INTRODUCTION
China's civilization dates from at least 1200 B.C. From the 3rd century B.C. and for the next two millennia, China alternated between periods of unity and disunity under a succession of imperial dynasties. After World War II, the Chinese Communist Party under MAO Zedong established an autocratic socialist system.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President XI Jinping
Head of Government
Premier LI Keqiang
Government Type
communist party-led state
Capital
Beijing
Legislature
unicameral National People's Congress or Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (maximum of 3,000 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 9,596,960 sq km
Land: 9,326,410 sq km
Water: 270,550 sq km
Climate
extremely diverse; tropical in south to subarctic in north
Natural Resources
coal, iron ore, petroleum, natural gas, mercury, tin, tungsten, antimony, manganese, molybdenum, vanadium, magnetite, aluminum, lead, zinc, rare earth elements, uranium, hydropower potential (world's largest), arable land

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
one of the world's top two economies; sustained growth due to export relations, its manufacturing sector, and low-wage workers; only major economy to avoid COVID-19 economic decline; recovery efforts slowing due to longstanding poverty imbalances and other institutional issues; state-sponsored economic controls
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $23.01 trillion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $16,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - telecommunications, iron/steel, other metals, coal, machinery, armaments, textiles/apparel, petroleum, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, consumer products, food processing
Agricultural products - maize, rice, vegetables, wheat, sugarcane, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelons, sweet potatoes
Exports $2.732 trillion (2020 est.)
broadcasting equipment, computers, integrated circuits, office machinery and parts, telephones (2019)
partners: US 17%, Hong Kong 10%, Japan 6% (2019)
Imports $2.363 trillion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, integrated circuits, iron, natural gas, cars, gold (2019)
partners: South Korea 9%, Japan 8%, Australia 7%, Germany 7%, US 7%, Taiwan 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
1.4 billion (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.26% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Han Chinese 91.6%, Zhuang 1.3%, other (includes Hui, Manchu, Uighur, Miao, Yi, Tu, Tibet, Mongol, Dong, Buyei, Yao, Bai, Korean, Hani, Li, Kazakh, Dai) 7.1% (2010 est.)
Language
Standard Chinese or Mandarin (official; Putonghua, based on the Beijing dialect), Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghainese), Minbei (Fuzhou), Minnan (Hokkien-Taiwanese), Xiang, Gan, Hakka dialects, minority languages
Religion
folk religion 21.9%, Buddhist 18.3%, Christian 5.2%, Muslim 2%, Hindu < 0.1%, Jewish < 0.1%, other 0.7% (includes Daoist (Taoist), unaffiliated 51.8% (2020 est.)