

Document 17.1: Excerpt from a speech by former premier Zhao Ziyang on the purpose of Special Economic Zones, 1984

The special economic zones...[and open cities] are the bridgeheads in our opening to the outside world, and they should play the role of springboard. *On the one hand*, they should import advanced foreign technology, equipment, and management...absorb and digest them; apply them in innovations; and transfer them to the interior. *On the other hand*, they should send commodities produced in the coastal areas with foreign technology to the interior, and export the latter's raw materials and produce, with added value after processing... to the international market.

Source: Foreign Broadcast Information Services, *Daily Report, China*, December 26, 1984. Quoted in Smith, Christopher J. *China: People and Places in the Land of One Billion*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991. 106.

Note: Special Economic Zones have been joined in recent years by scores of Economic and Technical Development Zones, Free Trade Zones, and High-tech Development Zones.