

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

# WORLD STUDIES

Year 8 Geography  
China Term 2

Name:

Class Teacher:



# ENQUIRY QUESTIONS












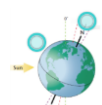
1. What is globalisation and how has it impacted China's economy?
2. What environmental problems has rapid development created for China?
3. What is climate change?
4. To what extent is climate change a natural thing?
5. To what extent is climate change a human induced process?
6. To what extent is China responsible for the climate change that we are experiencing?
7. Why is there conflict over the South China Sea?
8. Why is there internal conflict within China?
9. What role does China play on the global stage?

## HOMework













Big Question	Task	Due Date
11	Revise pages 3 - 5 and complete Homework 3 on page	
15	Revise page 8 - 10 and complete Homework 4 on page 11	
18	Revise page 13 - 16 in preparation for the end of unit assessment	

**Key terms found in the glossary on pages 4 and 5 will be tested throughout the unit**

# GLOSSARY

Key term	Icon	Definition
<b>Biome</b>		Large area characterised by its vegetation, soil, climate and wildlife.
<b>BRICs</b>		Collection of countries that are experiencing rapid development i.e. Brazil, Russia, India and China
<b>Capitalism</b>		Hard work of individuals is rewarded resulting in a rich and poor divide
<b>Climate</b>		The weather conditions in an area over a long period of time.
<b>Communism</b>		Everyone is treated equally and supported by the government through the sharing of resources.
<b>Confluence</b>		The point at which a river and tributary meet
<b>Coronavirus</b>		A large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illness
<b>Eccentricity</b>		The change in the earth's orbit from circular to elliptical
<b>Geography</b>		The study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these.
<b>Globalisation</b>		The way that companies, ideas and lifestyles are spread around the world.
<b>Infectious disease</b>		Can be spread from person to person
<b>Precession:</b>		The gradual change or 'wobble' in the orientation of the Earth's axis

# GLOSSARY

Key term	Icon	Definition
Migration		Process of people changing their place of residence, either within or between countries
Population Density		Population/area = PD
Primary industry		Extract raw materials from the earth or sea
Quaternary Industry		Include research and technology
Secondary industry		Process and manufacture goods from raw materials
Tertiary Industry		Providing a service
Tilt		The change in the earth's tilt between 22.2° and 24.5°
Transnational Corporation (TNC):		Businesses which operate in more than one country
Tributary		A small stream/river that flows into the main river
Watershed:		The area of land drained by a river and its tributaries
Weather		The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time
World Health Organisation (WHO):		An international organisation run by the United Nations (UN) which aims to keep the world safe from disease

# BQ10 & BQ11: WHAT IS GLOBALISATION AND HOW HAS IT IMPACTED CHINA'S ECONOMY?



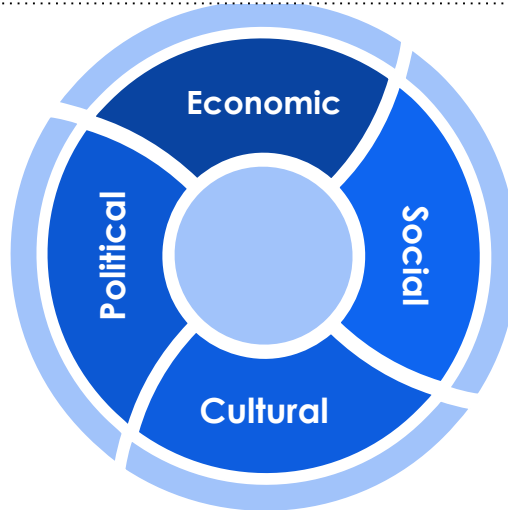
**Globalisation** is when countries or regions become more connected through the flow of people, goods, ideas and money.



**Transnational companies (TNCs)** are large companies with offices and factories in several countries.

Transnational companies, manufacturing and transporting goods globally.

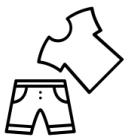
There are organisations such as the United Nations, making decisions beyond national governments.



Growth of online social networks such as Instagram, and communication media e.g. Facetime, Zoom

News and events are spread quickly around the world, as well as the worldwide release of music and films. Global tourism contributes to this.

## **What sort of things does China Export?**



- China is already the **world's largest producer of steel**
- China has the **world's largest textile and clothing industry..**
- Low wages and weak enforcement of environmental rules have attracted overseas manufacturers looking to produce **leather goods, electronics, metal products, toys** and other goods for export.



- China now stands as the **world's largest toy manufacturer**, producing 75% of world toys.

# CHINA HOMEWORK 3: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

Define the term 'globalisation' (1)	
Define the term 'TNC' (1)	
Name three key exports of China (3)	
Name two benefits of container shipping (2)	
Which port in China is the biggest container port in Asia? (1)	
How has manufacturing helped raise the standard of living for millions of people in China? (2)	
Name three factors that influence climate (3)	
When was the Chinese Communist Party formed? (1)	
What is a plate boundary (1)	
What machine can be used to measure seismic waves? (1)	
What is a P-wave? (1)	
What is a S-Wave? (2)	
Define the term 'magnitude' (1)	
In what empire was the word Geography first written down? (1)	
What was the name of the man that first wrote the word Geography? (1)	
Who was the city of Alexandria named after? (1)	
What does the word Geography mean? (1)	
	<b>Total out of 24:</b>

# CHINA HOMEWORK 3: CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

<b>Define the term 'globalisation' (1)</b>	Countries or regions become more connected through the flow of people, goods, ideas and money.
<b>Define the term 'TNC' (1)</b>	TNCs) are large companies with offices and factories in several countries.
<b>Name three key exports of China (3)</b>	Steel/textile and clothing/leather goods/electronics/ metal products/ toys
<b>Name two benefits of container shipping (2)</b>	Can be easily moved between transportation methods/ can be recycled into homes or storage/ can be transported on lorry, train or ship
<b>Which port in China is the biggest container port in Asia? (1)</b>	Shanghai
<b>How has manufacturing helped raise the standard of living for millions of people in China? (2)</b>	Increased amount of disposable incomes in urban areas/ 627 million lifted out of poverty/ increased access to education and healthcare
<b>Name three factors that influence climate (3)</b>	Altitude/ latitude/ ocean currents
<b>When was the Chinese Communist Party formed? (1)</b>	1949
<b>What is a plate boundary (1)</b>	A plate boundary is where two tectonic plates meet
<b>What machine can be used to measure seismic waves? (1)</b>	A seismometer
<b>What is a P-wave? (1)</b>	(primary waves) travel quickly and are the first to be measured by a seismometer.
<b>What is a S-Wave? (2)</b>	(secondary waves) travel slower and arrive second (1). They move up and down (1).
<b>Define the term 'magnitude' (1)</b>	The magnitude refers to how much energy an earthquake gives out.
<b>In what empire was the word Geography first written down? (1)</b>	Ancient Greece
<b>What was the name of the man that first wrote the word Geography? (1)</b>	Eratosthenes
<b>Who was the city of Alexandria named after? (1)</b>	Alexander the Great
<b>What does the word Geography mean? (1)</b>	To write about the earth
	<b>Total out of 24:</b> 7



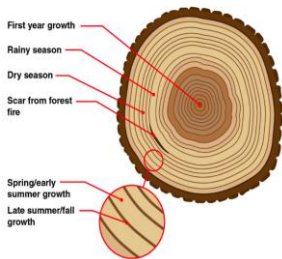
# BQ13. WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?



## Methods of looking at historical temperatures

### Ice Core Analysis

Scientists can drill through ice and take samples. By studying the bubbles of air trapped in the ice, scientists are able to work out past temperatures and what gasses were in the atmosphere.

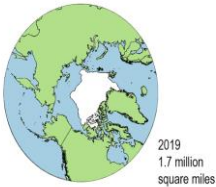
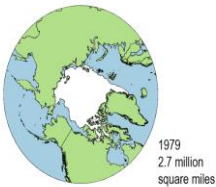


### Tree Ring Analysis

Tree make one growth ring each year. A wide ring shows that it was warm and wet, so the tree grew a lot. A dry, cold year would result in a narrow ring.

### Glaciers

Glaciers (big blocks of ice) are very sensitive to temperature changes. If it is very cold glaciers will grow and advance. If it gets warmer glaciers will melt (retreat).



### Sea Ice Extent

Monitoring how much sea ice there is each year can help determine the impact that any changes in temperature are having.



### The Greenhouse Effect

The greenhouse effect is the way that greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, keep heat in the atmosphere. Without the greenhouse effect, the earth would be 30°C colder, meaning life wouldn't survive.



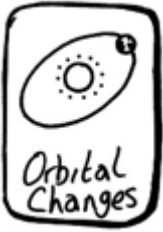
### The Enhanced Greenhouse effect

Humans have been adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, for example by burning fossil fuels. When there are more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, there is more heat generated and less energy escapes to space. This has caused the earth's global temperature to increase.



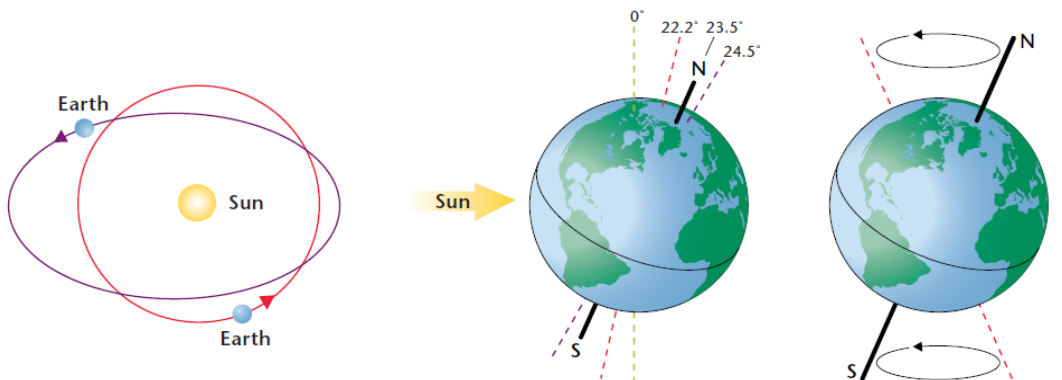
# BQ14. TO WHAT EXTENT IS CLIMATE CHANGE A NATURAL THING?

## Orbital Theory



- The Earth's orbit is sometimes circular, and sometimes more of an ellipse (oval).
- The Earth's axis tilts. Sometimes it is more upright, and sometimes more on its side.
- The Earth's axis wobbles, like a spinning top about to fall over.

These changes are called **Milankovitch Cycles**.



**Eccentricity** Earth encounters more variation in the energy that it receives from the sun when Earth's orbit is elongated than it does when Earth's orbit is more circular.

**Tilt** The tilt of Earth's axis varies between  $22.2^\circ$  and  $24.5^\circ$ . The greater the tilt angle is, the more solar energy the poles receive.

**Precession** A gradual change, or "wobble," in the orientation of Earth's axis affects the relationship between Earth's tilt and eccentricity.

## Eruption theory



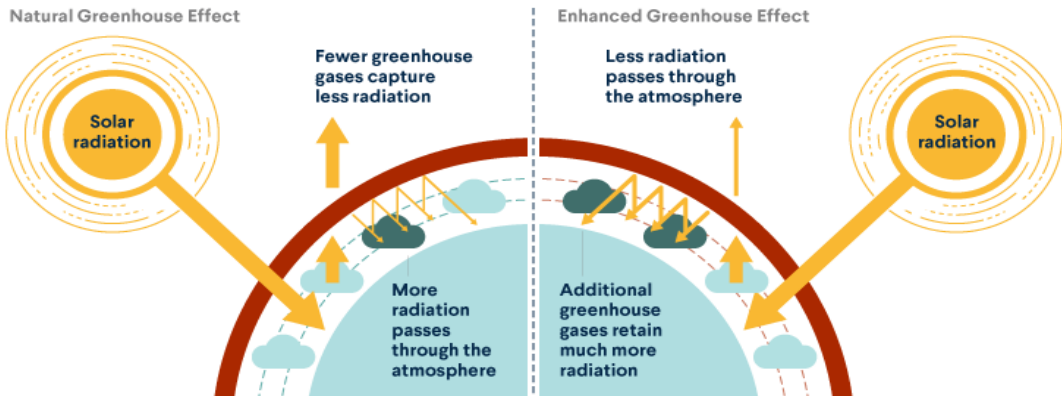
Big volcanic eruptions can change the Earth's climate. Volcanic eruptions produce ash and sulphur dioxide gas. If the ash and gas rise high enough, they will be spread around the Earth in the stratosphere (2<sup>nd</sup> layer of the Earth's atmosphere) by high level winds. The blanket of ash and gas will stop some sunlight reaching the Earth's surface.

## Solar Output Theory



Sunspots are black areas on the surface of the sun. Sometimes the sun has lots of these spots. At other times they disappear. Even though the spots are dark, they tell us that the sun is more active than usual. Lots of spots mean more solar energy being fired out from the sun towards Earth.

# BQ15. TO WHAT EXTENT IS CLIMATE CHANGE A HUMAN INDUCED PROCESS?



When forests are cut down, carbon absorption ceases, but also the carbon stored in the trees is released into the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>.



If the wood is burned or even if it is left to rot after the deforestation process.



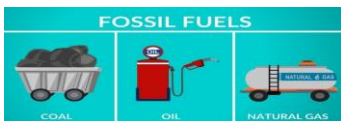
Forests store up to 100 times more carbon than agricultural fields of the same area.



## Agriculture

Modern agriculture, food production and distribution are a major contributors of greenhouse gases:

Agriculture is directly responsible for 14% of total greenhouse gas emissions.



When fossil fuels are burned they release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Using fossil fuels releases pollutants into the atmosphere – such as sulphur dioxide.

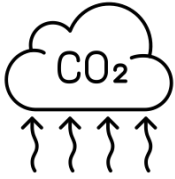
# CHINA HOMEWORK 4: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

Which Ocean borders Europe to the North?	
Which ocean borders Europe to the West?	
What continent is found to the east of Europe?	
Name one physical feature that separates Europe from Asia	
How many countries are found in the European continent?	
How many countries are part of the European Union (EU)?	
Eccentricity outlines what change in the Earth?	
By how much does the Earth axial tilt vary?	
What does precession mean?	
How can big volcanic eruptions change the climate?	
What is a sunspot?	
Name two ways that we can learn about the climate in the past (2)	
What is a P-wave? (1)	
What is a S-Wave? (2)	
Define the term 'magnitude' (1)	
<b>Total out of 21:</b>	

# CHINA HOMEWORK 4: CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

<b>Which Ocean borders Europe to the North?</b>	Arctic Ocean
<b>Which ocean borders Europe to the West?</b>	Atlantic Ocean
<b>What continent is found to the east of Europe?</b>	Asia
<b>Name one physical feature that separates Europe from Asia</b>	Ural River, Caucasus Mountain, Caspian Sea, Black Sea
<b>How many countries are found in the European continent?</b>	44
<b>How many countries are part of the European Union (EU)?</b>	27
<b>Eccentricity outlines what change in the Earth?</b>	Change to the Earth's orbit from circular to elliptical
<b>By how much does the Earth axial tilt vary?</b>	22.2 degrees to 24.5 degrees
<b>What does precession mean?</b>	The gradual change or wobble in the orientation of the Earth's axis
<b>How can big volcanic eruptions change the climate?</b>	Produce ash and gases (1) which stop solar radiation from reaching the Earth's surface(1)
<b>What is a sunspot?</b>	Sunspots are dark areas on the surface of the sun (1) which give off more radiation (1)
<b>Name two ways that we can learn about the climate in the past (2)</b>	Ice core analysis/ tree ring analysis/ gl
<b>What is a P-wave? (1)</b>	(primary waves) travel quickly and are the first to be measured by a seismometer.
<b>What is a S-Wave? (2)</b>	(secondary waves) travel slower and arrive second (1). They move up and down (1).
<b>Define the term 'magnitude' (1)</b>	The magnitude refers to how much energy an earthquake gives out.
	<b>Total out of 21:</b>

# BQ16. TO WHAT EXTENT IS CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING?



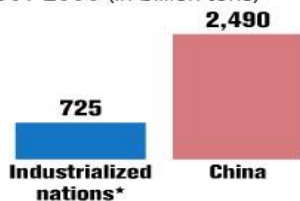
As countries get richer, they emit more CO<sub>2</sub> have more goods and products that produce carbon dioxide in their production or when they are used (for example cars).

In 2008, China became the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, ahead of long-time leader the United States.

Scientists warn that if China continues to increase its GDP at a rate of at least 7% per year, it will by then be emitting as much CO<sub>2</sub> per year as the whole world emitted in 2007.

## China's fast growth

Total increase in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels, 2001-2006 (in billion tons)

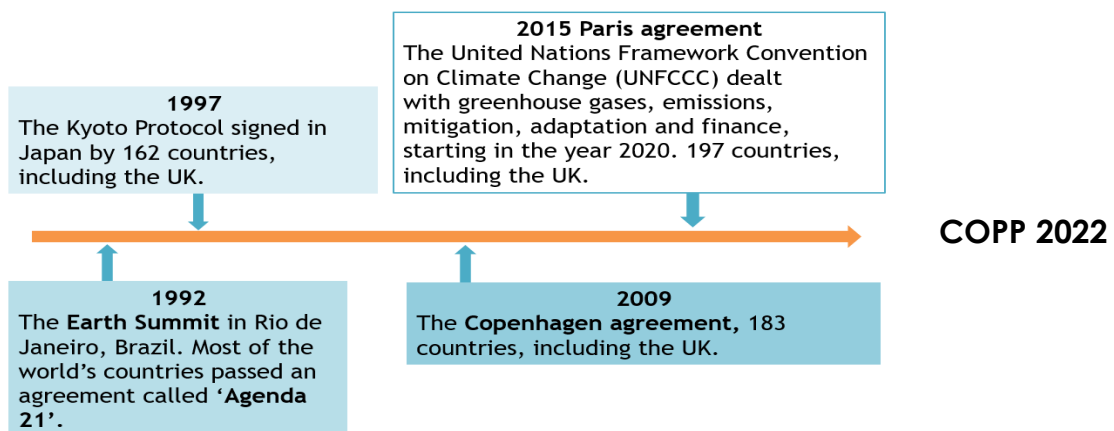


\*United States, Canada, European Union, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand

## What is China doing to reduce its emissions?

- As of 2008, China per capita emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> were still one-quarter that of the US.
- China produced 18% of all solar panels in 2007

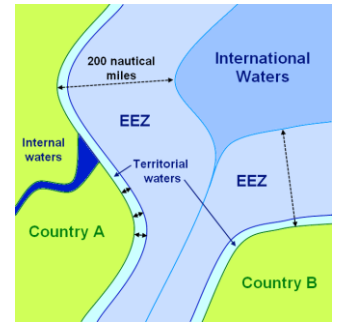
## What is done on a global scale to reduce climate change?



# BQ17: WHY IS THERE CONFLICT OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

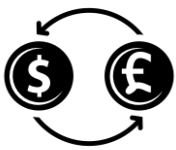
## Exclusive Economic Zones

- Nations do own and control some parts of the oceans.
- Territorial waters extend **12 nautical miles** from a coastline.
- The **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** extends up 200 nautical miles from a coast.
- A nation has sole rights to the ocean and seabed resources in its EEZ e.g. fish, oil and gas reserves



## Why is the South China Sea important?

### 1. Trade



- ❑ It is vital to the flow of global maritime trade because it is the link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- ❑ Ships passing through the South China Sea are estimated to carry over US\$5 trillion in trade per year.

### 2. Biodiversity and physical resources



- ❑ Contains an estimated 12% of the global fishing catch, worth over US\$21 billion per year.
- ❑ Employs 3.7 million people a year
- ❑ Untapped resources amounting to approximately 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion ft<sup>3</sup> of gas.





# BQ18: WHY IS THERE INTERNAL CONFLICT WITHIN CHINA?

## What is the relationship between China and Hong Kong

**Opium Wars** between Great Britain and China (1839–1860).

- ❑ China was forced to cede Hong Kong Island and a part of Kowloon to Great Britain for eternity.
- ❑ In **1898**, Britain negotiated a major land expansion of the Hong Kong colony and signed a 99-year lease with China.
- ❑ The lease ended in **1997**, at which time Britain returned Hong Kong to China as a Special Administrative Region (SAR) called the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region** of the People's Republic of China (**HKSAR**).

Under the doctrine of "**one country, two systems**," China allowed the former colony to continue to govern itself and maintain many independent systems for a period of 50 years.

## Military and Diplomacy

Hong Kong defers from mainland China in two primary areas: **military defense and international relations**. Hong Kong may not maintain its own military; the mainland manages the military defense of Hong Kong.



## China and Taiwan

Taiwan is an island, roughly 100 miles from the coast of south east China.

## Why is Taiwan separate from China?

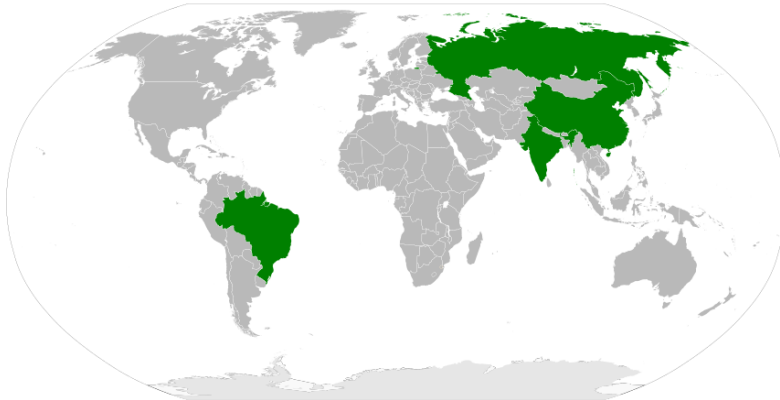
The split between the two came about **after World War Two**, when there was fighting between nationalist government forces and the Chinese Communist Party. The communists won in 1949, and their leader, Mao Zedong, took control in Beijing. Meanwhile, the nationalist party - known as the Kuomintang - fled to nearby Taiwan.

Currently, only 13 countries (plus the Vatican) recognise Taiwan as a sovereign country. China exerts considerable diplomatic pressure on other countries not to recognise Taiwan, or to do anything which implies recognition.



# BQ19: WHAT ROLE DOES CHINA PLAY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE?

To be a global power, China needs both **hard power** (military/economic) and **soft power** (cultural and economic influence)



The **BRICs** are a collection of countries that are rapidly developing or have developed recently and are becoming hugely important on the world stage in terms of political power and trade.

They are **Brazil, Russia, India and China.**



Spend 1.9% of their Gross Domestic Power on military



Compulsory conscription for 18-24 year olds for 2 years service in the army



High GDP growth (6.7% in 2016)



Factory of the world



Communist policies keep control on spending and consumption reducing economic growth



Population of 1.37 billion – strong workforce



Ageing population – 48% aged 25-54 years

# PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

## Locational Knowledge

- China's location in Asia
- Physical features in China
- China's Rivers

## Physical Geography

- Climatic regions in China
- Earthquakes in China
- Environmental problems created rapid development
- Greenhouse effect
- Climate change is a natural process
  - Solar output theory
  - Volcanic eruption theory
  - Eccentricity
  - Axial tilt
  - Precession

## Skills

- I can draw a bar graph to show immigrant groups
- I can draw a climate graph
- I can draw a population pyramid
- I can interpret choropleth maps showing climate data and population distribution in China

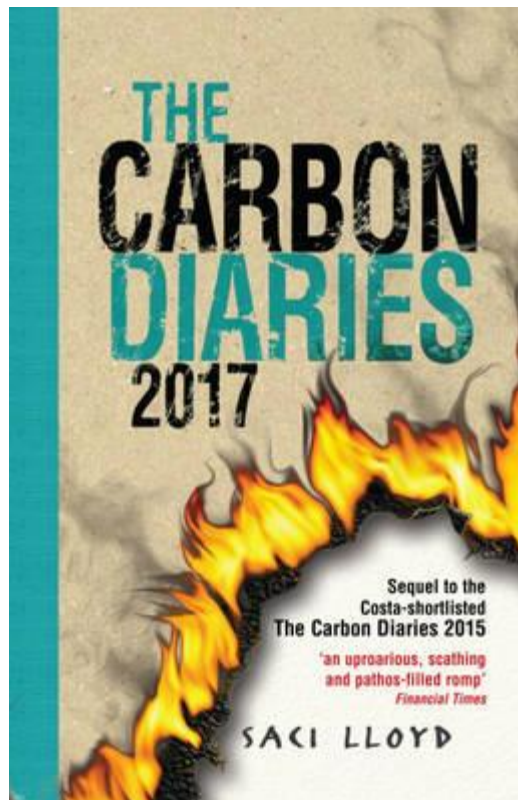
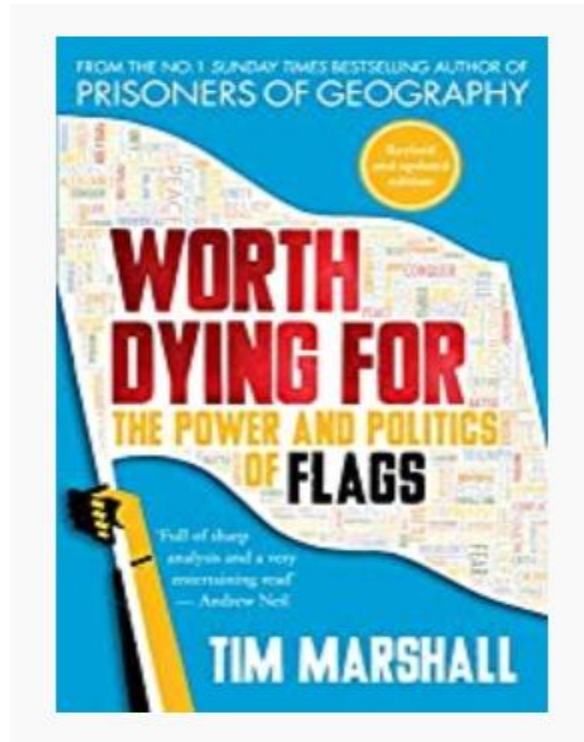
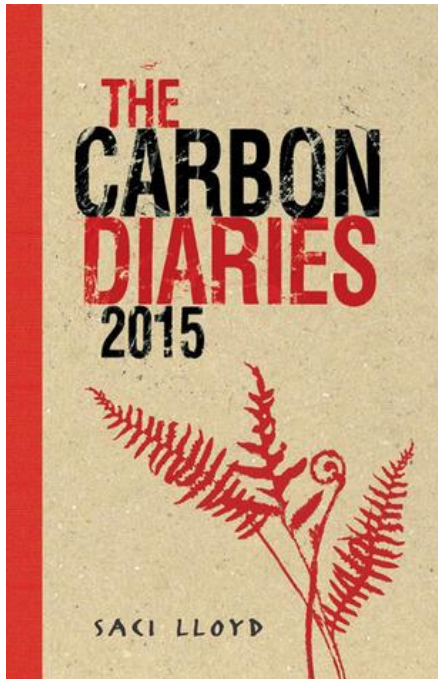
## Human Geography

- Population distribution in China
- China's population growth
- Population control strategies
- Political geography
- Role of manufacturing in China's economy
- Climate change is a human induced process:
  - Fossil fuels
  - Agriculture
  - Deforestation
- Is China responsible for the climate change we are experiencing?
- Hydroelectric power in China
- China's role in the global stage
- Health geography
- China's political problems

# WIDER READING



Wider reading is a vital skill in geography in order to extend your knowledge. For each book listed here that you read, write a book report outlining your thoughts and you will **receive 30 house points**.



## THE WORLD HAS WOKEN UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A report published today by NOAA and NASA confirmed that 2010 to 2019 was the hottest decade since record keeping began 140 years ago. The analysis also revealed that 2019 was the second hottest year ever recorded and that ocean temperatures were the highest they've ever been. The scientists behind the report point to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions as the sources of continued global warming.

These hotter temperatures helped fuel a slew of natural disasters as the world finally confronted the realities of climate change. The research is the latest to confirm that conditions could worsen unless action to reduce emissions are taken. This decade, many people around the world woke up to a grim reality: Climate change is here, it's happening now, and it could very easily get much, much worse.

These 10 years were punctuated by a series of deadly, dramatic, devastating events. Hurricanes like Sandy, Maria, and Harvey fundamentally changed the communities they barreled into, leaving behind scars that have yet to heal. Stronger and stronger heat waves forced communities across the country and world into dangerous swelter. Wildfires tore up hundreds of thousands of acres in a flash.

Climate records fell left and right. Hottest-ever year for the planet's atmosphere? Check. Hottest-ever year for its oceans? Also check. Puny, unprecedentedly tiny stretches of Arctic sea ice? Check, check, check.

The underlying force beneath the changes is indisputable. Steadily increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, caused primarily by humans burning fossil fuels, are trapping extra heat near Earth's surface. That warms Earth as a whole. The outcome is both straightforward—a hotter planet—and incredibly complex, as changes cascade through the oceans, atmosphere, soil, rocks, trees, and every living thing on the planet.

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**What happened in 2019?**

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**What are the sources of global climate change?**

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**How have people been affected by global climate change?**

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**How do green house gases affect the planet?**

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**How many things are affected by global climate change?**

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**Which climate records have been broken recently?**

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## Why are so many things bought in the USA and UK, made in China?

The quest for a better standard of living means customers are always on the prowl for cheaper goods. [Businesses need] to make sure their prices remain low... that means sourcing stock from the cheapest available supplier where ever they happen to be in the world. How can China and other countries undercut the USA this way? Why are wages in Shenzhen a fraction of those in the USA? How does Walmart get away with paying \$13 per hour to a checkout operator in Texas but less than \$2 per hour to someone doing the same job in the Chinese stores?

Much of the discrepancy is down to demographics. There are over 900 million Chinese of working age, five times the equivalent number in the USA. And, on average, they are younger than their American counterparts. If you want to start a factory or superstore in China, you can have your pick of workers, and you won't have to pay as much.

For Chinese workers, the alternative to taking up that factory job is less appealing. Traditionally, countries advance from being largely agricultural toward manufacturing and then onto an economy that is more services based. China is at a relatively early stage of this process. [The choice may be between toiling on a farm or higher wages on the assembly line, partly as a wider range of skills as required.]

Even now, manufacturing in China and America is very different. The USA still excels in high-tech industries involving advanced design: planes rather than lightbulbs. This requires more specialised equipment and highly qualified workers, which tends to result in the workforce being more productive.

China woke up to the idea of becoming the worlds workshop then a few decades ago. For a century and a half, The USA has had a business environment more conducive to new ideas in competition. [Cultural reasons meant] until very recently, the focus has tended to be on following central business plans rather than nurturing start-ups. The USA topped the table as the best place to be an entrepreneur in 2015. Pioneering ideas tend to result in more productive employees, you can attract a higher wage.

While America might give the likes of Steve Jobs more freedom to develop their ideas, it also places far more restrictions on them in one area: the protection of their employees. Health and safety in the workplace to the number of hours worked, there was a far tougher in America. In China, a blind eye might still be turned to the use of child labour, the application of a minimum wage or even observation of environmental law. Workplace injuries are far more common in the west. There is no culture of compensation, no expectation that the employer should meet the cost of medical care.



China has been transformed beyond recognition in the last 50 years or so. The middle of the last century saw industrialisation on a massive scale, and stringent government control. Then, in the 1970s, restrictions were lifted and how much businesses could produce and who could buy the goods. Companies could keep their profits and sit there in wages. Most importantly they could sell abroad. The way was set for China to become the worlds factory. Between 1978 to 2012, China's economy grew by nearly 10% per year, according to official statistics.

**How do businesses keep prices low?**

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**What is demographics the study of?**

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.....

**How does 'demographics' mean China can produce cheaper goods?**

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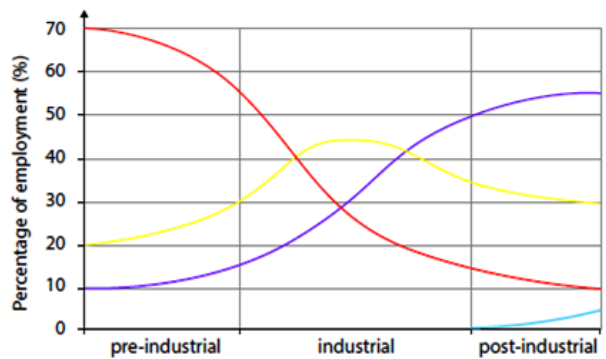
**What are the three main employment sectors?**

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.....

.....

**This graph represents the three main employment sectors – which is which?**





**What do high-tech industries involve?**

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.....

**Which word describes starting your own business?**

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**If you could run your own business, what would it be?**

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**What kinds of rules and restrictions are in place in American businesses?**

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**What might be consequences of slack rules in a workplace?**

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**What restrictions were lifted in the 70s in China?**

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The carefully choreographed images aim to create a vision of his latest signature policy – rural revitalisation. Billions of dollars will be spent on revamping the countryside – increasing prosperity, improving its ecology, and integrating it with the development of China's shining cities, which had largely left rural areas behind.

The initial phase, announced in late 2018, culminates in 2022. There are plans to modernise the agricultural sector by 2035, and fully transform the countryside by 2050 to coincide with Xi's goal of propelling China to glorious global superpower status, just after the People's Republic reaches its 100th birthday, in 2049. The aim is to make areas such as Shandong and Jilin province look more like the industrial farmbelts of the US. And there is a real need to transform the countryside, if China can get it right.

On the ground, however, progress seems a little less choreographed. In Shandong, thousands of villagers have had their homes demolished since March. Local officials understood that they had been given the green light to raze villages, and had drawn up plans to flatten as many 8,000 and move their residents into towns.

But when a group of academics sounded the alarm it became clear that villagers were being left homeless, with some properties demolished before relocation and compensation agreements were established. In mid-June, after several academics spoke out with detailed stories of evicted farmers, Li Hu, director of the Shandong Natural Resources Bureau, admitted during a press conference that the village merger campaign hadn't been thoroughly thought over or properly promoted and carried out.

It became clear that villagers were being left homeless, with some properties demolished before relocation

The campaign had "threatened the villagers' right to live", Liu Shouying, dean of the school of economics at Renmin University in Beijing stated in an interview with a state-run magazine run by Guangzhou Daily newspaper. There are no published figures on how many people have been evicted, moved or left homeless. "Rural revitalisation is intimately tied to new-style urbanisation under Xi Jinping, which causes a lot of confusion at the local level about how these policies should be implemented," says Kristen Looney, an assistant professor at Georgetown University in Washington DC, US, who focuses on rural development and governance and has done extensive fieldwork in China. "

Shandong farmers are reporting that in some cases it takes two years to develop the new housing, and there's no guarantee that you can get in the new complexes.

That's effectively making people homeless for two years.

Over the past few decades, many rural villages have either been ignored and isolated because of their geography, or depopulated by years of flight of the best and brightest to urban areas in the east for jobs and education.

These "left behind" villages often became empty shells, mostly inhabited by the old or the very young, only springing to life when families returned during the annual lunar new year holiday.

Xi's first move to address this was a poverty alleviation programme, launched in 2014, which identified the most impoverished households – those with an annual income under £308 – and tasked local officials with doing everything they could to raise them above that threshold.

That goal is now in sight, in theory at least. But China's premier, Li Keqiang, revealed in May at the annual National People's Congress meetings that more than 600 million people in China still live on about £104 per month – an annual income of just over £1,200.

The coronavirus pandemic increased pressure on the government to deliver on promises of rural economic transformation as the economy slowed sharply – particularly since many of the country's 300 million or so rural migrant workers remained in their hometowns after the Covid-19 outbreak hit earlier this year. But what will China look like if the revitalisation plan is enacted?

Slogans such as "green farming" or "signature farms" are bandied about, but local authorities often seem to favour bigger, more productive industrialised farms in areas that can support such US-style agriculture.

**What will the money be spent on?**

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**When will the agricultural sector be modernised by?**

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**What has happened to the villagers in Shandong?**

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**How many residents will have lost their housing?**

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**How might you feel if you were a villager in China?**

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**How many years does it take to develop new housing?**

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**Why do they want more productive industrialised farms?**

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**What slogans are bandied about?**

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**Depopulation is occurring because.....?**

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**What is the aim of the poverty alleviation programme?**

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**How many people in China live on £104 per month?**

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Some regions are, however, also looking to develop more specialised smaller-scale farming that has high profitability, particularly in areas that don't have the terrain for large industrial farms: speciality fruits, vegetables, herbs, teas and products that could take advantage of particular geographies and climates.

Teshi Organic Farm, about an hour north-east of Shenzhen in Guangdong province, is one such speciality company hoping to ride the revitalisation wave. "Our main focus is not the produce, but to develop the farm into a bedrock for other types of business, such as tourism, education and agricultural training," says farm manager Xu Bin.

The farm is also in discussion with local government about taking over the management of other farms in the area. This would mean renting land from farmers and hiring them as workers, implementing organic farming techniques, and having those farmers work as homestay operators of their renovated homes.

Will rural life be attractive enough for city-educated kids accustomed to having access to high-speed internet, bubble tea shops and fancy malls?

Teshi is also in the process of renovating some larger structures near the farm to function as education centres for visiting students and as school facilities for remaining local young people. But will rural life be attractive enough for city-educated kids accustomed to having access to high-speed internet, bubble tea shops and fancy malls? China has already started subsidising entrepreneurs who want to return to their hometowns.

It's a risky endeavour, says Matt Chitwood, a research fellow with the Institute of Current World Affairs, who spent two years living in the mountain village of Bangdong in Yunnan province.

A place such as Bangdong, which has built its economy around specialty agriculture, such as tea, is often at the whim of commodity prices, Chitwood says. A tea-price bubble burst in 2007–08, wiping out investments that new entrepreneurs in the village had put into these operations.

"A friend of mine sold all his cattle to go into tea production, [so when the bubble burst it was] all gone, all the life savings as well," Chitwood adds. The tea industry has rebounded in the area, and "trickle down tea-economics" as he called it, has become the community's main source of livelihood.

"That supports people coming back, but if you don't have the benefit of the niche industry, or a factory, or a visionary leader able to build up tourism or whatever, what do you do?" says Chitwood. "I guess the market makes the call on that one and you don't go back to the village and the village does die."

There is a more profound challenge in the idea that villagers will be able to create businesses that can go on to compete in a modern economy. Many have had little or no business education and are not familiar with the market they're being asked to sell to.

"I think that's the hardest thing for the government," Chitwood says, of the lack of education in rural villages. "There's not an easy answer to that. So with poverty elimination and with the revitalisation work, I think the core long-term strategy for that is education."

**Why are some regions choosing more smaller-scaled farming?**

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**What will these farms take advantage of?**

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**What is Teshi Organic farm?**

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**What other types of business might develop?**

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**How will local children benefit?**

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**How is China supporting entrepreneurs who want to return to their home towns?**

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**What is a problem of being in tea production?**

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