a pressing issue. China is still developing the rudiments of a social safety net but local corruption makes this challenging.
- Major industries are manufacturing and industry 45.3% (China is a major exporter), Services: 44.6%, Agriculture: 10.1%

#### Exports

- Major Export Partners: US 17.2%, Hong Kong 15.8%, Japan 7.4%, South Korea 4.3%
- Major exports include: rice and other crops, electrical and other machinery, apparel, radio and telephone handsets, textiles and integrated circuits

#### Imports

- Import partners include: Japan 9.8%, South Korea 9.3%, US 7.3%, Germany 5.1%, Australia 4.6%
- Imports include: oil and mineral fuels, optical and medical equipment, metal ores, motor vehicles

## Natural Resources

- Coal, iron ore and petroleum. While plentiful, China's resources are insufficient for its growth.

## MILITARY

**Size:** 2.3 million standing troops. China has the world's largest military force and the second largest military expenditure, after the USA.

**Army:** 1.6 million personnel. Currently has a stockpile of about 240 nuclear weapons and other weapons of Mass Destruction.

**Airforce:** 330,000 personnel. China has made significant progress in radically modernizing their airforce in the last decade, as well as developing their own aircrafts and fighter jets. They are currently developing drones and stealth aircraft.

**Navy:** 250,000 personnel. China maintains a substantial fleet of submarines, including nuclear-powered attack and ballistic missile submarines.



## POLITICAL

### Domestic Politics

- With a Human Development Index of 0.69 (ranked 101<sup>st</sup>), China is emphatically a developing country, though growth has been rapid. Growing inequality (ranked 38<sup>th</sup> highest Gini coefficient), and terrible pollution has led to a sharp rise in social tensions.
- Paramount leader Xi Jinping has promoted a “Chinese Dream” of enhanced prosperity, greater global prestige, and less corruption (a major problem in China)

### Foreign Policy Concerns

- China's central concern is the preservation of its sphere of influence in Asia. It is especially concerned to assert its sovereign control over what it considers its territory, including the functionally independent country of Taiwan, the former country of Tibet, and a large number of islands in the South China Sea (subject to a fierce quarrel with Japan, among others).
- China deeply dislikes foreign intervention, since it was a colonial subject in the past. It frequently does business with countries like Iran, Syria, and Sudan that have terrible human rights records and actively blocks attempts to “interfere” even with despotic regimes.
- China has increased its interest in UN peacekeeping in recent years, though usually in support roles. It has troops in Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Haiti among others.
- China is North Korea's only ally: it supplies North Korea with essential supplies because it fears North Korea's collapse would create a huge refugee crisis and lead to US intervention.
- Environmentally, China has emits the most CO<sub>2</sub>, and wishes to promote industry, but is increasingly concerned with the impact of climate change.

### More Information

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China>

CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-13017877>

Latest news from the New York Times (<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/china/index.html>),

the Economist ([www.economist.com/topics/china](http://www.economist.com/topics/china))

the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/china>) and

Xin-hua (State-owned news outlet) ([www.xinhuanet.com/english/](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/)),