

People's Republic of China

The Burgeoning Powerhouse



Getting to Know China: Basic Facts

- Full name: The People's Republic of China
- Area: 9,600,000 sq km (3,706,580 sq mi)
- Population: 1.37 billion (as of 2014)
- Capital City: Beijing
- National Flag: Five-Stars-Red-Flag
- People: Han Chinese (93.3%), plus 55 ethnic groups
- Language: Mandarin Chinese
- Religion: Officially Atheist, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Islam (over 22 million), Catholicism (over 4 million) and Protestantism (over 10 million)
- Currency: Yuan
- Form of Government: One party system

Getting to know China: Beijing

- Capital: Beijing
- Population: 12 million
- Beijing is in the central place of the nation's financial decisions and macro-control. It is also China's most prosperous city in terms of science, education and culture, in that it covers all subjects of sciences and has strong research capabilities.
- Beijing's history as a city can be dated back to 3,000 years ago. Its time-honored history left Beijing plenty of historical relics and colorful customs.



Getting to know China: Multiculturalism

Multicultural Integration

- 55 ethnic minority groups + the Han majority = 56 ethnicities in China
- Ethnic majority: Han Chinese (92% of population)
- Some ethnic minorities in China live in what are described as ethnic autonomous areas.
- These "regional autonomies" guarantee ethnic minorities the freedom to use and develop their ethnic languages, and to maintain their own cultural and social customs.



Getting to know China: Multiculturalism

The National Emblem



- The National Emblem of the People's Republic of China contains a representation of Tiananmen Gate, the entrance gate of the Forbidden City from the Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- Above this representation are the five stars found on the national flag. The five stars represented the union of Chinese peoples.
- The circle has a border that contains sheaves of wheat reflecting the Maoist philosophy of an agricultural revolution.
- At the center of the bottom portion of the border is a cogwheel that represents the industrial workers.

Getting to know China: Religion

- The Chinese Communist Party that rules the nation is officially atheist, though it is gradually becoming more tolerant of religions
- Currently, there are only five official religions: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism
- About a quarter of the people practice Taoism and Confucianism and other traditional religions



Getting to know China: Language

- Mandarin dialects are spoken by 71.5 percent of the population, followed by Wu (8.5 percent), Yue (also called Cantonese; 5 percent), Xiang (4.8 percent), Min (4.1 percent), Hakka (3.7 percent) and Gan (2.4 percent).
- The official national language of China is Pǔtōnghuà, a type of Mandarin spoken in the capital Beijing.
- Many Chinese are also fluent in English.

学上海话

Getting to know China: Currency

- One dollar, several names:
 - “Renminbi” means People’s currency
 - “Yuan” means dollar
 - “Kuai” is a more local word for Yuan and still means dollar



Getting to know China: Government

One Party System

- The Communist Party of China (CPC) is the founding and ruling political party of China
- A one party system is a type of state in which one political party has the right to form the government, usually based on the existing constitution
- Proponents of a one-party state argue that the existence of separate parties runs counter to national unity
- The Chinese Revolution, directed by Mao Zedong and the CPC, led to the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949

Getting to know China: President Xi Jinping



- Born: June 15, 1953 (age 62) in Beijing, China
- First national leader to hold a PhD
- Education: Tsinghua University, Chemical Engineering, 1979; Tsinghua University, LLD, 2002
- Son of a prominent Chinese reformer
 - Xi Jinping's father, Xi Zhongxun, fought alongside Chairman Mao in the revolution that brought the party to power in 1949
 - Has a daughter at Harvard

"Since the people have put me in the position of head of state, I must put them above everything else, bear in mind my responsibilities that are as weighty as Mount Tai, always worry about the people's security and well-being, and work conscientiously day and night; share the same feelings with the people, share both good and bad times with them, and work in concerted efforts with them" -President Xi Jinping

China's Influence on the World

- 1) Economic
- 2) Military
- 3) Cultural
- 4) Political



Economic Power

- China is a global hub for manufacturing, and is the **largest** manufacturing economy in the world as well as the largest exporter of goods in the world.
- China is also the world's fastest growing consumer market and second largest importer of goods in the world.

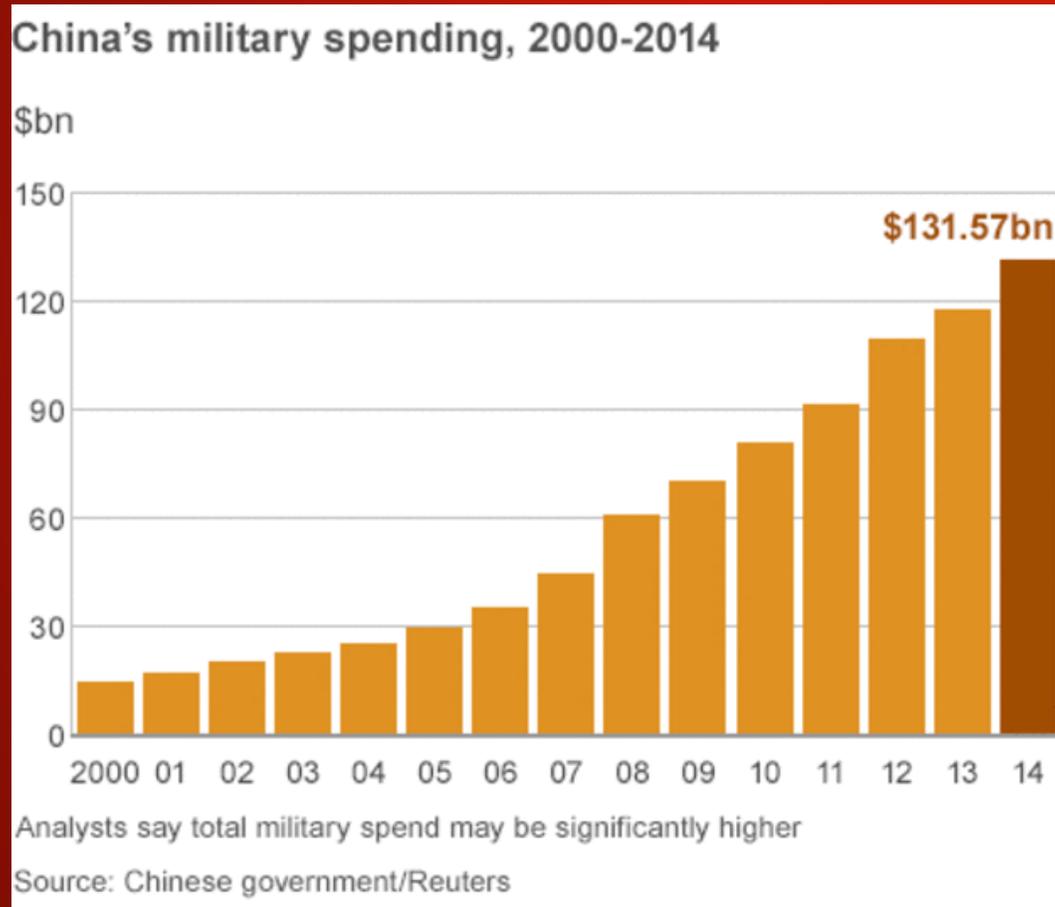


Economic Power

The Power of China's currency:

- The Yuan is being considered to join the reserve currency by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Four other currencies that hold the same status are the dollar, euro, pound, and yen.
- By 2030, the Yuan is projected to become one of the top three international currencies, together with the dollar and the euro.

Military Power



Its economic growth has allowed it to spend billions to strengthen its military.

In 2014, the Chinese government released its official defense spending at 808.23 billion yuan (\$131.57 billion), an increase from the previous year of 12.2%. This makes China's military budget the second largest in the world behind the US.

Military Parade to Commemorate the End of WWII



Military



Innovation:

- China is investing a lot of money in innovation and research
- A great example of an engineering feat by China is an artificial island off the South China Sea.
- The majority of those who hold office in the Chinese government are engineers, which might explain the country's affinity to create such impressive engineering feats.

Cultural Influence

One of the world's oldest cultures, dating thousands of years old. Important components of Chinese culture includes ceramics, architecture, music, literature, martial arts, cuisine, visual arts, philosophy and religion.

Some cultural inventions that benefited the world are:

1. Gunpowder
2. Paper making
3. Printing
4. Compass
5. Silk
6. Tea
7. Folding Umbrella

As you can see, we see China's influence on the world in our daily lives!



Cultural Influence

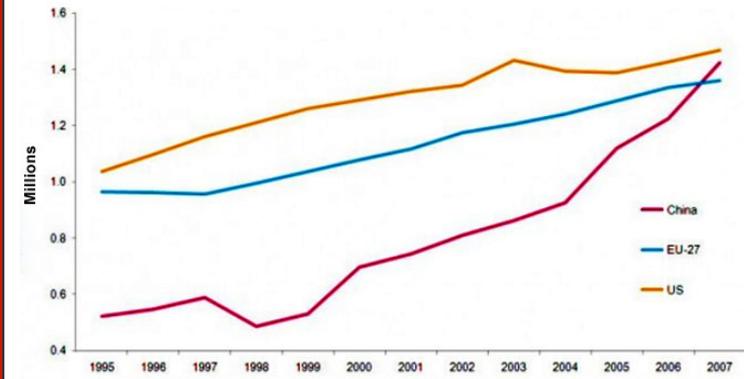
Using culture as a form of international influence is called 'soft power'

To grow it's soft power, China has been investing billions of dollars in research and development to become the leader in those respective fields.

China also spreads Chinese language and culture through Confucius Institutes, television channels and radio; building infrastructure and creating jobs (mainly in Africa) and through holding international events like the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai International Expo in 2010.

China is most influential in Africa where it has invested billions in infrastructure and encouraging Chinese companies to set up business and employ African people. Most of the African countries where China has been contributing to development, view China in a good light

Researchers in China, the U.S. and the E.U., 1995-2007



Political Power

China created new cooperatives, loosely defining its own role as a leader of developing nations and asserting its regional power:

- Member of the annual, rotating Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum since 1991, two years after APEC's founding.
- Member of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three (APT), along with Japan and South Korea, since its inception in 1997.
- Founding member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), originally the Shanghai Five, which was created in 1996 as a confidence-building mechanism to resolve border disputes.

In addition to its membership in these and other organizations, China also Actively participates in regional and global forums:

- Permanent member of the UN Security Council since 1971.
- Member of the World Trade Organization since December 2001.

