

China: Society & Politics / Citizen & State

Directions: read Woods, pp. 69-72 and answer the questions below.

1. How many total ethnic minority members are there in China? How would you describe China’s policies – in general – with respect to ethnic minorities?At the time of this writing there are 55 minority groups in China. These minorities total about 100,000,000. China’s policies regarding the minorities is to promote economis development within these groups. The government extends protections to these groups without too much government interference. They do this to keep harmony so that these groups will not seek dissention.
2. What do you see as the difference between being a subject of the government versus being a participant in the political system? A subject is ruled over while a participant is involved in policy making and the political process. How would describe the people of China with respect to this dichotomy(a division in two parts)?China in recent years has loosened its political grip on the citizens due to social movements seeking more democratic beliefs. While the Chinese government still dictates policy it does allow for personal freedoms when it comes to religion and community.
3. In what ways is the CCP the majority party in China?It is the majority in simple terms because it has a membership of over 58,000,000.In what ways is it a minority party? Only a small portion of the total population, 18 and older are party members.How does one join the CCP?Many come up through the ranks while other gain membership through the CCP”s Youth League. Deng’s reforms allowed membership of more intellectuals. Many new members have technical and professional backgrounds. Members of the peasant class make up a majority (40%) with officials, professionals, technicians and women also included.
4. Is Hu Jintao a good example of a technocrat? Explain why or why not.
5. Do you think that protests like the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident “pose a serious threat” to the CCP?Yes. With new technologies and access to information via the internet and social media people are much more informed on social and political issues, not only locally but globally as well. It is evident everywhere you look around Qingdao from coffee shops to more western influence in the form of fashion, music and what would be considered outside traditional ways.
6. Define authoritarianism.One in which political authority and those that have influence dictate policy with little input from the citizens. How does China reflect an authoritarian style of government? All membership rises through the ranks of the party and become part of the political machine that starts at many local levels. In what ways is China unlike an authoritarian system?Although China’s government tries to rule by policies it cannot reach everywhere in China effectively. Think about our Guizhou trip. While Miaoan village did have a party official living among them it was the people of the village that decided how and what was going to be done.
7. Construct a diagram of the CCP. Compare the structure of the party diagram to the structure of China’s government that you created last week. What accounts for the similarities?Leadership still rests with party leaders at the top, the true policy makers. The 7 leaders that are chosen from a group of 24 in the politburo.
8. Does China have a multi-party system? Explain.Although China is a single party government it still does allow for minor democratic parties to operate. These minor parties pose no threat to the government structure of China because the government doesn’t allow them any opportunity to gain membership. These small democratic parties represent specific groups within Chinese society and act in a mainly advisory capacity, providing information of concerns or possible advancement.