Chapter 9

East Asia
Map of East Asia
I. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- Differences in language make translation difficult
- Recent change to Pinyin spelling produced new place names
  - Pinyin: spelling system based on Chinese sounds
    - Example: Peking → Beijing; Canton → Guangzhou
A. Physical Patterns

▶ Landforms
  ▪ Series of mountain ranges from north to south, created by tectonic impact of South Asia
  ▪ Descending elevation from west to east
  ▪ Japanese islands created by volcanism
    ▶ Vulnerable to tsunamis
Taklimakan Desert and Mt. Fuji
A. Physical Patterns

- Two contrasting climate zones
  - **Dry interior west**
    - No influence of the sea; rapid swings in temperature
    - Generally supports few people; nomads
  - **Wet monsoon east**
    - Bitter, dry winters
    - Warm, wet summers
    - Landscapes heavily modified by human agricultural activities
Climates of East Asia

Figure 9.6

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- Earliest complex civilizations: 4000 years old
- Feudal aristocracy ruled until rise of Chinese kingdom ~221 B.C.E.
  - Growth of imperial bureaucracy
- Confucius: philosopher of defined roles and social obligations
  - Large impact on Chinese values: patriarchy, social rigidity
Growth of Chinese Empire

Figure 9.8 here
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- By 900s, China was leading society in the world
  - Wealth, large cities, high living standards
  - Later ruled by Mongols and Manchus

- By 1800s, Europeans gaining interest in Chinese markets
  - Opium Wars, Sino-Japanese War mark inability to control own destiny
  - End of empire in 1912 *coup d’etat*
B. Human Patterns Over Time

China in the twentieth Century

- Rivalry between Nationalists (KMT) and Communists (CCP)
  - Invasion by Japanese in 1931
  - Victory of CCP over KMT following WWII
    - KMT flees to Taiwan
- Mao Zedong: leader of CCP, founder of People’s Republic of China
B. Human Patterns Over Time

► People’s Republic of China
  - Similar to old imperial model, large bureaucracy
  - Early beneficiaries: farmers and laborers
    - Reallocation of land; public works projects; rural health care; women’s status
  - Huge social cost related to central planning
    - Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution
  - Following Mao’s death: maintenance of political dominance, establishment of market economy
The Cultural Revolution
B. Human Patterns Over Time

The Rise of Japan

- Original migration and culture from China and Korea
  - Hence, Buddhism, Confucianism, architecture, etc.
- 1600-1868: Japan turns isolationist
- 1853: U.S. forces Japan to trade and establish diplomatic relations
  - Opening up to foreign influences
  - Turn to imperialism in Korea, Taiwan, China
Japan: 1875-2000

Figure 9.12

Territory Controlled by Japan, 1875–1942
- Japan in 1875
- Controlled as of 1914
- Controlled as of 1933
- Controlled as of 1941
- Japan in 1942
- Japan in 2000

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Japan after WWII
  ▪ Defeat by the U.S. led to social and economic reform; democracy, limit to military
  ▪ Return to industrial power
    ► Exporting cars, electronics, etc.
    ► Investor in developing economies
    ► World’s third largest economy after United States and China
      ▪ Much smaller than both in population and resources
B. Human Patterns Over Time

Conflict and Transfers of Power

- Korea: split between U.S. and USSR after WWII
  - Korean War inconclusive; North Korea turns to isolationism and poverty
  - South Korea follows Japanese model of development

- Taiwan: Founded as Republic of China by KMT
  - Ambiguous political status; still claimed by PRC

- Mongolia: Soviet puppet from 1920s to 1989
  - Now, struggling free market economy
C. Population Patterns

► Most populous world region

- Not evenly distributed
- China: 1.3 billion people
  - 90% clustered on 1/6 of total land area
  - Huge environmental cost for agricultural production
  - Much of territory difficult to live in because of climate or terrain

- Japan: Half of population in Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area
Population Density

Figure 9.14

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C. Population Patterns

► Declining population growth

- China: One-child policy will end growth by 2050
- Japan: Lowest growth rate in region
  - 0.1% per year, or 700 year doubling time
  - By 2025, one pensioner for every two workers
- Relatively low HIV/AIDS infection rates
  - However, China has several localized epidemics
  - Japan’s annual number of infections has doubled every year since the 1990s
II. CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES

Great change in economic and political systems after WWII

- Most countries making great progress
- Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong among highest standards of living in the world

Now, need to maintain economic growth in a way sensitive to environment
A. Political and Economic Issues

Japanese Model: open markets with interventionist government policies

- Focus on protecting domestic markets while opening foreign markets
- Highly innovative and efficient “Kaizen” system
- Growth, following WWII, of 10% annually
- 1990s economic crisis caused by government corruption and favoritism
Modern Tokyo at Night

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A. Political and Economic Issues

The Communist Command Economy

- China, Mongolia, and North Korea: attempt to maximize economic efficiency
  - Abolition of private property, state control of agriculture and industry
    - Chinese establishment of communes as social unit
  - Low productivity resulted from lack of incentives
  - Increase in regional income disparity
    - East/West, also rural/urban
    - Root of public protests
A. Political and Economic Issues

- Globalization and Market Reforms in China
  - 1st reform: Decentralization of decision-making
    - Responsibility system: household new social unit for agriculture
  - 2nd reform: Creation of competitive markets
  - 3rd reform: Regional specialization implemented rather than regional self-sufficiency
    - Growth of rural manufacturing (1/4 of Chinese economy)
  - 4th reform: Foreign investment promoted
Agricultural Specialization in the Chang Jiang
Foreign Investment in East Asia

Figure 9.22

Foreign Direct and Other Investments, 2004
(in U.S. dollars)

- $10–$20 billion
- $6–$9.9 billion
- $1–$5.9 billion
- Under $1 billion
- No data

- Economic and technology development zones (ETDZs)
- Special economic zones (SEZs)

Figure 9-22
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A. Political and Economic Issues

► Special Economic Zones

- Chinese coastal cities: free trade zones, special capitalist management methods
- Five cities originally, now expanded to include 32 interior cities: economic and technology development zones
- In SEZs and ETDZs, labor shortages are raising quality of living
DaimlerChrysler in Beijing

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A. Political and Economic Issues

► China in the Global Economy
  - One of the fastest growing economies in the world
  -Accounts for 30% of growth in global oil demand
  -WTO entrance in 2001 was controversial
    -Concern over human rights, economic competition
  -Emphasizes “soft power” in dealings with the world
B. Sociocultural Issues

Population Policies and the Family

- By 2000, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea all had fertility rates below 2
- In China, one-child policy has had impacts:
  - Decline of extended families
  - Preference for males
  - Large cohort of elderly for few youths to take care of
- In 2005, Chinese birth rate was 0.6 per 1000
Sculpture Promoting One-Child Policy

Figure 9-26
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Population Pyramids of China

(a) China, 2000
(b) China, 2050

Figure 9-27
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B. Sociocultural Issues

- In 2000, 114 Chinese boys for every 100 Chinese girls
  - Thus, shortage of women of marriageable age
  - Similar “missing girls” in other East Asian societies
- Workplaces generally seen as male spaces
  - Less so in China