

China: My Country (excerpt)
International Educational Program

NARRATOR VO

China is home to the world's greatest population—one-point-three billion people. It's a country of incredible diversity... and contrast.

NARRATOR VO

The world's largest Communist state...
and it's fastest growing economy. A land of modest villages...and towering mega-cities.

NARRATOR VO

China is racing toward a dream of economic prosperity and opportunity. But could progress be the beginning of the end for the old ways? Or will traditions and beliefs that are hundreds or thousands of years old be preserved?

NARRATOR VO

This is a journey through one of the world's greatest civilizations in the midst of great change...
and He Jing is our guide.

HE JING OC

I'm He Jing and China is my country.

NARRATOR VO

It's the dawn of a new day in China. 150 kilometers from the city of Beijing, Fourteen-year old He Jing and her father are embarking on a strenuous, up-hill hike to one of China's most famous landmarks – The Great Wall.

NARRATOR VO

He Jing and her family live nearby. You can almost see her village from up here.

NARRATOR VO

Finally at the summit, He Jing and her father take a moment to enjoy the spectacular view of China below.

< NAT SOUNDS >

HE JING VO/OC (tape 8--translated)

I think that this part of the Great Wall is one of the most magnificent parts of the whole wall. I'm very proud to be Chinese because we are one of the most ancient cultures of the world and we have influenced many other civilizations that followed.

FATHER VO

The Great Wall is Chinese and it's nowhere else. It makes me proud.

NARRATOR VO

More than six-thousand five-hundred kilometers long, it's one of mankind's greatest achievements. It would take six months just to walk its entire length!*

NARRATOR VO

Construction on the Great Wall began more than 2,000 years ago under China's first emperor. It took millions of workers to build it. This section, called Jiankou, is more than 600 years old. Mr. He is eager to pass on the proud history of the Wall to his daughter.

FATHER VO

We really feel very proud to live under the Great Wall yes, that's true.

NARRATOR VO

This imposing structure was originally intended to protect China from foreign invasion. Now, Centuries later, it is a welcoming attraction for foreign tourists... and a cherished historical legacy.

HE JING VO

As a Chinese person, I have to know my country's past.

NARRATOR VO

Stretching over nine million square kilometers of land, China is about the same size as the United States, but has more than four times as many people. From the great cities and ports of the East... to the great stretches of barren deserts in the West, China is a diverse land... with a population that includes 56 ethnic groups. Despite their differences, most Chinese share a strong sense of National pride.