

10.10 Students analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.

Document Based Assessment

China's Economy

China has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Many who once thought of China as backward now see the country as a lively economic giant. Though China's economic gains are impressive, China's critics see a dark underside, as the documents below illustrate.

Document A

"China's annual GDP [Gross Domestic Product, or economic output] growth has averaged more than 8 percent in the past 25 years, and in 2003, its GDP grew by a record-breaking 9.1 percent...Noting these economic achievements as well as the complete success of China's first manned space flight in 2003, Premier Wen Jiabao in his annual address to the NPC [National People's Congress] in March 2004 pointed to a national strength that has reached new heights..."

-From China Internet Information Center,
May 4, 2005

Document C

"...China has not changed in non-economic matters...The leadership remains deaf to democracy and human rights. Religion is on a tight leash...Basic legal safeguards are non-existent in the judicial system, and prison conditions are harsh. Privacy rights are routinely violated, and the government maintains tight restrictions on freedom of speech and the press. Increased control and monitoring of the Internet has led to arrest of dissidents, and most "Netizens" practice self-censorship, or face the long arm of the law. Freedom of association and assembly are virtually non-existent..."

-From "Only China's Economy Has Changed" in Taipei Times,
April 29, 2005, by Robert Bedeski

Document B



Chinese workers assemble electronic parts

Document D

"China's grim 19th century style mines-many of them little more than holes in the ground-claimed yet more lives this week. A gas explosion ripped through the Sunjiawan coal mine in the northeastern province of Liaoning on Monday, killing at least 210...They were just the latest casualties in a familiar story of mining accidents, which routinely claim the lives of dozens of young miners every month...Many of those who die belong to China's growing underclass. They are desperately impoverished boys and men from rural villages."

-From The Wall Street Journal, February 18, 2005
by Sara Davis and Mickey Spiegel

Analyzing Documents

Use your knowledge of China's economic reforms and Documents A, B, C, and D to answer questions 1-4

- The author of Document A is best described as a
 - Harsh critic of China's economic inequality.
 - Strong supporter of China's economic policies.
 - Shrewd observer of China's social system.
 - Half-hearted supporter of the socialist market economy.
- What is the main point of Document C
 - China's social progress is equal to the country's economic gains.
 - China's human rights record is poor, despite economic progress.
 - China's economic progress outweighs any human rights problems.
 - China's economic success has led a commitment to human rights.
- Some critics of China say that China's new wealth has not been evenly shared. According to Document D, one of the groups that has been left out is
 - People from the large cities.
 - Young people.
 - Women.
 - Males from rural villages.
- Do the current leaders of China deserve praise or criticism? Give your opinions based on the documents on this page and information from research, the text or class notes.