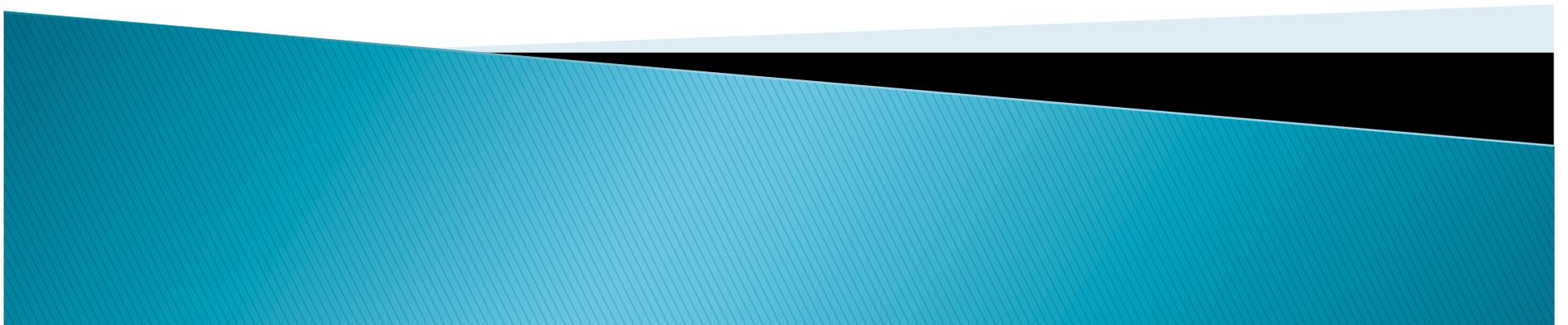


CHINA'S ENVIRONMENT

DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL CONSIDERATIONS



- ▶ China's headlong rush to develop the economy has involved a tradeoff between rapid development and consequences for the environment, internally and externally
- ▶ China is not unique in this
- ▶ The Industrial Revolution in the West, industrialization by communist states in Eastern Europe, Four Tigers of East Asia all experienced this



- ▶ Lax environmental regulations and implementation as one incentive to attract foreign investment (“race to the bottom”) → how does the state decide to reform policy in direction of sustainability and investment in cleanup *and* actually implement the policy?
- ▶ not scare foreign investors away; get them to set an example and buy into sustainable development



- ▶ East Asian states (Japan, Taiwan, South Korea) subsequently made huge investments in environmental cleanup, commitment to sustainable development, implementation of laws and regulations
- ▶ China has acknowledged environmental crisis and committed to cleanup and sustainable development
- ▶ Large gap between commitment, policy and actual implementation



Traditional View of Nature

- ▶ Wu Zhen (Yuan Dynasty), “Mist in The Mountain”



Or this....

- ▶ Da Yu
- ▶ Flood
- ▶ control

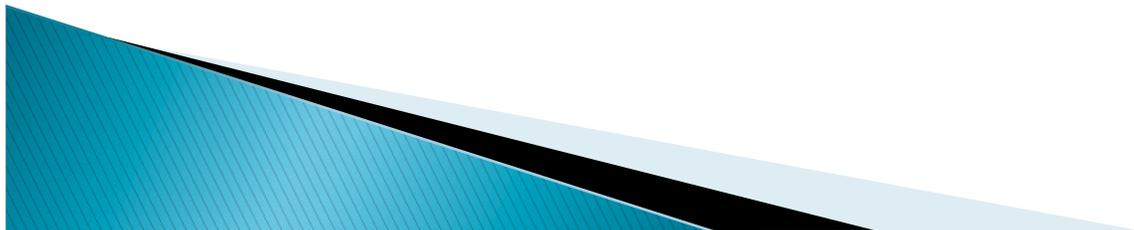
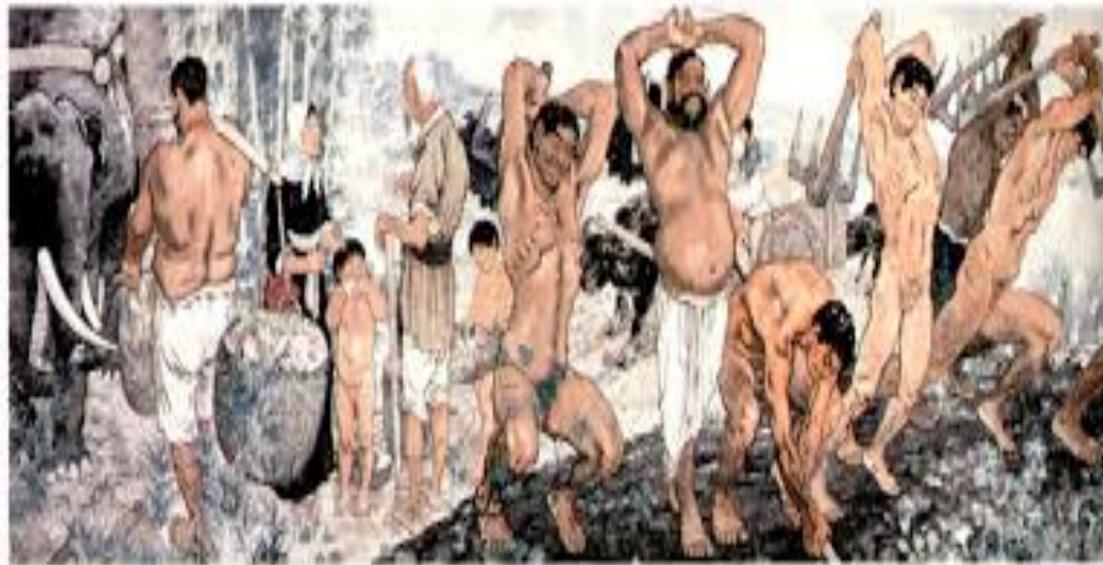


- Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province



The Foolish Old Man Who Moved the Mountain

- ▶ Nothing stands in our way



Chairman Mao visiting irrigation

- ▶ Bringing water to the parched north



Domestic Crisis

- ▶ Air (“airpocalypse”)
- ▶ Water: pollution and scarcity
- ▶ Soil
- ▶ Food Safety
- ▶ Waste disposal, including importing and “processing” foreign waste products such as electronics
- ▶ Worker and citizen exposure



External Implications

- ▶ Air drifts globally, including California
- ▶ Exported products, food and others
- ▶ Oceans
- ▶ Global search for energy and natural resources through legal and illegal means
- ▶ Buying up farmland, mines, forests
- ▶ Building infrastructure in neighboring countries to source raw materials and energy
- ▶ Consumption of endangered species



State and Society

- ▶ Not a secret; much domestic media coverage
- ▶ CCP has declared “war on pollution”
- ▶ Called for building “ecological civilization”
- ▶ Large number of protests vs. polluting plants, destruction of environment, corrupt deals which pollute soil, water and air in countryside, shoddy (*doufu*) construction
- ▶ Emergence of non-governmental organizations -- grassroots and international involvement – to expose problems and propose solutions



