

Unit 12a: China

Objectives

At the end of this section, you will

Be aware of the following

- Government restrictions imposed upon organized religious activity
- Sexual harassment in the workplace
- Gender-based discrimination issues in China
- Issues surrounding Tibetan unrest
- Various national/religious/cultural holidays and festivals
 - Gulf between policy and practice in treatment of China's disabled population

Identify

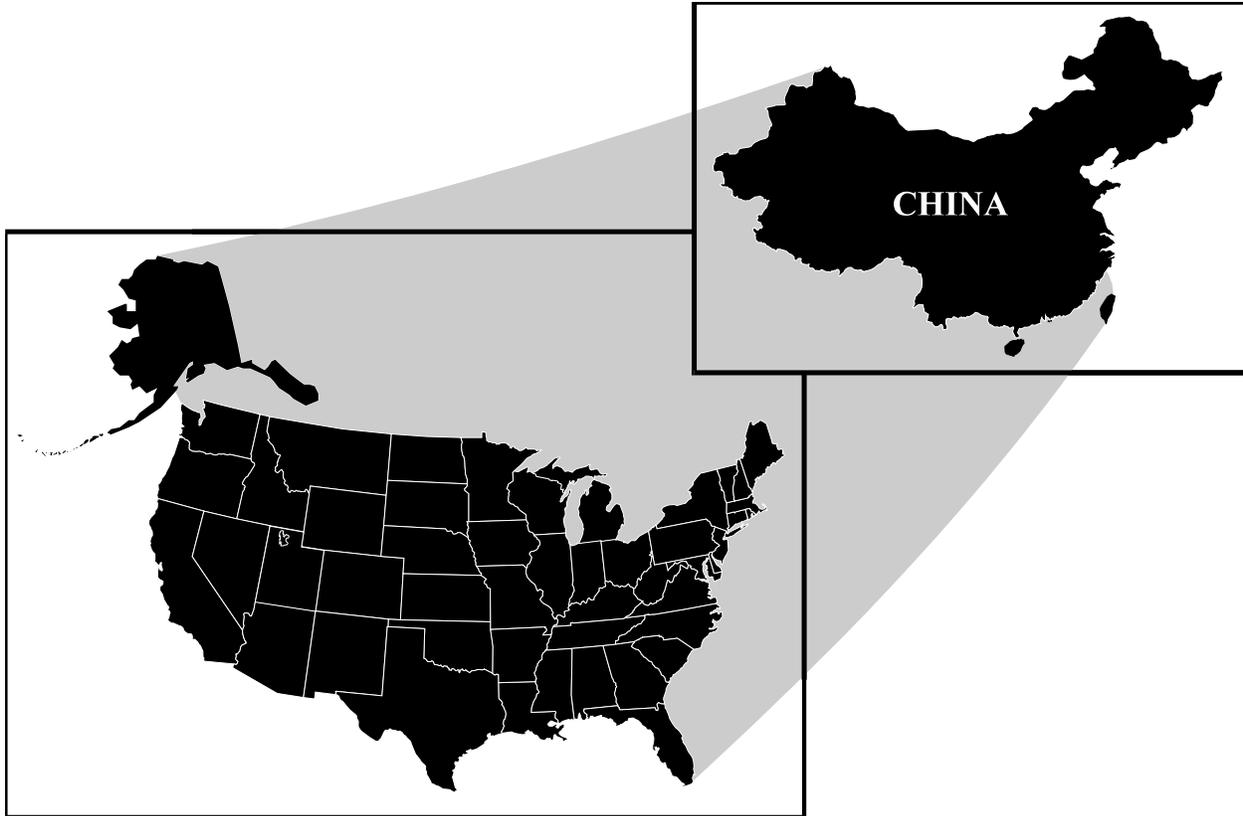
- Catholic Patriotic Association, Three Self Patriotic Movement
- Mongol, Manchu
- Silk Road
- Tibetans
- Boxer Rebellion, Chiang Kai-shek
- Cultural Revolution, Forbidden City
- Gang of Four, Great Wall of China
- Long March, Kublai Khan
- Mao Zedong, Opium Wars
- Ping-Pong diplomacy
- Sun Yat-sen
- Terra-cotta warriors
- Tiananmen Square

Realize

- Current makeup of religion in China
- Ethnic makeup of China's 1.2 billion people
- Prolonged nature of potential crisis of Taiwan/China/U.S. confrontation
- Negative aspects of the Cultural Revolution in Tibet
- U.S. policy concerning Tibet

- Official Chinese policy of preferential treatment for many minority peoples

China



<u>Population</u>	1,203,097,268
% under 15 years	26%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:32
Radio	1:5
Phone	1:77
Newspapers	no figure
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	Male 67/Female 69
Hospitals	1:382
Doctors	1:648
IMR	52:1,000
<u>Income</u>	\$2,200.00 per cap.
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	78%

1. Religious Groups

a. Officially atheist

b. Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism According to the CIA Factsheet--1996, the most important elements of Chinese religion are Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist thought and practice. (For further information on history, beliefs and societal impact, see Volume I, Culture of East Asia--Selected Aspects of East Asian Religion/Culture.)

"Buddhists make up the largest body of religious believers in China. The government estimates that there are 100 million Buddhists, most of whom are from the dominant Han ethnic group. The Government says that there are 9,500 Buddhist temples and monasteries in China and more than 170,000 nuns and monks. Some local authorities have called for controls on Buddhist places of worship, especially newly established sites."
(Unless stated otherwise, the following quotes come from Human Rights Practices for 1996--China.)



c. Muslim (2-3%) *"According to government figures, there are 17 million Muslims. In some areas with large Muslim populations, officials continue to restrict the building of mosques and the religious education of youths under the age of 18.*

Following unrest in 1990 in Xinjiang (sheen-jyeng), which has a large Muslim population, the authorities issued regulations further restricting religious activities and teaching. There were several reports of unrest in Xinjiang, prompting the leadership to issue statements on the need to control religion there.

During a trip to Xinjiang on September 11, Premier Li Peng (lee puhng) said that relevant Chinese departments should 'step up the control of religious affairs.' Li also stated that China upholds freedom of religious belief, but added that religion 'should serve the aims of socialism.'

China permits Muslim citizens to make the hajj to Mecca, and the number of those making the pilgrimage has increased significantly in recent years."

d. Christian (1%) "The number of Christians continues to grow rapidly. However, the Government permits only those Christian churches affiliated with either the Catholic Patriotic Association or the (Protestant) Three Self Patriotic Movement to operate openly. The Government established both organizations in the 1950's to eliminate perceived foreign domination of local Christian groups.

The unofficial, Vatican-affiliated Catholic Church claims a membership far larger than the 4 million persons registered with the official Catholic Church, although actual figures are unknown. While government officials estimate that there are about 15 million Protestant worshipers in China, other estimates indicate that there are at least 10 million people who belong to the official Protestant church, while perhaps 30 million worship privately in house churches that are independent of government control.



In Jiangxi (jyeng-shee), Zhejiang (juh-jyeng), and Fujian (foo-jyeng), police reportedly raided underground masses, destroyed altars, confiscated books, roughed up congregations, and detained some worshipers. During November, according to credible reports, approximately 80 underground Catholics from Linchuan (Leen-chu-han), Jiangxi province, were arrested without warrants, beaten, and jailed. One source reported that several unofficial priests 'disappeared' in Shanghai and Hebei (huh-bay).

Non-mainstream sects are often singled out for particularly heavy-handed treatment. In 1996 police continued to put pressure on an underground evangelical sect called the 'Shouters.' The Shouters sect has been deemed counter-revolutionary by the Government, and its members have been repeatedly detained, fined, and imprisoned since its establishment over 16 years ago."

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

a. Han Chinese (93%)

b. Other nationalities 6.7% (Zhuang [joo-ahng], Uygur [ooh-goor], Hui [hway], Tibetan, Miao [mee-ah-oh], Manchu, Mongol, Buyi [boo-ye], Korean and others)

c. Ethnic group descriptions The following material, adapted from "The Peoples of China" map (Researchers Frances Shaffer and Polly McRee Brown, National Geographic Society, National Geographic Magazine, Washington, DC: July 1980) offers assistance on understanding China's many ethnic groups.

(1) North Central

(a) Mongol *Historically, members of the ethnic group, under the leadership of Genghis Khan and his followers, advanced as far as Vienna in the 13th century. Coal, livestock, iron, salt, steel and grain are the major economic enterprises of these peoples.*



The Nadam Fair, which combines animal brokerage and horsemanship, wrestling, shooting and archery contests, is a yearly occurrence.

(b) Hui (hway) Practically the same as the Han, except for their Muslim faith, these peoples are widely dispersed, serving historically as butchers and restaurant managers.

(2) Northeast

Manchu: In the 17th century, members of this ethnic group conquered much of China. Being gradually assimilated over the years, little remains of their ancient practices or language.

Daur: This small cultural group are traditional grain and vegetable farmers, with an interest in the fish, logging and hunting industries.

Koreans: Small groups of Koreans are scattered throughout the region, serving mostly in industrialization pursuits.

(3) Southwest Zhuang, Dai and Bai all inhabit this area of the country. The Zhuang is the largest of the groups and possess a close affinity with the ethnic Han. Singing and dancing festival are common. Ancestors of the Bai rice farmers on the high plans of Yunnan were the first inhabitants of the region.



Yao peoples historically lived in small mountain villages, raising rice, maize and sweet potatoes. The warrior **Yi** cultural group possesses a tradition of a well defined, regimented, aristocratic society.

(4) Southeast Tujia peoples were not officially recognized as a separate ethnic group until the 1950s. Among their industries are rice, corn and fruit farming, handicrafts, lumbering, and producing an oil from tea. The **She**, currently absorbed into the mainstream culture, may be historic descendants of the southwest Yao groups.



Kaoshan applies to the indigenous mountain farmers of Taiwan. Their language seems to come from Malayo-Polynesian roots, signaling migrations from mainland China or the Malay Archipelago millennia ago.

(5) South--Miao (Hmong) peoples along the northern Vietnam, Laos and Tai borders often were exploited and put down by the Han. Traditional farmers, modernization is difficult because of the rugged terrain in which the Miao live.

Li peoples are indigenous to the mountains of Hainan Island. Historically, this ethnic group has expressed a long history of rebellion against Chinese authority.

(6) Xinjiang (shee-jyeng)

The silk road opened China's trade westward through this region. Eventually, Islam made inroads into China as a result of commerce and trade.



7 of the 12 minorities in the region are primarily Muslim. They use the Arabic script and speak Turkic languages. Uygur ("high carts") peoples use ingenious irrigation methods to farm in the region.

Kazak peoples are known for their horsemanship. Kirgiz keep Bactrian camels. Xibe are the largest group of Manchu speakers in China. Over 300 years ago, this ethnic group came from the northeast to serve as border guards.

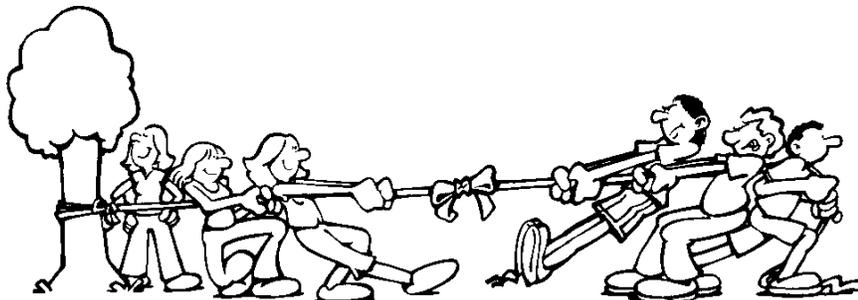
(7) Tibetan Highlands

Tibetans inhabit the high, desolate region surrounded by mountains and river valley canyons. Yak, sheep and goat herding, plus raising of barley, peas and potatoes are major pursuits.



Buddhism plays a significant role in the region. Off and on from the 13th century to 1959, China controlled the area. After a rebellion in 1959, the central Chinese government took a more heavy handed role in internal Tibetan affairs. Modernization, secularization and mechanized agricultural pursuits were instituted. Transportation within the area remains difficult.

3. Gender Issues



a. Domestic violence *"Violence against women can be grounds for prosecution under the law."*

In 1994 the Beijing Society for Research on Marriage and the Family published a survey of 2,100 families showing that one-fifth of the wives surveyed had been abused by their spouses.

In recognition of the seriousness of spousal abuse, some areas took measures to address the problem. In February the city of Changsha, Hunan (hoo-nahn) province, implemented China's first provincial regulation on controlling and preventing family violence.



In May Shanghai opened its first shelter for battered women. A women's legal center, which was opened near Beijing in 1995, was active in educating women about their legal rights and offering free or inexpensive legal aid to women and children in need and unable to escape family violence and abuse. The women served were poor, uneducated rural women. Some were not even aware that they could leave home without their husband's permission." (Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996--China)

b. Sexual harassment

"No statute outlaws sexual harassment in the workplace, a problem that is often unaddressed in society and the legal system.

A 1996 case highlighted the obstacles that victims of sexual harassment and abuse face in Chinese courts. A woman who complained to peers about sexual harassment by her boss, was sued by him for criminal defamation, found guilty, fined, and sentenced to 2 years in prison. She served 7 months of her sentence before an appeal to a provincial supreme court reversed the decision in her case and found her innocent."

c. Prostitution "The

increased commercialization of sex and related trafficking in women has trapped tens of thousands of women in a cycle of crime and exploitation. These women face a high risk of drug addiction, AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases. According to media reports, 80 percent of Beijing's massage parlors offer sex service.



In July the Beijing municipal government announced a crackdown on massage parlors in the capital, but the long-term effectiveness of the crackdown on this lucrative business, which involves organized crime groups, businesspeople, and even the military is uncertain. Unsafe working conditions are rampant among the saunas, massage houses, and hostess bars that have sprung up in large numbers.

The abduction of women is a serious and growing problem. The Government continues to condemn and to take steps to prevent and punish the abduction and sale of women for marriage or prostitution."

d. Equal rights "The 1982 Constitution states that 'women enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of life,' including ownership of property, inheritance rights, and access to education. In 1992 [governmental officials] enacted legislation on the protection of the rights and interests of women, which was designed to assist in curbing gender-based discrimination. Women have continued, however, to report discrimination, sexual harassment, unfair dismissal, demotion, and wage discrepancies.

Many employers prefer to hire men to avoid the expense of maternity leave and child care, and some even lower the effective retirement age for female workers to 40 years of age. (The official retirement age for men is 60 years and for women 55 years.)



Although the law promises equal pay for equal work, a 1990 survey found that women's salaries averaged 77 percent of men's. Those statistics still appear to be accurate. Most women employed in industry work in lower skilled and lower paid jobs.

In March the Government outlined its 5-Year Plan for the Advancement of Women in China. The main priority is to increase literacy of rural women, 80 percent of whom are illiterate or nearly illiterate. Overall, women make up about 70 percent of illiterates in the country.

The authorities have enacted laws and conducted educational campaigns in an effort to eradicate the traditional preference for sons; however, this preference remains strong in rural China. A number of provinces have sought to reduce the perceived higher value of boys in providing old-age support for their parents by establishing or improving pensions and retirement homes."

4. Conflicts

a. International disputes *"Boundary with India in dispute; disputed sections of the boundary with Russia remain to be settled; boundary with Tajikistan in dispute; short section of the boundary with North Korea is indefinite;*



...involved in a complex dispute over the Spratly Islands with Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and possibly Brunei; maritime boundary dispute with Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin; Paracel Islands occupied by China, but claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan; claims Japanese-administered Senkaku-shoto (Senkaku Islands/Diaoyu Tai), as does Taiwan." (1996 CIA World Factbook--China.)

b. Taiwan The following material, taken from the Strategic Assessment 1997--China, is instructive.

"Taiwan-China relations will alternate between periods of stability and potential crisis. The tension in cross-strait relations appeared to have moderated in late 1996 as each side waited for the other to make a move."

Taiwan's quest for identity and international status will continue to vex Beijing-Taipei and Beijing-U.S. relations...A final resolution is decades away.

During a period of stress, China may use military instruments against Taiwan. Although China and Taiwan will wish to avoid conflict, China's ultimate concern is that, if allowed to progress beyond certain, unspecified limits, Taiwan's sense of separateness will evolve into an insurmountable obstacle to reunification.

Beijing's March 1996 exercises and missile tests in the Taiwan Strait aimed to limit Taiwan's behavior, not to attack Taiwan or any of the islands under its control."



c. Tibet Jeffrey Bader, deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, gave an address before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 13 May 1997. His words assist.

(1) Background "There are over two million ethnic Tibetans living in the Tibetan Autonomous Regions of the People's Republic of China, and perhaps another two to three million living in adjacent areas in China...About 125,000 Tibetan refugees and their descendants live in India and Nepal, and a few thousand others are scattered in other countries. There are about a thousand in the U.S.



For the Tibetans who live in Tibet, the last 50 years have been tumultuous. The entry of the People's Liberation Army into Tibet in 1951 brought to an end the period that began with the 1911 revolution in China and the collapse of any effective Chinese presence in Tibet...

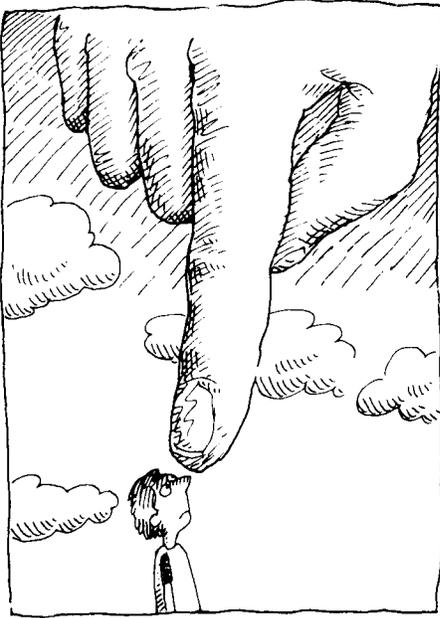
Chinese inroads into the traditional Tibetan way of life touched off violent opposition by the late 1950's, leading the Dalai Lama (DAHL-ee LAHM-ah--spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism) to flee to India in 1959. Guerrilla warfare continued in some areas for a few years, but was effectively suppressed.

The Cultural Revolution in the 1960's hit Tibet early and hard. The Panchen Lama (PAHN-shen LAHM-uh--Tibetan Buddhist abbot of Tibet's most powerful monastery), who had been supportive of the Chinese authorities, was imprisoned for 15 years. Thousands of monasteries were closed and destroyed. Tibet suffered irreparable cultural damage, and Buddhism came under attack as a feudal relic.

With the end of the Cultural Revolution there was a policy review leading to liberalization, beginning with the visit of the late General Secretary of the Communist Party Hu Yaobang (hoo yowh-bhang) to Tibet in 1980. The inflow of Han Chinese into Tibet slowed. More Tibetans were elevated to positions within the Region's political leadership. Greater sensitivity was shown to Tibet's religious and cultural traditions.

Monasteries were rebuilt and reopened. Many prisoners were released. The Dalai Lama sent a series of delegations to Tibet, and discussions with the Chinese began. Beijing indicated a willingness to accept the return of the Dalai Lama and his followers to Tibet under certain conditions.

Nineteen-eighty-seven saw a major alteration in Chinese policy toward Tibet toward a harder line.



The Dalai Lama placed a new emphasis on seeking contacts in the West in order to rally support against weakening of Tibetan culture and religion. Late in the year, serious riots broke out in Lhasa in support of independence, followed by other outbreaks over the next few years. The Chinese responded with increased security measures, including crackdowns on monasteries. Martial law was declared for a time. Discussion with the Dalai Lama's representatives halted. This trend has continued since then...