

Chinese History - Practice Sheet 2 - ANSWER KEY

In the modern age, everything seems to be “**Made in China.**” How could this be, when China was a desperately poor country as recently as **1978**? In that year **Deng Xiaoping** said “*To get rich is glorious!*” and removed the oppressive controls on his citizens that were imposed through **communism** . He was trying to be a **benevolent despot**, in keeping with a long **tradition** stretching back all the way to **c.2200BC** , in which China’s rulers were held to the high standard of public service like **Shun** , who chose **Yu** to be emperor instead of his own son in order to assure good government. The traditional model of Chinese government had failed in the **First Opium War** of **1839-42** , when China was completely outmatched by **Britain**, but the basic idea of rulers with total power guiding the nation was not abandoned, and continues to this day.