

Highlights

- The Chinese government intends to transform the country economically and socially through automobile manufacturing and road building.
- Having relied on bicycles for generations, the Chinese people are still groping toward a new “car culture.”
- The explosive growth of the Chinese auto industry represents both a threat and an opportunity for U.S. carmakers.
- With government-subsidized gasoline prices, China’s seemingly insatiable demand for oil dramatically impacts global supplies and the environment.
- As a long-term strategy, Chinese automakers have their sights set on the U.S. market, mindful of concerns about quality and safety.

Questions to Consider

1. Think about all the ways that cars have shaped American culture. What can the Chinese learn from those hundred-plus years of experience?
2. Most Americans grew up with cars and learned behind-the-wheel behavior from watching their parents. Without such role models, what problems do first-time drivers face in China? What opportunities does such a fresh start present?
3. How would you respond to Yin Ming Shan, the CEO of Lifan Motors, when he talks about competing with U.S. carmakers and getting new technology, one way or the other?
4. Do you think Chinese imports will succeed on the U.S. automotive market? Why or why not?
5. How do you think China’s growing demand for oil affects the U.S. economy? In what other ways does China’s quest for oil impact the international community?

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- Coal fuels China’s economic growth. Though cheap and plentiful, it’s dirty to burn and dangerous to mine.
- While concentrating on highway construction and urban development, the Chinese government remains largely indifferent to the problems facing rural peasants.
- The urban and rural poor have little leverage in procuring services or avoiding displacement.
- Corruption remains a fact of life in China, despite government efforts to crack down on officials who take bribes.
- Though the Chinese government remains unabashedly and wholeheartedly pro-business, the free market in China has little to do with political freedom.



