



**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.

Read the case histories to answer questions on the next page.

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.



PRACTICE

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(Case Studies)*

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 Changes in the Chinese economy since the 1970s have caused a significant population migration to**
 - A cities.
 - B foreign countries.
 - C rural areas.
 - D overseas territories.

- 2 After Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule, China promised that it would**
 - A develop Hong Kong's sagging economy.
 - B integrate Hong Kong into China's political and economic systems.
 - C make Hong Kong into a free port.
 - D respect the laws of Hong Kong for 50 years.

- 3 China's admission to the World Trade Organization (WTO) indicated that it had**
 - A abandoned communist ideals.
 - B entered the global marketplace.
 - C improved its human rights record.
 - D modernized its banking system.

- 4 What is the *most likely* reason for a dramatic increase in bilingual Spanish-English labeling on products sold in Canada and the United States?**
 - A U.S. investment in Mexican banks
 - B the North American Free Trade Agreement
 - C immigration from the United States to Mexico
 - D increased Spanish literacy among English speakers

- 5 In Mexico, the production plants known as *maquiladoras* produce goods for**
 - A sale within Mexico.
 - B export to the United States.
 - C European Union markets.
 - D commerce in Central and South America.