



## Supply of mineral products

China is not only a huge consumer of metals and minerals, but also a major producer thereof. Indeed, China is even the biggest mining country in the world. It is, by far, the top coal producer. China is also the leading producer of gold, zinc, lead, tin and manganese and second producer of iron ore. Furthermore, China is also a huge importer of copper and nickel and its imports of iron ore and many other metals are on the rise. China is the sole supplier of rare earths and other metals and minerals for which there are no substitution products and that are used for highly specialized technical applications... During the later part of the XXth century, the bulk of the extractive industry was located south of the Equator where Africa and Latin America abounded in huge untapped mineral resources, in spite of poor use of the resources for at least a century.