
POLITICAL FUNCTION AND BEHAVIOR CHINA

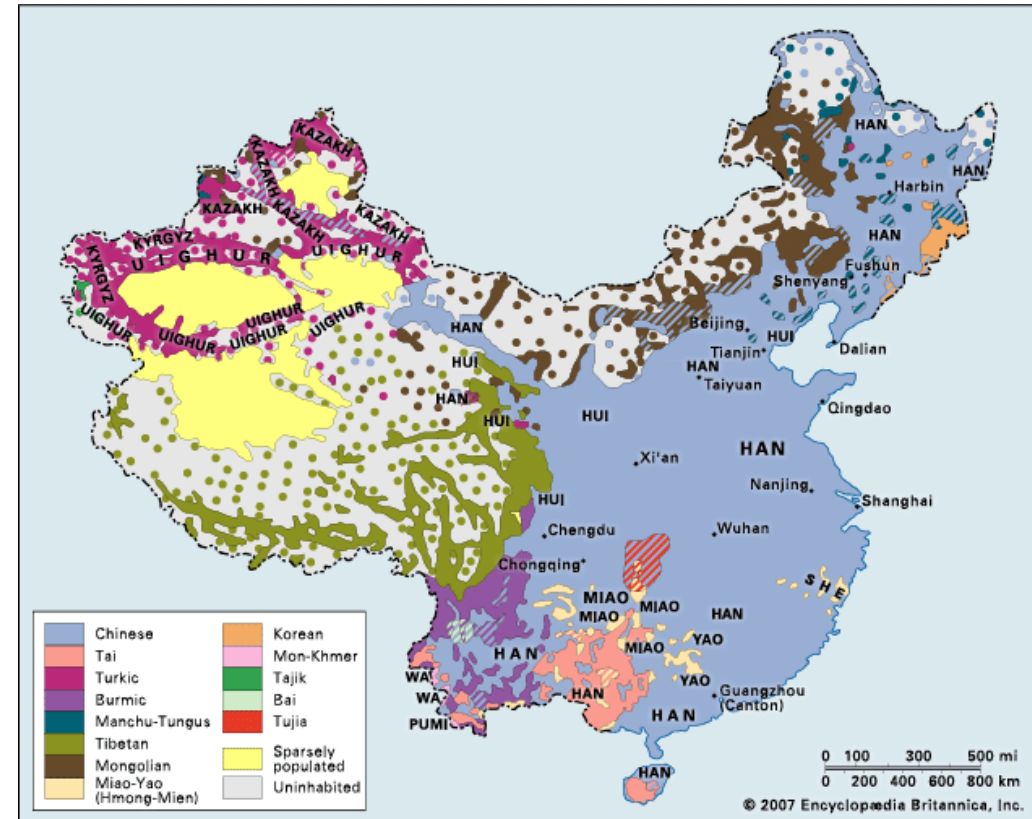


HOW POWERFUL IS CHINA?



CHINESE CLEAVAGES

- **Ethnic Population Breakdown: 92% Han; Zhuang 1.3%; 56 ethnic groups 7.1%**
- **Languages: Chinese/Mandarin (Official); Yue (Cantonese);**
- **Religion: Buddhist 18.2%; Christian 5.1%; Muslim 1.8%; Unaffiliated 52.2%**



POLICY CHALLENGES

- **The past 35 years have been economically profitable for the Chinese**
- **The economy of has grown at a rate of 10% every year since 1980**
- **China is the world's second largest economy (behind the US)**
- **Corruption at the national and local level are the biggest issues Chinese citizens state**

POLICY CHALLENGES

- **Land is not owned by the peasants but rather contracted for use**
- **Villagers see the local government as “local emperors”**
- **Farmers protest their unfair treatment and have protested their treatment multiple times**



POLICY CHALLENGES

- **The strictness of the communist ideology has been abandoned but many parts of authoritarian rule continue**
- **Censorship, human rights violations, corruption, lack of transparency, and environmental abuses have not been addressed to the satisfaction of the global community**

PARTY SOCIALIZATION

- **Even though communication with the outside world has gotten better, China still experiences mass censorship within the country**
- **The biggest platform for information today is the internet. Within China the Communist Party Propaganda Department and State Council Information Office monitor information inside and outside of China**
- **It is referred to as the Great Firewall of China**



PARTY SOCIALIZATION

- **During the Cultural Revolution schools were closed and high school graduates were sent to work in factories or farms losing the opportunity for college**
- **Entrance exams were replaced with recommendations**
- **These Chinese were called the “Lost Generation”**
- **Today huge numbers of Chinese attend universities within the country and also around the world**



CLEAN AIR IN CHINA



HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **Discussion Question: Discuss the “officially acceptable” and “unacceptable” forms of political participation at national and local levels in China**
- **The Communist Party claims to represent all interests in Chinese society. All other political parties are considered unnecessary and unacceptable.**
- **After the death of Mao the government reconstituted what was considered officially acceptable**
- **These new rules reflect the blowback from the programs of Mao’s government**

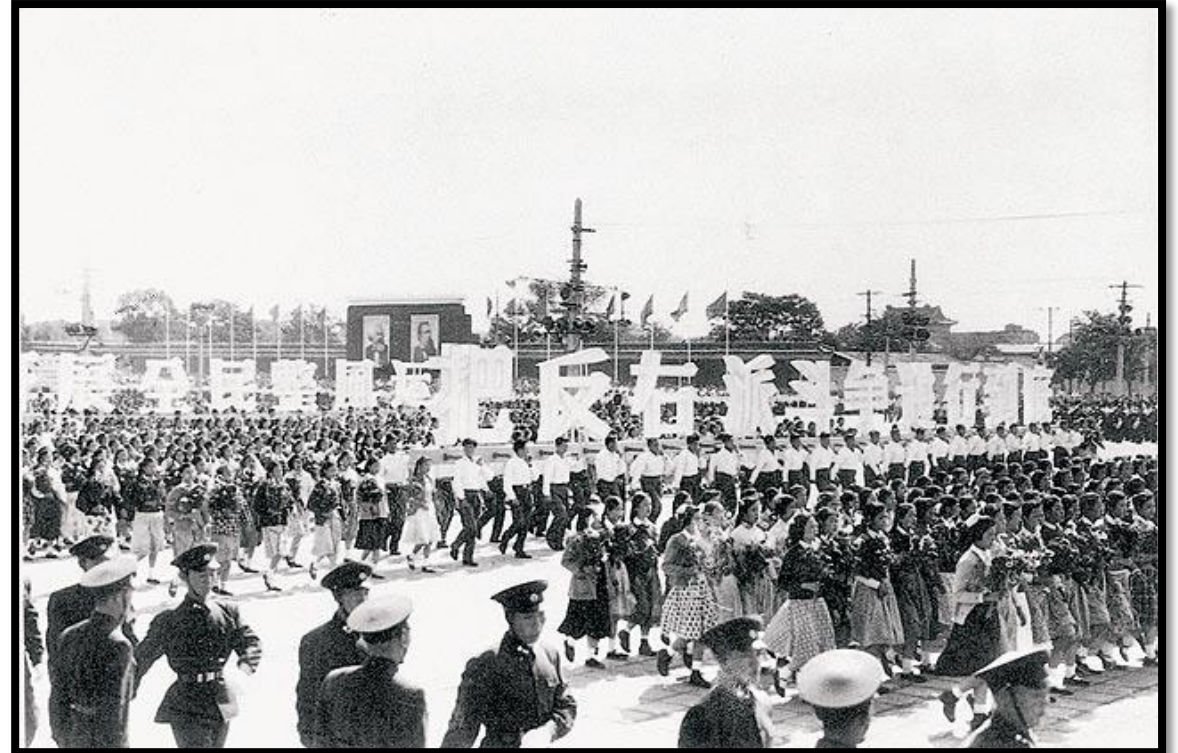
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **The first category of rule changes deals with political participation**
- **The first 30 years of PRC failure to participate in political activities was considered unacceptable**
- **China today active political participation is not considered mandatory. Also Chinese are not identified by class background or political mistakes**



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **Mass Mobilization campaigns were a thing of the Mao years**
- **Mass campaigns were used to support regime goals in terms of government and economics**
- **Many people were victims of these campaigns**
- **Today China wishes to avoid mass mobilization campaigns of the past**



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **The last category is the rejection of mass mobilization as the dominant mode of political participation**
- **Chinese citizens are encouraged to use official channels of protest and questioning of authority**
- **Elections at the local level are not done with a direct ballot.**
- **There is also a growing number of elected candidates that are not part of the communist party.**



KEY QUESTIONS

- **China is better able than ever before to take up its responsibilities as a global player, but its performance has been mixed. Explain**
- **How is political life for ordinary Chinese different today, compared to the Maoist era?**
- **Legal reform is a key priority in political change in China since the 1980's. How successful has it been in meeting key challenges?**