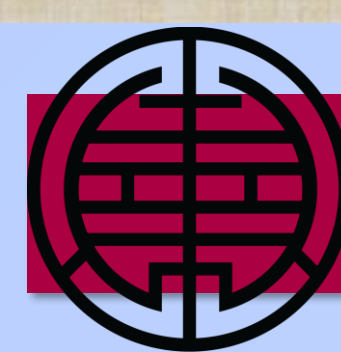
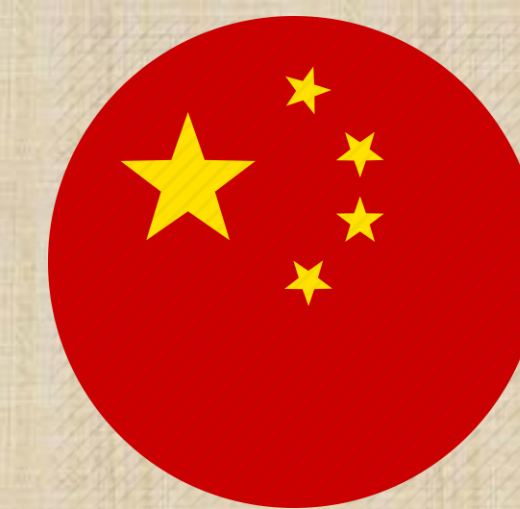




Ethnic Koreans in China

Opportunities & Challenges



Who are Koreans in China?

➤ Targets:

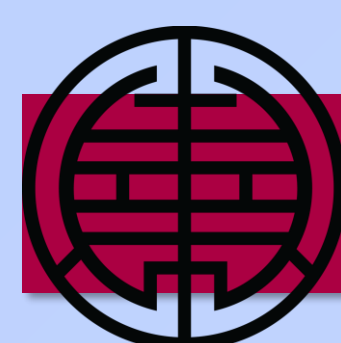
- Descendants of Korean immigrants with citizenship of the People's Republic of China

➤ Population:

- Close to 1.9 million (Guo, 2017)

➤ Popular Residence:

- Northeast China, especially in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture



Model Minority

➤ Background

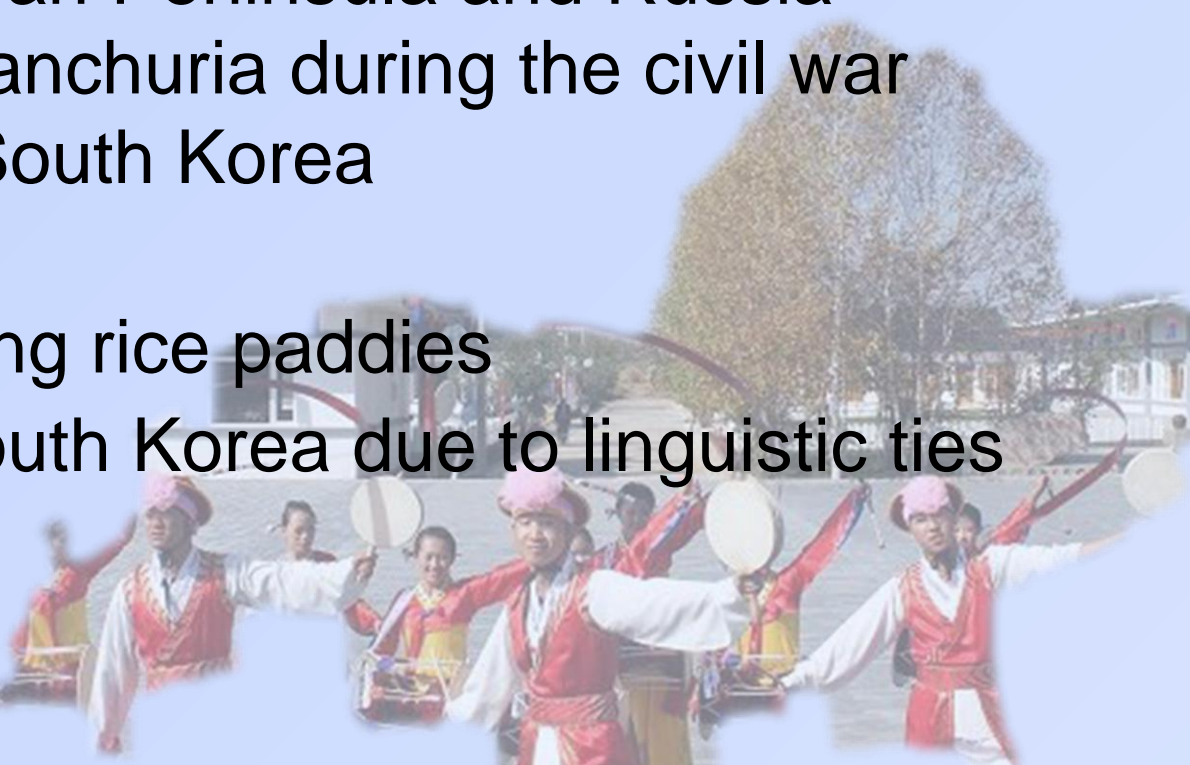
In 1994, it was first selected as a "Model Autonomous Prefecture" with their laudable tradition of valuing education and their exceptional educational achievements.

➤ Reasons:

1. High Bilingual Proficiency in Chinese and Korean
 - A great majority of Koreans are literate bilinguals
2. Politically Important
 - Adjoining the Korean Peninsula and Russia
 - Helped liberate Manchuria during the civil war
 - Political link with South Korea
3. Economic Benefits
 - Abundant cultivating rice paddies
 - Trade between South Korea due to linguistic ties

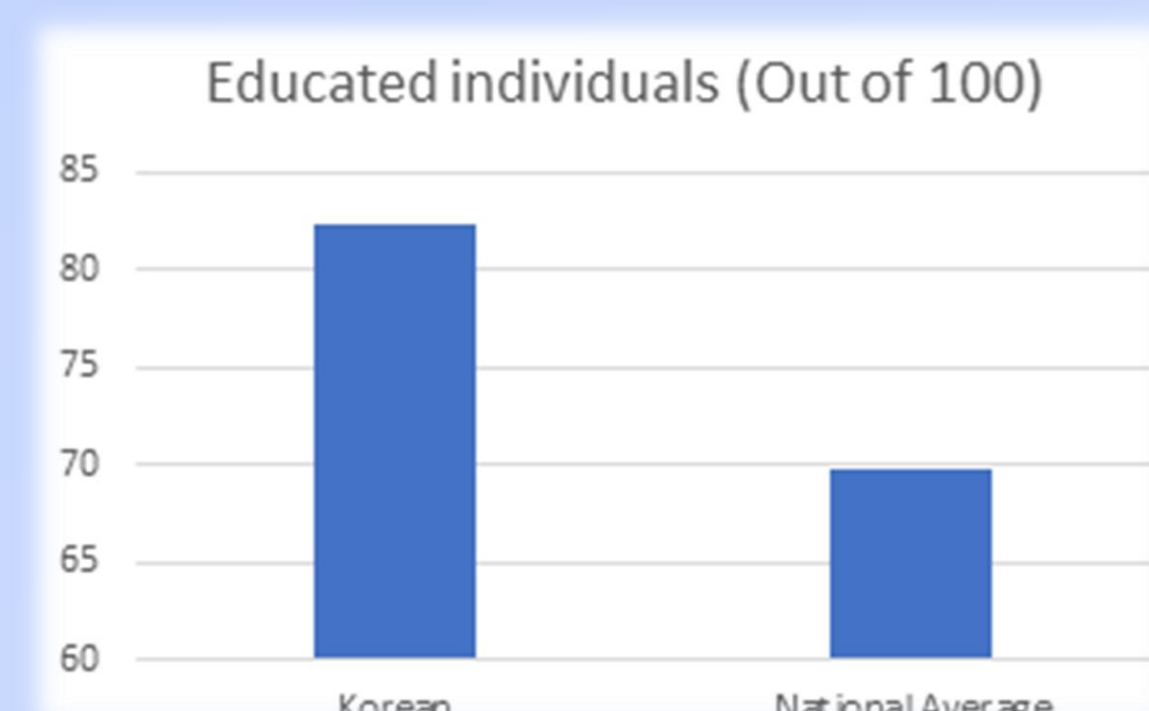
➤ Potential Dangers:

1. Linguistic Genocide
 - The new generation give up using Korean
2. Being Marginalized
 - Not in the mainstreams of Chinese and Korean economy (Gao, 2008)
3. Korean Indifference to the Title
 - Their top concern is financial status (Gao, 2010)



Education

Korean High Emphasis on Education



- Popular saying "We would rather eat tree barks in order to afford the children to school"
- Universal elementary education after few years, eliminating illiteracy problem.
- Establishment of Yanbian University in 1958

➤ Opportunities:

1. Better Job Prospect
 - High proportion of specialist or administrative workers among Korean Chinese
 - Educational qualifications of China and South Korea

➤ Challenges:

1. Less competitive than Han students
 - In bilingual school, all the subjects are taught in Korean medium and Chinese is only taught as a language subject.
2. Inappropriate Government Policies
 - Promotion of Korean education curriculum to other minority groups regardless of their historical and socioeconomic context
3. Disadvantages of the Curriculum
 - Over-allocation of language (Trilingualism)
 - Lack Korean studies (e.g. history and ideology)



Culture

➤ Characteristics

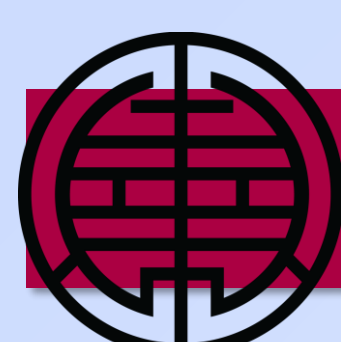
- Most Korean in china are bilingual, speak Chinese and Korean. In Yanbian, most of shops use Korean and Chinese.
- Newspapers that published in Korean (Liaoning Daily, Yanbian Daily etc.)
- In general, ethnic Koreans in Yanbian can maintain their language, custom, life-style and tradition, since the Chinese minority policy allow the Korean to preserve their culture (Choi, 2001).

➤ Opportunities:

1. Following the Wind of Korean Pop Culture
 - In recent years the pop culture in South Korea become well-known, there are more and more dancing schools in Yanbian, and the ethnic Koreans find that they can make use of the current trend, to develop their own pop industry and promote Korean culture (Leibold & Chen, 2014).

➤ Challenges:

1. Dropping population:
 - Many Koreans move to major cities on china, and especially the young people, for a better life (Kwon, 1997). This kind of movement is considered to weaken the cultural homogeneity.
2. Han culture assimilation:
 - Many young Korean attend Chinese schools, and they have less chance to speak Korean. Gao (2010) indicates that about 10% of Koreans in china cannot speak their mother language at all.



Social & Economic Opportunities

➤ General Situation:

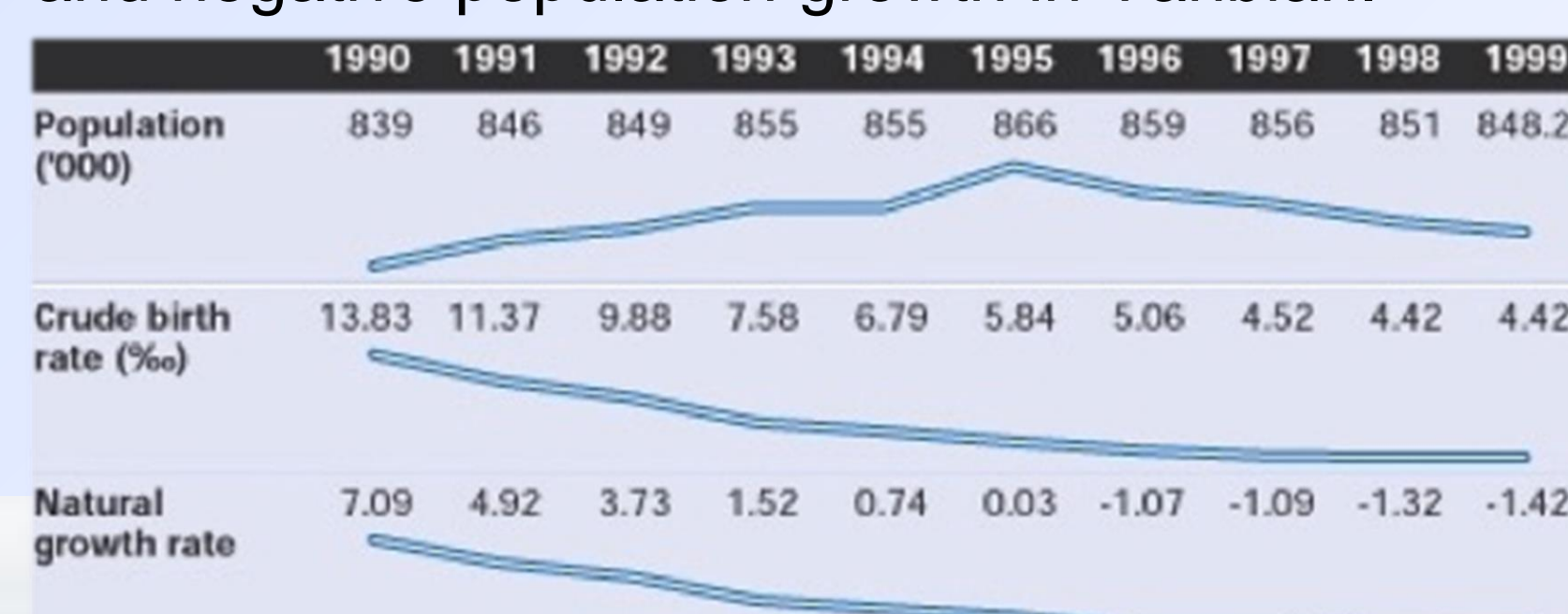
The economy of Yanbian experienced a sharp slowdown during the second half of the 1990s. From being the most developed of the autonomous prefectures in 1990, it had slipped to the fifth place by 2000 (Guo, 2010).

➤ Opportunities:

1. Internal Migration to Other Parts of China
 - Migrate to other more developed regions such as Shandong province to seek better employment opportunities.
2. Emigration to South Korea
 - Their shared language and ethnic connection with South Korea gave them access to Korean labour market, with its need for cheap labour.

➤ Challenges:

1. Distorted Demographic Ratio
 - Due to the nature of jobs available abroad, most of the Chinese Koreans migrants were women. The gender imbalance has resulted in the low birth rate and negative population growth in Yanbian.



2. Poor Social Status

- Their employment opportunities in South Korea are usually physically tough and low-paid, and they are the bottom class of South Korea's economy.



Identity

➤ Dual Identity of Korean Chinese

Unlike other ethnic minorities, the origin of Korean Chinese is Korean instead of China. They cherish ethnic pride by the well maintenance of their own language and culture. The Koreans in Chinese also make a lot of contribution to China that have built up a sense of belonging to China. For instance, they engaged in the war against Japanese. They distinguish their political identity as Chinese, and ethnic identity as Koreans (Choi, 2001).



➤ Opportunities:

1. Their tradition and language are well maintained.
2. Preferential policy from Chinese government: Allowance for ethnic schools; They can use Korean in teaching from primary school to university.
3. They are allowed to work in Korea. (F4-Visa)

➤ Challenges:

1. The well maintenance of culture and language erect an obstacle for them to enter the mainstream of Han Chinese society so they have difficulty in advancing their social status.
2. Discrimination from people in South Korea because of stereotype, culture clash and social affairs.



Chinese Koreans in the Future

➤ Concerns

1. Pragmatic Approach of Chinese Koreans
 - The title "Model Minority" has no benefits in the urban cities.
 - Is it better to identify myself as a Han Chinese?
2. "Linguistic Genocide"
 - Despite the accommodation of Korean language by the government, the statistics show dropping population of learning Korean language
 - No significant use of cultural inheritance in Chinese society due to the priority of pragmatism?

3. The Predominance of Han School

- Better environment of learning Chinese language
- Foreign Language Secondary Schools in China
- Value of Korean Schools?



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