Emerging East: Exploring and experiencing the Asian Communist City - North Korea (DPRK), China and Vietnam
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Aim:
I propose to explore the development and future of the Communist City as a city, examining cities that have developed from particular ideological principles of Communist regimes and how they are transformed by rapid developments. I plan to visit cities in North Korea (DPRK), China and Vietnam that represent different urban conditions that have developed from similar political situations.

Possible cities:
- North Korea
- China
- Vietnam

North Korea:
North Korea is an interesting case study for urban development and architectural evolution. It features a unique urban planning system that reflects the country's political ideology. The capital city, Pyongyang, is a showcase of architectural projects and mass games, which are used to propagate political messages. It is an example of how a city can be designed to serve a particular political agenda.

China:
China is a rapidly developing country with a diverse range of urban conditions. It boasts a mix of modern and traditional architectural styles, and is undergoing significant urban transformation. Key cities include:
- Shanghai: Known for its economic success and modern architecture.
- Beijing: The capital city, featuring historic landmarks and modern skyscrapers.
- Chongqing: A city with a unique geography that has influenced its urban planning.

Vietnam:
Vietnam has a rich architectural history and is currently undergoing rapid development. Key cities include:
- Hanoi: The capital city, known for its architectural heritage and modern developments.
- Ho Chi Minh City: A modern city with a mix of colonial and contemporary architecture.

Methods:
I have a personal interest in the history of travel, tourism, and representation. I aim to further explore some of the ideas I have been developing in these areas as part of my degree and diploma work. This work has focused on the role of photography as a mode of representing travel, memory, and architecture, which I have been exploring through J. L. Simonds' current dissertation work about building an ensemble of personal travel.

I plan to bring together my ideas about tourism and travel with photography and memory as a way of documenting and presenting the cities of rapid development that I hope to visit. A large part of the production work for the project will explore photographic recording as a means of documentation. I seek the tourist and traveller as a tool for engagement with and understanding of the mechanisms and conditions of such a city and its inhabitants.

China:
I plan to travel to China primarily to see the contrasting cities of Beijing and Shanghai, and as a counterpart to Chongqing in models of rapid growth. The cities have developed under different ideological principles of Communitarian versus Capitalism, though urban reconfiguration has operated under Communist control. Recently there has been economic experimentation similar to the regions of China, and both these cities are now developing rapidly but under different variables to those in China.

Context:
I have a passion for China, although as yet I have only visited the major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. I have been particularly interested in the Chinese border town of Dandong, which shares a history of occupation and final reunification under Communist rule. In recent years, it has seen significant economic development.

Three Gorges Dam:
The Three Gorges Dam is a significant project in China, which has been an extraordinary example of China's rapid growth. The dam was completed in 2006 and has had a significant impact on the Yangtze River and the surrounding regions.

Three Gorges Dam Project:
The Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric dam located in Hubei province, China. It is the world's largest water reservoir and has significantly altered the landscape and environment of the Yangtze River.

Method:
I propose to explore the development and future of the Communist City in Asia, examining cities that have developed from particular ideological principles of Communist regimes and how they are transformed by rapid developments. I plan to visit cities in North Korea (DPRK), China and Vietnam that represent different urban conditions that have developed from similar political situations.