China in a Nutshell

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Chinese Superlatives

- World’s most populous country (India a close second) – 1 in 5 of Earth’s inhabitants is Chinese
- World’s largest economy (GDP measured by purchasing power parity) – grew from insignificance in 30 years
- World’s largest international trader (recently surpassing the USA) – again accomplished in 30 years
- Chinese invented printing, paper, gunpowder, the compass
- The longest lasting period of imperial dynasties/kingdoms – eight major and 21 minor (nearly 580 kings or emperors – only one of whom was female)
Chinese Geography – Earth’s 4th Largest Land Area

- East to West “stair steps”
- 92% Han majority in most developed east
- 8% minorities (56 official) around less developed “necklace”
- Three major rivers;
  - Yellow (Huang He)
  - Yangtze
  - Pearl