### CHINA'S ONE CHILD POLICY THROUGH THE YEARS

**BY K. DAY**

This past fall, China’s ruling Communist Party decided that all couples would be allowed to have two children, ending the decade-old one-child policy. The policy began in 1979 as a temporary measure to control the surging population and to limit the demands on water and resources. The policy only applied to couples of the ethnic Han majority. Ethnic minorities were allowed more than one child, and in 1984 rural couples were allowed two children if their firstborn was a girl. In 2013, the government decided that any couple was allowed to have two children if at least one of the parents was an only child. All of these revisions have led to the removal of the one-child policy as of October 2015.

The rule was enforced through a variety of incentives, coercions and punishments from the government. Couples who had one child would receive “one-child certificates” that entitled them to better social services and childcare benefits. Couples in urban areas who did not follow the policy had salary reductions of 15 percent until the child reached age seven. Couples in rural areas who had too many children reported that government officials would take furniture, motorcycles or other property. China also hired more than one million workers to ensure that women would not have as many children. They would harass them to use birth control more frequently, to get abortions, or to get sterilized. Another technique was to deny anesthetic to women giving birth, to increase their aversion to getting pregnant again.

As one could imagine, this policy was highly successful in preventing approximately 400 million births. This has helped lift families out of poverty by easing the strain on resources. The policy has also had negative consequences, including a skewed gender ratio. The country has approximately 34 million more men than would be naturally expected. It was found that women would have sex-selective abortions, but the law was difficult to enforce due to the difficulty of proving why a couple decided to have an abortion.

The Communist Party of China decided to allow all couples to have two children to improve the imbalance of the population in relation to the gender gap and aging population. The United Nations predicts that China will lose 67 million working-age people by 2030, while doubling the number of elderly. This would put a large amount of pressure on the economy and government resources saved for the elderly. Despite the implementation of the new policy, fertility rates are believed to be declining, and China's younger generations view smaller family sizes as ideal. It will be interesting to see how this change in policy positively and negatively affects China.

---

**Threat of Mounting Chinese Corporate Debt Could Abate Economic Growth**

**BY W. GOODMAN**

China is exploring a new way to confront its mounting pile of bad corporate debt, though its top central banker sought on Saturday to dismiss worries that the plan would simply shift the burden to other parts of the country’s vast economy.

Under the conjectural proposal, Chinese officials would allow banks encumbered with growing quantities of bad loans to sell that debt to investors, said Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the People’s Bank of China. The goal is to help ameliorate one of the major impediments on China’s economy, the world’s second largest after the

---

*continued on page 2...*
...continued from page 1

United States’ and a major driver of global growth.

But Mr. Zhou and a deputy central bank governor, Pan Gongsheng, said they would take steps to make sure the effort did not keep out investors. “There’s no need to exaggerate,” Mr. Zhou said at a news conference held as part of China’s annual legislative session in Beijing. “There’s not certainty that this would be a very big market.”

China’s corporate debt has ballooned in recent years during a broader lending-and-spending binge, led by the Chinese government in an attempt to keep the country’s economy revving. China’s total debt now stands at about 2.5 years’ economic output, a level that has raised eyebrows among many economists. Much of that is corporate debt, prompting many economists to warn that those loans pose a threat to China’s economic health in the short and long run.

**CHINESE FOODS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE**

**BY E. BANKER**

Dumplings (餃子) are a traditional food in Northern China. For the Chinese New Year, a white thread is put in one of the dumplings, and whoever eats the dumpling with the thread will have longevity. A copper coin can also be put inside a dumpling, and whoever gets that dumpling is supposed to become wealthy. Popular dumpling fillings are pork, shrimp, ground chicken, beef, and vegetables.

Lucky saying for eating dumplings: Zhāo cái jīn bǎo (招财进宝), which means “Bringing in wealth and treasure”.

Spring Rolls (春卷) are usually filled with vegetables or meat, and can either be sweet or savory. The contents are rolled in wrappers and then fried, giving them a golden yellow color. Lucky saying for eating spring rolls: Huàngjīn wàn liáng (黄金万两), meaning “A ton of gold”.

The Chinese word for fish (鱼) sounds like the word for surplus, so fish is a common dish during the Chinese New Year as it brings hope of a surplus at the end of the year. The head and the tail of the fish are not supposed to be eaten until the new year as each year should begin and end with a surplus.

Lucky saying for eating fish: Níǎnnián yǒu yú (年年有余), which means “May you always have more than you need!” continued on page 4...

---

**Ethnic Groups in China**

**BY E. MURRAY**

China is a relatively homogenous country in terms of ethnicity, with nearly 92% of the population identifying as Han. There are, however, 55 officially recognized minority ethnic groups in China. Many of these officially recognized groups contain, within themselves, sub-groups distinct from one another. This is because the Chinese government, in classifying ethnic groups, often lumped together minority groups. All of the ethnic minority groups have varying degrees of distinction from the Han majority. These differences in levels of separation mean that there are differences in the way ethnic minority groups are integrated into mainstream China. There have been tensions between these groups and the Han in some areas, particularly Tibet, for some time. That’s not to say, however, that these groups are truly “oppressed”. The constitution of the PRC guarantees equal rights for ethnic minorities. The national government has set up small autonomous regions for some ethnic groups as a means of accommodating their interests without creating tension. In addition, ethnic minorities have enjoyed privileges such as extra economic development initiatives and exemption from the one-child policy. It is important to understand ethnic minority groups as they are an important part of the cultural variety of China.
THE CONTROVERSY OF CHOU TZUYU

BY M. RAFFERTY

Chou Tzuyu, although famous for her career as a member of the pop girl group Twice, has recently made the headlines for a different form of spotlight. This young Taiwanese singer has sparked up controversy away the Chinese and Taiwanese relations by simply holding up a small flag during a television appearance. She appeared on a reality show in South Korea with her fellow group members and held a Republic of China flag alongside of her Taiwan flag. Immediately the public attacked the issue and deemed her a Taiwanese Independence activist. Instead of her agency, JYP Entertainment, standing behind her actions they posted a video of her stating an apology. Although it is not clear whether this was a genuine apology or she was pressured to make a statement by her agents, the effect had already taken place. She was immediately barred from Chinese television, stripped of her endorsements and suspended from all future engagements in China. If it seems the public has blown this small act out of proportion I would generally agree but with a look at the events surrounding this small display of independence my thoughts tend to differ.

Chou Tzuyu made her apology statements the day before the general elections took place in Taiwan and because of her large media coverage the candidates were suggested to take a position on the issue. Her apology stated,“There is only one China, the two sides of the strait are one, and I have always felt proud to be Chinese. I feel extremely apologetic to my company and to Internet friends on both sides of the strait for the hurt that I have caused, and I also feel very guilty.” The Democratic Progressive Party candidate, Tsai Ing-wen, supported Chou’s actions and thought she should not be punished for waving her flag and expressing support for her country. The incumbent candidate Eric Chu, sided with JYP Entertainment and disapproved of her actions. The numbers were clear: the public supported Chou Tzuyu and therefore voted for Tsai Ing-wen the next day at the polls. Although he did already have the majority support, this decision changed the vote of nearly 1.34 million young voters who were either undecided or stated they were voting for Chu previously. This boosted his approval rating and made a huge gap in the winning margin.

Since the apology and the election the Taiwanese have clearly denounced the treatment Chou Tzuyu has been given from JYP Entertainment and the media as a whole. From being banned from television in Taiwan and China her career will take a detrimental hit but the publicity she is being given will equal out this damper in her performances. What may have seemed like a simple act in her mind has become the center of attention for people all around the world. Whether she is an independence activist or not, this notion will not be forgotten anytime soon and she will be forced to live with the disapproval of China forever.
...continued from page 3

in the South China Sea, and a possible trade war with the United States of America. These legislatures are so effective at governing, that they don’t have to meet again until the next year. They deserve a break after all of their hard work. This group of legislatures is not directed by the people of China. Instead, the righteous Chinese Communist Party, CCP for short, chooses representatives for the people of China. This is because, the CCP knows what its citizens want, even though it does not ask its citizens. This legislative body has great power on paper, but in actuality, has none. Instead of allowing the legislature to make laws, the CCP decides what laws should be enacted, and gracially allows the legislature to sign them into law. The people of China are lucky to have such a transparent and fair legislative system. There is great consensus in policy making in the National People’s Congress. For some apparent reason, all dissidents go on “vacations” paid for and implemented by the Chinese Communist Party. These dissidents never speak out again, or are never heard from again. What a truly great place to live. Long live the CCP!

POLLUTION IN CHINA
BY A. KELLY

China is faced with a huge problem as a consequence of its growth: It’s poor environment. Due to industrialization, population growth, and a lack of concern in the past, China is now in the midst of a crisis. China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, surpassing America. The country both produces and consumes a huge amount of energy in coal.

Pollution is the largest effect that can be seen; In 2013, the country experienced a huge smog known as “airpocalypse.” During that time, the concentration of hazardous particles was forty times the level deemed safe. Last year, the government was forced to issue red alerts and even close schools. At least 80% of the air in China’s cities did not meet national pollution standards in the majority of 2015.

Air pollution has gotten the attention of the Chinese citizens, who are bringing the issue to the attention of their political leaders. President Xi met with U.S. President Obama, and agreed to sign the Paris agreement on climate change, a United Nations accord. The Xi administration has endorsed a large expansion of renewable energy sources, and initiated a new 5-year plan at the beginning of this year that calls for environmental laws to be enforced.

Pollution is a large and prevalent problem for China, and the steps the government is taking are believed to be a promising start.

...continued from page 2

Longevity Noodles (长寿面) are a symbol of longevity for their eater’s life because of their long length. This type of noodle is eaten on birthdays and during other holidays. Saying for longevity noodles: Shòu bǐ nán shān (寿比南山), meaning “May you live as long as Mount Nan”.

(Image: CNN)