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Research Guide Series

China

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China

China (the People's Republic of China or PRC) is a country that has seen many changes during its long and varied history. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the country suffered a period of upheaval due to civil unrest and foreign occupation, and in 1912 the Republic of China was declared. In 1949, the People's Republic of China was established following the takeover of the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong. During this period Mao imposed a system to control the everyday lives of the people, at the same time causing the deaths of millions. Since Mao's leadership ended, other parties have concentrated on developing the country's economy instead. Because of this development in the economy, population numbers, investment in research and military improvements, China is considered to be an 'emerging superpower' to rival the United States. There have been improvements in living standards and choices for the people of China; however, despite its growing economy, there is still a divide between rich and poor, growing problems with resources and environmental issues, China's ongoing conflict with Taiwan, and the one-party dictatorship currently in place ensures limits on both political and personal freedom.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on China. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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