



AP[®] Government and Politics: Comparative 2001 Sample Student Responses

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As a growing world power, China over the last few decades has begun to experience extreme economic growth. With an average GDP growth of nearly 13% a year it rates as the fastest growing economy in the world. Despite its rapid growth as a nation, there has still been an outcry from the lower classes for continued reforms as economic hardship and poverty is still being felt by a majority of the population.

As the data shows personal income per capita, per year has grown steadily in every region of the country since 1982 and has taken monumental bounds upwards since 1991-1992 the turnover into 1992. These great economic trends are in large part due to the privatization of much of the industrial and business sector in China. With the control over of the regime being handed over informally to Deng ~~Xiaoping~~, the trend has been towards privatization.

The term has often been coined "Market economy in a communist state," which is exactly what the current regime is trying to accomplish. As one can tell by looking at the chart it has been extremely successful especially since the insertion of Zhen and Rongji into political power. This is in large

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part due to their willingness to dive into the international market opening up trade with the United States, and other ~~European~~ ^{economic} powers. These two factors of privatization and opening up to the international market have been key instruments in the rapid proliferation of per capita income in the last few decades.

Though overall things are going well for the Chinese economy, as stated earlier not all citizens have been so lucky. As the data also shows, as the economy has begun to rise steadily since the 80^s and rapidly since the 90^s, so has the income differential ~~that~~ gap been widened between classes. The two groups that it has specifically affected are the urban and rural construction. We see a 3,000 yuan difference in per capita income during the late 1990^s in 1997 compared with only ~~200~~ a 200 yuan difference in 1982. This growing disparity can be in a large part given to the fact ~~that~~ of privatization as well. As industry has been growing in the cities and those with opportunity there are chances for new-found wealth in the urban areas, things have remained much the same for rural dwelling most citizens.

These trends have had an effect on the CCP in that they are ~~continually~~ faced with the conflict of

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"market" or "communism." While on the market system it is clear there are large income disparities which is clearly against the communist ideology which stresses equality of income. But what to do about the disparities and its effect on ideology will be a big question in the future. A second consequence has been the opposition that they are beginning to feel increasing from the rural sector. The regime legitimacy seems to be floundering in the eyes of villagers and rural peasants. What the regime will do to handle opposition and income disparities will definitely be a political challenge of the future. Will they continue economic growth only to continue disparities? One way or the other, it is easy to see that China will be a continuing world power in the future.

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One trend in personal income is that since 1982 personal income in urban areas has consistently increased. Since 1982, the distribution of wealth between rural and urban areas has increased dramatically (urban being more than double that of rural in 1997). The One reform resulting in these trends, was the less ~~isolationist~~ isolationist stance and more market-emphasis stance the Deng XIAO PING ~~PANG~~ PANG took in the 1980's. The more capitalistic stance Deng took allowed for western influence in urban areas, especially the Eastern Coast of China. Another reform that has greatly impacted the increase in urban income has been Jiang Zemin's actions, of further opening up of China to international trade. ~~Trade Free~~ More free trade, which is fundamentally capitalistic, and economically beneficial has greatly affected China's economy. ~~The Chinese~~ The Academy-award winning movie Crouching-Tiger-Hidden-Dragon reflects the idea that China has become more dependant on the outside world and has greatly advanced technologically in the last decade.

One consequence for this trend at the Chinese Communist Party, has

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been the cleavage of the party between the hardliners, and the more moderate "technocrats." There is internal conflict amongst the Communist Party which ~~is~~ results in internal power struggle. Another consequence of these trends, is that as people obtain wealth, people become more adamant about keeping their wealth. The increase of urban income has led to Capitalistic sentiment, which has in turn weakened the Communist Party. These citizens who are earning a lot of money, do not want the Communist government to redistribute the wealth. In short if Capitalistic sentiment increases enough, it will spell the end for Chinese Communism.

QUESTION 3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

PERSONAL INCOME AS SHOWN IN THE GRAPH "GROWTH OF ANNUAL INCOME IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF CHINA 1982-1997" IS INCREASING OVERALL, HOWEVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OF URBAN AREAS COMPARED TO RURAL AREAS IS CHANGING DRAMATICALLY, IN 1982 URBAN AND RURAL INCOMES WERE ABOUT THE SAME, NOW THE URBAN WORKER MAKES ~~ABOUT~~ ^{OVER} TWICE AS MUCH. TWO REFORMS THAT HAVE LED TO THESE TRENDS ARE THE PRIVATIZATION OF SOME INDUSTRY AND THE OPENING OF CHINA TO FOREIGN INDUSTRIALISTS. TWO POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THESE TRENDS ~~ARE~~ ~~THAT~~ FOR THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ARE THAT THE PEOPLE WILL LEAVE THE PARTY AND THE PARTY WILL HAVE TO INCREASE TAXES TO REMAIN FUNDED.