

Question 2 (6 marks)

Name a country, and identify ONE feature of that country that demonstrates BOTH continuity and change.

China, Women

With reference to the country you have named, evaluate how power and authority impact on the feature you have identified.

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Women in China have come a long way since the nationalist era. Due to the change in power to communism women now are given many more equal rights and are slowly working their way up in terms of status among family, the workforce and at home. Despite the fact that the country and all its major decisions is run by a small group of elder men, continuing with the trend of the patriarchal society women have been freed from many of the horrible laws which once held them back. For example, the law was passed by Mao Tse Tung that equal work should have equal pay and women now make up 50% of the workforce, when once they were thought only capable and useful for housework, cooking and concubinage. Another dreadful, torturous atrocity which has been outlawed in China is the footbinding of women which used to leave them crippled and merely a figure to be admired by men. Although China's power and authority figures remain patriarchal women are given a much fairer go in terms of equal rights.