

Chinese History - Practice Sheet 1 - ANSWER KEY

China is the country that it is today because it has a long tradition of **benevolent despotism** stretching back to **c.2200 BC**, when Shun chose his minister **Yu** to become the next emperor, believing he would perform his duties in the service of the people. For thousands of years, this model of kingship was maintained until the rulers failed to stop the **British** from selling **opium** in China. The **First Opium War** of **1839-42** represents the failure of traditional Chinese government, which was then replaced by **communism**. It was the **communist** leader **Deng Xiaoping** who said “To get rich is glorious!” in **1978** and granted his people the permission to trade with the world, thus beginning the “Made in China” phenomenon of our age.