

Glue

Knowledge Organiser: How is global power changing?

What is a superpower—In order to be a superpower countries need certain factors of influence these include:

- A large land area or population size (Geographic influence)
- Lots of Money/Strong Economy
- Large military force
- A large cultural influence



The USA, China, Russia, and India are currently considered the world's superpowers. This is because each country possess significant economic, cultural, political and military power.

However at present the United States is considered the world's only true superpower. We also have some countries that are growing in power and when we look to the future, Nigeria could be the first super power in Africa.

How can we measure global power?

We can use data to measure global power- most commonly GDP, population size, military spending and land area. We can also study the cultural influence of different superpower countries such as language spoken, music, film, and the trade of food and clothing.

How could Russia challenge the USA for superpower status?

Russia and the USA have been challenging each other for many years. In particular, Russia has a large land mass and a large population. Russia also has access to an abundance of natural resources that it can make a lot of money from.

More recently, Russia is investigating natural resources in and around The Arctic.



What might limit Russia's superpower status?

Russia's physical geography is a main factor that will limit Russia's growth. Russia has a very cold climate in large parts of the country and a mountainous relief meaning that transport is difficult. It also has a declining population.

Can China be the next world superpower?

The growth of China- China's GDP has grown considerably in the last 30 years. Alongside this, its population has increased to 1.4 billion- the largest in the world. The population is getting wealthier which has led to a growth in the demand for consumer goods. The Chinese Government controls the economy, rather than businesses, meaning that they have total control over their economic plan. Their influence is spreading due to the Belt and Road Initiative which sets to increase trade links with the rest of the world.



What might limit China's superpower status?

Whilst China's population is the biggest in the world, not everyone in China is benefitting from the economic boom that is mainly found on the east coast.

The size of China's population is causing issues such as not being able to supply enough energy to homes and businesses.

Can India be an emerging superpower?



Factors for India as a superpower

- India has a young population = larger workforce = more economic growth.
- Member of UNSC = more influence over unstable countries and global security.
- Large English speaking population = increases trade and economic opportunities.
- 3rd largest military = power and influence.

Factors against India as a superpower.

- Around 5% of India's live in poverty = need to fix poverty before it can be a superpower.
- Parts of India has poor infrastructure = growth is limited to certain areas = not able to reach full potential.
- Conflict with neighbours and internally = appear less powerful.

Further reading

Five Super Powers Ruling the World



Black China



Nigeria- a competing superpower?



Nigeria is the wealthiest country in Africa and in 2030 it is predicted to have the third largest population in the world, overtaking the USA. It has benefitted greatly from the oil that is found naturally off its south coast.

However, Nigeria has many challenges to overcome. There is a large percentage of the population that live in poverty and it is difficult to distribute medicines. In addition there are also environmental challenges such as the water pollution created from oil spills.

Key Vocabulary

Superpower: a country that has the capacity to project power and influence anywhere in the world and in more than one region at a time.

Cultural Influence: The spread of ideas, actions or customs as a result of power.

Economic Power (GDP): an economic snapshot of a country which measures the size of an economy and its growth through the total income from goods and services.

Demographics: statistical data relating to the population.

Military power: Having the wealth (GDP) to spend on military weapons and their army. Also having a large military.

Natural resources: Materials that are not man made and found naturally on earth eg oil, coal, timber.

Rural migrants- people who are originally from rural areas but move to urban areas.

Consumer goods- Consumer goods are products bought for consumption by the average consumer. Clothing, food, and jewellery are all examples of consumer goods.

Poverty- Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.