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## **Comparative Study on Social Problems between China and USA**

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### **Abstract**

*China and USA are two super countries in the world, making comparative study on population, educational and economic problems between the two countries can not only help us know the social problems of developing and socialism countries, but also the developed and capitalism countries. According to the result of comparison, we can find the ways to promote the social development of some the counties in the world.*

***Key Words: social problem; racial problem; Environmental Protection; family plan policy.***

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To these Chinese who have never been to USA admire USA a lot; they thought USA (America) is the haven of human beings, high salary, high social welfare, free and relaxed education. That's also what I have thought about America. But when I am in America for some time, I realized that not everything in America deserved to be appreciated and also the same to china. That makes me feel it is necessary to make a comparative study on social problems of the two countries.

**1. Comparison on economical and environmental problem:** Some people who first visit America feel America good not because America's prosperous and advanced technique in public transportations, industry, infrastructure and so on. On contrary, America are lag behind china on some of the aspects above. It is because America's fresh air, beautiful and original green land, wood and wild small animal everywhere. So on the first day I arrive America, when America friend asked me what impressed me a lot about America. What I answered was that I like the fresh air, green areas and big trees everywhere. They just told me it was not the case in 1960-1990s in America, at that time America's air was also seriously polluted by the smoke given off by all kinds of factories. But from 1990s a lot of factories were gradually moved into china and other developed countries. So it is interesting thing, from that time on, America's air quality becomes better and better. At the same time, China's air quality became worse and worse. Chinese government has realized that, in order to purify the air around the cities, some of the factories in the centre of the city were closed down or moved into the suburb or to the remote village. That leads to the pollution of the 90% underground water and water in almost all the rivers, soil and air in the county. <sup>1</sup> Most

Chinese adults are now cherishing the memory of clean air and water in their childhood. Another reason for china's natural environment's worsening is the increasing of china's population, real estate industry and the private car's ownership. A lot of original wood, green areas, farms around the city are ruined just for meeting the expanding of city and the development of the economy. Many old buildings symbolizing the history of china are being eliminated in the activity of urban expansion. The real reason that China has to do so just because governments have to get enough finance through promoting the development of industry and real estate in order to ensure income of all the working people include famers who used to pay taxes to the government but now paid by governments according to the amount of farm they have. Chinese local governments are on the way of selling land, polluting environment by building more factories and can't stop doing so. Because once they stop doing so, they will go bankrupt.

Interestingly, while on another aspect, china's economy is booming, GDP is increasing with the speed of 7-10% every year (maybe the statistic is not true because some local governments are making fake statistic to cheat the centre government). China gradually has the capacity of producing all kinds of production the whole world need. While at the same time, America is losing its capacity of producing many productions. Some of the productions that American people need in their everyday life are being imported from china. So if someone wants to purchase some daily supplies made in America from American shopping malls, he will be disappointed just because most of them are made in china. Such as clothes, small home appliances, Small furniture and so on. The retreating of many American factories from America into china and other developed country not only meet the need of protecting the environment, but also for the seeking of some American companies' maximization of profit. Because the American wage standard and business tax are too high that ultimately leads to the rising unemployment and other social problem in the United States. You will see or meet a some African Americans asking for one dollar from you when you are walking on the street of American cities.

**2. Comparison on racial and population problems:** In china, it is population not racial problems that have great influence on china's social development and make china the world's first populous country. Since the establishment of People's Republic of China, China's population increase rapidly. That can be seen from the six population censuses in China:<sup>ii</sup>

The first population census was carried out in June 1953 and the population is 601938035.

The second was carried out in June in 1964 and the population was 723070269.

The third was carried out in December 1982, the population was 1031882511.

The fourth was carried out in October 1990, the population was 1160017381.

The fifth was carried out in November 2000 and the population was 1295330000.

The six was carried out in November 2010 and the population was 1370536875.

From the above statistics, we can see that china's population increase with the speed of more than 1/10 billion every ten years. In the eyes of other country, it is a horrible increase. So china must slow the speed of its population increasing. Another problem of China's population is the decline in its population quality. Because since china's family plan policy was carried out in 1971, China began very strict control on couple's birth. One couple can have only one child. Workers, teachers, civic servant and any employees working in public company have to abide by the policy because they are afraid of the punishment of being dismissed from their jobs. While peasant couples didn't abide by the policy and try their best to bear more babies by paying some money to government or escaping away to avoid punishment from government, That not only makes their children's lack of education but also leads to rural population's rapid increasing which will be heavy burden of China in the future. While the heritage of highly cultivated and well educated couples such as heritage of scientist, professors and scholars are decreasing. China has realized that and is changing its family plan policy from famer couples can have two, then citizen couples who both are the only child of their old family can have two, then citizen couple in which one of them are the only child of their old family can have two, to finally permitted all the couples in the whole country to have two child from day of the January 1st 2016.<sup>iii</sup>

While in America nowadays, it is racial not population problem becomes American's biggest problem. We know America's population is diversity. Among these, African and Muslim American are America's potential trouble. Because nowadays, America's unemployment ratio is more than 8%. It is very difficult for some lazy African Americans and Muslims to find good jobs, so they have to use American policy by bearing more babies in order to get more financial aid from the government. Thus black American and Muslim population increased rapidly without accepting good education and become a big burden of America society. Some black Americans often begs or robs on street. That makes America not a safe place to live in. American governors even the president dare not to say the truth publicly because they are selected by citizens and do not want to miss the votes of African American. A statistic in 2011 shows that 50.4% new born babies in America were minority whose parents are mainly African America and Moslem who do not pay much attention or afford to support their children's high education.

**3. Comparison on education:** In America, education is little different from china. China education is very strict but a little stubborn. American education is free, easy but a little loose. That can be seen from basic education, middle level education and high education in two countries.

From the perspective of time, we take basic education and middle education in BCCs private school in beaver falls as an example. School begins at 8:00 AM and end at 2:40PM in the afternoon. After school, student can leave school or take part in all kinds of activities in other places or at school. In South Side Public School in Pittsburgh, Elementary school begin at 9:00AM in the morning and end at 3.30 PM in the afternoon. Middle school begins at 8:00 AM and end at 2:40 PM. In china, elementary begin at 8:00 in the morning and end

at 4:30 in the afternoon. Middle school begins at 7:50 in the morning and end at 5:20 in the afternoon but high school end at 5:40. Chinese students have to stay at school longer.

From the perspective of curriculum, American elementary and middle school do not have unanimous academic standard(private school), text book and teaching content, the content of subjects that student have to learn are decided by teachers and the principal of the school according to the Academic standard for every subjects. When I ask the school principal how to ensure the teaching quality of the teacher's teaching in class, the principal just told me that he asked the teacher to send him their teaching plans to make sure the teacher's teaching plans are ok and he often goes into the class to make sure everything in the classroom and the teachers' teaching is ok. Teachers have the freedom to select some books as textbook. During the process of teaching, teacher will pay more attention on the development of students' critical thinking and ability on independent learning and reading to make sure that all the students are making progress and are increasing on their knowledge, ability and mind.

In middle school and high school, they also pay attention to the development of students' extensive interests. In South Side Middle School, they set Music, Art, Cooking, Mechanical practice, Computer Science lessons for student to learn. If students in high school are interested in one subject and want to choose it as his major in university. For example, one student is interested in chemistry, he just can go into chemical classes and labs in the university to learn and do experiment with the help of their chemistry teacher. They do not need to study hard on every subject in high school. All the students from elementary to high school study leisurely without pressure and the teachers also teach leisurely just because there is no comparison between students and teachers.

In public school, student only need to pay 1.75\$ for their breakfast and 2.75\$ for lunch at school. If they want to take part in all kinds of sport training after school, they should also pay some money annually. For example, Football-Head: \$6,789; Football-first assistant:\$4,526;Basketball:girls middle school (2each): \$3,169. But students have to pay 7500\$ one year in private school as tuition.

High education and its way of recruiting student affect basic and middle level education a lot. The differences between Chinese and American basic education are mainly caused by high education.

In America, there are more universities and colleges and less high school students, so almost every student can get into university to study if they like. They seem not too concerned about whether the university they can get in is the best, they select the right not the best. So in America students and teachers seem unhurried as they teach and learn leisurely in class. But in china it is student's score of English, Chinese, Math, Physics, Chemistry, History and Politics in college entrance examination that decided which university student can get in. So every student try their best to study the knowledge in textbooks very hard from elementary to high school so that they can get in better university

and then can find a good job after graduation. That makes teachers and students all are in hurry and great pressure and have no time to have enough sleeping and engage in all kinds of sports. Thus their health is decreasing and they gradually lose their interest in study. But there is one thing better in China than in America that is Chinese students only need to pay one thousand dollar a year for their tuition in public university while American student need to pay ten to fifty thousand dollars for their tuition in university or college.

**4. Perspective in understanding the difference:** From above discussion, we can see that both America and china have some problems on population, economy, environment protection and education. In order to solve these problems, two countries must cooperate and take co-effort to solve these problems.

**4.1.** First china and America must pay attention to their population problems. That's to say china must slow the speed of its rural population. Because in past decade, some farmers like to disobey china's family plan policy and tend to bear more than two or three babies. While in America, Some poor African Americans, Moslems couples tend to bear more babies in order to get more economic aid from government and many pregnant women all over the world tend to bear babies in America so that their babies can get American citizenship. So America must pay attention to that and find ways to monitor the structure of its population.

**4.2.** China and America must cooperate on economy and education: Since a lot of American companies and factories have been moved into china, China's environment is polluted with its economy's quick development while America's air quality becomes better and better with the decrease of its economy. So what Americans do is not to retreat the factory in china but to help china find ways to protect environment .At the same time, America try to attract more people all over the world especially Chinese young people to travel ,study in American middle school and university. Thus America will be the world's finance, culture, education and technology centre and get more benefit by doing so. Meanwhile, China should draw lesson from America Education and environmental protection. For example,, Improve basic education by the reform of high education on enrollment system and university different tuition system(Raise the tuition of top university and some superior subjects) in order to regulate basic education and make education more fair.

**4.3.** Two countries should cooperate on Global issues of common concern: As world's two biggest countries, china and America should not only care much on how to get more benefit from each other but also cooperate on some global issues of common concern and make some rules with other countries in UN which need all the counties to obey and take co-effort. For example, Paying attention on environmental protection, population control, fighting against terrorist organizations, eliminating global poverty and so on. Thus a Harmony, security, pure human common homeland is created.

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<sup>i</sup> Jian jun Jiang (2007).The present situation of groundwater pollution in China and the Countermeasures. Proceedings of the third China Environmental and Development

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