

**AIM: Why wasn't China the first modern nation to industrialize?**

**FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. "**DO NOW**" question. Based on your reading of "The X Factor," what features/factors did China possess prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century that would lead you to believe that they should have been able to industrialize?
2. Based on our previous examination of the pre-industrial factors that were present in England, are there any similarities between England and China? Does this support the fact that China should have been able to industrialize?
3. The article points to a number of environmental issues that hindered industrial development in China. Cite specific evidence from the article.
4. Deforestation is mentioned as a particular problem for China. What problems did deforestation specifically cause for China? In comparison, why was this not as much of a problem for England?
5. How do we know, according to the article, that China had historically high population? What is the evidence?
6. What do think the impact has been of China's historically large population and their ability, or even desire, to industrialize? Is there any evidence in the reading to support?
7. The article talks about two possible "X-Factors" that seemed to be missing in China. Identify the first one mentioned. What evidence is there that this factor not only existed but was very prominent and important to the development of an industrial society in England?
8. What is the second missing "X-Factor" in China according to the author? How do we know this existed in, and was integral to, England's industrial development?
9. The "X-Factor" article mentions what philosophical factor as a possible hindrance to China's development? Based on your previous knowledge of Chinese society, what could you give as evidence to support the author's thesis?