

Facts about China

Predictions for the 21st century

In the 21st century,

- ◆ People in China will find themselves in a more pluralistic society and enjoy more freedom. This will be the result of the rapid development in communications and other technologies.
- ◆ Literature, that for decades has been used to further political ends, will be geared more and more to the ordinary people rather than to intellectuals only.
- ◆ Writing will reflect changes in thinking in society and reflect the voice of society.
- ◆ Although public ownership will remain an integral part of China's economy, private ownership will also increase.
- ◆ China's society will become increasingly pluralistic. More and more people will be taking hold of their own lives and make their own roads, pathways, and opportunities.
- ◆ Twenty years ago all Chinese were expected to marry and have children. Today more and more young people are opting for the single life or even a "live together" situation without marriage.
- ◆ The ability to choose one's lifestyle and freely express oneself will continue to expand.
- ◆ After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, popular literature almost completely disappeared. This genre has been experiencing a rebirth since the reopening in the eighties, and is becoming a very lucrative business.
- ◆ In spite of all the changes that will take place, China will always maintain some socialist characteristics.

Adapted from China Today, Vol. 49, January 2000