

**Project #3 :: China Dynasty**

Business Economics

Spring 2014

**Project #3**

**China Dynasty**

**Project description:**

Individually, students will conduct secondary research to develop a written report comparing the production of goods in the U.S. to the production of goods in China. After completing their individual reports, each team of students will be given a stuffed animal and assigned the task of determining where they want to produce that item—in China or in the U.S. To make their decision, each team will need to consider a number of factors, including how to produce the stuffed animal, what issues or risks might arise in production, and how to deal with those issues and risks. After considering these factors, each team will develop and use a decision matrix to select where to produce its stuffed animal and then present an oral report explaining where the team chose to produce the item, what risks are involved in making the stuffed animal in the selected location, and how the team would deal with these risks.

**Timeframe:** 3 ½ weeks

**Objectives:**

* Explain the concept of productivity
* Discuss the relationship between economic output and a society’s standard of living
* Analyze the effects of inputs and outputs on productivity levels
* Explain the concept of organized labor and business
* Explain forms of international business activities
* Describe the nature of quality
* Identify quality-control measures/techniques
* Employ a decision matrix to select best option

**Individual Written Report:**

Each student individually conducts secondary research and develops a four-page written report covering the following concepts that compare the production of goods in the U.S. to the production of goods in China:

* Comparison of China and U.S. workforces (size, education, income, union vs. nonunionized, trends in productivity, etc.)
* Reasons U.S. companies have goods produced in China and reasons China chooses to produce goods for U.S. companies
* How U.S. companies get goods produced in China (import/export from other companies, wholly owned subsidiaries, etc.)
* How off shoring impacts the domestic economy
* What problems U.S. companies encounter with goods produced in China
* How quality issues with goods produced in China could be addressed

**Group Discussion & Research:**

To make an educated decision about where produce the team’s stuffed animal, each team needs to answer the following questions:

* Why does it cost less to produce the stuffed animal in China and transport it to the U.S. versus producing it domestically?
* How will the team get their stuffed animal produced and on the shelves in the U.S.?
* What issues/risks might arise when doing business in China versus the U.S.?
* What are some ways to overcome those issues/risks?
* What criteria should the team use in its decision matrix to decide where to produce the stuffed animal?

**Decision Matrix:**

After completing team research and answering the questions listed above, each team develops and uses a decision matrix to determine where to produce its stuffed animal.

**Oral Presentation:**

Each team delivers a 5-10-minute presentation identifying where they decided to produce their stuffed animal, the rationale for their decision, the risks involved in making the product in the selected location, and how they would deal with these risks.

**Calendar of Important Dates**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **February 2014** | | | | | | | **Project #3 :: China Dynasty** |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** | **Notes:** |
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| 2  **Week 5** | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |  |
|  |
| 9  **Week 6** | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |  |
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| 16  **Week 7** | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | Feb 13: Begin **Project #3 :: China Dynasty** |
| Feb 17: Presidents' Day—**NO SCHOOL** |
| 23  **Week 8** | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | Feb 21: **QUIZ 3A** |
| Feb 28: **QUIZ 3B** / Decision Matrix Due |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Group Research Complete |
|  |
| **March 2014** | | | | | | | **Project #3 :: China Dynasty** |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** | **Notes:** |
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| Mar 4: Individual Written Reports Due |
| 2  **Week 9** | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Mar 6: Oral Presentations (to class) |
| Mar 7: **TEST** – Project #3 |
| 9  **Week 10** | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |  |
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| 16  **Week 11** | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |  |
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| 23  **Week 12** | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |  |
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| 30  **Week 13** | 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Sample Team Contract**

## Members

Carlie, Otis, Neff, Rennie, Joe, Vince

# Team Constitution

Forward: This contract is a binding legal document and governs the group until the assigned project deadline. If the group separates, or a member is fired, the basic contract laws remain intact for both parties. However, being fired may cause work responsibilities to shift.

Article I: Absence Policy

a. If a group member will be absent on a day in which work is due, they must tell another group member a day in advance and have all work that they are responsible for turned in. All group members must stick to the provided agenda to have the assignments completed on time. If there will be an unexpected absence, the group member is to complete the work from home and email another group member to let them know they are gone for the day.

b. Group members will contact one another if they are absent for any amount of period during the time allotted for working on the projects.

Article II: Work Policy

a. Any member that is mentally or physically disabled and can prove that they cannot complete the work assigned to them alone may acquire assistance from other group members to help complete it. This will only apply for work that is group work and not individual work, and work will only be finished by that group member, and the assisting group member will not write it.

b. Each group member will work to the best of their ability, making sure the completed work is up to standards, and that they complete it with punctuality.

c. If a group member commits plagiarism, they are solely responsible and incur the punishment on their own.

Article III: Leadership

a. At the beginning of the project, a leader will be voted upon democratically. If a group member is absent at the time of voting, they waive their right to participate in voting. The person who wins the most votes becomes the leader. If there is an unclear outcome (same number of votes for different people), the group will have no leader until one can be chosen by a revote.

1. By being elected leader, the person must perform the following duties:
2. Organize group meetings.
3. Create and enforce a group agenda to govern group progress.
4. Organize any out-of-school project efforts.
5. Provide communication between group members in order to help individuals work towards the project goal.

If they fail to perform these duties, or another person is also carrying them out, a revote may be taken to determine whether to obtain a new leader.

Article IV: Work Ethics

a. If a group member does not complete work they were assigned, the punishment for the infringement will be of detriment solely to the group member at fault. No negative grading shall be given to any other group members.

Article V: Member Dismissal

a. The following conducts will result in a group member being able to be dismissed:

1. Incomplete or missing group work
2. Plagiarism or any form of cheating
3. If group member decides to leave under his or her own will

b. Any group member leaving under their own will may submit all their own work, while the other group members may not. Any group member fired for breaking any of the conducts under Article V-a (i-iii) will have their work taken from their possession to be used at the discretion of the original group, but not for the individual being fired. In addition, any fired member may not use any work completed by other group members, subject to punishment under Article 2-c.

c. If a group member leaves under the stipulation of Article V-a (iv), they retain all the work they have already provided for the group. The original group cannot use this work or it is subject to punishment under Article 2-c.

Article VI: Signature

By signing this contract, the following group members abide to the articles above. If any member fails to abide by the articles of this contract, they may be fired from the group given at least a 50% vote in favor of firing the individual.

## Signatures:

Source: Novel Approach Consulting Group, www.novelapproachpbl.com

## Team Project Plan

This document serves two purposes in every project:

1. Project planning guide
2. Project status report

Instructions:

* Each team works together to determine
  + Project objective
  + Tasks to be completed for a successful fulfillment of the project objective
  + Resources needed to complete each task (if any)
  + Person(s) responsible for completing each task
  + Due date for each task
* The first four columns of the table below (task, responsible, resources, and due date) serve as the guiding document through the end of the project.
* At the end of each week, use one copy to fill in the last three columns of the table. This serves as a weekly status report for your teacher.

## Team Project Plan

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| --- | --- |
| **Members of my team:** |  |
| **Project Name:** |  |
| **Project Objective:** |  |

| **Task** | **Who Is Responsible** | **Resources Needed** | **Due Date** | **Status** | **Completed & Date turned in** |
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**Team Signatures:**

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**8—Objective:**

Explain the concept of productivity

1. Define the term productivity.
2. Identify the effects of productivity on society.
3. Describe how productivity is measured.
4. Describe factors that enhance productivity.
5. Describe factors that hinder productivity.
6. Explain ways to increase productivity.
7. Discuss the consequences of non-productivity.

**9—Objective:**

Discuss the relationship between economic output and a society’s standard of living

1. Define the following terms:

Output

Standard of living

Total production

Income per capita

Consumption per capita

1. Explain how increased economic output affects a country’s competitive edge.
2. Describe the impact of changes in economic activity on labor.
3. Describe what causes economic output to change.
4. Analyze the relationship among total production, population, and the standard of living.
5. Explain ways to measure a country’s standard of living.
6. Describe trends in the United States’ standard of living.

**10—Objective:**

Analyze the effects of inputs and outputs on productivity levels

1. Define the following terms:

Input

Output

Total product

Productive resources

Fixed inputs

Variable inputs

Fixed costs

Variable costs

Total cost

Average total cost

1. Explain why productivity and cost must be considered in making production decisions.
2. Distinguish between fixed and variable costs.
3. Describe how the length of a time period relates to input and cost decisions.
4. Given amounts of inputs and outputs, calculate productivity.
5. Explain how changes in productivity over time influence the cost of production.

**11—Objective:**

Explain the concept of organized labor and business

1. Define the following terms:

labor union

local

national

federation

collective bargaining

strikes

picketing

boycotts

featherbedding

lockouts

injunctions

strikebreakers

1. Identify reasons that labor unions form.
2. Identify types of labor issues.
3. Classify types of unions.
4. Describe levels of union organization.
5. Describe types of union organization.
6. Describe the collective bargaining process.
7. Explain types of union negotiation strategies.
8. Describe types of management negotiation strategies.
9. Explain the effects of unionism on workers.
10. Describe the effects of unionism on businesses.

**12—Objective:**

Explain forms of international business activities

1. Define the following terms:

Importing/exporting

Licensing

Franchising

Foreign direct investment

Joint ventures

Wholly owned ventures

1. Explain differences between domestic and international businesses.
2. Discuss reasons that businesses choose to service international markets.
3. Describe risks associated with international business.
4. Explain costs associated with international business.
5. Discuss non-equity methods used to service foreign markets (e.g., exporting, licensing, strategic alliances, and sub-contracting).
6. Explain equity methods used to service foreign markets (e.g., joint ventures, and wholly-owned subsidiaries).
7. Describe advantages of the forms of international business activities.
8. Describe disadvantages of the forms of international business activities.
9. Discuss reasons for using different methods to service foreign markets.

**13—Objective:**

Describe the nature of quality

1. Define the term quality.
2. Discuss the importance of quality to a business.
3. Explain costs associated with quality.
4. Describe the history of quality initiatives in business.

**14—Objective:**

Identify quality-control measures/techniques

1. Explain lean operations.
2. Discuss the use of Six Sigma.
3. Describe the use of total quality management.
4. Explain the use of continuous improvement.
5. Discuss the use of statistical process improvement.