Was the one child policy successful?
By Chloe C1

The OCP was introduced in China in 1980 by Deng Xiaoping and it was enforced because of the over-population issue. This policy made it illegal for women in China to give birth to more than one child, It was enforced by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, with a system of fines for violators and often forced abortions. Civil servants and employees of government-affiliated organisations, including universities, risked losing their jobs if they were found to have had more than one child.

Throughout the duration of this policy the population went from 15million to 10 million per year and 400 million births were " avoided". The birth rate in 1980 was 23 babies per 1000 people and by 2000 it had massively dropped to 8 births per 1000 people. This shows that overall the mission of this policy succeeded but the affects of this drastic change still effect generations to this day for example since there aren't as many younger and able people living in China this affects the older populations lives as since the majority of the elder people have retired and don't work for a living it is up to the younger community to work and earn money so they can pay their taxes to the government which aids pensions, since there is a lack of the amount of people able to fulfil those jobs it takes on toll on older generations access to healthcare and living conditions, not to mention it also affects their mental and emotional wellbeing as they might have not legally been allowed to have siblings and more than one child so therefore they might be alone for the rest of their lives with no close family to care for them.

Many opinions also question the morals of this policy, as many women would be forced into abortions if they fell pregnant for a second time and would have no say in the matter. There have been recent efforts to change this huge gap in population since from 2017 the government introduced a two child policy but even this cant solve the ongoing aging crisis, the current situation being since 2021 China has a three-child-policy. As many families wanted to have a second child they hid it from the government and had unregistered births therefore technically speaking these children didn't exist which gave the nickname " the lost children" the result of these births meant that they would not have access to education or healthcare and basic humans recourses.

In conclusion, I think that the one child policy was successful in the sense that it achieved the aim which was to lower the population and birth rates but it also caused more problems economically and socially than solved which leave permanent damage to millions in the hands of the new generation to amend.