MY LIFE IN CHINA

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China by the Numbers

- World’s Largest Population: 1.36 billion
- Second Largest Economy
- Fourth Largest Country
- 56 Nationalities
  - 55 ethnic minorities + Han majority (96 percent)
  - Minorities live in about 60% of China’s total land area
- One-Party Rule
# China by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>China</th>
<th>USA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>1.343 billion</td>
<td>.309 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>3,705,407 sq. miles</td>
<td>3,794,083 sq. miles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population Growth Rate</strong></td>
<td>.481%</td>
<td>.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GDP Per Capita</strong></td>
<td>$9,100</td>
<td>$49,800</td>
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2006: The Journey Begins
Destination: Chongqing
What were your first impressions?
Personal Adjustments

- Language Barriers
- Climate and Environment
- Shopping
- Transportation
- Etiquette and Guanxi
Cultural Adjustments

Lines

Transportation

Entertainment

Noise

Communication

Relationships
Culture Gap Questions

• Questions the locals asked me:
  • Do you like China?
  • Your Chinese is good, how long have you been in China?
  • How much does an iPhone/house/car, etc. cost in America?
  • How is the internet in the U.S.? Social media?
  • Do most Americans have guns?
  • Where did you learn how to use chopsticks?
Life in China Questions

• Questions the locals asked me:
  • How do you get around if you don’t understand the language?
  • What is the strangest thing you have eaten?
  • How do the daily schedules differ?
  • Is it difficult to learn Chinese, and which dialect do you speak?
  • Is the internet accessible?
  • How do people dress?
Urban-Rural Divide

- In 2009, China’s per capita annual urban income of $2,500 was nearly three times that of rural residents
  - The gap is more extreme in larger cities such as Beijing and Shanghai
- Over half of China’s population lives in rural areas, but they share less than 12% of the country’s wealth
  - 85% of China’s poor live in rural areas
- China now has more billionaires (128 in 2011) than any other country except the U.S. (412 in 2011)
- Nearly 500 million Chinese people live on less than two dollars a day
Urban-Rural Divide

As a developing country, the urban-rural divide is evident in China.

International Metropolises (Shanghai)  Vast Rural Areas
Urban-Rural Divide

Related to the urban-rural divide is a floating population of migrant workers.
Education in China

• Instructor at Chongqing University of Technology
• Courses Taught: English – Speaking, Reading, Grammar
• Students: College Freshmen
• Residential: Students live on-campus during high school and university
Cultural Differences in the Classroom

• Traditionally, teachers view themselves as distributors of previous knowledge, not facilitators of learning process
• Tend not to be flexible or open to spontaneity
• Tend not to welcome questions in class and see them as a sign of their teaching failure
• Prefer questions during class breaks or after class
• Formal rules of etiquette
• Rote memorization with almost no open discussion
Chinese Education System

- First 9-year education is compulsory and in principle for free.
- After Junior Secondary, students can either choose an academic or vocational path.
Education by the Numbers

- China’s literacy rate:
  Total population: 91.6%; Male: 95.7%, Female: 87.6%

- Before the Communist party took power in 1949, about 80% of China’s population was illiterate. Enrollment rate was below 20% for elementary school and about 6% for junior secondary school.

- In the last 15 years, the number of colleges in China has doubled and the number of students quintupled, going from 1 million in 1997 to 5.5 million in 2007.
Education by the Numbers

- More than 60% of high school graduates in China now attend a university, up from 20% in the 1980s
- Over 127,000 Chinese students are studying in American universities, but only about 14,000 American students are studying in China
- Students from Shanghai’s schools outperformed those from 65 countries/regions. Shanghai students were followed by Korea (#2), Finland (#3), Hong Kong (#4), and Canada (#5). U.S. students ranked #24
- Learning English is required for Chinese students, while only about 4% of U.S. middle and high schools offer Mandarin
College Entrance Exam: The *Gaokao*

- College Entrance Exam – China’s Version of the SAT
- Only given once a year
- If you don’t score high enough on the exam, college will not be an option. (You may repeat your last year of high school and retake the exam)
- Alternative for the Rich: Leave China to attend college abroad or pay to attend a Chinese “junior college”
**Gaokao Controversy**

- While it brought “social equality and justice” back into Chinese education, it also restricted critical thinking.
- Pressure can bring about many social and psychological problems for students.
- *Gaokao* is in the process of being reformed, but the process is difficult.
- “Regional discrimination.” Universities only select a few students from each district, even if there are many well-qualified applicants.
- As a result, students may relocate to improve their chances of being admitted to a university.
Sample Question: Math

As shown in the figure, in square prism \( ABCD-A_1B_1C_1D_1 \),
\( AB=AD=2, \ DC=2\sqrt{3}, \ AA_1=\sqrt{3} \)
\( AD \perp DC, \ AC \perp BD \), and foot of perpendicular is \( E \).

(i) Prove: \( BD \perp A_1C \):

(ii) Determine the angle between the two planes \( A_1BD \) and \( BC_1D \):

(iii) Determine the angle formed by lines \( AD \) and \( BC_1 \), which are in different planes.
WRITE A BRIEF 400 WORD ESSAY ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Two fish are swimming in a river. The older one asks, “How’s the water?” The younger one says, “I don’t know if it’s clean or cloudy.”

“The world belongs to you only after you stand up.” Please choose your own angle and write about your thoughts on this sentence.
No Sisters & No Brothers
One-Child Policy

- **What?** A birth control policy to control population size
- **Why?** To alleviate social, economic and environmental problems in China
- **When?** Created “officially” on September 25th, 1980 but unofficially began with the Late, Long, and Few campaign in 1979
- **Pros:** Prevented more than 400 million births, increased education for women, higher quality of life
- **Cons:** Gender imbalance, Little Emperors, aging population
- **Exceptions:** Minorities, rural residents, only children parents, foreigners
- **Enforcement:** Incentives and penalties
Little Emperor Syndrome
4-2-1

• The aging population along with the One-Child Policy will create a challenging dependency ratio
• Far more non-working age citizens than working age
• Each child has four grandparents and two parents to take care of (4-2-1 problem)
Filial Obligations

- Unconditional material and emotional support
- Continue the patriarchal line
- Contribute to the economic success of the household
What did you do for fun?
What did you take away from China?