

China's one child policy

[Sociology](#), [Population](#)



China's one child policy In eastern Asia, bordering the East Asian China Sea a huge country named the Chinese Republic has now over than one billion people. China had a leading civilization for centuries guiding the whole world in different fields. However, in the 19th and the 20th century China suffered from serious problems, which resulted from huge numbers of population. When China was under the leadership of Mao who believed that a strong nation must have large population, the population of China increased rapidly until it reached its double. From one hand, Peng Peiyun, the writer of " One family, one child", stressed two crucial factors, which are over population and being a developing country as drawbacks preventing China from achieving any progress to be an advanced country. According to Peiyun, the only available solution to the problems facing China is to control the population growth. She describes the government's efforts in controlling the population growth by releasing a nationwide family planning program with the advocacy of the " One couple, one child." Peiyun says that, " In keeping with these goals, the state has adopted a series of wide-ranging policies that are implemented by the various strata of government." The government also implanted various policies like education and communication campaigns which also aim at spreading " One family, one child" culture. Peiyun also argues that the states used incentives and disincentives to control its population. She illustrates this idea with a simple example where mothers with only one child are given a longer maternity leave and certain amount of money to help these families raising their only child in good conditions. She believes that that by providing women with knowledge and technical expertise will help in improving their status in the society, which will help

China to overcome many problems. On the other hand, the disincentives are represented in collecting social welfare fees from the families who do not follow family planning program. She concludes with an illustration for the of the outcomes and results of the state's policy by comparing the conditions of China before and after enforcing the one-child-policy. She concludes with the title " Danger Remaining" to emphasize that the danger is remaining until the number of births per year reduces from 20 million to 14 million. On the other hand, the writers of " Rethinking family values" Carroll Bogert and George Wehrfritz believe that there must be an alternative solution for the one-child-policy because it is considered a serious violation for human rights. The writers introduce the roots of the problem when China was under the leadership of Mao. Then they gravely criticize the methods used by the government to control the population in China by using inhuman systems like forced abortions and forced sterilization. Another problem that emerged because of the wrong enforcement of the one-child-policy is the gender imbalance. Chinese prefer boys rather than girls because boys support their families later, but girls do not as they marry and leave their families. Finally, the writers support their opinion with simple words from Peng Peiyun who issued a circular listing " seven don's" of population policy (don't beat up people who have an unplanned birth; don't burn their houses down, etc.), however, it has never been published. Thus, it is obvious that the one-child-policy is a considered a serious violation for the human rights not only in China but also in the whole world. The " Rethinking of family values" articles illustrates the severe impacts of the one-child-policy, which is implemented violently by the state over its poor people. From the surface, the one-child-

policy seems the perfect solution for the over population in China. First, the one-child-policy, which is applied in China since the 1970 of this century, has many violations against the human rights as it prevents the casual person from having children, except for one child. . The writers exemplify that the policy was defectively implanted and they demonstrated with a simple example for what happened in Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute and the state run-orphanages. They said that, " The place looked terrific: smiling toddlers, gleaming computer equipment. Nevertheless, critics said abused children had been moved to another facility. And even the Chinese government admits that most of the children there are not " orphans" at all; they're abandoned children, victims of draconian policy of allowing only one child per family." There are similar examples, which proof that there are many violations against human rights, particularly the children rights. The state uses severe methods of punishment for families who do not follow the family planning program; among these methods is the use of contraceptives, primarily the I. U. D., and forced abortion for pregnant women who already have one child. The one-child-policy also, in combination with the traditional preference for male children led to severe violations against the female children. t. As a result, the sex ratio of infant deaths in China averaged 114 over the 1980s. At the end, there are more than 500, 000 " missing" girls in China. They do not have any rights of education or medical care simply that means they are considered dead for the government Thus, it can be seen that the one-child-policy had side effects on the Chinese society, which led to solemn results on the people and, especially the female children. The government has to find an alternative solution for this problem because

enforcing the one-child-policy is serious abuse against humanity. China should follow in the footsteps of Japan, which is more crowded than China, as it has less arable land per capita. Japan was poorer than China the beginning of this century, however, it managed to solve one of the largest problems in the country, which is negative population growth. Japan solved these problems without enforcing a policy like the one-child-policy. At the end, I think that it's a must for the committee to boycott the Olympics in China in 2008 in order to save the people and children from these sever actions. |

This section contains 992 words | |(approx. 4 pages at 300 words per page) |

China One Child Policy — The Effect It Has On China's Younger Generation By

woodtorch, on March 24th, 2010 [pic]China's One Child Policy introduced in

1978 was the country's official population control policy. After more than

thirty years since the One-Child Policy was introduced, people born in the early 1980s are now entering parenthood. In general, the policy serves the

original purpose of reducing the population growth rate in China. However, it also causes problems to the younger generation. In particular, children in

China are not familiar with the traditional cultures than the children of

previous generations. [pic] China One Child Policy poster from the 1980s;

Carry Out Family Planning Implement The Basic National Policy What Is Jiujiu

And GuGu? [pic][pic][pic][pic][pic]Traditionally, the family size of Chinese are

large compared to the size of Western families. Children grow up in a

household with different relatives. Since there are many uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, grandparents and grandchildren living together,

specific terms are developed to differentiate between kinships. Simple

English terms such as "uncle" and "aunt", used to address the siblings of

parents, have a lot of variations in Chinese. For example, "uncle", which can be used to address brothers of both parents in English, have three different terms in Chinese: bobo (伯伯) the older brother of father, shushu (叔叔) the younger brother of father, and jiujiu (舅舅) for the brother of mother. Similarly, the English term "aunt" can be translated into guma (姑姑), gugu (婆婆), yima (姨妈), or xiaoyi (小姨), which means older sister of father, younger sister of father, older sister of mother, and younger sister of mother, respectively. This kind of unique terminology is a traditional culture of the Chinese. However, most children in China now have parents who are both single children due to the China One Child Policy, and the lack of uncles and aunts has distanced children from these traditional terms. For example, Miss Zhang, a Chinese teacher of an elementary school in Kaifeng (开封), Henan (河南), was asked a question that many other new Chinese parents commonly have encountered. She was born in the 1980's and both she and her husband are both only children. When she was asked by her four-and-a-half year old daughter: "What is jiujiu and gugu?" she could not answer the question at once. Drawing from her own experience, Zhang also expresses her observation of the current generation of children. In addition to the unfamiliarity to the terms mentioned above, emotional loneliness, vulnerability, and the lack of anti-frustration ability are also common weaknesses for most of her students nowadays. [pic] One Child Policy posters in China. (Photo From Flickr) A human resource officer for a railroad company also informed that his office workers also show the tendency of selecting recent graduates who are not an only child or from a rural area. The reasons are such students are more hardworking, easier to fit

in with the work environment of the railroad systems, and more prepared psychologically than an only child. “ Our parent’s generation might still have a biaodi (èjī“ā¼ÿ, the younger male cousin whose father is not brother of one’s father) or tangmei (ā , ā¼, the younger female cousin whose father is brother of one’s father) to help them during difficult time. As for post-80’s and post-90’s (new Chinese terms referencing people born in the 80’s and in 90’s, respectively) like us, we will not even have anyone to talk to if we encounter any kinds of tough situations. What a tragedy” quoted by sungq2007, a Chinese netizen. Effect On China’s Population In addition to the problems in education and development of the only child generation, there are also other problems because of the policy. Another problem in China now is the unbalanced male to female ratio. Based on the most recent census, the male-to-female ratio is 120. 5: 100 within the 100 million population of only child. The figure is seriously out of balanced compared to the male-to-female ratio of 105: 100 in western, developed countries. Many experts predict that if effective measures are not implemented soon, problems such as decline of birth rate, imbalance of sex ratio, and aging of society will “ crash” into China’s rapid economic development in the near future. [pic][pic][pic][pic][pic][pic] China's Population by Age & Sex for 1950 - 2050 (population in 1000); males on left, females on right. Animation shows aging of the Chinese population, which is caused by the significant fertility decline since the mid-1970s and the further increase in life expectancy. (From International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) Aging of Chinese society is also the result of the China One Child Policy. For example, in 2009, the population of above 65 years of age accounts for 7. 9% of the population of

Kaifeng, and a percentage above 7 indicates an aging society. The "aging before wealth" population not only restricts the local economic development, but it also brings the social issue of "elders with support". Family support has traditionally been the main form of retirement pension in China.

However, due to the "421" family structure (one child with two parents and four grandparents) created by the One Child Policy, this traditional practice is doomed to be unsustainable. For example, an a couple born in the 1980's needs to support four elders of the family, and their child need to support all six of them after their retirement. Currently, the population in Beijing is 16.95 million, with an increment of 0.62 to 0.63 million per year. At this rate, the number will reach 18 million very soon, which is the main reason why the government is still holding on to the policy. However, society has raised its voice to ease the One Child Policy at the same time. Beijing also lowered the bar for a couple to be eligible for a second baby. Now eligible couples include one where both husband and wife are only children, remarried couple with a childless parent, couple with a deceased only child, and couple with a disabled first child. Right now, Beijing has a policy that restricts eligible couples to have a four year gap between the births of children. But the city is considering canceling such a restriction in the future because there are already eleven provinces and cities that have canceled the policy. Moreover, there is a possibility that a couple where only one of them is the single child will be eligible for a second child in the future. [pic] One-child policy From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Jump to: navigation, search [pic] Government sign in Tang Shan: "For a prosperous, powerful nation and a happy family, please practice family planning." The one-child policy

(simplified Chinese: 计划生育政策; traditional Chinese: 计划生育政策; pinyin: jiǎnhuá shèngyǎ zhèngcè; literally "policy of birth planning") is the one-child limitation in the population control policy of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Chinese government refers to it under the official translation of family planning policy.[1] It officially restricts married, urban couples to having only one child, while allowing exemptions for several cases, including rural couples, ethnic minorities, and parents without any siblings themselves.[2] A spokesperson of the Committee on the One-Child Policy has said that approximately 35.9% of China's population is currently subject to the one-child restriction.[3] The Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau are completely exempt from the policy. Also exempt from this law are foreigners living in China. This policy was introduced in 1978 and initially applied to first-born children in the year of 1979. It was created by the Chinese government to alleviate social, economic, and environmental problems in China,[4] and authorities claim that the policy has prevented between 250 and 300 million births from its implementation until 2000,[2] and 400 million births from 1979 to 2011. [5] The policy is controversial both within and outside China because of the manner in which the policy has been implemented, and because of concerns about negative social consequences.[6] The policy has been implicated in an increase in forced abortions,[7] female infanticide, and underreporting[8] of female births, and has been suggested as a possible cause behind China's gender imbalance. Nonetheless, a 2008 survey undertaken by the Pew Research Center reported that 76% of the Chinese population supports the policy.[9] The policy is enforced at the provincial level through fines that are

imposed based on the income of the family and other factors. Population and Family Planning Commissions (Chinese: 人口与计划生育委员会; pinyin: Jǔnhuá Shìwù yǔ jìhuá wěiyuánhuì) exist at every level of government to raise awareness about the issue and carry out registration and inspection work. Despite this policy, there are still many citizens that continue to have more than one child.[10] In 2008, China's National Population and Family Planning Commission said that the policy will remain in place for at least another decade.[11] In 2010, it was announced that the majority of the citizens initially subject to the policy are no longer of reproductive age and it has been speculated that many citizens simply disregard or violate the policy in more recent years. The deputy director of the Commission stated that the policy would remain unaltered until at least 2015.[12] In March 2011, the Chinese government reviewed the policy and expressed considerations to allow for couples to have a second child.[13][14]

Year	Million
1964	694.6
1982	1008.2
2000	1265.8
2010	1339.7

Source: Census of China

During the period of Mao Zedong's leadership, while the crude birth rate fell from 37 to 20 per thousand [15], infant mortality declined from 227/1000 births in 1949 to 53/1000 in 1981, and life expectancy dramatically increased from around 35 years in 1949 to 65 years in 1976.[15][16] The latter two factors resulted in a ballooning of the population from around 540 million in 1949 to 940 million in 1976.[17] Exacerbating the problem was Mao's belief of earlier decades that population growth empowered China, which prevented the emergence of family planning programs earlier in China's development[18]. In order to address overpopulation, the one-child policy promotes one-child

families and forbids couples from having more than one child in urban areas. Parents with multiple children are not given the same benefits as parents of one child. In most cases, wealthy families pay a fee to the government in order to have a second child or more. [edit] Current status The limit has been strongly enforced in urban areas, but the actual implementation varies from location to location.[19]In most rural areas, families are allowed to apply to have a second child if the first is a girl,[20] or has a physical disability, mental illness or mental retardation.[21]Second children are subject to birth spacing(usually 3 or 4 years). Additional children will result in large fines: families violating the policy are required to pay monetary penalties and might be denied bonuses at their workplace. Children born in overseas countries are not counted under the policy if they do not obtain Chinese citizenship. Chinese citizens returning from abroad can have a second child.[22] [pic] The Danshan, Sichuan Province Nongchang Village people Public Affairs Bulletin Board in September 2005 noted that RMB25, 000 in social compensation fees were owed in 2005. Thus far 11, 500 RMB had been collected leaving another 13, 500 RMB to be collected. As of 2007, 35. 9% of the population were subject to a strict one-child limit. 52. 9% were permitted to have a second child when the couple's first child is a girl; 9. 6% of Chinese couples were permitted two children, regardless of their gender; and 1. 6% - mainly Tibetans - had no limit at all.[23] The social fostering or maintenance fee (simplified Chinese: 社会抚养费...» è´¹; traditional Chinese: 社会抚养费« éššè²»; pinyin: shèhuì fù yì yǎngfèi) sometimes called in the West a family planning fine, is collected as a fraction of either the annual disposable income of city dwellers or of the annual cash income

of peasants, in the year of the child's birth.[24]The parents also have to pay for both the children to go to school and all the family's health care. Some children who are in one-child families pay less than the children in other families. The one-child policy was designed from the outset to be a one-generation policy.[25] The one-child policy is now enforced at the provincial level, and enforcement varies; some provinces have relaxed the restrictions. Many provinces and cities, such as Henan[26] and Beijing, permit two "only child" parents to have two children. As early as 1987, official policy granted local officials the flexibility to make exceptions and allow second children in the case of "practical difficulties" (such as cases in which the father is a disabled serviceman) or when both parents are single children,[27]and some provinces had other exemptions worked into their policies as well.

[28]Following the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, a new exception to the regulations was announced in Sichuan province for parents who had lost children in the earthquake.[29][30]Similar exceptions have previously been made for parents of severely disabled or deceased children.[31]People have also tried to evade the policy by giving birth to a second child in Hong Kong, but at least for Guangdong residents, the one-child policy is also enforced if the birth was given in Hong Kong or abroad.[32] Moreover, in accordance with PRC's affirmative action policies towards ethnic minorities, all non-Han ethnic groups are subjected to different rules and are usually allowed to have two children in urban areas, and three or four in rural areas. Han Chinese living in rural areas, also, are often permitted to have two children. [33]Because of couples such as these, as well as urban couples who simply pay a fine (or "social maintenance fee") to have more children,[34]the

overall fertility rate of mainland China is closer to two children per family than to one child to a family (1.8 in 2008). The steepest drop in fertility occurred in the 1970s before one child per family was implemented in 1979.

[35] Population policies and campaigns have been ongoing in China since the 1950s. During the 1970s, a campaign of 'One is good, two is okay, and three is too many' was heavily promoted.[36] In April 2007 a study by the

University of California, Irvine, which claimed to be the first systematic study of the policy, found that it had proved "remarkably effective".[37] Other

reports have shown population ageing and negative population growth in some areas.[38] An advocacy group, composed of academics inside and

outside China, has studied the policy since 2001. That group distributed a report in 2004, documenting the policy's effects on age and gender

distribution, but government response was not favorable. The group

distributed another report in 2009, but the government has stated that the policy will not change until 2015 at the earliest.[6] [edit] Effects on

population growth and fertility rate regression of China's population pyramid from International Futures After the introduction of the one-child policy, the

fertility rate in China fell from over three births per woman in 1980 (already a sharp reduction from more than five births per woman in the early 1970s) to

approximately 1.8 in 2008 and 1.54 in 2011.[39] The Chinese government

estimated that it had three to four hundred million fewer people in 2008 with the one-child policy, than it would have had otherwise.[40][41] Chinese

authorities thus consider the policy as a great success in helping to

implement China's current economic growth. The reduction in the fertility

rate and thus population growth has reduced the severity of problems that

come with overpopulation, like epidemics, slums, overwhelmed social services (such as health, education, law enforcement), and strain on the ecosystem from abuse of fertile land and production of high volumes of waste. Even with the one-child policy in place, China still has one million more births than deaths every five weeks.[citation needed] [edit] Non-population-related benefits [edit] Impact on health care It is reported that the focus of China on population control helps provide a better health service for women and a reduction in the risks of death and injury associated with pregnancy. At family planning offices, women receive free contraception and pre-natal classes. [edit] Increased savings rate The individual savings rate has increased since the one-child policy was introduced. This has been partially attributed to the policy in two respects. First, the average Chinese household expends fewer resources, both in terms of time and money, on children, which gives many Chinese more money with which to invest. Second, since young Chinese can no longer rely on children to care for them in their old age, there is an impetus to save money for the future.[42] [edit] Economic growth The original intent of the one-child policy was economic, to reduce the demand of natural resources, maintaining a steady labor rate, reducing unemployment caused from surplus labor, and reducing the rate of exploitation.[43][44]The CPC's justification for this policy was based on their support of Mao Zedong's supposedly Marxisttheory of population growth, though Marx was actually witheringly critical of Malthusianism.[44][45] [edit] Criticisms [edit] Other available policy alternatives One type of criticism has come from those who acknowledge the challenges stemming from China's high population growth but believe that less intrusive options, including

those that emphasized delay and spacing of births, could have achieved the same results over an extended period of time. Susan Greenhalgh's (2003) review of the policy-making process behind the adoption of the OCPF shows that some of these alternatives were known but not fully considered by China's political leaders.[46] [edit] Policy benefits exaggerated Another criticism is directed at the exaggerated claimed effects of the policy on the reduction in the total fertility rate. Studies by Chinese demographers, funded in part by the UN Fund for Population Activities, showed that combining poverty alleviation and health care with relaxed targets for family planning was more effective at reducing fertility than vigorous enforcement of very ambitious fertility reduction targets.[47] In 1988, Zeng Yi and Professor T. Paul Schultz of Yale University discussed the effect of the transformation to the market on Chinese fertility, arguing that the introduction of the contract responsibility system in agriculture during the early 1980s weakened family planning controls during that period.[48] Zeng contended that the "big cooking pot" system of the People's Communes had insulated people from the costs of having many children. By the late 1980s, economic costs and incentives created by the contract system were already reducing the number of children farmers wanted. As Hasketh, Lu, and Xing observe: "[T]he policy itself is probably only partially responsible for the reduction in the total fertility rate. The most dramatic decrease in the rate actually occurred before the policy was imposed. Between 1970 and 1979, the largely voluntary "late, long, few" policy, which called for later childbearing, greater spacing between children, and fewer children, had already resulted in a halving of the total fertility rate, from 5.9 to 2.9. After the one-child policy

was introduced, there was a more gradual fall in the rate until 1995, and it has more or less stabilized at approximately 1.7 since then."^[49] These researchers note further that China could have expected a continued reduction in its fertility rate just from continued economic development, had it kept to the previous policy. [edit] Human rights The one-child policy is challenged in principle and in practice for violating a human right to determine the size of one's own family.^[citation needed] A 2001 report exposed that a quota of 20,000 abortions and sterilizations was set for Huaiji County in Guangdong Province in one year due to reported disregard of the one-child policy. The effort included using portable ultrasound devices to identify abortion candidates in remote villages. Earlier reports also show that women as far along as 8.5 months pregnant were forced to abort by injection of saline solution.^[7] There have also been reports of women, in their 9th month of pregnancy or already in labour, having their children killed whilst in the birth canal or immediately after birth.^[50] In 2002, China outlawed the use of physical force to make a woman submit to an abortion or sterilization, but it is not entirely enforced.^[41]^[51] In the execution of the policy, many local governments still demand abortions if the pregnancy violates local regulations. Although China has had a reputation for heavy-handed eugenics policies as part of its population planning policies, the government has backed away from such policies recently, as evidenced by China's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which compels the nation to significantly reform its genetic testing laws.^[52] Recent scholarship has also emphasized the necessity of understanding a myriad of complex social relations that affect the meaning

of informed consent in China.[53] Furthermore, in 2003, China revised its marriage registration regulations and couples no longer have to submit to a pre-marital physical or genetic examination before being granted a marriage license.[54] The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) funding for this policy led the United States Congress to pull out of the UNFPA during the Reagan years,[55] and again under George W. Bush's presidency, citing human rights abuses[56] and stating that the right to "found a family" was protected under the Preamble in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [57] President Obama resumed U. S. government financial support for the UNFPA shortly after taking office in 2009, intending to "work[ing] collaboratively to reduce poverty, improve the health of women and children, prevent HIV/AIDS and provide family planning assistance to women in 154 countries".[58][59] [edit] The "four-two-one" problem As the first generation of law-enforced only-children came of age for becoming parents themselves, one adult child was left with having to provide support for his or her two parents and four grandparents.[60][61] Called the "4-2-1 Problem", this leaves the older generations with increased chances of dependency on retirement funds or charity in order to receive support. If personal savings, pensions, or state welfare fail, most senior citizens would be left entirely dependent upon their very small family or neighbours for assistance. If, for any reason, the single child is unable to care for their older adult relatives, the oldest generations would face a lack of resources and necessities. In response to such an issue, certain provinces maintained that couples were allowed to have two children if both parents were only children themselves. By 2007, all provinces in the nation except Henan had adopted this new

adaptation;[62][63] Henan followed in 2011.[64] [edit] Possible social problems for a generation of only children Some parents may over-indulge their only child. The media referred to the indulged children in one-child families as " little emperors". Since the 1990s, some people have worried that this will result in a higher tendency toward poor social communication and cooperation skills among the new generation, as they have no siblings at home. No social studies have investigated the ratio of these over-indulged children and to what extent they are indulged. With the first generation of children born under the policy (which initially became a requirement for most couples with first children born starting in 1979 and extending into 1980s) reaching adulthood, such worries were reduced.[65]However, the " little emperor syndrome" and additional expressions, describing the generation of Chinese singletons are very abundant in the Chinese media, Chinese academy and popular discussions. Being over-indulged, lacking self discipline and having no adaptive capabilities are adjectives which are highly associated with Chinese singletons,[66]Some 30 delegates called on the government in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference(CPPCC) in March 2007 to abolish the one-child rule, attributing their beliefs to " social problems and personality disorders in young people". One statement read, " It is not healthy for children to play only with their parents and be spoiled by them: it is not right to limit the number to two children per family, either."[67]The proposal was prepared by Ye Tingfang, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who suggested that the government at least restore the previous rule that allowed couples to have up to two children. According to a scholar, " The one-child limit is too

extreme. It violates nature's law. And in the long run, this will lead to mother nature's revenge." [67][68] [edit] Unequal enforcement Government officials and especially wealthy individuals have often been able to violate the policy in spite of fines. [69] For example, between 2000 and 2005, as many as 1,968 officials in central China's Hunan province were found to be violating the policy, according to the provincial family planning commission; also exposed by the commission were 21 national and local lawmakers, 24 political advisors, 112 entrepreneurs and 6 senior intellectuals. [69] Some of the offending officials did not face penalties, [69] although the government did respond by raising fines and calling on local officials to "expose the celebrities and high-income people who violate the family planning policy and have more than one child." [69] [edit] Circumvention through "birth tourism" A way to escape the strict rules of the one-child policy is for Chinese women to give birth to their second child overseas. A favourite destination was Hong Kong. Hong Kong is exempt from the one-child policy and the Hong Kong passport, which is different from a China mainland passport, provides additional advantages. Recently though, the Hong Kong government has drastically reduced the quota of births set for non-local women in public hospitals. As a result fees for delivering babies there have surged. As further admission cuts or a total ban on non-local births in Hong Kong are being considered, mainland agencies that arrange for expectant mothers to give birth overseas are predicting a surge in those going to North America. [70] As the US practices birthright citizenship children born in the US will be US citizens. The closest option (from China) is Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, a US dependency in the western Pacific Ocean that allows

Chinese visitors without visa restrictions. The island is currently experiencing an upswing in Chinese births. This option is used by relatively affluent Chinese who often have secondary motives as well, wishing their children to be able to leave communist China when they grow older or bring their parents to the US. Canada is less popular as Ottawa denies many visa requests. [71][72] [edit] Effects on female population " The Guanyin Who Sends Children" in a temple in the small town of Danshan, Sichuan. China, like many other Asian countries, has a long tradition of son preference. [41]The commonly accepted explanation for son preference is that sons in rural families may be thought to be more helpful in farm work. Both rural and urban populations have economic and traditional incentives, including widespread remnants of Confucianism, to prefer sons over daughters. Sons are preferred as they provide the primary financial support for the parents in their retirement, and a son's parents typically are better cared for than his wife's. In addition, Chinese traditionally hold that daughters, on their marriage, become primarily part of the groom's family. Male-to-female sex ratios in the current Chinese population are high in both rural and urban areas.[49] [edit] Gender-based birth rate disparity For more details on this topic, see Missing women of Asia. The sex ratio at birth (between male and female births) in mainland China reached 117: 100 in the year 2000, substantially higher than the natural baseline, which ranges between 103: 100 and 107: 100. It had risen from 108: 100 in 1981—at the boundary of the natural baseline—to 111: 100 in 1990.[73]According to a report by the National Population and Family Planning Commission, there will be 30 million more men than women in 2020, potentially leading to social instability, and

courtship-motivated emigration.[74]The correlation between the increase of sex ratio disparity on birth and the deployment of one child policy would appear to have been caused by the one-child policy. Other Asian regions also have higher than average ratios, including Taiwan (110: 100) and South Korea(108: 100), which do not have a family planning policy[75]and the ratio in South Korea was as high as 116: 100 in the early 1990s but since then has moved substantially back toward a normal range, with a ratio of 107: 100 in 2005.[76]Many studies have explored the reason for the gender-based birth rate disparity in China as well as other countries. A study in 1990 attributed the high preponderance of reported male births in mainland China to four main causes: diseases which affect females more severely than males; the result of widespread underreporting of female births; the illegal practice of sex-selective abortion made possible by the widespread availability of ultrasound; and finally, acts of child abandonment and infanticide.[8]The number of bachelors in China had already increased between 1990 and 2005, implying that China's lack of brides is not solely linked to the one-child policy, as single-child families were only enforced from 1979.[77] In a recent paper, Emily Oster (2005) proposed a biological explanation for the gender imbalance in Asian countries, including China. Using data on viral prevalence by country as well as estimates of the effect of hepatitis on sex ratio, Oster claimed that Hepatitis B could account for up to 75% of the gender disparity in China.[78] Monica Das Gupta (2005) has shown that " whether or not females 'go missing' is determined by the existing sex composition of the family into which they are conceived. Girls with no older sisters have similar chances of survival as boys. Girls conceived in families that already have a

daughter, experience steeply higher probabilities of being aborted or of dying in early childhood. Gupta claims that cultural factors provide the overwhelming explanation for the "missing" females." [79] The disparity in the sex ratio at birth increases dramatically after the first birth, for which the ratios remained steadily within the natural baseline over the 20 year interval between 1980 and 1999. Thus, a large majority of couples appear to accept the outcome of the first pregnancy, whether it is a boy or a girl. If the first child is a girl, and they are able to have a second child, then a couple may take extraordinary steps to assure that the second child is a boy. If a couple already has two or more boys, the sex ratio of higher parity births swings decidedly in a feminine direction. [80] This demographic evidence indicates that while families highly value having male offspring, a secondary norm of having a girl or having some balance in the sexes of children often comes into play. For example, Zeng et al. (1993) reported a study based on the 1990 census in which they found sex ratios of just 65 or 70 boys per 100 girls for births in families that already had two or more boys. [81] A study by Anderson and Silver (1995) found a similar pattern among both Han and non-Han nationalities in Xinjiang Province: a strong preference for girls in high parity births in families that had already borne two or more boys. [82] This evidence is consistent with the observation by another researcher that for a majority of rural families "their ideal family size is one boy and one girl, at most two boys and one girl". [83] A 2006 review article [84] by the Editorial Board of Population Research (Chinese: 人口研究 " 人研"; pinyin: Rénkǒu Yánjiū), one of China's leading demography journals, argued that only an approach that makes the rights of women central can succeed in bringing

down China's high gender ratio at birth and improve the survival rate of female infants and girls. A section written by East China Normal University demography professor Ci Qinying, "Research on the Sex Ratio at Birth Should Take a Gender Discrimination Approach," argued that researchers must pay closer attention to gender issues in demography,[85] [86] and a human rights perspective in demographic research is crucial.[87] [88] The authors of another review article, "Girl Survival in China: History, Present Situation and Prospects," which was presented at a 2005 conference supported by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), concluded that "The Chinese government has already set the goal of achieving a normal gender ratio at birth by 2010, and to achieve preliminary results in establishing a new cultural outlook on marriage and having children. The government is working to change the system, way of thinking and other obstacles to attacking the root of the problem. Only if equality of males and females is strongly promoted ... will the harmonious and sustainable development of society be possible." [89] [edit] Abandoned or orphaned children and adoption Rural Sichuan roadside sign: "It is forbidden to discriminate against, mistreat or abandon baby girls." The social pressure exerted by the one-child policy has affected the rate at which parents abandon undesirable children, and many live in state-sponsored orphanages, from which thousands are adopted internationally and by Chinese parents each year. In the 1980s and early 1990s, poor care and high mortality rates in some state institutions generated intense international pressure for reform.[90] According to Sten Johansson and Ola Nygren (1991) adoptions accounted for half of the so-called "missing girls" in the 1980s in the PRC.

[91]Through the 1980s, as the one-child policy came into force, parents who desired a son but bore a daughter in some cases failed to report or delayed the reporting of the birth of the girl to the authorities. But rather than neglecting or abandoning unwanted girls, the parents may have offered them up for formal or informal adoption. A majority of children who went through formal adoption in China in the later 1980s were girls, and the proportion who were girls increased over time (Johansson and Nygren 1991). The practice of adopting out unwanted girls is consistent with both the son preference of many Chinese couples and the findings of Zeng et al. (1993) and Anderson and Silver (1995) that under some circumstances families have a preference for girls, in particular when they have already satisfied their goals for sons. Research by Weiguo Zhang (2006) on child adoption in rural China reveals increasing receptivity to adopting girls, including by infertile and childless couples.[92] In 1992, China instituted its first adoption law. Officially registered adoptions increased from about 2, 000 in 1992 to 55, 000 in 2001. According to one scholar, these figures " represent a small proportion of adoptions in China because many adopted children were adopted informally without official registrations. International adoption rates climbed dramatically after the early 1990s, increasing to the U. S. alone from about 200 in 1992 to more than 7, 900 in 2005.[93] According to the Los Angeles Times, many babies put up for adoption had not been abandoned by their parents, but confiscated by family planning officials.[94] [edit] Infanticide Gender-selected abortion, abandonment, and infanticide are illegal in China. Nevertheless, the US State Department,[95]the Parliament of the United Kingdom,[96]and the human rights organization Amnesty

International[97] have all declared that China's family planning programs contribute to infanticide. Anthropologist G. William Skinner at the University of California—Davis and Chinese researcher Yuan Jianhua have claimed that infanticide was fairly common in China before the 1990s.[98] [edit] Fertility medicines A 2006 China Daily report stated that wealthy couples are increasingly turning to fertility medicines to have multiple births, because of the lack of penalties against couples who have more than one child in their first birth. According to the report, the number of multiple births per year in China had doubled by 2006.[99]