

# A Chinese Philosophy

By Brad

*The world is very diverse. We have people sitting and reading books, while some people are looking at ancient pyramids and traveling around the world, and we have people who are having fun.*

*They are all here, and I am not going to say which one is better. Instead, I will tell you about the differences. It is my way of looking of things, my philosophy.*

When I spent some time in China, I found a lot of things to be different than the American lifestyle. People there are working much harder in labor. Everywhere, you see people struggling under the weight of a ten five-gallon water jugs as they attempt to ride up hills.

People who are selling newspapers can be found, along with people standing in front of restaurants, sweat messing up their colorful shirts as they attempt to lure you in.

People in China are working much harder than Americans, who most work in setups like restaurant managers, employees in big clothing shops, or a programmer in a computer application company.

I also have spent some time in the schools of China. There are a lot of students in city schools, so there are several buildings, each five stories tall, surrounding a central courtyard.

The one I visited is an elementary school, and it has about 50 or 70 students per class. They have 5 to 8 classes per grade. That is already 250 to 560 students in one grade, verses the 20 students per class and 4 classes per grade in my city elementary school in America.

There are 5 to 6 grades in an elementary school, which is the same with mine. That equals a total of 1250 to 3360 students per school, verses 400 to 500 students in my school.

The student capacity for each class tops out at 25 students, yet over here, the capacity is 70, I found out.

As you can see, the difference is very obvious and very astounding. The reason is the amount of students that come.

The United States of America has about 300,000,000<sup>1</sup> people, or 0.3 billion. On the other hand, China has about 1,300,000,000<sup>2</sup> people, or 1.3 billion people. In other words, China has exceeded the amount of people in America by 1 billion.

These numbers represent a big difference. Traffic problems in China are worse. More people mean more criminals, more jobs to distribute, more police, more buildings, and more of everything.

Schools overflow with more people. Everything is more.

Except for one thing: the space.

Try cramming 1,300,000,000 people (and growing) into the space the size of the People's Republic of China (5,795,162.5 square miles).

What you get is what it is 228 people per square mile.<sup>3</sup>

In America, environmental officers try to get more people riding bikes, to save the environment.

In China, it is the same. Almost.

There is one difference. In China, the government isn't trying to cram people to the biking route just for the environment. They are doing it because the amount of cars.

Of course, that doesn't mean that China doesn't need help with the environment. It is the number 1 polluting country on Earth.

But back to the topic of cars. In Beijing, the capital of China, an estimated 1 out of 4 people have cars, and the amount is growing fast. What was a land of just taxis, buses, and few cars has grown very fast.

When talking to a taxi driver, I learned his lifestyle.

Taxis in Beijing are borrowed from the taxi company. They charge you 200 Yuan a day<sup>4</sup>, regardless of how much you earn a day. If you do not earn at least 200 a day, the day is considered a loss, as the driver did not profit.

So if the driver earns 250 dollars, which sounds like a lot, he only gets to keep 50 dollars, and the rest goes to the taxi company.

This is just perfect for the Taxi Company, but bad for the driver. Yet he cannot do anything but hope for some longer trips to arrive. For example, a trip to the airport from the central area of Beijing is an estimated 90-Yuan.

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S.A contains an estimated amount of 301,139,947 people. (July 2007, NationMaster, [www.nationmaster.com/country/us-united-states](http://www.nationmaster.com/country/us-united-states))

<sup>2</sup> The P.R. of China contains an estimated amount of 1,321,851,888 people. (July 2007, CIA, [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/ch.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/ch.html))

<sup>3</sup> 1,321,851,888 people divided by 5,795,162.5 square miles equals 228.095742 people per square mile.

<sup>4</sup> 166 Yuan a day, converted from 5000 a month with assumption of 30 days in month (5000 divided by 30 equals 166.6. Rounded up to hundreds equals 200.

The particular driver we talked to had bought the car and then painted it to become a taxi. He had done it together with his uncle. He would drive in the day, and his uncle would drive in the night.

Still seem like a poor country? Well, it used to be, and some parts of it still are, but China is growing. The taxis are mostly Volkswagens already.

Basically, deep inside, China is developing power. Slowly, though.

it doesn't hurt to wait  
to be continued...

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