China's Changing Reach

Trace the decisions, growth, and tensions behind China's rise.

TOT.C.10.2 "Trace the rise of China to peer competitor with the United States of America including. retirement of Deng Xiaoping following the Tiananmen Square massacre..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three developments that increased China's power, circle two costs or limits of its rise, and number the underlined developments in time order.

From Reform to Rivalry

1. In 1989, Chinese troops killed protesters and bystanders around Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Deng Xiaoping backed the crackdown, then gave up his last formal leadership posts in 1989 and 1990, although he remained influential. Jiang Zemin became Communist Party leader in 1989. In 1992, party leaders endorsed a "socialist market economy." Private enterprise and market prices expanded, while the party kept political control and state firms held major industries. This combination shaped China's next stage of growth.

2. Factories fueled by Western investment made China a major exporter of electronics, clothing, and machinery. Export sales helped lift incomes but also exposed factories to falling demand abroad. State-backed construction and borrowing built roads and cities, while rising local-government debt created financial risks. In 2013, Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative, financing ports, railways, and other projects overseas. This economic reach, paired with growing military strength and advanced manufacturing, made China a peer competitor to the United States in several fields.

3. Economic power did not end political repression. Authorities have restricted Christian groups, banned Falun Gong, and tightened controls in Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang. China has no single nationwide social-credit score, but government blacklists and digital monitoring can limit some people's access to flights, bank loans, and certain schools. U.S. authorities have also documented cases of industrial espionage and theft of scientific and academic research by Chinese actors. Such theft differs from legal Western investment and adds to tensions between the two countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did China's leadership and economic policy change between 1989 and 1992?

2. How did Western investment and exports help China's rise, and what risk came with export sales?

3. How did the Belt and Road Initiative extend China's reach, and what financial risk accompanied its broader growth?

4. How do the policies and actions in the last paragraph complicate China's relationship with the United States?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine demand for Chinese exports falls sharply. In four or five sentences, trace how that change might affect China's economy and its reach as a U.S. competitor. Use two developments from the passage and state one limit on your prediction.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.10.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three developments that increased China's power, circle two costs or limits of its rise, and number the underlined developments in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did China's leadership and economic policy change between 1989 and 1992?	**Deng gave up his last formal posts, Jiang became party leader, and party leaders endorsed a socialist market economy that expanded markets while keeping party control.**
2	How did Western investment and exports help China's rise, and what risk came with export sales?	**Western investment fueled factories, and export sales raised incomes. Reliance on buyers abroad exposed factories to falling foreign demand.**
3	How did the Belt and Road Initiative extend China's reach, and what financial risk accompanied its broader growth?	**It financed overseas ports, railways, and other projects. Rising local-government debt created financial risks.**
4	How do the policies and actions in the last paragraph complicate China's relationship with the United States?	**Repression and monitoring raise concerns about rights, while documented espionage and research theft add to tensions with the United States.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If overseas buyers sharply reduced orders, Chinese factories might cut production and jobs. Because export sales helped raise incomes, slower sales could weaken growth and make local-government debt harder to manage. Slower growth might limit spending on overseas projects such as Belt and Road railways, reducing China's reach as a U.S. competitor. The passage does not show how much demand within China could offset lost exports.

Accept other plausible causal chains grounded in the passage. Students should distinguish a possible effect from a certain outcome.