

UNIT

1

The path to modernization

It (Chinese modernization) is the modernization of a huge population ... It is the modernization of common prosperity for all ... It is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement ... It is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature ... It is the modernization of peaceful development.

Xi Jinping, report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

Yuyuan Garden and Lujiazui along the Huangpu River in Shanghai

Key facts about China

- China has a population of over **1.4 billion**, exceeding the total population of all existing developed countries, making its modernization an endeavor of enormous scale.
- Since 1949, China's illiteracy rate has dropped from **80%** to **2.7%**, and the average life expectancy has increased from **35** years to **78.6** years.
- China's energy intensity, measured as the amount of energy consumed per unit of GDP, decreased by **26.4%** between 2013 and 2023. China has become one of the countries with the fastest energy intensity reduction.
- China has incorporated the principle of pursuing a path of **peaceful development** in its constitution.



Scenario

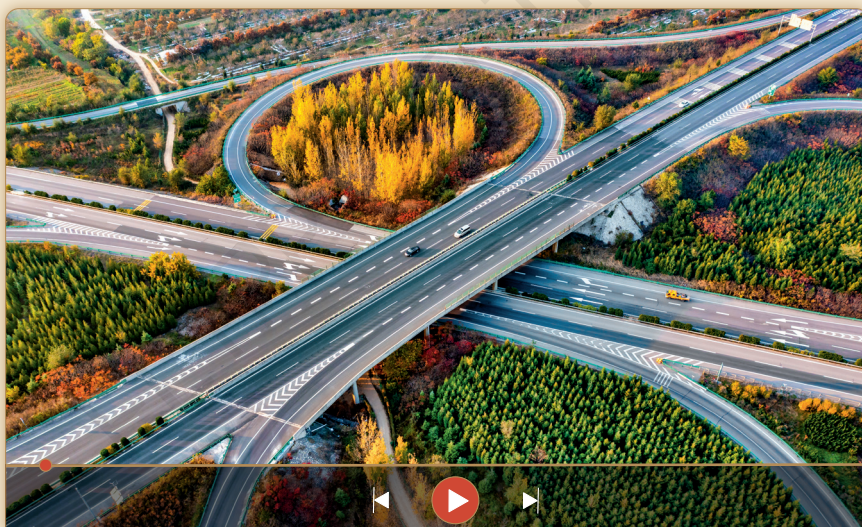
To promote understanding of modernization and encourage dialogue among university students, a “Youth discuss modernization” forum will be held in Shanghai. Participants from around the globe are invited to submit an essay titled “My modernization story” to share their perspectives on modernization and its impact on daily life. As a representative of your university, how would you write a compelling essay that effectively captures the unique features of Chinese modernization?

Learning objectives

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- analyze the five features of Chinese modernization;
- describe China’s modernization efforts and achievements;
- explain the key factors behind the evolution of the “Made in Germany” label;
- employ varied data presentation methods and past-present comparisons to enhance intercultural understanding.

Viewing



New words

loop /lu:p/ *n.* 环线

transit /'trænsɪt/ *v.* 经过; 中转

solemn /'sɒləm/ *a.* 郑重的

mileage /'maɪlɪdʒ/ *n.* (一国公路或铁路的) 总长度

contractor /kən'træktə/ *n.* 承包者; 承包商

- 1 How would you describe Chinese transportation infrastructure, such as highways, railways, and airports? Support your answers with your recent travel experiences or observations. Work in pairs and share your thoughts with your partner.

Viewing and understanding

Scan the code. Watch the video and complete the following activities.



- 2 Check (✓) the information mentioned in the video.



Lhasa-Nyingchi
Railway

- ☐ 1 More than 90 percent of the line is over 3,000 meters above sea level.
- ☐ 2 Since it was put into operation, local specialties from Nyingchi attracted more inflows of visitors to the region.



Hotan-Ruoqiang
Railway

- ☐ 3 It is located around the southern rim of the world's second-largest shifting desert.
- ☐ 4 It marks the completion of the world's first desert rail loop line.



**Taxkorgan
Airport**

- ☐ 5 Builders overcame many difficulties to complete this project, such as dry weather and altitude sickness.
- ☐ 6 It is surrounded by mountains on three sides.



**Alaer Tarim
Airport**

- ☐ 7 It is China's first airport in collapsible desert areas.
- ☐ 8 Since it came into operation, passengers in southern Xinjiang can reach Urumqi in northern Xinjiang on the same day.

Conclusion

- ☐ 9 China's comprehensive transportation network construction focused on strengthening underdeveloped areas in the western regions.
- ☐ 10 From 2012 to 2021, China constructed new railways and highways with a total length equivalent to circling the Earth's equator 27.5 times.

Intercultural communication skill

Using varied data presentation methods to bridge cultural gaps

Data is a powerful tool for intercultural communication. It transcends language barriers, simplifying complex topics for easier understanding. Moreover, it builds trust by providing evidence to support arguments, making messages more persuasive and credible. The video combines different data presentation methods, enabling the audience unfamiliar with regions like Xizang and Xinjiang to better understand and be convinced of the information presented.

Precise numbers, such as "a closed loop of the 2,712-kilometer Xinjiang railway," build credibility through factual accuracy. However, not all data need to be presented as exact figures, as overly

precise numbers can sometimes overwhelm the audience and detract from the main message.

Approximate figures, such as "peaks of up to 6,000 meters" or "increased by about 1.1 million kilometers," can help the audience grasp the scale of projects without getting lost in details.

Furthermore, creative comparisons can make complex data more relatable and memorable, such as equating the mileage of China's railway and highway expansion from 2012 to 2021 to "27.5 laps around the Earth's equator."

Scan the code and learn more about the skill on Ucampus.



3 Work in groups. Identify the data presented in the video and retell the story of China's infrastructure miracle.

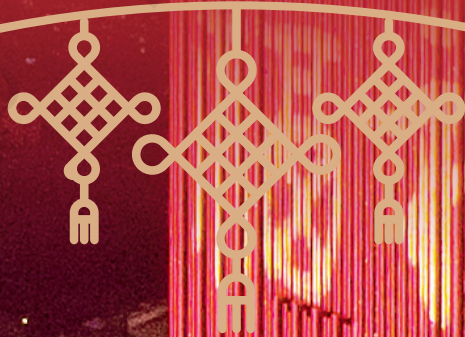
Reading

The video highlights the rapid modernization of major infrastructure projects in China's remote regions, showcasing efforts to narrow regional disparities. China's modernization brings about broader changes, including not only improvements in infrastructure but also changes in cultural and social domains. Read the following text to explore the evolving Spring Festival celebrations, gaining a deeper insight into shifts in daily life and traditions across the nation.



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The allure of modern Spring Festival



¹ For Chinese families, the Spring Festival is the crown jewel of the cultural calendar. We've listened, wide-eyed, to our mothers' tales of epic journeys home on packed trains and to our fathers' stories of bustling markets and steamy kitchens preparing feasts. Even our grandparents have shared their recollections of firecrackers going off through the night along with bursts of laughter. However, as China has raced along its path of modernization, this beloved celebration has witnessed a sea change. The festival, once primarily a time for family get-togethers, has more recently transformed into a vibrant mix of experiences, blending traditions with the advances of the 21st century.

² One of the Spring Festival's cherished themes, the joyful reunion of families, draws relatives who journey from far and near to be back home again. In the old days, getting home could be a real hassle. People faced long lines for tickets, cobbled together train and bus trips, and ended up walking a great deal, too.



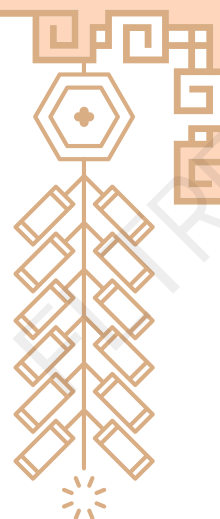
³ Today, that landscape has been redrawn with the bold strokes of progress. China's high-speed rail network, already covering over 48,000 kilometers and connecting 96 percent of mid-sized cities, has revolutionized travel, shrinking vast distances into mere hours. Air travel, once a luxury, has now

become commonplace, with over 260 airports operating 13,000 domestic flights daily. For those who prefer wheels to wings, car travel has become increasingly popular, thanks to China's well-maintained highway network (the world's largest at over 5 million kilometers), which weaves through bustling metropolises and

tranquil rural areas alike, offering convenient access to hometowns across the country. Perhaps most striking is the quiet revolution in ticket purchasing. The image of bundled-up masses waiting in the cold has been replaced by the glow of smartphone screens, as millions now secure their passage home with a few taps, making the journey as warm as the reunion itself.

⁴ As technology reshapes travel, it also unveils a wealth of options for Spring Festival celebrations, catering to every individual's unique preference. Festive markets still thrive, providing a sensory feast for those who enjoy traditional shopping. Yet, alongside this familiar scene, a new world of convenience has emerged. With just a few taps on a phone screen, holiday preparations can now take care of themselves. E-commerce giants have rolled out "non-stop shopping" campaigns, transforming the pre-festival rush into a leisurely scroll through digital aisles. Courier companies, harnessing digitalization, automation, and unmanned technology, ensure that orders arrive in the blink of an eye. Picture this: Delicious beef and mutton from Ningxia's sun-drenched pastures journey over 1,000 kilometers across China to dinner tables in coastal cities, all within 24 hours.

⁵ The reunion dinner, too, has adapted to modern life's diverse rhythms and tastes. For those who find comfort in home-cooked meals, the kitchen remains a sanctuary where aromatic memories are lovingly created. For those short of time or wanting to try something new, there are ever-increasing options to order in or dine out, offering a rich array of experiences while still allowing families to spend quality time together. Even the tradition of giving red envelopes has gone digital. Now, friends of all ages exchange virtual red envelopes, adding a fresh spin to the holiday fun.





- ⁶ Modern lifestyles have also redefined Spring Festival entertainment. Instead of firecrackers, drone shows light up the night sky, keeping the festive spirit while cutting down on pollution. As modernization boosts disposable incomes, the festival's reach expands beyond the home. More and more families now embark

on cultural adventures, losing themselves in the magical glow of lantern shows in Zigong, breathing in the scents of flower markets in Guangzhou, or joining the joyous excitement of Beijing's temple fairs. For the more adventurous, the world has opened up. Skiing in the snow-covered Alps or strolling through Singapore's Gardens by the Bay has become increasingly popular overseas travel options in recent years, as Chinese tourists seek new ways to celebrate the holiday.



Drone show during the 2025 Spring Festival in Chongqing

- ⁷ Meanwhile, China's silver screens dazzle like never before. During the 2025 Spring Festival holidays, box office numbers soared past 9.5 billion yuan, crowning China as the global film market champion. From heartwarming family dramas to pulse-pounding action films, there's a Chinese story for every taste.
- ⁸ The evolution of the Spring Festival mirrors China's breathtaking journey of modernization, reflecting a society that has traded hardship for comfort, scarcity for abundance, and simplicity for sophistication. Yet, amid this wave of transformation, the festival's heart beats steadily to an ancient rhythm, which is the resolute hope for a year filled with prosperity, health, and joy.

Reading and understanding

1 Read the text and complete the overview of the Spring Festival changes.

	Past	Present
	Primarily a time for family get-togethers	The festival has become 1) _____ combining traditions with 21st-century advances.
Travel	Long lines for train tickets and tedious journeys	- Millions now purchase their tickets on their smartphones with 2) _____. - The high-speed rail network has shrunk vast distances into 3) _____. - Air travel has become commonplace. - Car travel has become increasingly popular.
4) _____	Pre-festive rush in markets followed by home-cooked reunion dinner	- People enjoy 5) _____ through digital aisles for their festive shopping, with fast delivery services. - More options for the reunion dinner have emerged. - Friends engage in exchanges of 6) _____.
7) _____	Firecrackers	- Drone shows preserve the festive spirit while cutting down on 8) _____. - People seek new ways to celebrate the holiday, such as embarking on 9) _____ and watching movies.
The transformation of the Spring Festival mirrors China's 10) _____.		

2 What are the driving factors behind the changes in the Spring Festival? Match the sentences outlining the changes in the text with their corresponding driving factors. Note that a single change may be influenced by more than one factor.

a

Technology advancement

b

Disposable income increase

c

Infrastructure development

d

Environmental consciousness

1

Air travel, once a luxury, has now become commonplace, with over 260 airports operating 13,000 domestic flights daily.

2

With just a few taps on a phone screen, holiday preparations can now take care of themselves.

3

Instead of firecrackers, drone shows light up the night sky, keeping the festive spirit while cutting down on pollution.

4

More and more families now embark on cultural adventures, losing themselves in the magical glow of lantern shows in Zigong, breathing in the scents of flower markets in Guangzhou, or joining the joyous excitement of Beijing's temple fairs.

Despite these changes, certain traditions of the Spring Festival have remained unchanged. Identify these traditions and provide specific examples from the text that illustrate them.

Intercultural communication skill

Illustrating progress through past-present comparisons

Comparing past and present situations effectively conveys progress and development to the international audience. This approach resonates universally, as change is a fundamental human experience, and people are naturally sensitive to changes in their lives.

In this text, China's modernization journey is vividly portrayed through past-present comparisons of the Spring Festival, a cultural symbol familiar to readers from different backgrounds. By analyzing aspects such as improved transportation experiences, expanded choices for holiday shopping and reunion dinners, and evolved forms of entertainment, the text provides a tangible sense of transformation. These comparisons allow the international audience

to grasp and appreciate the scale of China's modernization.

Moreover, such comparisons highlight enduring cultural elements, demonstrating how certain values persist despite changes. While modern celebrations showcase remarkable advancements, the festival's core values and people's aspirations for prosperity and happiness remain unchanged. By balancing change and continuity, past-present comparisons create a comprehensive and relatable narrative of development, making the story of China's progress accessible and engaging to a global audience.

Scan the code and learn more about the skill on Ucampus.



- 3** Work in groups and share a striking change in your personal life. Connect the change to a broader aspect of Chinese modernization, and compare your past and present experiences to help others understand China's development journey.

Language in focus

- 1** Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the words given below.

abundance allure commonplace metropolis
resolute rhythm shrink unveil

- 1 The quick pace of modern city life has transformed how people work, socialize, and spend their time.
- 2 The charm of the vibrant city lies in its diverse cultures and endless opportunities for adventure and exploration.
- 3 The government remains determined in its pursuit of sustainable development, investing heavily in environmental protection.
- 4 High-speed train travel has become so usual that few people choose long-distance buses nowadays.
- 5 As technology advances, the digital divide between urban and rural areas is continually narrowing.
- 6 Over the past few years, tech companies have revealed groundbreaking innovations that are altering how citizens interact with their environment.
- 7 Job opportunities in the service sector have become plentiful as modern lifestyles reshape consumer demands.
- 8 Many big cities in China are balancing rapid development with preservation of cultural heritage and green spaces.

- 2** Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese into English.

- 1 _____ (数字学习平台为中国学生提供了丰富的选择), and they are transforming traditional learning approaches.
- 2 What once took days of paperwork can now _____ (通过政府服务应用程序就能瞬间完成).

- 3 _____ (中国各城市纷纷启动智慧城市计划) to upgrade their traditional urban management models.
- 4 _____ (现代农业技术帮助农民减少了用水量) while improving crop yields.
- 5 Many high-emission cars _____ (已经被置换成电动车) as more people opt for environmentally sustainable transportation solutions.
- 6 Most citizens who initially resisted mobile payments _____ (最终都成了其热情的用户).

3 Translate the paragraph into English.

中国式现代化给人们的生活带来了翻天覆地的变化。高铁网络的不断扩展让出行更加便捷高效, 电子商务与快递服务的蓬勃发展大大加快了商品的流通。随着经济的快速增长, 居民可支配收入稳步增加, 生活质量显著提高。中国以坚定的决心推进科技创新和基础设施建设, 不仅为现代化发展奠定了坚实的基础, 也为世界提供了一个独特的现代发展范例。(sea change, high-speed rail network, e-commerce, courier, disposable income)

Critical thinking

Work in groups and discuss the questions. Then share your ideas in class.

- 1 Based on the quote presented at the beginning of the unit, identify the features of Chinese modernization that are highlighted in the video and the text. Can you also give examples of other features of Chinese modernization that are not covered?
- 2 The features of Chinese modernization are determined by the unique context of Chinese society. Based on your understanding, what are some of the distinct characteristics of Chinese society that have shaped its modernization?

In **Understanding China**, we explored the success stories of Chinese modernization. While paths to modernization may share similarities, each country's journey is uniquely shaped by its distinct contexts. Now, we will shift our focus to Germany's modernization, highlighting the efforts that turned "Made in Germany" into a globally recognized symbol of excellence.



A German automobile manufacturing plant

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The journey of “Made in Germany”

¹ When you think of “Made in Germany,” do you think of quality, reliability, and innovation? These are common associations today, according to a recent global survey. However, its beginning was far from illustrious. Introduced by the British government in 1887, this label originally emerged as a regulatory measure to distinguish authentic British-made products from potentially counterfeit goods of uncertain quality originating from Germany. Its transformation from a mark of inferiority to a badge of honor is a fascinating journey of resilience and innovation that underscores Germany’s remarkable post-war recovery and modernization.

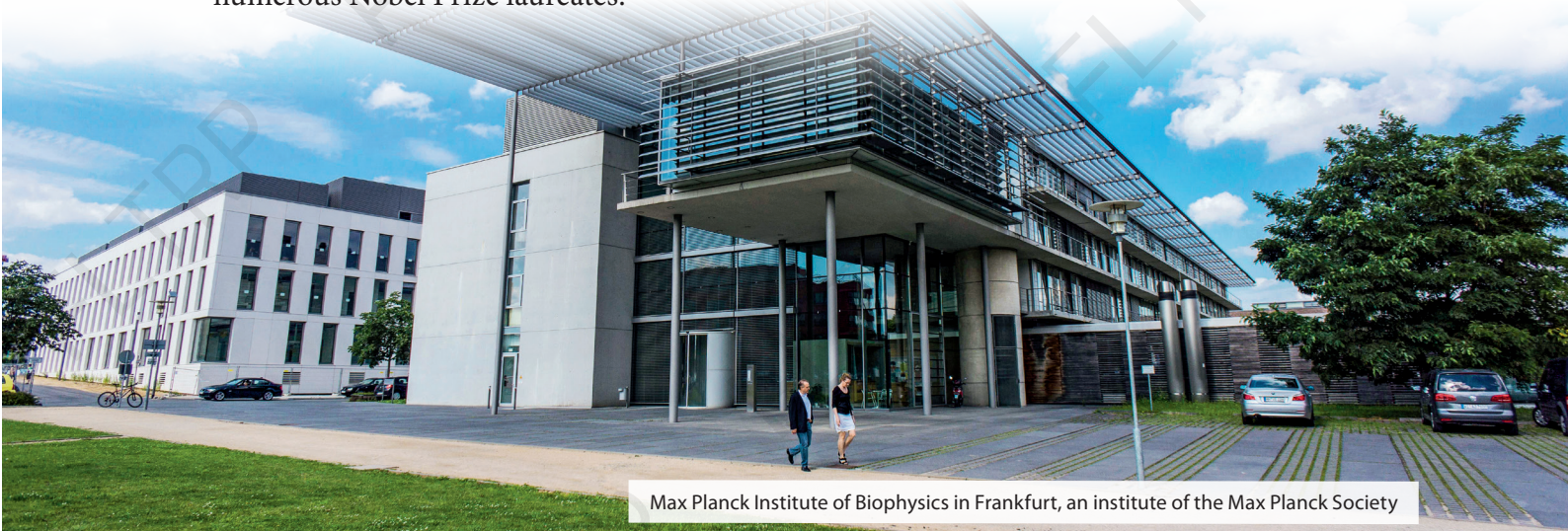
- ² The story of this transformation began in the aftermath of World War II, when Germany lay in ruins and its economy was in a shambles. The introduction of the Deutsche Mark and the removal of price controls in 1948 in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) sparked a new era of stability. These measures set the stage for the emergence of the “social market economy,” which combined free-market capitalism with regulatory oversight to achieve both economic efficiency and social equity. Post-war policies improved labor rights and welfare – things like fair pay, better working conditions, and job security, which weren’t common before the war, and boosted morale and productivity. Many German industries grabbed the bull by the horns, using this newfound stability and improved morale to transition successfully from wartime production to peacetime manufacturing, thus driving the economic recovery.
- ³ This resurgence is particularly evident in the automotive sector. Employees who had been tasked with the tough job of manufacturing war vehicles redirected their efforts toward creating new car models renowned for their exceptional design and engineering. For instance, during a time when snowplows and winter tires were not yet common, German-made cars demonstrated impressive capabilities in handling icy roads with ease. By 1958, just a decade after the economic reforms were implemented, millions of German cars had been manufactured and sold, marking a significant milestone in post-war industrial success. This achievement stands as a testament to Germany’s economic modernization, the resilience of its people in rebuilding their nation, and the transformation of the “Made in Germany” label into a symbol of engineering excellence.
- ⁴ Building on this newfound stability, the FRG’s integration into European economic structures further accelerated its modernization, enhancing the global prominence of the “Made in Germany” label. As the European country with the most neighboring states, Germany has been a steadfast advocate of European integration since the mid-20th century. Being a founding member of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951 and the European Economic Community in 1957 opened up new markets and made



trading easier. The removal of trade barriers and the establishment of common economic policies provided German industries with unprecedented access to a broader market, thus boosting their influence and popularity.

⁵ A prime example of this success is the rapid expansion of German infrastructure construction companies into international markets. Despite having only a fraction of their assets remaining after World War II, these companies soon bounced back and extended their operations globally. Known for their critical contributions to infrastructure projects within Germany, these firms also played pivotal roles in building up telecommunications networks, electrifying railways, and constructing power plants across Europe. Their efforts not only helped Germany recover from its wartime past but also solidified the “Made in Germany” label as a symbol of quality and reliability. The blend of economic integration and industrial revival marked Germany’s emergence as a powerhouse within Europe, making the “Made in Germany” label synonymous with reliability and widespread acclaim.

⁶ As Germany’s modernization progressed, the “Made in Germany” label evolved beyond representing exceptional quality to embody cutting-edge innovation. This transformation was propelled by Germany’s substantial investments in education and research. The German education system, renowned for its emphasis on vocational training and apprenticeships, continues to yield a highly skilled workforce essential for the country’s advanced industries. Institutions such as the Max Planck Society and the Fraunhofer Society have emerged as globally acclaimed hubs of research excellence, boasting numerous Nobel Prize laureates.



Max Planck Institute of Biophysics in Frankfurt, an institute of the Max Planck Society

- ⁷ Moreover, government policies supporting research and development have cultivated a vibrant culture of innovation. Germany's leadership in this field is reflected in its impressive rate of patent applications per million inhabitants, which is among the highest in the world. From transformative inventions like the MP3 format to significant advancements in LED technology, Germany continues to set new benchmarks for innovation, profoundly impacting daily lives.
- ⁸ From its humble beginnings as a mark for counterfeit goods, "Made in Germany" has become a symbol of excellence, epitomizing the country's extraordinary journey of modernization. This evolution is an ode to Germany's strategic policy-making, strong international cooperation, and commitment to innovation. Today, the label is a trusted mark of quality, reliability, and cutting-edge technology, embodying the resilience of a nation that turned adversity into an opportunity for tremendous growth and development.

Notes

Introduced as the official currency of the FRG in 1948, the **Deutsche Mark** marked the beginning of the post-war German economic miracle. Its introduction helped stabilize the economy by controlling inflation and boosting confidence, which in turn led to rapid industrial growth and economic recovery. It remained in use until the adoption of the euro in 2002.

Price controls, initiated in 1936 under the Nazi regime, aimed to combat inflation and allocate resources for militarization. This system set maximum prices on essential goods but resulted in significant shortages and the emergence of black markets. Price controls were largely eliminated in June 1948.

After the Second World War, Germany was divided into two separate states, **the FRG** and the German Democratic Republic (GDR), which were reunified in 1990. The measures described in the text were primarily implemented by the FRG.



Reading and understanding

- 1 Modernization has transformed “Made in Germany” from a label once associated with inferiority to one that signifies quality, reliability, and cutting-edge technology. Complete the summary of the key factors contributing to this transformation.

Quality

- The transformation of “Made in Germany” into a symbol of quality is attributed to Germany’s post-World War II economic recovery and the implementation of the 1) “_____,” which combined free-market capitalism with regulatory oversight.
- This environment fostered improved labor rights, fair wages, and better working conditions, which boosted 2) _____.

Reliability

- Germany’s integration into 3) _____, such as the European Coal and Steel Community, opened new markets and facilitated trade with neighboring countries.
- German 4) _____ played crucial roles in developing projects both within Germany and across Europe, such as telecom networks, railways, and power plants.
- Economic integration and industrial revival made the “Made in Germany” label synonymous with reliability and 5) _____.

Cutting-edge technology

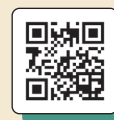
- Germany’s substantial investments in 6) _____ led to the “Made in Germany” label embodying cutting-edge innovation.
- Germany’s 7) _____ and apprenticeships play a crucial role in producing a highly skilled workforce that supports the country’s advanced industries.
- Supportive policies for research and development have cultivated 8) _____.

2 Decide whether each statement is true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false statements.

- ☐ 1 The “Made in Germany” label was originally introduced by the German government to promote their products.
- ☐ 2 When German economy regained stability, policies promoting labor rights and social welfare played a positive role in fostering productivity.
- ☐ 3 The German car industry is a typical example of the transition from war-related production to peacetime manufacturing.
- ☐ 4 Thanks to the European integration policies, German infrastructure construction companies not only expanded their business but also helped the country restore its reputation.
- ☐ 5 Institutions such as the Max Planck Society and the Fraunhofer Society have emerged as globally acclaimed hubs of vocational training.
- ☐ 6 Germany’s innovation leadership is reflected in its annual total of patents, which is among the highest in the world.

Language in focus

Scan the code for language exercises to practice words, expressions, and sentence structures in this section.



Roundtable discussion

Identify and analyze the main similarities and differences between the modernization efforts of China and Germany, drawing on materials both from this unit and your own research. To facilitate a comprehensive discussion, consider the following perspectives:

- **Historical background:** Examine the unique historical contexts of both countries, including the features and challenges faced by each.
- **Methods of modernization:** Analyze the common and distinct methods employed by each country, such as infrastructure development, technological advancement, cultural shifts, and environmental considerations.
- **Outcomes of modernization:** Reflect on the outcomes of their modernization efforts. For example, consider the impact of each country’s modernization on both its people and the world.

Project: Writing an expository essay on Chinese modernization

This unit explored remarkable modernization stories from China and beyond, showcasing how these changes have enriched lives and transformed nations. In **Understanding China**, we examined inspiring stories of Chinese modernization, including infrastructure breakthroughs in western China and the evolution of the Spring Festival. In **Exploring the world**, we investigated how policy shifts and innovation modernized post-war Germany, reshaping the “Made in Germany” label. Now, it’s your turn to write a compelling essay that highlights China’s extraordinary modernization achievements.

Writing skill

Writing an expository essay

An expository essay aims to explain, describe, or inform readers about a specific topic in a clear and objective manner. A well-structured expository essay typically includes three main parts: an introduction that presents the main topic and thesis statement, body paragraphs that explore key aspects of the subject, and a conclusion that synthesizes the main points.

To make your essay engaging rather than merely informative, start with a captivating hook to capture readers’ attention. This could be an intriguing fact, a compelling anecdote, a relevant quote, or eye-catching data.

In body paragraphs, begin with strong topic sentences and support them with concrete descriptions that help readers visualize achievements. Enhance readability by incorporating meaningful comparisons, such as

contrasting past and present developments, or by using metaphors that make complex ideas more accessible. When developing your essay, structure the body around three or four key aspects of your chosen topic, ensuring each paragraph explores a distinct element while maintaining logical connections between them for a cohesive flow.

When concluding, go beyond simply summarizing key points by drawing connections to broader themes or future implications to leave a lasting impression on your readers. By combining clear structure with engaging presentation, you can create an expository essay that both informs and captivates your readers.

Scan the code and get more guidance on Ucampus.



Step 1

Decide on
your topic

Finding a topic that truly resonates with you is an important first step in crafting a compelling essay. Here are several tips to guide your topic selection:

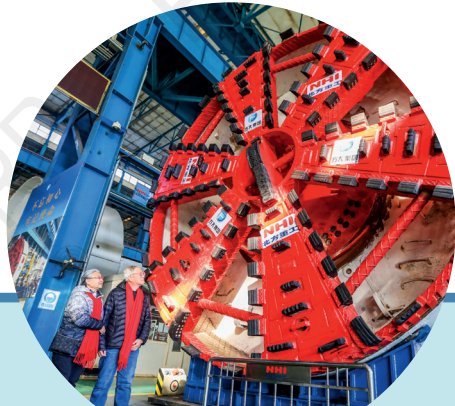
- **Reflect on personal experiences:** Consider your own experiences or observations related to Chinese modernization, particularly the changes you have witnessed.
- **Select a specific focus:** Identify a specific aspect of modernization that resonates with you personally, such as advancements in technology, improvements in infrastructure, or transformations in the education system.
- **Conduct in-depth research:** Dive deeper into your chosen aspect by researching online to gather detailed information, including data and expert analyses.

Step 2

Structure your
essay

Organizing your essay in a clear and logical structure is crucial for effectively presenting China's modernization achievements. Here are some key elements to include in your essay:

- **Introduction of your chosen modernization aspect**
 - **Topic introduction:** Begin by introducing your selected aspect of China's modernization in an engaging way that draws readers in.
 - **Thesis statement:** Establish how your chosen topic connects to China's modernization, setting the stage for discussing its impact and significance.
- **Analysis of modernization achievements**
 - **Impact on daily lives:** Describe the tangible effects of your chosen modernization aspect on people's daily lives. Use varied data presentation methods, specific and vivid examples, as well as meaningful past-present comparisons to create a convincing and engaging narrative.
 - **Underlying factors:** Analyze the key factors driving the success of this modernization aspect. Consider economic policies, technological advancements, and social dynamics that have worked together to enable these achievements.
- **Synthesis of modernization achievements**
 - **Summary of achievements:** Synthesize the key developments of your chosen aspect of modernization, emphasizing its transformative impact and outcomes.
 - **Theme elevation:** Relate back to your thesis about China's modernization, draw meaningful conclusions about long-term significance, and end with a thought-provoking reflection.



Retired employees revisiting their factory and exploring the shield tunneling machine in Shenyang, Liaoning Province

Step 3

Enhance your language

Find useful expressions or sentences in this unit to enhance your language. Write them down according to the following functions:

- **Introducing the chosen modernization aspect**

- Topic introduction:

e.g., *When you think of “Made in Germany,” do you think of quality, reliability, and innovation?*

- Thesis statement:

e.g., *The festival, once primarily a time for family get-togethers, **has more recently transformed into** a vibrant mix of experiences, **blending** traditions **with** the advances of the 21st century.*

- **Analyzing modernization achievements**

- Impact on daily lives:

e.g., *Perhaps **most striking is** the quiet revolution in ticket purchasing. The image of bundled-up masses waiting in the cold **has been replaced by** the glow of smartphone screens, as millions now secure their passage home with a few taps, making the journey as warm as the reunion itself.*

- Underlying factors:

e.g., *The removal of trade barriers and the establishment of common economic policies **provided** German industries **with unprecedented access to** a broader market, **thus** boosting their influence and popularity.*

- **Synthesizing modernization achievements**

- Summary of achievements:

e.g., *Over the past decade, China **has accelerated the formation of** a comprehensive transportation network, **focusing on** shoring up the weak areas in the western regions and **fulfilling the solemn promise that** “no place will be left behind due to poor traffic on the road to a moderately prosperous society.”*

- Theme elevation:

e.g., *The evolution of the Spring Festival **mirrors** China’s breathtaking journey of modernization, **reflecting** a society that has traded hardship for comfort, scarcity for abundance, and simplicity for sophistication.*

Step 4

Review and refine your essay

Take time to review and refine your work to enhance its clarity and impact. Seek feedback from peers or teachers to gain constructive insights and make further refinements.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

Self-reflection

Scan the code and complete the self-reflection on Ucampus.



What have you learned in this unit? Answer the questions as briefly as possible.

Understanding China

- 1 What is the first electrified railway in Xizang?
- 2 What is China's solemn promise regarding infrastructure construction in western regions?
- 3 What are some changes in the Spring Festival travel?
- 4 What are some examples of modern Spring Festival celebrations?
- 5 Why have firecrackers been replaced by drone shows during the Spring Festival?

Exploring the world

- 1 What are common associations with the label "Made in Germany"?
- 2 What efforts has Germany made to promote innovation?

Communicating with the world

- 1 Did you use data presentation methods in your writing? Which specific presentation method did you use?
- 2 Did you use past-present comparisons in your writing? What comparisons did you make?

Unit test

Scan the code and take the unit test on Ucampus.



Vocabulary

Viewing

New words

contractor /kən'træktə/ *n.* [C] a person or company that agrees to do work or provide goods for another company 承包商; 承包商

encircle /ɪn'sɜ:kl/ *vt.* surround sb. or sth. completely 围绕; 环绕

equivalent /ɪ'kwɪvələnt/ *a.* having the same value, purpose, job, etc. as a person or thing of a different kind 等同的; 等值的; 相当的

foray /'fɔreɪ/ *n.* [C] a short attempt at doing a particular job or activity, esp. one that is very different from what you usu. do (尤对某项非本行的工作或活动的) 短暂尝试

fulfill /fʊl'fɪl/ *v.* (BrE **fulfil**)

- 1 do or provide what is necessary or needed 履行; 执行; 符合
- 2 achieve a goal, wish, or aim 实现 (愿望、目标等)

loop /lu:p/ *n.* [C]

- 1 (BrE) (公路或铁路的) 环线
- 2 圈; 环

mileage /'maɪlɪdʒ/ *n.*

- 1 [U] the number of miles that is covered by a country's roads or railways (一国公路或铁路的) 总长度
- 2 [C, usu. sing.] the number of miles a vehicle has traveled since it was made 行驶里程

moderately /'mɒd(ə)rətli/ *ad.*

- 1 in a way which is not extreme or stays within reasonable limits 适度地
- 2 fairly, but not very 普通地; 一般地

rail /reɪl/ *n.*

- 1 [C] one of the two long metal tracks fastened to the ground that trains move along 铁路路轨
- 2 [U] the railway system 铁路系统

rim /rɪm/ *n.* [C] the outside edge of sth. circular (圆形物体的) 外缘, 边缘, 边

solemn /'sɒləm/ *a.*

- 1 used about things such as promises that express serious intentions 郑重的; 庄严的
- 2 very serious and not happy, for example, because sth. bad has happened or because you are at an important occasion 严肃的; 庄重的

sophisticated /sə'fɪstɪ,ketɪd/ *a.*

- 1 complicated and advanced in design 复杂的; 精密的; 尖端的
- 2 having a lot of experience of life, and good judgment about socially important things such as art, fashion, etc. 见多识广的; 练达的; 有鉴赏力的

transit /'trænsɪt/

- v.* pass through or across a place, an area, or a country on the way to somewhere else 经过; 中转
- n.* [U] the process of moving goods or people from one place to another (货物或人的) 运输

Expressions

fulfill a promise (*fml.*) do what you said you would do 履行诺言

put sth. into operation when you put a rule, system, or plan into operation, you begin to use it 实施; 将...投入使用

shore up help or support sth. that is likely to fail or is not working well 加强

Proper nouns

Alaer Tarim /ɑ:lɑ:r tɑ:'rɪm/ **Airport** 阿拉尔塔里木机场

Hotan-Ruoqiang Railway 和若铁路 (连接中国新疆和田市与巴州若羌县的铁路)

Lhasa-Nyingchi /'lɑ:sə ɲɪŋtʃi/ **Railway** 拉林铁路 (连接中国西藏拉萨市与林芝市的铁路)

Sichuan-Xizang Railway 川藏铁路

Taklimakan /tɑ:klɒmə'kɑ:n/ 塔克拉玛干 (沙漠) (位于新疆塔里木盆地中心)

Taxkorgan /'tæf,kʊəgən/ **Airport** 塔什库尔干机场

Xinjiang Railway 新疆铁路

Xinjiang Uygur /'wɪ:gə(r)/ **Autonomous Region** 新疆维吾尔自治区

The allure of modern Spring Festival

New words

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n.* [sing., U] a large quantity of sth. 充裕; 丰富

aisle /aɪl/ *n.* [C] a long passage between rows of seats in a plane, theater, etc., or between rows of shelves in a shop (飞机上或剧院两排座位间或商店货架间的) 通道, 过道

allure /ə'luə/ *n.* [sing., U] a mysterious, exciting, or desirable quality 魅力; 诱惑; 吸引力

amid /ə'mɪd/ *prep.* in the middle of or during sth., esp. sth. that causes excitement or fear 在...过程中; 在...中

aromatic /,æərə'mætɪk/ *a.* having a strong pleasant smell 芳香的

bold /bəʊld/ *a.* not afraid of taking risks and making difficult decisions 果敢的; 敢于冒险的; 大胆的

bundle /'bʌndl/ *v.* (~ **up**) put warm clothes on yourself or sb. else, or wrap sb. in sth. warm (给...) 穿上暖和衣服

burst /bɜ:st/

n. [C] (~ **of**) a sudden strong emotion that you feel for a short time 强烈感情的突然爆发

v. (cause sth. to) break violently open or apart, esp. because of pressure from inside (使) 爆炸, 胀破, 爆破

cobble /'kɒbl/ *vt.* (~ **together**) make sth. quickly and without a lot of care, using whatever is available 匆忙拼凑

commonplace /'kɒmən,pleɪs/

a. happening or existing in many places, and therefore not special or unusual 常见的; 屡见不鲜的

n. [C, usu. sing.] sth. that happens or exists in many places, so that it is not unusual 平常事; 常见事物

courier /'kʊəriə/ *n.* [C] a person or company that is paid to take packages somewhere 快递员; 快递公司

crown jewel /,kraʊn 'dʒu:əl/ *n.* [C] the best or most valuable thing that a person or place has 最为宝贵的东西

dazzle /'dæzl/

vi. inspire admiration or wonder 令人赞叹

vt. blind sb. briefly with too much light, brilliance, etc. (强光) 使目眩, 使眼花

embark /ɪm'bɑ:k/ *v.*

1 (~ **on**) start sth., esp. sth. new, difficult, or exciting 开始, 着手 (尤指新的、困难的或令人激动的事)

2 go onto a ship or a plane, or put or take sth. onto a ship or plane (使) 上船 (飞机); (使) 装船 (飞机)

epic /'epɪk/

a. taking place over a long period of time and involving a lot of difficulties 漫长而艰难的

n. [C] a book, poem, or film that tells a long story about brave actions and exciting events 长篇叙事性小说 (诗歌, 电影); 史诗般的作品

feast /fi:t/ *n.* [C] a large meal where a lot of people celebrate a special occasion 盛会; 宴会

firecracker /'faɪə,kɹækə/ *n.* [C] a small firework that explodes loudly 鞭炮; 爆竹

get-together *n.* [C] a friendly informal meeting or party 聚会; 联欢会

glow /gləʊ/ *n.* [sing.] a soft steady light 光亮; 光辉

hassle /'hæsl/ *n.* [C, U] (*spoken*) sth. that is annoying, because it causes problems or is difficult to do 麻烦

mere /mɪə/ *a.* (*only before noun, no comparative*) used to emphasize how small or unimportant sth. or sb. is 仅仅; 只不过

metropolis /mə'trɒpəlɪs/ *n.* [C] a very large city that is the most important city in a country or area (一国或一地区的) 首要城市, 大都会

mutton /'mʌtn/ *n.* [U] 羊肉

pasture /'pɑ:stʃə/ *n.* [C, U] land or a field that is covered with grass and is used for cattle, sheep, etc. to feed on 牧场

resolute /'rezə,lʊ:t/ *a.* doing sth. in a very determined way because you have very strong beliefs, aims, etc. 坚决的; 坚定的

rhythm /'rɪðəm/ *n.* [C, U] a regular repeated pattern of sounds or movements 节律; 节奏

sanctuary /'sæŋktʃuəri/ *n.*

1 [C, U] a place that is safe and provides protection, esp. for people who are in danger 避难所; 庇护所

2 [C] an area for birds or animals where they are protected and cannot be hunted 鸟兽保护区; 禁猎区

scent /sent/ *n.* [C] a pleasant smell that sth. has 香味

scroll /skrəʊl/

- n.* [U] the action of moving displayed text or graphics up, down, or across a screen to view different parts of them 滚动浏览
- v.* move text on a computer screen up or down so that you can read different parts of it 滚屏; 滚动

sea change *n.* [C] a very big change in sth. 巨变

shrink /ʃrɪŋk/ *v.* (shrank, shrunk)

- 1 become or make sth. smaller in amount, size, or value (使) (数量、体积或价值) 变小, 减少, 缩小
- 2 become smaller, or make sth. smaller, through the effects of heat or water (使) 缩小; (使) 收缩

spin /spɪn/

- n.* [C] a distinctive point of view, interpretation, character, or style 独特的观点 (解释、特点、风格)
- v.* (spun, spun) turn around and around very quickly, or make sth. do this (使) 快速旋转

stroll /strəʊl/ *vi.* walk somewhere in a slow relaxed way 散步; 漫步; 闲逛

sun-drenched /'sʌn, drentʃt/ *a.* a sun-drenched place is usu. very sunny 阳光充足的; 阳光充沛的

tap /tæp/ *n.* [C]

- 1 an act of hitting sth. with a quick light blow or a series of quick light blows 轻轻敲击; 轻叩
- 2 a piece of equipment for controlling the flow of water, gas, etc. from a pipe or container (水、煤气等管道或容器的) 龙头, 阀门

tranquil /'træŋkwɪl/ *a.* pleasantly calm, quiet, and peaceful 平静的; 宁静的

unveil /ʌn'veɪl/ *vt.* show or tell people about a new product or plan for the first time (首次) 透露 (新计划), 展示 (新产品)

Expressions

cut down on reduce the amount of sth. 减少; 缩减

end up be in a particular situation, state, or place after a series of events, esp. when you did not plan it (尤指经历一系列意外后) 最终处于, 到头来

go off

- 1 explode or fire 爆炸; 开火
- 2 leave a place, esp. in order to do sth. 离开, 走 (尤指为了做某事)

light up give light to a place or shine light on sth. 照亮 (某处); 把光照在 (某物) 上

Proper nouns

Gardens by the Bay 滨海湾花园 (新加坡的园艺景点)

the Alps /ælpz/ 阿尔卑斯山脉 (欧洲最大的山脉)

The journey of "Made in Germany"

New words

adversity /əd'vɜ:səti/ *n.* [U] a situation in which you have a lot of problems that seem to be caused by bad luck 逆境; 不幸; 厄运

authentic /ɔ:'θentɪk/ *a.* done or made in the traditional or original way 正宗的; 原汁原味的

badge /bædʒ/ *n.* [C] a small piece of metal, cloth, or plastic with a picture or words on it, worn to show rank, membership of a group, support for a political idea, etc. (戴在身上显示职衔、组织身份、支持某一政治思想等的) 徽章, 标记

bull /bʊl/ *n.* [C] 公牛

capitalism /'kæpɪtə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n.* [U] an economic and political system in which businesses belong mostly to private owners, not to the government 资本主义

counterfeit /'kaʊntəfɪt/ *a.* made to look exactly like sth. else, in order to deceive people 伪造的; 仿造的

emergence /'ɪmɜ:dʒ(ə)ns/ *n.* [U] (~ of) when sth. begins to be known or noticed 出现; 显现

employee /ɪm'plɔɪi:/ *n.* [C] sb. who is paid to work for sb. else 受雇者; 雇员

epitomize /ɪ'pɪtə,maɪz/ *vt.* be a very typical example of sth. 是...的典型 (典范)

equity /'ekwəti/ *n.* [U] (fml.) a situation in which all people are treated equally and no one has an unfair advantage 公平; 公正

fraction /'frækʃn/ *n.* [C] a small part or amount of sth. 小部分; 片段; 些微; 少量

horn /hɔ:n/ *n.* [C] (牛、羊等头上的) 角

illustrious /ɪ'lʌstriəs/ *a.* (fml.) famous and admired because of what you have achieved 著名的; 杰出的; 卓越的

inferiority /ɪn,fɪəri'brəti/ *n.* [U] when sb. or sth. is not good or not as good as sb. or sth. else 低等; 劣等

inhabitant /ɪn'hæbɪtənt/ *n.* [C] one of the people who live in a particular place 居民

laureate /'lɔːrɪət/ *n.* [C] sb. who has been given an important prize or honor, esp. the Nobel Prize 重要奖项 (尤指诺贝尔奖) 获得者

morale /mə'reɪl/ *n.* [U] the level of confidence and positive feelings that people have, esp. people who work together, who belong to the same team, etc. 士气; 斗志; 精神面貌

numerous /'nju:mərəs/ *a.* many 许多的; 很多的

ode /əʊd/ *n.* [C] (~ **to**) a poem or song written in order to praise a person or thing 颂诗; 颂歌

originate /ə'ɪdʒə,neɪt/ *vi.* come from a particular place or start in a particular situation 发源; 开始; 起源

oversight /'əʊvə,sait/ *n.* [U] (*fml.*) the job of checking that a process or system is working well 监督

potentially /pə'tenʃəli/ *ad.* possibly true in the future, but not true now 潜在地; 可能地

prime /praɪm/ *a.* (*only before noun*) most important 最重要的; 首要的

prominence /'prɒmɪnəns/ *n.* [U] the fact of being important and well known 重要; 杰出; 著名

regulatory /'regjʊlət(ə)ri/ *a.* (*fml.*) (*usu. before noun*) having the power to control an area of business or industry and make sure that it is operating fairly (对工商业) 具有监管权的, 监管的, 管理的

removal /rɪ'mu:vəl/ *n.* [C, U] (~ **of**) the process of removing sth. or sb. 移动; 搬走; 去掉

renowned /rɪ'naʊnd/ *a.* known and admired by a lot of people, esp. for a special skill, achievement, or quality 有名望的; 著名的

resurgence /rɪ'sɜːdʒ(ə)ns/ *n.* [*sing.*] the reappearance and growth of sth. that was common in the past 复苏; 再次出现

shambles /'ʃæmblz/ *n.* [*sing.*] sth. that is very badly organized and does not operate effectively 一团糟; 杂乱无章

snowplow /'snəʊpləʊ/ *n.* [C] (*BrE snowplough*) 雪犁; 扫雪机

steadfast /'sted,fɑːst/ *a.* not changing your opinions or actions, because you have a strong belief in sth. or sb. 忠实的; 坚定的

synonymous /sɪ'nɒnɪməs/ *a.* (~ **with**) sth. that is synonymous with sth. else is considered to be very closely connected with it 相同的; 近似的

telecommunications /,telɪkə,mjuːnɪ'keɪʃnz/ *n.* [*pl.*] the sending and receiving of messages by telephone, radio, television, etc. 电信, 电讯 (指使用电话、无线电、电视等发送和接收信息)

tremendous /trə'mendəs/ *a.* very big, fast, powerful, etc. 巨大的; 极快的; 强有力的

Expressions

a badge of honor / courage, etc. sth. that shows that you have a particular quality 荣誉、勇气等的标记

a prime example of sth. a very typical example of sth. 非常典型的例子; 有代表性的例证

be (in) a shambles if sth. is a shambles, it is very disorganized and there is a lot of confusion 一团糟; 非常混乱

grab the bull by the horns (*idiom*) do sth. difficult in a brave and determined way 当机立断; 勇敢面对困难

Proper nouns

Deutsche /'dɔɪtʃə/ **Mark** 德国马克 (德意志联邦共和国曾经官方货币和货币单位)

Fraunhofer /'fraʊn,həʊfər/ **Society** 弗劳恩霍夫学会 (德国的应用科学研究机构)

Max Planck /plæŋk/ **Society** 马克斯·普朗克科学促进学会 (德国的科学研究机构)