Chapter 26-28: East Asia
Growing competition

**JAKOTA TRIANGLE** – Japan south Korea & Taiwan
Introduction

– East Asia is the most populous region in the world
  • 1.3 BILLION people
– China is the most populous country, and the oldest continuous national culture
– Eastern China is undergoing rapid economic development
– East Asia has experienced colonization, and has seen both internal and international conflict
– East Asia is one of the core areas of the world economy and an emerging center of political power
– China – One of world’s culture hearths
  • Consistently civilized for over 4000 years
Relative Location
CHINA’ S RELATIVE LOCATION

• ISOLATION
  – Natural protective barriers (Surrounded by mountains and desert)
    • Himalaya, Altay mountains and Gobi Desert
  – Effects of one ocean
  – Today the ocean plays a major role in the economic (and cultural) transformation of coastal China.
Environmental Geography:

- **Water – Long rivers of China**
  - Begin in the Plateau of Tibet
  - (Central) China’s Yangtze River (longest river), (W) Xi River and (N) Yellow River (has history of flooding)
  - Provides fertile soil
  - Three Gorges Dam (largest hydroelectric power plant)

- **Water – short and swift rivers of Japan and Korea**
  - Provide hydroelectric power
  - Han River – South Korea's capital (Seoul)
Environmental Geography:

• **Loess** – a fine, wind-blown deposited material
  
  • Light tan color accounts for the old name, Yellow river and Yellow Sea
    
    – Loess is fertile, but vulnerable to erosion when plowed
The Grand Canal

- Oldest and longest canal in China (over 1,000 miles long)
- Useful for moving people and goods
Environmental Geography:

• Other East Asian Environmental Problems
  – Forests and Deforestation
    • Little conservation of forests in China; much more in Japan
    • Reforestation programs have been unsuccessful
    • Substantial forests found in the far north and along Tibetan border
    • China may need to import wood products for development
Environmental Issues in East Asia

Forest Preservation. Japan has been one of the world's most successful countries in preserving its forests. One reason why it has been able to do this, however, is because it imports large amounts of lumber from Southeast Asia and North America.

Soil Erosion. Some of the most severe soil erosion in the world can be found in the Loess Plateau of central China.

Tian-Tong Gorges Dam. This massive dam on the Yangtze River will provide relatively clean power, but will endanger several species and will displace several million people.

Panda Conservation Efforts. Efforts are being made to save critical habitat for pandas in the rugged mountains west of Sichuan Basin.

Yangtze Flooding. Deforestation in the uplands coupled with the draining and filling of regulatory lakes in the basins has resulted in increasingly severe floods on the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

Deforestation in Southern China. Most of the uplands of southern China are largely deforested—the results of a process that dates back hundreds of years but which accelerated in the twentieth century. Reforestation efforts have been, at best, partially successful.
Environmental Geography:

• Pollution
  • China’s development causing water pollution, toxic waste dumping, and air pollution from the burning of high sulfur coal
  • Japan, Taiwan, South Korea have implemented strict pollution controls

– Environmental Issues in Japan
  • Japan has a relatively clean environment
    – Environmental restrictions, cleanup and pollution exporting
      » Pollution exporting: Location of their dirtier factories elsewhere in the world
16 of the world’s 20 most polluted cities are in China
No regulations on dumping in waterways
Environmental Geography:

- East Asia’s Physical Geography
  - Large area gives it climatic variability
    - Japan’s Physical Environment
      - Subtropical (south) and subarctic (north) - Climatic variations in the east and west
      - 85% of the country is mountainous
        - Japan: history of forest conservation
  - 10% of China’s land suitable for farming
    - Leading rice producer
  - 25% of land in South Korea suitable for farming
  - Most countries rely on fishing industry
Physical Geography of East Asia

Loess deposits. During the last ice age, up to several hundred feet of wind-blown silt, called loess, was deposited on the uplands of the so-called Loess Plateau. Loess is very fertile, but it is easily eroded by running water.

Flood erosion. Eroded loess has been gradually redeposited during floods on the North China Plain, an extremely flat and agriculturally productive region of China.

Geologic activity. Owing to the nearby convergence of plate boundaries, Japan is one of the most geologically active countries in the world. Earthquakes are common, and volcanoes and hot springs abound.

Coastal region. The coastline of south-central China is rugged and deeply indented, resulting in a picturesque seashore as well as a degree of isolation from the rest of China.
Environmental Geography: Resource Pressures in a Crowded Land

• East Asia’s Physical Geography (cont.)
  – Taiwan’s Environment
    • (Central and eastern regions) Rugged and mountainous; west is dominated by an alluvial plain; extensive forests
  – Chinese Environments
    • (Southern) Rugged mountains and hills
    • Lowland basins
    • (Northern): Gobi Desert, North China Plain, Loess Plateau
  – Korean Landscapes
    • Mountainous country
    • South Korea has better farmlands than North Korea
Climate Map of East Asia
Comparing Size & Latitude
Population and Settlement

• Chinese Settlement
  – Culture Hearth (yellow river)
  – Han – largest ethnic group in China
  – 90% live on only 1/6 of the land (fertile plains) and urban centers (Shanghai, Beijing)
  – 1979 “one-child” policy

• Japanese Settlement
  – 99% of population is ethnic Japanese
  – Settlement Patterns
    • Tokaido corridor
      – Tokyo – world’s most populated urban area (26 million)
    • Mostly crowded in industrial belt
      – (most crowded megalopolis in the world)
  – Japan’s Urbanization = overcrowding
Population settlements

- Mongolia: 2.5 million people (live interior)
- Taiwan – most live in coastal cities
- North and South Korea – coastal plains
  - 2/3 live in rapidly growing cities (Seoul and Pyongyang)
Population Map of East Asia

Central Manchuria. Manchuria’s central plain is thickly peopled, whereas the uplands of the west, east, and north still have relatively few people, making this one of the more sparsely populated parts of East Asia.

The North China Plain and the Loess Plateau. The North China Plain is one of the most densely settled agricultural landscapes in the world. To the west, the Loess Plateau is much more sparsely settled, but it is often still considered overpopulated, due to its environmental limitations.

Japan and South Korea. Japan and South Korea are more densely populated than they appear on this map. The populations of both countries are highly concentrated in major cities, with most upland areas remaining relatively sparsely populated.

Eastern Taiwan. Taiwan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, yet almost all of its people live in a relatively narrow belt along the western and northern coasts.

River valleys. In southern China, population is clearly concentrated in the river valleys, leaving the uplands more sparsely settled.
KOREA: NORTH-SOUTH CONTRASTS

• NORTH KOREA
  – 55% of the land, 1/3 of the population, extremely rural
  – Communist (Dear Leader)
  – Inefficient, non-productive agriculture
  – Limited trade – former Soviet Union and China

• SOUTH KOREA
  – 45% of the land, 2/3s of the population, highly urbanized
  – Modern factories
  – Intensive, increasingly mechanized agriculture
  – Extensive trade – US, Japan, and Western Europe
TAIWAN

• Historical background:
  – Located 90 miles off China’s coast
  – 1949 – Chinese Nationalists – led by Chiang Kai-shek- fled from the mainland and established the Republic of China (ROC)
  – Mainland China ruled by Mao Zedong (Communist) called People’s Republic of China

• Both looking for reunification if Communist left government

• Democratic society – still tied to China

• “One country, two systems”
In China Agriculture Remains Important: Rice in south & wheat in North
expansion of the Chinese empires

- Mongol movements
- Indian groups
- Muslim groups
- Vietnamese
- Other kingdoms
- Chinese empire 5000 B.C.
- Chinese empire 2000 B.C.
- Chinese empire 200 B.C.
- Chinese empire A.D. 1750

Globalization & Diversity: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, Wyckoff
Language Systems

• The Chinese Writing System
  • Ideographic writing: form of writing in which symbol (ideograph or character) represents primarily an idea or thing rather than a sound
    – Han Chinese most widely spoken in China
    – Mandarin is official Chinese language
    – Japanese not related to other languages
Three Religious Traditions: Confucianism, Buddhism and Shintoism

- The Confucian Legacy
  - **Confucianism**: the philosophy developed by Confucius has a strong influence on the region
    - Greater influence in China and Korea than in Japan
  - took on spiritual proportions after his death - Confucianism
  - Focused on suffering of common people
  - foster social stability
  - Emphasized that human virtues, rather than godly connections, should determine a person’s place in society
  - Obedience to authority; authority figures must act in a caring manner; education also important
Cultural Coherence and Diversity:

• Teachings have dominated Chinese life and thought for more than 20 centuries

– Modern Role of Confucian Ideas
  • In early 1900s, lagging development in East Asia raised questions about value of Confucian ideas
  • Communism hasn’t been able to completely negate its influence in China
  • Today, economic growth suggest that Confucian support for education and social stability are an advantage
  • Variable development in the region points to middle ground
Buddhist Temple
Cultural Coherence and Diversity: A Confucian Realm? (cont.)

– Shinto

• Closely bound to Japanese nationality
• Beliefs about harmony of nature and its connection to human existence
• A place- and nature-centered religion
Shintoism
Cultural Coherence and Diversity: A Confucian Realm? (cont.)

• Religious Unity and Diversity in East Asia (cont.)
  – Taoism and Other Chinese Belief Systems
    • Rooted in nature worship
  – Minority Religions
    • Christianity: Less than 1% in China and Japan, but this equals millions; about 6 million in Korea, mostly Protestants
    • Islam: Several tens of millions of Muslims in China (Hui)
Language Geography of East Asia

CHINA: ETHNOLINGUISTIC AREAS

- SINO-TIBETAN
  - Northern Mandarin
  - Southern Mandarin
  - Tibetan
  - Wu
  - North Min
  - South Min
  - Hakka
  - Yue (Cantonese)
  - Xiang
  - Gan

- ALTAIC
  - Thai
  - Miao-Yao
  - Mongolian
  - Turkic
  - Korean
  - Manchu (Tungus)

- AUSTRO-ASIATIC
- INDO-EUROPEAN
- Tajik

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CHINESE LANGUAGE

• Chinese is one of the world’s oldest active languages.

• Spoken Chinese varies dialect to dialect (not mutually intelligible), although the characters (over 50,000) used to represent the language remain the same.

• Since Chinese is written in characters rather than by a phonetic alphabet, chinese words must be transliterated so foreigners can pronounce them.
Cultural Coherence and Diversity: A Confucian Realm? (cont.)

- East Asian Cultures in Global Context
  - Tension between isolation and international involvement
    - The Globalized Fringe
      - Capitalist countries of the region are characterized by vibrant cosmopolitan internationalism
      - English a common language; many study in the U.S., England
      - Cultural flows increasingly two-way
      - Japanese products worldwide (electronics, cars, anime)
    - The Chinese Heartland
      - History of internal orientation, except on southern coast
      - China began to liberalize, open its doors in the 1970s and ’80s
      - Urban popular culture beginning to emerge
The Geopolitical Framework and Its Evolution: The Imperial Legacies of China and Japan

- Cold War rivalries split East Asia
- The Evolution of China
  - Original core was the North China Plain and Loess Plateau
  - China unified in 3rd Century B.C.; efforts to conquer Korea
    - The Manchu Ch’ing Dynasty
      - Manchu Dynasty in power 1644 to well into 19th century
- The Modern Era
  - In 1800s, China failed to keep pace with technological progress, and the empire declined
  - British used opium in lieu of silver to buy Chinese goods, setting off the Opium Wars, resulting in colonization
  - China divided into colonial “Spheres of Influence”
The Great Wall

• Several walls were built over a long period
• Protection from Mongol horsemen from the north – communication system
• Monumental engineering
China’s Grand Canal: North-South Transportation System

• Centuries-old engineering feat that is being upgraded for greater use in the coastal growth zone now.
19th Century European Colonialism (Fig. 11.25)
The Geopolitical Framework and Its Evolution: The Imperial Legacies of China and Japan (cont.)

- The Rise of Japan
  - Japan emerged as a unified state in 7th century A.D.
  - Was divided several times between 1000 and 1580 A.D.

- The Closing and Opening of Japan
  - Tokugawa Shogunate reunited Japan in 1600s, established an isolationist policy
    - **Shogun**: a military leader who theoretically remains under the emperor but who actually holds power
  - Meiji Restoration (1868): strengthened government and economy

- The Japanese Empire
  - Period of modernization and military building
    - War with China, Russia; annexation of Korea
    - War with the U.S. occurred after Japanese efforts to unite East and Southeast Asia (“Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere”)
The Geopolitical Framework and Its Evolution: The Imperial Legacies of China and Japan (cont.)

• Postwar Geopolitics
  – Japan’s Revival
    • Territory reduced to four main Japanese islands and the Ryukyu Archipelago
  – The Division of Korea
    • Divided by the U.S. and the Soviet Union after Korean War
  – The Division of China
    • Mao Zedong and the communists vs. the nationalists (who favored an authoritarian, capitalist economy)
      – Communists victorious in 1949
      – Nationalists fled to Taiwan
The Geopolitical Framework and Its Evolution: The Imperial Legacies of China and Japan (cont.)

• Postwar Geopolitics (cont.)
  – The Chinese Territorial Domain
    • Occupation of Tibet, Xinjiang, and Inner Mongolia
    • Paracel and Spratly islands
    • China reclaimed Hong Kong in 1997

• The Global Dimension of East Asian Geopolitics
  • End of Cold War and China’s economic growth shifted the balance of power in the region
  • Increasing military budget in China; China has world’s largest army, nuclear weapons, sophisticated missile technology
  • China’s human rights record
  • Improved relations between China and the U.S.
Geopolitical Issues in East Asia (Fig. 11.24)

Ethnic tensions. The people of Xinjiang, like those of Tibet, have called for more autonomy. With the opening of China in the last several decades, the people of Xinjiang, mostly Muslim Uighurs, have become more vocal about their demands, resulting in numerous outbreaks of violence.

India-China border. Aksai Chin, an uninhabited section of the Tibetan Plateau, is claimed by India but controlled by China.

Occupied Tibet. The region of Tibet was first occupied by China during the Manchu dynasty and was virtually independent from 1912 to 1950. China invaded and reoccupied the territory in 1959 and has refused Tibetans’ calls for more autonomy since. Tibet’s spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, went into exile in India following the 1959 invasion.

China-India border tensions. The McMahon line was proposed in 1913 at the watershed of the Himalayas and is the current boundary between China and India. China has never accepted this boundary and unsuccessfully invaded across this border into India in 1962 before being pushed back. Tensions are now easing in this area.

Back to China. Macau, a Portuguese colony, was returned to China on December 20, 1999.

Island claims. The Paracel Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. These islands, as well as the Paracel Islands, potentially hold petroleum reserves beneath the sea.

Spratly Islands. The Spratly Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. These islands, as well as the Paracel Islands, potentially hold petroleum reserves beneath the sea.

Hong Kong. The former British colony of Hong Kong was returned to China on July 1, 1997, and China has promised no change with Hong Kong’s capitalist economic system.

Taiwan-China tensions. The democratic Taiwanese government claims to be the legitimate government of China, while mainland China views Taiwan as a renegade province and refuses to recognize its government. The two nations are in a latent state of war and gunfire has been exchanged on Quemoy and Matsu, two islands off the Chinese mainland controlled by Taiwan.

Territorial claims. Japan claims the four southernmost Kuril Islands, which were annexed by Russia at the end of World War II.

Border dispute. The 1991 Russia-China Border Agreement established the Amur and Ussuri rivers as the official border, but the two countries have squabbled over the possession of islands in the rivers.

The Korean DMZ. The 148-mile-long border between North and South Korea was established in 1953 following the Korean conflict. Though there was no formal agreement concluding the war and officially creating the boundary, it is well demarcated and is ringed by a 2.4-mile-wide demilitarized zone.

U.S. military bases. The United States has maintained several large military bases on the island of Okinawa, causing much resentment among many islanders who wish to see, if not all, of the bases closed.
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy

• Japan’s Economy and Society
  – Japan’s Boom and Bust
    • 1950s was beginning of the Japanese “economic miracle”
      – Use of cheap labor shifts from clothing and toys to more sophisticated goods
    • 1990s: economic slump caused by collapse of inflated real estate market
    • Japan still a core country, with global influence
  – Living Standards and Social Conditions in Japan
    • High standard of living, though a little lower than U.S.
    • Low unemployment, health care provided; low crime rates
    • Literacy high, infant mortality low, life-spans long
JAPAN’S POST WWII TRANSFORMATION

• 1945 –1952: Allied Occupation
  – Economic reshaping
  – Labor legislation
  – Constitution
  – Civil rights
  – Land reform
  – U.S. “Helping hand” policy
DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

- LIFE EXPECTANCY - 2nd (22nd)
- INFANT MORTALITY - 1st (29th)
- GNP PER CAPITA - 3rd (6th)
- LITERACY RATE - 9th (6th)
- EDUCATIONAL RANK - 15th (2nd)
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - 3rd (2nd)

– JAPAN VS (UNITED STATES)
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy (cont.)

• Japan’s Economy and Society (cont.)
  – Women in Japanese Society
    • Limited opportunities for career advancement
    • Marriage and family are the expected role
    • Drop in marriage rate may be a response

• The Newly Industrialized Countries
  – The Rise of South Korea
    • 1960s program of export-led economic growth in South Korea
    • Shift from inexpensive consumer goods to heavy industrial products to high-tech equipment
    • South Korean companies increasingly became multinational – involving more than one country
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy (cont.)

• The Newly Industrialized Countries (cont.)
  – Contemporary South Korea
    • Anti-government student-led protests repressed in 1960s and ’70s
    • Middle class successfully pushed for democratization in late 1980s
  – Taiwan and Hong Kong (now part of China)
    • Both have higher per capita gross domestic product (GDP) levels than South Korea
    • Government-guided economic development in Taiwan
    • Hong Kong has a somewhat laissez-faire system: market freedom, with increased government control
    • Economies linked internationally
THE JAKOTA TRIANGLE

• CHARACTERISTICS
  – Great cities
  – Enormous consumption of raw materials
  – State-of-the-art industries
  – Voluminous exports
  – Global links
  – Trades surpluses
  – Rapid development

• CHALLENGES
  – Social problems
  – Political uncertainties
  – Vulnerabilities
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy (cont.)

- Chinese Development
  - China Under Communism
    - “Great Leap Forward” resulted in the death of 20 million
    - Cultural Revolution of the 1960s – expulsion of many to “re-education” camps
  - Toward a Postcommunist Economy
    - China seeks closer connections with the world economy
    - Experimenting with capitalism
  - Industrial Reform
    - China opened Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in which foreign investment was welcomed and state involvement is minimal
    - Economic growth is around 6-7%
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

- INVESTOR INCENTIVES
- LOW TAXES
- EASING OF IMPORT AND EXPORT REGULATIONS
- SIMPLIFIED LAND LEASES
- HIRING OF CONTRACT LABOR PERMITTED
- PRODUCTS MAY BE SOLD IN FOREIGN MARKETS AND IN CHINA (UNDER CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS)
- LOCATION WAS PRIME CONSIDERATION
Coastal Development & Open Cities Selection

- SIZE
- OVERSEAS TRADING HISTORY
- LINKS TO “OVERSEAS CHINESE”
- LEVELS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION
- POOL OF LOCAL TALENT AND LABOR
- CONFINED TO COASTAL AREAS
Economic Development: The Golden Coastline

- From the east to the west, it’s less developed.
HONG KONG

- MEANS “FRAGRANT HARBOR”- AN EXCELLENT DEEP WATER PORT
- BOOMED DURING THE KOREAN WAR
- 6 MILLION PEOPLE WITHIN 400 SQ MILES
- ECONOMY IS LARGER THAN HALF OF THE WORLD’S COUNTRIES – Great benefit to China
- 1 JULY 1997- BRITISH TRANSFERRED CONTROL TO CHINA– many businesses remained there
- HONG KONG RENAMED XIANGGANG
- ACQUIRED A NEW STATUS AS CHINA’S ONLY SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR)
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy (cont.)

- Chinese Development (cont.)
  - Social and Regional Differentiation
    - Chinese economic reforms resulted in social and regional differentiation (when certain groups and portions of a country prosper while others fail)
  - The Booming Coastal Region
    - Most of China’s economic benefits have flowed to the coastal region and Beijing
  - Interior and Northern China
    - China’s interior and northern portions have seen little economic expansion; Manchuria is a “rust belt
Shanghai and the Yangtze River

Click on this picture to see the Three Gorges video clip

Construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China
Industrial North: China’s Rust Belt

• Formerly called Manchuria
Economic and Social Development: An Emerging Core of the Global Economy (cont.)

- Chinese Development (cont.)
  - Social Conditions in China
    - China has made large investments in medical care and education
    - Regional contrasts in social development, well-being
  - China’s Population Quandary
    - 1.2 billion people in China
      - Establishment of the “one child policy”
      - Gender imbalance, other unintended consequences
  - The Position of Women
    - Traditionally low position in Chinese society
China’s Population Policy

• Under Mao Zedong – no emphasis on reducing population growth rate.
• Under Deng Xiaoping – One-child policy per family
China’s Demographics

• 1,249,100,000 (1998)
• 1,294,000,000 (2002)
• Annual natural increase 0.9% (1970s - 3%)
• Life expectancy: 69 (males), 73 (females)
• TFR 1.8 born/women (1997)
• Physiological density-3,594 people/sq mi
  – Only 10% of the land is arable and 80% of the population lives on this land
• Distribution: western 2/3s is sparsely populated (minorities)
Conclusions

• East Asia united by culture and history
• Internal ethnic tensions growing in China
• Korea must manage the transition from low-wage exporter to high-wage technological powerhouse
• Japan coping with its economic challenges

End of Chapter 11: East Asia