

National Health Commission P.R.China

Change and Constancy of China's Population

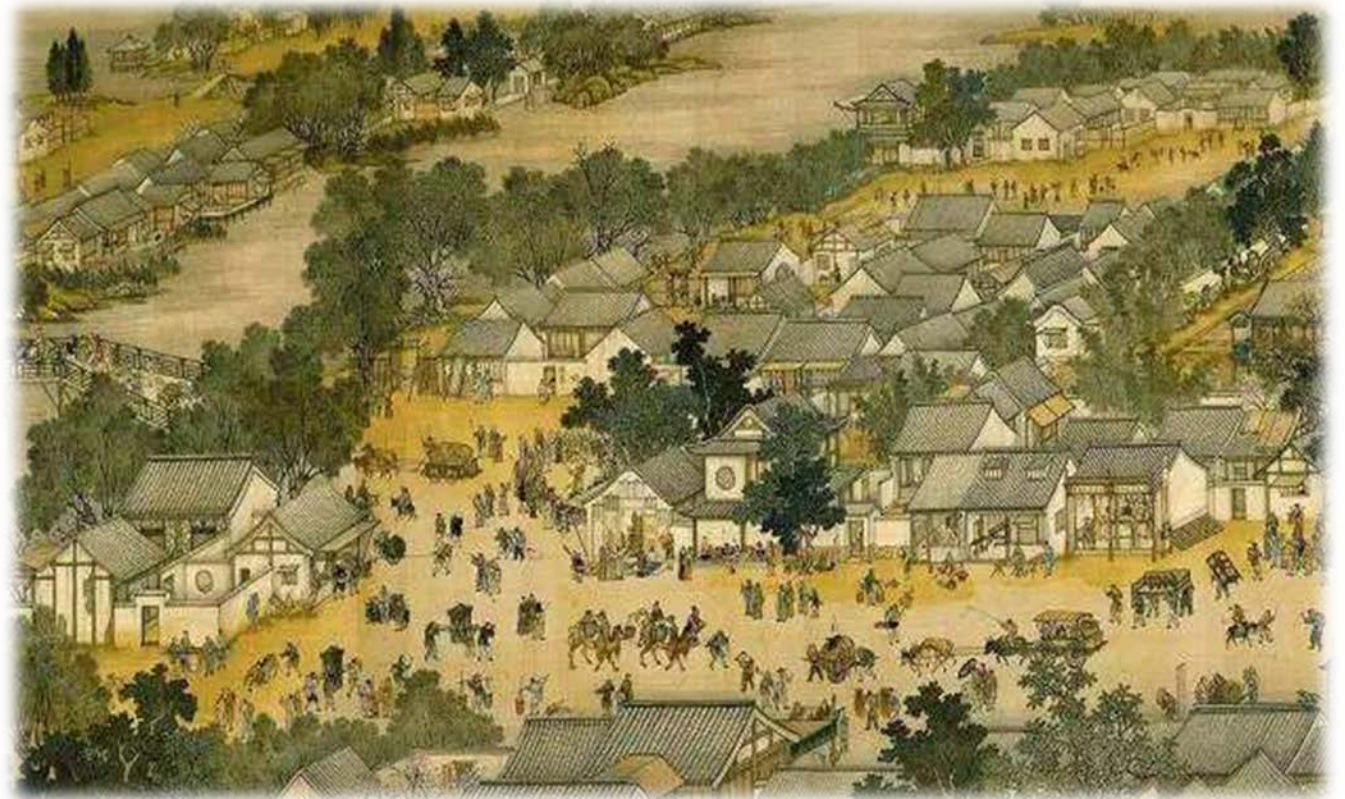
Yunpeng WEI

April 2, 2019

Ancient China

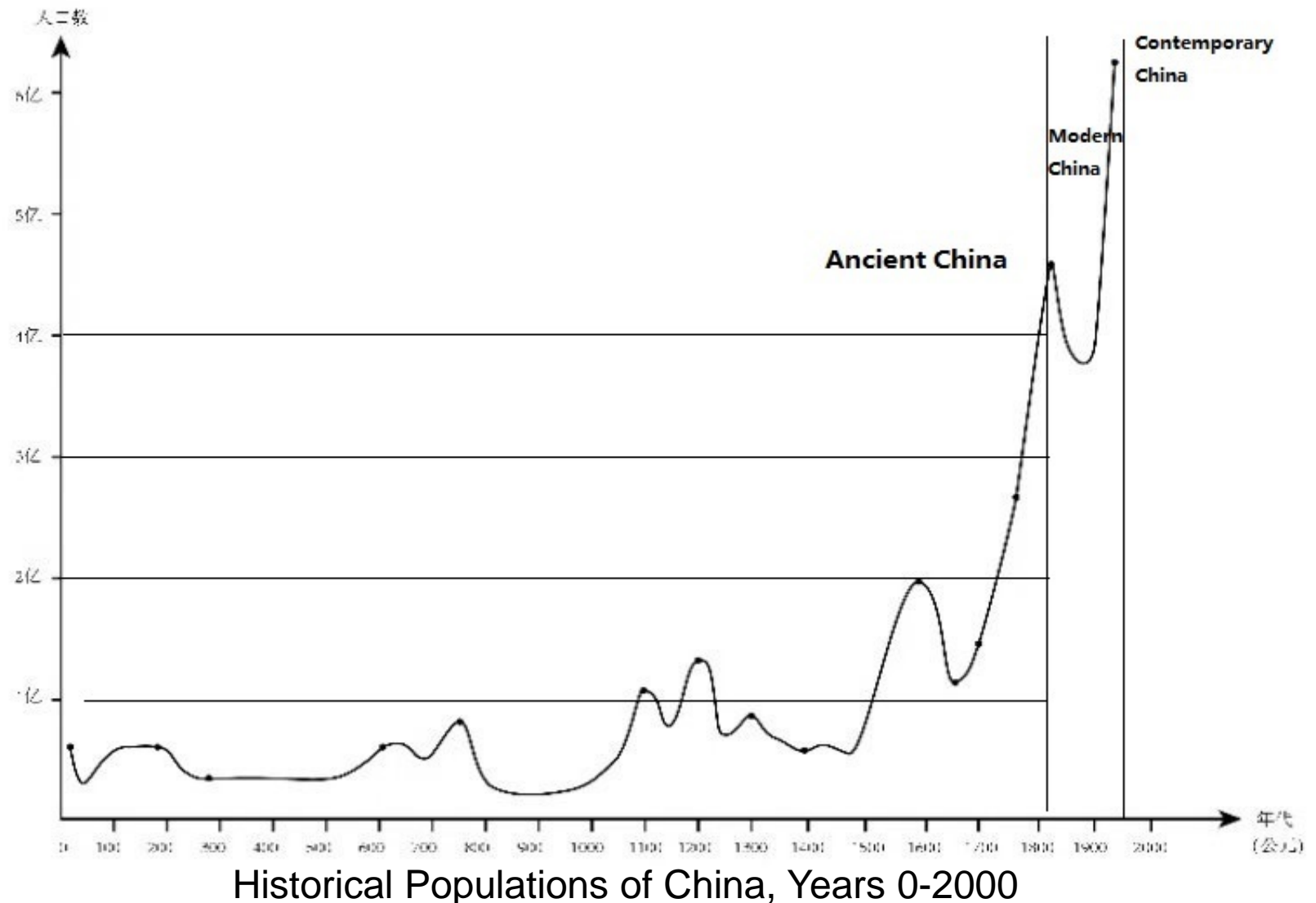
Since ancient times, emperors of various dynasties in China embraced Confucius' pro-natal teachings.

More population meant more taxation, more wealth, more armymen, and more land.



Ancient China

In the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, China's population increased rapidly, exceeding 200 million, 300 million and 400 million successively.



Ancient China

overpopulation

Per capita arable land is only 0.3-0.5 acre.



Contemporary China

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, China's population skyrocketed once again.



China's population grew at an unprecedented rate of more than 20 per thousand per year.

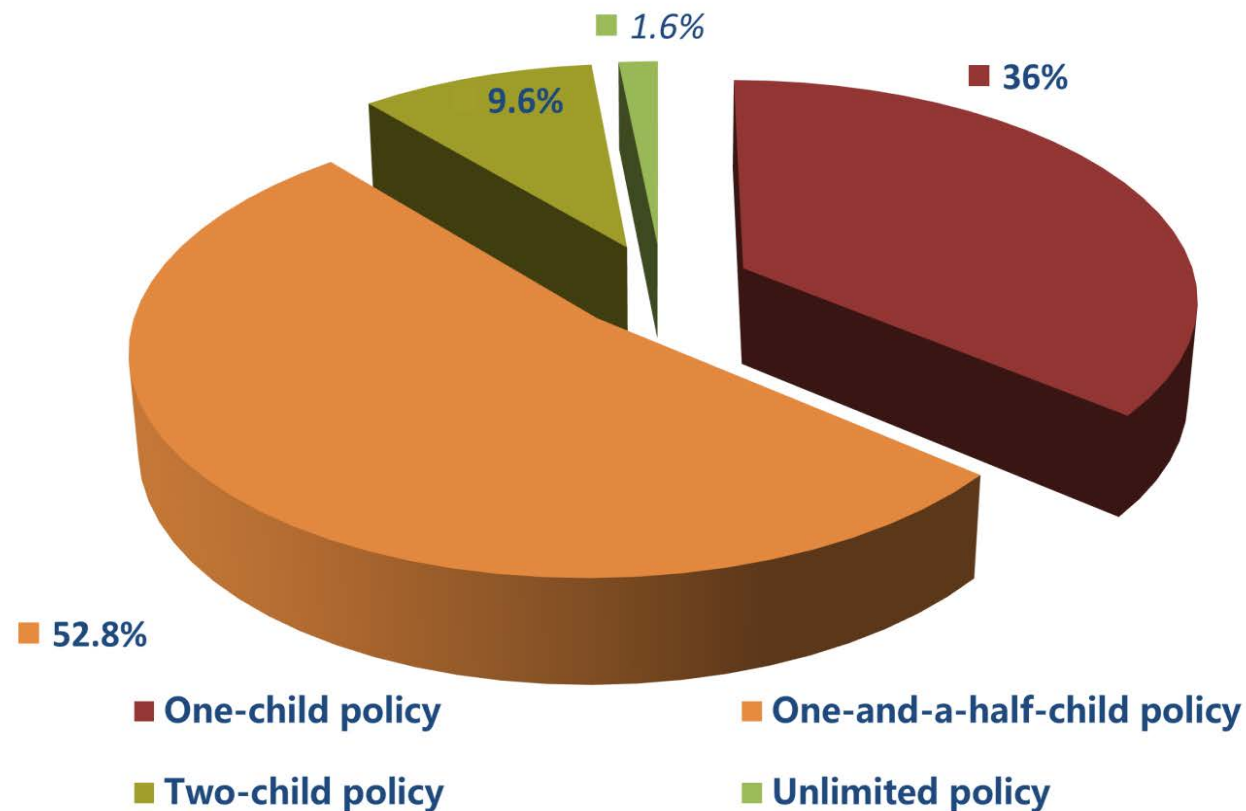
Contemporary China

In 1971, a national family planning policy emphasizing later-longer-fewer (later marriage, long spacing, and fewer children) was announced.



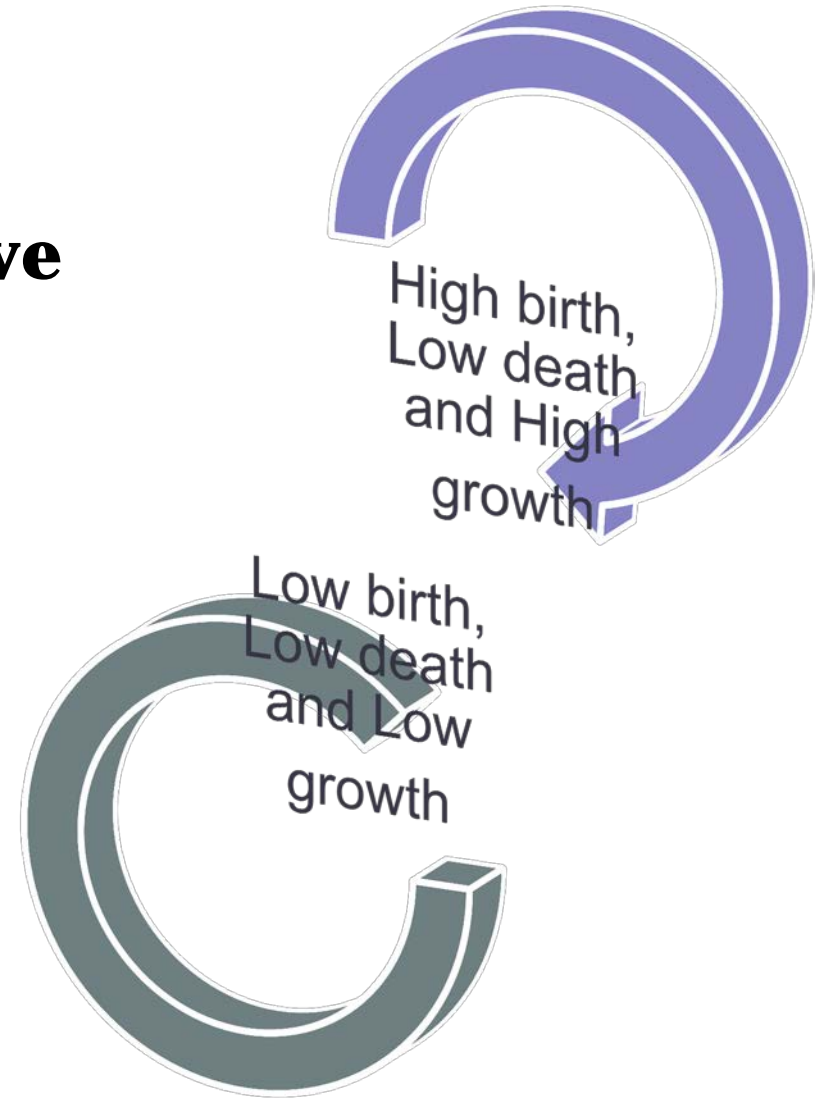
Contemporary China

In 1980, China initiated a new policy of one-child-per-family, the most restrictive birth policy ever in world history.



Modern Times

Over the past 40+ years, China reversed the momentum of excessive population growth.



Demographic transitions of China

New Normal

In years 2014 & 2015, couples with one side being an “only child” were allowed to have a second child.

The government decided to allow all couples to have a second child since 2016, finally ending the one-child policy.

Overview

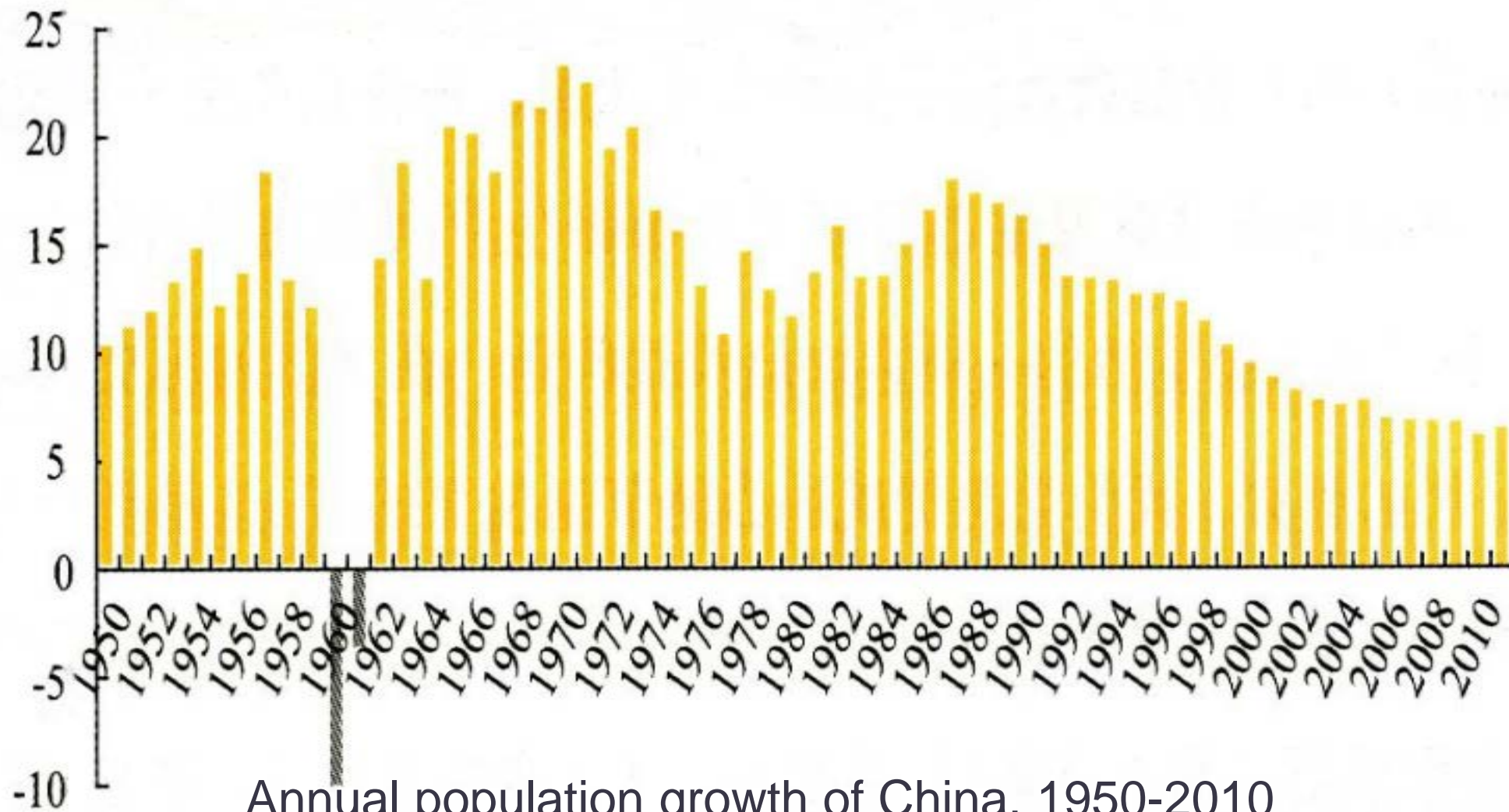


China's population features low fertility, rapid aging, and massive migration and urbanization.



China's population will change dramatically before the middle of this century when different birth cohorts go through stages of life cycle.

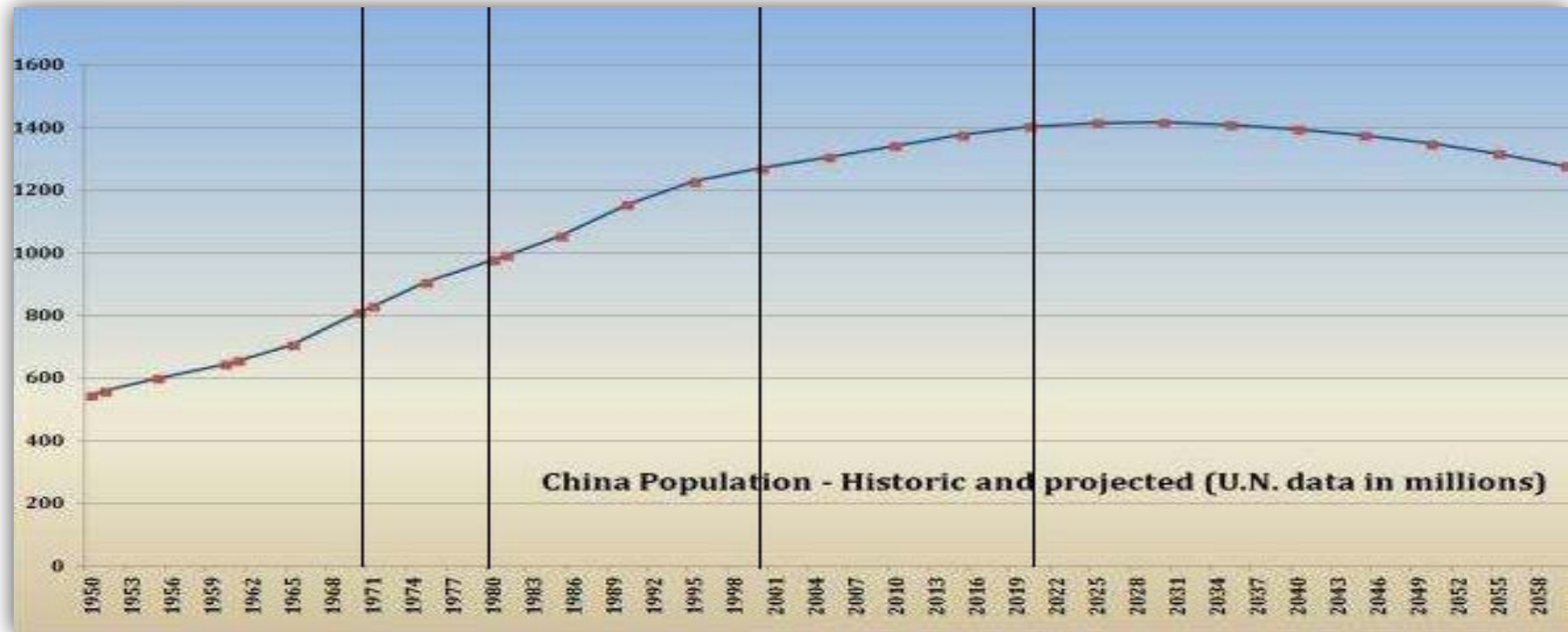
Overview



Annual population growth of China, 1950-2010

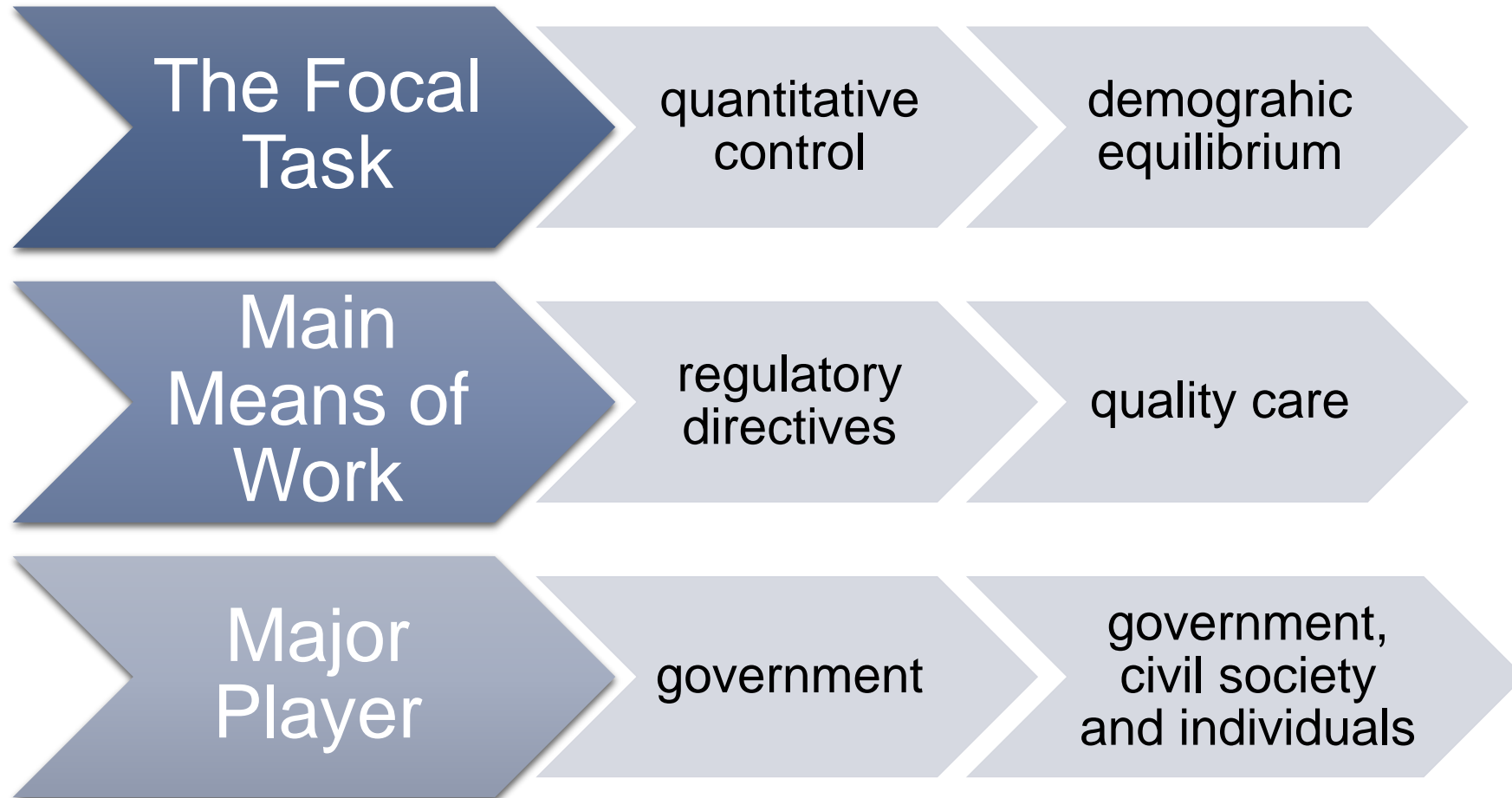
Quantity

At the end of this year, China's population will reach 1.45 bln. It will reach a peak around 2029 before its gradual decline.



Quantity

New connotations should be given to it in light of the changing demographic situation.



Migration

The most prominent demographic phenomenon of China in the 21st century is migration, rather than the quantity of its population.



Migration

Three strategic objectives:

By 2020, to help 100 mln rural migrants enjoy resident status in cities and towns in eastern China;

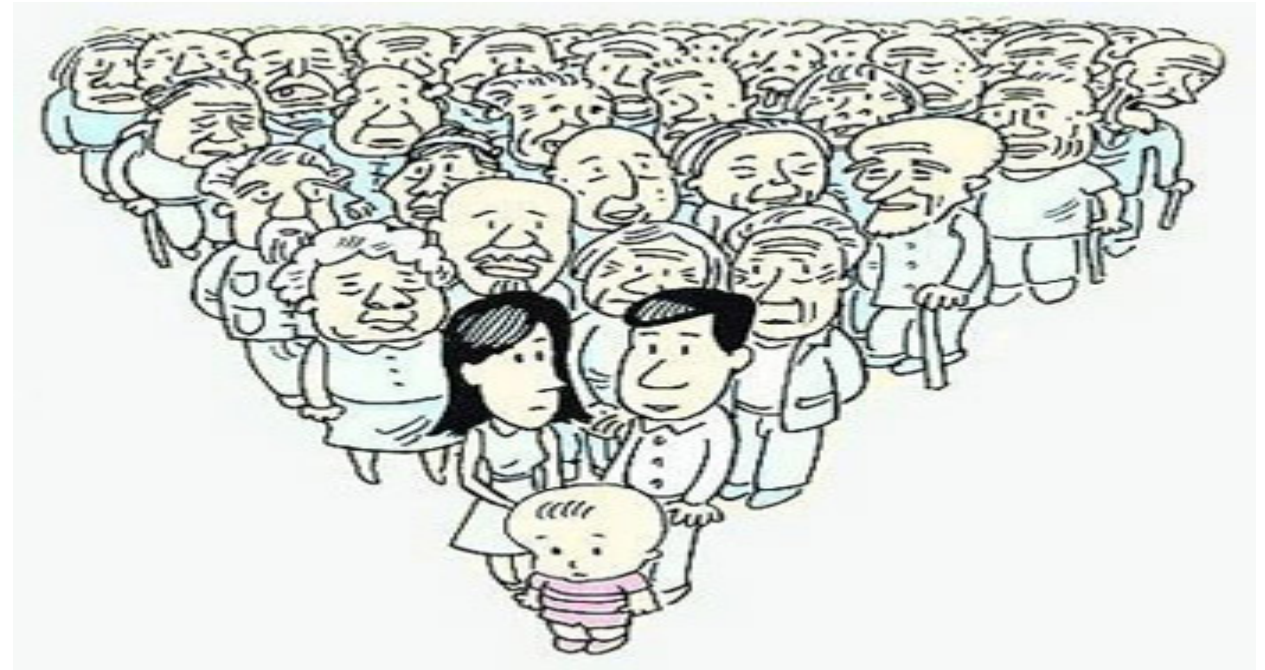
to accommodate 100 mln rural people as local residents in cities and towns in central and western China;

to provide 100 mln people living in rundown areas in cities with decent housing.

Aging

China currently has 167 million elderly people aged 65 and over, which is expected to reach a peak of 430 million around 2057.

Now the focus of the family has shifted to children.



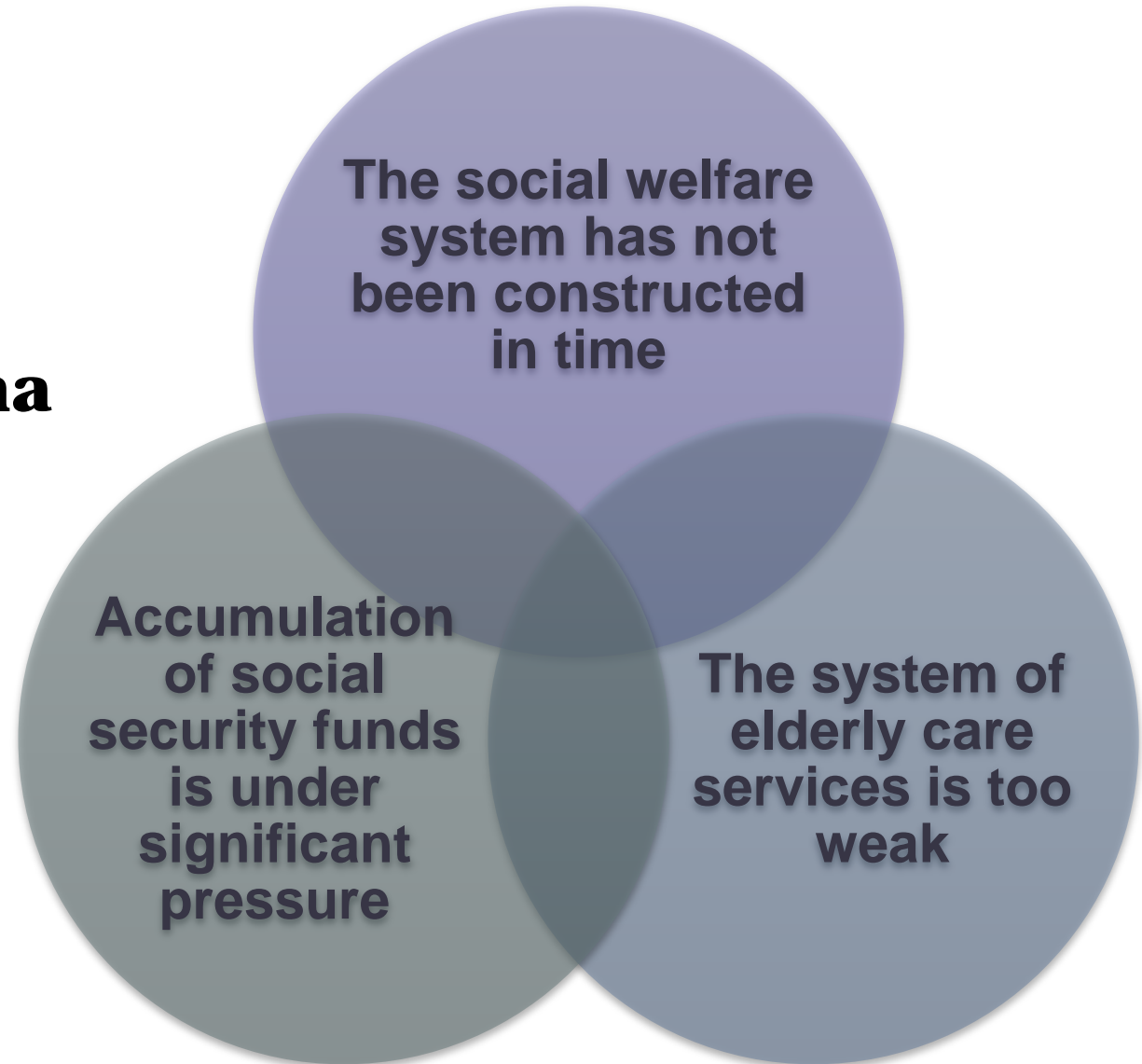
Aging

Family size is shrinking, family members are on the move, and "empty nesters" have been produced in large numbers.

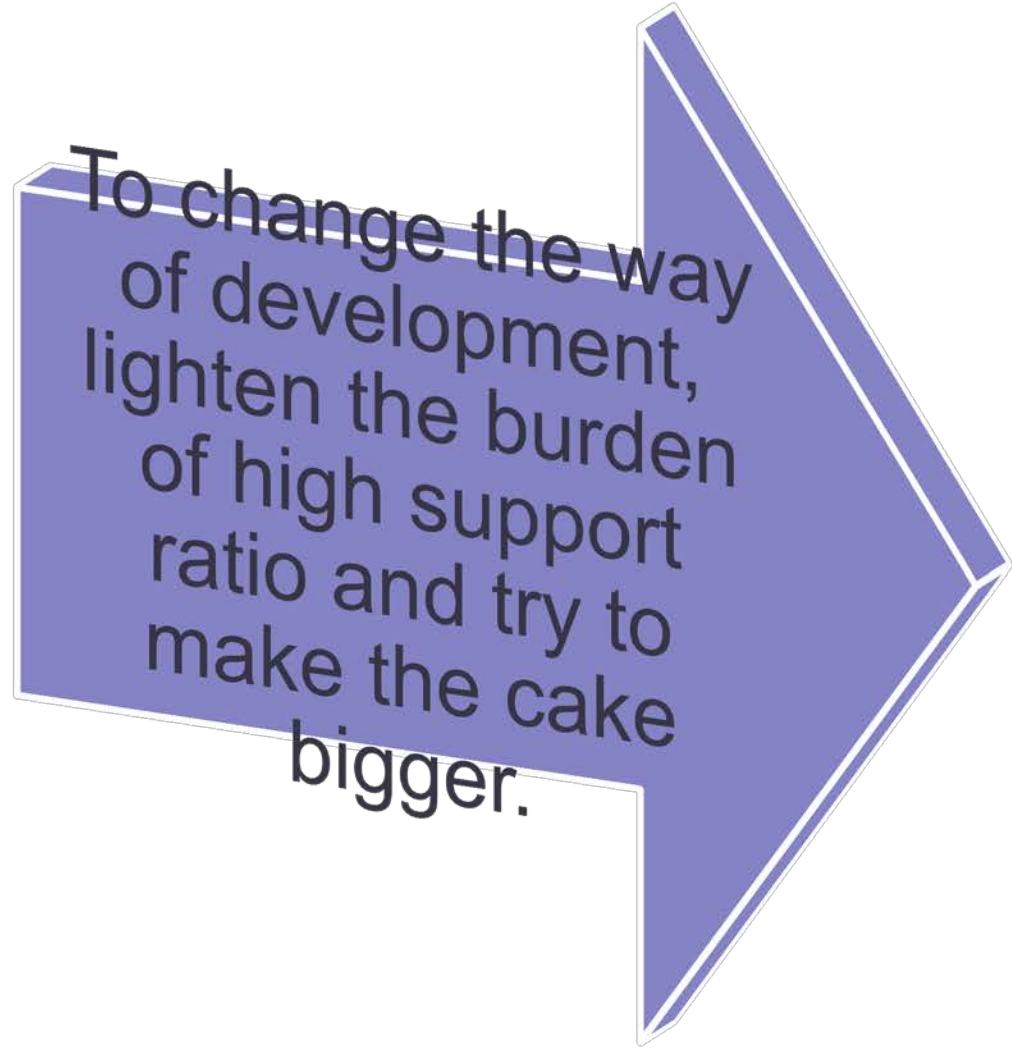


Aging

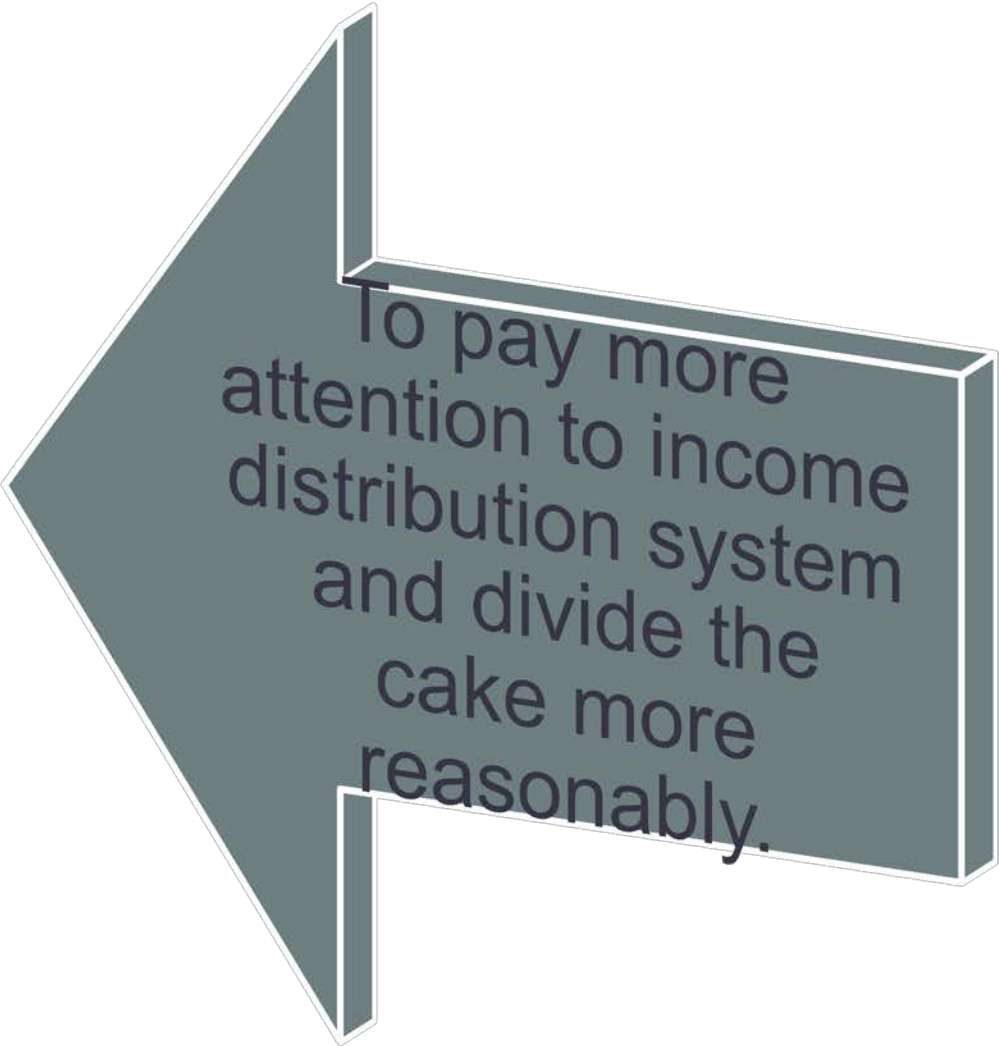
A huge challenge for China



Aging



To change the way
of development,
lighten the burden
of high support
ratio and try to
make the cake
bigger.



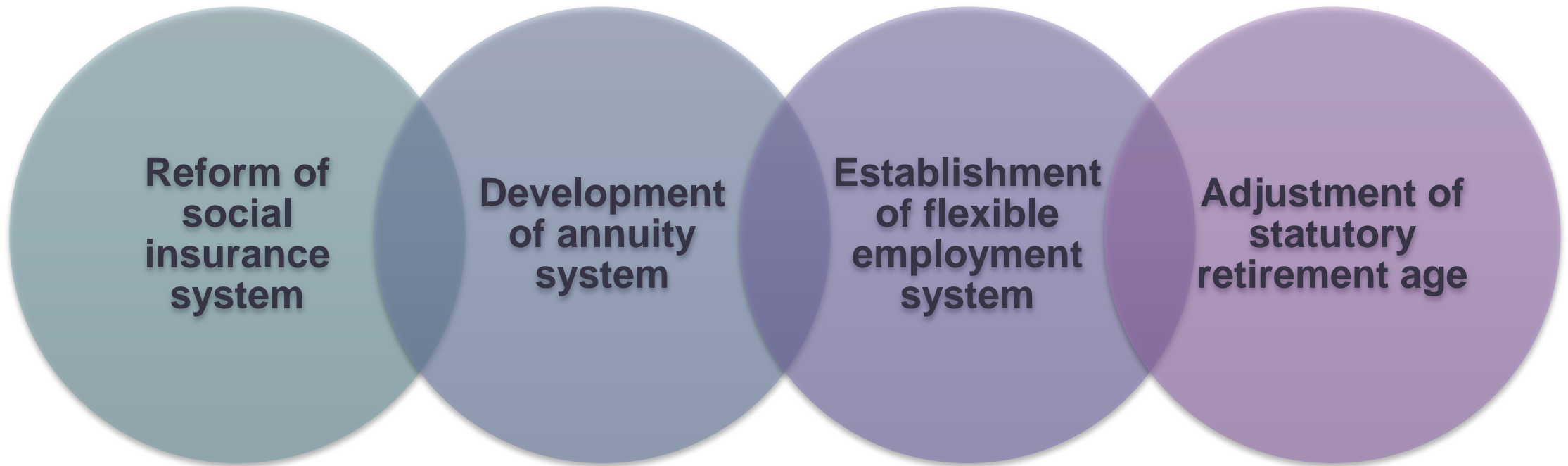
To pay more
attention to income
distribution system
and divide the
cake more
reasonably.

Aging

As aging now takes over from population dividends as the main demographic trend, it is possible for China to continue its strong growth by further reducing the proportion of agricultural workers and strengthening human and improving productivity.

Aging

Aging is not an unanswerable dilemma, but it requires reasonable institutional arrangements and policies.



Aging

China is making efforts to promote active aging, improve the elderly care services, social security and health-care systems, meet the rehabilitation and nursing needs of disabled and semi-disabled elderly, and speed up the construction of elderly-oriented facilities.



Thanks.

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