



## **A202CEM Assignment – Daniel Rizhkov 7118890**

### **1.Pre Cultural Awareness**

#### ***1)Recent History***

When I picked the trip to Guangzhou for my module I was so excited I started researching everything about the city and country immediately. I knew that China is a communist country, but I had to see since when. I found out that the communist party there was founded in 1921 with Mao Zedong in charge of it. From 1925 China is under a nationalist government and arranged marriages continue freely until around 1950. At the end of 1937, there was a 4-month Japanese occupation of Nanking which was the reason for 260 000 Chinese civilian deaths. In 1946 the communist party wins the civil war and takes charge. They introduced women equality, polygamy and arranged marriages were banned. In 1978 with a new constitution people are free from religion, but with some restrictions. One year later diplomatic relations are established with the US. A "One child policy" is introduced that fines people for having more than one child. It was introduced because the population of China was above 900 million. After 1987 some western fast foods are introduced. In 2000, internet regulations are introduced. In 2001 China wins the bid for the 2008 summer Olympics and in 2008 they are held in Beijing.

## **2)Organs of Government**

The government of China is divided into four branches: the legislative branch, the National People's Congress, the executive branch which is the Premier of China and the State Council, the judicial branch which is consisted of the National Supervisory Commission, Supreme People's court, Supreme people's procuratorate, and the military branch which is the people's liberation army. In China, in the office, there is no such thing as a few different parties rotating. All of the state organs have similar views that agree with the party. The main organs of power are the President, the State Council and the National people's congress.

### **3)Education system**

Education is free for the first 9 years and after that, in high school, there is a small fee . The first 9 years are mandatory and there is a 99% attendance in them. China funds universities and you can practically study anything. There are a lot of international students and China is voted as the most popular Asian country for education. They have advanced technologies and their students study and prepare a lot. There is a statistic that shows 15-year-old kids from China(Shanghai) outperformed 64 other countries in education performance. South Korea and Finland came second and Hong Kong was third.

### **4)Food and drinks**

I researched some foods and drinks that I should try and it is good to know about them. Rice is a major component of almost every Chinese dish. Really popular there is fried rice and a lot of different vegetables. Noodles are a major thing for students over there and are usually with soup, meat and vegetables. Tofu is another major food, which is made from soy milk, water and a curdling agent. It's high in protein. They eat almost all animal's meat, and they believe that every part of the animal can be eaten. For vegetables, they like leafy vegetables and also roots. They drink a lot of milk tea and mostly drinks without sugar.

Education - <http://www.china-mike.com/facts-about-china/facts-chinese-education/>

History - <https://www.chipublib.org/timeline-of-chinas-modern-history/>

Food - <https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-food/chinese-food-type.htm>

## **2. Technical research**

Once we were divided into groups we got familiar with each other. It turned out that not a lot of our group were familiar with ML and AI. We had to research a lot but we had help from the one team member that had experience with them. Our project was called TinTan and it was an app that helped the cultural and student exchange between China and the UK. It was a great success. We mainly used Unity, Photoshop and Visual Studio. The idea came up as I was researching Chinese everyday apps and I saw a similarity between wechat, tantan and tinder, and I came up with an idea to make all of that in one, but educational. I implemented a history room in 3D where you can walk around and look at the history of each country.

I found out that the two things are mixed a lot. Artificial Intelligence is the broader concept of machines being able to carry out tasks in a way we consider smart. Machine learning is a current application of AI based on the idea that we should just be able to give machines access to data and let them learn for themselves. One major breakthrough for Machine Learning was the Internet. When it showed up there was a huge increase in the amount of data and there had to be a way to process all of that.

There are four main machine learning methods at the moment.

The first one is supervised learning, which is when we know what output we can get and the machine needs to find out if it is going to be correct. It compares the output we want with the actual output.

The second method is unsupervised learning which is used when we don't tell the machine the right answer. It figures out the result by itself. The goal is to explore and find a structure of the data.

The third one is semi-supervised learning used for the same applications like the first one but uses labeled and unlabeled data. It can be used for prediction with a small amount of labeled data and a large amount of unlabeled.

The last way of using machine learning is reinforcement learning which is used for games, navigation and robots. There the algorithm discovers through trying and failing which actions are the best. It has 3 components, the learner, the environment and the actions.

We also had to consider The Great Firewall of China and how we are going to work with our usual software. I asked a friend of mine who is familiar with the situation and he recommended me to get a VPN. I chose expressvpn because it is one of the cheaper and better VPN's. We communicated over Wechat and I took the lead on our project. Everything went very smooth and since we spread the work between all 7 members we managed to finish our project very fast, in a couple of days, and we managed to come close second with just 0.5 points less than the group that won first place. We managed to win the student vote for best project idea. I improved my teamwork a lot because I was finally in a group that was willing to put an effort in and to work.



**TINTAN**

The resources I used to research were :

Unity - <https://unity3d.com/learn>

Visual studio - <http://www.cplusplus.com/doc/tutorial/>

ExpressVPN - <https://www.expressvpn.com/what-is-vpn>

Machine Learning - [https://www.sas.com/en\\_gb/insights/analytics/machine-learning.html](https://www.sas.com/en_gb/insights/analytics/machine-learning.html)

AI - <http://www.wired.co.uk/article/machine-learning-ai-explained> ,  
<https://medium.com/iotforall/the-difference-between-artificial-intelligence-machine-learning-and-deep-learning-3aa67bff5991>

### **3. Post Cultural Awareness**

I have visited around half of Europe and I have been to many amazing places in my life. This was my first time traveling outside Europe and I was amazed. I was amazed by the Chinese students hospitality and how they were welcoming us like we have been friends for years, they were showing us what their daily routine was like. Not only the Chinese students on the module but their roommates, friends and even people nobody knew before that were helping us out and showing us places.

The buildings, the architecture of the city amazed me. I saw things I have never seen before, the highlight of which was definitely the Pearl River cruise. But I saw other memorable things like an incredibly modern history museum, buildings with built in trees and covered in green, huge skyscrapers and many other things.

The cuisine was nothing like I imagined. There is a reason people say that Guangzhou food is the best in China. We had some southern food, and some northern food, but I am having a hard time to decide which one is better. We saw their everyday lives and they are so much simpler than ours. We are always in a rush for something, always late for something, they don't have that. When we were there it was as if time was going slower. We had all the time in the world to walk around and see everything. People there were happy with whatever they had, they weren't greedy and they didn't always want more. They were giving us food and drinks for free sometimes. The Chinese share their food with everyone on the table and that is definitely one thing that amazed me about the way they eat, by spinning the big glass on the table. Despite the big population, everything is very well organized and their own software works flawlessly. Their development of wechat is so far ahead compared to Facebook for example.

I realised how much different education is when we went to a programming competition and the Chinese students were miles ahead of us. I noticed most of them study from books, not the internet like us, maybe that is one of the reasons, another one is the amount of effort they put in their education.

Going to a different country, where most people don't speak the language you speak is very challenging, but we always managed to find our way and it was very exciting. We stayed together and always found a way to overcome obstacles. The language barrier rarely was an issue. People were taking pictures with us and of us all the time, talking to us on the subway, or while we were walking. All of them were great and very friendly. This was the best opportunity that I have had from University so far, to be able to experience from first person the culture, but not like on tour guides and on the internet. To see people's everyday lives and struggles, and to appreciate and learn from one of the greatest nations in the world.