

UPDATES: 2015

For China, three decades of one-child policy proves hard to undo

By [David McKenzie](#), CNN Mon March 30, 2015



A man holds his daughter and newborn son, October 2014.
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/chinahealth/2015-01/16/content_19336637.htm

In China, you can often tell what the Communist government is thinking by watching TV.

For years, the typical TV Chinese family looked something like this: Happy parents with their one perfect child. And the words: "One hope." "One joy." "One responsibility."

Lately, the perfect television family has changed in China.

In a recent commercial, a boy shares a toy with his younger sister, then they all gather together with aunts,

uncles, and cousins to watch the Lunar New Year celebration.

The message appears to be: Two is **better** than one.

Strict policy

The change is amazing.

Since the early 1980s, the Party has enforced a strict one-child policy on most Chinese.

In January 2014, the policy changed some. If either the husband or wife was an "only child," that couple can now have a second child. Couples like Yang Xue and Chang Zi'an, both professionals working in Beijing, are now allowed to have a second child to join their baby girl – 11-month-old Tao Zi, or Little Peach.

Chang was an only child but sometimes wished for a sibling while growing up.

Chang and his young family live in a suburb of Beijing. The area is modern, with high-rise apartments and huge shopping malls. They make good money, and they are the type of couple that the Chinese government expected to have a second child.

Too little, too late?

But, to the surprise of many, the new rules haven't caused a baby boom. Parents must apply for permission to have a second child, and the government was hoping for two million applications in 2014. But so far, fewer than one million couples have applied to have a second child.

So why don't more parents want a second child?

Time and energy

For many urban couples in modern China, having a second child is not an attractive idea. There are no preschools here for children under three. There are not laws about who can be a nanny, and there are many stories of nannies that neglect or abuse the children they care for. Those concerns mean a parents or grandparent will need to stay home with the child until it is old enough to go to school.



<http://images.china.cn/attachement/jpg/site1007/20120411/00016c8b5de010ef255b0b.jpg>

Yang and Chang both have good jobs, but rent in their Beijing suburb is very high. And they want to send their daughter to a private bilingual English and Chinese pre-school. That costs money.

But even if they were richer, they say they wouldn't want a second child.

"Money is only part of the problem," says Yang.

"Your energy and your time is also important. We both have to work. It is hard enough to raise her as a success. It will be miserable if we had to go through that again.

article adapted from CNN.com at <http://www.cnn.com/2015/03/30/asia/china-one-child-policy-undo/>

China officially ends one child policy



December 27, 2015

Beijing (AFP) - China officially ends its one child policy this Friday, January 1, 2016. The new law allows all married couples to have a second child.



The government is trying to deal with the negative effects of their One-Child Policy: many more boys than girls in its population, too few younger people to work, and a growing number of older people who need care.

China had already made its One-Child Policy a bit less strict. Families in which one parent was an “only children” were allowed to have two children starting in 2014. But not many families chose to have that second child.

Experts say that the change to a two child policy is probably too little, too late. China's population crisis will be hard to fix at this point. The government has created a country where

businesses do not have to give women time off work to care for more than one child. And for almost 40 years, the government has worked to convince families that caring for more than one child is too expensive and that one child is better for everyone. Many of those families now believe one child is better, and the government will have a hard time changing their minds.

All married couples will be allowed to have a second child, but having a third child is still not legal.

article adapted from AFP article at <http://news.yahoo.com/china-officially-ends-one-child-policy-state-media-082237875.html>

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