



# GEOnotes

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*The Extra Credit Opportunity of a Lifetime*

East Asia

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According to the text (p.227) East Asia experienced rapid economic growth from the 1980's to the mid-1990's, then had an economic slowdown in the late 1990's. According to the Japan Times <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nb20010220a1.htm>, the policy chief of the Liberal Democratic Party has urged the Bank of Japan to ease monetary policies to put the economy on a self-sustaining recovery path.

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Based on the text (p.273) the rapid growth of city populations has changed the rural-urban balance and concentrated economic growth in large cities. Inside these cities, governments subsidize urban transportation and provide tax incentives for industrialists to locate factories. Manufacturing is also encouraged to a greater extent rather than agriculture. However, with all of this boom in industry and a growing amount of transportation due to the rapid growth of population, the problem of congestion and pollution grows. In this article: <http://www.insidechina.com/news.php3?id=290455&section=default>, a cloud of air pollution, which is held in like a ceiling over the city because of the surrounding mountains, blankets a Chinese city. Municipal planners have considered the idea of removing part of a mountain to allow a fresh current of air in and to sweep out the old pollution. With China being one of the most populated countries in the world and its industry leading its economy, pollution is going to be a major problem, yet somehow it has little effect on its expansion.

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Based on the text (p.197) people living in Southern Asia faces a number of environmental hazards, the dynamic natural environment is brought about partly by the clashing plates that produced the Himalayas and continue to set off earthquakes. According to the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/asia/A47852-2001Feb9.html>) a new earthquake shook western India on February 9, 2001. Few were injured, but the fear still lives within the residence.

*The Next GEONote is on Eastern Europe*