

Chapter 9

East Asia



Map of East Asia



Figure 9-1
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I. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- ▶ Differences in language make translation difficult
- ▶ Recent change to Pinyin spelling produced new place names
 - Pinyin: spelling system based on Chinese sounds
 - ▶ Example: Peking → Beijing; Canton → Guangzhou

A. Physical Patterns

▶ Landforms

- Series of mountain ranges from north to south, created by tectonic impact of South Asia
- Descending elevation from west to east
- Japanese islands created by volcanism
 - ▶ Vulnerable to tsunamis

Taklimakan Desert and Mt. Fuji



Figure 9-4
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Figure 9-5
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A. Physical Patterns

- ▶ Two contrasting climate zones
 - Dry interior west
 - ▶ No influence of the sea; rapid swings in temperature
 - ▶ Generally supports few people; nomads
 - Wet monsoon east
 - ▶ Bitter, dry winters
 - ▶ Warm, wet summers
 - ▶ Landscapes heavily modified by human agricultural activities

Climates of East Asia

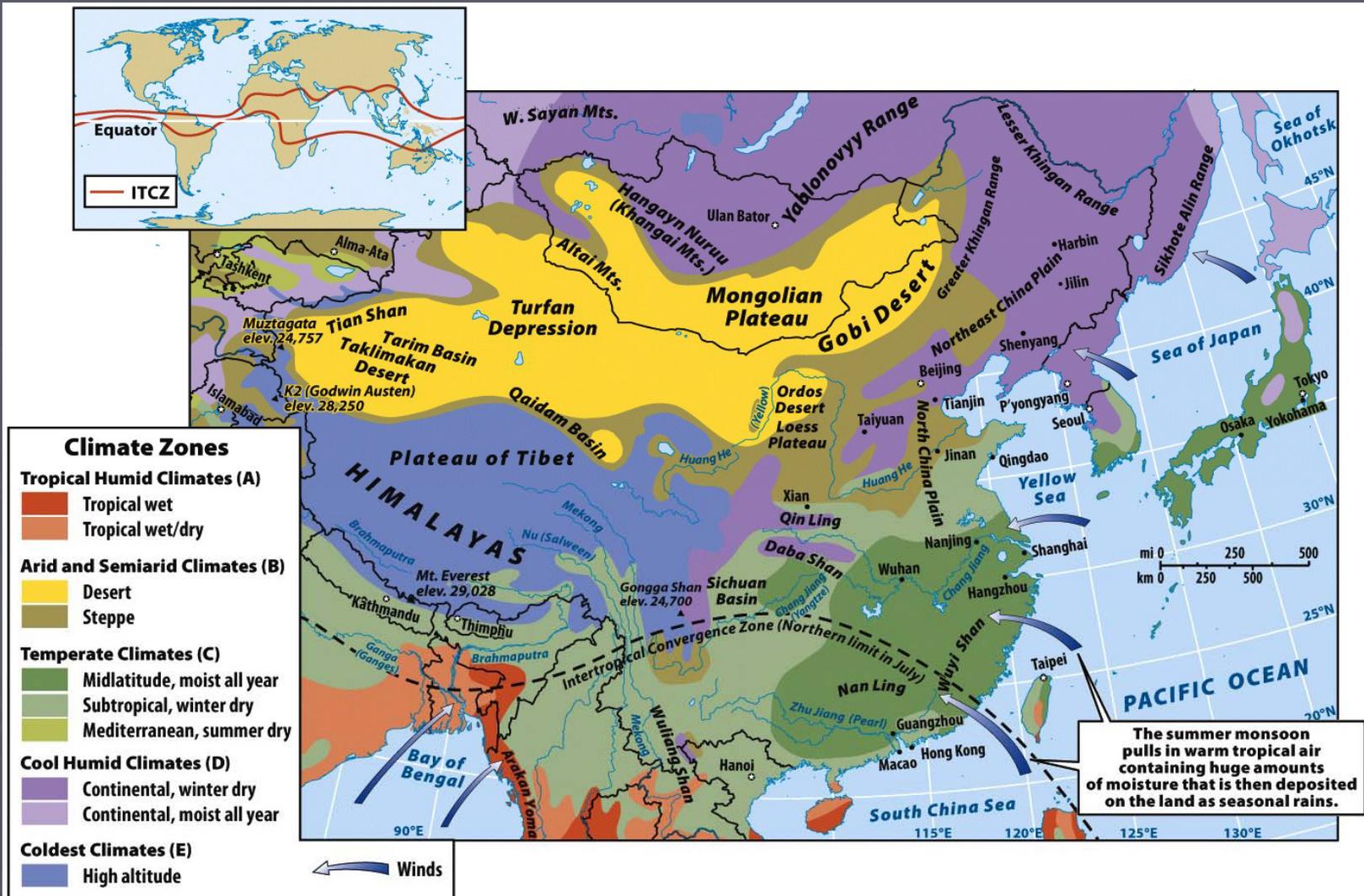


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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ Earliest complex civilizations: 4000 years old
- ▶ Feudal aristocracy ruled until rise of Chinese kingdom ~221 B.C.E.
 - Growth of imperial bureaucracy
- ▶ Confucius: philosopher of defined roles and social obligations
 - Large impact on Chinese values: patriarchy, social rigidity



Figure 9-7
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Growth of Chinese Empire



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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ By 900s, China was leading society in the world
 - Wealth, large cities, high living standards
 - Later ruled by Mongols and Manchus
- ▶ By 1800s, Europeans gaining interest in Chinese markets
 - Opium Wars, Sino-Japanese War mark inability to control own destiny
 - End of empire in 1912 *coup d'etat*

B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ China in the twentieth Century

- Rivalry between Nationalists (KMT) and Communists (CCP)
 - ▶ Invasion by Japanese in 1931
 - ▶ Victory of CCP over KMT following WWII
 - KMT flees to Taiwan
- Mao Zedong: leader of CCP, founder of People's Republic of China

B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ People's Republic of China
 - Similar to old imperial model, large bureaucracy
 - Early beneficiaries: farmers and laborers
 - ▶ Reallocation of land; public works projects; rural health care; women's status
 - Huge social cost related to central planning
 - ▶ Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution
 - Following Mao's death: maintenance of political dominance, establishment of market economy

The Cultural Revolution



Figure 9-10

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ The Rise of Japan

- Original migration and culture from China and Korea
 - ▶ Hence, Buddhism, Confucianism, architecture, etc.
- 1600-1868: Japan turns isolationist
- 1853: U.S. forces Japan to trade and establish diplomatic relations
 - ▶ Opening up to foreign influences
 - ▶ Turn to imperialism in Korea, Taiwan, China

Japan: 1875-2000

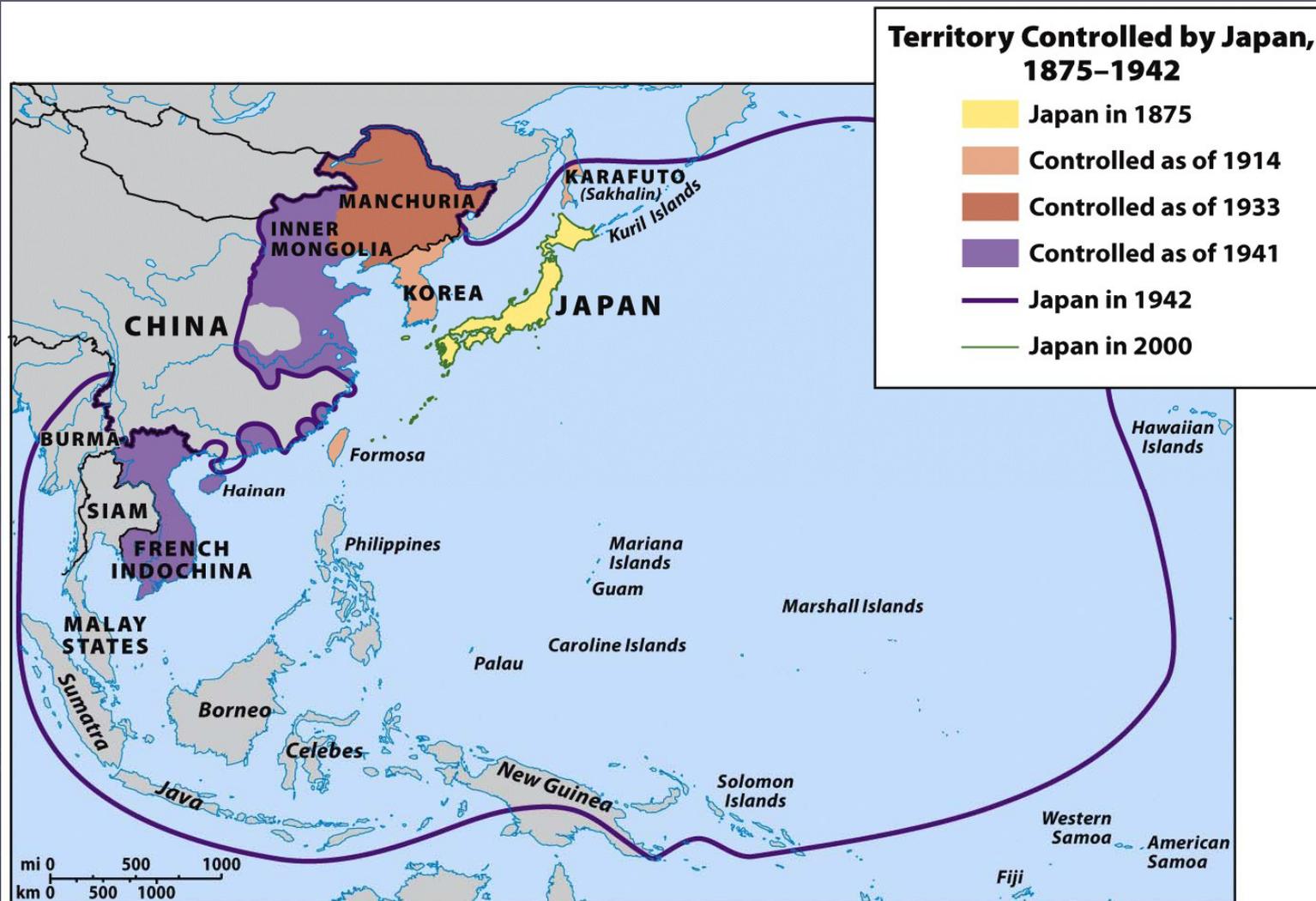


Figure 9-12

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ Japan after WWII

- Defeat by the U.S. led to social and economic reform; democracy, limit to military
- Return to industrial power
 - ▶ Exporting cars, electronics, etc.
 - ▶ Investor in developing economies
 - ▶ World's third largest economy after United States and China
 - Much smaller than both in population and resources

B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ Conflict and Transfers of Power

- Korea: split between U.S. and USSR after WWII
 - ▶ Korean War inconclusive; North Korea turns to isolationism and poverty
 - ▶ South Korea follows Japanese model of development
- Taiwan: Founded as Republic of China by KMT
 - ▶ Ambiguous political status; still claimed by PRC
- Mongolia: Soviet puppet from 1920s to 1989
 - ▶ Now, struggling free market economy

C. Population Patterns

- ▶ Most populous world region
 - Not evenly distributed
 - China: 1.3 billion people
 - ▶ 90% clustered on 1/6 of total land area
 - ▶ Huge environmental cost for agricultural production
 - ▶ Much of territory difficult to live in because of climate or terrain
 - Japan: Half of population in Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area

Population Density

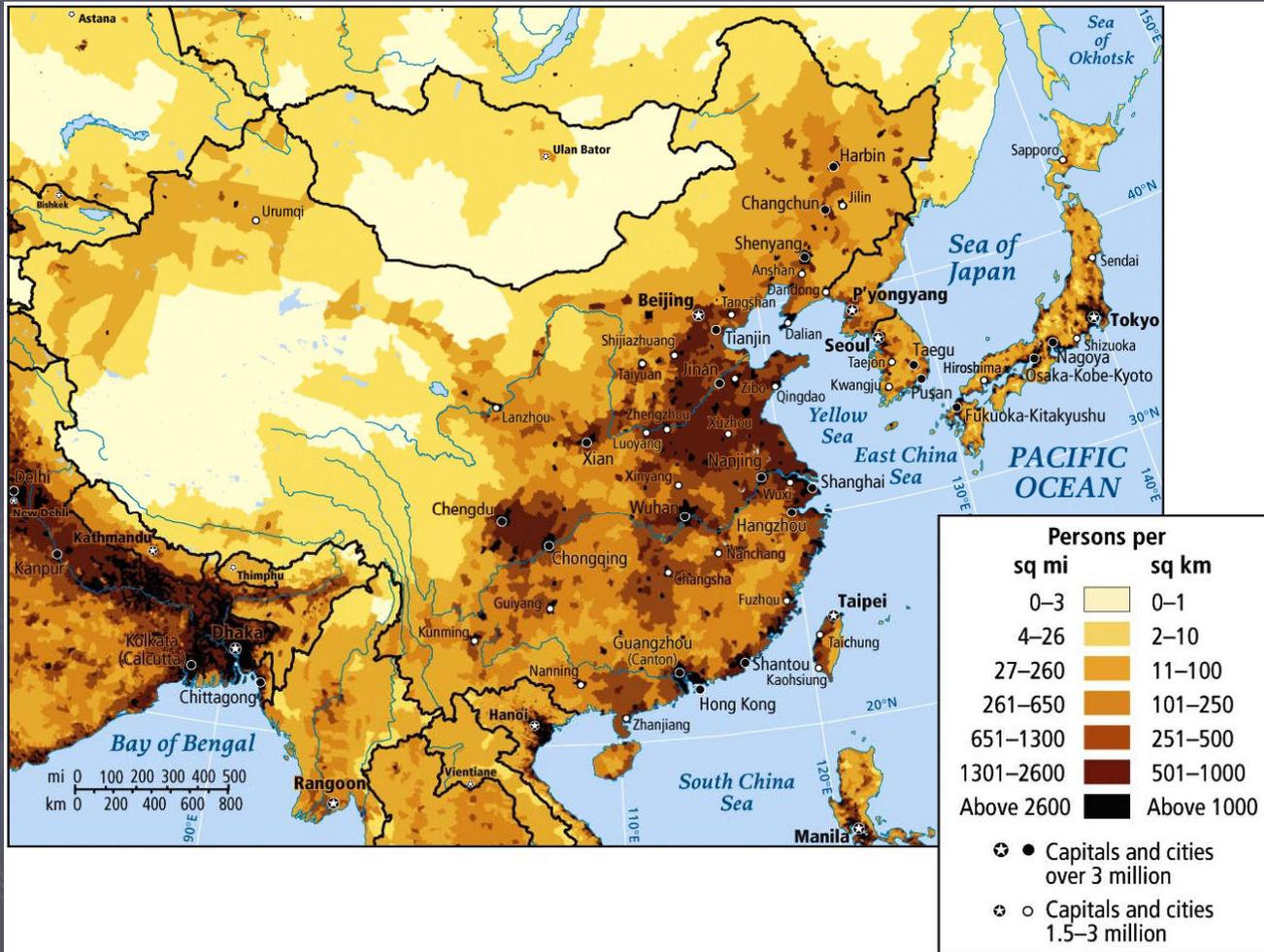


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C. Population Patterns

- ▶ Declining population growth
 - China: One-child policy will end growth by 2050
 - Japan: Lowest growth rate in region
 - ▶ 0.1% per year, or 700 year doubling time
 - ▶ By 2025, one pensioner for every two workers
 - Relatively low HIV/AIDS infection rates
 - ▶ However, China has several localized epidemics
 - ▶ Japan's annual number of infections has doubled every year since the 1990s

II. CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES

- ▶ Great change in economic and political systems after WWII
 - Most countries making great progress
 - Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong among highest standards of living in the world
- ▶ Now, need to maintain economic growth in a way sensitive to environment

A. Political and Economic Issues

- ▶ Japanese Model: open markets with interventionist government policies
 - Focus on protecting domestic markets while opening foreign markets
 - Highly innovative and efficient “Kaizen” system
 - Growth, following WWII, of 10% annually
 - 1990s economic crisis caused by government corruption and favoritism

Modern Tokyo at Night



Figure 9-16

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A. Political and Economic Issues

- ▶ The Communist Command Economy
 - China, Mongolia, and North Korea: attempt to maximize economic efficiency
 - ▶ Abolition of private property, state control of agriculture and industry
 - Chinese establishment of communes as social unit
 - ▶ Low productivity resulted from lack of incentives
 - ▶ Increase in regional income disparity
 - East/West, also rural/urban
 - Root of public protests

A. Political and Economic Issues

- ▶ Globalization and Market Reforms in China
 - 1st reform: Decentralization of decision-making
 - ▶ Responsibility system: household new social unit for agriculture
 - 2nd reform: Creation of competitive markets
 - 3rd reform: Regional specialization implemented rather than regional self-sufficiency
 - ▶ Growth of rural manufacturing (1/4 of Chinese economy)
 - 4th reform: Foreign investment promoted

Agricultural Specialization in the Chang Jiang



Figure 9-18

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A. Political and Economic Issues

► Special Economic Zones

- Chinese coastal cities: free trade zones, special capitalist management methods
- Five cities originally, now expanded to include 32 interior cities: economic and technology development zones
- In SEZs and ETDZs, labor shortages are raising quality of living

DaimlerChrysler in Beijing



Figure 9-23

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A. Political and Economic Issues

▶ China in the Global Economy

- One of the fastest growing economies in the world
- Accounts for 30% of growth in global oil demand
- WTO entrance in 2001 was controversial
 - ▶ Concern over human rights, economic competition
- Emphasizes “soft power” in dealings with the world

B. Sociocultural Issues

▶ Population Policies and the Family

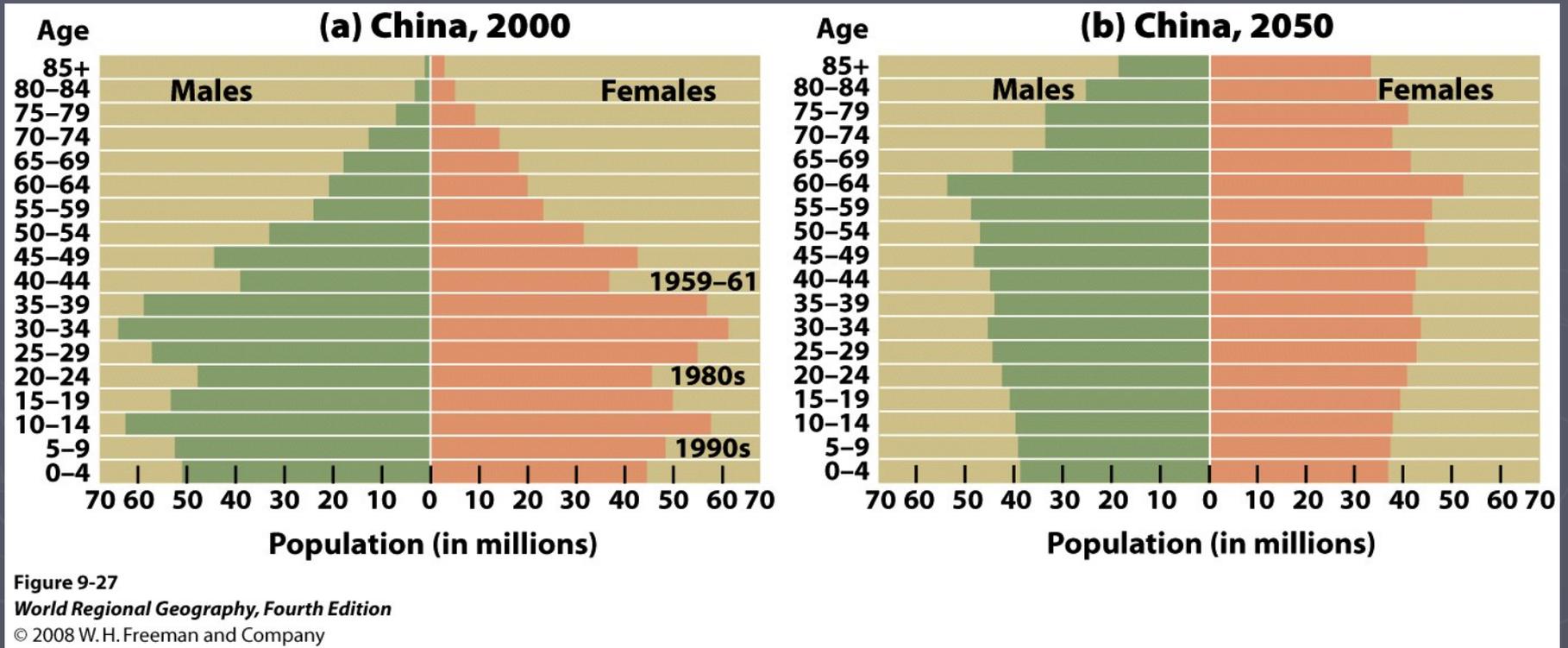
- By 2000, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea all had fertility rates below 2
- In China, one-child policy has had impacts:
 - ▶ Decline of extended families
 - ▶ Preference for males
 - ▶ Large cohort of elderly for few youths to take care of
 - ▶ In 2005, Chinese birth rate was 0.6 per 1000

Sculpture Promoting One-Child Policy



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Population Pyramids of China



B. Sociocultural Issues

- ▶ In 2000, 114 Chinese boys for every 100 Chinese girls
 - Thus, shortage of women of marriageable age
 - Similar “missing girls” in other East Asian societies
- ▶ Workplaces generally seen as male spaces
 - Less so in China



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