

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...

Although reverence for the Dalai Lama appears to be near-universal, this is not to say that Tibetan politics are without fault lines. Factions, regional and sectarian loyalties, differences between religious and civil authorities, arguments between modernizers and conservatives, and other splits have plagued the Tibetan polity, among Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, throughout this century..."

(2) The U.S. role "What is U.S. policy toward Tibet?"

The United States considers the Tibet Autonomous Region or TAR (Tibet) as part of the People's Republic of China...

The United States has urged China to respect Tibet's unique religious, linguistic and cultural traditions, and the human rights of Tibetans as it formulated its policies for Tibet. The United States encourages China and the Dalai Lama to hold serious discussion aimed at resolution of differences at an early date, without preconditions. We have consistently asserted that any question surrounding Tibet and its relationship to Chinese authorities in Beijing should be resolved by direct dialogue between the Tibetans, in particular the Dalai Lama, and the Chinese.

The United States stands for the protection of human rights throughout the world, and the human rights issue remains a key element of our bilateral relationship with China...



The United States provides humanitarian assistance to Tibetan refugees in India and also contributes to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to assist Tibetans transiting Nepal...

As part of the Immigration Act of 1990, 1,000 'displaced Tibetans,' were given special immigrant visas, and have since resettled throughout the United States...

(3) Conclusion *...[T]reatment of Tibetans by the Chinese government in the 48 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China has been harsh, inconsistent with international human rights norms, and unacceptable...*

[W]hat we hear so often from Chinese leaders is that, after a century of humiliation at the hands of Western powers, China demands above all respect. Chinese leaders will find that a different, more enlightened policy toward Tibet would be a long step toward enhancing the respect they have earned from the economic transformation of their country."

d. Hong Kong The fact sheet released by the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 20 Jun 1997, relates, in part, the following concerning China's commitments to Hong Kong.

(1) Policy China and the United Kingdom negotiated the reversion of Hong Kong to China. China has made specific--"one country, two systems"--pledges about Hong Kong's future. The United States is watching the reversion closely and actively support open, accountable, and democratic institutions in Hong Kong.

(2) Welcomed developments Chief Secretary Anson Chan, a highly respected pro-democracy civil servant, will

remain in her position. Hong Kong will maintain its own currency, linked to the U.S. dollar. China has approved Hong Kong's continued participation in international organizations and extension of most multi-lateral agreements currently applied.

(3) Concerns expressed China will not recognize 1995 Legislative Council elections and will organize a provisional legislature. Restriction in the Bill of Rights Ordinance, right to demonstrate and political party activities fuel concern about civil liberties and individual freedoms.



5. Holidays/Observances (The following material, adapted from Holidays, Festivals and Celebrations of the World Dictionary, compiled by Sue Thompson and Barbara Carlson, (Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1994), is instructive.

a. Airing the Classics (sixth day of sixth lunar month)

- Day Buddhist monasteries inspect their library collections
- Remembrance of an ancient day when a boat carrying Buddhist scriptures, coming from India, was upset. Books then were set out to dry.

b. Confucius' Birthday (28 Sep)

- Remembrance of birth of Confucius. In some areas, all teachers are honored.

c. Feast of Excited Insects (circa 5 Mar)

- Marks transition from winter to spring, the day when the "dragon raises his head," bringing renewed life
- Rituals focus on appeasement of insects and renewing the earth's fertility

d. Birthday of Goddess of Mercy (March-April)

- Remembrance of Kuan Yin (gwahn-yin), bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy

- Kuan Yin, depicting both masculine and feminine attributes, often finds acceptance among non-Buddhists. Relief of suffering and distress is the bodhisattva's major attribute.



e. Birthday of the Lotus (24th day of sixth lunar month)

- Honors time when lotus plants around Beijing bloom on ponds and moats
 - Blooms signify that prayers to the Dragon Prince are answered with awaiting rains

f. Matsu Festival (23rd day of the third moon)

- Honors Matsu ("granny"), a goddess who studied Buddhist and Taoist scriptures
 - Matsu is protectress of seamen, especially those in Taiwan straits

g. Rat's Wedding Day (19th day of first lunar month)

- Some households observe this day to appease rodent household visitors

h. Sending the Winter Dress (1st day of tenth lunar month)

- Paper replica garments are sent to deceased relatives. Gift packages first decorate the home, then are taken to the burial location for burning.
 - One of three yearly occasions to visit ancestral tombs



i. Other holidays and festivals

- (1) New Year's Day (1 Jan)
- (2) Spring festival (Chinese New Year--usually in Feb).
Three day holiday throughout China
- (3) International Working Woman's Day (8 Mar)
- (4) International Labor Day (1 May)
- (5) Youth Day (4 May) Remembers student demonstrations
(against Germany) in Beijing on 4 May 1919. Issue
focused on Japan's being given rights to city of
Tiajin.
- (6) Children's Day (1 June)
- (7) Anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party
of China (1 July)
- (8) Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's
Liberation Army (1 Aug)
- (9) National Day (1 Oct) Celebrates founding of People's
Republic of China in 1949.

6. Customs

a. Freedom of religion

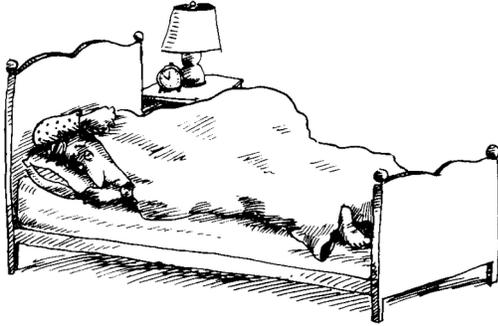


"Although the Constitution affirms toleration of religious beliefs, the Government seeks to restrict all religious practice to closely controlled and government-sanctioned religious organizations and registered places of worship. At the annual national religious affairs conference in January religious policy was 'readjusted' to emphasize harder line aspects. During the year many religious groups were subjected to increased restrictions although the degree of restriction varied significantly in different regions of China.

Despite these increased restrictions, the number of religious adherents continues to grow.

In 1996 police closed dozens of 'underground' mosques, temples, and seminaries and hundreds of Protestant 'house church' groups, many with significant memberships, properties, financial resources, and networks. Leaders of such groups, including itinerant teachers and evangelists, increasingly have been detained for lengthy investigation. There are nongovernmental organization (NGO) reports of deaths of detainees by beating. Some congregations have been hit with heavy fines. In Shanghai, home of the patriotic Protestant headquarters, authorities have been particularly tough.

Communist Party officials state that party membership and religious belief are incompatible.



This places a serious limitation on religious believers, since party membership is required for almost all high-level positions in government and state-owned businesses. According to a 1995 government survey, 20 percent of Communist Party members engage in some form of religious activity.

In January 1995, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) circulated a document to party organizations at the provincial level ordering expulsion of party members belonging to open or clandestine religious organizations.

In November the People's Liberation Army Daily's report on military 'spiritual civilization' stated that 'it is necessary to conduct education in atheism so that they (the military) believe in science and oppose superstition. Participation in religious activities is forbidden.'

After forcefully suppressing all religious observances and closing all seminaries during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, the Government began in the late 1970's to restore or replace damaged or confiscated churches, temples, mosques, and monasteries and allowed seminaries to reopen. According to the Government, there are now 68,000 religious sites in China and 48 religious colleges. The Government also adopted a policy of returning confiscated church property. Implementation of this policy has varied from locality to locality.



The official religious organizations administer local Bible schools, more than a dozen Catholic and Protestant seminaries, nine institutes to train imams and Islamic scholars, and institutes to train Buddhist monks. Students who attend these institutes must demonstrate 'political reliability,' and all graduates must pass an examination on their theological and political knowledge to qualify for the clergy.

The Government permitted some Catholic seminarians, Muslim clerics, and Buddhist clergy to go abroad for additional

religious studies in 1996. Unofficial churches, however, have significant problems training clergy." (Unless otherwise stated, the following material comes from Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996--China)

b. Treatment of minorities "The State Statistical Bureau reported in February that, according to an October 1, 1995, census, the total population of China's 55 ethnic minorities was 108.46 million, or 8.98 percent of the national population.

China's policy on minorities calls for preferential treatment in marriage regulations, family planning, university admission, and employment.

According to government statistics, between 1991 and 1995 the economies in minority regions grew by 11 percent annually. However, incomes for members of minorities in minority areas remain well below the national average. Development programs have disrupted traditional living patterns of minority groups, including Tibetans and the Muslim Uighur majority of western Xinjiang.



In the area of education, the Government has tried to design policies responsive to minority concerns. In many areas with a significant population of minorities, there are two-track school systems using either standard Chinese or the local minority language. One acknowledged side effect of this policy designed to protect and maintain minority cultures has been reinforcement of a segregated education system.

Under this divided education system, those graduating from minority schools are at a disadvantage in competing for jobs in government and business, which require good spoken Chinese.

However, in most areas, ethnic minorities are shut out of positions of real political and decisionmaking power. Minorities often resent Han officials holding key positions in minority autonomous regions. Ethnic minorities in Tibet, Xinjiang, and elsewhere have at times demonstrated against Han Chinese authority.



In 1996 tensions between ethnic Hans and Uighurs in Xinjiang intensified, and incidents of violence occurred.

In general, central authorities have made it clear that they will not tolerate opposition to Communist Party rule in minority regions and have responded to unrest with force and heightened security measures."

c. People with disabilities "In 1990 the Government adopted legislation protecting the rights of the country's approximately 60 million disabled persons. According to the official press, all local governments subsequently drafted specific measures to implement the law. The Government reported in July that, in the 3 preceding years, the NPC Standing Committee conducted nationwide inspections to verify compliance with the law; it "found that the handicapped generally received good services and help in both their dealings with officials and in public life."



However, reality for the disabled lags far behind legal dictates. Misdiagnosis, inadequate medical care, pariah status, and abandonment remain common problems for the disabled population.

Standards adopted in 1994 for making roads and buildings accessible to the disabled are subject to the 1990 Law on the Handicapped, which calls for their 'gradual' implementation. To date lax compliance with the law has resulted in only limited access to most buildings.

The new Maternal and Child Health Care Law forbids the marriage of persons with certain specified contagious diseases or certain acute mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. If doctors find that a couple is at risk of transmitting disabling congenital defects to their children, the couple may marry only if they agree to use birth control or undergo sterilization."

7. Cultural Literacy Concepts/Terms The following terms, adapted from The Dictionary of Global Culture, (edited by Kwame Appiah and Henry Gates, Jr., NY: Alfred Knopf, 1997), apply to China. For more detailed information, consult The Dictionary of Global Culture.

a. Asian heroism



- American, twentieth century movement, designed to recapture Chinese masculinity
- Protest of Chinese immigrant laborer discrimination
- Stresses loyalty, courage and heroic themes

b. Ba Jun (bah-jin, 1905 -)

- Novelist who showed China caught between the past and future
- Authored Ji-Liu; Jia Chun; and the autobiographical Torrent Trilogy
- Displays leftist sympathies

c. Bai-lian Jiao (bi-lyen jee-ow)

- White Lotus Society, formed to overthrow Mongol Yuan Dynasty of fourteenth century
- Rebelled against Manchu Dynasty of 1644-1911

d. Beijing opera

- Traditional Chinese opera
- All male cast with characters determined by type of makeup worn
- Combines rhythm, body movement and oration

e. Boxer Rebellion

- Late nineteenth century revolt against foreign presence in China
- "Righteous and Harmonious Fists" convinced Dowager Empress to assist in expelling foreigners
- Boxers killed missionaries and Christians in 1898
 - 20,000 international troops defeated Boxers in Beijing in 1900



f. Chang'e (chahng-uh)

- Myth of beautiful wife who drank a potion stolen from her husband
 - Chang'e flew to moon, became immortal, and is celebrated in the Mid-Autumn Festival's love for beauty

g. Chiang Kai-shek (chee-ahng ki shuhk, 1887-1975)

- Led rebellion against Manchu Dynasty, later joining Sun Yat-sen's forces
- Strongly anticommunist, he united all of China below the Great Wall
 - Eventually fled to Taiwan and formed government in exile there

h. Chinese examination system

- Exam system begun in first century A.D. for civil service entrance
- Rigorous preparation was required, enabling only the wealthy to send members to the exams
- Many Western nations adapted the exam for their own use
 - Practice abolished in 1906



i. Chinese exclusion

- Discrimination against Chinese immigrants in U.S.
- 1882 act prohibited Chinese workers from entering the country
 - 1965 constitutional amendment eliminated ethnic discrimination in immigration policies

j. Chinese inventions

- Gunpowder, compass, paper, printing, moveable press
 - Developed some 100-400 years before European counterparts

k. Chinese painting



- Begun on walls of family tombs
- Walls, silk and paper surfaces emphasize themes of religion, mythology and human life
- Landscape painting intertwines ideals of philosophy with nature

I. Chinese rites

- Aspects of ancestor veneration used by Jesuit priests to introduce Catholic practice
- By 1651, some 150,000 Chinese converts began holding prestigious positions in dynastic courts
- Catholic hierarchy disagreed with inclusion of Confucian rite, eventually declaring practices heretical
 - Jesuits disbanded in 1773 as a result (restored in 1814)

m. Ci Xi (tsee shee, 1835-1908)



- Dowager (DOW-ah-jahr) Empress, one of most powerful women in Chinese history
- Ruled instead of her emperor husband at his death in 1856 in format "behind the screen" of her young son, Tong Zhi

n. Cultural Revolution

- Political movement sparked by Jian Qing (jee-ahng cheeng) wife of Mao Zedong (mow dsuh-dohng)
- Movement attempted to abolish mental/manual labor distinctions
- Academics went to farms, ancient objects of art were destroyed along with buildings and temples, scholars were sent to military and reform schools
 - 1976 earthquake, followed by Mao Zedong's death effectively ended the revolution, and led to Jiang Qing's arrest



o. Du Fu (doo foo A.D. 712 - 770)

- One of China's greatest poets who spent much of his life in wandering poverty
 - Poetry reflects humanity's trying times

p. Eight Revolutionary Operas

- After founding of People's Republic of China, opera and plays were reformed for all society, not just elites, to understand
- Traditional drama and opera, termed feudalistic propaganda by the Cultural Revolution, was banned and replaced with the Eight Revolutionary Operas
 - Socialist, Communist and revolutionary thought was content

q. Erhu (uhr hoo)

- Chinese two-string fiddle imitating the human voice

r. Foot-binding

- Beginning with dancing girls in the tenth century, girls between the ages of 5-12 years had their feet bound
- The resulting walk was considered sexually appealing
- Poorer families boycotted the practice as they could not afford to lose workers with such a burden
 - Banned in 1912 and all but disappeared by 1949

s. Forbidden City

- Ancient Imperial Palace, in center of Beijing, used by Ming and Qing Dynasties
- Occupies 250 acres, 9,000 rooms, a 170 foot wide moat and 33 foot high wall
 - Currently a museum and tourist attraction

t. Gang of Four

- Individuals who led the Cultural Revolution
- Jiang Qing (Mao's wife); Wang Hongwen (whang hohng-wuhn); Zhang Chunqiao (jahng choo-chee-ow); and Yao Wenyuan (Yow wuhn-yoo-ahn)
 - All arrested after Mao's death in 1976



u. Great Leap Forward

- Implemented between 1958-59, this plan sought to promote productivity and economic socialism
- Resulted in squandering of natural and human resources
 - Dislocation and famines of the early 1960s resulted