

CLASS:-11TH, CHAPTER:- 11

CHINA

Physical Features

- China is a vast continental country that spans many climatic zones.
- The core is dominated by three major river systems: the Yellow River (Huang He), the Yangtse River (Chang Jiang – the third longest river in the world) and the Pearl River.
- A large part of the country is mountainous.
- There are divergent ethnic group – Han, Uighur, Hui, Manchu and Tibetan.
- Major languages spoken are Chinese and Cantonese.
- Chinese food reflects this regional diversity. Southern or Cantonese cuisine include dim sum (literally touch your heart), an assortment of pastries and dumpling. While, in the north, wheat is the staple food while in Szechuan spices have created a fiery cuisine. In eastern China, both rice and wheat are eaten.

History of China

- The beginning of modern China can be traced to its first encounter with the West in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
- During 1839-42, British won the first opium war in China and snatched power from the Qing dynasty. The second opium war was fought in 1856-60.
- It revolves around three questions – a) How to regain Sovereignty b) End the humiliation of Foreign Occupation c) Bring out equality and development.
- There were three views:
 - i) Liang Qichao used traditional ideas in new and different way to meet Western challenges. He popularised Chinese

nationalism.

ii) Republican revolutionaries Sun Yat Sen inspired by the ideas from the Japan and the West. He was the founder of the modern China and established a republic in 1911 AD.

iii) The Communist Party of China (CCP) wanted to end age-old inequalities and dispel foreigners.

- Later, the Guomindang (the National People's Party) along with the CCP strived to unite Chinese.**
- Chiang Kai Shek, leader of the Guomindang, militarised China.**
- Mao Zedong, CCP leader, organised a Soviets or peasant councils and fought Japanese colonisation.**
- When Guomindang (the National People's Party) intensified attacks, the Soviets shifted the base to Yanan, after a 'Long March'. The Communist Party captured power and established the People's Republic in 1949**