

Battle of the giants:**Key**

Be aware that this article raises some negative aspects in relation to China, as well as India and Japan. The article has in fact been edited to remove many of the more problematic issues, while retaining its spirit. Particular issues are addressed in questions (eg Q9) in an attempt to ensure that students realise that they are being presented with a particular viewpoint rather than an accepted 'truth'.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, March 6-7 2004 News Review P 30

Pre Reading

1. Read the title; what 'giants' do you think it is referring to?

2. Read the lead (a short paragraph in bold after the headline) and identify the 'giants' referred to in the title.

China and India**Reading**

3. Skim the text for gist and write the main idea.

The text is a warning to the West that China and India may very well become the next global superpowers. In comparing the two countries, it appears that India has a number of attributes that make it more likely that it, and not China, will dominate in the future.

4. Match the words with the meaning that reflects its use in the text. (All the words have been underlined.)

Word		Meaning
1. <u>touted</u>	h	a) A flood; a fast and powerful flow
2. <u>reverberate</u>	f	b) To remove opponents or those considered undesirable
3. <u>outsourcing</u>	i	c) Something that is said as a caution, a qualification or a warning

4. torrent	a	d) Obtaining something from a source
5. ravenous	m	e) Existing everywhere
6. ubiquitous	e	f) Have a continuing effect
7. sectors	k	g) Caused someone to do something suddenly by making them feel fear, excitement or anger
8. purged	b	h) Put forward, advertised, or sold to the public as having a particular quality
9. interpenetration	n	i) Purchasing things or services from a source outside the company as a way of reducing costs or using expertise that is not available within the company
10. vernacular	l	j) Favouring and maintaining strict rules and obedience
11. extracting	d	k) Components of a system such as an economy or a society
12. authoritarian	j	l) The everyday language used by a group of people
13. galvanised	g	m) To be hungry or greedy for something
14. obscurantist	o	n) To spread or mix something in and throughout something else
15. caveat	c	o) Opposed to or hindering the spread of new ideas or developments

5. Read the following statements and underline the key words. Then, scan the article for synonyms or parallel expressions. Read these sections carefully and label the statements **T** (true), **F** (false), or **NG** (not given).

- (a) There will be a sufficient supply of cheap labour in China for the foreseeable future. **T**
- (b) China's economy is expected to exceed that of the USA by 2031. **F**
- (c) American investment in China exceeds its investment in India. **NG**
(The article mentions foreign investment, but doesn't specifically refer to American investment.)
- (d) India's growth for the last year was as impressive as that of China. **F**
- (e) India is unable to use light manufacturing exports to improve the economy. **F**
- (f) More Indians speak English than do Chinese. **NG**
(The article says that China is ahead of India in General English, and mentions India's ever-stronger English and vernacular-language media control.)
- (g) China is more likely to have a financial crash than is India. **T**
- (h) Japan will be the next economic superpower. **F**

6. Which person mentioned in the article would be likely to agree with the following statements.

- (a) Digby Jones If the United Kingdom doesn't improve the level of its workforce's basic skills, it will lose economic competitive edge to China and India.
- (b) Amartya Sen India's tradition of democracy provides a solid foundation for economic development.

(c) **Desmond Ball** The nature of China’s culture decreases its ability to compete with India in the area of collecting secret information by electronic means.

(d) **Huang Yasheng & Tarun Khanna** China is not using domestic savings in a productive way.

(e) **Marika Viczainy** India’s capacity for long term success is hindered by its current economic reality.

7. What do you think Marika Viczainy meant by referring to India’s IT centres as, “*islands of excellence surrounded by a sea of poverty*”? (lines 33-34)

Even though the IT centres in Bangalore and Hyderabad are undoubtedly successful most of the country remains mired in poverty.

8. What do you think that the US trade official meant when he said, “*It’s the difference between hardware and software*”?(line 55)

The two countries differ in that China produces physical products, while India produces intellectual products. (Although both are necessary, they differ in terms of revenue, the nature of the workforce required to produce them, and possibly even in terms of long term markets and global impact.)

9. What word/s in paragraph 9 (lines 45-49) indicates the author’s opinion about non-democratic governments.

Repressive (and perhaps famine death caused by ...)

10. Decide whether the following statements are **F** (Fact) or **O** (Opinion).

- a. India may present a stronger economic challenge to the West than China. **O**
- b. China’s foreign reserves exceed \$US400 billion. **F**
- c. India’s strong economic growth last year was the result of a rapid recovery from a monsoon crop failure the previous year. **F**
- d. India’s democracy and rule of law mean that India will advance faster than China. **O**
- e. The US will continue to expand and dominate throughout the twenty-first century. **O**

11. What do the following refer to in the text?

Reference	line	What does it refer to?
this one	2	the speech at Cardiff Breakfast Club (line 1)
the warning	10	That if ‘Britain urgently needed to lift its skills... “then we can ensure that China won’t eat our lunch and India won’t eat our dinner.” ’ (lines 4-6)

Its	30	India's (line 28)
it	40	India (line 39)
The tradition	71	Banking and commercial tradition (line 70)
who	90	(Chinese) domestic savers (line 90)
Its	106	India's (line 101)
its	120	China (line 121)

12. Complete the table with information from the article. Write at least three points for each country.

A Comparison of the Economic Development of China and India

Areas where China is ahead	Areas where India is ahead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to deliver nuclear weapons by missile • Economic growth • General literacy <p>(Any 3 for each column)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debts of big banks • Army is better fed and more skilled • Demographics/ younger population for longer • Democracy • Business tradition/ management and marketing skills • Local companies reaching global markets

13. According to the text, how would an Indian visitor to China feel?

- a. Desperate
- b. Envious
- c. **Miserable**
- d. Contented

14. Complete the summary (of lines 112 - 138 of the text) by writing one word in each gap.

As was the case with Japan, predictions/forecasts for another Asian superpower set to overtake the West may prove to be groundless within the not too distant future. Indeed, here are a number of factors which may prevent either China or India from becoming the global economic

powerhouse of the future. The contradiction between the needs of China's **market** economy and the reality its political systems, may act to prevent any hope of **parity/equality** with the US. At the same time, India's increasingly powerful religious minorities may serve to weaken its vital **intellectual** advantages. On top of this, the US, with its high immigration and birth rates ensuring continual population **renewal**, together with its protection of intellectual property **rights**, may surprise us all. It may well be that it will be America, and not Asia, that will continue to **ascend/dominate/grow** well into the 21st century.

15. According to the author, what should Australia do with relation to China and India in the near future?

It should invest in specialist studies as well as business and professional connections with China and India. Australia should also welcome visitors and appreciate migrant communities from these countries.