

CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

# GEOGRAPHY

*Compiled by*  
the *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

*Translated by*  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

More than 30 years have elapsed since the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. "What is China really like today?" many people abroad wish to know. To answer this question, we plan to compile and publish a voluminous *China Handbook*, in which we intend to introduce the New China in every field of its activities. Emphasis will be on the process of development during the past three decades, the accomplishments, and the problems that still remain. The book will contain accurate statistics and related materials, all of which will be ready references for an interested reader.

To enhance the usefulness of the forthcoming volume, we plan to publish 10 major sections separately at first, so that we shall have an opportunity to take into consideration the opinions of our readers before all the composite parts are put together, revised and published as one volume. These separate sections are:

- Geography
- History
- Politics
- Economy
- Education and Science
- Literature and Art
- Sports and Public Health
- Culture
- Life and Lifestyles

### Tourism

Here, we wish particularly to point out the following:

First, the statistics listed in each separate book exclude those of Taiwan, unless otherwise indicated.

Second, the statistics are those compiled up to the end of 1980.

The *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

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## CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

"What is China really like today?" many people abroad ask. This series answers the question by presenting different aspects of China:

**Geography**

**Education and Science**

**History**

**Literature and Art**

**Politics**

**Sports and Public Health**

**Economy**

**Life and Lifestyles**

**Culture**

**Tourism**

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China, in east Asia, has a land area of 9.6 million square kilometres that features a complex topography, varied climate, long coastline, numerous rivers and lakes, rich mineral resources and beautiful landscapes. A brief account of its physical geography is presented in this booklet, with information on China's 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

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