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Title:
Recent Population Trends and Issues in China

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Abstract:
Judith Banister focuses on population highlights and issues for the world's most populous country in the latest decade and the coming decades. She briefly documents the sustained low population growth and low fertility, and the resulting concerns about future population ageing. She discusses the hot issues surrounding the family planning program—should China get rid of the one-child limit, and should China back off from compulsory family planning? She gives an overview of relationships between population growth and economic development in China, and argues that the PRC's most important population issue today is how to generate enough employment possibilities for its huge and rapidly growing population in working ages. Banister gives an update on China's urbanization and the critical rural-to-urban worker migration that is required to address rural poverty and the faltering agricultural sector. She documents trends in mortality and health in the face of the collapse of the rural health insurance system, and notes key issues of how to structure China's health system to deal with health inequalities and the burden of chronic diseases. Banister gives a quick review of the changes and the resistance to change in China's traditional anti-female culture, evaluating trends in sex-selective abortion, excess female mortality, discrimination against girls and women, and China's sex ratio by age group.