Introduction to the Regional Geography of China

Environment and Society in China

8 January, 2014
Topography of China
China in Relief

Image produced by ACASIAN, Griffith University
China: Precipitation
Agricultural Regions

The map illustrates the agricultural regions of China, with varying shades indicating different percentages of land under cultivation. Key features include:

- Non-cultivated regions are depicted in light green.
- Regions with 10% to 30% cultivation are shown in medium green.
- Highly cultivated areas are highlighted in dark green.

Notable regions include:
- Northwestern China: Predominantly wheat and sorghum.
- Northeast China: Predominantly rice and corn.
- The Yangtze River Valley: Predominantly rice and tea.
- The Loess Plateau: Predominantly wheat and corn.

Legend:
- Non-cultivated:
- 0%:
- 10%:
- 30%:

Scale:
- 0-500 Kilometers
- 0-500 Miles

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

Cities marked include:
- Beijing
- Shanghai
- Lhasa
- Beijing

Other regions include:
- Xinjiang
- Sichuan
- Hainan
- Tibet

Key:
- Chinese line of control
- Indian claim

Note: The map does not detail specific crop types beyond the general categories mentioned.

Fig. 18. The Biomes of East Asia.
China: Languages

Note the extent of yellow and green, which are all “Chinese”
Macroregions of China Proper

Seasonal Distribution of Precipitation

Figure 2.2. Distribution of the annual share of summer (June to August) rains shows their dominance throughout northern China. Redrawn from Domrös and Peng, The Climate of China, 6, 169.
Lower Yangtze


Map 2  Core-periphery structure of the Lower Yangzi macroregion, showing high-order cities and major waterways, 1990
Provincial Income Per Capita

Source: Matt Schiavenza, Mapping China’s Income Inequality:
Rural-urban Differences

From Damian Topin, BBC News, 2009:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13945072
Distribution of Urbanization

Shenyang: Traditionally a center of heavy industry and manufacturing, Shenyang has faced rising unemployment and slowing economic growth with the contraction of the state-owned enterprise sector.

Chongqing: A regional economic hub, Chongqing has boomed with the construction of nearby Three Gorges Dam and the promotion of the city as a “Gateway to the West.”

Shenzhen: Once a small border town, Shenzhen has drawn huge amounts of outside investment and migrant labor due to its proximity to Hong Kong and its status since 1980 as China's first Special Economic Zone.
Migration Flows in the late 00s

Figure 2. The 20 largest interprovincial migration flows, 2005–2010.

From Kam Wing Chan, Migration and Development in China, 2012
Incredibly Cool Tool

China's provinces - Interactive map

How to use

- If you are interested in comparing a single indicator across provinces please select an indicator from the button "Indicator". In addition, you may select different years.

- If you want to compare time series for different provinces please click on the respective provinces or chose them from the "Select province" menu.

- For pre-defined chartbooks please click here. Alternatively you may move the cursor to the desired province and choose either HTML or PDF from the pop-up menu.