

JSISA405/ANTH 449: Social Change in East Asia  
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Handout #1

### **Basic Facts on East Asia<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Japan (Nihon Koku 日本國)**

Capital: Tōkyō (東京); Prime Minister (Naikaku-sōri-daijin 內閣總理大臣, or Shushō 首相): Abe Shinzō (安倍晋三) LDP (自民党) since September 2012 (LDP 1955-1993, DPJ since 2009-12, LDP 2012 on)  
Population: 127 million; average annual population growth -0.1(decline since 2010)  
Area: 377,800 km<sup>2</sup> (14.1% cultivated)  
Population Density: 350/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 2,355/km<sup>2</sup>); 65.5% urban  
Literacy: 99%  
GDP: \$5,154 billion (3<sup>rd</sup> in world, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Asia); agriculture 2%; growth -0.6  
Per Capita GNI: \$40,846 (22<sup>nd</sup> in world)

#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Chosŏn Minjujuŭi Inmin Konghwaguk) 조선민주주의 공화국 “朝鮮民主主義共和國”**

Capital: P'yŏngyang (평양 “平壤”); Formal Head of State: Chairman of the Politburo of the Supreme People's Assembly, Ch'oe Ryonghae (since 2019 elections): 최고 인민회의 상임위원장 최룡해 “最高人民會議 常任委員長崔龍海”); Actual leader Kim Jong Un (Kim Chŏngŭn, 김정은 金正恩), since 2016 State Affairs Commission Chair and Korean Workers Party Chair (국무위원회장과 조선로동 당총서기 “國務委員會長 朝鮮労働黨總書記). Kim Il Sung 1946-1994, Kim Jong Il 1994-2011, Kim Jong Un 2011-).  
Population: 24.9 million; annual population growth .07%  
Area: 122,300 km<sup>2</sup> (19% cultivated)  
Population Density: 189/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 940/km<sup>2</sup>); 61.4% urban  
Literacy: 99%  
GDP: \$40 billion (102<sup>nd</sup> in the world); agriculture and fisheries 37%; annual growth 1.3% last year  
Per Capita GNI: \$1800 PPP

<sup>1</sup> Economic figures are 2019 IMF figures, but PPP figures are IMF 2017.

Republic of Korea (Taehan Min'guk) 대한민국 “大韓民國”

Capital: Seoul (서울); president (대통령 大統領) Mun Jae-in (문재인 文在寅) of the Democratic Party (until 2022); Prime Minister (국무총리 國務總理): Chung Sye-kyun (정세균 丁世均) since 2020

Population: 51.5 million; 1990-2001 average annual population growth 0.3%

Area: 99,000 km<sup>2</sup> (21.6% cultivated)

Population Density: 528/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 2,116/km<sup>2</sup>); 80.5% urban

Literacy: 98%

GDP: \$1,629 billion (12<sup>th</sup> in world, 4<sup>th</sup> in Asia); agriculture 3%; growth 3.6

Per Capita GNI: \$31,430 (PPP) (27<sup>th</sup> in the world)

People's Republic of China (Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó) 中華人民共和國

Capital: Běijīng (Peking) 北京: Party General Secretary (中国共产党中央委员会总书记), President (中华人民共和国主席), Chair Party Central Military Commission (中国共产党中央军事委员长): Xi Jinping (習近平); Prime Minister (国务院总理): Li Keqiang (李克强)

Population: 1,386 million (91% Han Chinese 漢族); annual growth 0.6%

Area: 9,561,000 km<sup>2</sup> (10.1% cultivated)

Population Density: 136/km<sup>2</sup>; 39.6% urban

Literacy: 95%

GDP: \$14,140 billion (2<sup>nd</sup> in world, 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia); agriculture and fisheries 14.6%; growth 8.9%

Per Capita GDP \$10,098 (\$16,624 PPP) (65<sup>th</sup>)

Republic of China (Zhōnghuá Mínguó—i.e. Taiwan) 中華民國即臺灣

Capital: Táiběi 臺北; President (總統): Tsai Ing-wen 蔡英文 of Democratic Progressive Party 民主進步黨, four year term from May 2016, reelected 2020

Population: 23.6 million (84% "Taiwanese", 2% aborigine, 14% “mainlander”); annual growth 0.2%

Area: 36,000 km<sup>2</sup> (25% cultivated)

Population Density: 633/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 2,333/km<sup>2</sup>); 69% urban

Literacy: 96%

GDP: \$586 billion (20<sup>th</sup> in world, 7<sup>th</sup> in Asia); agriculture and fisheries 3.5%; growth 4.1%

Per Capita GDP: \$24,827 (\$49,827 PPP) 34<sup>th</sup>

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (part of PRC since July 1, 1997) 香港特別行政區

Capital: Hong Kong Island: Chief Executive: Carrie Lam (行政長官林鄭月娥 Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor) (5 years from March 26, 2017)—abbreviation 香港特首

Population: 7.4 million; annual growth 1990-2001 average population growth 1.4%

Area: 1,071 km<sup>2</sup> (8.8% cultivated)

Population Density: 6,352/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 62,247/km<sup>2</sup>; 100% urban

Literacy: male 96%, female 88%

GDP \$372 billion (32<sup>nd</sup> in world if a country) billion; agriculture 0%; growth 5%  
Per Capita GDP: \$49,334 PPP (\$37,927 PPP 12<sup>th</sup> in world, 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia)

Macau Special Administrative Region (part of PRC since December 20th, 1999) 澳門特別行政區

Capital: Macau; Chief Executive, Ho lat Seng (five years from 2014) 行政长官賀一誠  
since 2019

Population: 0.6 million; annual growth 1.7%

Area: 29.2 km<sup>2</sup> (n.a. cultivated)

Population Density: 18,428/km<sup>2</sup>; 99% urban

Literacy: 93.5

GDP: \$55 billion (81<sup>st</sup> in the world if a country)

Per Capita GDP: \$81,151 (PPP \$104,862) 1<sup>st</sup> in world

Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Cộng hòa Xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam) “共和社會主義越南”

Capital: Hanoi “河內”; President (formal head of state) and Communist Party General Secretary, Nguyễn Phú Trọng; Prime Minister: Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (both members of the Politburo of the Vietnamese Communist Party)

Population: 95.5 million (85.7% Kinh); 1990-2001 average annual growth 1.9%

Area: 332,000 km<sup>2</sup> (20% cultivated\*\*)

Population Density: 253/km<sup>2</sup> (agricultural 1,094/km<sup>2</sup>); 26.24% urban

Literacy: male 96%, female 91%

GNP: \$261 billion (44<sup>th</sup> in world); agriculture 21.8%, Growth 5.9%

Per Capita GDP: \$2,739 (\$6,876 PPP) PPP (123<sup>rd</sup>)

\*\*substantial reclaimable land still exists

N.B. US GDP \$21,427 billion (2013-4)

US Per capita GDP \$65,112 (7<sup>th</sup>)

\*as percentage of the US

size of the economy.	US 100, China 72, Japan 25, South Korea 8, Taiwan 3, Vietnam 1
per capita GDP	US 100, China 28, Japan 72, South Korea 67, Taiwan 84, Vietnam 12