

## Chinese Opera

Reference:

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/arts/chinese-opera.htm>

<http://operabeijing.com/?p=494>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking\\_opera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking_opera)

Chinese opera together with Greece tragic-comedy and Indian Sanskrit Opera are the three oldest dramatic art forms in the world. During the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907), the Emperor Taizong established an opera school with the poetic name Liyuan (Pear Garden). From that time on, performers of Chinese opera were referred to as 'disciples of the pear garden'. Since the Yuan Dynasty (1271 - 1368), it has been encouraged by court officials and emperors and has become a traditional art form. During the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911), it became fashionable among ordinary people. Performances were watched in tearooms, restaurants, and even around makeshift stages. At a glance, Chinese opera may seem to be complicated. But, there are certain distinguishing aspects in Chinese opera that can help you understand and appreciate the performance without the need of actually knowing the language. Some of the features that are unique in Chinese Opera are listed below:

### 1. Stage and Props (舞台及道具)

Chinese Opera stage is traditionally decorated with a simple backdrop. Chinese Opera typically does not use the more realistic effects of Western design and seldom makes use of any large props on stage.



The stage almost always has a table and at least one chair.



Setting a table with a pair of chairs in the middle, the stage can become a sitting room, the emperor's court, or with a chair on top, a mountain to climb.



Lacking scenery and almost any large props, Chinese opera turns to the art of mime, often with hand-held props to aid the illusion. For example:

A fisherman holding a stick simulating paddling a boat:



Although it may not seem obvious, by having a whip in his hand, this photo is showing a male dignitary riding a horse:



Below are warriors fighting in a battle with spears:



Lovers saying farewell in the rain:



Checking surrounding in the dark with a lantern:



A female general commanding the battle field on a hill top:



An old lady riding in a car (vs. a real car in Beijing for tourists):



## 2. Performing Techniques (表演方式)

By doing away with three-dimensional stage props and complicated backdrops found in Western opera, Chinese opera conveys ideas to the audience through the acting of performers. Chinese opera does not aim to accurately represent reality. Instead, it has been perfected to bring out just their essentials, making them highly-stylized and

rhythmic dancing movements. Such acting is described in Chinese stage language as "**stylized formula 身段**". For Example:

- The scene of galloping the horse by using a horse whip without riding a real horse on stage.
- Storms are realized by performers dancing with umbrellas.

### 3. Roles and Characters (角色分類)

Each character in a Chinese opera is based on a standard **role type**, which is recognized at a glance by costume, makeup, and demeanor. This lets the audience know much about a character from the moment the actor comes onstage. Generally speaking, there are four roles in Chinese opera:

- Sheng (生): refer to men, divided into Laosheng (dignified, middle to older men, wearing artificial beard) , Xiaosheng (young male characters, without beard) , Wusheng (martial character for roles involving combat)



- Dan (旦): refer to women, divided into Zhengdan (virtuous and elite women, also known as *qingyi* 青衣, for the typical blue dress and long sleeves they wear), Laodan (old lady), Huadan (vivacious and unmarried women), Wudan (martial women), Daomadan (young female warriors, good at using pikes and spears, and at riding horses).



- Jing (净): refer to painted-face role, known also popularly as Hualian, divided into Tongchui (good at singing and usually a loyal general), Jiazi (good at acting with less emphasis on singing), Wujing (a martial arts and acrobatics role).



Peking opera boasts 15 basic facial patterns, but there are over 1000 specific variations. Each design is unique to a specific character. The patterns and coloring are thought to be derived from traditional Chinese color symbolism and divination on the lines of a person's face, which is said to reveal personality. Some easily recognizable examples of coloring include the following:

Red: Courage, loyalty and straight forwardness

Black: Impulsiveness, valor

Blue or green: Cruelty

White: Wickedness, evil, crafty

White Nose: Joviality

Gold and Silver: Mystery

- Chou (丑): with the eyes and nose surrounded by a white patch, is another special group, both male and female, who provide humor through foolishness or wit. This role can be divided into Wenchou (Civilian), Wuchou (Martial), Nüchou (Female)



#### 4. Musical Instruments (樂器)

Music accompanies singing, reciting, actions and acrobatics in Chinese opera. It also helps develop the story, personalize the characters, expose their thoughts and feelings, and create a special atmosphere.

The orchestra of a typical opera is composed of two parts — the Wenchang (文場), or Civil Section, of string and wind instruments; and the Wuchang (武場), or Military Section, composed of percussion instruments. The former section frequently accompanies peaceful scenes while the latter often follows scenes of war or fighting. The commonly used percussion instruments include castanets, drums, bells and cymbals (板鼓, 大鑼, 鑼鈸, 小鑼). The string and wind section is mainly composed of the jinghu, erhu, yueqin, sanxuan, zhongyuan, Sheng, pipa, yangqing (京胡, 二胡, 月琴, 三弦, 中阮, 大阮, 笙, 琵琶, 揚琴) and other instruments.

The beats clearly mark the beginnings and the endings. Led by the main drummer, the music adjusts and controls the rhythm of the opera. The instrumental music is produced by various kinds of stringed, wind and percussion instruments, and each has its own functions and timbres.



**Pointers:**

- It takes a life-time of dedication to learn the art of Chinese Opera.
- Usually a person specializes in only one role type, including singing and acting. When a person performs in a role that is not typical of his or hers, we said the person is "Fan-Chuan."
- During the performance, the orchestra follows the performers, which gives performers more flexibility and room for personal styles. The drummer serves as the conductor of the orchestra.

**Study Guide:**

1. In addition to using drums in action scenes, what musical instruments are usually used to accompany performances of Beijing Opera? ANS: castanets, bells, and cymbals.
2. In Chinese opera, what type of character is depicted by a performer who has a prominent white patch on the nose? ANS: A clown.
3. Of the various face colors used to portray different types of characters in Chinese opera, which is used to depict a character who is loyal and brave? ANS: A red face usually depicts the role's bravery, uprightness and loyalty.
4. In Chinese opera, which face color is used to depict a character who is a powerful villain? ANS: White.

---

## Important Visits & Meetings of U.S., P.R.C. & R.O.C. Leaders

### 1. U.S. Presidential visits to ROC and PRC

[http://content.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1939784\\_1989995,00.html](http://content.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1939784_1989995,00.html)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_presidential\\_visits\\_to\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_visits_to_China)

#### **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

1960, Visited Republic of China and met President Chiang Kai-Shek in Taipei, the only time in history that a sitting U.S. president visited the Republic of China in Taiwan.

#### **Richard Nixon**

1972, President Nixon became the first U.S. President to visit the People's Republic of China and his seven-day trip marked a turning point in China-U.S. relations. Nixon traveled to several Chinese cities and met with both Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai. The leaders bridged the Cold War divide to sign the Shanghai Communiqué, in which they agreed to disagree over China's claim to Taiwan. The trip's significance went beyond formal agreements to symbolize a new era of cooperation. Nixon practiced using chopsticks on the plane flight over.

#### **Gerald Ford**

1975, President Ford's trip to China was surrounded by political uncertainty. The U.S. was still reeling from the Watergate scandal and Nixon's resignation while the People's Republic of China's 82-year-old founder, Mao Zedong, was in increasingly failing health. Although Ford met with Mao, his main point of contact was Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, who as Mao's successor would later spearhead the opening up of China. The issues at hand: U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, how to deal with the Soviet Union, and perennial disagreement over Taiwan.

#### **Ronald Reagan**

1984, A "spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit" characterized President Reagan's journey to China, which resulted in scientific and cultural exchanges, increased trade and a nuclear cooperate agreement. China even let Reagan use his own airplane — a first for a visiting U.S. politician. Previously, U.S. government aircraft had been barred from flying in Chinese airspace.

#### **George H.W. Bush**

1989, President George H.W. Bush traveled to China in February 1989 for a 40-hour "working visit." The recently elected President had served as Ford's chief China liaison officer before the countries had established formal diplomatic relations, and his trip was seen more as a gesture of goodwill than anything else. Bush's tone changed a few months later, however, when he halted all arms sales and imposed sanctions on China following the June 4 Tiananmen Square massacre.

### **Bill Clinton**

1998, Clinton's trip to China marked the two countries' return to a stable, if occasionally strained, diplomatic relationship following the sanctions imposed during the previous Bush Administration. During his visit, Clinton reiterated U.S. support for the one-China policy and praised Chinese President Jiang Zemin's leadership. When asked whether he believed democracy was possible in China, Clinton responded positively by saying, "I believe there can be, and I believe there will be."

### **George W. Bush**

2001, Attended the APEC Summit Meeting.

2002, Met with President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji.

2005, Met with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.

2008, Attended the 2008 Summer Olympics opening ceremony. Met with President Hu Jintao and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

### **Barack Obama**

2009, Embarked on his first trip to China on Nov. 15, making President Obama one of only seven U.S. Presidents to visit the communist nation. Obama has several days of talks on topics ranging from climate change to sanctions on Iran. On Nov. 16, the man dubbed "America's first Pacific president" conducted a town hall meeting in Shanghai with a handpicked audience of around 300 students. In his Q&A session, the president tackled issues ranging from internet censorship to the US stance on arms sales to Taiwan.

2014, Attended the APEC Summit Meeting. Met with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and National Party Congress (NPC) Chairman Zhang Dejiang.

## **2. Republic of China (ROC) leaders visiting the U.S.**

<https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/visits/china>

Premier Soong Tse-Ven, 1945

Led Chinese delegation to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

No official visit since diplomatic ties ended in 1979 after U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States would no longer recognize the ROC as the legitimate government of China in 1978.

### ***Recent unofficial trips made by POC presidents were:***

1995, President Lee Teng-hui took a private trip to Ithaca, N.Y., attending a class reunion at Cornell University and spoke at the alumni reunion.

2015, President Maying-jeou took a transit stop in Boston on his official visit to Latin America to visit Harvard University, his alma mater. During this visit, he spoke at a small, invitation-only seminar with the scholars and nearly two dozen students on issues including the South China Sea, an area disputed by several jurisdictions, and on cross-Straits relations.



### 3. People's Republic of China (PRC) Official leadership visits to the U.S.

<https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/visits/china>

#### **Deng Xiaoping**

1979, For the purpose of enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries and promoting the development of their relations, Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping paid an official good-will visit to the United States at the invitation of President Carter. This was the first visit by a Chinese leader to the United States after the founding of the People's Republic of China and was warmly welcomed by the U.S. Government and people.

During his visit, Vice Premier Deng exchanged views with President Carter on the international situation. When touching on the question of Taiwan, Vice Premier Deng said that China was willing to solve the Taiwan question in a peaceful way without the use of force because that would be a disservice to a peaceful settlement of the question. During the visit, the two sides signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology and a cultural agreement. They also signed agreements on cooperation in education, commerce and space, and on the mutual establishment of consular relations and the opening of Consulates-General in each other's country.

#### **Premier Zhao Ziyang**

1984, Official visit.

#### **President Li Xiannian**

1985, State visit.

#### **Premier Li Peng**

1992, Met with President Bush during a U.N. Security Council Summit in New York City.

#### **President Jiang Zemin.**

1993, Attended APEC meeting in Seattle.

1995, Met with President Clinton at the UN General Assembly in New York City.

1997, State Visit. Arrived in U.S. October 26, visiting Honolulu and Williamsburg. Afterwards visited Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. Departed the U.S. Nov. 3.

#### **Premier Wen Jiabao**

2003, Official visit.

2010, Met with President Obama at the U.N. General Assembly in New York City.

#### **President Hu Jintao**

2005, Met with President Bush at the UN General Assembly in New York City.

2006, Official visit.

2008, Attended the G-20 Economic Summit Meeting.

2009, Met with President Obama at the UN General Assembly in New York City. Attended the G-20 Economic Summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2011, Attended the Nuclear Security Summit. Attended the Asia-Pacific Economic and Cooperation Summit at Honolulu and Kapolei, Hawaii.

**President Xi Jinping**

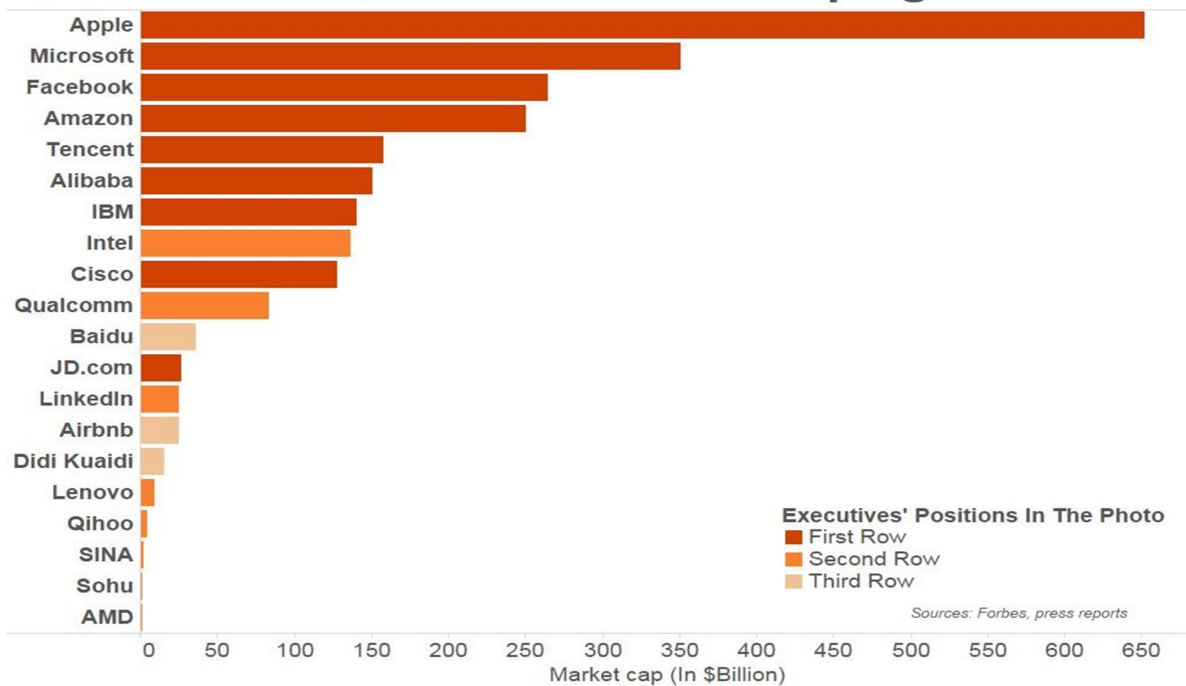
September 22-28, 2015

<http://multimedia.scmp.com/xi-jinping-us-visit/>

Major Highlights:

- 1) During the 8th U.S.-China Internet Industry Forum in Seattle, President Xi and 30 top China and U.S. technology executives posed for a group photo. The tech companies represented in the photo counts a total market capital of \$2.5 trillion. He also toured Microsoft and Boeing's Everett assembly line.

**China's High-Tech Diplomacy: The \$2.5 Trillion Photo With China's President Xi Jinping** F



<http://blogs-images.forbes.com/liyanchen/files/2015/09/Xi-chart-corrected.jpg>

- 2) On September 24-25, 2015, President Barack Obama hosted President Xi Jinping of China for a State visit. The two heads of state exchanged views on a range of global, regional, and bilateral subjects.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/25/fact-sheet-president-xi-jinpings-state-visit-united-states>

A. Global and regional issues:

- a. Afghanistan - cooperation on peaceful reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan
  - b. Peacekeeping - commitment in international peacekeeping efforts.
  - c. Nuclear Security - cooperation on nuclear security and to work together to make the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama next year a success.
  - d. Wildlife Trafficking - recognizing the importance and urgency of combating wildlife trafficking, commit to take positive measures to address this global challenge.
  - e. Ocean Conservation - cooperation on polar and ocean conservation and expanding joint polar research efforts.
- B. The United States and China signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that establishes a framework for development cooperation to guide our future collaborative efforts in
- a. Sustainable Development
  - b. Food Security
  - c. Public Health and Global Health Security
- C. Strengthening Bilateral Relations
- a. Military Relations
  - b. Cybersecurity
  - c. Law enforcement and Counterterrorism
  - d. People-to-People Exchange.
    - i. A 2016 U.S.-China Tourism Year—a cooperative tourism initiative led by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the China National Tourism Administration to expand and shape travel between our countries. This year of collaboration will include events to promote travel between the two countries, support progress on market access, and advance initiatives for both the United States and China to ensure a quality visitor experience for increasing numbers of travelers to and from both nations.
    - ii. A “One Million Strong” initiative led by the 100,000 Strong Foundation that aims to have one million American students studying Mandarin by 2020. “One Million Strong” goals include doubling the number of Mandarin language teachers in the United States through a major investment in teachers colleges; employing technological tools to engage students in underserved and underrepresented communities; and creating “100K Strong States,” a subnational consortium of U.S. governors committed to expanding Mandarin language-learning in their states.
- 3) On September 28, 2015, President Xi Jinping gave his first speech at the 70th United Nations General Assembly. He announced that China would offer more money and more troops to aid United Nations peacekeeping efforts. China, he said, planned to set up a United Nations permanent peacekeeping force of 8,000 troops and would provide \$100 million to the African Union to create an immediate response unit capable of responding

to emergencies. In addition to the peacekeeping pledge, Mr. Xi promised a \$1 billion donation to the United Nations for a “peace and development fund.”

### **3. Historic Summit between PRC and ROC presidents**

**November 7, 2015**

The meeting between PRC Communist party chief Xi Jinping and ROC Nationalist president Ma Ying-jeou in Singapore with a minute-long handshake. This was the first time two such leaders had come together since Mao Zedong founded the People’s Republic of China in 1949.

“Nothing can separate us,” Xi told his Taiwanese counterpart in brief public remarks following the handshake. “We are one family ... We are brothers who are still connected by our flesh even if our bones are broken. Ma told Xi both sides had been working “to replace conflict with dialogue ... We follow different political systems, but we have developed military and economic cooperation,” he said.

The summit began at 3pm local time at Singapore’s five-star Shangri-La hotel. The two men held a “casual” dinner at the Shang Palace, a high-end Cantonese restaurant where diners can order Australian lobster, Sri Lankan crab and Japanese beef. In an indication of the meeting’s political sensitivities, Xi and Ma split the bill.

---

## **Early Chinese Contributions in America**

### **1. Yung Wing: Bridge between east and west Source:**

<http://chineseamerican.nyhistory.org/exhibition-highlights/yung-wing/>

The first Chinese student to graduate from an American university, Yung Wing, believed deeply in the possibility of collaboration between the US and China. Yung studied under Protestant missionaries in Hong Kong, then went to Massachusetts in the 1840s, became an American citizen in 1852, and married Mary Louise Kellogg, the daughter of a prominent Connecticut family. In 1872, he organized the Chinese Educational Mission, recruiting 120 Chinese students to study at prestigious American preparatory schools.

In his 1909 biography *My Life in China and America*, Yung explained his decision to remain in the US. His aim was to bolster relations between his homeland and adoptive country by bringing the brightest young minds of China to study at America’s foremost educational institutions. He dedicated his life to overcoming the great barriers between the two countries.

*Guiding questions:*

- 1) Who is the first Chinese student to graduate from an American university? ANS: Yung Wing.
- 2) Why did he decide to remain in the US? ANS: to bolster relations between his homeland and adoptive country by bringing the brightest young minds of China to study at America’s foremost educational institutions.

- 3) What is the earliest US study abroad program organized by the Chinese government?  
ANS: Chinese Educational Mission.

## 2. The Chinese and American Agriculture Source:

<http://chineseamerican.nyhistory.org/exhibition-highlights/vineyard-workers-sonoma-county>

This painting by Jake Lee is doubly significant, both because it captures a little-known aspect of Chinese American history and because the artwork itself was nearly lost to history. Vineyard Workers in Sonoma County is one of twelve Jake Lee canvases that once hung in Kan's Restaurant in San Francisco, where celebrities like Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra, Nancy Kwan, and Marilyn Monroe frequently dined. The owner Johnny Kan commissioned the paintings to educate Chinese and non-Chinese about the long history of Chinese in America. When the restaurant closed in the 1990s, the paintings vanished, only to reappear at auction years later, where they were acquired by the Chinese Historical Society of America.

In addition to the mining and railroad work for which they are known, early Chinese immigrants to California played key roles in many other developing industries, including agriculture. They picked fruit, tended the soil, and applied techniques from China's Pearl River Delta to build a system of levees and irrigation channels. Thus, Chinese laborers helped transform California into a productive farm region.

*Guiding questions:*

- 1) What are the contributions of early Chinese immigrants to California in agriculture? ANS: applying techniques from China's Pearl River Delta to build a system of levees and irrigation channels, transforming California into a productive farm region.
- 2) Whose work is Vineyard Workers in Sonoma County? ANS: Jake Lee.

## Current Affairs

### 2015

#### 1. China's First Nobel Laureate in Science

Chinese scientist Tu Youyou received the Nobel Prize for medicine at 84 years of age. Tu and her team managed to extract a substance from *Artemisia annua*, or sweet wormwood, that proved effective in reducing mortality rates for patients suffering from malaria.

In the late 1960s, previous efforts to eradicate Malaria in the world had failed and the disease was on the rise. It was then that Tu turned to ancient Chinese herbal medicine and used the knowledge to eventually figure out how to extract the active component from *Artemisia annua*, a centuries-old Chinese remedy to treat fever. The component was eventually called Artemisinin, and proved to be highly effective against the malaria parasite in animals and in humans.

Currently malaria infects around 200 million people every year, and Artemisinin is used everywhere where malaria is considered a problem. When used in combination with other treatments, Artemisinin has reduced death rates from malaria by over 20%, and over 30% in

children. In Africa, the drug is thought to be responsible from saving over 100,000 lives annually. Tu received half of this year's medicine prize of about 47.5 million US dollars, sharing the Nobel Prize with William C. Campbell and Satoshi Omura, who are recognized for Avermectin, a drug to kill roundworms that cause blindness and deformities.

**2. Liu Cixin, Chinese Science Fiction Writer**

Liu Cixin is a Chinese science fiction writer. He is the latest The Hugo and The Nebula Award winner for his science fiction novel, The Three-Body Problem. The novel received the Chinese Science Fiction Galaxy Award in 2006. It was translated and published in 2014, and won the 2015 Hugo Award for Best Novel. Liu Cixin was the first Asian writer to win "Best Novel" and the novel is the first translated work to win that honor. The Three-Body Problem was translated by Ken Liu, a Chinese American science fiction and fantasy writer who has numerous awards under his name. A film adaptation of the same name is scheduled for release in July 2016.

**3. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

Fifty-seven countries signed on as charter members of the new China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The UK, Germany, Australia and South Korea are among the founding members, despite pressure from the White House not to join. Japan and the US, which oppose the AIIB, are the most prominent countries not to join. The AIIB, which was created in October of 2014 by 21 countries, led by China, will fund Asian energy, transport and infrastructure projects. China will hold a 30.34% stake making it the largest shareholder of the multilateral institution. India will be the second-biggest shareholder, while Russia and Germany will make up the third and fourth biggest member stakes.

**4. Beijing's first 'Red Alert' Over Air Pollution**

On December 7th, for the first time since it instituted a warning system in 2013, Beijing has issued a "red alert" for 29 hours over dangerous levels of air pollution. During a red alert, kindergartens, primary and high schools are advised to suspend classes, outdoor operations of construction sites are banned and some industrial plants are required to limit or stop production. Car use will be limited as cars are allowed on the roads on alternating days depending on the odd or even numbers of their license plates. In addition, 30 percent of government cars will be banned from streets on an odd/even basis.

**5. End of One-Child Policy**

For the past 35 years, most families in China could have only one child. China announced the end of that policy. Now the limit has been increased to two kids. The shift comes as China faces low fertility rates and an aging trend in its population. When the one-child policy was formally instituted in 1980, China's population was nearing 1 billion. There are now more than 1.35 billion people in China.

**2014**

**1. President Xi Jinping's Anti-Corruption Drive**

In March 2013, after President Xi Jinping took over as president, he launched a fierce, and currently still ongoing, anti-corruption drive to clean up the Communist Party and

government, in order to retain the Communist Party's hold on power and to maintain its legitimacy. The urgency to do so is seen in such declarations as, "Winning or losing public support is an issue that concerns the CPC's survival or extinction," and a zero-tolerance position.

Tens of thousands of Party officials at all levels have been investigated by the Central Commission for Discipline and tried in court, including high-level officials like former security chief Zhou Yongkang, former military second-in-command Xu Caihou, and former top aide to ex-President Hu Jintao, Ling Jihua in 2014. The investigation has pledged to investigate both high-level officials, or "tigers," and low-level ones, or "flies."

Apart from investigations into graft, the Chinese government is also pursuing an austerity drive, cracking down on "hedonism and extravagance," the most visible signs of corruption, which include "the use of government vehicles, overseas travel financed with public funds, sending or accepting gifts, excessive spending on receptions, extravagant weddings or funerals," etc.

## **2. The Sunflower Student Movement (Chinese: 太陽花學運)**

The Sunflower Student Movement was a protest movement driven by a coalition of students and civic groups and NGOs between March 18 and April 10, 2014. They occupied the Legislature for 585 hours and later briefly invaded the Executive Cabinet of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The activists protested the passing of the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement (CSSTA) by the ruling party Kuomintang at the Legislature without clause-by-clause review. The protesters argued the trade pact with the People's Republic of China (China; PRC), opening Taiwan to PRC investment in several sectors, including services, construction and telecommunications, would hurt Taiwan's economy and leave it vulnerable to political pressure from Beijing, while advocates of the treaty argued that increased Chinese investment would provide a necessary boost to Taiwan's economy, that the still-unspecified details of the treaty's implementation could be worked out in Taiwan's favor, and that to "pull out" of the treaty by not ratifying it would damage Taiwan's ability to participate in other international pacts. The protesters initially demanded that the clause-by-clause review of the agreement be reinstated, but later changed their demands to the rejection of the trade pact, the passing of legislation allowing close monitoring of future agreements with China, and citizen consultation in constitutional amendments. While the Kuomintang was open to a line-by-line review at a second reading of the agreement, the party rejected the possibility that the pact be returned to committee review. The KMT backed down later, saying that a joint review committee could be formed if the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) did not boycott the proceedings. This offer was rejected by the DPP, who asked for a review committee on all accords with China, citing "mainstream public opinion." In turn, the DPP proposal was turned down by the KMT.

The movement marked the first time that the legislature has been occupied by citizens in the history of the Republic of China (ROC), which has governed Taiwan since retrocession in 1945. It was also unprecedented in bringing together a broad spectrum of supporters from various ethnic and political affiliations.

### 3. The Senkaku Islands dispute (Chinese: 釣魚台島爭端)

The Senkaku Islands dispute is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan, the Diaoyu Islands in the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Tiaoyutai Islands in the Republic of China (ROC or Taiwan). The Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China. The archipelago contains five uninhabited islands and three barren rocks, ranging in size from 800 m<sup>2</sup> to 4.32 km<sup>2</sup>. Aside from a period of administration by the United States from 1945 to 1972 as part of the Ryukyu Islands, the archipelago has been controlled by Japan since 1895. According to Lee Seokwoo, the People's Republic of China (PRC) started taking up the question of sovereignty over the islands in the latter half of 1970 when evidence relating to the existence of oil reserves surfaced. Taiwan (Republic of China) also claims the islands. Apart from potential oil reserves, the territory is close to key shipping lanes and rich fishing grounds.

Japan argues that it surveyed the islands in the late 19th century and found them to be Terra nullius (Latin: land belonging to no one); subsequently, China acquiesced to Japanese sovereignty until the 1970s. The PRC and the ROC argue that documentary evidence prior to the First Sino-Japanese War in 1894-1895 indicates Chinese possession and that the territory is accordingly a Japanese seizure that should be returned, just as the rest of Imperial Japan's conquests were returned in 1945.

Although the United States does not have an official position on the merits of the competing sovereignty claims, the islands are included within the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, meaning that a defense of the islands by Japan would require the United States to come to Japan's aid.

In September 2012, the Japanese government purchased three of the disputed islands from their "private owner," prompting large-scale protests in China. As of early February 2013, the situation has been regarded as "the most serious for Sino-Japanese relations in the post-war period in terms of the risk of militarized conflict." On November 23, 2013, the PRC set up the "East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone," which includes the disputed islands, and announced that it would require all aircraft entering the zone to file a flight plan and submit radio frequency or transponder information. In April 2014, Lieutenant General John Wissler, commander of the US III Marine Expeditionary Force stated that his forces were ready and able to defend the islands if they were attacked by the PRC. China responded in English on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) website, saying that the PLA was able to take and hold the islands at any time, with the request that Wissler, "Please learn lessons from your old superiors. Don't be so ready to make threats with forces. Please pay some respect to Chinese armed forces, which defeated your armed forces in the Korean War."

#### *Guiding Questions:*

- 1) What is the name of the group of barren, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, where Japan and China are having a dispute over sovereignty? ANS: The islands are known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu Islands in China, or Tiaoyutai Islands in



Taiwan. In 2013, further dispute escalated the tension between the Japanese and Chinese governments.

- 2) Why are Japan and China fighting so vigorously over barren, uninhabited islands? ANS: The territory is close to key shipping lanes and rich fishing grounds, and there may be oil reserves in the area.
- 3) Other than Japan and China, what is the position of Taiwan and USA on the sovereignty of the islands? ANS: Taiwan – also claims sovereignty; USA – support Japan's claim.
- 4) Where are the islands located? ANS: The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China. The archipelago contains five uninhabited islands and three barren rocks, ranging in size from 800 m<sup>2</sup> to 4.32 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### 4. The 2014 Hong Kong protests (Chinese: 雨傘運動 or 雨傘革命)

The 2014 Hong Kong protests, also called the Umbrella Movement or Umbrella Revolution, began in September 2014 when activists in Hong Kong protested outside the Hong Kong Government headquarters and occupied several major city intersections after China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) announced its decision on proposed electoral reform, disallowing civil nominations. In disallowing civil nominations, the NPCSC announced instead that a 1200-member nominating committee, which composition remains subject to a second round of consultation, would endorse two to three electoral candidates. Each candidate would need to receive the endorsement of more than half of the nominating committee, before the general public could vote on the candidates for the position of chief executive in 2017. The Hong Kong Federation of Students and Scholarism began protesting outside the government headquarters on 22 September 2014 against the NPCSC's decision. On the evening of 26 September, several hundred demonstrators led by Joshua Wong breached a security barrier and entered the forecourt of the Central Government Complex (nicknamed "Civic Square"), which was once a public space that has been barred to public entry since July 2014. Officers cordoned off protesters within the courtyard and restricted their movement overnight, eventually removing them by force the next day. On 28 September, the Occupy Central with Love and Peace movement announced that they would begin their civil disobedience campaign immediately. Protesters blocked both east–west arterial routes in Hong Kong Island near Admiralty. Police tactics (including the use of tear gas) and attacks on protesters by opponents that included triad members, acted as triggers for more citizens to join the protests, occupying Causeway Bay and Mong Kok. The number of protesters peaked at more than 100,000. The government called for an end to the protests by setting a 'deadline' of 6 October, but this was ignored by protesters, although they allowed government workers to enter offices that had previously been blocked. The state-run Chinese media claimed repeatedly that the West had played an "instigating" role in the protests, and that "more people in Hong Kong are supporting the anti-Occupy Central movement," and warned of "deaths and injuries and other grave consequences." In an opinion poll carried out by Chinese University of Hong Kong, only 36.1% of 802 people surveyed between 8–15 October accept NPCSC's decision but 55.6% would find it acceptable if HKSAR Government would democratize the nominating

committee during the 2nd phase of public consultation. On 23 October, the United Nations Human Rights Committee emphasized "the need to ensure universal suffrage, which means both the right to be elected as well as the right to vote." China's Foreign Ministry responded that China's policy on Hong Kong's elections had "unshakable legal status and effect."

The protests lasted for 75 days and ended December 11 2014. However, the issues around electoral reform remain uncertain as of that date.

#### **5. APEC meeting in Beijing 2014 (Chinese: APEC 北京 2014)**

The 26th annual gathering of APEC leaders was held in Beijing, China, on 10–12 November 2014. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a highly anticipated face-to-face meeting on November 10th. Both leaders were described as looking noticeably dour in the photos of them taken prior to the meeting (also see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4MtVPHG16A>).

On November 12, Presidents Xi and Obama announced that their two nations would work to reduce greenhouse gases. The United States would cut their 2005 carbon emissions by 26% to 28% by 2025, while China would cap their carbon emissions by 2030 and strive to achieve 20% of its energy from non-carbon producing sources. This agreement marks the first time that China agreed to cap its carbon emissions. Occupy Central (See "The 2014 Hong Kong Protests") leaders considered "crashing" the summit to protest Beijing's actions in Hong Kong, but were not allowed to enter Mainland China. Although some had speculated that Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou would himself attend the meeting – and meet for the first time with Chinese President Xi Jinping – Ma instead appointed Vincent Siew to represent Taiwan, as he had in 2013.

The APEC summit also saw unprecedented "blue skies" over Beijing, as traffic was restricted and schools given mini-vacations so as to reduce the amount of pollutants in the capital during the summit.

---

## **Government and Politics**

1. What type of government and economic system dominated China before WWI? ANS: Imperial rule and a free market economy.
2. What type of government and economic system dominated the PRC post-WWII until the 1990's? ANS: Communist Party rule and economic control.
3. What type of government and economic system dominated the PRC in the two most recent decades? ANS: Communist Party rule and limited free market.
4. Find the names and photos of the PRC's president and premier.
5. Find the names and photos of the ROC's president and premier.
6. Find photos of the flags of the PRC, ROC and the District of Hong Kong.
7. What is symbolized by the 56 poles in the balustrade surrounding the base of the PRC's national flag in Beijing's Tiananmen Square? ANS: China's 56 ethnic groups.

**8. Chinese Communist Party Plenary Sessions:**

The leadership of the People's Republic of China (PRC) government meets periodically to announce leadership changes and policy goals over each five-year leadership cycle or congress. These meetings are called plenary sessions or plenums. The third plenary sessions of each congress usually have to do with policy changes.

*Short Questions and Answers:*

- 1) When was the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Congress held? ANS: Nov.15, 2013.
- 2) Who attended the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CCP Congress held in Beijing? ANS: Top Chinese leaders, including Xi Jinping, and members of the Politburo.
- 3) In his speech in the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CCP Congress, what did Xi Jinping say will decide the destiny of modern China? ANS: Reform and opening-up.
- 4) The terms "reform" and "opening-up" are not new. When were they first mentioned?

ANS: Chinese economic reform (simplified Chinese: 改革开放; traditional Chinese: 改革開放; pinyin: Gǎigé kāifàng; literally "Reform and Opening up") refers to the program of economic reforms described as "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" in the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was started in December 1978 by reformists within the CCP led by Deng Xiaoping.

**9. Chinese Economic Reforms:**

China had one of the world's largest and most advanced economies prior to the nineteenth century. However, restrictive policies, especially regarding trade and export, and a resource crunch meant that the economy did not experience a technological or industrial breakthrough and stagnated from the 16th century, even declining in absolute terms in the nineteenth and much of the twentieth century. Economic reforms introducing market principles began in 1978.

Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) was the politician and reformist leader of PRC who, after Mao's death led his country towards a market economy. In November 1978, Deng visited Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. At that time, Singapore Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, advised him to open up and institute reforms, as well as to stop exporting Communist ideologies in Southeast Asia. Deng Xiaoping developed the concept of "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" and led Chinese economic reform. Therefore, he is recognized officially as "the chief architect of China's economic reforms and China's socialist modernization." He has been credited with developing China into one of the fastest growing economies in the world for over 30 years and raising the standard of living of hundreds of millions of Chinese. Deng Xiaoping led China's economic reform through a synthesis of theories called "Socialist market economy", which were carried out in two stages. The first stage, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, involved the decollectivization of agriculture, the opening up of the country to foreign investment, and permission for entrepreneurs to start-up businesses. However, most industry remained state-owned. The second stage of reform,

in the late 1980s and 1990s, involved the privatization and contracting out of much state-owned industry and the lifting of price controls, protectionist policies, and regulations, although state monopolies in sectors such as banking and petroleum remained. The private sector grew remarkably, accounting for as much as 70 percent of China GDP by 2005. From 1978 until 2013, unprecedented growth occurred, with the economy increasing by 9.5% a year. China's economy surpassed that of Japan in 2010 as Asia's largest economy and became the second largest after the United States and is projected to become the world's largest economy by 2029. The conservative Hu-Wen Administration (Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao) more heavily regulated and controlled the economy after 2005, reversing some reforms.

In his speech in the Third Plenary Session of the CCP Congress, Xi Jinping reaffirmed the socialist ideological orientation of the CCP as the way forward for China. Economic reform, according to Xi, the two important components of the socialist market economy and significant bases for economic and social development are both the public and non-public sectors of the economy. As stated in the Third Plenary Session of the CCP Congress, reforms will include:

- a. China has decided to allow more private capital into the market to develop a mixed ownership economy.
- b. China will ease the one-child policy -China will loosen its decades-long one-child population policy, allowing couples to have two children if one of them is an only child.
- c. China will abolish the "reeducation through labor" system as part of efforts to improve human rights and judicial practices.
- d. China will reduce capital punishment "step by step" -- China will reduce the number of crimes subject to death penalty "step by step."
- e. China will allow private capital to set up banks: -- China will open up the banking sector, on condition of strengthened regulation, by allowing qualified private capital to set up small- and medium-sized banks.
- f. China will consider instituting an intellectual property court -- China will strengthen protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), improve the mechanism to encourage innovation, and explore ways of setting up the IPR court.

#### 10. **The return of Macau and Hong Kong**

In 1987, Portugal, under pressure from the Chinese authorities, agreed to arrange the return of its colony of Macau by 1999, with an agreement roughly similar to that of Hong Kong, which was returned by United Kingdom on July 1, 1997. The return of these two territories was based on the political principle, formulated by Deng Xiaoping, called "one country, two systems," which refers to the coexistence, under one political authority, of areas with different economic systems. (NB: Macau, known as the Las Vegas of China, provides a vivid illustration of the difference between the two territories and China.)

- 11 Which regions are China's largest aid recipients? ANS: Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina for South America, and Nigeria and Ghana for Africa.

12. What is an example of China's international developmental involvement with Pakistan?  
ANS: The Karakoram Highway connecting China and Pakistan started in 1959 and was completed and opened to the public in 1979. It runs approximately 1,300 km (810 mi).
13. There is an interesting parallel between a president of China and a president of the US. Both went to the same high school in Hawaii. Who are these two presidents? ANS: Dr. Sun Yat-sen (China's Founding Father) and President Obama.
16. Mr. Gary Locke was the USA ambassador to China (2011-2014). In 2014, Max Baucus, previous senior senator from Montana, became the new ambassador to China. Mr. Jon Huntsman was the ambassador to China before Locke, from 2009-2011. Before taking over the ambassadorship, Gary Locke was US Secretary of Commerce. Who speaks better Mandarin, Jon Huntsman, Gary Loch, or Steven Chu? Jon Huntsman.
17. Who led the revolution that overthrew the emperor in China, thus establishing a republic after 2,000 years of imperial rule? ANS: Sun Yat-sen (孫逸仙). Dr. Sun Yat-sen visited Seattle in 1911. What was the purpose of his trip? He was fundraising for the revolution.
18. Who was the first leader of the People's Republic of China? ANS: Mao Zedong (毛澤東)
19. The Cultural Revolution was a socio-political movement that took place in China during what period of time? ANS: 1966 – 1976
20. What is the National Day of the People's Republic of China? ANS: October 1st. Note: The PRC was founded on October 1, 1949, with a ceremony at Tiananmen Square. The Central People's Government passed the Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China on December 2, 1949, and declared that October 1st is the National Day.
21. What is the National Celebration Day of the Republic of China? ANS: October 10th or Double Ten Day. Note: Double Ten Day is the National Day of the Republic of China and celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in China and the establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912. It is therefore designated by the government as National Celebration Day.
22. Who is the first PRC citizen to be awarded a Nobel Prize of any kind while residing in China? ANS: Liu Xiaobo (劉小波) won the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China. He was serving the first of his 11 year prison term in China as a political prisoner.
23. When did China and Taiwan resume direct communication with each other for the first time in the 60 years since Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan? ANS: On December 15, 2008, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland resumed direct sea, air, and mail links. Previous flights between the two regions required a connection at Hong Kong, and doubled the travel times. As many as 108 flights per week are scheduled, as well as 60 cargo flights per month across the Strait, evenly divided between Taiwanese and Mainland airlines.

---

## Early Chinese in America

1. What was the Chinese Exclusion Act? ANS: It was signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882 and prohibited all immigration by Chinese laborers into the US.
  2. When was it repealed? ANS: In 1943, by the Magnuson Act.
  3. The Angel Island Immigration Station is significant because from 1910 to 1940, it served as the main processing center for Chinese entering the US.
  4. The barracks of the Angel Island Immigration Station, where Chinese were locked while awaiting processing, are unique because they are a repository of poetry, composed by the immigrants, and carved on the walls. What kinds of things did people say in their poems? ANS: Being homesick, anger and sadness at the injustice of their initial reception by America, stressful, demoralizing, and humiliating living conditions, and fear and anxiety about their uncertain future.
  5. What was the record for laying down railroad tracks when building the transcontinental railway? ANS: Ten miles a day. A team of Chinese laborers set this record. The Chinese working on the railway adapted building techniques they had developed for mountainous regions and sheer embankments in China.
  6. Steven Chu was the first Secretary of the US Energy Department who had won the Nobel Prize. He won the prize for Physics. Before taking over the DOE, he taught at UC Berkeley. A major oil company partnered with this Energy Secretary when he was at the university, with a major grant for energy research. Which oil company? ANS: BP.
- 

## Women in Chinese History

1. Ban Zhao (45-116 CE) was China's first known female historian. She aided her brother Ban Gu in writing his History of the Former Han. She also wrote Admonitions to my Daughter, a series of precepts advocating modest, respectful, restrained female behavior that became standard reading for women for the next two thousand years.
2. Four women have been acclaimed as China's greatest beauties, though they all lived before the 10th century CE. They are described as causing "fish to sink and geese to fall in shock, to surpass the moon and shame the flowers." Who are these women? Xi Shi, Wang Zhaojun, Diao Chan and Prized Consort Yang.



3. When a lake is compared to a beautiful woman, especially one as famous as Xi Shi, one has great expectations for its scenic beauty. In fact, it has been described as beautiful under all conditions, just as Xi Shi was “pleasing whether heavily adorned, or lightly made up.” The fortunate lake given this accolade is the West Lake in Hangzhou.
4. Hua Mulan is a well-known Chinese heroine because of the Disney movie Mulan. However, she is not the only Chinese female associated with the military. In fact, over time, many military heroines have appeared. Some are historical figures, others appear in folk stories.
5. One of the earliest female generals was Fu Hao (Mrs. Good), one of the wives of the Shang dynasty (?-1045 BC) king Wu Ding. Her tomb was discovered in 1976 at Anyang in the ruins of the ancient Shang capital of Yin. She controlled her own estates, led armies in war, participated in major rituals and bore Wu Ding’s heir.
6. Princess Pingyang, daughter of the founder of the Tang Dynasty, Emperor Gaozu, commanded an army of women who participated in the campaign to seize the capital of Chang’an from the previous dynasty for her father. She also led an army of men.
7. Lady Liang of the Song dynasty was a general who was the first woman honored in her own right in imperial China (rather than due to her husband, who was also a general) with the title of Lady Yang for her military achievements. She was known for her strength and skill in the martial arts, and died a heroic death on the battlefield.
8. Qin Liangyu was a general who fought against the Manchus at the end of the Ming dynasty. She continued her resistance in Chongqing in southern China even after the Ming fell. Growing up, her father believed that girls should have same education as boys and had her educated with her brothers.
9. Thirteenth Sister is a character in a 19th novel called Gallant Men and Women by Wen Kang. During her pursuit of revenge against a corrupt official who killed her father, she rescues a scholar called An Ji. Though she marries him at the end of the novel, she had refused to do so at first because her rescue of him would not be a selfless act if she received personal benefit from it. The story of Thirteenth Sister is now a standard piece in Beijing opera.
10. Qiu Jin was a female revolutionary who lived in the last quarter of the 19th century to the first years of the 20th century. She was known for dressing like a man and for her writings urging women to take responsibility for themselves, their livelihood and their families. She was executed as a revolutionary in 1907.

---

## Society

1. Who was the missionary from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions famous for spending 54 years as a missionary in China and writing books which presented China to foreign readers? ANS: Arthur Henderson Smith (July 18, 1845 – August 31, 1932).
2. Which was the most widely read book on China among foreign residents in the early 20 century? ANS: Chinese Characteristics, written by Arthur Henderson Smith.
3. In traditional China, how was the distribution of labor organized conceptually? ANS: Literati, followed by farmers, then artisans and then merchants. This shows the order of priority and the prestige associated with each occupation.

4. Why were merchants considered to be at the bottom of the traditional social hierarchy?  
ANS: Trade was considered non-productive as it didn't involve growing or making anything, nor was it service in government. Merchants were thought to make a profit off the work of others, thus they was a parasitic class.
5. Where do soldiers fall in this traditional conceptual hierarchy? ANS: At the bottom, if they are included. They were considered instruments of disorder, violence and death, thus, had a very low social position in a society that prized order and productivity. Hence, the saying, "A good man doesn't become a soldier, just like good metal isn't used for nails."
6. What is the relationship between the family and the traditional state? ANS: The family was the model for the state. Thus, we can also describe the traditional state as paternalistic. The ruler was like a father, and the people his children, to be protected and looked after, but also to have their decisions made for them.
7. One example of the paternalism of the traditional Chinese state is that one way of referring to government officials when recalling their duty to the people is to call them "mother and father officials."
8. Traditional Chinese society had a very strict sense of hierarchy. Therefore, the older people in the hierarchy, and those with more authority, are owed not only respect but also obedience. In turn, they are supposed to nurture and care for the younger and their inferiors. This is demonstrated in many ways. For instance, there is a saying that, "if someone is your teacher for only a day, you should regard that person like a father for the rest of your life."
9. Under traditional Chinese law, children who killed or injured their parents were punished most severely, though less severely than the punishment for treason. However, a parent killing a child could justify the act, especially if they could claim the child was acting in an unfilial manner, and their punishment could be relatively light.
10. Many Chinese stories involve taking revenge. Given the importance of the family in Chinese culture, it is not surprising that if someone's father were killed, that person would have to take revenge, because he was not supposed "to coexist with the killer under the same sky."
11. Just as a person is compelled to take revenge, he is also obligated to return good for good. This is called "recompense." Just as we say, "one good turn deserves another," a Chinese person will have to do something to benefit someone who has helped him or done something for him, or that person's family. Otherwise, a debt remains between them.
12. However, this does not mean that he needs to seek unique ways to repay a debt. For instance, if he had been helped in his career as a young man, he can do the same for his benefactor's children by providing introductions to people who might help them in their careers, if he cannot do so himself.
13. The Chinese like to ascribe cultural developments to a "cultural hero." Hence, there are a host of cultural heroes in Chinese mythology. Thus:
  - a. Cangjie is the founder of Chinese characters. He was a bureaucrat to the Yellow Emperor, the first mythological emperor, and was ordered to come up with a way to record information. He was inspired by the different marks left by different animals to create characters with unique characteristics.



- b. The Yellow Emperor himself seems to have done quite a bit- he invented shelters, boats, carts and clothing, astronomy, the Chinese calendar, the bow-sling, among others.
  - c. His wife, Leizu, invented the cultivation, weaving and dying of silk.
  - d. Shennong, the Divine Farmer, taught the basics of agriculture, the use of medicinal herbs and the basics of acupuncture and moxibustion.
  - e. Fuxi was responsible for the institution of marriage, and originated the eight trigrams, leading to the creation of divinatory methods using the Yijing (or I-Ching).
14. Which word describes the basic dynamic in personalized networks of influence, and is a central idea in Chinese society? ANS: Guanxi, or connections.
15. What is the closest concept in western culture that can relate to Chinese guanxi? ANS: Guanxi is a two-way street. In other words, I'll count on you to do your best for me, and you can count on me to do likewise in return. The closest concept in western culture is, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."
16. What are the implications of addressing people by their title and surname? ANS: Addressing people by their name and title reflects the influence of Confucius in Chinese culture. Official positions and ranks are recognized and respected. It also helps secure guanxi, or connections, for the future.
17. What word describes a fundamental concept in Chinese society which means the dignity or prestige of a person? ANS: Mianzi, or Face.
18. What does it mean to "give face" to someone? ANS: To give face means that you are giving that person respect and recognizing his or her authority.
19. In Arthur Smith's book Chinese Characteristics, "mianzi" meaning face, is the first of twenty-six characters studied. Smith wrote, "Once rightly apprehended, face will be found to be in itself a key to the combination lock of many of the most important characteristics of the Chinese." He described face as a "compound noun of multitude, with more meaning than we shall be able to describe, or perhaps to comprehend." Towards the end of the chapter, Smith relayed the story of a Chinese District Magistrate who, "as a special favor, was allowed to be beheaded in his robes of office in order to save his face."
20. In what city were the 2008 Summer Olympic Games held? ANS: Beijing.
21. What city hosted the 2010 World Expo? ANS: Shanghai.
22. On May 12, 2008, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit which province of China? ANS: Sichuan (四川).
23. From 2007 to 2010, Starbucks sales in China increased by 20 times. During 2011 Starbucks set up its first coffee farm in China. Where is the coffee farm located? ANS: Yunnan (云南).
24. U.S. billionaires Bill Gates and Warren Buffett visited China in September 2011. What was their main purpose? ANS: To convince Chinese magnates to donate to charitable causes.
25. China has banned alcohol sales to minors prompted by concerns that permissive attitudes among parents and teachers have worsened a growing problem with under-age

- drinking. The ban, which came into force on New Year's Day 2006, outlaws sales of beverages with an alcohol content of 0.5% or above to anyone under 18 years of age.
26. What are the five most populous cities in China? ANS: Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
27. What is the largest of China's many ethnic groups? ANS: Han.
28. What is Washington State's sister province in China? ANS: Sichuan (四川).
29. Seattle has 21 international sister cities. One of them is in China, and one in Taiwan. What are Seattle's sister cities in China and Taiwan? ANS: Chongqing (重庆) in Sichuan province and Kaohsiung (高雄) in Taiwan.
30. China offers how many year of compulsory education? ANS: 9 years
31. In Hong Kong, since 2003 what can people no longer do in a public area without risking a fine? ANS: Spitting. Note: Spitting in a street, shops, and bars and on public transport has been outlawed since the SARS outbreak in order to stop the spread of germs. Jay walking, gambling, and littering attracted fines prior to 2003.
32. Who was the director of the internationally acclaimed films Hero, House of Flying Daggers, Raise the Red Lantern, and To Live? ANS: Zhang Yimou.
33. Who is the first Asian and non-Caucasian film director to win the Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Director? ANS: Ang Lee.
34. Who was the first Chinese player to ever play in the NBA? ANS: Wang Zhizhi 王治郅.
35. In 1984, what international competition was attended for the first time by athletes representing the People's Republic of China? ANS: 23rd Olympic Games.
36. Who was the first Taiwanese scientist to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1986 for "contributions to the dynamics of chemical elementary processes"? ANS: Yuan Tseh Lee 李遠哲.
37. Wu Xiaoxuan 吴小旋 is the first Chinese female athlete to win an Olympic gold medal. What was the event in which she won her gold medal? ANS: Shooting.

---

## Economy/Commerce and Science/Technology/Military

1. After running a tremendously successful business model that makes significant profit for his empire, Mr. Ma Yun, CEO of Alibaba, visited the US in June, 2015 to look for opportunities to further grow the e-commerce beyond the border of China. Please read the two news articles below, and answer the following questions:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-08/alibaba-s-jack-ma-visiting-u-s-to-lure-businesses-into-china>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-22/china-shops-alibaba-for-u-s-goods-from-toothbrushes-to-nuts>

- 1.1 What has been the shift of the Chinese consumption patterns that surprises the US retailers? Answer: More and more middle class, mainstream brands from US are gaining popularity.

- 1.2 What might be the main reason for such a shift? Answer: Chinese shoppers trust the US quality control more than buying goods that were made in local factories in China.
  - 1.3 What else is special about Alibaba's model? Answer: even Amazon.com Inc. and EBay Inc. have a hard time attracting domestic Chinese shoppers, so they have to open an Alibaba store.
2. In September, 2015, President Xi Jinping visited the US and discussed numerous of critical issues with President Obama in the White House as well as meeting many other important politicians and stakeholders. The Fact Sheet below has captured the summary.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/25/fact-sheet-president-xi-jinpings-state-visit-united-states>

- 2.1 Why is President Obama concerned about the cyber security issue in the bilateral relationship category? Answer: China has banned Google, Youtube, and Facebook usage in the name of cyber security.
  - 2.2 Under the People-to-People exchanges, what is the goal of One Million Strong initiative? Answer: it aims to have one million American students to study Mandarin by 2020.
3. Dr. Tu, Youyou became the first citizen of the People's Republic of China to receive the Nobel Prize in sciences in 2015. Please read the report here:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/07/world/asia/tu-youyou-chinese-scientist-nobel-prize.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/07/world/asia/tu-youyou-chinese-scientist-nobel-prize.html?_r=0)

- 3.1 What has Dr. Tu discovered that made a huge contribution? Answer: She discovered artemisinin, a drug that is now part of standard antimalarial regimens.
  - 3.2 Why is the Chinese government so proud of Dr. Tu's achievement? Answer: Because she is the first Chinese home-grown recipient of a Nobel in science.
4. Based on the success of the Special Economic Zones of the People's Republic of China, China has created Economic and Technological Development Zones. They have the purposes of building up high-tech industries, attracting foreign investment, increasing exports, and improve the regional economy. They are considered to have been very successful and have been expanded from an initial fourteen to fifty-four. Check out the FAQ about Investment in China and respond to the following questions:

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/investment/36684.htm>

- 4.1 What are the basic laws and regulations encouraging overseas investors to invest in China?
- 4.2 What are the formalities for overseas investment to establish enterprises in China? What departments are involved?
- 4.3 What items are encouraged for foreign investment by China, and what are prohibited?
- 4.4 What are the preferential policies offered to enterprises with foreign investment?

- 4.5 What are the favorable policies for further encouraging foreign investment in high technology industries?
- 4.6 What are the specific policies that encourage the development of software and integrated circuit industries?
- 4.7 What are the regulations regarding foreign investment in the establishment of research and development centers? What preferential policies are offered?
- 4.8 What are the favorable policies for foreign investors to central and western China?
- 4.9 What major achievements has China made in attracting foreign investment during the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1996-2000)?
- 4.10 What impact may China's accession to the WTO have on foreign investment in China?
6. In April 2015, Wikipedia sites in Chinese were blocked after Wikipedia started to use HTTPS, which increased the difficulty of censorship. What are some specific examples of Internet censorships? Answer: Tiananmen Square protest of 1989, Reactions of netizens in China, Debates about the significance of Internet resistance to censorship, Internet censorship of the protest in 2013
7. How many websites are blocked in China? Answer: As of September 2015, around 3,000 websites were blocked in mainland China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) under the country's policy of Internet censorship
8. President Xi Jinping vowed a “breakthrough” in the overhaul by 2020, according to a statement from the Central Military Commission, which Xi chairs, on the website of the *PLA Daily*. Please read more here and answer the following questions:
- <http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/1883606/china-vows-breakthrough-long-awaited-military-reform>
- 8.1 What is the aim of the overhaul? Answer: it aims at moving away from an army-centric system towards a Western-style joint command in which the army, navy and air force are equally represented.
- 8.2 What are the key areas of the long anticipated military reform? Answer: They include:
- Reorganizing the military headquarters
  - Rezoning the seven military commands
  - Setting up new strategic zones and joint operation command systems
  - Strengthening the Central Military Commission command structure
  - Imposing strict discipline on the army
  - Pushing for more innovation
  - Reforming personnel management system
  - Pushing for integration between the building of national defense and economic development

- 8.3 What happens with the seven military command regions? Answer: they are likely to be consolidated into four to help transform the world's biggest army into a nimble, modern force.
9. Despite the fast growing foreign investment, earlier in the year of 2015, Microsoft's Nokia division in China is shifting its production to Vietnam in what appears a larger trend. Its Lumia cell phone was not selling well in China. The Company also decided to close its handset factories here, with the loss of 9,000 jobs. Microsoft decided on "an adjustment of production capability based on current levels of demand," says company spokeswoman Steffi Cao, and headed for Southeast Asia where market prospects for its phones seem brighter. See report from <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2015/0309/Nokia-exit-Is-China-s-golden-age-of-foreign-investment-over>
- 9.1 What might be the factors that cause the exit? Answer: Fifty seven percent of US firms believed that foreign companies are being singled out in recent government anti-monopoly, anti-corruption, and pricing campaigns and nearly half of the survey respondents felt that foreign businesses are less welcome than they once were.
- 9.2 What seems to be the main attraction for foreign business relocating to Southeast Asia? Answer: the low cost of human resource (roughly about 1/3 lower than the Mainland labor).
10. The history of science and technology in China is both long and rich with science and technological contribution. Below is an article about the history of science and technology in China. Read and answer the following questions:  
[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/History\\_of\\_science\\_and\\_technology\\_in\\_China](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/History_of_science_and_technology_in_China)
- 10.1 What is the one of the oldest longstanding contributions of the ancient Chinese? Answer: Traditional Chinese medicine, including acupuncture and herbal medicine, derived from Daoist philosophy.
- 10.2 What is the significance about shadow clocks? Answer: the counting and time-keeping devices facilitated mathematical and astronomical observations.
- 10.3 What contributed to the invention of counting rods and rod arithmetic? Answer: the development of technology in agriculture and handicraft enhanced the economic activities and made crucial the means of calculation.
- 10.4 According to According to English philosopher Francis Bacon, how have printing, gunpowder and the compass changed the whole face and state of things throughout the world? Answer: the first in literature, the second in warfare, the third in navigation.