

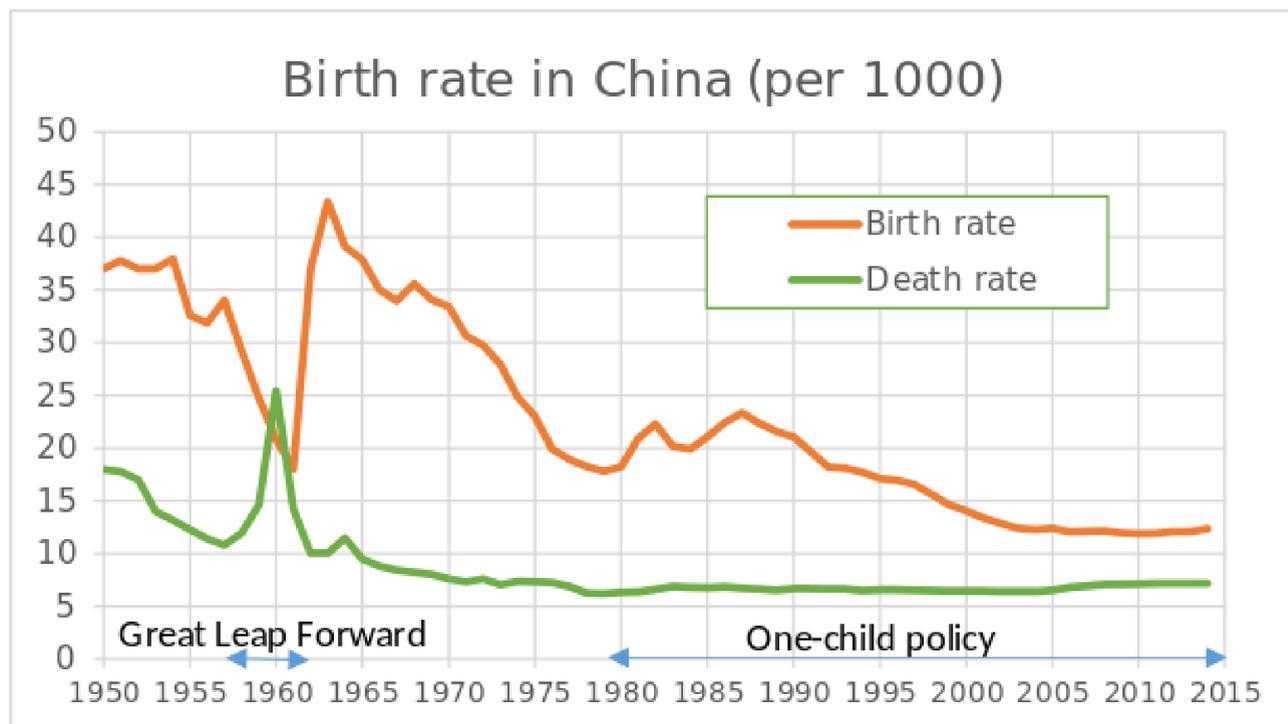
China's One Child Policy

The One Child Policy was a policy which began in 1980 after an uncontrolled rapid population growth. President Mao Zedong advocated for and believed strength in numbers which consequently increased birth rates.

In 1980 the Chinese government passed a policy to have only one child per couple in order to reduce population growth. The reproduction of a single child and birth control measures had been effect before 1980, but were not as serious after the policy's implementation.

The policy was alleviated on 27 December 2015 allowing two children per couple.

The policy was enforced through fine payments when a child was born and compulsory woman contraception and sterilisation on having a second child.



Exceptions

- Parents with a first born girl were allowed to conceive another child since male children are seen as valuable and able to inherit the family's possessions.
- Parents with handicapped first born children were allowed to have a another child
- Parents whom were only children were allowed to have a second child
- The policy was mainly targeted to urban dwellers while rural areas were relaxed which were the ones having a high birth rate.

Successes & Benefits

- About 500 million births reduced (although this value is biased)
- Fertility dropped from 2.8 in 1979 to 1.5 in the 90s.
- It emancipated woman in caring for themselves rather than children and pursue their carers.
- Average money spent to cater for children reduced.
- Alleviated healthcare problems.

Problems & Drawbacks

Although the policy managed to reduce about half a million birth's between 1970 and 2015, several problems were associated with its implementation. Some argue that the Chinese population had to be controlled to avoid an overpopulation crisis, but on the contrary, the policy resulted in undesirable problems.

- The desire to have a son made the population have many males than females which became a problem when it was time to marry since females were less.
- Forced abortions increased rapidly especially when a female child was born. The desire for a male who could inherit the families property made a girl child undesirable. As a result many female children were dumped and ended in orphanage homes.
- Some children went unreported in the population and censuses.
- Adoption of female children increased so as to be allowed a second child.
- Because of reduced birth rate, the ageing population increased than the youth population resulting in less adult care from children. One child had to take care of both parents and grandparents which gave the child a heavy burden.
- Some rich societies gave birth to more than two children.
- Some people gave second births overseas to avoid the One Child policy.

Source

[One child policy, Wikipedia](#)

[One child policy, Britannica](#)