

Reaction Essay 11 : P'wan's lecture on CHINA.

The economy during the great leap forward between 1958 to 1960 focused on centralised production planning. The goal was to be able to compete the production with the developed countries. The chairman expected growth especially from the agriculture and steel sectors. However, from corruption by the local governors, inequality and low quality products were the consequences that contributed to the failure in the investments. Things get worse when natural disasters hit China, millions of people had died from having no resources to keep themselves alive.

The situation during the cultural revolution was that the government was banning education because they believe that it is going to make people more difficult to rule. Propagandas were made to put hatred on literated people. Even schools were being shut down. They were being discriminated against and needed to become refugees to other countries. This caused China to have a huge loss of skilled human capital and later on affected Chinese economy.

During the modern China time, things are becoming much better. The government, although still communist, they promote education, deal with overpopulation and change employment structure. The government focuses on sectors reformation, decentralisation to help economic growth, openness to trade and FDI and privatisation. China started to shift their focuses from “copying” to more innovative products. They continuously spend larger amounts of investments on R&D to become more competitive to the world.

Nowadays, a lot of innovations are started from China including E-sports or gaming, MedTech, mobile payment applications, E-commerce and technologies that are being used during COVID-19. This is why China is able to deal with Coronavirus better than other countries. They involve a lot of technology as well as government power to effectively control the situation.

Nonetheless, China still faces a lot of inequalities from government policies and this has effects on education which then lead to workforce, income, poverty and hence growth of the country.

I used to dislike China because of the fact that some of their people, no matter how rich they are, seem to be quite uncivilised. I am able to make this statement because I studied in Singapore and got to live with many chinese from mainland China and almost all are the same. However, as I grow up along with the growing rate of China, I realised that I should be learning something from them instead of putting hate and being ignorant on how fast they develop. I lived in Singapore for quite a long time, I realised that the government is the key to make their people how they are. I do not believe that people can have absolute zero corruption in their lives, but if you still make your country significantly better and greater that is the least you can do to compensate for that. China too, they do not have the perfect government but the policies and visions are the key roles for them to push themselves to gain more power to compete with many large countries. Once the country becomes richer, they can revise their policies towards developing the poor in the country and fix their inequality problem as well. For the household registration part, I think it's very extreme but thinking about it and I am

intrigued to know the reasons behind that. I like this lecture very much because I've been interested in China for quite a while ka.