

The background of the slide is the flag of the People's Republic of China, featuring a red field with five golden-yellow stars. One large star is positioned on the left side, and four smaller stars are arranged in an arc to its right. The text "One Child Policy" is centered over the flag in a black serif font.

One Child Policy

China



During the 1940's the Chinese government encouraged people to have large families, to gain military strength and for the people to help with agricultural production...

Farming...
Soldiering...





This led to **OVERPOPULATION** in China...

*It was estimated that the population
increased by
55 million every 3 years!!*





During the 1950's and 1960's the Chinese government tried to address the problem by encouraging people to have fewer children...

Average family sizes fell from 5 children per family to 3 children...



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**However, this still
wasn't enough as
the population was
still growing at a
rapid rate. China
introduced the:
ONE CHILD POLICY
In 1979.**

*The marriageable age was also changed to tackle
overpopulation... 24 years old.*





The One Child Policy stated that couples must apply for a certificate before they were allowed to have a child...





The Chinese government provided housing,
food, education and health services for those
who cooperated with the One Child Policy...





Many people *did not cooperate* with the One Child Policy and found themselves receiving no help from the state, and often having to pay large fines...





Women who became pregnant a second time were usually forced to have an abortion and were “offered sterilisation”...



“Granny Police” – older people, were employed to spy on younger generations to make sure they were adhering to the rules of the One Child Policy.



Contraception and Family Planning were often forced on people against their will.

There were EXCEPTIONS to the One
Child Policy:

- THE HAN
- ETHNIC MINORITIES

The HAN

The Han are allowed a second child if the first is *MENTALLY* or *PHYSICALLY* handicapped.



In *RURAL* areas the Han were generally allowed to have a second child if the first child was a *GIRL*. This was because few people checked in rural areas.

Bribes were accepted in rural areas for the spies to keep quiet if they spotted a “two child” family.

Ethnic Minorities

Ethnic minorities were allowed two children in rural areas, and sometimes up to four if no-one was checking.



If a parent was an only child they could have more than one child but were subject to birth spacing [3 or 4 years]

The government didn't want ethnic minorities to die out and in rural areas they needed them to work on farms...

Opposition to the One Child Policy grew, particularly in rural areas...



People argued:

- The One Child Policy was taking away basic human rights.
- Sons were important for tradition, in keeping the family name and if they could only have one baby they could not guarantee that the name would be passed on
- Daughters would go to live with their husbands family so their would be nobody to look after the parents through old age and illness
- Sons were more useful... And stronger to work.

Baby girls were colloquially known as "maggots in the rice" – unwanted.

The One Child Policy has had a number of different **EFFECTS**, including:



- **Sex selective abortion – people aborting the baby if it was not the sex they wanted, usually aborting girls after not getting the boy.**

- **“Little Emperor Syndrome” – boys are treated very well. They are spoiled by their parents and grandparents and can get very FAT.**

- **A sharp increase in the number of orphans, particularly girls.**

- **High divorce rate involving women whose child turns out to be a girl, as the men want to try with another woman for a boy [it has been reported that men beat women until they agree to a divorce].**





Success

Approximately 400 million people
were NOT added to the total
population.

. By the end of 1990's the
birth rate had fallen
from 31 to 19 over 20 years





Failure

• Now that the birth rate has slowed down there is a worry that there

aren't enough babies to maintain a population.

• The male to female ratio in China now, because of the One Child Policy lies at 117:100 meaning many

men struggle to find a wife.



What does the FUTURE hold?



“ The policy was intended for one generation only ”

The words of a Chinese politician.

The policy has been relaxed

in recent years and there has been a trial in 300 districts where families are allowed more than 1 child although they still have to apply for permission...

They can now have **2 children.**



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