China’s Population Policy

Notes

➢ China’s one-child policy has slowed the population growth rate, but it is also bringing great change to Chinese society.

• China has the largest population in the world!
  o 1.3 billion people
  o For many years, communist leaders encouraged population growth to help the economy
  o Difficult to provide food, housing, education, and jobs

Slowing Population Growth

• The Chinese government introduced the one-child policy in 1979
  ▪ limited families living in urban areas to one child
  ▪ families that followed the policy were awarded with food, improved housing, better education and job opportunities
  ▪ families that did not follow the policy had to pay large fines

• Population growth declined to about 0.65 percent per year by 2010 (half of what it was in 1979)

Exceptions to the policy

• Minority populations and rural families may have two or more children
• Chinese government loosened the policy in 2011 for people in areas with low birth rates

Effects of China’s Policy

• Fertility rates dropped from about six in the 1950s to about two by 1995
• Number of births have been reduced by 400 million
• Standard of living improved
• Age-distribution of China’s population
  o Elderly will outnumber young people
  o Government has to create more community services for the elderly
• Children born have no siblings and may be selfish or spoiled

*India’s Population Grown*

• India has a very large population like China!

• There are 1.2 billion people in India!

• It is second to China!

• Scientist predict that India’s population will exceed China’s population by 2030.

• 50% of India’s population is under the age 25
  o large workforce
  o strain on schools and other resources

• India does not enforce population policies

• India encourages advancement and education of women because they are more likely to have fewer children

• India offers cash bonuses for couples who wait to start a family and agree to have fewer children