

China's One Child Policy

Area of Study 2 in Unit 4 is an investigation into population issues and challenges.

Outcome 2: On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse, describe and explain the nature of significant population issues and challenges in selected locations and evaluate responses.

We will begin Class 12 by exploring China's One Child Policy, through answering questions related to two videos and one article, enjoy!

Why China Ended its One-Child Policy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg7ljmLyWs>

Please watch this video and answer the following questions (I know the video is very American and ignore the advertisement at the very end).

1. How does the video describe the evolution of China's population?
2. What is the One Child Policy and how did it affect China's fertility rate?
3. Why does the video portray the end of the One Child Policy as not having a big effect on the total fertility rate?
4. What are the issues and challenges China is beginning to face due to a larger dependency ratio?

What it was like to grow up under China's one-child policy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flb_S5JJC4k

1. Describe Nanfu Wang's experience growing up as a girl and with a little brother in China.
2. How were Nanfu's parents able to have a second child?
3. For a midwife in China, what did their job often entail?
4. How was propaganda used to support the One Child Policy in China?

Despite The End Of China's One-Child Policy, Births Are Still Lagging

July 16, 2018 6:23 AM ET

<https://www.npr.org/2018/07/16/629361870/despite-the-end-of-chinas-one-child-policy-births-are-still-lagging>



A newborn girl is the first baby born in the New Year at Nanjing Maternity and Child Health Hospital on January 1, 2018 in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province of China.

VCG/VCG via Getty Images

Two years after China officially ended its one-child policy in order to counter the country's aging society and shrinking workforce, Chinese couples are not having babies fast enough.

In 2017, there were [17.6 million births in China](#), representing 12.43 births per thousand people. However, that was a drop from 2016, when the one-child policy was first relaxed – a year that saw 12.95 births per 1,000 people.

The difficulty in quickly turning things around results from the old policy's successes as well as its failures.

Promulgated in 1979 by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, the one-child policy was an effort to ensure that China's population did not hold back its economic development.

By 2016, China's leadership faced the opposite problem and implemented a two-child policy in hopes of spurring births.

The latest drop in the birth rate, according to demographer Chen Youhua from Nanjing University quoted in [The South China Morning Post](#), is due to a fall in the number of women of childbearing age. There are fewer childbearing women because of the lower birth rates in the 1990s, when the one-child policy was in full swing.

Because of China's strong preference for male children, the one-child policy infamously led to female infanticide, further exacerbated the problem and creating a gender imbalance of an estimated 30 million males, according to *Post*.

The [Council on Foreign Relations](#) writes, "The fertility rate still hovers around 1.6, lower than the U.S. rate of 1.87. Even Brazil, which has a similar GDP per capita to China, has a rate of 1.75. Furthermore, Chinese parents have traditionally preferred boys over girls, leading to a massive gender imbalance. In 2017, men outnumbered women by 33 million, and the male to female birth ratio was 115 boys for every 100 girls, one of the most skewed in the world."

Even so, there is one bright spot in the statistics: 51 percent of the births in 2017 were to couples who already have a child, proving that many who can have children are eager to have larger families.

For some, though, the idea of having more children could prove a difficult sell. As [Bloomberg](#) notes, "High living costs, long work hours and surging child-care expenses mean that many couples feel that they can only afford to have one child — or none. A survey by Zhaopin.com, a job recruitment site, found that 33 percent of women had their pay cut after giving birth and 36 percent were demoted."

1. When did China end its One Child Policy?
2. What was China's birth rate in 2017?
3. When was China's One Child Policy introduced?
4. Why was the Policy implemented?
5. Why was the two-child policy implemented in 2016?
6. Describe the gender imbalance that arose from the policy,
7. What is China's fertility rate (at the time the article was written)?
8. Why might couples feel that they can only afford one child?

Chapter 7 in the textbook

Finish by reading page 104 in the textbook and list below some of the rewards for those who abided by the policy:

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