



A comparison of the German and the Chinese cultures.

Culture and Communication, Group 8

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Facts

Geography, flora & fauna, population



Geography

Covering approximately 9,6 million square kilometers, China is the world's third largest country and is home to approximately 1,4 billion people, what is nearly a quarter of the world's population. The capital of China – with about 10,849,000 habitants – is Beijing.

China is bordered by 14 countries: Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Mongolia, and Russia. Marine-side neighbors include eight countries: North Korea, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.



The variety of climates and terrains in China is great. The North-west is covered in desert while the south is wet and tropical. The famous Himalayas, where you can find the highest mountains (aprox. 8.848 m) in the world, are located in the west of China. At -154 meters below sea level is China's lowest point, called Turfan Depression.

Due to China's extreme size it has a variety of temperature and rainfall zones, including continental monsoon areas. The northeast experiences hot and dry summers and bitterly cold winters. The north and central region has almost continual rainfall, hot summers and cold winters. The southeast region has substantial rainfall, with semi-tropical summers and cool winters. Central, southern and western China are also susceptible to flooding, and the country is also periodically subject to seismic activity.

Due to the melting snows from the mountains in the west, there are two important rivers, the Yellow River and the Yangzi River.



Geography

Covering approximately 357,000 square kilometers, Germany is the world's 63rd largest country and is home to approximately 80,716,000 people, making it the 16th most populous country in the world. The capital of Germany – with about 3,439,100 habitants – is Berlin.

Germany shares borders with nine countries: Denmark in the north, Poland and the Czech Republic in the east, Switzerland and Austria in the south, France in the southwest and Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in the west.

Germany's climate is temperate and marine, with cold, cloudy, wet winters and moderate warm summers. The highest point in Germany is the mountain, called "Zugspitze" (aprox. 2.962 m). It is located in the south of Germany.

The greater part of Germany lies in the cool/temperate climatic zone in which humid westerly winds predominate. In the northwest and the north, the climate is extremely oceanic and rain falls all the year round. Winters there are relatively mild and summers comparatively cool. In the east, the climate shows clear continental features; winters can be very cold for long periods, and summers can become very warm. Dry periods are often recorded. In the center and the south, there is a transitional climate, which may be predominantly oceanic or continental, according to the general weather situation. Winters are mild and summers tend to be cool. The warmest regions of Germany can be found in the southwest.

The main rivers in Germany are the Rhine, the Elbe and the Danube.

Flora & fauna

Plants and animals are those generally common to middle Europe. Wild animals include deer, wild boar, mouflon, fox, badger, hare, and small numbers of beaver. Various migratory birds cross Germany in the

Facts

Geography, flora & fauna, population



Flora & fauna

China is also one of the countries with the greatest diversity of wildlife in the world. There are more than 6,266 species of vertebrates, 10 percent of the world's total. Wild animals peculiar to China includes such well-known rare animals as the giant panda, golden-haired monkey, South China tiger, brown-eared pheasant, red-crowned crane, red ibis, white-flag dolphin and Chinese alligator, totaling more than 100 species.

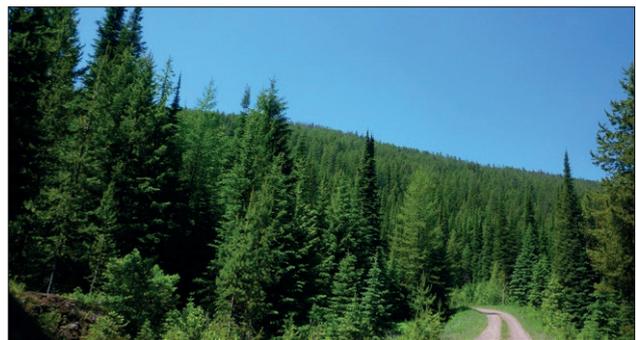


Furthermore China is one of the countries with the most abundant plant life in the world. There are more than 32,000 species of higher plants, and almost all the major plants that grow in the northern hemisphere's frigid, temperate and tropical zones are represented in China. In addition, there are more than 7,000 species of woody plants, including 2,800-odd tree species. China is home to more than 2,000 species of edible plants and over 3,000 species of medicinal plants. There is a wide variety of flowering plants. A flower indigenous to China, the peony, known as the "king of flowers," characterized by large blossoms, multiple petals and bright colors, is treasured as one of the country's national flowers.



spring and autumn. Germany is known for its many zoological gardens, wildlife parks, aquaria, and bird parks. More than 400 registered zoos and animal parks operate in Germany, which is believed to be the largest number in any single country of the world.

About 30 percent, or 10.7 million hectares, of Germany is covered with forests where 48 species of tree grow. The most common trees are broadleaf and needle leaf varieties, including oaks, maples, and elms in the low-altitude north, and beeches, pines, and firs in the high-altitude south. If humans had not arrived in Europe 5,000 years ago, some 80 percent of the continent would still be covered in woods. Only a small fraction of Germany's forests consists of ancient, primeval forest that has yet to be altered or cleared by humans. Trees not only shape Germany's landscape, but also play an important role in its cultural history. One of the country's most important traditions, beer gardens, owes its existence to the beloved chestnut tree. Beer barrels were stored underneath the tree's wide leaves to keep them cool in summer, then beer drinkers started to gather underneath the trees, and the Biergarten was born. Another famous tree is – the decorated Tannenbaum, or Christmas tree.



From the wildflowers sprinkled across fields to the moss that clings to Alpine crevices, Germany is home to diverse vegetation that splashes the landscape in rich greens, purples, reds, and pinks. There isn't a national German flower, but the country's countless gardens burst with roses, dahlias, rhododendrons, and tulips.

Facts

Geography, flora & fauna, population



Population

China is the country with the highest number of inhabitants. The average density of population amounts about 146 inhabitants per square meter. By the end of 2014, 54.7 % of the total population lived in urban areas. Since 1990 the urbanization in China has been rising rapidly. China's largest cities are Shanghai and Peking. The most populous city is Guangdong, followed by Shandong.



The anticipated average life of the Chinese is approximately 75 years and the fertility rate is with 1,66 kids per woman in comparison to other countries low.



Comparison

Regarding the size of the both countries, Germany and China, you can say that China is a good deal bigger than Germany. That leads to the fact, that China has more variety of temperature zones. While the weather in Germany is pretty much the same in the North and the South, it varies in China. Due to the different temperature zones there is a greater diversity of wildlife in China. Compared to China, Germany doesn't have a lot of different animals and flowers. Furthermore China has 17 times more habitants than Germany. Surprisingly the fertility rate is nearly the same in both countries, but the anticipated average life of the Germans is with 80 years 5 years higher than the one of the Chinese.



Population

The average density of population amounts about 226,9 inhabitants per square meter. By the end of 2014, 75.1% of the total population lived in urban areas. The most populous cities in Germany are Berlin, Hamburg and Munich.

The anticipated average life of the Germans is approximately 80 years and the fertility rate is with 1.6 kids per woman in comparison to other countries low.

History



In the third century BC, China was fragmented into seven kingdoms that were waging war. Through conquests and wars, united the kingdoms, which later on in 221 BC formed China. Still, his role is very controversial, since on the one hand he is considered as the founder of China, and on the other hand he was a very brutal ruler who slaughtered many people. China was named after his name Qin (pronounced Dschin).



First emperor of China

The time which Qin Shihuangdi ruled was later on referred as the Qin Dynasty. Shortly after his death in 210 BC. The Han Dynasty took his place after peasant revolts. Even today you often hear the term 'Han Chinese' which refers to the largest group in China. During the Han-dynasty there were contacts between the Roman Empire and China. In each case, the romans knew the silk merchants and also the existence of China itself and as the other way around.



The Silkroad and trading routes between China and the Roman Empire

Around 200AD, the empire fell apart and the Han Dynasty ended in 220. In the following centuries there were short phases where ruler dynasties took power, but also temporary fragmentation and reunions of the chinese empire. The Song Dynasty which ruled from 960-1279 was replaced by the Mongols under the rule of Genhis Khan's grandson Kunai Khan. The mon-

gols took over China and ruled over it in the so called Yuan dynasty until 1368. This was the time span where the journey of Marco Polo took place. Still there are some researches who doubt that this journey really took place.



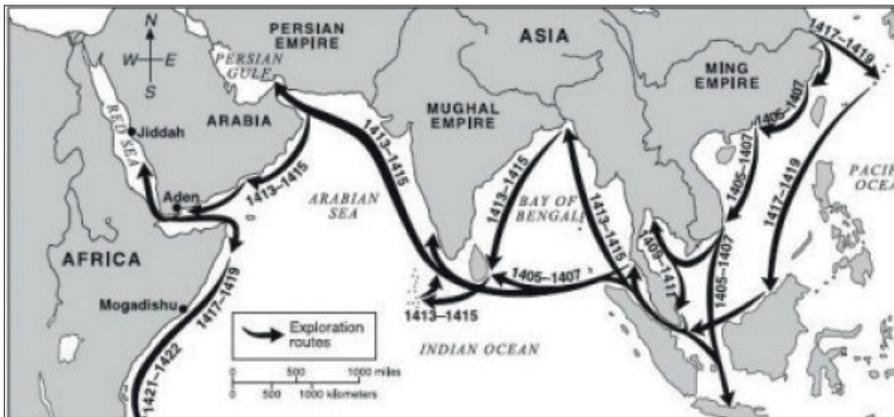
A picture of the Emperor Kubai Khan and Marco polo

After Riots the Mongols were expelled and this was the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, which is well known in the western world for its porcelain goods. During this Dynasty there were not only officials of the emperor, but also royal eunuchs who contributed services to the ruler and took over complete parts of governing to make it comfortable for the ruler. During that Dynasty the seven big expeditions of

History



China between 1405 and 1433 took place. They were led by the eunuchs and the admiral Zhan He. The expeditions fleet of to Africa. China did decline the colonization and the Chinese destroyed their fleet themselves. Europe decided to colonize Africa. After the wars during the Ming Dynasty in 1644 they were replaced by the Qing dynasty which should be the last ruler dynasty of China.



'Routes of the chinese expeditions'

Fall of the Empire

At the ending of the 18th century the steady decay of the military and technologically Chinese Empire began. China had nothing to oppose to the Western with their progressive weapons and seafaring technologies. In the first Opium war between 1839-1842 the British Empire forced the illegal trade of opium among China and forced them to cede Hong Kong to England. The easy with which England defeated China, shook the Chinese self-image to be the center of the world and to be superior than



City map of Kiautschou during the rule of the German Empire

all the other nations in the world. Until now, the war and the harsh terms of capitulation cause a deep trauma for the Chinese. Many colonial powers forced access to Chinese seaports. China was still an empire, but also in a kind of a semi-colony status. The foreign powers even had their own jurisdiction. From 1898 to 1914, even the German Empire had a small colony in Kiautschou forced with a lease contract.

History



During this time reached to convert over one million Chinese people to Christianity. Still you can say that the main reason for Chinese has not always been due to belief. Christians enjoy benefits and protection by the Christian empires who ruled in China. In 1900, Germany and Austria-Hungary, along with other colonial powers struck down a Chinese rebellion who was against the foreign rulers. The Boxer movement was formed by young men who practiced martial arts and despised foreign rule. They blamed the fall of China to be caused by the foreigners but also the realization of obscure, religious beliefs.

The widow woman of the emperor Cixi (pronounced si-ski) initiated the end of the Chinese empire in 1908. She sat multiple children to the imperial throne, but in reality she reigned by herself. Regarding the historical evaluation it's not clear, since contemporaneous writings were based on falsifications. Sure is, that she met several momentous mistakes. Among other things she let herself be drawn into the Boxer Rebellion against the colonial powers. In 1911, a few years after the death of Cixi the rule of the Qing dynasty ended.

Politics

Form of government



The highest organ of the state is the National People's Congress (NPC), the parliament of the People's Republic of China. He chooses the President, the Council of State (the government of the PRC), the Supreme People's Court, the Central Military Commission and the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office.

The actual political leadership of the People's Republic of China is a narrow circle of Politburo and military leaders. They are gathered around the chairman, who unites the highest administrative bodies in state, party and army: These are the Office of the Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party, President of the People's Republic of China and the chairman of the Central Military Commission. Since March 14, 2013 Xi Jinping holds these positions. On November 14, 2012 Xi Jinping was elected at the 18th Congress in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on 15 November the Secretary General. Unlike Western democracies, the party offices (for example, the Communist Party Secretary General) are in one-party China generally regarded as more important and more powerful than the state offices, like that of the President.



The Communist party of China

The People's Republic is officially a centralized state, the central government has the absolute power over the subordinate provinces. In reality, the relationship between headquarters and the region is, however, less clear. In particular, the economically prosperous coastal provinces have partly considerable political bargaining power. So for example, there is no uniform system for the distribution of tax revenues between provinces and the central government. In crisis situations, the government still has the necessary power to impose their will; it may for example be able to transfer members of the provincial governments at will.

Although the People's Republic of China has always been ruled only by a single party, the people experienced several profound political disturbances caused by the different tendencies within the CCP. On the one hand the Maoist flow tried to build a powerful and prosperous state, which should be characterized by state ownership of production, planned distribution of wealth and resources of, the elimination of social differences and the absolute control of the working population.

This was offset by Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping, who used the market mechanisms, private property and the promotion of entrepreneurship used for building of the state. At the beginning of the fifties to the late seventies, the Maoists usually had the upper hand. They broke revolutions like the Great Leap Forward or the Cultural Revolution. Since the reign of Deng Xiaoping, China is on a course toward socialist market economy.

The highpoint of the market rate was the decision of the People's Congress on 14 March 2004 to make the abolition of private property and reversed to anchor the protection of private property in the constitution. Still, the disposal of land by a privately owned legal regime remains excluded.

Religion & believes



China, like many other countries, is and has been multi-religious since the ancient times. It not only has been religious for many years but it has a supportive governmental policy that ensures the freedom of believe and protects the legal religions with its constitution.

Although China has an estimate population of 1.357 billion the majority has no religion (87.4%). The population follow a set of believes and practices local folk religious traditions that includes the teachings of **Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism**, which are not considered religions in China. Germany is the complete opposite of China, whereas approx. 68% of its population is highly religious, being Christianity the largest religion in Germany with 62% of the total population.

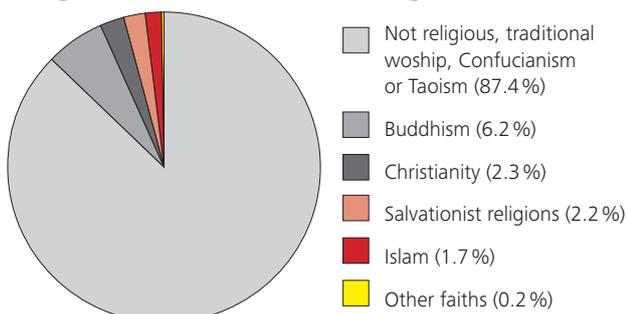
FUN FACT!

Unlike other countries, Chinese religions do not demand exclusive adherence, which means, one can practice or believe in different religions at the same time!

Because of that believe, the Chinese feel very uncomfortable talking about religion and believes. This feeling of discomfort is so strong that teachers are strictly forbidden to touch the topic in the classroom. When confronted with this topic, the Chinese will feel that you are trying to push religion into them. It is best to stay away from the topic completely.

Germany, with more than 70 different religions, is more than used to be "confronted" with all kinds of believes and philosophies.

Religion in China (CGSS's average 2012)



Religion in Germany

According to the 2011 German Census, Christianity is the largest religion in Germany, claiming 66.8% of the total population. Generally 30.8% declared themselves as Roman Catholics; 30.3% as Protestants as represented by the Evangelical Church in Germany; 5.7% were reported to be other Christians.

Geographically, Protestantism is concentrated in the northern, central and eastern parts of the country, while Roman Catholicism is concentrated in the south and west. People with no or other religions are concentrated in the former East Germany and major metropolitan areas.

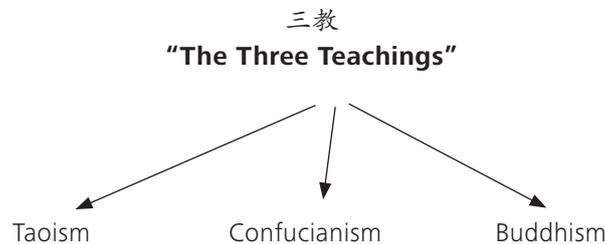
Islam is the second largest religion in the country. In the 2011 the census only 1.9% declared themselves as Muslims, however other sources estimate 3.8 to 4.3 million adherents.

Religion's Role in Public Life

The role of religion in public life is steadily declining in many regards. 20-25% of the German population does not belong to any religion at all. Atheists make up the majority in the Eastern Germany. Those who still belong to one of the mainstream religions, especially the two major Christian churches, keep practicing their faith less and less. Many Christians do not attend Sunday services anymore; the churches have lost much of their moral authority. And yet, the influence of Christianity in Germany prevails in its socio-cultural heritage, down to the holiday calendar or the crucifix displayed in many Bavarian classrooms.

In general, Germans tend to treat to treat questions of faith as a very personal matter. Religion is a topic best avoided in casual small talk, and in-depth discussion about religious beliefs are conversations that are normally reserved for debates among close friends.

Religion & believes



To go over all religions and believes of the world’s most populous country would be too much, so in this chapter you will learn and be amazed by the non-religious Chinese philosophy.

Taoism (道教), Confucianism (儒) and Buddhism (佛教). These three teachings are the bedrock of the Chinese ancient culture.

One way to remember the difference between these three teachings is that Confucianism is mainly concerned with political ideas, social harmony and wisdom. Taoism is mainly concerned about the health of the human body, and the methods of training. Buddhism is primarily concerned about psychology and the nature of the mind (Nirvana).

Each of these teaching also emphasize the opposite of its focus. For example: Confucianism promoted social harmony, by teaching about self-cultivation. Taoism taught about health by emphasizing harmony with the natural environment. And Buddhism taught about mind by contrasting it with the material world of things and forms. Therefore a complete picture of each teaching must include a balanced view of this opposite ideas.



This view of life, where the play of opposites is fundamental, is symbolized by the Tai Chi, which we also call the Ying Yang symbol. This symbol comes from China’s Taoist religion, but it also found in all traditional Chinese schools of thought. Another idea common to each of the three teachings was the concept of the Tao. Which means the way, or path. Although the Tao (Ying Yang) is naturally associated with Taoism, the idea of living your life in accordance with a great natural way is common to all three teachings.

儒

Confucianism

Confucianism, also known as Ruism, is an ethical and philosophical system developed from the teaching of the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551-479 BCE).

FUN FACT!

When Emperors would come to pay respects to Confucius’s memory, the columns that have his body carved, would be covered, so that the Emperor would not see that they were superior to the ones at his own imperial place.

Religion & believes



Confucius respected the ideas of modesty and scholarly dignity. As said before, Confucius was concerned with society and social relations. Thus, Confucius's idea of the way emphasized social harmony. He prescribed that everyone must assume their rightful place in society according to their ability. Confucianism recognized that ability cuts across social divisions and classes. This led to the development of an examination system, where theoretically, anyone with great ability could obtain a high position in government. These examinations were a regular event. Those who scored the highest were received by the emperor himself.

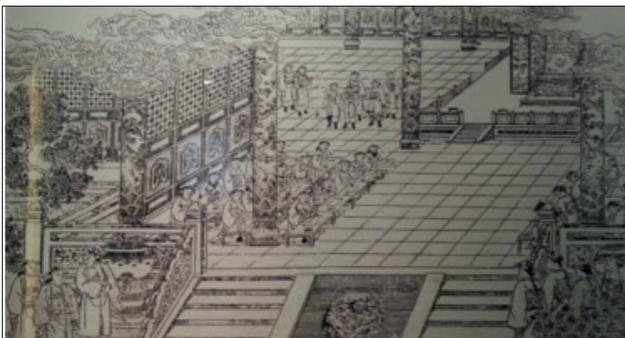
FUN FACT!

*** Then, like now, some exam takers hired others to take the exam for them. Cheaters received corporal punishments for their behavior. ***

Confucianism's emphasis on self-improvement and advancement thought education and scholarship was for its age, a progressive trend. Confucius emphasized hierarchy and rank. This has had a great influence in East Asia, down to modern times. One aspect of this outlook is that elderly are highly respected due to their experience and wisdom. Confucius believed that the best way to teach was to provide a virtuous example for others to see, and aspire too. This was especially true of the King

FUN FACT!

*** There is a wall at Confucius's old home in Qufu, which is now a popular tourist site that displays the remaining's of the books he wrote. ***



Facts on Confucianism

- Date founded: 6th-5th cent. BC
 - (See Symbols in Chinese Religion)
- Place founded: China
 - (See Religion in China)
- Founder: Confucius (551-479 BC)
 - (See Chinese religion history)
- Adherents: 5-6 million
 - (See Religion Statistics)



道教

Taoism

Taoism, or Daoism, China's main native religion, emphasized health and harmony with the environment. Only such a life, according to Taoists, can bring genuine happiness and longevity.

The great way of nature shown on Chinese landscape painting is the natural course of life and not living in harmony with nature was thought to be the cause of disease and misery. Taoism was not only a nature honoring philosophy, it was also a religion of many deities and supernatural beliefs.

Religion & believes



FUN FACT!

*** Taoists sought long life by eating and drinking special foods and potions. Taoists alchemists searching for these tonics of immortality, sometimes made interesting useful discoveries ***

During the 6th century B.C. the philosopher Lao Tzu emerged. He is best known as the reputed author of the **Tao Te Ching** and founder of philosophical Taoism. The **Tao Te Ching** is the most influential and fundamental text for both philosophical and religious Taoism types, in which Lao Tzu suggests that people can attain harmony in life by following the Tao – The Path. The philosophical Taoism is rational, contemplative and nonsectarian, and it accepts death as a natural returning to the Tao. The religious Taoism is magical, cultic, esoteric and sectarian, and it emphasized health and healing as ways to gain long life or even immortality.

*** Modern manifestations of Taoism is the Thai Chi and the medical practices of Quigong.***

The Taoists believe that the Supreme Being or the ultimate truth is beyond words or any conceptual understanding. When asked to name it, it is referred to as **Tao** or **The Way**.

“The way that can be spoken of is not the timeless way. The names of what can be named are not the timeless name. For the way is the nameless origin of heaven and earth, and the mother of all things with names.”

Lao Tzu

Facts on Taoism

Date founded:	550 BCE
Place founded:	China
Founder:	Lao-Tze
Adherents:	20 million specifically Taoist 225 million adherents of Chinese religion
Main location:	China
Sacred texts:	Tao Te Ching, Chuang-Tzu
Original language:	Chinese
Spiritual leader:	Sage (see Taoist beliefs)
House of worship:	Temple
Theism:	Pantheism (see Taoist deities)
Ultimate reality:	The Tao
Human nature:	Born in a state of purity, imperfect but capable of seeking the Tao and doing good
Purpose of life:	Inner harmony and peace; longevity.
How to live:	In accordance with the Tao
Afterlife:	Revert back to state of non-being
symbols:	Yin-Yang

Religion & believes



佛教

Buddhism

Buddhism, the third of China's traditional teachings, is not native to China, it was imported from India about 2000 years ago. Its influence in China is slightly less than that of Taoism. The historical Buddha of India, named: Shakyamuni lived around 500 B.C., about the same time as Confucius and Lao Tzu. His many teachings were written in scriptures that are called: Sutras. Some of these Buddhist Sutras started arriving in China during the first century, coming overland along the Silk Road and arriving Luoyang and other places.

According to legend a white horse carried these Scriptures to China. The Han dynasty emperor established the White Horse temple near Luoyang, which is the place regarded as the starting point for Buddhism in China.



The Buddha taught that life is characterized by suffering, which arises from people's greed, hatred and delusions. The Buddha gained enlightenment, which can be thought to be an insight into the true nature of life and the mind. Buddhism teaches that this enlightenment liberated Buddha from the delusions and false beliefs that afflict mankind. Like Taoism, the Buddhism evolved from a system of rather simple and attractive understandings, to be an elaborate religion of supernatural beliefs, deities and practices. This was partly because Buddhism was everywhere mixed into local cultures and religions that had their own Gods, this was true in China as well as in other Asian countries.

Facts on Buddhism

Meaning of name "Buddhism": System taught by the Buddha (Go here for more about Buddha)

Date founded: 520 BCE (Go here for more about Buddhist history)

Place founded: Northeastern India (See Buddhism symbols)

Founder: Siddhartha Gautama ("the Buddha"), an Indian prince

Adherents: 360 million [1] (Go here for Buddhism main page)

Size rank: Fourth largest world religion [2] (See religion statistics)

Main locations: China, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia (See religion in China and religion in Japan)

Major divisions: Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana (See Theravada and Mahayana comparison chart)

Sacred texts: Pali Canon (Tripitaka), numerous Mahayana sutras (See Buddhism sacred texts)

Original language: Pali (See Buddhism timeline)

Spiritual leader: Monk (lama in Tibetan Buddhism) (See Tibetan Buddhism)

Place of ritual: Temple, meditation hall. (See Buddhism meditation)

Theism: Varies: Theravada is atheistic; Mahayana is more polytheistic. (Compare Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism)

Ultimate reality: None. Nothing is permanent (See Is Buddhism atheistic?)

Human nature: There is no self or soul. Human existence is nothing more than a combination of five impermanent components (khandas). (See human nature in Buddhism)

Purpose of life: Theravada - Become an arhat, escape the cycle of rebirth, and attain nirvana. Mahayana - Become a bodhisattva then help others attain enlightenment. (See life purpose in Buddhism)

Afterlife: Rebirth or nirvana. Nirvana is seen simply as the cessation of suffering by some and as a heavenly paradise by others. (See Buddhism and the afterlife)

Religion & believes



	Origins	Adherents	God(s)	Human Life	Afterlife	Practices	Texts
Buddhism	Based on teachings of Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) in c. 520 BC, NE India.	360 million	Varies: Theravada atheistic; Mahayana more polytheistic; Buddha taught nothing is permanent.	Purpose is to avoid suffering and gain enlightenment and release from cycle of rebirth, or at least attain a better rebirth by gaining merit.	Reincarnation (understood differently than in Hinduism, with no surviving soul) until gain enlightenment	Meditation, mantras, devotion to deities (in some sects), mandalas (Tibetan)	Tripitaka (Pali Canon); Mahayana sutras like the Lotus Sutra; others.
Christianity	Based on life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, c. 30 CE, Roman province of Palestine.	2 billion	Holy Trinity = God the Father + God the Son + God the Holy Spirit	All have sinned and are thereby separated from God. Salvation is through faith in Christ and, for some, sacraments and good works.	Eternal heaven or hell (or temporary purgatory).	Prayer, Bible study, baptism, Eucharist (Communion), church on Sundays, numerous holidays.	Bible (Hebrew Bible + New Testament)
Confucianism	Based on teachings of Confucius (K'ung-fu-tzu) in China, 5th century BCE	5-6 million	Not addressed	Purpose of life is to fulfill one's role in society with propriety, honor, and loyalty.	Not addressed	Honesty, politeness, propriety, humaneness, perform correct role in society, loyalty to family, nation	Analects
Taoism	based on the teachings of Lao-Tzu, c. 550 BCE, China	20 million (394 million of Chinese religion in general)	Pantheism - the Tao pervades all. Yin-yang - opposites make up a unity.	Purpose is inner harmony, peace, and longevity. Achieved by living in accordance with the Tao.	Revert back to state of non-being, which is simply the other side of being.	General attitude of detachment and non-struggle, "go with the flow" of the Tao. Tai-chi, acupuncture, and alchemy to help longevity.	Tao Te Ching, Chuang-Tzu

Education



General information

Two years after Mao's death, in 1978, the government passed a set of reforms, which changed the way of China's development in a drastic way. Those so called „Four Modernizations“ contain the the plan of the government to especially evolve the sector of agriculture, defense and industry as well as technology and science. The sector of „technology and science“ is the most important one, looking at the education in China.



Before those reforms the well educated part of the population was rather seen as a threat than the future. After the reforms especially the communist propaganda changed, to create an acceptance of the so called „mental workers“ by the mostly uneducated population. In addition to this, the „Compulsory Education Law of the Peoples Republic of China“ was passed in 1986. Those two events created the base of the education in China as it is today. They set the content of the curriculum of every single school in the People's Republic of China, public as well as private. The general tone of those bills show that everything leads to one target: The supremacy of the People's Republic of China on the globe.

To reach the whole chinese population, basic education in china is for free. You have to attend school for at least 9 years. Because of the „One-child policy“ and the chinese culture, the academic education is very important in the life a citizen. All efforts made by the government tend only to enhance the performance of the pupils. If there's any possible way, to make sure that their child will get good grades or a better education in general, chinese parents spend much money and effort, for example by sending their children to better schools.



General information

Germany is divided into 16 federal states. The „German Basic Law“ guarantees them the „Kulturhoheit“, which gives them the right to decide independent on some topics. One important part is the education, where the states only have to follow some vague policy, made by the Federal Republic of Germany.

For example that the basic education is for free, you have to attend one kind of school until you turn 18 and the final examination at the end of the secondary school which is called „Abitur“, only to name a few guidelines. Because of this independency the laws can differ from state to state. Those laws have changed lots and lots of times and still do. They sometimes bring big changes like the switch from the 9 years of secondary school to 8 years or the current discussion about the dimension of sex education in class.

The school system

Pre School

In Germany the pre school starts at the age of 3. Before that time it is possible for german parents to give their children to a nursery. Since 2013 it's even granted by law to be able to give one's child to a nursery. The play school in Germany is not an extra school. It's the last year in the kindergarten before primary school starts. During this year the children learn about working and communicating in groups, how to behave in the traffic on the streets and other things which are important for the following years and the time in primary school.

Primary School

After 3 years the children will go to primary school. At this time the children will learn the basics in math, the german language, english, handcraft and physical education. After 4 years (6 years in some states), the pupils will have the choice between three types of

Education



The school system

Pre School

The normal process of a child's education starts at the age of 3 in the kindergarten. The Peoples Republic of China provides public play schools for every child. Even pre school has a set list with the content the nursery teachers have to teach the children. This list is created by the government, which controls the whole orientation of the education and directs the focus of teaching.

Primary School

Usually at the age of 6, chinese children have their first contact with a formal type of school, when they attend primary school. In the following 6 years at school the children will learn about Chinese, mathematics, history, geography, physical education and music. They also have subjects like ideology and morality. One part of their training also covers practical work experience outside of the normal school. Looking at the fact that still over 50% of the population lives in rural ares and that normally both parents have to work during the day, boarding schools are a big thing. During the time at primary and later at secondary school it's very common for children to only see their parents at the weekends or just during their holidays. The goal of boarding schools is not only to concentrate pupils of less inhabited areas of China, where it wouldn't be efficient to run a own school, but also to give the children the opportunity to attend a better equipped school than in their hometown.

Secondary School:

Junior High School:

Normally at the age of 12, after primary school, the chinese pupils go to lower secondary school and afterwards to higher secondary school. Both parts off secondary school take 3 years to complete. After the finals of lower secondary school, you can decide whether you want to continue with the normal academic education or start vocational education and already prepare for your later job.

Senior High School:

If you chose to go on with the academic education you will need to pay for the following 3 years on your own. The time at the senior high school ends with the „Gao



school. There are the „Hauptschule“, the „Realschule“ and the „Gymnasium“.

At the end of the 4. year at primary school every pupil will get an individual „Grundschulempfehlung“. This letter can be mandatory depending on the state you're living in and tells you which school is probably the best for you. The 3 schools differ in the degree you get when you finish the school, the duration to finish and the kind of subjects you have. The suggestion depends on the grades of the pupils whereby the best students are sent to „Gymnasium“, then to „Realschule“ and the students who have difficulties to learn the basics of math and the german language are recommended to go to „Hauptschule“.

Secondary School

The secondary school covers subjects like math, history, chemistry, physics, biology, physically education and a second language like spanish, french or latin. Depending on which of the 3 types of secondary school you choose, it can take between 5 to 9 years to finish them.

If you attend the „Hauptschule“ you finish after 5 years. After that time you are normally still under 18 and you need to find a school where you can start your vocational training.



Education



Kao". This is the National College Entrance Examination and the most important examination of them all. It will decide whether one will get one of the eligible university places, because there are only enough places for about every second pupil. Even if you are able to get one of the places it's not granted that you can study what you want. This is only possible if one gets outrageous good grades or has the money to pay for the whole education at university. During the „Gao Kao“ the air traffic above big cities is redirected, streets are blocked and police guides students, who are stuck in traffic jam, to their schools. Even most of the hotels in the area of the schools are booked up by students, to make sure that they will be able to attend the examination on time.



Tertiary School:

After this very intense and hard final examination the students will be able to get one of the university places, if they are good and lucky enough. There are about 75 so called key universities in China. Those elite universities enjoy a very good reputation in China and the whole world. They get extra subventions by the government. Of course they only accept the top students of the whole nation, but a degree from one of these universities will guarantee you a very well payed job.



Comparison

Both countries put great effort in the education of their people, which can be proven by the fact that they both provide free education for everyone to a certain point. The four pillars of learning by the UNESCO: „learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be“ are reached in different ways. The focus of China's education lies on the repetition of the taught matter whereas in Germany the goal is to develop an independent and individual person who questions given information and don't just accept them. But by looking at the PISA ranking, China (Shanghai) is leading in all three categories of the test. This shows that the chinese education system works very well, but it's general focus lies on other things than the german one.



It's also possible to go to a special „Gymnasium“, which you can attend when you went to the „Realschule“ at first and finished it after 6 years. This will take you another 3 years but at the end you will have the same degree as someone who was at a regular „Gymnasium“ the whole time. This final examination at the end of secondary school is called „Abitur“. It tests the students in german, math, one foreign language and one other subject of choice. It also has a verbal part and in combination with the written score this will be your final score.

Tertiary School

The score of your „Abitur“ is the factor by which you apply at the universities you want to go to. There are three different types of universities in Germany: The general university which focuses on a pure academic development, the university of applied science („Fachhochschule“), which emphasizes the practical working and keeps the proximity to the later job and the university of arts, which limits itself on an artistic way education. All three types have courses of studies have bachelor and master courses. The under degree or bachelor normally takes 6-7 semesters to graduate in and the master degree 2-4 additional semesters.

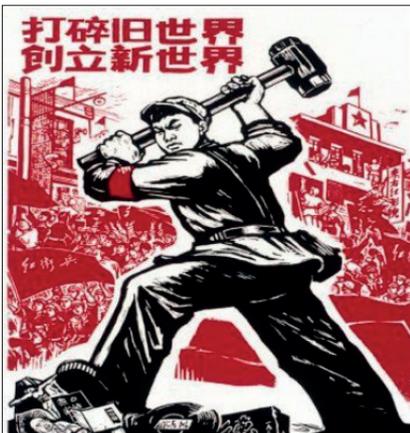
Economy



Economy in China

The Chinese economy is since more than 2000 years set up as a feudal system. The land was in the hands of a few people who lived by the duties of the peasant farmers. Nevertheless, the farmers still had to pay taxes to the imperial government.

After the Opium Wars in 1860 railroad tracks and roads were built. This was the initiation of the industrial development in China. In the mid-twenties the Communist Party of China was founded. They introduced in the most parts of the country a agrarian program which controlled the duties and prevented the overproduction of agricultural products. 01.10.1949 is a historical date in China.



Creating a new world

On that date the Communist Party of China created a united national government and a common economic policy. The Restriction of the inflation followed, the availability of food. They also reduced the unemployment. In 1958 the first peasant communes emerged, which played a significant role in the 80's. The Government extended its ownership, adding industrial factories and trading companies. As they initiated the first five-years plan, the industry grew steadily and the sector owned by the state gained importance. In 1958 the second five-years plan had to be canceled due to major irritations in the economic management. The third five year plan began in 1966, but the agricultural and industrial has been weakened considerably by the effects of the Cultural Revolution.

The fourth five year plan began in 1971, as the economy had recovered halfway. After the elimination of marks caused by the cultural revolution, the government of china decided to increase the economical subsidies. The fifth five-years plan started in 1976 but was suspended in 1978. the ten-year plan from 1986 to 1990 based on the assumption of a annual economic growth of seven percent each year. Foced by a political crisis in 1989 the economical development slowed down. In 1992 the economy could achieve a record growth of 13 percent.

Agricultural production provided 27 percent of the total national income, industrial production more than 45 percent. The productions increased in recent years alot.

Culture things

Traditions



China is a country steeped in ancient customs and traditions of which the native people are proud. To many people in the west countries, the word 'China' typically conjure up thoughts of dragons, giant pandas, the color, the number 8 and the distinctive calligraphs, all of which are traditional to this country.

China and the whole Europe share similar-size land area. With such a large area, customs are always different in different parts.

In addition, due to the fact that this country is one of the existing oldest cultures, traditions have grown over centuries with unique festivals, customs, arts and cuisines.

China's National Flag

The National Flag of China has bright red bases with five golden stars adorning it on the upper left side corner. The star on the left is larger than the other four, and it represents the Communist Party of China. The other four represents millions of Chinese people.

The bright red color represents the great and sacred communist revolution led by Communist Party of China. The whole flag means Chinese people can overcome all the difficulties, defeat all the enemies and invaders and succeed in all the revolutions and constructions under the leadership of Communist Party of China.

On October 1st, 1949, the present Chinese flag was first hoisted in the Tiananmen Square on the occasion of the foundation of the People's Republic of China.

The designer of National flag is Zeng liansong (1917-1999) he was an economist in Shanghai, also a member of the standing committee of the CPPCC Shanghai committee. When he was young he joined the Liberation War against Japan. In 1999, he died of illness.

Culture things

Public holidays



China has seven legal holidays in a year, including New Year's Day, Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), Qingming Festival, May Day, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Day and National Day. At the above seven festivals, Chinese people can enjoy days off. Besides, they celebrate four other festivals on which some people have a half day off – Women's Day, Youth Day, Children's Day and Army Day. Many other galas and anniversaries are celebrated even without days off, such as Arbor Day and Teachers' Day.

Major Public holidays in China

Name	Date	Legal Holidays
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	1 day
Chinese New Year	subject to lunation	3 days
Qingming	Apr. 4 or 5	1 day
May Day	May 1	1 day
Dragon Boat	5th of 5th lunar month	1 day
Mid-Autumn Day	Aug. 15 of lunar calendar	1 day
National Day	Oct. 1	3 days

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the fifteenth, when the moon is brightest. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year. At Chinese New Year celebrations people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire, which according to legend can drive away bad luck. The fireworks that shower the festivities are rooted in a similar ancient custom. Long ago, people in China lit bamboo stalks, believing that the crackling flames would frighten evil spirits. As a legend goes, a monster, named Xi, always finds food in villages for its lack of food in winter. Villagers are afraid of this monster, so they come up with a way to frighten and expel Xi by lighting bamboos and paste red paper on their doors. Xi fears the sound of lighted bamboos and red color, so it runs away. People successfully chase



Public holidays in Germany vary from one federal state to another with some states having more public holidays than others. In Berlin, for example, there are nine public holidays per year, whereas certain federal states, such as Baden-Württemberg or Bavaria, celebrate up to five more days.

Major Public holidays in Germany

Name	Comments
New Years Day	
Epiphany	Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt
Good Friday	Friday before Easter Sunday
Easter Monday	Monday after Easter Sunday
May Day	International Workers Day
Mothers Day	2 nd Sunday in May. Not a public holiday
Fathers Day	Celebrated on Ascension Day
Ascension Day	40 days after Easter
Whitmonday	7 th Monday after Easter. Also Known as Pentecost Monday
Corpus Christi	Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland
Assumption Day	Saarland
German Unity Day	Celebrated on October 3 rd
Day of Reformation	Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia
All Saints Day	Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland
Repentance Day	Saxony. Wednesday before November 23
Christmas Day	
St Stephens Day	Second day of Christmas

New Year's Day

New Year's Day is a public holiday in Germany. It is also known as the first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. Many people begin the New Year at midnight between December 31 and January 1 with sparkling wine and fireworks. Many people begin January 1 by celebrating the end of the old year and the start of the new one at midnight. These celebrations include public concerts, parties and fireworks and may last into the early hours of January 1. Many people spend the rest of the day quietly, but some organize a communal lunch or evening meal with friends or family. In some regions, local media compete to find and publish a photograph of the first baby born in the

Culture things

Public holidays



away Xi. The day people expelling Xi, people call it Chu Xi which is the Chinese of New Year's Eve. (Chu in English means expelling or killing.). Nowadays, people still kindle bamboos in New Year's Eve, but just for celebrating the coming of New Year.

Qingming

Qing Ming Jie or Ching Ming Festival ("Pure Brightness Festival") is a traditional Chinese holiday celebrated on the 106th day after the winter solstice, which occurs on April 4 or April 5 of the Gregorian calendar. It marks the middle of spring and is a sacred day of the dead. For the Chinese, Tomb Sweeping Day is primarily a festival for remembering and honoring ones' ancestors. Young and old pray before the ancestors, sweep the tombs and offer food and libation to the ancestors. The rites are very important to most Chinese and especially farmers. Many believe that if the ancestors' spirits are not properly cared for, they will become hungry ghosts that can cause trouble for the living. Nowadays, the festival is also a patriotic day. The April Fifth Movement and the Tiananmen incident were major events involving Qing Ming Jie that took place in the history of the People's Republic of China. When Premier Zhou Enlai passed away in 1976, thousands visited him during the festival to pay respect. In the Republic of China, April 5th coincides with the passing of Chiang Kai-shek and the date is designated as a national holiday.

May Day

Until 2008, this holiday was celebrated for seven days, however later the Chinese government decided to reduce the number of off-days to three in favor of other traditional Chinese holidays. The history of International Workers' Day in China started in 1919, when the intelligentsia initiated insurgencies in Shanghai. Later, in 1920, Beijing and Shanghai held the first-ever demonstration in honor of all workers. Amplitudinous rallies and demonstrations across China were organized to celebrate this Day. The holiday was more of a political character. Today Labor Day in China is a sort of a cheerful family holiday. During these three days of



New Year. Classical orchestras may present a special music program known as a New Year's Concert in the afternoon or evening. Germany's Chancellor makes a televised New Year's speech.

Epiphany in Germany

Epiphany is annually celebrated in Germany on January 6 to mark the Magi's (or three wise men's) visit to baby Jesus. It is also the end of the Christmas season. Some people in Germany attend a special church service on Epiphany. If the church has had a crib display during the Christmas period, the figures representing the Magi are placed in the crib on January 6. People with a crib scene at home do the same. Children learn about the story of the three wise men and may act out the whole Christmas story. Homes and stables in rural areas are cleansed by burning frankincense and allowing the smoke to spread through the rooms. Groups of children go from house to house dressed as the three wise men between December 27 and January 6. They knock on the door of each house and sing hymns about the Jesus' birth and the Magi's visit. If the door is opened, they ask for money for a specific charity.

Easter

Easter is a festival of Christian origin and therefore celebrated in Germany. It reminds of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the weeks before Easter you can buy chocolate bunnies and eggs in every shop. Traditionally, the eggs are hidden in the house or in the garden. Children get told that the Easter bunny has brought them and are supposed to find them at Easter.

Whit Sunday and Monday

It is a common religious holiday celebrated throughout Europe, including Germany. This holiday is celebrated on Sunday, with a public holiday on the following Monday, by Christians throughout the country in remembrance of Pentecost, more commonly referred to as Pfingsten in Germany. The celebrated date changes each year depending on what date Easter Sunday falls on. The celebration revolves around Pentecost, also referred to as the birthday of the Church, an event celebrated by Christians marking when the holy spirit

Culture things

Public holidays



holidays, the Chinese go to the country, meet friends, and attend solemn events. Many people visit theaters and exhibitions. The streets of the Chinese cities hold demonstrations and performances.

The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival is a significant holiday celebrated in China, and the one with the longest history. The Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons. Competing teams row their boats forward to a drumbeat racing to reach the finish end first. The boat races during the Dragon Boat Festival are traditional customs to attempts to rescue the patriotic poet Chu Yuan. Chu Yuan drowned on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month in 277 B.C. Chinese citizens now throw bamboo leaves filled with cooked rice into the water. Therefore the fish could eat the rice rather than the hero poet. This later on turned into the custom of eating zungtzu and rice dumplings. The celebration's is a time for protection from evil and disease for the rest of the year. It is done so by different practices such as hanging healthy herbs on the front door, drinking nutritious concoctions, and displaying portraits of evil's nemesis, Chung Kuei. If one manages to stand an egg on it's end at exactly 12:00 noon, the following year will be a lucky one.

Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also called the Chinese Moon Festival, is one of the most important annual festivals for the Chinese people (in addition to the Spring Festival and Chinese New Year) and is an official holiday. Perhaps most importantly, it is a day for family reunion. This lively festival takes place on the 15th day of the 8th Chinese lunar month every year, so its exact date by the Western calendar is different every time. Full of joy and happiness, friends and loved ones gather to celebrate a time when the moon is at its fullest and brightest of the whole year, and everyone gathers together to delight in eating moon cakes and appreciating the spectacular beauty of the full moon.



came down on the apostles. Celebrations vary depending on the part of Germany. It's not uncommon to see areas of the country decorated in beautiful red flowers to signify the fire of the holy spirit, as well as birch branches, with birch often associated with both the planting of the Pentecost tree as well as the Pentecost wreath. Most churches open their doors Whit Sunday featuring special events, such as church services, organ recitals and other musical concerts. In Berlin, Whit Sunday also corresponds with the Carnival of Cultures parade.

Day of German Unity in Germany

German Unity Day is annually held on October 3 to mark the anniversary of the nation's unification. It remembers when the Federal Republic of Germany and the Democratic Republic of Germany united to create one single, federal Germany on October 3, 1990. Each year a different city hosts the national celebrations. Many mosques in Germany are open to the general public on October 3. This is an initiative to stimulate contact between Muslims and non-Muslims and to emphasize the role that Muslims played in forming modern Germany.

Reformation Day in Germany

Reformation Day is a public holiday in five states in Germany on October 31 each year to remember the religious Reformation in Europe. It commemorates when German monk and theologian Martin Luther's proposals were nailed on the doors of a church in 1517. This event was the start of religious and social changes in Europe. Many members of the Lutheran and some Reformed Churches, attend special church services to mark the anniversary of Martin Luther's proclamation. Other people have a day off work to spend time with family or friends. Many people use the day to shop or visit attractions in countries, such as Austria, Poland or Switzerland, as these countries are close to the German states. They also celebrate Reformation Day as a public holiday.

Culture things

Public holidays



National Day

October 1st is the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and is celebrated as the National Holiday all over China. On this day back in 1949, the Chinese people, under the leadership of Communist Party of China, declared victory in War of Liberation. A grand ceremony was held at Tian'anmen Square. At the ceremony, Mao Zedong, Chairman of the Central People's Government, solemnly declared the founding of P.R.C. and raised the first national flag of China in person. 300,000 soldiers and people gathered at the square for the grand parade and celebration procession. In recent years, the Chinese Government has extended the National Day Holiday to one week, which was called the Golden Week. It is intended to help expand the domestic tourism market and allow people time to make long-distance family visits.



Christmas

Starting from the end of November many German towns build up Christmas markets. People can buy handicrafts and Christmas presents or just have a cup of mulled wine or eat some gingerbread. In Germany Christmas is celebrated on the 24th of December. The family gets together to decorate the Christmas tree in the morning and to have dinner in the evening. After that, the presents are exchanged and many families go to church to celebrate the birth of Christ. The 25th and the 26th of December are public holidays and are usually spent with family and friends.



Comparison

Both countries have different national holidays, which is probably caused by the differences in culture, religion and history. That's why every country has its own important days. Nevertheless, they have something in common. The Germans as well as the Chinese celebrate most of the national holidays together with their families and friends and special holiday meals.

Culture things

Food & drinks



Mealtime

As in Europe the Chinese people eat three times a day. They like to eat warm – even for breakfast. Normally they have their breakfast at 7 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. For breakfast they like to eat Baozi or noodles. In general they love variety and so it is common to order more than just one main dish. Everybody can taste the food that is on the table.

Supermarkets

Due to the state-controlled food distribution until 1980, big supermarkets haven't been taken for granted by the Chinese. Recently the figure of supermarkets in China rose and even international superstores such as WalMart, Auchan and Metro opened stores in China. It enables them to also buy western products e.g. bread and cheese. In general they offer fresh goods, including fishes, that can be chosen out of an aquarium.



Regional cuisine

There is a large dividing rule, which separates the cuisine in China nutritionally as well as agriculturally.

The wheat and millet regions for example are separated from the regions, where the people mainly live on rice. The wheat flour is eaten as staple food in the colder and drier Northern China. China's southern cuisines benefit from the warm weather. They are known for their exceptional spiciness and their great variety of fruit, vegetable, animal ingredients and fungal.



Mealtime

The Germans normally eat three times a day. They prefer to eat cold dish for breakfast and for dinner. They usually have breakfast at 8 p.m., lunch at 12 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. For breakfast they like to eat bread optional with marmalade, honey, cheese, sausage or cereals and yoghurt. In Germany it is common to order one main dish for every person. It is not usual to taste the food that another person ordered.

Supermarkets

Not all grocery stores in Germany are equal. Germans are well-known for their thrifty nature, which combined with the country's market power has resulted in some of the lowest food prices on the continent. Germany is well-acquainted with discount grocery stores, and is in fact the birthplace of the Aldi chain. Stores are small and easily navigable. Restricted choice makes shopping quick and easy. The most common stores across the country are Aldi, Lidl, and Netto.



Regional cuisine

It has evolved as a national cuisine through centuries of social and political change with variations from region to region. In general

Germans tend to eat heavy and hearty meals that include ample portions of meat and bread. Potatoes are the staple food, and each region has its own favorite ways of preparing them.

The southern regions of Germany, including Bavaria and neighbouring Swabia, share many dishes. Furthermore, across the border in Austria, one will find many different dishes. However, ingredients and dishes vary by region. Many significant regional dishes have become international, but have proliferated in very different variations across the country presently.

Southwestern Germany

Cooking in the outer, southwestern part of Germany is greatly influenced by French cooking. Riesling wines, Spätzle, Sauerkraut made with white wine, and Maultaschen are among the favorites made here.

Culture things

Food & drinks



In China each area has a distinct style of cooking and so the cooking styles can be divided into about 14 geographical areas.

The international most famous Chinese style of cooking is the Cantonese Cuisine. It has been popularized by Chinese restaurants around the world as the majority of those who set up these restaurants were of Cantonese origin. The dishes are characterized by a slightly sweet taste.

There are some rumours about the Guangdong Cuisine like „The Chinese eat everything with four legs, except tables, and everything that flies except airplanes“ or „Any animal, whose back points to the sun, can be eaten“. In Guangdong dishes are commonly used things that are rarely seen on Western tables. The Cantonese people consider snake, cat and pangolin to be the most delicious food.

The most Popular Chinese Dishes are: Sweet and Sour Pork, Gong Bao Chicken, Ma Po Tofu, Wontons, Dumplings, Chow Mein, Peking Roasted Duck, Spring Rolls

Some specialities of the Chinese cuisine, of which the Western people are mostly afraid of are e.g. century eggs, chicken feet, edible bird's nest (Yanwo), Virgin boy eggs,...



Tea Culture

The Chinese usually drink unsweetened green tea and black tea. They are believed to have enjoyed tea drinking for more than four thousand years, the longest in the world. In the traditional Chinese culture, tea drinkers were always considered to be elite and are highly respected by society. Drinking tea also demonstrate personal morality, education, principle and social status. This is why serving tea gradually became an essential part of Chinese social life. In modern China, even the simplest dwelling has a tea set and a water heater for making a hot cup of tea.



Bavaria and Franconia

Cooking in the German state of Bavaria is greatly influenced by Austrian cooking. Popular in this region are various kinds of Knödel (dumplings), Weisswurst, Leberkäse, and Pretzels. Franconia, a region within Bavaria, is best known for Lebkuchen and Bratwurst.

Northwestern Germany

Because of its close proximity to the North Sea and Baltic Sea, it includes a large variety of seafood dishes. Also typical are hearty wurst (sausages), potato and cabbage dishes, as well casseroles, rye breads, and several different kinds of soups.

Rhineland

Cooking in the Rhine River region is influenced by foods in Belgium and The Netherlands, as well as by the local wine industry. The menu here includes such popular dishes as Sauerbraten, Potato Pancakes, and Blutwurst with Onions.

Eastern Germany

This region is known for it's hearty dishes, a wide variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and beer. Klöße (dumplings) and potatoes are loved here, as well as delicious cakes and pastries.

Due to the fact that about 90 percent of the Chinese have a lactose intolerance, they don't consume as much milk products as the Germans usually do. Many Chinese find it disgusting, when they imagine, that Germans eat cheese, which is pretty the same as moldy milk.



Drinking and Beer Culture

German beer culture is pure emotion. Hardly any other product evokes as much passion as German beer, the country's national drink. With approximately 5,000 beer brands and more than 40 different types of beer, it's no surprise that Germany is regarded as one of the world's beer nations. This diversity of beer brands and types in the German beer

Culture things

Food & drinks



These implements are symbols of welcome to visitors and neighbors. Traditionally, a visitor to a Chinese home is expected to sit down and drink hot tea while talking.

In Chinese culture, it is also a sign of respect to serve someone tea. A younger person can show respect and thanks to an older person by offering them a cup of tea. This is especially common during big events, like birthdays and during spring festival.

It is this, traditional Chinese weddings. In a traditional Chinese marriage ceremony, both the bride and groom kneel in front of their parents and serve them tea. This is a way of expressing gratitude to their elders for raising them up. Today China remains one of the largest suppliers of quality teas. Green teas represent 75% to 80% of China's current consumption. The rest of the production of green teas, and all of the black teas, are exported.

Alcohol

Although about 50 % of the Chinese don't have an important enzyme, which is essential for breaking down the alcohol, they like to drink. Especially they like to drink alcohol during a business lunch. They want to leave a good impression and often clink glasses, saying "Ganbei", which means "empty glass". The Chinese drink white wine, rice wine, Maotai, Wuliangye, Luzhou but also beer. In China they produce a beer called Quindgao, which is brewed according to the German Purity Law. In China it is unfriendly to refuse alcohol, and it is always advantageous to have an excuse.



Table manners

- A round dining table is more popular than a rectangular or square one. As many people who can be seated comfortably around it conveniently face one another. The guest of honor is always seated to the right of the host; the next in line will sit on his left. Guests should be seated after the host's invitation, and it is discourteous to seat guests at the place



culture, which emerged from regional taste preferences, can hardly be matched by any other country. A regional beer also "tastes like home". It gives a sense of rootedness and exudes a certain attitude towards life.

German beer brings people together. It represents tradition, conviviality, and, above all, the German Purity Law of 1516 – the world's oldest food regulation – is still in force today. Even now, the Purity Law still ensures that German beer is made exclusively from malt, hops, yeast, and water. It laid the foundation for the excellent quality of German beers and the country's leading role when it comes to beer culture.

You may be surprised to learn that Germany has more than 1,200 breweries. And more than 5,000 German brands.

Yet, this does not mean that Germans only drink beer. In fact beer consumption is falling. The past 30 years have seen Germans drink more and more mineral water, once more influenced by traditions in other countries. Moreover, tea has become more popular over the last decade, particularly in Ostfriesland, where it has always been traditional. Today, throughout Germany tea is probably just as popular as coffee. Of course, Germany is also renowned for its red and white wines, such as from the Rivers Rhein, Mosel, Ahr, Nahe, and the regions of Baden, Pfalz, Rheingau and many more.

Beer and wine are part of a normal dinner and alcoholic drinks are usually offered to guests. Not drinking, however, is completely accepted. A German who rejects a drink is not just being shy or polite but does not want to drink. For some cultures it is uncommon to see teenagers order a beer at restaurants and pubs. the legal drinking age in Germany is 16 for beer and wine and 18 for spirits.

Culture things

Food & drinks



where the dishes are served.

- Apart from soup, all dishes should be eaten with chopsticks. The Chinese are particular about the use of chopsticks. There are many no-no's such as twiddling with chopsticks, licking chopsticks, or using them to stir up the food, gesture with them or point them at others. Never stick chopsticks in the center of rice, as this is the way to sacrifice and is therefore considered to be inauspicious.
- A formal dining is always accompanied by tea, beer or distilled spirit. The one who sit closest to the teapot or wine bottle should pour them for others from the senior and superior to the junior and inferior. And when other people fill your cup or glass, you should express your thanks. Guests can not pour tea or wine themselves.
- Conventionally, if you are invited to a formal banquet, all the dishes should not be eaten up completely, or you will give the host the impression that he has not provided a good banquets and the food was insufficient. After dining, guests should leave once the host has left the table
- Blowing one's nose at the table, even if the food is spicy, is mildly offensive.
- **Attention:** In China it is also common practice to spit things out on the table or the floor. Slurping, smacking the lips and leaving the mouth open when eating can be viewed as demonstrating enjoyment of the food and a friendly atmosphere in China.



Comparison

Every country has its own delicacies and customs. Especially staple foods are very different. It mostly depends on the agriculture of the country. Both countries offer a lot of different foods, that varies within some regions. While Germany is famous for it's beer culture, China is famous for it's tea culture. Both countries like to drink alcohol on special occasions. There is a huge difference between the table manners in Germany and China and people should inform themselves about the manners of the other culture, before visiting the country. None of the both cultures would expect the other culture to know about all the manners, but they would surely appreciate it, if the other person adapted himself.

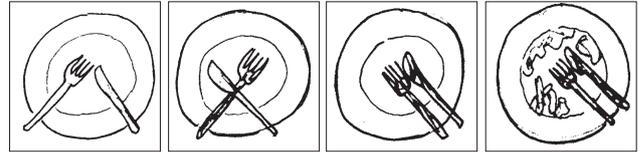


Table manners

- Germans rarely eat with their hands! Especially in a fine restaurant or in a formal/semiformal dining situation, even pizza is eaten with a knife and fork.
- Hold the fork in your left hand, the knife in your right hand.
- Germans don't put their hand on their lap while eating and it's considered rude to put the elbows on the table.
- When eating or drinking together, wait until someone says "Enjoy your meal!"

In a restaurant:

- Unless it is a fancy restaurant you don't usually have to wait to be seated. You can just find a table that is free.
- At bars, in cafés and in informal crowded Restaurants, it is perfectly OK to sit down next to strangers, as long as you get an affirmative response to the question "Is this seat vacant?"
- If you cross your knife and fork on your plate, it means you are just pausing. If you lay your knife and fork side by side, it means you are finished, and the waiter may come and take your plate away.
- Typically, the waiter always comes to you and tells you your total. Then you have to tell him how much you will pay, i.e. the amount you owe plus any "rounding up"
- A lot of german restaurants do not accept credit cards
- Don't take more than you can eat. It's considered impolite to leave food on your plate.

Culture things

Health



China is the only country in the world where Western medicine and traditional medicine are practised alongside each other at every level of the healthcare system. Traditional Chinese medicine has a unique theoretical and practical approach to the treatment of disease, which has developed over thousands of years.

Traditional treatments include herbal remedies, acupuncture, massage, acupressure and moxibustion. They account for approximately 40% of all health care delivered in China.

The current government policy of expansion of traditional facilities and manpower is being questioned because many hospitals using traditional Chinese medicine are already underutilised and depend on government subsidies for survival.

Research priorities include randomised controlled trials of common treatments and analysis of the active agents in herbal remedies. As more studies show the clinical effectiveness of traditional Chinese medicine, an integrated approach to disease using a combination of Western medicine and traditional approaches becomes a possibility for the future. The costs of many medications are not completely borne by the Chinese health insurances.



Germany has a reputation for having one of the best health care systems in the world, providing its residents with comprehensive health insurance coverage. Approximately 85% of the population are mandatory or voluntary members of the public health scheme while the rest have private health insurance. The health insurance reform of 2007 now requires everyone living in Germany to be insured for at least hospital and out-patient medical treatment. This must also include coverage for pregnancy and certain medical check-ups.



The costs of the German health care system are immense and rising due to demographics as well as medical cost inflation. Recent government reforms have attempted to make hospitals more competitive and thereby reduce costs for the state health insurance providers (GKV).

The introduction of the Gesundheitsfonds which is a monstrous collection and distribution fund for all monies paid into the GKV went into effect as of January 1, 2009. The consequences were felt by all: the present 120 health insurances claim that the amounts being distributed per head are not enough to cover costs and a number of the insurances have already registered for bankruptcy.

Culture things

Health



The patient therefore has to come up for a certain percentage of the medications. Especially people in the rural landscapes and the less developed regions are overburden, which results in forgoing of necessary medications by the people there. Another problem is the rising distrust between doctors and patients. There are more and more rumors about doctors, who suggest unnecessary medications to their patients to get additional wages.

Chinese pharmacies carry over-the-counter drugs that are similar to those in most Western countries. Previously, many drugs requiring prescriptions in other countries were freely available in China, but this has changed due to tighter regulations. Getting a prescription works pretty much the same in China as in any other country.

The Chinese need to get a prescription paper from their doctor and take it to the pharmacy to the medication.



There are two types of medication: freely-available drugs and prescription only medicines, which require a Rezept (prescription) from a doctor. The prescription is taken to the pharmacy by the patient and the pharmacist issues the medicines.

The law on prescriptions is very strict. Many medicines must be prescribed by a doctor in Germany. However, some painkillers, such as headache tablets, are available at pharmacies without a prescription. With state health insurance, the majority of the costs of prescription medicines are paid for directly by your insurance company. Germans do pay a small nominal fee for each drug, depending on its cost. Irrespective of the insurance scheme, they will always need to pay the whole cost for non-prescription drugs. Medicines in Germany are among the most expensive in Europe.



Comparison

Comparing the health care system of both countries, the Germans can be more relaxed than the Chinese. Whether the costs of health insurances are cheaper in China, the German health insurances usually cover more of the medications costs. In Germany the patients trust their doctors more than the Chinese do. The combination of prescriptions and pharmacists is nearly the same in both countries. In general it can be said, that the Chinese health system becomes more and more similar to the Western health systems.

Culture things

Art



Chinese traditional art represents a great part of the country's rich heritage. It is mostly known for their excellent pottery and elegant paintings. Early themes were developed from religious and supernatural beliefs or from their passion about the natural environment and landscape. Chinese painting developed a distinctive style that differs from German paintings.

In one hand German paintings are typically very detailed and realistic just like a photograph. They use bright colors and the canvas is always completely covered in paint. The result is mostly presented in a noble frame. On the other hand Chinese paintings are simpler so does shading and color play minor roles. Instead of using oil based paint like the Germans, Chinese artists use mostly ink and the background is typically left empty which makes the painting look like a well-made sketch.

Traditionally painter work from memory and are not much interested in imitating the appearance of his subject but more in capturing its beauty and quality which impress him. The artists like to paint particularly bamboo or blossoms and especially landscapes. The results have no viewing points or center which allows the viewer to wander in imagination within the painting, therefore an enormous frame would be just a disturbance.

One of the oldest and most basic forms of Chinese art is calligraphy, the painting of the Chinese character with a brush and ink. It is a highly stylized form of writing referred to as the 'four treasures of study'. Given that they use the same materials for painting and calligraphy states that calligraphy is considered art equally as paintings. Its purpose is not only communication, but also expressing aesthetics.



Culture things

Music



As the language and art, music can be tracked thousands of years back. Many folk genres were closely related to imperial traditions of courtly and temple music for instance Tibetan music.

While the dialects are divided into northern and south areas, each area prefers their own kind of music and instrument. In the North drums and wind instruments that were played by mouth such as flutes and suonas were very popular. In opposite the South has a distinctive folk music tradition known as 'Hakka folk music' which is recognize for its rhythms.

The East prefer string instruments such as gu zheng, erhu and gao hu. These musicians like to perform in groups or solo. The music is generally melancholy in tone. The legendary founder of ancient Chinese instruments was Ling Lun who made bamboo pipes into flutes that sound like birds.

Many of the old instruments were made up of specific materials because of their tonal versatility. Wooden musical instruments were especially popular in ancient China. It was used for making Bangzi, Guba, Yu, Muyu and Zhu which were important during the ancient rituals. Metals, especially bronze, were mostly used to make percussion instrument for example gongs, cymbals and bells.

One of the most common form of music apart from folk, is Chinese drama and opera. In Beijing Opera, traditional Chinese string and percussion instruments provide a strong rhythmic accompaniment to acting, but they are also used to make special effects sounds such as animal sounds too.



Culture things

Language



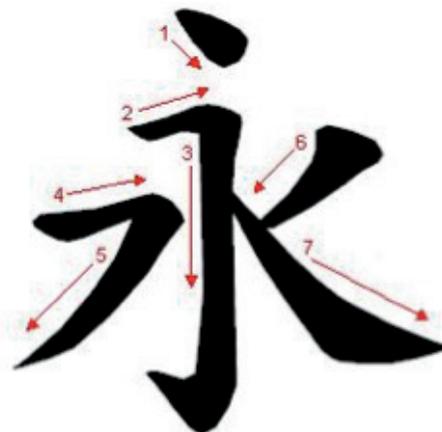
The Chinese language is the most widely spoken languages in the world. Due to china's huge economic growth non-Chinese heritage people start learning Chinese for business opportunities or just for personal reasons.

The official language of china is Mandarin also called "Hanyu" which is spoken by 1.3 billion people mainly in China, Taiwan and Singapore. Besides it is the main language of the government, media and education in china and Taiwan. Of course there is also a variety of dialects which are divided into northern (official) dialects for example Mandarin and southern (non-official) dialects such as Yue (Cantonese) mainly spoken in Hong Kong, Wu, Gan, Hakka and Min.

In Comparison to Germany that has its main dialect "Hochdeutsch" and many dialects depending in which area you live. However the spoken dialects in China have many differences which make them unintelligible but Mandarin and Cantonese speakers can understand each other through writing. Chinese characters and the way how they write are completely incomparable with the German letters. In fact they do not have letters but every object has its own character or the other way around one character has many different meanings, it just depends in which context you use it.

The early form of Chinese characters was pictographic, graphic representations of real objects, obviously during history new ones were added that have visually hardly something in common with their meaning. In 1950 the government began simplifying characters to improve literacy. Nevertheless traditional characters are still used mainly in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Each character contains a radical which indicates the meaning and strokes that complete the character. In general characters are written from left to right and top to bottom, that's how the students learn it at school likewise German student learn their cursive in primary school.

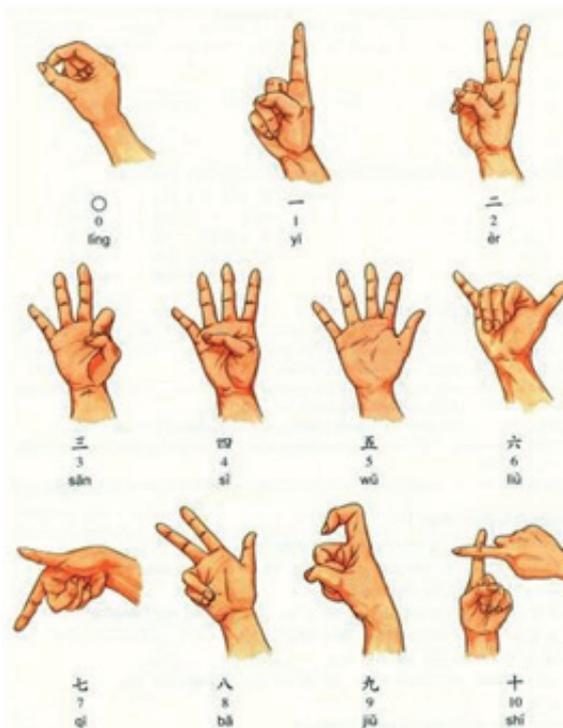


Culture things

Body language



- The Chinese dislike being touched by strangers. Do not touch, hug, lock arms, kiss, back slap or make any body contact.
- Clicking fingers or whistling is considered very rude.
- Never put your feet on a desk or a chair.
- Never gesture or pass an object with your feet.
- Blowing one's nose in a handkerchief and returning it to one's pocket is considered vulgar by the Chinese.
- To beckon a Chinese person, face the palm of your hand downward and move your fingers in a scratching motion.
- Never use your index finger to beckon anyone. Sucking air in quickly and loudly through lips and teeth expresses distress or surprise at a proposed request.
- Attempt to change your request, allowing the Chinese to save face. Chinese point with an open hand. Never point with your index finger.
- A smile to the Chinese is like a handshake among Westerners. It is the most common means of communication in China when people meet. The Chinese view a smile as a friendly gesture. Smiling is universal in China. In short, a smile is not a sign of weakness. So don't look too serious – you may get off on the wrong foot.
- Germans expect steady eye contact when talking with people. This is a behavior considered basic and essential. But it is not the case in China. For the Chinese, a lack of steady eye contact is not an indication of lack of attention or respect. On the contrary, because of the authoritarian nature of the Chinese society, steady eye contact is viewed as inappropriate, especially when subordinates talk with their superiors.



Culture things

Do's and Don'ts for business in China



Greeting

Chinese may nod or bow instead of shaking hands, although shaking hands has become increasingly common so the usual greeting in business is a handshake. The difference is that the handshake in China is usually weaker than the firm handshake in the west and it is more like they would softly place one hand in the other. The greeting is very formal and physical proximity, hugs or kisses are uncommon even among good friends. Don't forget: The oldest person is always greeted first as a sign of respect.

How to introduce yourself

The business cards are exchanged at the beginning of the conversation already. The Chinese people often present it with both hands. To be courteous, you should receive business cards with both hands. The business cards should be bilingual, English on the one side and Chinese on the other side. They should be read carefully at the beginning. This gives a first impression of the position or the hierarchy and thus clear about any decision. Never put the card away immediately in your wallet or briefcase. Rather, place the card on the table or hold it in your hand for some time to acknowledge it and show that you care to know who they are.

Name

In China is the last name always at the first place and the first name at second place. Use family names and appropriate titles until specifically invited by your Chinese host or colleagues to use their given names.

- Address the Chinese by Mr., Mrs., Miss plus family name. Note: married women always retain their maiden name.
- Chinese are often addressed by their government or professional titles.

Smalltalk

Chinese people prefer to chitchat before turning to serious talks or negotiations. They want to learn more about you. Initial meetings are rarely expected to produce results. At the beginning of the meeting it is usual to have a smalltalk. The importance of small talk should not be underestimated, because it is very important for Chinese people to build a relationship with the opposite with this „private“ conversation before reaching questions about the business. You should make friends first before worrying about doing business. Common topics include travel, accommodation, family and in the west usual topics are demand for merit, age and so on, but here you can politely refuse the answer of those questions. Take an active part in the small talk and be positive, that is the best way to build up a good atmosphere. Chinese people are easy to impress if you can demonstrate a little knowledge of Chinese history, culture, geography, or topical issues. Do a little preparation, for example by reading Chinese newspapers online. Be aware that certain topics are sensitive in China. Avoid initiating any discussions on the Tibet issue, the China-Taiwan dispute, and the communist party. Learn a few Chinese words. Your Chinese host will appreciate your initiative, even if he finds your pronunciation difficult to understand. Try to avoid negative replies, as it is generally considered impolite in Chinese culture. Do like the Chinese, say “maybe,” “I’ll think about it,” or ‘we’ll see” when meaning “no.”

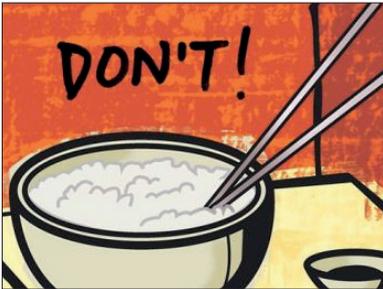
Gifts:

If you give gifts, give gifts to everyone in the room. If not, give the gift to the most important person in the room. Present and receive things with both hands.

- Chinese people usually do not unwrap the gifts when they receive them. It is considered polite in Chinese culture to open the gifts after you leave. When you receive a gift from Chinese people, do not open them unless they insist, or you may simply say, “Can I open it?”

Culture things

Do's and Don'ts for business in China



- When wrapping gifts, avoid using white or black wrapping paper, and avoid wrapping elaborately. Consider red or other festive colors. Because the number four in Chinese is a homonym for the word “death” avoid giving things to people in groups of four.
- Red is a color of good fortune. But never give someone something written in red ink as it implies the end of a relationship.
- Do not give clocks. Clocks are associated with death.
- Do not give knives, scissors, letter openers, etc. It implies the severing of a relationship.
- Avoid white as it is associated with funerals.
- Small items like books, music CDs, perfumes, cigarettes and candies from your country are always well received.

Time

Never should be called at the start a fixed departure date, a date on which the meeting should be completed. Chinese people are skilful negotiators and optionally use the time pressure of the other parties of their own. It is better to say when your departure date is but also say that it can be postponed if it is necessary.

Negotiations

The objectives should be previously regulated and it should be clearly defined within their own delegatio, who says what and when. Stay always patient, never be noisy and never trap someones word. This is in China very rude. Let people save „face“: The Chinese are not accustomed to revealing much about themselves or their company in public. Chinese employees are discouraged from exhibiting individuality. Few people volunteer to divulge much information, particularly if they are not sure whether their bosses will allow them to share the information with Westerners. If people are vague or unwilling to give you a straight answer, don't try to force them. Trying to force them to divulge the information will only earn you animosity.

Business meals

Business lunches and dinners are popular in China. Business breakfasts, however, are not a part of the Chinese business culture. Dinners start between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. and rarely last for more than a few hours. The process of eating can best be described as a social event. By using your chopsticks you nibble at one dish after the other. It is perfectly all right to reach in front of each other, although the revolving glass plate on which the dishes are located usually will bring your chosen dish well in reach. You may experience that the host as a courtesy places food for you to taste on your plate.

Table manners

Leave some food on your plate during each course of a meal to honor the generosity of your host. It is bad manners for a Chinese host not to keep refilling guests' plates or teacups. Do never stick your chopsticks upright in the rice bowl, it is equivalent to wishing death upon somebody at the table. Instead, lay your chopsticks on your dish. It's also considered rude to tap on your bowl with your chopsticks. Beggars tap on their bowls and, if

Culture things

Do's and Don'ts for business in China



the food is too slow arriving in restaurants, people will tap their bowls. Another dining tip is not to flip over fish to get to the flesh underneath; it means the next boat you pass will capsize. Above all, remember not to finish your meal when invited to dinner as your host will feel that he didn't feed you properly. It is considered rude to begin eating or drinking before the host. Never arrive early for dinner. This implies that you are hungry and might cause you to lose face. In China, rice is normally considered a filling not to be served until the end of a meal, if served at all. However, if you feel more comfortable having the rice together with the exotic dishes, many western people do, do not hesitate to ask for a bowl of plain rice at any time. Slurping soup and belching are acceptable. Cover your mouth with your hand when using a toothpick. Put bones, seeds, etc. on the table, never in your rice bowl. Do not discuss business at dinner unless your Chinese counterpart initiates it. Chopsticks are used for all meals. Tapping your chopsticks on the table is considered very rude. When finished eating, place your chopsticks neatly on the table or on the chopstick rest. When hosting, order one dish for every person present and one extra. In addition, order rice, noodles and buns. Soup usually comes at some point during the meal. The host should tell his/her guests to begin eating a new dish before he digs in himself. If you are the guest of honor at a dinner, leave shortly after the meal is finished, as no one will leave before the guest of honor.

Invited to a Chinese home

- Guests are rarely invited to a Chinese home. It is an honor to be a guest. Be on time or a little early for an invitation, and take a small gift.
- Bedrooms and kitchens are private. Don't enter these rooms unless you are invited to do so.
- All dishes are served at once in a home. The host will place portions of each dish on guests' plates. Sample each dish.



Seating plan

Seating is very important. The guest of honor is always placed at the head of the room, facing the door. Chinese seating etiquette is based on hierarchy; therefore always wait to be seated. Generally, the seat at the middle of the table, facing the door, is reserved for the guest of honor (senior member). The host sits beside the guest of honor to the left. Other guests are seated in descending order of status.

Meals

in everyday life chinese people eat easy foods and meals but at business dinners they want to show the foreign guests the amazing Chinese kitchen and order very expensive meals. It requires a good excuse to reject a meal for example religious reasons or stomach problems. A typical Chinese meal consists of a great number of separate dishes, which are placed centrally on the table. Depending on the location in China, the dishes comprise a combination of meat, fish, and vegetables. And don't worry, although the Chinese kitchen has a reputation of being exotic don't fear to be served either dog meat or cat meat. Rare beef is considered barbaric by the Chinese.

Culture things

Do's and Don'ts for business in China



Smoking

You may dislike smoking very much. But many Chinese smoke and consider smoking, especially among men, the right thing to do in a business environment. If your contact offers you a cigarette, simply decline and thank them. But don't lecture on how smoking is bad for them. If you allow them to smoke, they'll listen to you longer. When smoking, it is polite to offer cigarettes to the rest of the table.

Drinks / Alcohol

Tea is the most common drink in China, although a complementary of alcoholic drinks in form of wine and beer is also common. Sometimes your Chinese host may even try to test your ability to handle alcohol by serving various local strong liquors. The reason for this is that the Chinese believe that alcohol brings out your true face and here you need also a good excuse if you don't want to drink for example you take tablets and can't drink alcohol.



Drinking a toast

Tap the table twice, and stand up if it's more formal. During the meal it is very common that the host makes a toast by giving a little speech appreciating your mutual friendship and business relationship. You may experience that the host ends the speech by saying "ganbai" which means bottoms up. You are expected to return the toast by giving a little speech later. Three glasses -- a large one for beer, soda or mineral water, a small wine glass and a stemmed shot glass -- are at each place setting. The shot glass is the one used for toasting. It is not necessary to always drain your glass after a ganbei (bottoms up), although a host should encourage it.

Do not drink until you toast others at the table. Chinese consider drinking alone to be rude. Simply raising your glass and making eye contact is sufficient. If you are toasted, sip your drink in reply. A toast to friendship among companies will help cement a business relationship.

Full?

If you are full then say that you are full and let some food at your plate. When you eat all your host will order you a meal again.

The bill

Your host will pay the bill for the first time but it is important to do a return invitation. Some old business partners or friends even argue about who pays the bill because it's a kind of honor.

Gratuity

Gratuity is in China uncommon. Do not tip unless you are in an international restaurant or a big hotel.

Culture things

Sports & hobbies



China already brought up many excellent athletes in many different sports. But it hasn't been like that before 1994, the year when the first sport was professionalized and many others followed. Before that time one wasn't able to make a living only by doing sports. That's because it was incompatible with the communist idea of everyone's benefiting from everyone's work. Also because of China's enormous size and its long history, there are many traditional types of sport. They normally have their roots in ancient tribal activities, like hunting, horse riding, wrestling and so on. Today those kinds of sport are still practiced on special events and in rural areas, but this chapter will focus on the more common sports in China.

The Olympic Games

The People's Republic of China first participated at the Olympic Games in 1936 with 54 athletes in 7 different sports. Many Olympic games and lots of medals later China attended 2012 in London with 382 athletes in 28 different sports and was with this contingent one of the biggest participants. There are over 1900 elite sport schools in China to train new olympic athletes and it's pretty popular to send your child to these kind of schools. There are boarding schools where the pupils get the normal education in a mix with the physically education the whole day or special schools which you can attend at the afternoon after you've finished the normal school. The pressure on the students is very high and if you fail too many times or hurt yourself the chance of dropping out is very high.



Most popular sport

When it comes to popular sports, the US have a big influence on China. It's no wonder that



To do sports, to be a fan of a sports team and to be a member of the local sports club is very popular and important in Germany. As a foreigner in a Germany, attending a local soccer game is probably one of the easiest ways to socialize and meet new people. In society it's also of good standing if you do sports and because of that you are more likely to have a healthy lifestyle. There are way too many different types of sport, which are practiced in Germany to list them all. The most common ones are soccer, skiing, boxing, athletics and handball.

The Olympic Games

Germany, in form of the „German Reich“ first participated in 1896 at the very first Olympic Games in Athens. Since then Germany took part at most of the olympic summer and winter games with only an interruption during World War I and World War II. The 1936 Olympics in Berlin are one important point in the history of the games. During that time there were many protests against the event and Nazi Germany. Meanwhile the Olympic Games are quite popular in Germany and many thousand people watch the games on TV.

Most popular sport

In Germany the most popular sport is soccer. They have their own league, the „Bundesliga“ with international successful teams like „FC Bayern Munich“ and „Borussia Dortmund“. There are many german world class soccer player, which play or played in triumphant teams all over the world. There are players like Manuel Neuer, Philipp Lahm, Oliver Kahn and Franz Beckenbauer. The german soccer team has won the world cup four times (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014) and therefore shares the second place with Italy in the ranking of the best soccer nations. It's very popular to watch important soccer games with others at big venues, which is called „Public Viewing“. This phrase can be very irritating,

Culture things

Sports & hobbies



because of this Basketball is one of the most popular sports in China. Baseball, soccer, badminton, tennis and table tennis are also very common sports.

Hobbies

There is no such thing as the most popular hobby of the Chinese people. It really depends on the region you are living in, your age, gender and your position in society. In many families it's still very rare to spend the time with hobbies because most of the people work long shifts and have to commute over far distances to get to their workplace and back home. Very popular among the older people, which have already retired, is mahjong, chess and traditional dancing.



Hiking is really becoming a thing and young and old enjoy it. Among the children and teenagers, computer and video games are of course very common.



Comparison

The types of sports in China and Germany are quite similar if not identical, which can be explained because of the internet and like many other things: because of globalization. The more interesting difference between both nations is the value of sport as a social event. In Germany it's very important to participate in sports in one way or the other. The 2008 Olympics in Peking had a great impact on the people of China and it has accelerated the trend of sport becoming a more and more important value in society. Looking at the success of both nations in their Olympic history one can say that they both are two very good competitors ranked in the top 10 of the all time best nations at the Olympics. Looking at the hobbies of the people of China and Germany, the older Chinese people rely on their traditions whereas the younger generations like to spend their time off from school and work in a western style.



because the analogous translation in the American English would be the public exhibition of a dead body, which it's not. It's a big event of which the size can vary between a view hundred and many hundred thousand attendees. Soccer is also a very common way to socialize. Nearly every small town has their own sports club and it's normal to have a membership.

Hobbies

Hobbies play a big roll in the lives of German people. The working people use their time when they get home from their job for things like playing an instrument, go shopping, going out for dinner, playing cards or just to solve sudokus or crosswords just to name a few. The kind of hobbies you have is important in society and it often shows your social status.

Tourism



Over the last few decades, since the beginning of reform and opening tourism in China has greatly expanded. An easing of restrictions on movement by the Chinese authorities and the emergence of a newly rich middle class are both fueling this travel boom. China has become one of the world's most-watched and hottest inbound and outbound tourist markets.

China is the third most visited country in the world and its growing economy is also generating a surge in business travel.

English is becoming more and more popular in China but due to the educational system most Chinese people do not understand it. However any Chinese near and in urban areas can read and write it, even though they may have difficulty with spoken English.

Tourist resources in China can be divided into three main groups: natural sites, historical and cultural sites, and folk customs.

Natural sites

China's mountains, lakes, valleys, caves and waterfalls. Since antiquity the mountains Mount Tai, Mount Hengshan in the south and north, Mount Hua and Mount Song have been called the Five Sacred Mountains. Jiuzhaigou, Huangguoshu Waterfall, and Guilin are all located in southwestern China. Jiuzhaigou in northern Sichuan is a beautiful "fairylend valley" running over 40 km through snow-covered mountains, lakes, waterfalls, and forest. The Huangguoshu Waterfalls in Guizhou are a group of waterfalls, 18 above-ground and four below, which can be heard from five km away. The Tianchi in Xinjiang is 1,980 meters above sea level. This 105-m-deep lake is crystal clear, the high mountains surrounding it carpeted with green grass and colorful flowers.

Historical and cultural sites

China's long history has left many cultural relics and the title of "China Top Tourist City" has gone to the first group of 54 cities. Another prime example



Germany is the seventh most visited country in the world. More than 30% of Germans spend their holiday in their own country. According to Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Reports, Germany is rated as one of the safest travel destinations worldwide.

More than 50 % of all nights spent in hotels in Germany, are spent in spa towns. Germany is well known for health tourism, with many of the numerous spa towns, offering convalescence or preventive care by means of mineral water and other spa treatment.

The most visited tourist regions in Germany are the East Frisian and North Frisian Islands, the Baltic Sea coasts of Holstein, Mecklenburg and Vorpommern, the Rhine Valley, the Bavarian and Black Forest, and the Bavarian Alps.

First class winter sport infrastructure is available for alpine skiing and snowboarding, bobsledding and cross-country skiing. The main winter sport regions in Germany are the Bavarian Alps, Northern Limestone Alps and Ore Mountains, Harz, Fichtelgebirge and Bayerischer Wald of the Central Uplands. In most regions, winter sports are limited to the winter months November to February.

Though it remains far less well known or understood by foreigners than some other European countries, since reunification Germany has gained a higher profile as a travel destination. The most popular destination is Berlin, one of the most fascinating capitals in Europe. Many of Germany's other major cities have proud histories as independent city states or as capitals of kingdoms in their own right. But the tourist attractions in Germany are by no means limited to the cities and many other great attractions can be found in every part of the country.

Top attractions

Neuschwanstein

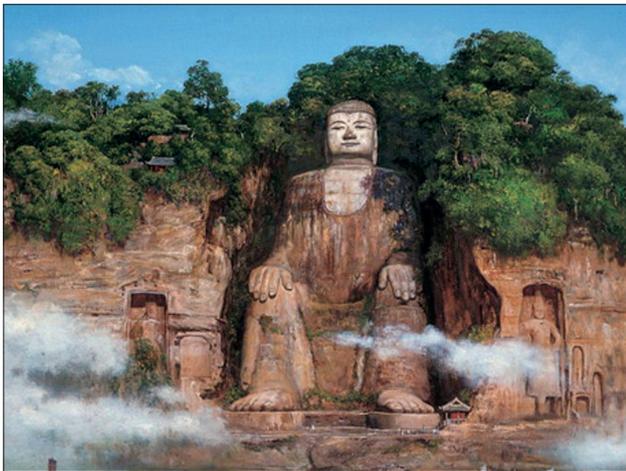
The ultimate fairytale castle, Neuschwanstein is situated on a rugged hill near Füssen in southwest Bavaria and was the inspiration for the Sleeping

Tourism



of historical sites that have become major tourist attractions is the Great Wall, symbol of the Chinese nation. It dates back more than 2,000 years and is the greatest defense structure project in the history of human civilization. More than ten sections of the Great Wall are open to tourists.

The Leshan Giant Buddha in Sichuan represents grotto art. It is seventy-one meters high, 28 meters wide and the largest sitting Buddha in stone, showing the carving skill of ancient craftsmen.



The birthplace of Chinese Zen Buddhism –The Shaolin Temple in Henan – is famous for its Shaolin Kung Fu martial arts and dates back to 495 A.D. Some

In Hubei, the Wudang Mountain, with 72 peaks preserves one of China's most complete and largest-scale ancient Taoist architecture.

Folk customs

"March Street" is celebrated by the Bai people. It is associated with the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy suppressing a devil to help the Bai people. It became traditional to burn incense and offer sacrifices to commemorate her virtues every year and the festival has become a major annual gathering for Bai commercial, cultural and sports activities.



Beauty castles in the Disneyland parks. The castle was commissioned by King Ludwig II of Bavaria who was declared insane when the castle was almost completed in 1886 and found dead a few days later. Being one of the most popular tourist attractions in Germany, Neuschwanstein is the most photographed building in the country.

Brandenburg Gate

Built in the 18th century, the Brandenburg Gate is the entry to Unter den Linden, the prominent boulevard of linden trees which once led directly to the palace of the Prussian monarchs. It is the only surviving city gate of Berlin and symbolizes the reunification of East and West Berlin and is regarded as one of the most famous landmarks in Europe.



Cologne Cathedral

The Cathedral is the greatest Gothic cathedral in Germany. It has been Cologne's most famous landmark for centuries. The construction began in 1248 and took, with interruptions, more than 600 years to complete. It is dedicated to the saints Peter and Mary and is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of Cologne.

Frauenkirche

Located in Dresden, the Frauenkirche is a Lutheran church that was completely destroyed during the 2nd

Tourism



The Water-Sprinkling Festival of the Dai ethnic group is a lively occasion taking place in the spring. People chase and pour over each other, among other activities such as dragon boat racing and peacock dance.



Lugu Lake between Sichuan and Yunnan has also become a tourist destination. The matriarchal society of the 30,000 local Mosuo people is noted for its “no marriage” traditions and is called the last women’s kingdom on the earth. Mosuo women, local dugout canoes and undulating singing style are considered unique to Lugu Lake.

Top attractions

Forbidden City, Great Wall, Shanghai Bund, Terracotta Warriors, Temple of Heaven, Li River



Comparison

Both countries have a lot of attractions, which they can offer their tourists. Although Germany is – in comparison to China – a very little country, there are a lot of tourists, visiting cities like Berlin and Munich. On the contrary China can offer more historical sights than Germany, because a lot of historical buildings had been destroyed during the second world war. A lot of Germans visit China for a business trip and and vice versa.



world war. The city of Coventry, which was raided by the Luftwaffe donated the golden cross for the dome of the church. Since its reopening, the Frauenkirche has been a hugely popular tourist attraction in Dresden.

Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest in Munich is the largest Volksfest in the world with over 6 million visitors annually. It starts at the end of September and ends at the first weekend in October. The festival has been held since 1810. Visitors enjoy a wide variety of traditional fare such as Hendl, Schweinebraten, Würstl, Knödel and large quantities of German beer.



Further attractions

Holstentor, Heidelberg Old City, Lindau, Romantic Rhine, Rügen Cliffs



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