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In those times, most people from those provinces coming to Hong Kong were single men without a home or family. They would live in club houses on Hong Kong Island's coastline, which provided them with cheap food and housing. Many worked on ships and would be at sea for a period of time and then return to club when they needed housing. The club would have about fifteen-hundred residents. Each suite was composed of two bedrooms and living room, and each bedroom would have number of bunk beds, and in the living room there would be a mahjong table. There was a clerk, a porter, and a small kitchen that would provide tea and meals.

Most Chinese cities were administrated rather severely, and each major street would have its own committee of residents, and there would be many representatives of the public safety department. The committee would uphold the Hukou system, which determined who was qualified to be an official resident of the city and enjoy public benefits. From the perspective of the residents, the government was watching over you and your family, and understood your situation clearly. Though, if any household was experiencing hardship, they could apply for assistance from the committees. Nowadays the policy towards the people is more relaxed, and people have more freedom. When government finances were tight though, the common people had to rely on themselves.

After the economic reforms, the government now has more money. If a family is truly impoverished, they can receive aid from the government in the form of food, scholarships etc. However it is not always enough. In Shanghai for instance, the monthly amount for government assistance is 460 RMB, which is just enough for one's most basic needs. It is not much when compared to the government assistance of western countries, but it is much better than what was available in the past.

Family has always been important in China since ancient times. Family includes not only the immediate members, but also all of the extended family. The famous Chinese novel, *Dream of the Red Chamber*, describes a very large wealthy family in antiquity, living together in the family compound. In old times, people's perspective was that family and prosperity were the most important things, so people had many children and did not worry as much about education. In the past, young people had to work a lifetime to prosper, but now China is like the west, and young people simply rely on government assistance to get by.

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Births out of wedlock are rare in China. In the villages of the countryside life is very hard. If one has children, it is sometimes hard to provide food for them. In this type of environment, an unmarried mother will not be able to find a husband, and without a husband she will not be able to feed her child. The child usually ends up being sent to another family that can provide for it.

Due to the government's one child policy, some households do not want daughters, and will give them to an orphanage instead to be put up for adoption. The vast majority of Chinese children put up for adoption are female because Chinese people value sons over daughters. In order to qualify for adoption, foreign couples must meet certain requirements that ensure they would be able to provide the child with a good home and education. The fate of children in such orphanages comes down to luck; some will be adopted by wealthy parents while others will grow up in the orphanage.

Six: China's several million workers, the strongest work force in the world.

In the past, China valued men over women. This led to inequality between the sexes; women rarely if ever occupied official positions in the government or in businesses. After the reforms, conservative people gradually became more open-minded, and allowed women to have more freedoms.

Now there are many women working in important positions, no matter whether it is in the private or public sector. In the past, jobs requiring physical labor, for example road work, were also unavailable to women, but now that is not the case anymore.

In the past several decades, the economy has developed extremely quickly, and China's labor force has taken advantage of the many new jobs. The population is not only able to provide the all-important physical labor needed for manufacturing, but also educated people with bachelor degrees and doctorates who can serve as administrators and other such positions. Many of the workers come from the northwest of China to the coastal cities where they find jobs. Although the wages are low, such workers economize and save what they can. Afterwards they can return to their villages and build new homes. The number of workers in Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen grows every day.

During China's revolutionary period, the government enacted policies for a socialist society. Wages for everyone, including people such as doctors, were very low and did not vary much, but living expenses were also very cheap.

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In the past, it was common for wealthy people to own land. They would often oversee the cultivation of the land. Sometimes they would even build their family tombs on the land. It was rare for wealthy people themselves to work the land they owned. After the revolution, the government enacted land reform policies which required everyone to move their ancestral graves to public graves in the mountains. Only ancient graves of historical importance or the graves of famous people were spared. With the population growing larger and larger, the government mandated the people would have to be cremated rather than interred. However sea burials and sky burials were popular with some people, such as China's ethnic minorities.

The policy of the United States is quite different, and more respectful towards the dead. It is not permitted to destroy old graves. For example, even if a city is developing, any graves in the area will be spared.

China's population is enormous, composing twenty to twenty five percent of the world population. With the advancement of science and medicine, people are living longer. Right now most of the elderly rely on government assistance for the most part; rarely do their children provide for them. Furthermore the standard for government assistance for the elderly is quite low, for example homes for the elderly that lag behind in terms of standards. Now that the economy has improved, many provincial governments examined their methods of care for the elderly and found that they lagged behind western countries. Although in terms of industry, China had seen a major improvement, there was still much room for improvement in the field of care for the elderly.

There is also a major education gap in the coastal cities of China. Children enjoy nine years of obligatory education in the coastal cities. If a child's grades are good, then he or she can continue education in high school and college, and can apply to available government scholarships. However, the children of immigrant workers are not able to attend such public schools because they are not official residents. Even if such children enter the schools, they suffer discrimination from other students. Sometimes groups of parents will pool resources to open schools for their children who cannot attend public schools, but the standards of these schools are lower.

Another issue in China is compensation for injuries. In general it is very difficult for workers to obtain compensation from their employers, or for citizens to get compensation from the government. In the United States the government takes responsibility for such situations and gives compensation.

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For example if someone is walking down a public road and falls and injures themselves because the pavement is uneven, he or she can sue the government for compensation. In addition to compensation, the government will also cover any medical bills associated with the incident. On the other hand, if such a thing were to happen in China, then the pedestrian would not be able to sue the government or the owner of the property, and would only be able to blame themselves for not being cautious enough. For this reason, workers in China, especially those who work outdoors, must be cautious. If an accident happens, they would be lucky to have just the medical expenses covered. For the most part workers are not compensated for their injuries.

In the past, handicapped people in China had very difficult lives, and rarely received support from the government. In the past twenty years however, Deng Xiaoping's son, Deng Pufang, has made a big difference in the lives of the physically and mentally handicapped people of China through his work as the chairman of the China Disabled Person's Federation. Because of his connection to Deng Xiaoping, Deng Pufang is respected by many people and the government is willing to help him. Due to Deng Pufang's work, the government now provides China's handicapped population with basic necessities. Even more importantly has been the construction of handicapped entrances in the public infrastructure. While private companies for the most part do not often hire handicapped people, some government departments do hire handicapped people.

Immediately after the enactment of reforms, the state of mainland China's lavatories still lagged behind those of other countries. Not only was the state of the cities' lavatories unsatisfactory, but those of the countryside were even more simple and crude due to the lack of resources. As a result, foreign guests often kept their distance. Nowadays China's lavatories are more modern after reforms.

While China still lags behind foreign standards in some respects, much progress has been made. For example, the rest stops on public roads all have lavatories, restaurants, and gas stations. However, since China's rest stops have not paid attention to systemization, they still cannot be compared with those of the United States.

Since the wages for laborers are high in the United States and Europe, and there are expenses for employers such as providing health insurance and pensions, the costs of manufacturing are high. For that reason, businesses there have focused on technology and science, while moving manufacturing operations to China where the costs are lower.

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Western companies have moved manufacturing to China for reasons such as the large work force, cheap labor, and cheap land. However, foreign companies are also conscious of the fact that as the Chinese population grows more prosperous, China will become a huge market for their products.

Chinese people traditionally do not emigrate from China. However, nowadays many Chinese people go to foreign countries with hopes of earning more money, becoming more educated, or improving themselves. It is not true though that many people emigrate from foreign countries to China since the population is already too big. For every one hundred people that leave China, there is not even one foreign person that comes to China. For the most part, foreigners that come to China are either investors, or talented specialists. The number of Chinese people that return to China after studying abroad is also relatively small.

Six: Natural disasters, public defense against natural disasters, unsuitable management of workplace accidents.

Every year there are natural disasters of varying degrees of severity around the world, and cause a great deal of economic damage. In the past, there were no sophisticated early warning mechanisms for such disasters and so the death tolls and property damage were even more severe. Several decades ago in China one of the worst natural disasters in history occurred near Jun Mountain. After the earthquake happened, the government was slow to seek foreign aid, which caused even greater problems. With the advancement of science however, such disasters are now able to be predicted sometimes and can mitigate loss of life.

In recent years many mining accidents have happened in China, particularly in the coal mines of Shanxi. Coal is an important energy resource for China, not only because it is used in households for cooking and heating, but because it fuels many of the power plants that supply industry. Shanxi is home to many coal mines, and the workers in those mines suffer from adverse working conditions. Because there is a lack of safety mechanisms, the work is very dangerous. If workers are killed or handicapped in the mining process, they tend to receive very little compensation from the mine's owners. At most they will receive money to cover just part of any necessary medical expenses. Since the workers are very often the breadwinner of the family, it causes great economic hardship for the family. However the government has begun to pay attention to such incidents and enforce safety laws.

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The Yangtze, Yellow, and Huai rivers provide a great source of hydroelectric energy. In addition to this the Yellow River Basin provides fertile land for cultivation, as well as waterways for transport.

In the past, people lived uncertain lives. Every year there would be occasional floods, and there was no way to predict when they would occur. This would cause considerable damage and numerous deaths. Past government made many efforts to control the floods by building levees, but with mixed success. After the reforms, the government had the technology and resources to build reservoirs to control the flooding, for example the Three Gorges Dam. At the same time, systems were built to not only control the waters, but to benefit from the hydroelectric potential.

After the Communist revolution, there were many political and social reforms that sought to build an egalitarian society. As a result of these policies though, China's manufacturing power weakened greatly. In the early 60s, people in both the countryside and the cities struggled even to find sufficient food. For this reason, a great number of people began to try to escape from the situation and flee to Hong Kong or elsewhere. The several hundred thousand people the fled to Hong Kong applied for citizenship from the government and stayed there, some even becoming successful businesspeople.

In the past, the city of Ningbo had a large population, but not enough land to support it. Therefore many people from Ningbo left to find a living somewhere else. Many travelled to Shanghai where fortunately they were able to find work since at this time Shanghai was beginning to develop. There were ships that would travel the distance between Ningbo and Shanghai everyday to bring Ningbo people to Shanghai to work and then allow them to come home afterwards. There was one incident in which a ship was overcrowded, with many passengers and too few crew. A mechanical failure occurred, and a resulting explosion killed fifteen-hundred people. Only five-hundred and forty people survived the incident. The incident was widely covered in the Shanghai papers.

Most Ningbo people go to Shanghai to earn a living. Many become apprentices, or become merchants. Such apprentices would spend several years running small errands before actually learning the trade and being able enter into the business for themselves.

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Some successful Ningbo people in Shanghai banded together to form an organization for Ningbo people. For example, if a fellow Ningbo person lost their ability to work, they would arrange transportation back home for him. The organization eventually established a primary school for children of Ningbo people in Shanghai. The organization became a thriving community, and had over one-hundred years of history, although it does not exist anymore. However, the organization's decorated archway can still be seen on Renmin Street in Shanghai.

After the reforms, it was not common to have insurance. Many landlords did not have fire or flood insurance for their buildings. In the past, most people would not have life or auto insurance either. In the event of some type of accident or disaster, people were left to cover the costs themselves.

The situation now is different. In the past people would rent a home and pay five or six Yuan in rent per month. If there was a fire, the housing administration would assume the responsibility of repairing the home, but the residents would have to find temporary lodging themselves in the meantime. After the home was repaired, they would be able to move back in. Nowadays homes are owned by real estate companies. Old homes do not incur property taxes. New homes tend to be insured, so if a fire happens, the owner will receive compensation. The insurance industry has developed quite a lot in recent times, and it is now common for average people to own insurance. Foreign insurance companies have also been permitted to enter the Chinese market.

Today there are numerous factories in China; however few of these factories pay much attention to providing a safe work environment for their employees. Mining is a case in point. There are many mines in China, but the government does not regulate or supervise the safety conditions, and so there are many mining accidents. Furthermore the workers are not treated well; wages are low, and the work is physically demanding.

In coastal areas where the economy is doing well, the local governments provide nine years of obligatory education. The government pays for children to be educated through elementary school. However in areas where the government revenues are smaller, there are not enough resources to build sufficient numbers of schools.

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With the improvement of the economy, schools are beginning to be built even in the more backward areas of the country. Although the number of schools is increasing, the demand has still not been met.

Before the reforms, the outside world never heard about any natural or man-made disasters in China because the country was closed off. This was to give face to China, and avoid overseas Chinese and foreigners' sympathy. However since the government had few resources at its disposal, it was difficult to deal with disasters on its own.

After the reforms and the advent of a free press, the world would hear of any disasters happening in China. Also, the government would receive aid from overseas Chinese and organizations like the International Red Cross. Generally speaking, Chinese people's ability to adapt to adversity is quite good, and they rebuild their homeland quickly after disasters like flooding from the Yellow River.

The Bible, the Buddhist scriptures, and the Koran all call for compassion and good deeds towards your fellow man. All call for friendship, love, and education. The believers of all religions are passionate, and give their effort and money towards good causes. In the United States, religions is highly respected. For example, land owned by religious congregations that is not used for commercial purposes is not taxed.

The reforms in China were the result of policies put forth by Deng Xiaoping. His policies to open the economy showed foresight, and first brought great wealth to a small number of people. In capitalist societies, there are small numbers of very wealthy people, and many poor people beneath them. Now thirty years after the reforms, the southern coast of China has developed greatly, with numerous factories and a vibrant economy. Every year there are more roads, highways, railways, and harbors. However in the northeast, transportation is insufficient, and few people receive education. The government has paid particular attention to developing the northeast and attracting investment there, but because of the problems with transportation and an inadequate supply of educated workers there has been limited success.

Seven: The Red Cross' entrance into China, China's best occupations: public office and business.

The primary organization for dealing with disasters throughout the world is the International Red Cross. In the past, China had no communication with the Red Cross because of the government's policies to close the country off.

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Now that China has opened up after reforms, it receives aid from the Red Cross during disasters, and also helps other countries with aid through the Red Cross. The Red Cross also gives aid to victims of war, in addition to victims of natural disasters.

After the reforms, there was great social change in China. Now the best jobs in the country are in government and in business. As the boss of a company, one can make a large salary, and the opportunities for government cadres are great because the organization is so large.

After the reforms, many people wanted to open factories or businesses and needed to have their plans approved by local officials. Sometimes, the officials would receive some sort of benefit from applicants for ratifying their plans, so the officials rarely had trouble staying comfortable.

Officials generally are not removed from office unless they make some sort of error. They will gradually move up through the bureaucracy all the way to retirement if they are lucky, and some will become government advisors. A businessperson's success will depend on the opportunities. If possible, some will receive government land and become real estate developers. This is a great opportunity, and the children of such businesspeople will have much better opportunities than the average person.

Throughout China, parents put a great deal of emphasis on their children's' educations ever since the enactment of the one child policy. In ancient times, one could become a prosperous high official and find a good wife through studying. Generally speaking, most cultured people could become high officials with some luck. But society is no longer this way. There are many opportunities to get rich, and one does not necessarily need to become an official. Young people nowadays only need to study and work hard and whatever they do they will have an opportunity to succeed.

In China, orphans lives depend entirely on luck. Chinese people emphasize family strongly, and so a child will not be given away casually. But sometimes children are born out of wedlock, or single parents are no longer able to provide for their children after a divorce, and so in these situations children are sometimes sent to orphanages.

Performances to benefit charity are often put on in China, with the proceeds benefitting charitable causes such as disaster relief.

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Hong Kong's most famous charitable performance, which takes place every year, is for the benefit of the Tung Wah Hospital Group, and is broadcasted on television. All of the participants in the performance are famous movie stars or singers. The money raised goes towards education, health care, and disaster relief.

Those who sign up for military service give honor not only to themselves, but also to their family. China and the United States are the same in that they do not have military conscription. Soldiers generally sign up for three to five years in the military, and during this time period they tend to become more cultured in addition to learning about military affairs. After military service, veterans can receive good work opportunities, or begin work as a local cadre. They also have the opportunity to attend university at lower cost. After university, some will become businesspeople or officials.

In past wars, the military suffered casualties, but the most difficult thing was being a prisoner of war. In the past, prisoners of war were sometimes forced to do hard labor. Nowadays, the treatment of war prisoners has improved. The issue of prisoners of war in the Korean War is very special. American prisoners of war were all sent back to the United States, but Chinese prisoners of war were given the choice of being sent back to China, or to Taiwan. Most chose to return to China, but a number of them chose to go to Taiwan instead. There they received a government allowance and job opportunities. Some became successful businesspeople, and eventually returned to the Mainland to invest in their hometowns.

From the end of the Qing Dynasty to 1949, the first half century of the Chinese Communist Party, China has struggled with conflict. For instance Hong Kong was taken by the British and turned into a colony. Sun Yat-sen founded the Republic of China after the revolution, but its progress was hindered by the warlords. Then, amid the infighting of the warlords, the Japanese invaded and the War of Resistance began. The worst conflict was the Chinese civil war, in which millions perished. From 1945 to 1949, there were numerous refugees for a number of reasons, and many of them went to Hong Kong. There they received aid from the United Nations, and many emigrated to the United States and Europe.

In ancient times in China, many wealthy people used their resources for the public benefit, for example building roads and bridges for common use. Transportation was especially difficult in those times because there were only dirt roads.