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**China’s One Child Policy Sources**

**Directions:** Read the two documents. Then, complete the **China’s One Child Policy Source Analysis** handout.

**Document #1:** Philip Wen,“Heartbreak Behind China's Tough One-Child Policy.” *The Age* (Melbourne, Australia), January 11, 2014.

**Heartbreak behind China's tough one-child policy**

Yu Rongfen was seven months pregnant when city officials came knocking at her door. It was her second pregnancy, hidden from the authorities. Fearing the worst, she hid upstairs. But she was helpless as dozens of men overwhelmed her family and took her to the city's family planning bureau.

"I was screaming, I wouldn't let them do it," she said. "But it was no use, there were so many of them holding me down."

Ms. Yu was taken into an operating room, where four women held her down.

A doctor administered an injection to kill the fetus and induce labor, while her distraught husband, brother and parents-in-law were restrained by guards outside.

Gradually, the kicking inside her became weaker, eventually stopping. It was nearly a day of traumatic pain later before the stillborn child, a boy, emerged.

"I was in so much agony, it felt worse than death," she said. "If I didn't already have another child to look after, I really would have gone and died…"

Last year, a mother in Shaanxi province, Feng Jianmei, who was seven months pregnant, was forced to abort her baby. Only when photos purporting to show the fetus lying in a bed next to the distraught mother went viral did authorities apologize.

Even after Ms. Feng's case sparked global outrage, there have been others in Anhui, Shandong and also in Fujian - involving a woman who was eight months pregnant.

Like almost all such cases, government officials in Rui'an say the Yu family agreed to the abortion.

But Ms. Yu's brother Yu Rongrong rejects the government's version. "If we were willing to abort, why would we wait until seven months?" he said.

Of all the Chinese government policies designed to control its people, there probably has not been one with a more profound social and economic impact than the one that controls the population.

Among social and economic reforms announced by the government in November, couples are now allowed to have a second child if one of the parents is an only child…

But the one-child policy has long been a misnomer. There are numerous exceptions to the rule: ethnic minorities and some rural households can often legally have more than one child.

More contentiously, those who can afford it are able to a pay a fine when they have more than one child, calculated based on the city they live in and their annual income, meaning the rich are effectively exempted. The Yus would have been required to pay about 100,000 Yuan ($18,400).

Decades of the one-child policy has seen China's fertility rate plunge and its population age rapidly. China's workforce declined for the first time last year and the economy is fast being confronted with a dreaded situation of having too few young people to support the elderly.

And a "4-2-1" socio-demographic phenomenon is emerging where the only child will end up having to support not just their parents, but all four grandparents. ..

**Document #2:** Jonathan Watts, “China's One-Child Policy Means Benefits for Parents – if They Follow the Rules,” *The Guardian*, 25 October 2011.

…Although Henan (an area of China) last year became the first province in China to register its 100 millionth resident – giving it a population bigger than any country in Europe – it also claims some of the greatest successes in taming demographic growth through its family planning policies.

This has not happened by accident. Henan is one of the most environmentally stressed areas of China with a quarter of the water and a fifth of the land per capita compared to the already low national average.

Senior family planners say this justifies rigid restrictions. "The large number of people has put very big pressure on all resources, especially water," said Liu Shaojie vice director of the Population Commission in Henan. "Over 30 years of effort, we have put in place a systematic procedure for controlling the population. That has eased the impact on the environment. We are doing glorious work."

Many environmentalists agree that population control is essential if humanity is to move on to a more sustainable track, but how can this be done? China has gone further than any nation in trying to answer this question over the past 30 years. But both the means and the ends remain the subject of fierce controversy.

When the one-child policy started in the 1970s, Liu says, women in Henan gave birth to an average of 5.8 children in their lifetimes. Their counterparts today have less than 1.7. The change, he said, means 30 million fewer births – equivalent to preventing one every 30 seconds for three decades. And that is just in Henan. Across all of China, the government claims there would be more than 300 million more children without the family planning policy.

This policy was initiated primarily for economic and education reasons, but it is increasingly cited as an environmental blessing. According to Liu, the population controls have kept sulphur dioxide emissions down by 17.6% and the main source of water pollution by 30.8%. Without it, he says, the average person in Henan would have a third less land and a quarter less forest. It has also, he claims, prevented between 137m and 200m tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere….

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**Grading Rubric: China’s One Child Policy Sources**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Novice** | **Emerging** | **Proficient** | **Expert** |
| **POV #1** | No evidence of point-of-view analysis. | Attempts analysis of one point-of-view by linking the author’s background to his or her opinion. | Analyzes point-of-view by acknowledging the author’s background **and** linking to bias. | Thorough and complete analysis of at least one point-of-view by addressing the author’s background, bias, and drawing conclusions from point-of-view. |
| **POV #2** | No evidence of point-of-view analysis. | Attempts analysis of one point-of-view by linking the author’s background to his or her opinion. | Analyzes point-of-view by acknowledging the author’s background **and** linking to bias. | Thorough and complete analysis of at least one point-of-view by addressing the author’s background, bias, and drawing conclusions from point-of-view. |
| **Evidence** | Cites at least one example of how the author emphasizes his or her account. | Provides at least two pieces of relevant evidence of how the of author emphasizes his or her account. | Articulates at least three pieces of relevant evidence of how the of author emphasizes his or her account. | Conveys four pieces of convincing evidence to skillfully support how the author emphasizes his or her account. |
| **Formal writing style** | Overall tone is too informal, including some or all of: “texting” abbreviations, slang, messiness, errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar. | Attempt at formal writing style, but needs more proofreading and/or care in presentation. | Good attempt at formal writing style and proofreading, but a few glaring errors indicate that more careful proofreading is needed. | Formal writing tone used throughout; few or no glaring errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization. |

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**China’s One Child Policy Source Analysis**

**Analytical Questions (Please answer these in complete sentences!)**

1. What details of the One Child Policy did Yu Rongfen emphasize in her account? (Identify at least two). (Evidence)

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1. Analyze Yu Rongfen’s perspective or POV on the One Child Policy. Explain in at least 2 sentences. (POV #1)

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3. What details of the One Child Policy did senior planning official Liu Shaojie emphasize in his account? (Identify at least two). (Evidence)

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1. Analyze Liu Shaojie’s perspective or POV on the One Child Policy. Explain in at least 2 sentences. (POV #2)

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1. **How** and **why** do the two texts on the One Child Policy differ? Explain in at least 5 sentences, using specific evidence from the two texts by citing them as Doc. 1 or Doc. 2. (Formal Writing Style)

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**Common Core Objectives:**

**R.H.9-10.6**: Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.

**R.H.9-10.9:** Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

**WHST.9-10.3:** The Standards require that students be able to incorporate narrative elements effectively into arguments and informative/explanatory texts. In history/social studies, students must be able to incorporate narrative accounts into their analyses of individuals or events of historical import.