

7. CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

KEY TERMS

People's Republic of China (PRC): Official name given to the sovereign nation in East Asia; it is governed by a single political party—the Chinese Communist Party—with its seat of power in the capital city of Beijing; the government oversees 1.2 billion people in 22 provinces

Xi Jinping: current president of the People's Republic of China (PRC); his early administration has attempted to tackle domestic issues such as political and economic reform while beginning to flex China's new strength in foreign affairs

Den Xiaoping: as China's leader from the late 1970s until his death in 1997 he reformed China from a state-run command economy to a market economy. This "opening" of China has led to an increase in the nation's wealth and foreign influence.

Asia Pivot/Rebalance: President Barack Obama's administration foreign policy decision to move military and economic forces to the East Asia region

realism: the view, in foreign relations, that world politics is driven by competitive self-interest

bureaucracy: a body of non-elective government officials that manage a large institution

LESSON ONE

Student Objectives

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Identify the causes and consequences of China's emerging foreign policy since 2010.
- Evaluate whether China's foreign policy actions are creating a more stable world.

Materials

- *Great Decisions* article "China's foreign policy"
- Classroom set of Handout #7-A
- Political map of China found at <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Time

60 minutes

Lesson Development

Pre-reading activity

1. Prior to assigning the reading, the teacher will display a political map of China. The teacher should use the map of China to stimulate a class discussion on how China's location surrounded by 14 nations may impact its foreign policy. Comparisons with the United States ought be encouraged.
2. Once students have an understanding of the relationship between China's geographic location and its foreign policy, the teacher will give a brief history explaining China's "century of dishonor" and the economic reforms instituted by Deng Xiaoping. (Information can be found at the Weatherhood East Asia Institute at Columbia University's website Asia for Educators <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu>.)
3. After handing out the *Great Decisions* article "China's foreign policy" and Handout #7-A, the teacher will lead a previewing activity with the students. Particular attention should be given to the title of the article and each subsection. Students should be encouraged to brainstorm possible topics the article may examine.

Reading Activity

1. While students are reading, they will highlight or annotate evidence supporting or opposing the view that China is seeking a "win-win" relationship with the world. The same action should be done for evidence supporting the point-of-view that China is seeking a zero-sum relationship with the world.

Review Reading Activity

1. After students have read the *Great Decisions* article students should complete the chart found on Handout #7-A.
2. Afterward, the class should brainstorm the challenges and opportunities currently facing China and its relationship with the United States and its neighbors. Discuss how, on one hand, China's emergence as a foreign power could bring stability, while on the other, its desire to flex its muscle challenges current norms with the United States and its South Pacific allies.

Assessment

1. Assess student understanding during the concluding discussion. If desired, give credit for completion of handouts.

Additional Suggestions

Students should be instructed to reread the last section "Implications and policy choices: The way forward for China and the U.S." of the *Great Decisions* article. They will then write a one-page policy paper advising the President of the United States on how to approach the rising power of the Peoples' Republic of China.

LESSON TWO

Student Objectives

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Identify territorial disputes between China and its neighbors
- Explain how regional conflicts can have wider global effects

Materials

- Classroom set of Handout #7-B
- Computers with internet access to select resources

Time

60 minutes

Lesson Development

1. Give each student a copy of Handout #7-B.
2. Instruct students to research China's relationship with its following neighbors: Japan, North Korea, Russia, the Philippines and India. The teacher may decide to break students into groups and assign each a specific neighbor to research and report back to the class with. The students' research should focus on areas of tension and cooperation between China and its neighbor. Areas of focus maybe on trade and territorial disputes. The teacher should encourage students to view recent news articles for information.
3. Following their research, students will share with the class what concerned or surprised them about China's relationship with its neighbors.
4. The teacher will conclude by guiding the discussion towards the role the United States may play in this area of the world.

Additional Suggestions

Consider extending the lesson to include China's relationship with other world regions and international organizations. These can include organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations (UN), or regions like Africa and South America. Their research should focus on ways China is struggling with their new role in the international community.

HANDOUT #7-A
IS CHINA PURSUING A FOREIGN POLICY THAT IS WIN-WIN
OR A ZERO-SUM GAME WITH THE UNITED STATES?

NAME: _____

| | Win-Win China is pursuing a foreign policy that strengthens its relationship with the U.S. and has a stabilizing effect in the world | Zero-Sum China is pursuing a foreign policy that directly challenges the U.S. and its allies |
|--|--|--|
| Events Since 2009 – 10 | | |
| Drivers of Chinese Foreign Policy Today | | |

HANDOUT #7-B
CHINA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS NEIGHBORS

NAME: _____

| | Areas of Tension | Areas of Cooperation |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Japan | | |
| The Philippines | | |
| North Korea | | |
| India | | |
| Russia | | |