

China in 2026 and history

“Collection of all 193 countries and history”

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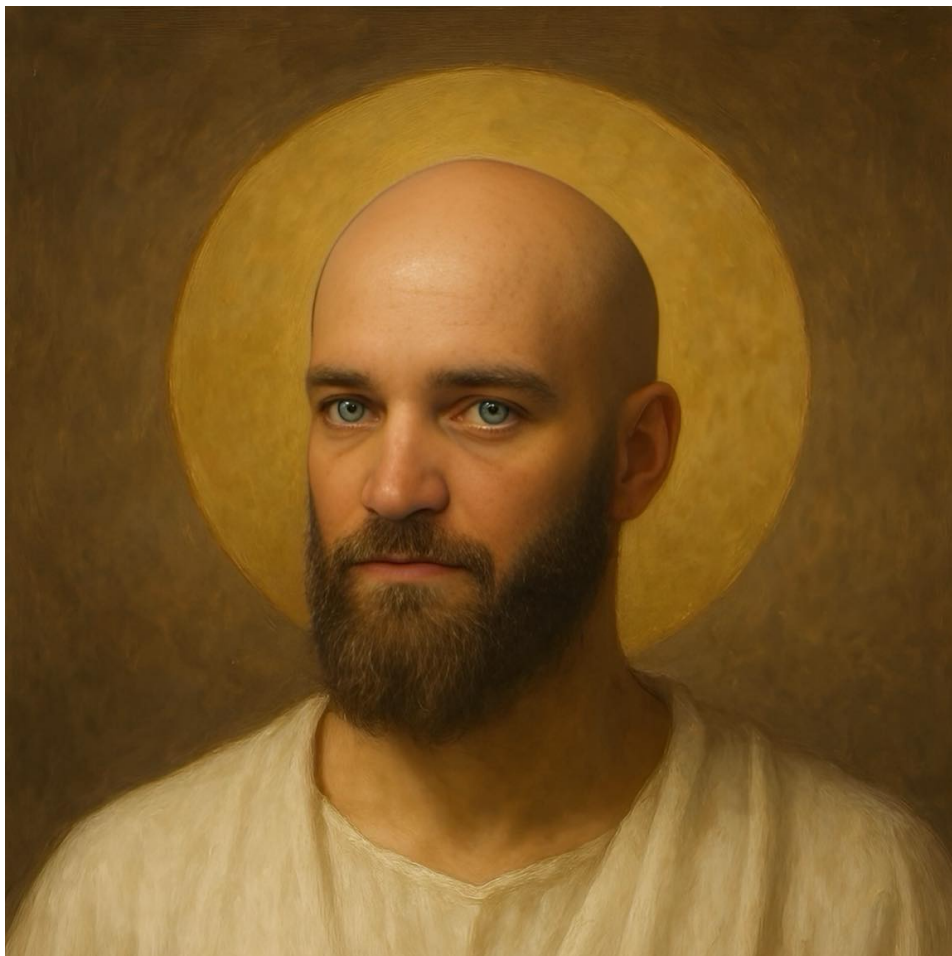
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Introduction:

My name is **Michael Maas**, I am born in the Netherlands and interested in our daily lives, fellow human beings/animals, spirituality, and the world itself.

I decided to start writing books because it is a hobby and passion and started with a **collection of a books of every country (193 countries)**.



Visit my website for more info about me: www.michaelmaas.info

In this book the main topics about China are about the:

- **China's history**
- **China's politics**
- **Chinese culture**
- **The military in China**

And much more about **China!**

This is a book of the collection of books of all 193 countries:

China in 2026 and the history.

The following topics are highlighted:

1. Geography and climate
2. Major cities
3. History and origins
4. Government and political system
5. Economy and key industries
6. Currency and financial structure
7. Education system
8. Healthcare and public health
9. Culture and traditions
10. Languages
11. Religion and beliefs
12. Food and cuisine
13. Festivals and holidays
14. Famous landmarks
15. Natural wonders
16. Transportation and infrastructure
17. Demographics and population trends
18. Arts, music, and literature
19. Sports and national teams
20. Fashion and cultural dress
21. Environmental issues and sustainability
22. Wildlife and biodiversity
23. Tourism and travel tips
24. Technology and innovation
25. Immigration and diversity
26. International relations
27. Military and defense
28. Social issues and human rights
29. Famous people from the country
30. National symbols (flag, anthem, coat of arms)

1. Geography and climate

China's geography and climate are extremely diverse, shaped by its huge size and dramatic range of landforms.

Here's a clear overview:

Geography

- **Size & Location:** China is the fourth-largest country in the world, stretching from Central Asia to the Pacific Ocean.
- **Western China:** Dominated by **mountain ranges, deserts, and high plateaus**.
 - The **Himalayas** form the natural border with Nepal and India, home to Mount Everest.
 - The **Tibetan Plateau** is the highest and largest plateau on Earth.
 - The **Taklamakan** and **Gobi Deserts** are among the world's largest deserts.
- **Central China:** Known for **basins, plains, and large river valleys**.
 - The **Yangtze River** (longest in Asia) flows through this region.
 - The **Yellow River** originates in the west and creates fertile plains in the central regions.
- **Eastern China:** The most populated part of the country, consisting of **coastal plains, river deltas, and low mountains**.
 - The **North China Plain** and **Yangtze River Delta** are major agricultural and economic hubs.
- **South China:** Features **lush hills, karst formations, rainforests**, and a humid subtropical environment.
 - The dramatic limestone landscapes of **Guilin** and **Yangshuo** come from this region.

Climate

Because of its vastness, China has **nearly every major climate type**:

- **Northeast (e.g., Harbin):**
Long, extremely cold winters; short, warm summers.
Continental climate.
- **North & Northwest (e.g., Beijing, Xinjiang):**
Dry, with hot summers and very cold winters.
Large desert and steppe regions.
- **Central China (e.g., Wuhan):**
Humid and hot summers ("oven cities"), cool winters, plenty of rain in spring and summer.

- **South China (e.g., Guangzhou, Hong Kong):**
Subtropical climate—hot and humid summers, mild winters.
Hit by **typhoons** in late summer and early autumn.
- **Southwest (e.g., Yunnan):**
Variable: tropical in the south, mild highland climate in the north.
- **Tibet & Western Highlands:**
Very cold, thin air, strong UV radiation.
Huge temperature difference between day and night.

Special Influences

- **Monsoon system:**
Drives heavy summer rainfall in the east and south.
- **Elevation differences:**
From sea level to the Himalayas, changes temperature and rainfall dramatically.
- **Latitude range:**
From tropical Hainan Island to near-Siberian conditions in the north.

2. Major cities

1. Beijing — Capital City

- **Role:** Political and cultural center of China
- **Known for:** Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Great Wall nearby
- **Features:** Mix of ancient architecture and modern districts; important universities

2. Shanghai — Largest and Most International

- **Role:** Global financial hub and major port
- **Known for:** The Bund, Pudong skyline, skyscrapers like Shanghai Tower
- **Features:** Fast-paced, modern, culturally diverse

3. Guangzhou — Southern Economic Power

- **Role:** Trade and manufacturing giant
- **Known for:** Canton Fair, Canton Tower
- **Features:** Subtropical climate, rich Cantonese culture and cuisine

4. Shenzhen — Tech Capital

- **Role:** China's Silicon Valley
- **Known for:** Headquarters of Tencent, DJI, Huawei
- **Features:** A city that grew from a fishing village to a megacity in 40 years

5. Chengdu — Cultural & Culinary Hub

- **Role:** Major city in western China
- **Known for:** Giant panda research base, spicy Sichuan cuisine
- **Features:** Relaxed lifestyle, strong creative and tech industries

6. Chongqing — Mountain Megacity

- **Role:** Major municipality and industrial center
- **Known for:** Dramatic hilly landscapes, Yangtze River
- **Features:** Very large population, famous hotpot, distinctive architecture

7. Wuhan — Central Transportation Hub

- **Role:** Strategic city connecting north–south and east–west
- **Known for:** Yangtze River bridges, Yellow Crane Tower

- **Features:** Hot summers, strong automotive and education industries

8. Xi'an — Ancient Capital

- **Role:** Key historical city of Chinese civilization
- **Known for:** Terracotta Army, old city walls
- **Features:** Gateway to the Silk Road; deep cultural heritage

9. Hangzhou — Scenic & Tech-Driven

- **Role:** Center for digital economy and tourism
- **Known for:** West Lake, headquarters of Alibaba
- **Features:** Mix of natural beauty and modern innovation

10. Hong Kong — International Financial Center

- **Role:** Major global trading and banking hub
- **Known for:** Victoria Harbour, skyline, eastern–western cultural mix
- **Features:** Dense urban life, famous shopping and cuisine

11. Macau — Entertainment Capital

- **Role:** Tourism and hospitality giant
- **Known for:** Casinos, historic Portuguese architecture
- **Features:** Strong blend of European and Chinese cultures

12. Tianjin — Port and Industrial Base

- **Role:** Major port for northern China
- **Known for:** European-style neighborhoods from its colonial past
- **Features:** Fast-growing economy, close to Beijing

3. History and origins

China's history is one of the world's oldest, stretching back thousands of years. Here's a clear and engaging overview of how it began and how it developed through major eras:

Early Origins

Prehistoric China (before 2000 BCE)

- Archaeological sites like **Peking Man** show human presence more than **700,000 years ago**.
- Early farming communities developed along the **Yellow River** and **Yangtze River**, growing millet and rice.
- Cultures such as **Yangshao** and **Longshan** laid the foundation for Chinese society, pottery, and early villages.

Formation of the First Dynasties

Xia Dynasty (c. 2070–1600 BCE)

Often considered the first dynasty, though partly legendary. Symbolizes early kingship.

Shang Dynasty (c. 1600–1046 BCE)

- First dynasty confirmed by archaeology.
- Known for **bronze technology**, **oracle bones**, and early Chinese writing.

Zhou Dynasty (1046–256 BCE)

- Introduced the **Mandate of Heaven** (the idea that rulers must be virtuous).
- Period of philosophical growth: **Confucius**, **Laozi**, and **the Hundred Schools of Thought**.
- Later part (Warring States) saw constant conflict and technological advancement.

Imperial China

Qin Dynasty (221–206 BCE)

- China's first unified empire under **Qin Shi Huang**.
- Standardized writing, currency, measurements; built early Great Wall sections.
- Known for the **Terracotta Army**.

Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE)

- Considered a golden age.
- Expansion of territory, development of the **Silk Road**, advancements in science, medicine, and bureaucracy.

Era of Division and Reunification

Three Kingdoms, Jin, and Northern & Southern Dynasties (220–581)

Time of fragmentation but rich culture and military history.

Sui Dynasty (581–618)

- Short-lived but crucial: built the **Grand Canal**, reconnecting north and south.

Tang Dynasty (618–907)

- A cultural and economic golden age.
- Famous for poetry, international trade, and cosmopolitan cities like Chang'an.

Song Dynasty (960–1279)

- Known for innovation: gunpowder, printing, compass improvements, and advanced art.
- Strong economy and urbanization.

Mongol and Early Modern Dynasties

Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368)

- Founded by **Kublai Khan**.
- Integrated China into a vast Eurasian empire.

Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)

- Renowned for the **Forbidden City**, maritime voyages of **Zheng He**, and strengthening of the Great Wall.
- Flourishing arts and a booming economy.

Qing Dynasty (1644–1912)

- The last imperial dynasty.
- Expanded China to its largest territorial size.
- Faced internal rebellion, foreign invasion pressure, and modernization challenges.

Modern China

Republic of China (1912–1949)

- End of imperial rule.
- Period of warlords, reforms, and conflicts such as the Second Sino–Japanese War.

People's Republic of China (1949–present)

- Founded after civil war.
- Underwent industrialization, economic reforms, and rapid modernization.
- Today, China is a major global economic and political power.

4. Government and political system

China's government and political structure are unique, highly centralized, and organized around one ruling party. Here's a clear, balanced overview:

General Structure

China is governed as a **unitary socialist state** led by the **Communist Party of China (CPC)**.

The system emphasizes central control, long-term planning, and stability.

1. Communist Party of China (CPC) — The Core of Power

The CPC is the most powerful institution in China.

Key roles of the Party:

- Sets national policies and long-term strategy
- Controls major appointments in government, military, provinces, and big state-owned companies
- Guides political ideology, economic direction, and security policies

Important bodies inside the Party:

- **Politburo Standing Committee:** The top leadership (7 members)
- **Politburo:** Senior leaders (25 members)
- **Central Committee:** Around 200 full members
- **National Party Congress:** Meets every five years to outline strategy

The **General Secretary** of the CPC is the most powerful position in China.

2. State Structure

The state works alongside—but subordinate to—the Party.

Key institutions:

• President

- Head of state
- Represents China internationally

• State Council

- The highest administrative body
- Led by the **Premier**
- Manages ministries (education, foreign affairs, commerce, etc.)

• National People's Congress (NPC)

- China's parliament

- The world's largest legislative body
- Meets once a year
- Approves laws, budgets, state leaders, and major policies

Although the NPC is officially the top state authority, in practice it works under Party guidance.

3. Legal System

- Based on **civil law**, not common law
- Courts follow written legislation, administrative regulations, and Party policy
- Supreme court: **Supreme People's Court**
- Criminal and civil matters are handled through a multi-tiered system (local → provincial → national)

4. Administrative Divisions

China is divided into:

- **23 provinces**
- **5 autonomous regions**
- **4 municipalities** (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing)
- **2 Special Administrative Regions** (Hong Kong & Macau — high degree of autonomy under “One Country, Two Systems”)

5. Military

The military is called the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**.

- Controlled by the **Central Military Commission (CMC)**
- The CMC chair is the top authority over national defense

6. Political Features

• **One-party system**

Other legally recognized small parties exist, but they do not compete for power; they cooperate under CPC leadership.

• **Centralized governance**

Major decisions flow from the central leadership downward through provinces, cities, and towns.

• **Five-year plans**

Every five years, China creates a long-term economic and social development blueprint.

7. Public Participation

- Citizens can vote in **local-level elections** (village or neighborhood committees).

- Higher-level positions are selected through Party and state processes rather than direct public elections.

5. Economy and key industries

China's economy is one of the largest and most influential in the world, built on rapid industrial growth, global trade, and massive domestic markets. Here's a clear and detailed overview:

Overview of China's Economy

- **Second-largest economy globally** (measured by GDP).
- A blend of **state control** and **market-driven capitalism**, often called a “socialist market economy.”
- Major engine of **global manufacturing, exports, and infrastructure development**.

China's growth since the 1980s has been driven by reforms that opened the country to foreign investment, private business, and international trade.

1. Manufacturing — “Factory of the World”

China is the world's biggest manufacturer.

Key manufacturing industries:

- **Electronics:** phones, computers, semiconductors, appliances
- **Automobiles:** both traditional and electric vehicles
- **Machinery and industrial equipment**
- **Textiles and clothing**
- **Toys, plastics, consumer goods**

This sector benefits from large labor forces, supply chains, and efficient logistics.

2. Technology & Innovation

China has become a major tech powerhouse.

Important tech fields:

- **Telecommunications:** Huawei, ZTE
- **Smartphones & electronics:** Xiaomi, Oppo, Lenovo
- **Internet platforms:** Alibaba, Tencent, ByteDance

- **Artificial intelligence & robotics**
- **Semiconductors (rapidly expanding)**

China also leads globally in:

- **Mobile payments**
- **5G networks**
- **Drones (e.g., DJI)**

3. Automotive Industry

A rapidly growing industry, especially in electric vehicles.

Leaders include:

- BYD
- Geely
- SAIC
- NIO
- XPeng

China is the **world's largest EV market** and a major battery producer.

4. Agriculture

China has the world's largest population, so food production is vital.

Major products:

- Rice
- Wheat
- Corn
- Pork (largest producer globally)
- Tea
- Fruits and vegetables

Still, China imports large amounts of soybeans and other crops to meet demand.

5. Energy

China is the **world's largest energy consumer**.

Main sources:

- **Coal** (still dominant, though decreasing)
- **Oil and natural gas**
- **Hydropower** (Three Gorges Dam is the world's largest)
- **Renewables:** solar, wind, nuclear expanding rapidly

China leads globally in:

- Solar panel production
- Wind turbine manufacturing
- Building nuclear reactors

6. Finance and Banking

- Features some of the world's **largest banks** by assets (ICBC, CCB, ABC).
- Rapid growth in **fintech** (mobile payments, digital banking).
- Shanghai and Shenzhen are major financial centers.

7. Construction & Infrastructure

China is known for massive building and engineering projects.

Contributions:

- High-speed rail network (largest in the world)
- Mega bridges, ports, and airports
- Real estate development
- Overseas infrastructure via **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**

8. Retail and E-commerce

China has the world's largest online shopping market.

Major platforms:

- Taobao
- Tmall
- JD.com
- Pinduoduo
- Douyin (TikTok China)

Livestream shopping is extremely popular and influential.

9. Mining & Natural Resources

China is a key producer of:

- Rare earth minerals (dominates global supply)
- Coal
- Aluminum
- Steel (largest producer worldwide)

10. Tourism

A major industry both for:

- **Domestic travel** (massive population, many destinations)
- **International tourism** (Great Wall, Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin, etc.)

Economic Challenges

China also faces issues such as:

- Aging population
- Slower economic growth
- Real estate debt
- Environmental challenges
- Trade tensions with other countries

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

6. Currency and financial structure
7. Education system
8. Healthcare and public health
- 9.
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