

## Five countries that no longer welcome Chinese wealthy immigrants

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Statistics show that China has become the second major source of immigrants to New Zealand, right after the UK. However, in New Zealand, Chinese immigrants are experiencing challenges.

Bevan Chuang from the Parliament of Auckland expressed during an interview that she has received information regarding Right Wing Resistance planning on dropping leaflets to attack Chinese immigrants in Titirangi Manurew and Onehunga in Auckland.

Canada has put in place a policy to discourage Chinese wealthy immigrants while encourage skilled immigrants. Starting July 1, 2012, Canada Immigration Bureau has forever ended federal investor immigration petitions, which means Canada has closed its gate for Chinese investor immigrants until a new policy comes into being. This might be the trend for the future.

"Why doesn't Canada welcome the rich Chinese?" is a question raised by the Canada Post. In fact, all the popular immigration countries to the Chinese may re-consider their past immigration policies soon.





### 1. Canada: No longer need rich Chinese!

It is being witnessed that the focus of Canada immigration policy has shifted from the wealthy Chinese to highly skilled talents and entrepreneurs from all over the world. Canada has recently decided to modify its immigration policy to attract more highly skilled talents and entrepreneurs to contribute to its domestic economy.

During the major changes this May, the bar of language ability has been raised. Proficiency in English and French has been emphasized. While creating an environment to attract highly skilled

talents, Canada has stopped accepting petitions for “investor immigration” in July 2012. The original investor immigration program allowed foreigners who possessed a certain amount of assets to acquire permanent residency by investing in Canada.

This program seemed to be beneficial to Canada’s economy, while some people called it “immigration policy of purchasing visas”.



Many wealthy people from China, whose economy has been boosting continuously, poured into Canada through this program.

Since the immigration policy required immigrants to establish enterprises, some people purchased bankrupted retail stores and had their relatives pretend to be employees. In Richmond, suburb of Vancouver, immigrants from China increased greatly and reached 40% of its total. The passers-by from China have changed some of the immigrant-concentrated areas.

For example, car dealers and real estate agencies started hiring Chinese-speaking employees; BMO (Bank of Montreal) added the Chinese language to their ATM machines; a real estate agent invested to publish the first Chinese newspaper; Asian restaurants and grocery stores started to appear in the streets. In regard to Canada raising the language bar for immigration petitioners and terminating immigrants based on economic capabilities, an immigration consultant indicated that this might be due to the fast growth of immigrants from developing countries and Canada wants to find its balance.



## **2. Singapore: Unwelcome 1) real estate developers and 2) owners of coal mines**

Last May, there was even a surge of “Kicking the Chinese out of Singapore”. Ma Chi, a 31-year-old rich Chinese, drove a 9-million-yuan red Ferrari convertible over speed limit in downtown Singapore, ran a red traffic light and collided with a taxi; caused three deaths. Disobeying rules, running red lights, causing deadly accidents, etc., have really impacted the image of rich Chinese. Singaporeans are concerned that the wealthy are monopolizing the real estate market and competing with middle class for employment and promotion opportunities, while common employees’ payrolls are faced with pressure of reduction. This incident has aroused Singaporeans’ common resent over the Chinese immigrants.



Prior to the Chinese New Year in 2012, Singapore Economic Development Bureau has decided to reject the immigration petitions from over a thousand Chinese investors.

After 2010, Singapore government has been constantly raising the immigration threshold. Starting mid and late quarters of 2011, mass



interview rejections by the current government of EDB on over-packaged immigration petitions have occurred. Besides, the extension of processing time and requirement of petitioners signing legal declaration on the truthfulness of application documents at the consulate started to take place. The top three main immigration forces to Singapore are China, Malaysia and Indonesia. Among the latter two, the majority are also Chinese. During the past two decades, Chinese “immigration wave” to Singapore has been accelerating, with the total amount of approximately 500 thousand to 600 thousand, which is about 10-12% of the total population of Singapore. Therefore, the most affected group by the tightening of immigration policy in Singapore is the Chinese petitioners.

### **3. Australia: Chinese immigrants slammed down AU\$4.2 billion on real estate purchases**

During the recent years when the local real estate prices have been “unpopular”, the most active real estate purchasers in the Australian real estate market are Chinese. During the past year, Chinese immigrants slammed down AU\$4.2 billion on real estate purchases. The real estate statistics which have been twisted by the Chinese immigrants started to upset the Australians. Why are the Chinese immigrants “unwelcome”?

The fluctuation of real estate pricing within one country is directly related with its economy, but the economists in Australia have noticed that another element that affects the real estate market is Chinese immigrants. A recently published report shows that by July 1, the total investment on commercial and residential real estate by Chinese immigrants within one year is AU\$4.2 billion (23.52 billion Chinese Yuan), a little increase comparing to the previous year.

The Chinese rose to become the trendsetter in Australian real estate market. Beyond doubt, the wealthy Chinese are the biggest purchasers in today’s Australian real estate market. From the breathtaking water-front mansions in Sydney Harbor to the regular homes in the suburbs, the Chinese buyers slammed tens of millions into the Australian real estate market. Some Australians say, “China is large, and has many millionaires. They come to make panic purchases. But our houses are



built to house common residents, not for investments by the Chinese.” Meanwhile, The Chinese new immigrants firmly believe that the value of houses will maintain or increase. While the Chinese are obsessed with purchasing and flipping houses overseas, the mainstream society overseas has already expressed their slight resent. Or maybe, in the near future, they will show this unwelcoming thought through their policies.



#### **4. Russia does not welcome Chinese immigrants – starting with the President**

Currently, the number of illegal immigrants inside Russia is around 14 million, among which most are from countries that used to be parts of the former

Soviet Union. As reporters often see in Moscow: fruits sellers are from Azerbaijan, bus drivers are from Armenia, the most hard-working and least paid city cleaners are from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The Chinese population in Russia is between 200 thousand and 300 thousand. These Chinese usually work in the fields of agriculture, trade and construction engineering, and are usually in the areas of Moscow, far-east and Siberia. Russia has a complex attitude towards foreign immigrants. On one hand, some Russians are against foreign immigrants; nationalists still hold their ground believing “Russia belongs to Russians” and “yellow peril” phobia has not yet diminished. Articles about “China expanding in Russia” are constantly seen in the news. According to the 2005 statistics from a public opinion survey agency, the number of people who demand limiting foreign immigrants has increased from 33% in 1996 to 59% in 2005. Half of the survey participants demanded restriction on immigrants’ residency in Caucasia; 46% demanded restriction on Chinese immigrants and 42% were against immigration from Vietnam. The fear of Chinese immigrants starts with the President, even though Putin promised to develop tighter relationship with China. In 2000, he once warned, “in a few decades, the language that Russians will use might be Japanese, Chinese or Korean.” Writer Anton Chekhov wrote in 1890, “To the east of Irkutsk, people will start running into Chinese people, but here (far-east of Russia), there are more Chinese than flies. They have a good nature. The Chinese will take away Amor River (Heilongjiang) from us – this is beyond doubt.” Chekhov traveled past Siberia to Sakhalin.

Vasily Mikheev, Sino-Russia Relations expert from Moscow Academy of Sciences, indicated that Heilong Jiang is still the boundary river between China and Russia, while the Chinese population in far-east is about the same as before the “October Revolution”: approximately 4%. But Mikheev expressed that the increasing concern over Chinese immigrants has far exceeded the acceptable limit.



**5. New Zealand – Chinese immigrants experienced extreme verbal abuse**



Statistics show that China has become the second major source of immigrants to New Zealand, right after the UK. However, in New Zealand, Chinese immigrants are experiencing challenges. Bevan Chuang from the Parliament of Auckland expressed during an interview that she has received information regarding Right Wing Resistance planning on dropping leaflets to attack Chinese immigrants in Titirangi Manurew and Onehunga in Auckland.

Before this year, this Right Wing Resistance organization has been dropping leaflets about stopping Asians' invasion, in Howick Northcote and Pakuranga, Asian immigrant communities. Bevan said that recently her Facebook page has experienced constant verbal attacks by the new Nazi right-wing extremists. One crasher left a message describing Chinese immigrants as "New Zealand's Cancer", saying that these people have brought to New Zealand massive pollution and overpopulation. He also wrote, "Go home!" Another racial discrimination molecule declared that Asian immigrants have moved to New Zealand after polluting their own homes.



According to the data from New Zealand Statistics Bureau, this June, the net population that immigrated to New Zealand is 2300, which reached the highest point in the past four years. Interest, an English website, published that the continual net increase of immigrant population has brought pressure on the real estate market. Auckland is the top choice for immigrants and its real estate market is faced with huge pressure. With the re-construction and development of the Christchurch, great pressure has also been brought into its real estate market.