

Catholic Secondary School of Ciney



Providence Institute

## China's one child policy: What are the consequences on the present-day?



End of studies work made by Lian Alicia

March 2017

Promoter: Mrs Géonet



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*I first would like to thank Mrs Géonet who spent some time to read my work, who advised me and who guided me all along the writing. I would also like to thank my family who supported me and assisted me during the realisation of this end of studies work, more specifically my father and my aunt, Chia-Shin, who had the kindness to proofread these pages many times. Furthermore, I would like to thank every people who took time to read my work. And of course, I thank everyone who encouraged me during the writing.*

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## 1 Introduction

400 million of births have been avoided in 35 years after the introduction of the one child policy in China<sup>1</sup>. It corresponds approximatively to 11 million births a year, the equivalent of the Belgian population in 2013. The authority employed some radical ways to implement this law: imprisonment, forced sterilizations, violence, and so on. The sanctions were heavy for the Chinese people.

The media has strongly covered the end of the policy, it was one of the reason I chose this subject. Another reason is because my family is linked to it. I was motivated to work on this topic because I wanted to understand the functioning of this policy and to explain the Chinese culture. This law took place in 1979 to allow the Chinese government to control its demography, but it didn't bring only benefit to the country, this law was made more flexible and it was abolished for the entire country in 2015. These modifications were introduced to authorize couples to have a second child under some conditions, as well as to keep a certain stability for the future of the country. All these elements bring to the question: What are the consequences of the one child policy on the current society?

To answer the question, six points are going to be developed. First a short presentation of the Chinese demography, population, and culture. Then the structure of the traditional and the modern family. After that, the description of the one child policy and its causes, its positives and negatives consequences on the country. And to conclude, the solutions from the government to try to fix the demographic problems.

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<sup>1</sup> La Chine dans le piège démographique, site of Figaro, url=<http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/2015/03/02/01003-20150302ARTFIG00310-la-chine-dans-le-piege-demographique.php?pagination=2#nbcomments>, last consultation 19th octobre 2016 (mis à jour le 03 mars 2015).

## 2 Presentation of China

### 2.1 Localisation



Fig. 1<sup>2</sup>

China is the third biggest country in the world, behind Russia and Canada, with a surface of 9 600 000 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located to the East of Asia, its capital city is Beijing, 北京 in Chinese, and it shares its borders with fourteen countries. The steepest regions of China are situated to the North and to the West, there are also mountains, deserts, forests. While hills, fields and pastures mainly compose the Southern and Eastern regions. It is crossed the third longest river in the world, called *Chang Jiang*, that is 6 300 km long.

### 2.2 Population

In 2016, China was the most populated country, with 1.375 billion<sup>3</sup> of inhabitants, which represents a seventh of the whole world population. The second picture shows the different deserts, mountainous and the biggest fertile zones (which are situated to the East and in the centre of the country), and the most depopulated zones are the steepest and deserts regions (situated to the West of the country), as represented on the third picture.

<sup>2</sup> Fig. 1. *China*, url= <http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/china.html>, last consultation 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

<sup>3</sup> COUNTRY METERS, *Chine Population*, url= <http://countrymeters.info/fr/China>, last consultation 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.



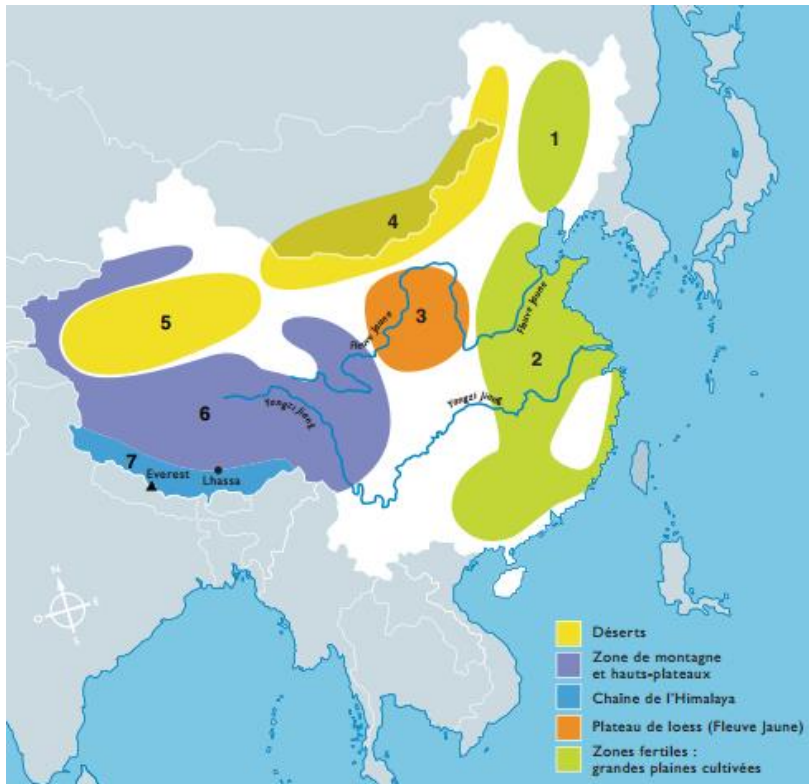


fig. 2<sup>4</sup>

The coasts are also the most densely populated regions because factories and industries are usually located in these places. They are located here because the sea allows them to transport their goods in other countries.

<sup>4</sup> Fig. 2. ACADEMIE EN LIGNE, *L'espace chinois*, url= <http://www.academie-en-ligne.fr/Ressources/5/CN0E/AL5CN0EANPA0109-Recueil-Sequence-01-partie-01.pdf>, last consultation 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

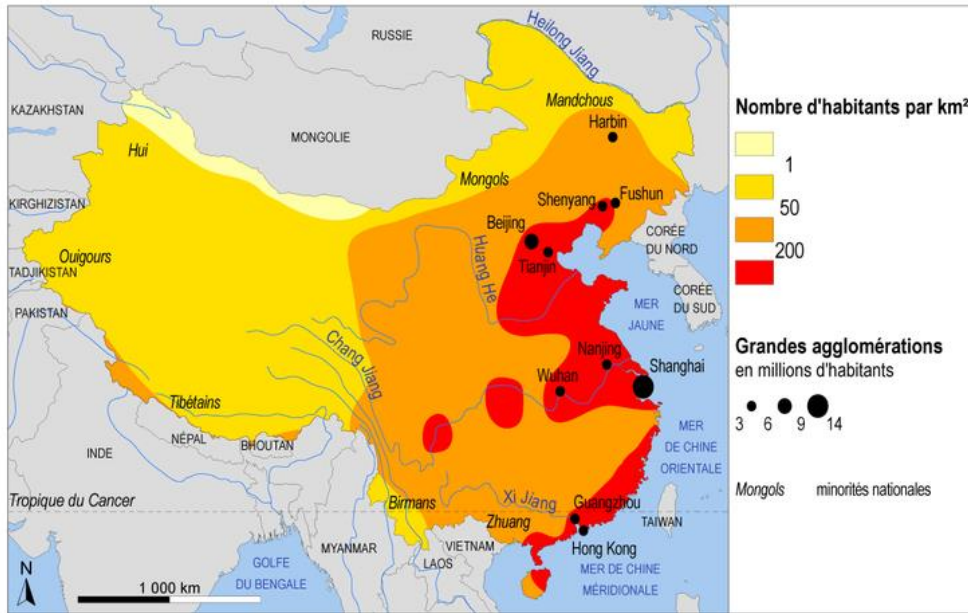


fig. 3<sup>5</sup>

## 2.3 Chinese society, culture et mentality

### 2.3.1 The beginning of Communism in China under Mao and Deng Xiao Ping



fig. 4<sup>6</sup>

Mao Zedong (as represented on the picture above) was born in 1893 in the Hunan province, he is the son of a rich peasant. During his adolescence, he rebelled against his father in the purpose to follow his studies. He finally dies in 1976, in Beijing.

<sup>5</sup> Fig. 3. ASSISTANCE SCOLAIRE PERSONNALISÉE, *Répartition de la population en Chine*, url= [https://www.assistancescolaire.com/enseignant/elementaire/ressources/base-documentaire-en-geographie/la-repartition-de-la-population-en-chine-china\\_pop](https://www.assistancescolaire.com/enseignant/elementaire/ressources/base-documentaire-en-geographie/la-repartition-de-la-population-en-chine-china_pop), last consultation 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Fig. 4. MAGNAN P., *En Chine, le culte Mao n'est pas mort*, url= <http://geopolis.francetvinfo.fr/en-chine-le-culte-de-mao-n-est-pas-mort-131533>, last consultation 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017.

In 1921, he contributed to the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. He also founded the Maoism, an adapted version of Marxism<sup>7</sup> in China. And in 1949, he became president of the Popular Republic of China. Thanks to him, the inhabitants of the country had better access to education and to healthcare. He encouraged women to have many children as possible, the ones who had more than ten kids hold the title of “Honoured Mother”<sup>8</sup>. This policy brought an increase of two third of the population in the next twenty years<sup>9</sup>. Otherwise, he tried to modernise China, but due to the huge number of wars and revolutions led by Mao, starvation rapidly got the country and caused ten thousand victims.

To implement his authority, Mao obliged the Chinese to keep on them, what they called “The Little Red Book” (see annex) which contained his ideology. He recruited the Chinese youth to transform them into guards, and they were called the “Red Guards”. They made people respecting Mao’s laws by constraining them or by violence, for example: some teachers were threatened or attacked so that the education is only based on the dictator cult. The Guards received the instructions to destroy every symbol of the past because Mao judged that they slowed down the way to modernisation.

His reign can be resumed by a total control of the country by the government and submitted his population to starvation, to periods of war or even to physical and psychological violence. The most striking impact was that China was totally cut from the rest of the world until the rise of Deng Xiao Ping to the power, in 1978 as the Prime Minister.

However, thanks to Deng Xiao Ping, by opening China’s doors to other continents, the country finally knew an economic rise; allowing the acceleration of the economic growth and becoming the world’s second economic power in 2010 and the first in 2014.

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<sup>7</sup> Definition of Marxism: according to Karl Marx, it’s the class struggle. He believed that all the benefits had to be shared with every member of the company and not only for the bourgeois. (Source: History course of Mrs Géonet)

<sup>8</sup> SIEGEL, L. et LOTHAR MÜLLER, U., Chine : naître et ne pas être, site d’Arte, url= <http://info.arte.tv/fr/chine-naître-et-ne-pas-être>, last consultation 22nd March 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem.

### **2.3.2 Chinese culture and mentality**

Chinese people are mostly reserved, there are very few discussions between the fathers and their children. There are many taboo subjects like sexuality. Respect, politeness, and family are the main principles to them. For example, the younger must call their older sibling a certain way, not by their name, out of respect for them.

There are some special celebrations in China throughout the year such as the Chinese New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival, The Dragon Boat Race Festival (see fig. 1 in the annexes). This race takes place around the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Furthermore, there are some specific meals that must be eaten at a certain time or period, eg: during the Chinese New Year, they must eat fish and ravioli because it is a symbol of luck and prosperity. At the mid-autumn festival, people must eat moon cake and flour balls, it's the symbol of longevity. And during the dragon boat race, they must eat "rice pyramids" (see annexes).

The Chinese New Year is particular in China. First because it lasts three to five days, following the regions. During that time, some theatrical performances, songs, prayer sessions, and lions' dances (see annexes) and big meals are organized. On the New Year day, the tradition wants that the grand-parents and the parents to give a red envelope, containing some money, to their great-children or children. It's a great festive period which allows to the distant families to come back home and spend some time with their relatives.

Another aspect of the Chinese mentality is the success of their child. Most of the Chinese parents want their child to reach the perfection, and so, they make their child overwork by enrolling him or her in extra-school courses, in sports activities or artistic activities, often both. Some children are staying at school from eight o'clock in the morning to eight o'clock in the evening. This pressure also comes from the fact that China had been a poor country, and any parent wouldn't want his child to face that. According to them, there is only one way to avoid poverty, to have a good job with a high income and so, they must study very hard.

A testimony of a family confirms it: “We want our child to be perfect, and if he is, we would want our second child to be even more perfect. And I’m afraid that I won’t have enough energy for that”<sup>10</sup>.

### **3 Traditional family and modern family**

#### **3.1 Traditional family**

The traditional families are mostly composed by a couple of parents married, or not, who have one or several kids. These families have a strict vision of the wedding, their priority is to bring back money, to create a household and to procreate. In most cases, the parents choose a husband or a wife for their child(ren). Before the introduction of the one-child policy, the families were pretty often made up of four to twelve children, sometimes even more. These families were large because the country was poor and the children were low cost labourers. The most children they had, the most incomes they could expect to get.

#### **3.2 Modern family**

Today, in the cities, families are more indulgent about the wedding, their aim isn’t either procreation or incomes, but to find a loving, loyal and understanding wife/husband. Henceforth, young Chinese don’t live under their parents’ choices anymore, but under their own choices. In other words, they are less caring about their parents’ comfort, but well for their personal satisfaction. Thus, the wedding is now associated to aims such as emotional satisfaction and it is now considered as a private matter. In the past, divorce was an extreme solution, whereas today, it’s a common issue. Nowadays, Chinese people are generally more tolerant about subject such as juvenile cohabitation<sup>11</sup>, sexual relations before getting married and they attach less importance to virginity value. This tolerance is not so obvious in the countryside because these people are poorer and they are still attached to traditional values.

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<sup>10</sup> France 24, *La Chine dans le piège démographique ?*, url=<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAwsIOx2V3Q&list=PLeam4Y9fGuFONEG7OLNLow0aDHqoGfo9K&index=3>, last consultation le 23 February 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Definition: fact that a young man and woman live together as a couple without being married. (adapted from Larousse en ligne).

### **3.3 Women places in China**

Before and during Mao's reign, women were oppressed and at the bottom of the society. In general, women must do the washing-up and other housework. The job and the money were brought back by the men and/or the children able to work.

Nowadays, the Chinese government set up laws to insure them some rights, a status, and a dignity equal to the men. For example, women can now possess their own land.

The leaders of the country and some feminist movements are trying to remove discriminations against women by legislative, administrative, and educative means. Moreover, they are financially more independent, today, they work whereas before they were dependant on their husband.

According to the French review *Huffington Post*, women have currently a wish of knowledge and a desire of a personal satisfaction. It means that they want to access to studies, to feel an emotional satisfaction and to show their wealth around them. In their view, it's not the price or the logo of the brand that matter, but well the story hidden behind.

It's the case of Coco Channel: "because they find in her story a destiny in whom they aspire: a woman able to achieve something in her way in a world that wasn't in her favour"<sup>12</sup>.

The fact the women start studying and working are two phenomena that are against the increase of the Chinese demography, since they give less time to their couple.

## **4 The One-Child Policy**

The One-Child Policy was set up in 1979 by the Prime Minister Deng Xiao Ping and applied by the Chinese authorities. The creation of the Policy had the purpose to limit the risks attached to an overpopulation, such as: insufficient number of housing, jobs, or even food for everyone but also to avoid an economic instability. Deng Xiao Ping wanted to modernise China after Mao closed its doors, his aim was to guarantee a strong and stable economy for the country.

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<sup>12</sup> ACCARY, V., *Ce que femme chinoise veut*, site du Huffington Post en ligne, url=[http://www.huffingtonpost.fr/valerie-accary/femmes-chinoises-\\_b\\_3477851.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.fr/valerie-accary/femmes-chinoises-_b_3477851.html), dernière consultation le 22 mars 2017.

#### **4.1 Causes of the Policy**

After Mao's dictatorship and his encouragements to procreate, the number of inhabitants was nearly reaching the billion. To avoid that, Deng Xiao Ping established the this births-control policy.

The second reason is that the Prime Minister wanted to keep a strong economy. He achieves that because the authority strongly applied the policy, so people only had a child and they had more time to work but also, they spent less money and thus an occasion to increase the spending power.

#### **4.2 Application of the policy**

The Policy was harshly applied by the Family Planning Commission and the Ministry of Health. They inflicted fines to those who didn't respect the law, and the amount of those fines could rise to 40 000€ (which could represent until fourteen times their annual average incomes)<sup>13</sup>, depending on the gravity of the fault. Women suffered forced sterilizations and abortions, sometimes at the six months of pregnancy, really beyond the legal age limit.

Women were constantly kept under surveillance in the way to rapidly detect a protestation or a violation of the law, they were constrained to pass four medical exams a year. For those who respected the law, they were reward by a premium, by benefits and professional advantages.

Yet, some people were beaten to death because they defended their family members against the authority. The purpose of these sanctions was to dissuade the inhabitants to have many kids.

#### **4.3 Evolution of the policy**

Several modifications and relaxing measures of the policy were decided between 1979 and 2013. According to a documentary from *Arte*, the first relaxing appeared in the countryside in 1984; then in the cities in the following years: the parents who the first kid was a girl and was at least five years old, were authorised to have a second child. Few years later (1977), a couple constituted by two only-child could have two children.

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<sup>13</sup> *La Chine dans le piège démographique*, url= <http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/2013/12/05/01003-20131205ARTFIG00558-chine-40000-euros-d-amende-pour-avoir-eu-un-deuxieme-enfant.php>, last consultation 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

In 2002, families could have a second child if they accepted to pay a kind of tax, which represented several times their monthly average income, of about 840 €<sup>14</sup>. The amount of the tax could rose to 40 000 yuan, the equivalent of around 6 000 €<sup>15</sup>.

This reform created an impression of inequality from the poorer people and from most of the peasants because they estimated that the government only allowed rich and powerful people to have several children. But, poorer people didn't want to break the law in view of the financial consequences.

The 2013's reform was established after the scandal of a young Chinese woman, forced to abort at seven months of pregnancy, because she couldn't pay the imposed fine of 4 900 €, expected by the administration. This reform authorised parents to have a second child if one of the parents was himself unique child.

Finally, the government abolished the policy in 2015. Those relaxing and the abolition were implement because the ageing population was increasing meanwhile the workforce was decreasing. And that would have led to a new economic crisis.

## **5 Consequences of the one child policy in China**

### ***5.1 On the families***

Because of their policy, the family structure is devastated. The unique child often has his grand-parents and parents under his responsibilities, it is mainly hard on the economical aspect because they generally only have one weak income to feed six or seven people.

Then, the families frequently turned to selective abortions, it means that the parents used to choose to have a boy instead of a girl. This preference for boys can be explained by the fact that they only have a weak or even don't have any pension when they retire and the daughters are going to leave their parents when they get married, and the son of the family would be the one who insures the family's expenditures.

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<sup>14</sup> Site Le Juste Salaire, url= <http://www.lejustesalaire.com/salaire-par-pays/salaires-chine.php>, dernière consultation le 22 mars 2017.

<sup>15</sup> Pour convertir le yuan en euro, il suffit de diviser le montant en yuan par sept pour obtenir approximativement le montant en euro.



Moreover, the boys can perpetuate the name, they transmit their family name to the next generations. Furthermore, men's salary is higher than the women's.

When a daughter get married, she dedicates herself to her husband and his family, to the detriment of her own family. Therefore, she will less look after her parents, but it would be the task of the son and his wife to take care of the family's responsibilities. This phenomenon is more frequent in the countryside because those people are poorer than those who come from the big cities. For those families, their son is their only financial way to survive when they retire. Because of this, lots of girls had been abandoned, placed in an orphanage, or even killed. But it is less frequent in the cities.

Because of the One-Child Policy, the size of the families has dramatically decrease and the children take less and less their older siblings in charge. This lead to the development of the retirement home. This is a cultural change in China because in the old days, the children kept their parents at home and now, because of the excess of time spent at work or at personal occupations, children place more elderly people in a retirement home.

## **5.2 *On the population and the society***

Men and women were victims of tortures because of the policy. Women suffered from forced abortion, forced to take poison to kill the foetus, and the men were sterilized. But these surgeries weren't always done under good conditions. And so, they risked infections. Some men were beaten to death because they were defending their family member against the authority.

Those who didn't respect the One-Child Policy had to pay fines. Otherwise their kids couldn't have their identity papers. They were named the "Dark children" or the "Ghost children", and they are approximatively 13 million in 2015<sup>16</sup>.

Chinese parents had generally chosen to give birth to a boy. But it wasn't without consequences, today, there is a large imbalance between the number of boys and girls.

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<sup>16</sup> France 24, *Chine : la fin de la politique de l'enfant unique, un impératif économique?*, url=<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sosfRWKaGm8&list=PLeam4Y9fGuFONEG7OLNLow0aDHqoGfo9K&index=2>, last consultation 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

In 2010, in the 0-4 age group, there were 5.6 million more boys than girls, it means that there were 116 boys for every 100 born girls; in the range group from 5 to 9 years, the difference is 6.2 million or 118 boys for 100 girls; the biggest difference stands in the 10 to 14 years old range, it is about 6.5 million; in the of 15 to 19 years old group, the difference is 5.7 million; in the of 20 to 24 years old group the difference is of 4.6 million and for the 25 to 29 years old range the difference is the lowest, 2.7 million.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 6. La pyramide des âges de la Chine au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2010

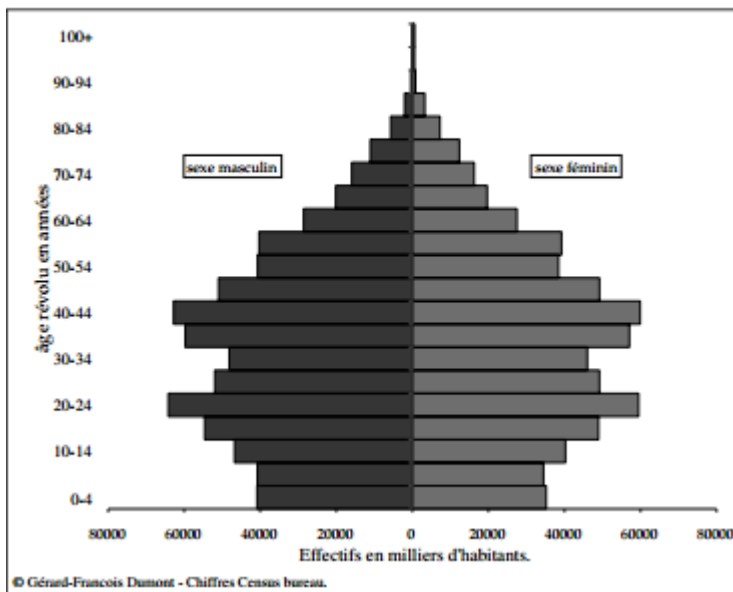


fig. 5<sup>18</sup>

This imbalance led to an overpopulation mainly constituted of single men. According to the BBC, there would be 30 million<sup>19</sup> single men in 2020 in China and more than a quarter of men older than 30 years won't be married in 2030<sup>20</sup>. It's a problem for the families because in the Chinese culture, the children must be married before they are 30 years old in the way to insure the next generation of the family.

In remediation to this disparity, there has been a reform of the policy in 1984, which allowed couples to have a second child only if their first child is a girl.

<sup>17</sup> DUMONT G-F, *Les six enjeux de l'évolution démographique chinoise*, url= <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00749932/document>, last consultation 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

<sup>18</sup> Fig. 5 Idem.

<sup>19</sup> BUDDEN R., *Why millions of Chinese men are staying single*, url= <http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20170213-why-millions-of-chinese-men-are-staying-single>, last consultation 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

<sup>20</sup> Idem

Because of all these elements, peasants only had one child per couple. That had serious consequences on the villages because they will no longer have enough people able to work in the fields or harvest crops. Therefore, the rapid ageing of the population involves that the elderly people will be more numerous than active people by 2040 (see fig. 6).

Figure 7. La pyramide des âges de la Chine en 2040

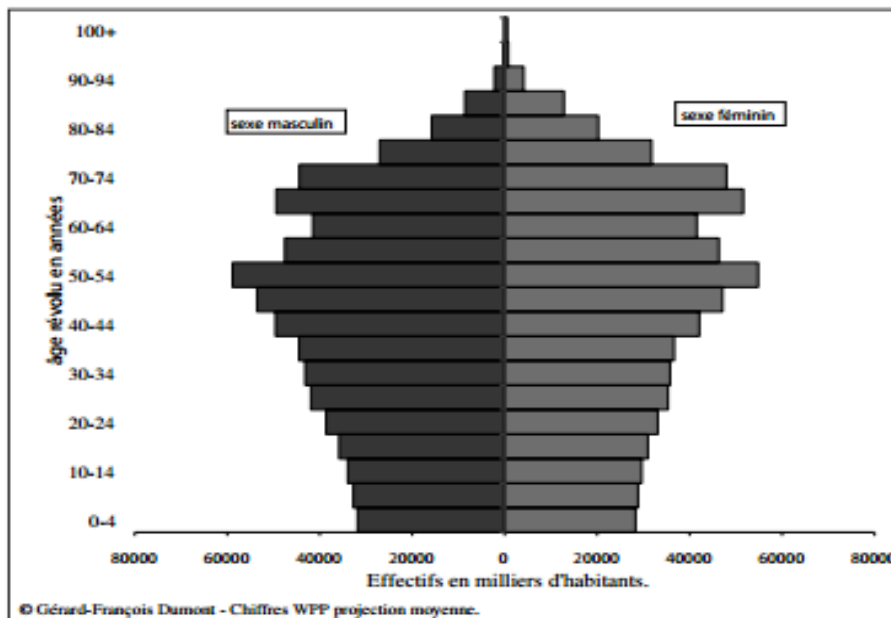


fig. 6<sup>21</sup>

Chinese people in age to take their pension have generally a little or hardly any savings and the government only supplies a weak benefit. The Chinese authority also noted that there wasn't enough workforce and not enough people trained to take care of the old people in retirement houses. So, they should train people, but they also should pay them. And, according to the newspaper *Le Figaro*, it's a burden on the government finances, but it doesn't put something in place so, some Chinese are questioning about the government's credibility.

<sup>21</sup> Fig. 6 DUMONT, G-F., *Les six enjeux de l'évolution démographique chinoise*, url= <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00749932/document>, dernière consultation le 27 février 2017.

### **5.3 Benefits brought to the country**

The purpose of the leaders is to limit the number of births, China prevented about 400 million births in 35 years<sup>22</sup> and the overpopulation of the country.

This policy would have especially favoured a rapid economic evolution in China and made possible the current development of the country: it brought improvements their material life (spending money on clothes, food, improvements in housing, ...) and personal (access to studies, opening of theirs mind. Their comfort also has been improved, for example, nowadays, most of the Chinese possess their own television, fridge, household engine, etc.

## **6 The end of the one child policy**

The Chinese Government has put an end to the One-Child Policy on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015, because it realized that there will be soon a demographic problem and that there will be a shortage in the number of qualified workers and a shortage in the necessary resources, vital for the good development of the country.

The end of the policy engendered several repercussions on the Chinese society. Here are the positives ones: there will be a diminution in the number of abortions, sterilisations, and infanticides.

Then, the imbalance between the population of men and women, due to selective abortions and infanticides, is going to stabilise: in 2005, the difference between them was about 121 boys for 100 girls, and it was about 116 boys for 100 girls in 2016, according to the newspaper *Le Monde*.

Finally, the Chinese mentality evolved, the population's mind is more open concerning each one's liberty, concerning sexuality or even their personal satisfaction. However, the government had so conditioned its inhabitants' mentality that they will less procreate. Most parents think that they won't be able to, economically, fulfil their second child needs. On one hand, because the life is expensive (price of powder milk, diapers, healthcare, studies, etc.), and on the other hand, because they want their children to reach the perfection and it demands a lot of energy.

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<sup>22</sup> RTBF, *Fin de la politique de l'enfant unique en Chine : son origine et ses conséquences*, url=[https://www.rtbf.be/info/monde/detail\\_fin-de-la-politique-de-l-enfant-unique-en-chine-son-origine-et-ses-consequences?id=9122220](https://www.rtbf.be/info/monde/detail_fin-de-la-politique-de-l-enfant-unique-en-chine-son-origine-et-ses-consequences?id=9122220), last consultation 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## 7 The solutions for the demographic problem

The first solution was the abolition of the policy in 2015 so that they expect to increase the births rate. But, because it didn't work, the Government would want to subsidize couples with several children, for example by financing a part of their studies. The idea has been advanced by Wang Peian, Vice Minister of the National Commission of health and family planning, because, according to a survey conducted by the commission in 2015, 60% of the surveyed families were reluctant to the idea of having a second child, mainly for financial reasons.

According to the testimony of a family considered as rich, a second child would be too expensive "because there are not only the studies to pay, there are also all outdoor activities that parents judge necessary for the success of the studies and then the social life of the child"<sup>23</sup>. China should implant a more effective social system, one that would support parents who have a second child, because life is expensive and revenues are weak.

Concerning the elderly people, the government emitted a few solutions. According to the official press, *People's Daily Online*, a first one would be to revitalize the births rate by surrogate mother, in order to overcome the constant increasing number of retired people.

More and more young Chinese are becoming individualist, so, the leaders decided to establish laws and reforms about the caring for elderly people. Here is an example: The State established in July 2013, a law concerning the "protection of pensioners in term of rights and interests". It obligates children to look after their seniors, to regularly visit them, to meet their materials and emotional needs.

The government should construct more than five million retirement houses to receive them. In parallel with that, it would be necessary to train workers in order to correctly take care of the pensioners. Yet, these constructions and trainings cost to the State, and so, a place in those establishment is expensive: it sometimes costs until 2 300 €<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> France 24, La Chine dans le piège démographique ?, url=<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAwsIOx2V3Q&list=PLeam4Y9fGuFONEG7OLNLow0aDHqoGfo9K&index=3>, last consultation 23rd February 2017.

<sup>24</sup>SUREAU, D., *Dans une Chine vieillissante, le business des maisons de retraite*, site de France TV, url=[http://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/dans-une-chine-vieillissante-le-business-des-maisons-de-retraite\\_1690839.html](http://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/dans-une-chine-vieillissante-le-business-des-maisons-de-retraite_1690839.html), dernière consultation le 25 mars 2017.

## 8 Conclusion

China is the most densely populated country. This particularity gives her some benefits but also some disadvantages. Its wide population allow it to keep a cheap workforce and to rapidly develop its economic system.

But, the Prime Minister, Deng Xiao Ping, was afraid that the country could suffer of an overpopulation. That's a reason why he decided to introduce the one-child policy in 1979. The application of the law was implemented by using violence and pressures on people, but also to the detriment of girls. Chinese consider their son as a surviving guarantee: by looking after their seniors and insuring the perpetuation of their name. So, there is a huge pressure on him.

This preference to give birth to boys has contributed to the disparities between men and women and it has reinforced the demographic imbalance in China. Therefore, many men are staying single because there aren't enough women. Hence: there are few women, few births and not enough people qualified to take care of the elderly people, who are increasingly numerous.

These explanations are maybe some ideas of solution to answer the starting question: What are the consequences of the one child policy on the current society?

There isn't enough workforce to insure the pensions of elderly people. And the caring of those people is a huge problem that the government must settle. To overcome this situation, the leaders decided to abolish the policy in 2015 and they propose a reward for couples who have two children. Like that, they expect to persuade the population to procreate again. It is necessary for the government to settle an effective social system to economically support the parents with two children, because the births rate is still low.

The government introduces new reforms and laws that oblige the children to take care of their elders, because today, young Chinese are more individualist. Furthermore, the State should plan to construct more adapted housing for seniors. These solutions could be set up considering the large financial means that the country have at its disposal. Now, it is necessary to ask ourselves if some evolutions could be rapidly possible at short term. The government must take actions to face these phenomenon, but will it succeed?

«Never lose hope, you never know what tomorrow will bring». Anonymous author.

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## 10 Annexes

Dragon boat racing (划龙舟)<sup>25</sup>



Ravioli (水饺)<sup>26</sup>



Moon cake (月饼)<sup>27</sup> et flour balls (汤圆)<sup>28</sup>



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Rice pyramid (粽子)<sup>29</sup>



Lions dance (舞狮)<sup>30</sup>



Little Red Book<sup>31</sup>



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