



# China's One Child Policy

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# The Beginning

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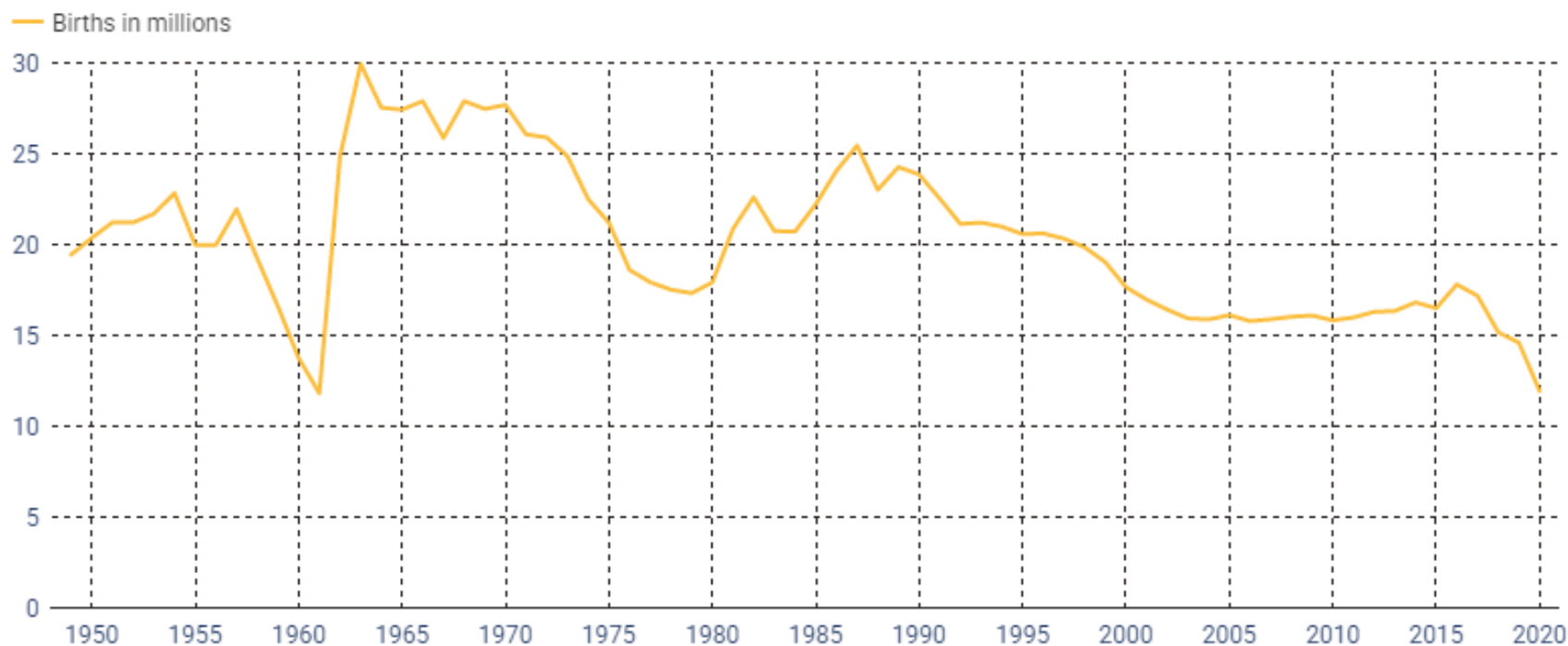
- In the 1950's China's population was around 400 million people
- In the 1980's the population was 800 million
- **The law gained effect on the 1st of January 1980 - ended in 2015**
- Why did the Chinese government came up with this policy?
  - they were afraid that the government would not be able to pay pensions
  - Government of the People's republic of China was also scared of the overpopulation in urban areas and the inability to cope with it efficiently

# The Ground Rules

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- Every family can have a maximum of one child
- For every other child parents had to pay a huge fine, which they in most cases could not afford or take yours kids life (abortion)
  - murder of the second kid was not something extraordinary
- cultural ground rules
  - Boy better than a girl
    - he is a better and stronger worker
    - he will carry on the family name
    - that is why a lot of Chinese girls were put up for an adoption

## China's newborns



Source: Wind, National Bureau of Statistics

SCMP

# Exceptions

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- Twins, triplets
  - using supplements to enhance the chance of having multiple babies at once as it did not count as another baby
- in rural areas
  - if your first kid was a girl you can have a second kid
  - that appealed to farmers, fisherman and certain minorities (someone could even have 3 kids)
- in urban areas
  - if both of the parents **do not have** any siblings, they were eligible to have two kids
  - 2012
- cities such as Beijing (1982) Shanghai (1990)
  - people did not know about it to make a difference

# Problems with the One Child Policy

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- aging of the population
- less innovation
- dependence of parents and grandparents on the offsprings
  - Family in China has always been the most important and sacred
- stagnation of economy
  - lots of family shops

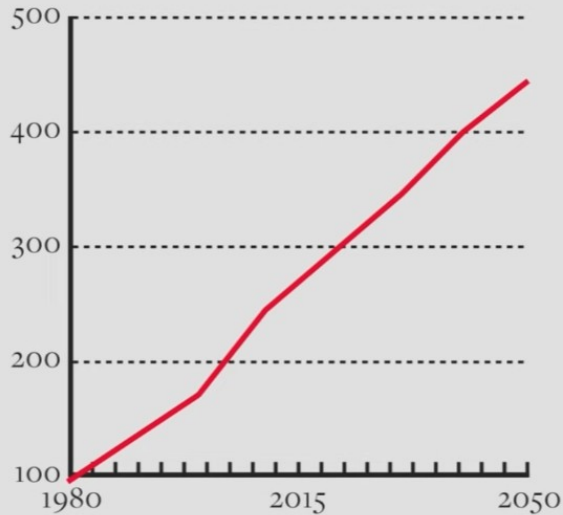
A large, bold, black Chinese character '孝' (xiào) is centered on a light gray background. This character represents the concept of filial piety, which is a central value in traditional Chinese culture.

**Filial Piety** noun

*\fi-lē-əl pī-ə-tē\*

# Problems with the One Child Policy

Simulated Numbers of Chinese People with Zero Living Siblings, in Millions

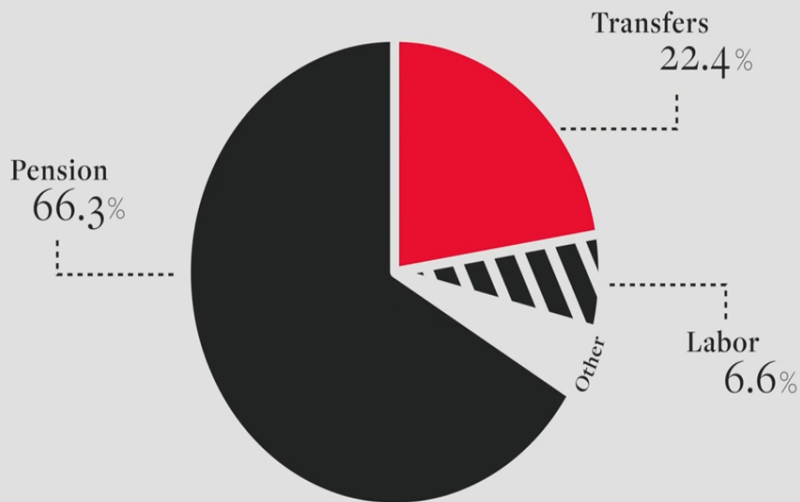


Source: Ashton M. Verdery, "Modeling the Future of China's Changing Family Structure to 2100," in Nicholas Eberstadt ed., *China's Changing Family Structure: Dimensions and Implications* (Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute), 60-62.



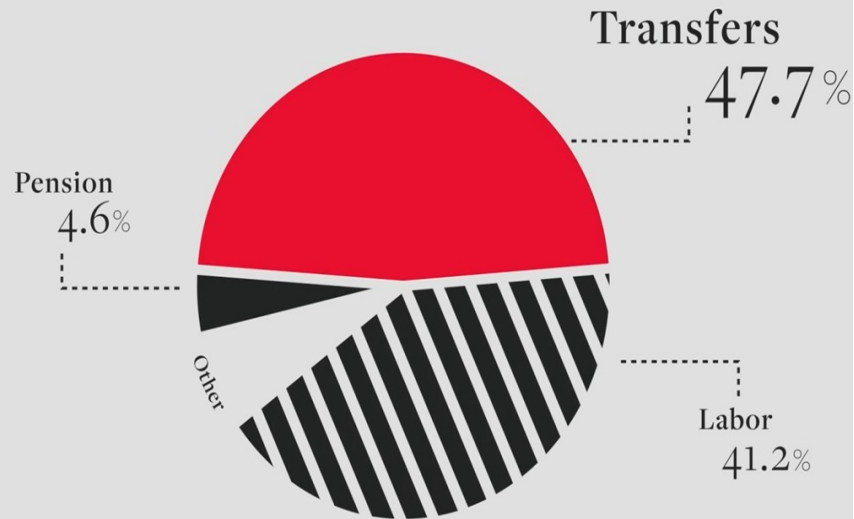
# Problems with the One Child Policy

Urban Chinese Elderly  
Sources of Income, 2010



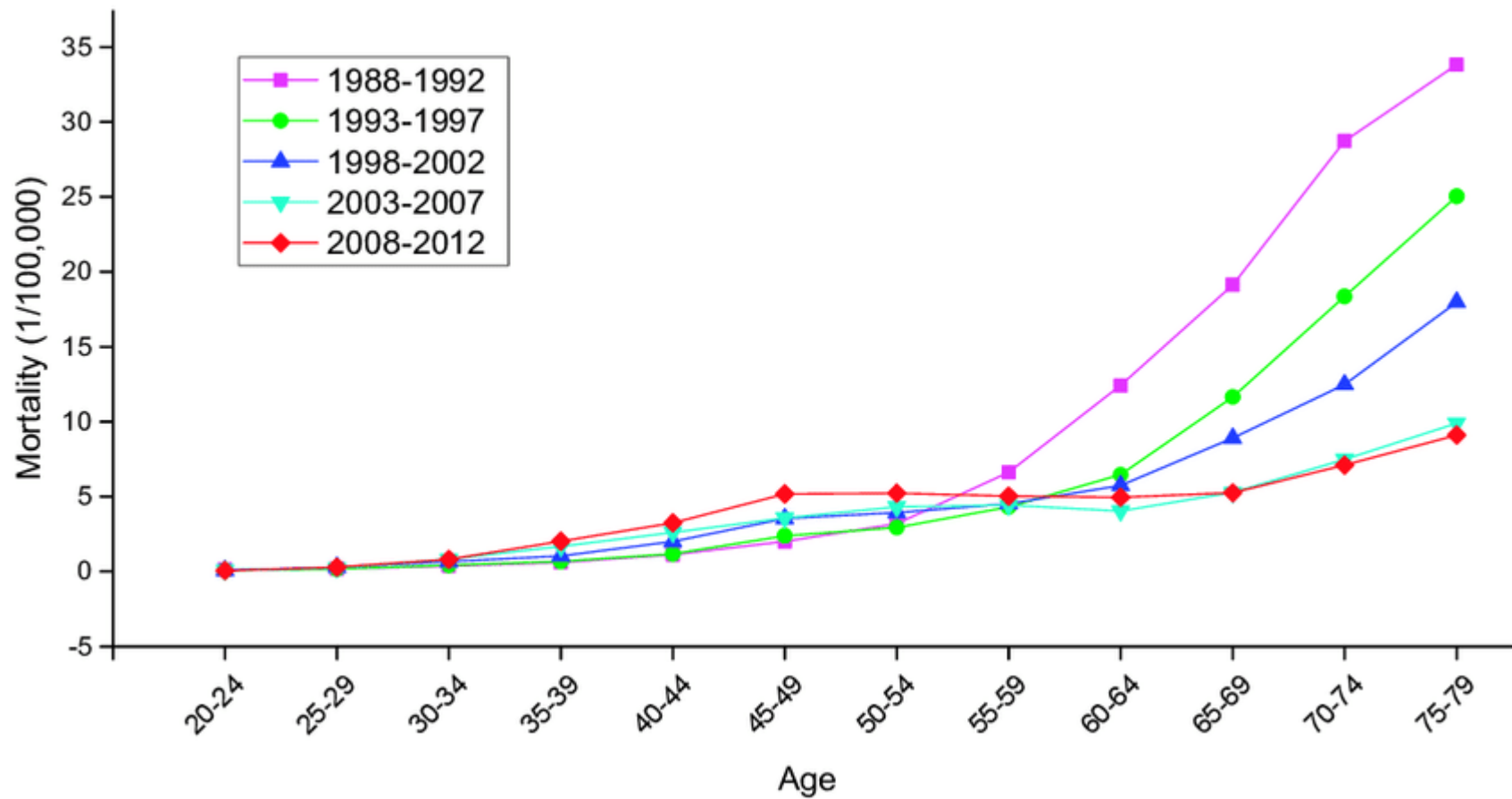
Source: 2010 Population Census.

Rural Chinese Elderly  
Sources of Income, 2010



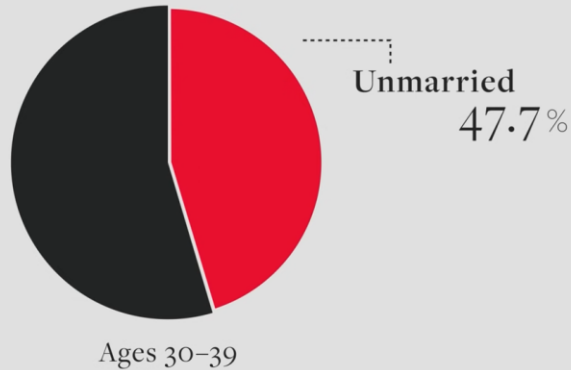
Source: 2010 Population Census.





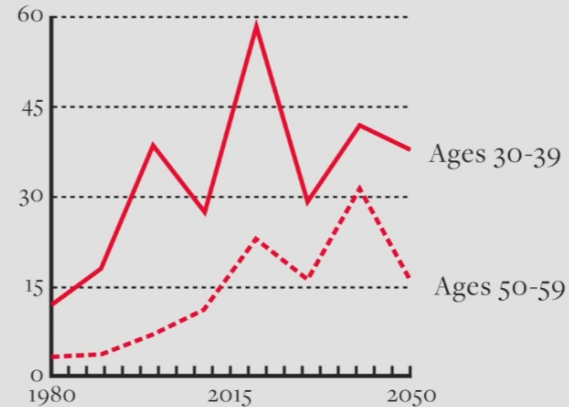
- Girls were unwanted
- There is not enough women for the population of men, not enough women to have kids and to balance the society

Simulated Proportion of Chinese Men Without a Living Spouse in 2050



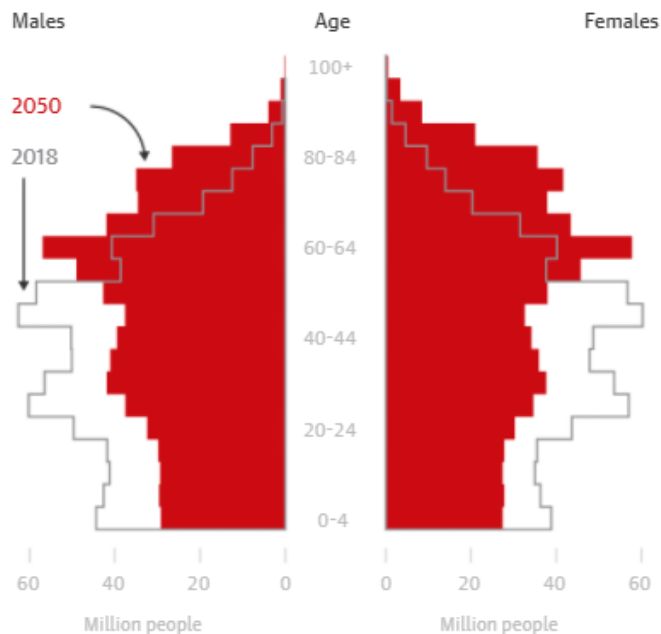
Source: Ashton M. Verdery, "Modeling the Future of China's Changing Family Structure to 2100," in Nicholas Eberstadt ed., *China's Changing Family Structure: Dimensions and Implications* (Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute), 69-71.

Simulated Numbers of Chinese Men Without a Living Spouse, in Millions



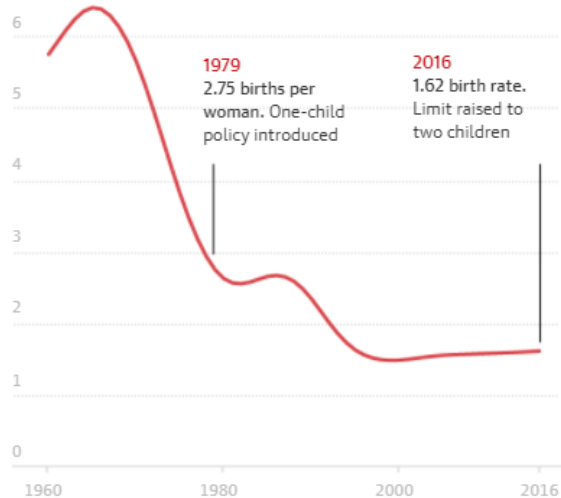
Source: Ashton M. Verdery, "Modeling the Future of China's Changing Family Structure to 2100," in Nicholas Eberstadt ed., *China's Changing Family Structure: Dimensions and Implications* (Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute), 69-71.

## China's population is expected to shrink slightly but age significantly by 2050



Guardian graphic. Source: US Census Bureau

## China's fertility rate stood at 1.6 births per woman in 2016



Guardian graphic. Source: The World Bank

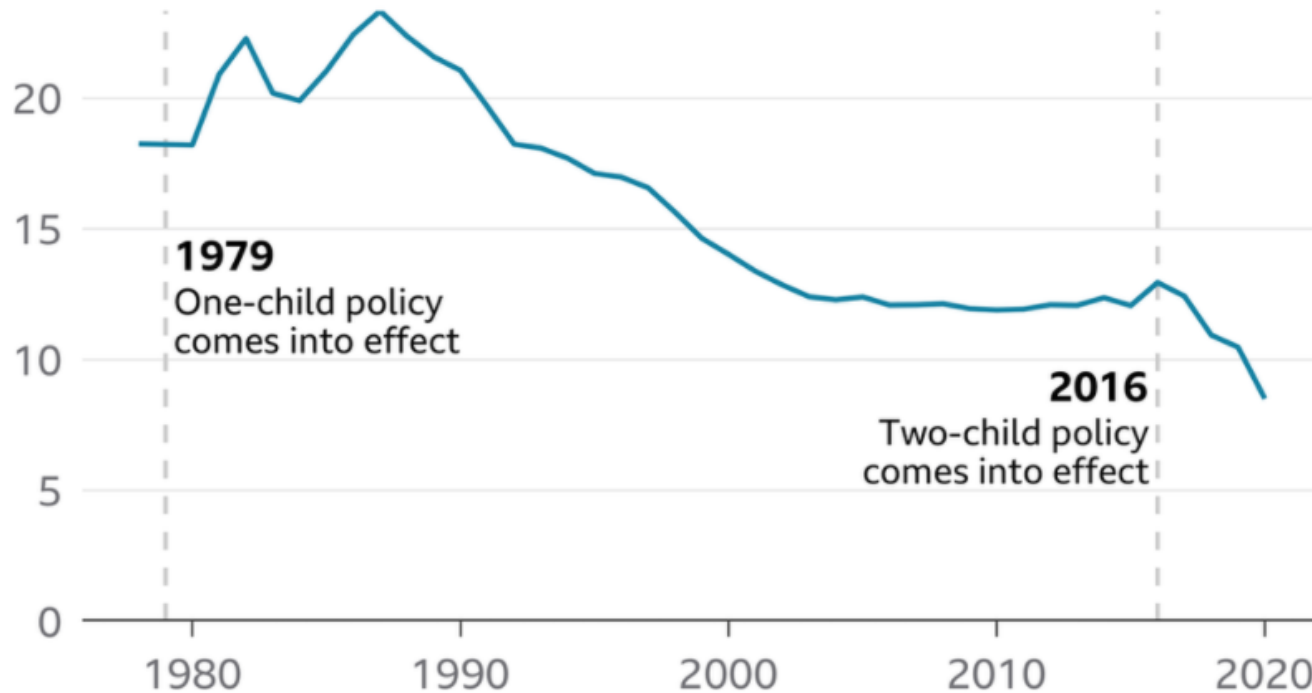
# Aftermath

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- in the year 2016 there were 33.56 million more men than women
- 400 million births had been prevented by the policy
- by 2050 33% of the population will be aged over 60
- people are not motivated to have another child - mostly in cities as there is so heavy workload on the parents and immense pressure on the kids to do well in school
- “China should have stopped the policy 28 years ago. Now it’s too late,” says Yi Fuxian, a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin in Madison
- In the year 2018 the birth rate was 15,23 million people - lowest birth rate since the founding of the People's Republic of China

# China's birthrate has fallen in recent years

Total number of births in China per 1,000 people (1978-2020)



Source: China Statistical Yearbook

# Sources

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