

A man tries to stop a line of tanks heading into the crowd of protesters in Tiananmen Square (top). Protesters erect a statue of the goddess of democracy in front of a poster of Mao (right).



A Violent Crackdown

By the late 1980s, many Chinese citizens were protesting for more political freedom. Cheng Zhen, a student at the time, describes what she saw in Beijing's Tiananmen (tyen ahn mun) Square on the night of June 4, 1989.

“[A]t about 2 A.M. we . . . could see that the troops were already in the square, and we quickly ran to the other side. . . . While I was running, I noticed a young man ahead of me. He picked up a bottle on the ground, and was about to throw it at the troops, angry because they were holding up their guns and firing. Suddenly, he fell to the ground. . . . He was shot. . . .”

—BBC News Online, June 2, 2004

Focus Question How do China and India compare in building strong economies and democratic governments?

China and India: Two Giants of Asia

Objectives

- Analyze how China has reformed its economy but limited freedom.
- Describe the continuing challenges that China faces.
- Understand how India has faced poverty but built a stronger economy.
- Explain important Indian social reforms.

Terms, People, and Places

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Deng Xiaoping | Mumbai |
| Tiananmen Square | Mother Teresa |
| one-child policy | dalits |
| Kolkata | |

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas As you read, make a table like this one to record the main ideas.

| Reform and Change in China and India | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Type | China | India |
| Economic | • Free market | |
| Political | | |

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China and India are home to two-fifths of the world's people. These two giant nations dominate Asia economically, too. Today, China is a major industrial nation. While India's economy is smaller, it is a leading power in Asia and in the world. In the last 60 years, both nations have faced challenges to economic development. They have addressed some of these, while others remain unresolved.

China Reforms Its Economy But Limits Freedom

As you have read, Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in 1976. After Mao's death, more moderate leaders took control of China. By 1981, Deng Xiaoping (dung show ping) had set China on a new path. Deng was a practical reformer, more interested in improving the economy than in political purity. "I don't care if a cat is black or white," he declared, "as long as it catches mice."

Modernizing the Economy Deng's program, the Four Modernizations, emphasized agriculture, industry, science, and defense. The plan allowed some features of a free market, such as some private ownership of property. Communes, or collectively owned farms, were also dismantled, and peasant families were allotted plots of farmland in what was called the "responsibility system." Farmers

still did not own the land, and the government took a share of their crops. However, farmers could sell any surplus produce and keep their profits. Chinese entrepreneurs were allowed to set up businesses, too. Managers of state-run factories were given more freedom, but were expected to make their plants more efficient. Deng also welcomed foreign capital and technology. Investors from Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Western nations invested heavily in Chinese firms.

These economic reforms brought a surge of growth. In coastal cities, foreign investment created an economic boom. Some Chinese enjoyed an improved standard of living. They bought televisions, refrigerators, and cars. On the other hand, crime and corruption grew, and a growing economic and regional gap developed between poor rural farmers—mainly in China's interior—and wealthy city dwellers.

Communists Crack Down Economic reforms and more contact with the West led some Chinese to demand greater political freedom. In the late 1980s Chinese students, workers, and others supported a democracy movement like those that were then sweeping Eastern Europe. However, Deng and other Communist leaders refused to allow democratic reforms.

In May of 1989, thousands of demonstrators, many of them students, occupied Tiananmen Square (tyen ahn mun skwehr), a huge public plaza at the center of China's capital, Beijing. They raised banners calling for democracy. The demonstrators refused to disperse, and after several days the government sent in troops and tanks. Thousands of demonstrators were killed or wounded in what became known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Many others were arrested and tortured. The crackdown showed that China's Communist leaders were afraid of losing control. To them, order was more important than political freedom.

✓ **Checkpoint** Which group did the economic reforms in China benefit most?

China Faces Continuing Challenges

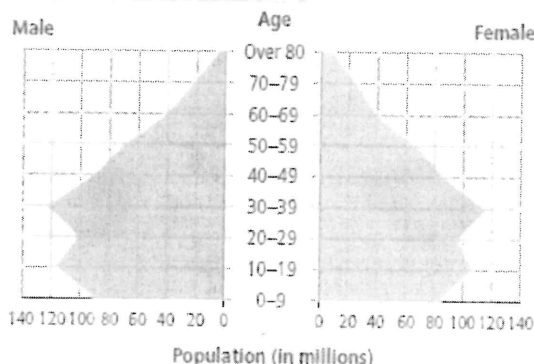
Almost 30 years of economic reforms helped quadruple China's economic output. By some measures, as of the mid-2000s its economy was the world's second largest after that of the United States. However, even as China's economy strengthened, the nation faced many internal challenges.

Limiting a Huge Population China's population, now more than 1.3 billion, is the largest in the world. In the 1980s, the government's one-child policy, which limited urban families to a single child, aimed to keep population growth from hurting economic development. Rural families were allowed two children. However, these measures worked better in urban areas than in rural areas. Rural families who wanted more than two children to help on the farm often just paid fines. Even so, population growth slowed overall after 1980.

Vocabulary Builder

disperse—(dih SPURS) v. break up and scatter

China, Estimated Population by Age and Gender, 2005



Graph Skills China's population growth has slowed in recent years due to government efforts like the one-child policy, encouraged in the billboard below. According to the graph, in what age groups is most of China's population concentrated? What might this mean for China's future?

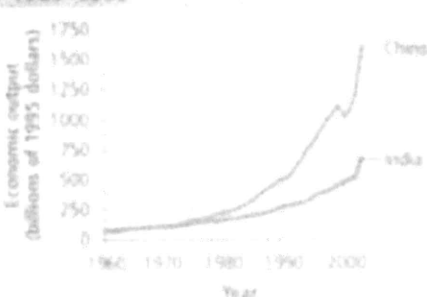
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base



India and China: The Economic Rise of Two Asian Giants

India and China are both huge Asian nations with rapidly growing populations. They have very different governments: India is a democracy, while China is communist. However, they have taken similar economic paths in recent years. Study the chart (right) and graph (left) below. Which country has achieved a higher economic output in recent years? How might policies adopted by that nation help explain this success?

Economic Growth in India and China, 1960–2003



Source: The World Bank

Comparing India and China

| China | India |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Shift to free market economy in 1980s | Shift to free market economy in 1980s |
| Government seeks to limit population growth | Population growth remains a serious issue |
| Adopts state communist government | Democratized government |

A man casts a vote in an election in Kashmir, India. Religious and political conflict has limited economic growth in that region.

◀ A pedestrian in Shanghai, China, walks past the construction of a new high-rise apartment building.

Economic Growth Brings New Problems Many state-run industries in China were unprofitable. While it sold off some of these industries, the government hesitated to do away with others, fearing high unemployment. Rapid urbanization occurred as millions of rural workers flocked to the cities. Urban newcomers lived in poverty and strained limited resources, while government officials favored wealthy people with connections. Finally, economic growth led to severely polluted air and water, causing illness and death. Growing travel and trade helped to spread AIDS across China, and it became a serious new health problem.

Human Rights Suffer Despite economic reforms, the Communist Party continued to jail critics and reject calls for political reform. Human-rights activists inside and outside China focused on many abuses, especially as China prepared to host the 2008 Olympics. They pointed to issues like the lack of free speech and the use of prison labor to produce cheap export goods. Critics denounced China's suppression of Tibet's ancient Buddhist culture. China's trading partners pressured China to end these kinds of abuses. Party leaders responded that outsiders had no right to try to impose "Western-style" ideas of human rights on the non-Western cultures of China or Tibet.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did the Chinese government respond to political criticism?

India Builds Its Economy

Like China, upon its independence in 1947 India was a large, poor nation embarking on a path of economic development. With a population of around 1.1 billion, India is the world's largest democracy.

Agriculture and Industry Expand Like other developing nations, India set out to use modern technology to expand agriculture and industry. The government adopted elements of a command economy, using five-year plans to set economic goals and manage resources. Development, however, was uneven. While it developed some industries, India lacked oil and natural gas, key resources for economic growth. Instead, it had to rely on costly imported oil.

Seeking to increase food production, Nehru promoted the Green Revolution in the late 1960s. New seeds, chemical fertilizers, and irrigation methods improved crop output. Still, only farmers with enough land and money could afford these things. Most farmers continued to use traditional methods, relying on the seasonal rains for water. They produced barely enough to survive.

Beginning in the 1980s, India shifted toward more of a free-market system. It privatized some industries and eased some restrictions on foreign investment. By the 1990s, Indian textiles, technology, and other industries were expanding rapidly. Meanwhile, Indian companies began to sell publishing, computer, and customer-support services to the rest of the world.

Combating Population Growth and Poverty As in other poor countries, India's population growth hurt efforts to improve living conditions. While food output has risen, so has demand. More than one-third of Indians live below the poverty line, unable to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Growing populations put added pressure on India's healthcare system, which faced additional challenges after 1990 from the spread of AIDS.

India's population boom and the labor-saving methods of the Green Revolution resulted in millions of rural families migrating to cities. But

Bangalore: A Customer Support Center

Workers in Bangalore, India, serve as customer service operators for American and European companies. To make callers feel more comfortable, the operators are trained in English and American slang. *How do you expect the customer service industry to change as more countries develop?*





Combating Poverty
Mother Teresa worked with the poor in Calcutta, India.

overcrowded cities like Kolkata (or Calcutta) and Mumbai (or Bombay) could not provide jobs and basic services for everyone. To help the urban poor, Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun, founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. This group provides food and medical care to thousands. Still, millions more remain in desperate need.

The Indian government backed family planning, but did not adopt the harsh policies that China did. Efforts to slow population growth had limited success. Poorer Indians, especially in rural areas, still see children as an economic resource who help work the land and care for parents in old age.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the Green Revolution affect India's economic growth?

Reforming Indian Society

In India, as elsewhere, the spread of education and the growth of a modern economy undermined traditional patterns of life. These changes have brought improvements for India's lowest social castes and for women. Yet most Indians still live in villages and followed traditional ways.

Confronting Caste Discrimination India's constitution banned discrimination against people in the lowest caste, or *dalits*. The government set aside jobs and places in universities for them. However, prejudice and discrimination persist. Higher-caste Hindus generally receive better schooling and jobs. They also sometimes block government plans to open more jobs to *dalits*.

Women Make Progress Under the constitution, Indian women were granted equal rights. In the cities, well-to-do girls are educated. Some educated women have entered professions or, like Indira Gandhi, won political office. On the other hand, girls from poor families often receive little or no education. In rural areas, women are expected to do unpaid—but valuable—work in household industries or farms. However, Indian women have begun taking political action and setting up self-help organizations to improve their lives.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the Indian government try to improve the status of *dalits*?

3 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-3331

Terms, People, and Places

- For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

- Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas**
Use your completed table to answer the Focus Question: How do China and India compare in building strong economies and democratic governments?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- Identify Central Issues** What obstacles to economic development does China still face?
- Draw Inferences** How did the Green Revolution contribute to urbanization in India?
- Summarize** What economic goals has the Indian government pursued and how has it met these goals?
- Predict Consequences** Do you think that China can continue to develop economically without making political reforms? Explain.

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write a Conclusion

Choose one subheading from this section—for example "Reforming Indian Society." After rereading the text under that subheading, write a conclusion that summarizes the information.