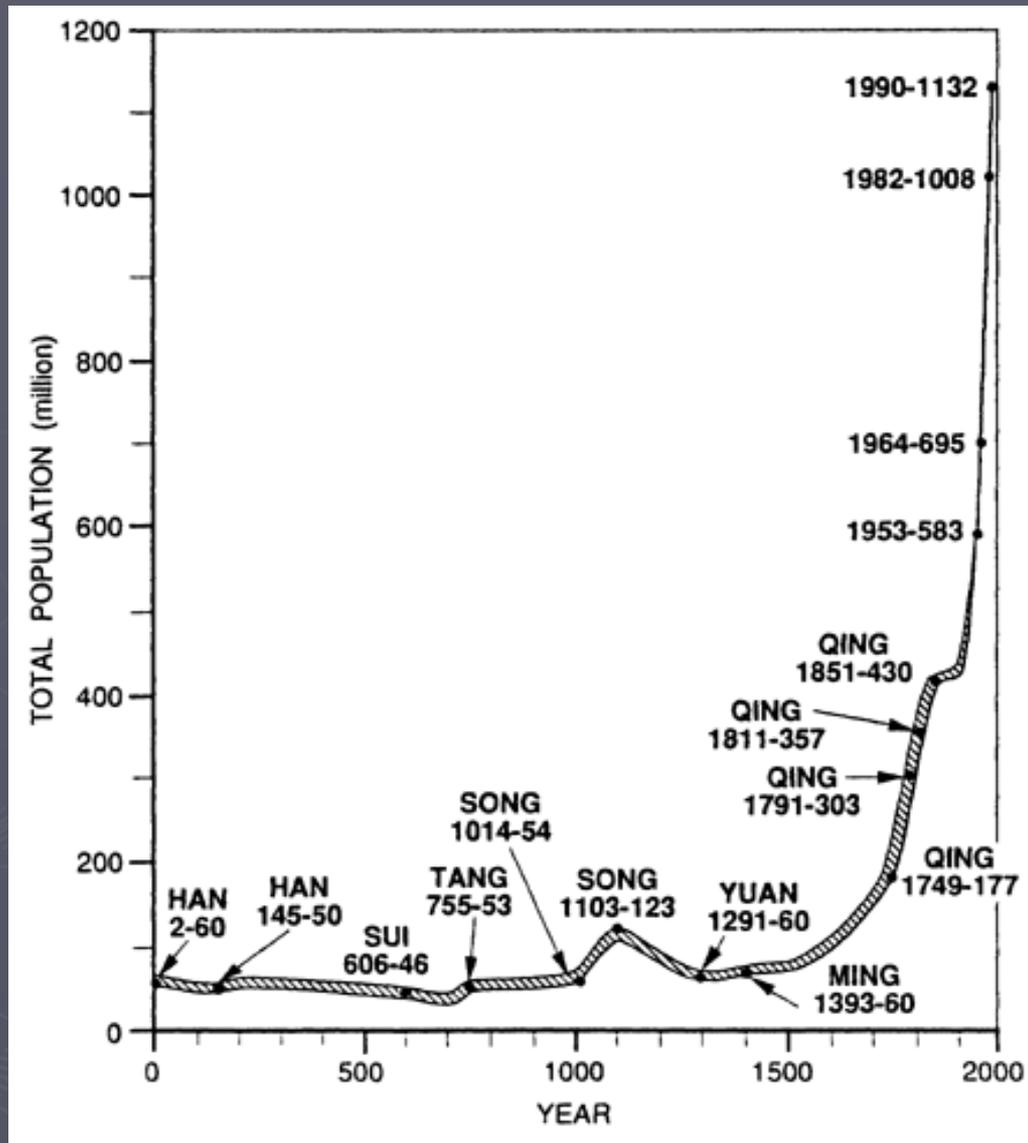




# Why does China have so many people?

1.5 Billion people didn't happen overnight – There's a history behind it.

**Agriculture** (farming) allows for larger populations, which promotes unity.



During the **Han Dynasty**, China had about 60 million people (1/4 the world's population). – [China's Population Clock](#)

**Chinese Dynasties:**  
Xia, Shang, Qin, Han...



Above – **North China Plain**  
(Temperate Climate) farming.

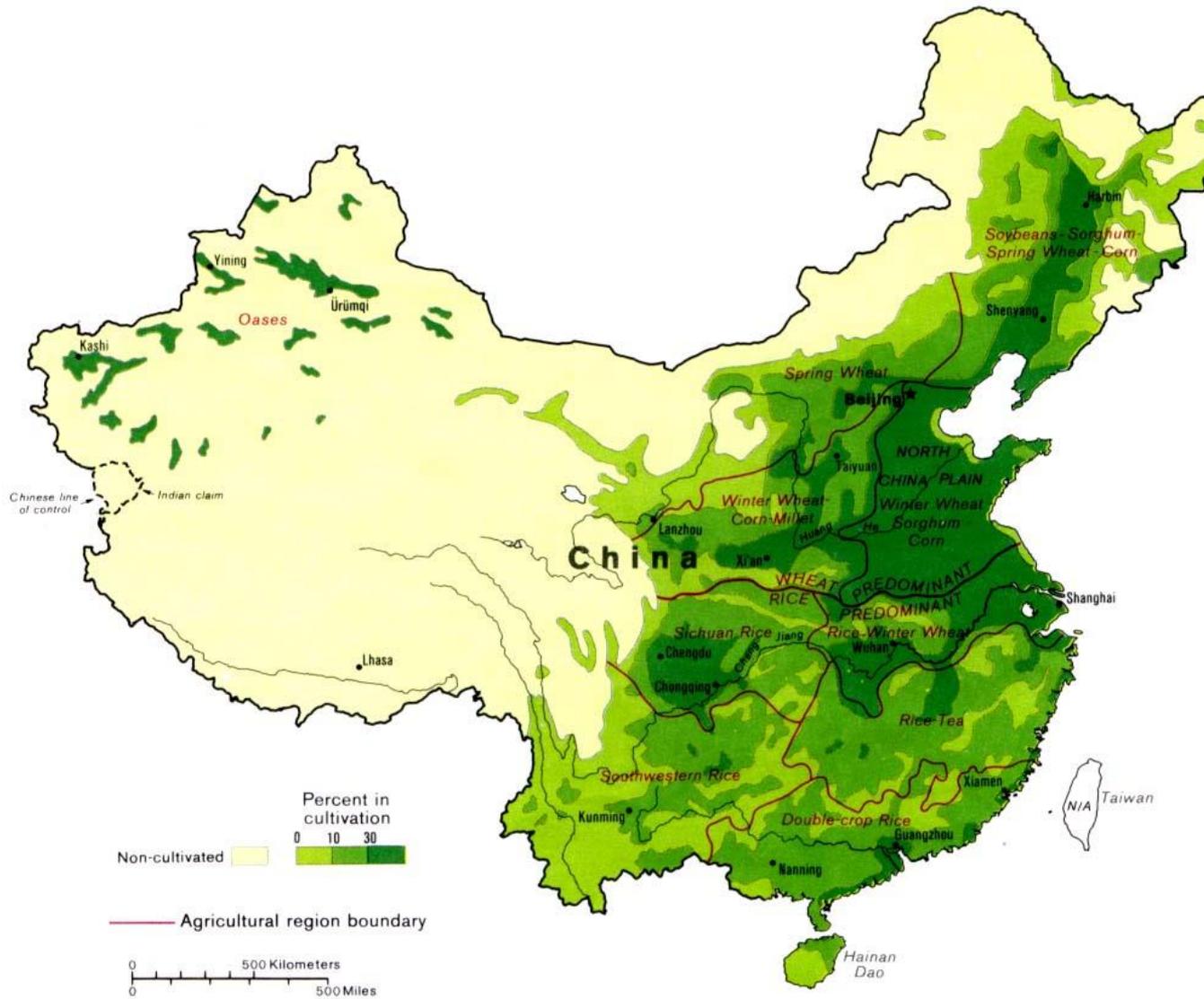
Below – Southern China rice farming.



# Better Farming Methods Leads to More People: Trends during the Ming and Qing Dynasties

- ▶ Many Chinese moved westward, farming more land area.
- ▶ They designed better rice seeds.
- ▶ European traders brought different crops, like corn, potatoes, peanuts, etc.
- ▶ They designed better irrigation, terraced farming, grain storage, and fertilizing methods.

# Agricultural Regions



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative



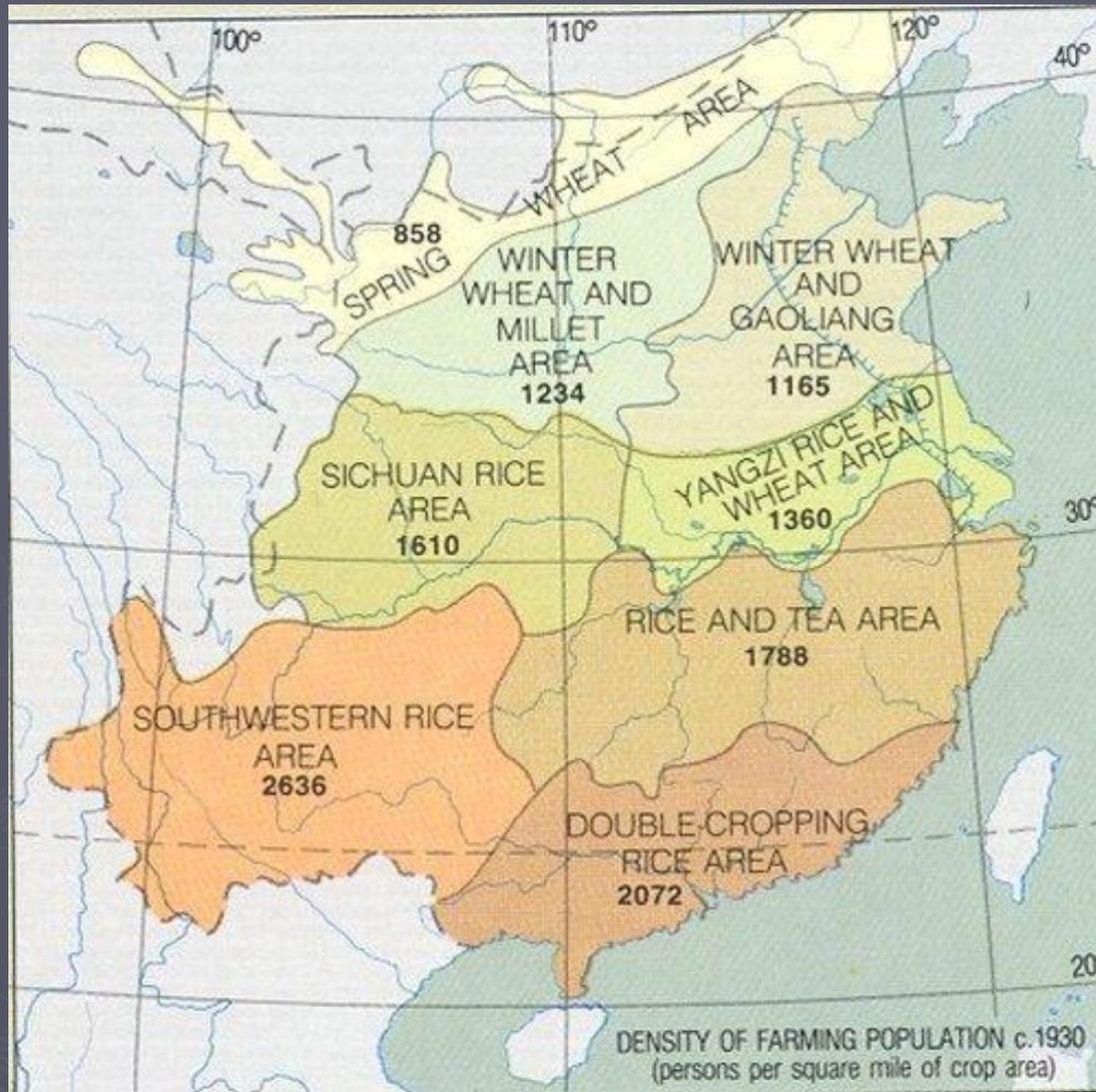
China during the **Han Dynasty**. Smaller than now, but the main agriculturally rich regions are part of it. (Population = 60 million)



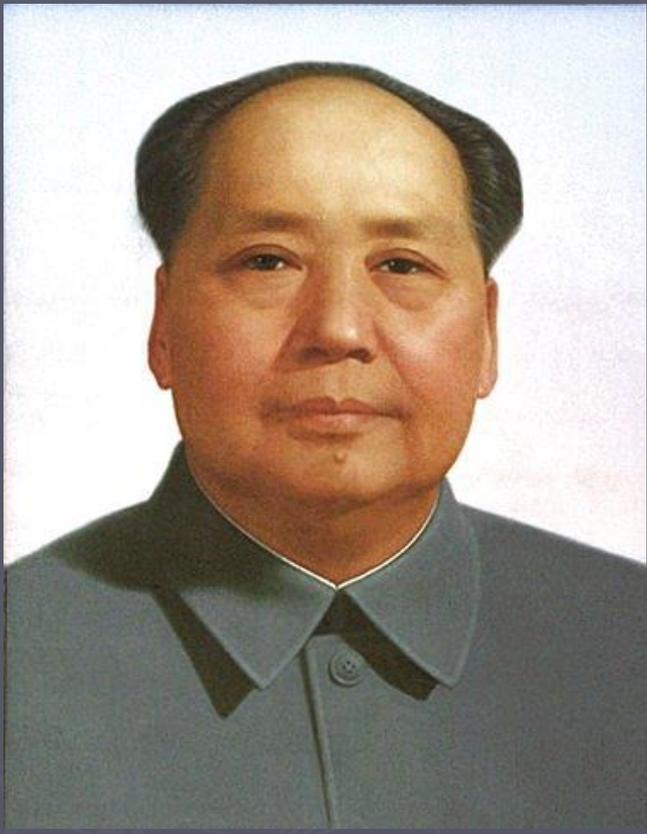
China during the **Ming Dynasty**. (Population about 100 million) – Notice the expansion of agriculturally rich area.



China during the **Qing Dynasty** (1644 – 1911 C.E.) – About all of China's agriculturally rich area is now part of the Qing's control.



China (1930) population density map – Notice the higher population where there the farmers can grow and harvest rice two times a year.



The Chinese Communist forces won control of China in 1949. **Mao Zedong** was their leader and headed the country until 1976.

Below – A government propaganda poster with Mao leading China forward. Part of this campaign was to increase China's population.





Under Mao's leadership, China implemented the **Great Leap Forward** to catch up to other major industrial power's steel production, like England and the U.S. Unfortunately, farmers and other trades, melted their tools and donated them to the cause, leaving China without much of its food source. Massive famine resulted, because they could not feed the huge population. Millions died.

## China's Historical Population Growth:

**1950: 562,000,000**

**1960: 648,000,000**

**1970: 820,000,000**

**1980: 984,000,000**

**1990: 1,147,000,000**

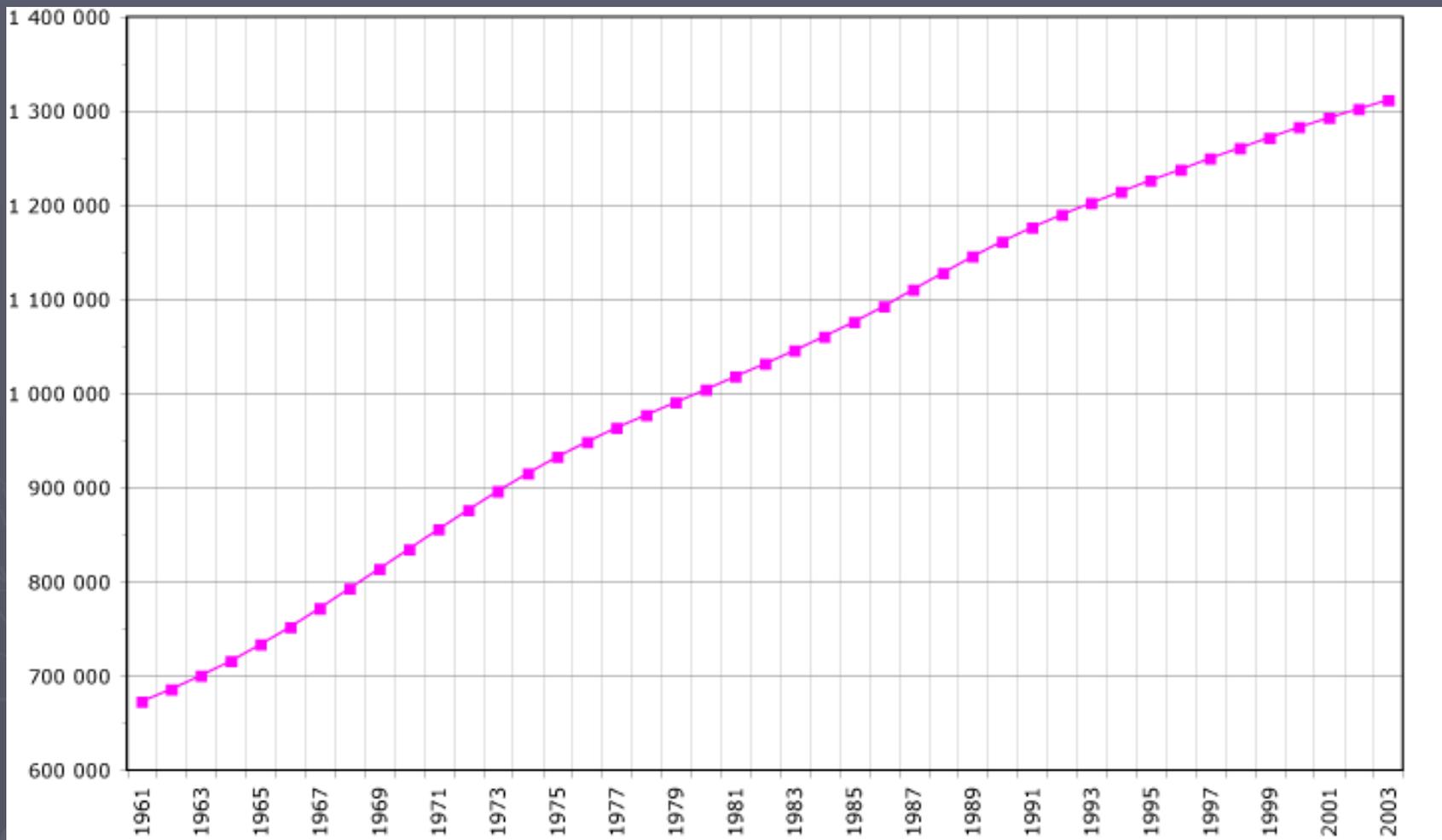
**2000: 1,264,587,054**

Mao Zedong (1893–1976), wanted people to have large families. From 1949 to 1980, the population of China grew from about 500 million to over 800 million. Then in the 1970's, the government implemented a "One Child Per Family" policy.



A government “One Child per Family” campaign poster. After Mao died, the leadership implemented this policy.

## Exponential Growth – One percent of one billion = 10 million!



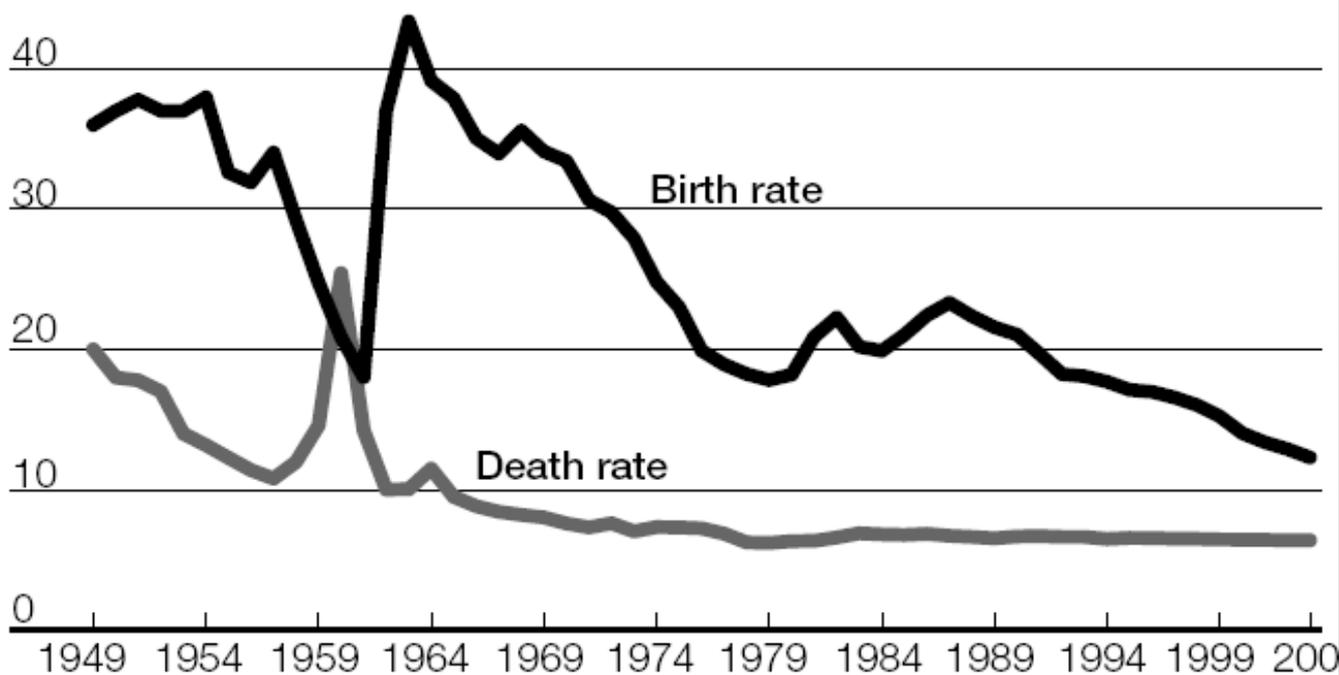
While China's population growth has slowed dramatically, a small percentage increase each year means many more Chinese.

Figure 1

## Birth and Death Rates in China, 1949 to 2003

Births/deaths per 1,000 people

50



Sources: China Population Information and Research Center ([www.cpirc.org.cn](http://www.cpirc.org.cn), accessed May 13, 2003); and National Bureau of Statistics of China, *Statistical Reports* ([www.stats.gov.cn/english/newrelease.htm](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/newrelease.htm), accessed April 7, 2004).

Was the  
One Child  
Per Family  
policy  
successful?

Annual growth was 1.07% - down 0.4% from the rate in the 1980s.  
(BBC) As the birth rate gets closer or drops below the death rate,  
China's population will begin to decrease.

The End

