

Top Themes: East Asia

1. East Asia is the world's most populous geographic realms, but its population remains located mostly in the eastern part and especially along rivers valleys and coasts. The Yangzi River that empties out at Shanghai is home to 1/3 of China's population. Along with the many large cities of China, the region is home to Tokyo, one of the world's largest megacities. Many consider Tokyo to be the largest metro area with a population of 38 million.
2. China has rapidly transformed from being a mostly rural, farming oriented society to an industrial giant. In 1990, China was about 30% urban. Today it is about 60% urban.
3. Many people are moving from the rural areas of China to the big manufacturing centers like Guangdong Province and Shanghai, providing cheap labor.
4. East Asia may witness the rise of the world's next superpower as China's economic and military strength and influence grow.
5. The area has numerous high population density cities. In China, this has led to serious air pollution problems. The Beijing area has the worst problems which is the result of heavy reliance on coal plus very unfavorable geography (mountains hem it in + unfavorable climate conditions).