Geography of China
Provinces
“China Proper”
Size Based on Land Area
China World’s Fourth Largest Country Today

- Russia is #1.
- Canada is #2.
- USA is #3.
- China is #4.
China’s Geographical Isolation
Desert Barriers
North and West
Mountain Barriers West
Ocean Barriers
Jungle Barriers
Southwest
Cultural Borrowing

- Chinese viewed cultural contact as one-way: China “gives” culture to barbarian groups.
- Chinese receive Buddhism from India.
- India takes nothing from China.
- Chinese adopt nothing from Korea or Japan.
- China gives to Korea and Japan.
Europe & China
Contrasted
Contact between Europe & China

- Roman Empire & Han Dynasty over Silk Road.
- Buddhists back and forth to India.
- Marco Polo
- Zhenghe voyages in early Ming dynasty
European Exploration

- Europeans perfect sea travel.
- Europeans aware of other high cultures.
- Europeans eager for cultural exchange.
- Jesuit example.
Europe & China
Differing Perspectives: Europe & China

• Europeans were interested in the unknown world-- Chinese, in general, were not.

• **WHY** this difference?

• Chinese agriculture have ample food margin. RICE vs. wheat

• Chinese provinces were as large as European states.

• Chinese never big on external trade.

• Non-Chinese considered inferior.
“THE MIDDLE KINGDOM”

- China’s isolation promoted self-satisfaction.
- Unfortunate preparation for modern world.
- China resisted idea West had anything to offer.
- Chinese refused to see West as serious threat.
China’s Three Great River Systems
China's Key Rivers

Huang He
Yellow River
http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/05/china/yellow-river/photo-map-interactive
Loess Soil
Agricultural Regions

[Map of China showing agricultural regions]
Early Dynastic Seats
China's Key Rivers

Yangzi River

Chang Jiang

Yangzi River
China: Population Density
China's Key Rivers

West River
China’s Agriculture

- Arable land -- 14.86%
- Irrigated land -- 545,960 sq. km.
Who has more people?

• China is #1. --1,313,973,713 (July, 2006)
• India is #2. -- 1,095,351,995
• USA is #3 -- 298,444,215
Size Based on Land Area
Size Based on Population
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
<td>0.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility Rate</td>
<td>1.73 per woman</td>
<td>2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop)</td>
<td>13.25</td>
<td>14.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
<td>23.12</td>
<td>6.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy</td>
<td>72.58 yrs</td>
<td>77.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>36.5</td>
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# Age Structure

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<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-64</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 over</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethnic Composition of China

- 93% Han Chinese
- 7% Ethnic minorities (distributed over 50% of the land area)
Uighurs

- Concentrated in Xinjiang
- Muslim in religion
- Turkish-related language
- Arabic script
- Caucasian racial type
- Produce most livestock
- Occupy mineral rich land areas.
Control Methods

- Government garrisons large military groups in minority areas.
- Government encourages Han colonization in minority areas.
- Freedom of religion for minorities.
- Minorities free from one-child policy.
- National Minorities Institute (Beijing)
Relative Economic Wealth
Size Based on Land Area
Size Based on Wealth
Environmental Issues

- Air pollution.
- Water shortage (especially in North China)
- Water pollution from human waste.
- Deforestation
- Estimated loss of one-fifth of agri. land since 1949 to erosion and economic development.
- Desertification.
THE END