

There's More Online!

- ✓ CHART/GRAPH North Korean Conflicts
- ✓ CHART/GRAPH Oil Production and Consumption in China
- ✓ CHART/GRAPH Population Distribution in Japan
- ✓ IMAGE Border Between North Korea and South Korea
- ✓ IMAGE Chinese Household in the 1990s
- ✓ IMAGE Deng Xiaoping
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ VIDEO China, Japan, and the Koreas



LESSON 3

China, Japan, and the Koreas

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • What motivates political change?
• How can economic and social changes affect a country?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Although the Chinese Communist Party has managed to retain power, China has taken giant steps toward becoming an economic world power. Meanwhile, Japan's economy has suffered in recent decades. There is an uneasy peace between North Korea and South Korea, which are vastly different countries.

China After Mao

GUIDING QUESTION What political and social changes has China undergone in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?

Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping (DUHNG SHYOW • PIHNG), the new Chinese government after the death of Mao Zedong called for Four Modernizations—new policies in industry, agriculture, technology, and national defense. For more than 20 years, China had been isolated from the technological advances taking place elsewhere in the world. To make up for lost time, the government invited foreign investors to China. The government also sent thousands of students abroad to study science, technology, and modern business techniques.

A new agricultural policy began. Collective farms could now lease land to peasants who paid rent to the collective. Anything produced above the value of the rent could be sold for profit. Peasants were also allowed to make goods to sell.

By adopting this practical approach, China began to make great strides in ending its problems of poverty and underdevelopment.

Per capita (per person) income, including farm income, doubled during the 1980s. Housing, education, and sanitation improved. Both agriculture and industrial output skyrocketed. Clearly, China had begun to enter the Industrial Age.

Despite such achievements, many complained that Deng Xiaoping's program had not achieved a fifth modernization—democracy.

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- unify
- sector

Content Vocabulary

- per capita
- one-child policy
- deflation

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Organizing As you read, use a chart to list the actions Deng Xiaoping took to help modernize China's industry and agriculture.

Industry	Agriculture

PHOTO: (TOP) GETTY IMAGES; (MIDDLE) AP/WIDEWORLD; (BOTTOM) AP/WIDEWORLD

PHOTO: (TOP) GETTY IMAGES; (MIDDLE) AP/WIDEWORLD; (BOTTOM) AP/WIDEWORLD



▲ A demonstrator stands in front of the tanks at Tiananmen Square.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Reasoning Why do you think the Chinese government responded with such overwhelming force?

per capita per person

unify to make into a unit or whole; unite

People could not directly criticize the Communist Party. Those who called for democracy were often sentenced to long terms in prison.

The problem intensified in the late 1980s. More Chinese studied abroad and learned about the West. As the economy prospered, students and other groups wanted better living conditions and greater freedom. In the late 1980s, rising inflation led to growing discontent among salaried workers, especially in the cities. Corruption and special treatment for officials and party members led to increasing criticism as well. In May 1989, student protesters called for an end to the corruption and demanded the resignation of China's aging Communist Party leaders. These demands received widespread support from people in the cities. Discontent led to massive demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Deng Xiaoping believed the protesters were calling for an end to Communist rule. He ordered tanks and troops into the square to crush the demonstrators. Between 500 and 2,000 were killed and many more injured.

Democracy was a dream.

Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, China's human rights violations, its determination to **unify** with Taiwan, and its increasing military power created international concern. China's neighbors, especially Japan, India, and Russia, fear the increasingly active role China is playing in its area of the world. To Chinese leaders, however, such actions represent China's rightful role in the region.

For now, a strong patriotism seems to be on the rise. This is encouraged by the government as a means of holding the country together. When China was selected to host the 2008 Olympic Games, the Chinese celebrated enthusiastically. The event seemed to symbolize China's emergence as a major national power on the world stage.

Problems remain, however. For example, unrest is growing among China's national minorities. This is especially true in Tibet, where the Chinese government has violently suppressed Tibetan culture.

✓ **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

Identifying What is the "fifth modernization," and how has China failed to achieve it?

Chinese Society and Economy

GUIDING QUESTIONS *What political and social changes has China undergone in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries? How has modern China become a world economic power?*

From the start, the Communist Party wanted to create a new kind of citizen, one who would give the utmost for the good of all China. In Mao's words, the people should "be resolute, fear no sacrifice, and surmount every difficulty to win victory."

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Chinese government began to allow women to take part in politics and gave them equal marital rights—a dramatic shift. After Mao's death, family traditions returned. People now had more freedom in everyday matters and had better living conditions.

Married couples who had been given patriotic names chose more elegant names for their own children. Clothing choices were no longer restricted to a baggy “Mao suit.” Today, young Chinese people wear jeans and athletic shoes.

Mao’s successors have followed one of his goals to the present day—the effort to control population growth. In 1979 the state began advocating a **one-child policy**. Incentives such as education benefits, child care, and housing were offered to couples who limited their families to one child. Although criticized as oppressive, the policy has continued, with a few exceptions for rural areas and some minorities. One effect is that China’s population growth rate has declined from 2.2 percent in 1970–1975 to an estimated 0.6 percent in 2005–2010. Another effect has been an aging population. Life expectancy is increasing, but the birth rate remains low.

After the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, the Chinese government adopted a policy of promoting rapid economic growth while cracking down harshly on political dissenters. Especially noticeable was the attempt to win middle-class support in the cities by guaranteeing more consumer goods.

During the 1990s, growth rates in industry remained high, leading to predictions that China would become one of the economic superpowers of the twenty-first century. Domestic capital in China became available to compete with the growing presence of foreign enterprises. The government also shut down inefficient state enterprises. By the early 2000s, the private **sector** accounted for more than 10 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product. A stock market opened. At the same time, China was strengthening international trade relations. China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001 and normalized trade relations with the United States in 2002.

Rapid economic change, however, never comes without cost. Workers in Chinese factories complain about poor working conditions and low salaries, leading to labor unrest. Many farmers are also unhappy. They earn only about half the salary of urban workers. In desperation, millions flee to the big cities, where they are forced to live in pitiful conditions in tenements.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Summarizing What negative effects has rapid economic change had on China?

Japan

GUIDING QUESTION *What changes have occurred in Japan from the 1990s to the present?*

Between 1950 and 1990, Japan became the greatest exporting nation in the world. It also developed the world’s largest economy after that of the United States. Some economists even predicted that Japan would pass the United States as the world’s largest economy by 2010. At the end of the 1980s, however, a collapse of the Japanese real estate market sent the economy into a tailspin.

By the 1990s, the Japanese economy had slipped into a recession that has largely continued until the present day. Job security declined as large numbers of workers were laid off. Many older Japanese saw their savings decline. Retirement programs were increasingly strained by the demands of a rapidly aging population. Japan today has the highest proportion of people more than age 65 of any industrialized country in the world—17 percent of the country’s total population of about 130 million.

one-child policy China’s effort, beginning in 1979, to control population growth; incentives such as education benefits, child care, and housing are offered to couples who limit their families to one child

sector a sociological, economic, or political subdivision of society



▲ China joined the WTO in 2001 after 15 years of negotiations, becoming the 143rd member.

deflation a contraction in the volume of available money or credit that results in a general decline in prices

For more than 20 years, Japan has witnessed slow economic growth and a decline in prices, known as **deflation**. A crisis of confidence has led to deep pessimism about the future and a decline in spending, especially among young Japanese who have now known nothing other than economic decline.

In recent years, Japanese consumers have also complained about a decline in the quality of some domestic products. One government official accused Japanese firms of “sloppiness.” Even the Japanese automaker Toyota was faced with quality problems in its best-selling fleet of cars.



▲ The 2011 tsunami devastated towns like Natori, Japan. The tsunami also led to rising radiation levels from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Theorizing Do you think the damage at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant will limit the development of new nuclear power plants in the United States? Why or why not?

The country’s economic decline was evident when China passed Japan in the second quarter of 2010 as the world’s second-largest economy behind the United States. Despite government attempts to stimulate the economy in 2010, Japan faced a growing government debt and increasing rates of poverty.

On March 11, 2011, Japan received another crushing economic blow as a result of a devastating natural catastrophe. An offshore earthquake produced a gigantic tsunami, or tidal wave, that destroyed cities and farmland on the northeast coast. Recorded at 9.0 on the Richter scale, it was the most powerful quake to hit a country that was accustomed to periodic earthquakes. Thousands of people were killed, and hundreds of thousands were left homeless.

Authorities began a massive rescue and recovery effort. A month after the disaster, the official death toll was over 12,000, and nearly 15,000 people remained missing.

The tsunami also damaged the nuclear power plant at Fukushima Daiichi and created the worst nuclear disaster since the accident at Chernobyl in Ukraine in 1986. Leaks of radioactive gas into the atmosphere not only endangered the lives of many Japanese but also brought threats of radioactive contamination to Japan’s food supplies. Japanese officials worked overtime to contain the damage.

✓ **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

Making Connections What factors have affected Japan’s economy since the 1990s?

The Koreans

GUIDING QUESTION *What are the major differences between North Korea and South Korea?*

Although the Korean War ended in 1953, political tensions between North Korea and South Korea continue to threaten the peace between the two countries, primarily due to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. At the same time, South Korea has become one of the strongest economies in Asia.

North Korea

Since 1990, North Korea remained an isolated country under a military dictatorship led by Kim Jong Il. Only the second leader since the formation

of North Korea in 1953, Kim Jong Il attempted to secure his country by creating a nuclear program. Multinational negotiations to persuade the regime to suspend its nuclear program reached a fragile agreement in 2008.

Internal problems continue to plague North Korea. Droughts and famines during the 1990s led North Korea to seek help from the United Nations and the United States. Economic problems forced the North Korean government to devalue its currency in 2009. The World Food Program estimates that one in five North Korean children is underweight. After Kim Jong Il died in December 2011, his son Kim Jong Un became North Korea's leader. At 29, he is the youngest head of state in the world. He continues his father's legacy in his role as leader of North Korea.

South Korea

Since 1990, South Korea has experienced a growing democracy. National elections held since 1989 removed former military leaders from power, replacing them with civilian leaders.

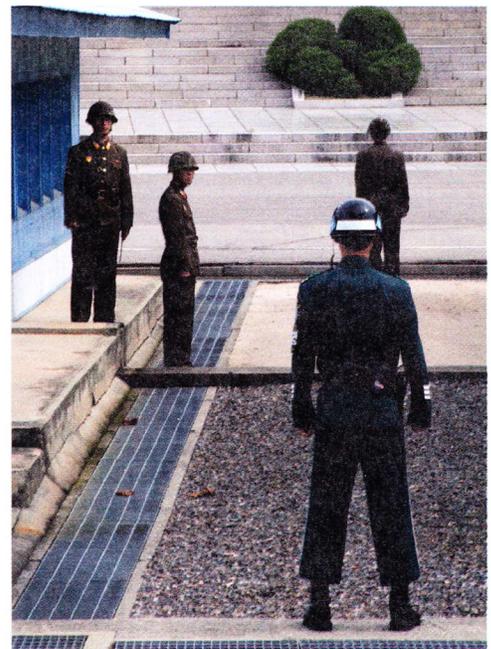
North Korea's nuclear program continues to cause tension between the two countries. President Lee Myung-bak, elected in 2007, pushed for North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. Tensions have risen between North and South Korea following the 2010 sinking of a military ship killing 46 soldiers. South Korea has blamed North Korea for the attack. Conflict continued in late 2010 between the two countries following the live-artillery firing on an island off the coast of South Korea.

South Korea has also faced economic problems as a result of the Asian financial crises of 1997 following the collapse of Taiwan's banking industry. But South Korea's strong educational institutions and economic policies enabled South Korea to weather the 2008 global economic crisis with an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent in 2009.

Culturally, South Korea is changing rapidly as almost every household has high-speed Internet and cell phones. South Korean television and movies have great popularity throughout Asia, and education remains the number one priority. The third largest group of foreign students in the United States comes from South Korea.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Identifying What has led to increased tensions between North Korea and South Korea in recent decades?



▲ North Korean and South Korean soldiers guard the demilitarized zone, which is a constant reminder of tensions between the two countries.

LESSON 3 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

1. Making Connections What is deflation, and how did it hurt the Japanese economy?

Using Your Notes

2. Identifying Use your notes to identify the policies of Deng Xiaoping that were intended to help modernize China.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. Making Generalizations What political and social changes has China undergone in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?

4. Drawing Conclusions How has modern China become a world economic power?

5. Analyzing Information What changes have occurred in Japan from the 1990s to the present?

6. Contrasting What are the major differences between North Korea and South Korea?

Writing Activity

7. NARRATIVE Imagine you are a foreign exchange student attending a Beijing university in 1989. You witness the demonstration at Tiananmen Square. Write a letter to a friend describing what you saw.