



A close up on China

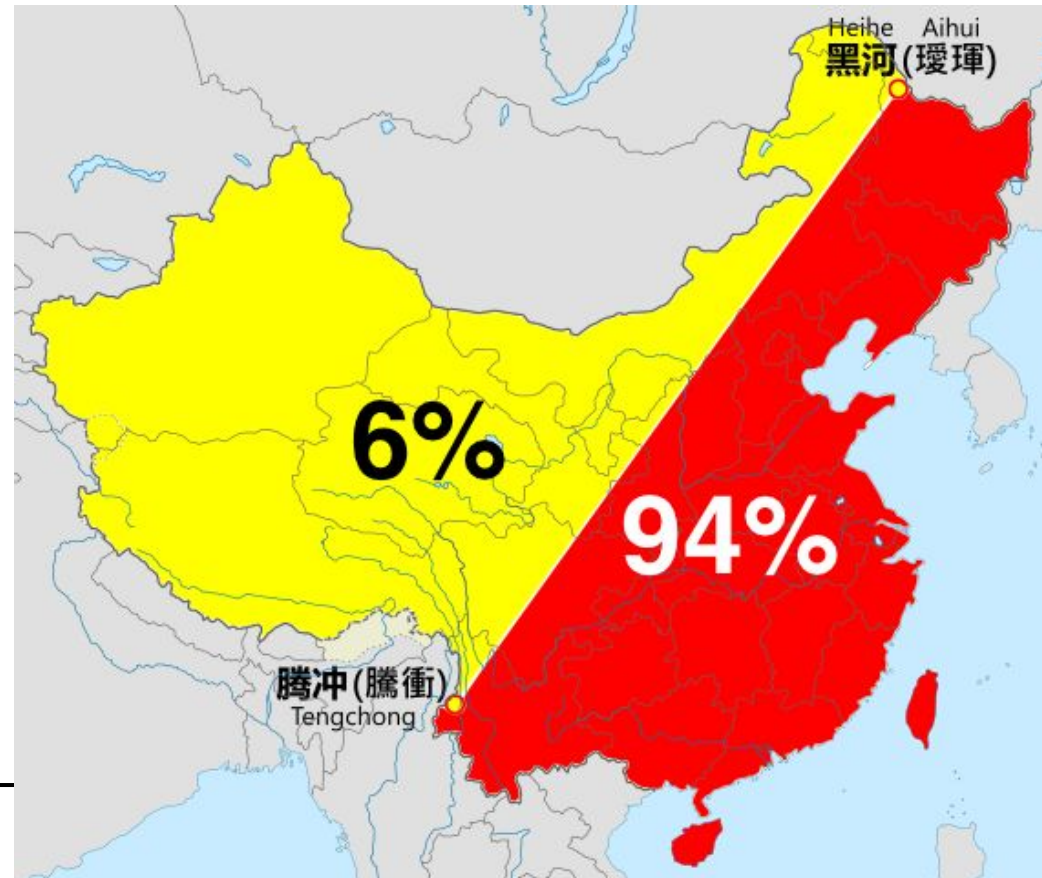


China - the emerging nation.

How is China's population distributed?

The red area is only 43% of China's land, but 94% of the population

Why?







Managing population change

In the late 1970s, the Chinese government introduced a number of measures to reduce the country's birth rate and slow the population growth rate. The most important of the new measures was a **one-child policy**, which said that couples in China could only have one child.

- In 1950 the rate of population change in China was 1.9 per cent each year. If this doesn't sound high, consider that a growth rate of only **3 per cent** will cause the population of a country to double in less than **24 years!**
- Previous Chinese governments had encouraged people to have a lot of children to increase the country's workforce. But by the 1970s the government realised that current rates of population growth would soon become unsustainable.

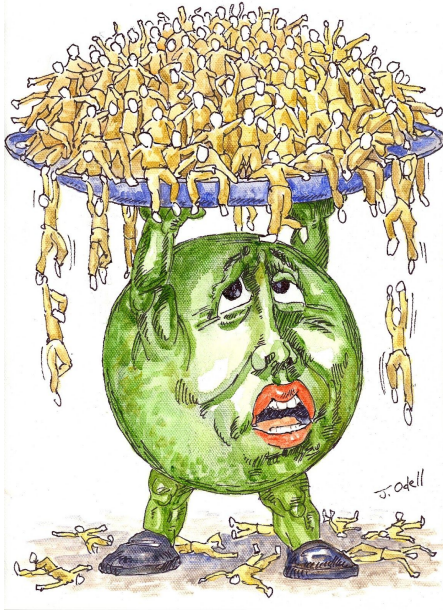


Why did China create the “One-child policy”?

In the past Chinese families were encouraged to have many children as this would help create a large workforce, but in the 1970’s the Chinese government realised that the population growth was unsustainable.

Overpopulation is a country has more people than can be supported by its resources. This causes problems such as:

- Shortages of housing and educational and medical services
- Unemployment - poverty for individuals and strain on benefits
- Overcrowding leading to poor living conditions, especially in urban areas



OVERPOPULATION



One child policy: Benefits and Problems

Benefits	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The birth rate in China has fallen since 1979, and the rate of population growth is now 0.7 per cent.● Without the policy it is estimated that China's population could now be have been greater than 400 million.● Less pressure on energy and food supplies, as well as schools, hospitals, housing and jobs.● Standards of living have increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Many people claim that some women, who became pregnant after they had already had a child, were forced to have an abortion and many women were forcibly sterilised.● In urban areas, the policy has been enforced strictly but remote rural areas have been harder to control.● Due to a traditional preference for boys, large numbers of female babies have ended up homeless or in orphanages, and in some cases killed. In 2000, it was reported that 90 per cent of foetuses aborted in China were female.● As a result, the gender balance of the Chinese population has become distorted. Today it is thought that men outnumber women by more than 60 million.