

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Pic. 1: map

FACTS

Surface:	9.572.419km²
Capital:	Beijing
Form of government:	peoples republic of china
Inhabitants:	1,3 billion
Population Density:	136,5 /km ²
Average Income:	1.089\$/Month(2004)
Life Expectancy:	48 (W)/45 (M)
Language:	Mandarin, Cantonese, several ethnic languages
Religion:	45% moslems, 15% christians Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity und Lamaism (in Tibet and Inner Mongolia), Confuzianism, Animism

INTRODUCTION

China is situated in the eastern part of asia. It ranges from the Tien Shan mountains and the Taklamakan desert in the west to the East China Sea and South China Sea in the east and

south-east. China borders to Russia, Mongolia, North-Corea in the North; Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadzhiestan in the west; Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Laos and Vietnam in the south. The extension from north to south is about 4.500 km and from west to east about 4.200 km. About 20% of the world population own the chinese citizenship.

HISTORY

The History of China can be dated up to 4000 BC to the Xia dynasty. From (1045 - 221 AD) under the Zhou-Dynastie until to the Yuan-Dynastie (1261 - 1368) the cultural and territorial extension and development increased continously. After 1911, the end of the Qing-dynasty and the emperor Puh-Yi, Sun Yat



Pic. 2: Company of Boxers, Tien-Tsin



Pic. 3: portrait of Mao Ze Dong

Sen declared the republic of china. Until 1917 China was the setting for a bloody civilwar between several clans. In the first World War China declared war to Germany and Austro-Hungary. After the japanese Invasion, and the end of World War II in 1945, Mao Zedong established the communist system in china. As a consequence a big industrialisation started. In 1980 Deng Xiao Peng started a economic reform programme (one country two economic systems). Areas like Shenzen have been accounted for special trading zones. In 1989 a massacre at Tienamen-Place showed the innerpolitical tensions and problems of chinas community.

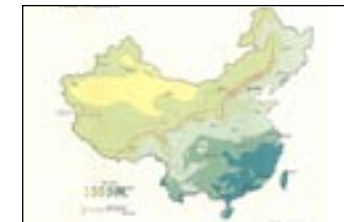
POLTICAL SITUATION

The political system of the Peoples Republic of China is characterized through a overbearance communist one-party system of the KPCH. The governmental system is mostly centralized. Despite regional governments in China, especially those nearby the South China Sea, have more freedom of action.

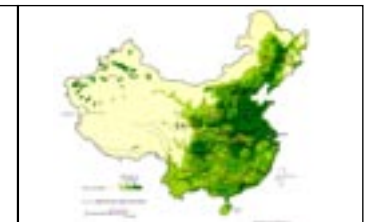
Any other political partys or organisations are not allowed and will be persecuted through the chinese government. The press and media are subject to censorship by the National Peoples Congress, the highest government body.

CLIMATE

As a result of large extensions the climate of China varies strongly. In the western, northern and north-eastern part of the country the climatic conditions are distinctly continental with cold winter and hot summer. In the southern and south-eastern part of China, the climate is subtropical and tropical. The Himalyan Mountains and the Tien Shan Mountains are charaterized through a high mountain climate.



Pic. 4: precipitation



Pic. 5: agricultural regions

TOPOGRAPHY

China has a surface of 10 million km², therefore China has a big variety of topographical structures. There are many natural topographical borders that embed the country. In the east and south-east are the oceans, and to the west and south-west are high mountain ranges. In the north of China are deserts and steppe. Finally in the north-eastern part of China large rivers like the Amur and Ussuri forme a natural border to Siberia.

China can be divided in three geographical regions:

The eastern part of China is formed of four high densed plains with alluvial soil. Here are the deltas of the largest rivers of the country. The south-eastern coastal line is characterized through mountains with an maximal altitude of 500meters above sea level.

In the west of the plains are the highlands and large valleys like the Mongolian Highlands, the Tarim plateau, the Sichuan

valley and the highland of Yunnan-Guizhou the altitude varies between 1000 to 2000 meters above sea level.

Western China is characterized through high mountains and elevated plains like the Himalyan Mountains, Tien Shan Mountains Pamir and the tibetanian Highland. The average altitude of these area is 4000 meters above sea level. It is one of the highest areas in the world. The deserts like the desert of Taklamakan and Gobi are the most dry and infertile regions of China.

The most important rivers are the Changjiang, Huáng Hé, Mekong, Brahmaputra, Amur and the Pearlriver.

The most important cities are Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Harbin, Nanjing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Tianjin, Chongqing and Shenzhen.

1,5% of the surface of China is covered by towns and urban areas, 2% alluvial areas, 6,5% wasteland, 21% desert, 24% lea, 36% farmland.

VEGETATION

Chinas flora is very manifold. In case of longterm clearing, wood is only existent in the southern and south-western mountain ranges and Manchuria. Furthermore scrubland and bamboo is also present.

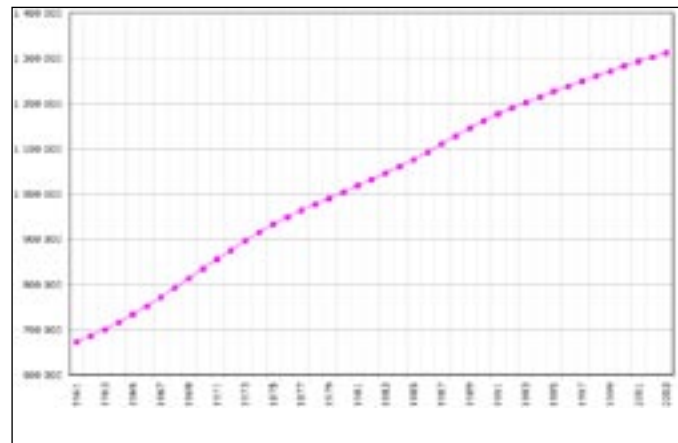
SOCIETY

91,55% of the inhabitants of China are members of the pre-eminent ethnic group, the Han. Furthermore there are 55 minorities that are officially approved. Distinct ethnic groups share common traits in language and culture.

As a response to the problems of lack of birth control and population growth, the government of the PRC has enacted a birth control policy, commonly known as the One-child policy. „Vernacular Chinese“ or „baihua“, which has been used since the early 20th Century is based on Mandarin, the standard spoken language of chinas society, in grammar and vocabulary.

China has got a population density of 135 inhabitants /km². The majority of Chinas population lives in coastal regions. 10% of the population is concentrated on a territory of 50.000km² with a density of 740 inhabitants/km². 90% of the population lives on one third of the national chinese territory, with a density of 350 inhabitants/km² which is comparable to europes most densed countries.

The life expectancy of the total chinese population at birth is 71.96 years. (male: 70.4 years, female: 73.72 years [2004 est.]) The total fertility rate is : 1.69 children born/woman (2004 est.).



Images:

Pic.-Nr.: 1 <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:China-map.png>; Pic.-Nr.:2 The Whiting View Company, 1901;<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Boxer.JPG>; Pic.-Nr.:3 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Mao.jpg>; Pic.-Nr.:4 http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:China_precipitation.jpg; Pic.-Nr.:5 http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:agricultural_regions.jpg; Pic.-Nr.:6 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:China-demography.png>;

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