The East Asian Realm

- **Major issues**
  - World’s most populous realm.
  - One of the world’s earliest culture hearths.
  - Political and economic forces continue to transform traditional cultural landscapes.
  - Intensifying regional disparities.
  - Population concentrations in the east, situated in river basins.
  - Political geography reveals instability.

- **Context**
  - Considered as the “Chinese Realm” and the “Japanese Realm”.
  - Korea being a “zone of interaction” between China and Japan.
  - Definition came after WWII.
  - Chinese culture area:
    - Mother civilization.
    - Japanese and Korean cultures strongly influenced by China.

- **Foreign influence**
  - Both were not influenced from the outside until late 19th century.
  - China was forced to open Treaty Ports (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tianjin, etc.).
  - Japan remained closed but reformed with foreign technology.

- **Political Issues**
  - Korea and its reunification.
  - China and Taiwan.
  - The South China Sea.

- **Economic Issues**
  - Growth and development.
  - Huge imbalances in the regional distribution of wealth.
    - Between countries.
    - Within countries (China).
  - Food supply.
  - Resources hungry China and Japan.

- **Demographic issues**
  - Overpopulation.
  - Urbanization and migration (China):
    - Moving from a rural to an industrial society.
    - Massive movements from the countryside to cities.
  - Missing female population.

- **Environmental issues**
  - Strong focus on development.
  - Air quality (urban and regional):
    - 16 of the world’s 20 most polluted cities are in China.
  - Access to water (depletion of river systems and aquifers).
  - Depletion of natural resources.
**China**

- **Geography**
  - A factor of unity as well as diversity.
  - 3rd largest country in the world.
  - Comparable surface with Europe and the United States:
    - U.S.: 3.6 million square miles.
    - China: 3.7 million square miles.
  - It is a lot but not enough.
  - 65% of the country mountainous.
  - Arable land represents 12% of the national territory as opposed to 25% for the United States.
  - Per capita (0.086 hectare) is well below the world average.

- **The Chinese Realm**
  - East sea border.
  - West: Deserts and mountains.
  - North: Deserts.
  - South: Himalayas.
  - Cultural division between the Han realm and the China of the minorities.
  - Han China represents 92% of the population.
  - Dominantly live in mountainous or arid regions.
  - Geopolitical division:
    - Russia.
    - South Korea.
    - Taiwan.

- **Contrasts**
  - Authoritarian Government / Opening of the Economy.
  - Rural Interior / Urbanizing Coast.
  - Wheat Growing North / Rice Growing South.
  - Hans / Minorities.
  - Mandarin Hans / Non-Mandarin Hans (Cantonese, Wu, Hakka, etc.).

- **The three Chinas**
  - **The Coast**
    - Forefront of modernization.
    - Political and economic center.
    - Rich, urbanized and open to the world.
  - **The Center**
    - Agricultural and demographic heath.
    - Poor and rural China.
  - **The West**
    - Sparsely populated.
    - Region of minorities.
    - Most mineral resources.

- **Demographics...**
  - More people than the combined population of Europe, the Americas and Japan.
  - The demography of China is a powerful trend (1.29 billion):
    - About 14-17 million people are added each year in 1980s.
    - Average of 13 million people per year in the 1990s.
    - 10 million people per year in the 2000s.
    - About 1.5 billion by 2050.
  - 400 million Chinese live in towns and cities (30-35%).
  - 64% of the population lives in rural areas (950 millions).
  - 343 million females are in their reproductive age.
The Population of China, 0-2050

Chinese Population, 1949-2000 (in millions) (projections to 2050)

Population of Selected Chinese Provinces, 1998

China

- The problems of controlling it...
  - The population exploded after 1949.
  - Population control was secondary.
  - Mao Zedong saw numbers as a workforce and a way to fight the Soviet Union and the United States.
  - Calls for women to "breed for the motherland".

- Population distribution
  - Excessive concentration:
    - 50% of the population lives on 8.2% of the land.
    - Bulk of the population along the coast.
  - East China accounts for 90% of the population.
  - 56%, about 728 million, are living in mountainous areas.
  - High density rural areas.

China

- Current issues
  - Population growth undermines Chinese development (education, health, food, transportation).
  - About 10 million persons reach the job market each year.
  - Increasing ethnic diversity:
    - The government had not enforced the One Child Policy among the country's 55 recognized minority groups.
  - Missing female population.
  - Sustaining agriculture.
  - Coping with huge urban growth.

Population Pyramid of China, 2000
China

- Land ownership:
  - Peasants do not own the land they use (collectivization).
  - With reforms, most of the land has been rented.
  - Peasants victims of high taxes and arbitrary expropriation.

- Urbanization, industrialization and transport:
  - Decreased agricultural land in the most productive areas.
  - Speculation around cities towards golf courses and leisure centers at the expense of agriculture.
  - The state is investing less in agriculture.
  - Local authorities are more interested by business (more taxes).

- Dependency:
  - China is now a net importer of grain.
  - By 2030, China would need to import the current global grain production.

China

The appeal of modernization

- For the last 500 years, China had an inferiority complex.
- Strong pressure to portray China as a modernizing nation.
- Large investments in grandiose projects:
  - Three Gorges Dam.
  - First maglev train in Shanghai (2003).
  - First Chinese in space (2003).
  - New international airports (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou).
  - 2008 Olympics.
- Development of the telecom market:
  - Easier and cheaper to switch to the latest technology.
  - China has 300 million cell phone subscribers.
  - 5 million new subscribers per month.
  - 70% of Beijing resident have a cell phone; 60% for Shanghai (2002).
  - 42% of the Guangdong province population; 30 million.
  - Half of the rural residents have a television.

China

Growing consumption of resources

- Economic growth has increased China’s consumption of resources:
  - “The Dragon is hungry”.
  - Consumes 50% of the world’s cement.
  - 30% of the coal.
  - 40% of the steel.
  - Second largest consumer of oil after the United States.
  - Energy supply problems with increasing blackouts.
  - Completion of a natural gas pipeline in 2004 (Tarim Basin to Shanghai).
- Driving up global commodity prices:
  - Increased global competition caused by China.
  - Fear that China may “export inflation”.
- China may hit a “resource wall” inhibiting future developments.

China

World dominance in manufacturing

- Two processes:
  - Addition of new manufacturing activities either the outcome of FDI or internal investments (modern facilities).
  - The closing down of many manufacturing activities, mainly the outcome of Chinese competition and/or comparative advantages.
- 50% of the world’s TVs.
- 60% of the world’s cell phones.
- 50% the world’s shoes (and 95% of those sold in the United States).
- 50% of the toys sold in the United States.
- 90% of the sporting goods sold in the United States.
- 100% of Levi’s blue jeans are now made in China.

China

Industrial development problems

- Pulling out millions of Chinese out of poverty:
  - More than 200 million peasants live on less than $1 a day.
  - Justifies any policy and project.
- Important environmental costs.
- Inequality is becoming a standard:
  - Wages remain $50 to $70 per month.
  - With inflation, standards of living are going down.
- Chinese exports are similar to Pacific Asian exports:
  - Intense competition from Thailand, Indonesia, and South Korea.
  - China is however winning the competition war.
- Industrial overcapacity:
  - Over investment.
  - Over supply of consumption goods, driving prices down.

Jakota

The Jakota triangle

- Japan, South Korea, Taiwan.
- The most advanced segment of the region.
- Rapid economic development.
- Great cities:
  - Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Taipei.
- Enormous consumption of raw materials.
- State-of-the-art industries.
- Voluminous exports.
- Global links.
- Trades surpluses.
Location
- "Ji-pan" in Chinese:
  - Since Western civilizations encountered China before Japan, the name "Japan" stuck.
- Nihon (or Nippon), meaning "Source of the sun".
- Relative isolation in Pacific Asia:
  - Insularity.
  - Do not share a land border with any country.
- Maritime access:
  - Shimakuni (island country)
  - Labeled as the Great Britain of the Pacific.

Economic domination
- Small-sized country; the size of California.
- Average-sized population (127 millions).
- Very limited array of resources:
  - Favored the development of trade.
  - What Japan does not have on its national territory is obtained through trade.
  - Its industrial corporations and its banks are controlling a significant array of resources.
- Domination of the Pacific Asian economy:
  - Vast national market.
  - Productive labor force.
  - Financial power.
  - Technological innovator.

Linking the main Japanese islands
- Required the construction of bridges and tunnels.
- Impressive engineering achievements.
  - 1) Seto-Ohashi bridge: Shikoku/Honshu, Naruto Strait.
  - 2) Kanmon bridge: Strait of Shimonoseki, Kyushu/Honshu.
  - 3) Seikan tunnel: Tsugaru Strait (Honshu/Hokkaido), 33 miles, 1988, longest in the world.

Automobile Production, United States, Japan and Germany, 1950-2004 (in millions)

Global Production per Car Manufacturer, 2001

The Shinkansen High Speed Rail Network
South Korea

**Geography**
- “The shrimp between the whales”.
- About the size of Indiana.
- Population of 48 million.
- Highly homogenous ethnicity and linguistically (100% Korean).
- Religiously divided between Christianity (49%) and Buddhism (47%).
- 75% urban with 27% of the population living in Seoul (13 million).
- 5 million Koreans live overseas: 1 million in the United States.

**The Korean War (1950-1953)**
- Antagonism of the two new nations:
  - Supported by China and the USSR.
  - Invasion of South Korea by North Korea (1950).
- United Nations intervention:
  - Multinational force intervened and repelled the invasion (1951).
  - Military intervention of China (1952).
- An armistice was signed (1953):
  - Both countries are still technically at war.
  - 4 million civilian perished.
  - Millions of refugees trapped in the division of Korea.
- The demilitarized zone of the 38th parallel:
  - 240 km in length and 4 km in width.
  - Current border between the Koreas.
  - The United States maintains a force of 45,000 troops.

Taiwan

**Geographical Context**
- About 150 km (100 miles) from the coast of southeast China.
- About the size of Idaho.
- Similar constraints than neighboring countries:
  - 60% of the territory is composed of mountains.
  - Chungyang Range covers about 50% the total land area.
  - 25% usable for agriculture.
- Bulk of the population lives in the western coastal plain.
- Quemoy and Matsu islands:
  - Used for defensive purposes.

**The integration of the two Chinas**
- Strong ideological conflicts prevents reintegration.
- Tiananmen massacre (1989):
  - Reinforced mistrust towards mainland China.
  - Provided additional support by the United States.
- One China Policy:
  - Rapprochement with China (1991):
    - Declaration of the end of hostilities (Chinese Civil War).
    - Recognition of the existence of the PRC by the ROC.
  - Taiwan government recognized there is one China and that Taiwan is a province of China (1995).
  - Officially gave up its pretension of being the representative government of China.

**Towards the first Chinese democracy in history**
- 40 years of economic growth, independence and a market economy has changed considerably the Taiwanese society.
- Democratization and multiparty system (1987).
- The first elections are organized (1989):
  - Ending 40 years of single party government.
  - Put back the Kuomintang in power (this time a legitimate power).
  - Affirmation of the Taiwanese identity.
  - Creates an uneasy situation with the PRC:
    - Reintegration becomes more problematic.