



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.10.2**

***Recent Regional Histories
(Case Studies)***

Specific Objective: Describe the recent history of the regions (see 10.10.1, p. 107), including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.

Case Study: China

Political System communist state

Key Leader President Hu Jintao (came to power 2003)

Economy growing quickly since the early 1990s

Recent Events / Issues

___ In 1997, the former British colony of Hong Kong became a part of China, which promised to respect Hong Kong's economic and political laws for 50 years.

___ In 2001, due to economic and diplomatic progress, China was admitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO), gaining trading rights of capitalist countries.

Current Events / Issues

___ China is the world's most populous country, with 1.3 billion people.

___ Migration to cities has increased with the growth of industry and services.

___ China is the world's top producer of coal and is a leading producer of other minerals and of industrial exports, such as machinery, clothing, and footwear.

___ China has the fastest-growing developing economy in the world; however, there is significant unemployment and poverty in rural areas.

___ Industrial pollution has negatively affected the environment and public health.

Case Study: Mexico

Political System federal republic

Key Leader President Vicente Fox Quesada (elected 2000)

Economy depends heavily on oil, tourism, and *maquiladoras*

Recent Events / Issues

___ The 1980s brought heavy foreign investment in *maquiladoras*—manufacturing plants that produce goods for export to the United States.

___ The boom of *maquiladoras* in the 1980s and 1990s brought a population shift to U.S.–Mexico border areas.

___ In 1994, NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) greatly increased trade among Mexico, the U.S., and Canada, by easing import restrictions and fees.

___ The 2000 election of President Vicente Fox Quesada ended 71 years of single-party PRI (revolutionary party) rule.

Current Events / Issues:

___ Petroleum is Mexico's top natural resource; it used to represent about 75 percent of the nation's exports, but the economy is now more diversified.

___ Mexico's natural beauty and history have made tourism an important industry.