

Culture of the Xinjiang Region



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ethnic groups

- ❑ I will be talking primarily about Uyghur culture.

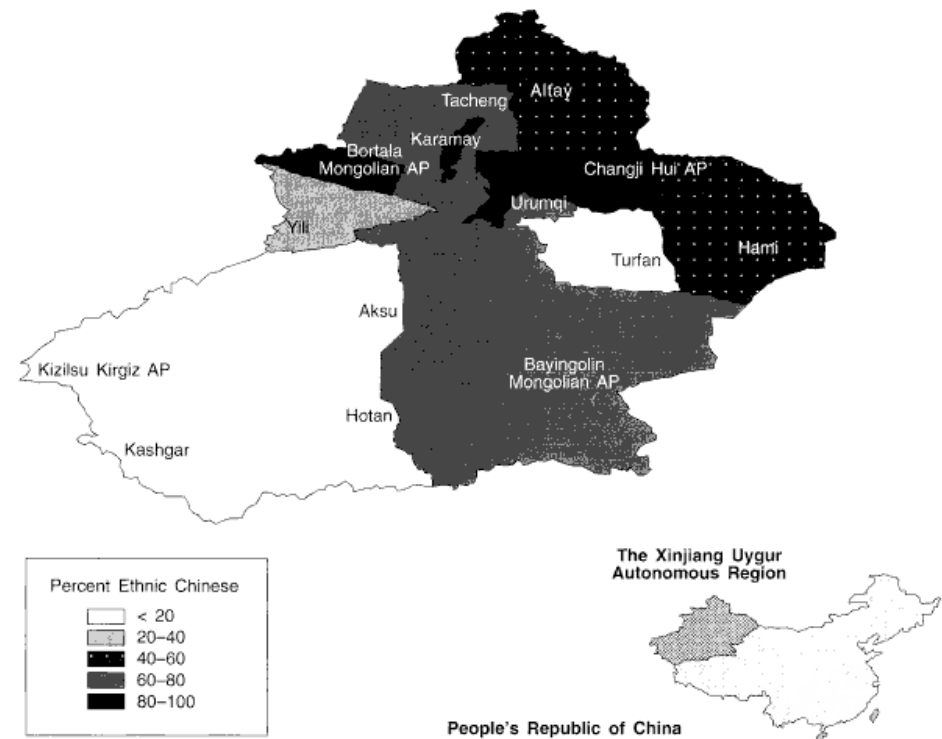
Ethnic groups in Xinjiang, 2000 census

Nationality	Population (million)	Percentage
Uyghur	8.3	45
Han	7.5	41
Kazakh	1.2	7
Hui	0.8	5
Kirghiz	0.15	0.86
Mongol	0.15	0.81

Han migration

- From 1950's to 1970's Chinese government's policy was a centrally planned and balanced economic growth. This led to Han immigration to the region.
- From 1950 to 1970 Han population has increased from 7% to 40%.
- Chinese ethnicity is densely populated around Urumqi and other large cities. The rural parts are still mostly Turkic.

MAP 1. ETHNIC CHINESE (HAN) AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL PREFECTURE'S POPULATION: XINJIANG, 1990



occupation

- Agricultural workers make up 50% of the people of the region. 75% of the agricultural workers are of ethnic minorities.
- (silk and carpet weaving)

TABLE 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LABOR FORCE IN XINJIANG, 1982 AND 1990

Occupation	Occupational Distribution		Percentage of Workers Who Are:				
	N	Percentage	Ethnic Minorities	Women	College Educated	Illiterate	Rural Residents
1982							
Professional and technical workers	3,164	10.5	38.3	45.1	11.7	0.2	65.7
Managers and administrators	628	2.1	30.3	9.7	4.6	2.7	66.6
Clerical workers	764	2.5	34.7	22.9	4.1	1.4	57.1
Sales workers	526	1.7	42.4	55.9	0.8	11.0	57.8
Service workers	917	3.0	25.8	57.8	0.0	17.7	54.7
Agricultural workers	17,712	58.9	69.4	52.1	0.0	39.0	91.9
Manufacturing and transportation workers	6,353	21.1	23.2	37.2	0.2	14.1	52.2
Other	19	0.1	57.9	42.1	5.3	21.1	84.2
Total	30,083	99.9 ^a	52.8	46.8	1.5	26.8	77.6
Han: minority index of dissimilarity	39.1						
1990							
Professional and technical workers	4,121	11.0	40.8	55.3	21.7	0.1	40.6
Managers and administrators	959	2.6	28.8	12.5	23.6	0.1	37.3
Clerical workers	1,351	3.6	36.8	32.5	18.5	0.3	34.9
Sales workers	1,683	4.5	38.4	50.7	0.9	7.7	36.8
Service workers	1,431	3.8	41.2	56.5	0.5	8.5	37.0
Agricultural workers	18,601	49.6	76.7	50.0	0.0	19.9	85.2
Manufacturing and transportation workers	9,334	24.9	23.7	36.4	1.2	5.7	31.6
Other	15	0.0	20.0	46.7	0.0	6.7	40.0
Total	37,495	100.0	53.8	45.9	4.0	12.0	59.9
Han: minority index of dissimilarity	45.7						

Sources: 1982 and 1990 census 1% samples.

^aColumn does not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

people

- ❑ The Uyghur people are Caucasian, tall and generally slender in appearance. In appearance they are similar in appearance to other Turkic people.
- ❑ Traditional Turkish culture is nomadic.
- ❑ Uyghurs are one of the first Turkic groups to settle (9th century).
- ❑ Music and food are both important parts of their lives.
- ❑ Literature is mostly oral.



people

Bazaar in
Kashgar



people

- ▣ Dresses are brightly colored



people

Turpan



people



people



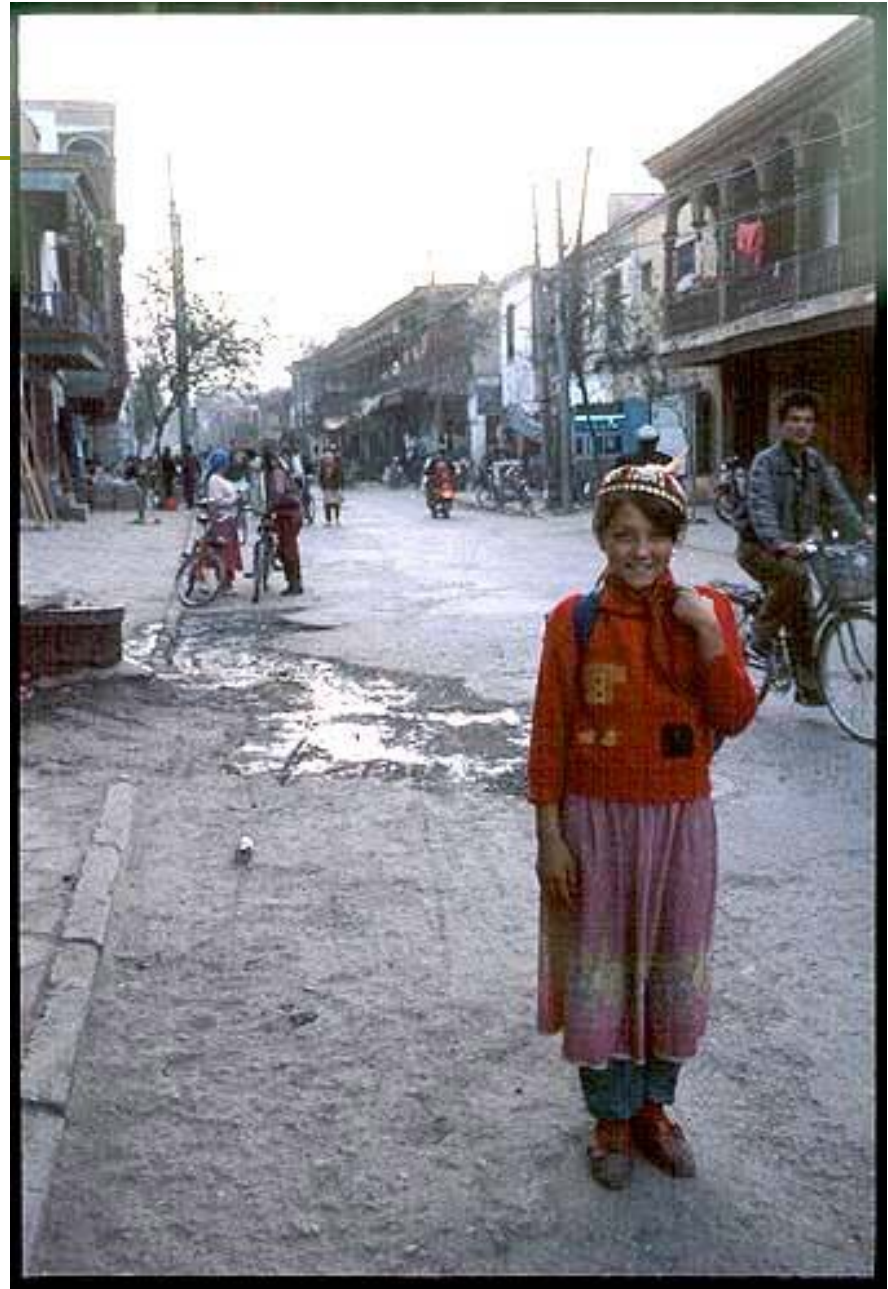
people

Music is very important part of the culture.



people

Kashgar girl



people

Taklamakan girl



people

Kashgar



people

Uyghur boy from
Kashgar



people

A girl from Turpan

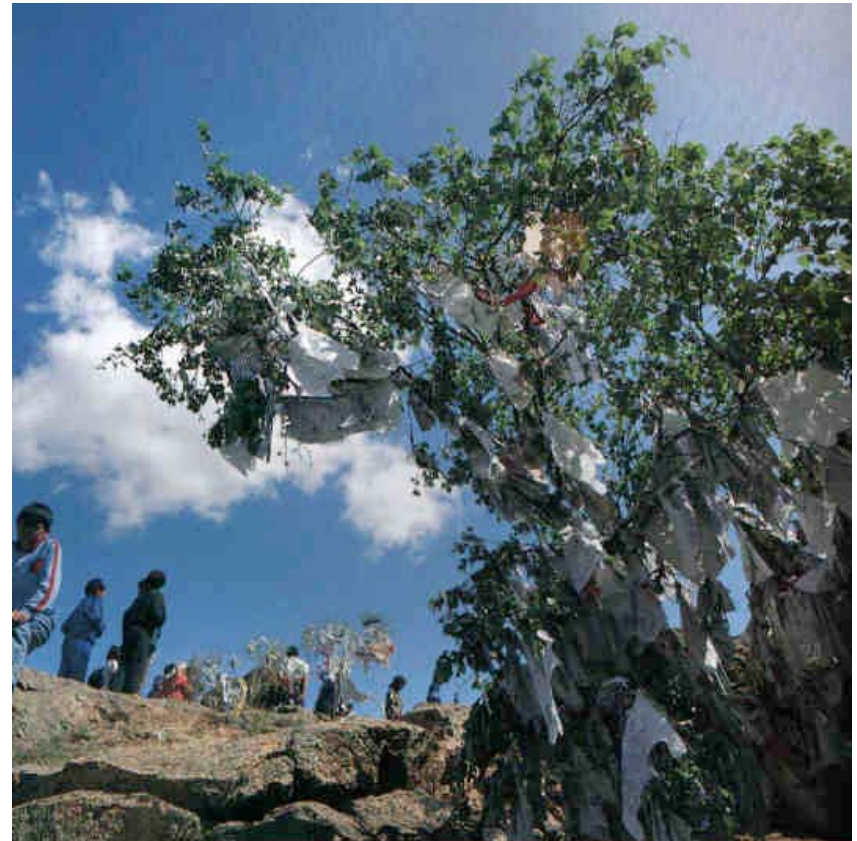


people



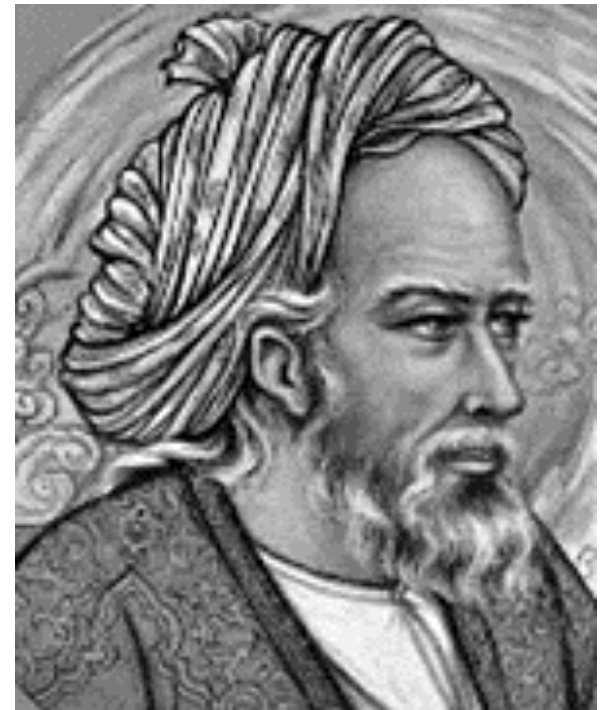
religion

- ❑ Shamanism was the prominent religion in the region
- ❑ Buddhism dominated the region. Islam came quite late (starting of 11th century)
- ❑ Uygurs are Sunni Muslims for the school of hanafi
- ❑ The religious and cultural Center of the Uygur is Kashgar
- ❑ Relatively liberal Muslims
- ❑ Movement of independence increases religious sentiments.



religion

a rubai by Omar Khayyam:
You have decrees but
we live a good life
we are more sober than you
although we are drunk
you drink blood of people
and we drink blood of grapes
mercy my sultan
which of us are more evil



Omer Khayyam

religion



Some cultural standards to know

- ❑ Handshake is common if you meet somebody.
- ❑ Men and women do not touch each other.
- ❑ Eating while walking is a poor manner.
- ❑ Visitors are always welcome with teas.
- ❑ It is rude not to touch your food if you are offered.

dwelling

- A **Yurt** is a portable felt dwelling structure (like tent) used traditionally by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia.
- It means home, or homeland in Turkish.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yurt>



dwelling

- ❑ Traditional Uyghur house is made from dried mud.
- ❑ The roofs are flat. People sleep on the roofs on very warm weathers.
- ❑ Mostly single-story houses with a living room opening to street.



language

- ▣ Uyghur belongs to Turkic branch of Ural-Altaic family of languages. It is almost identical to the languages of Turkish, Azeri, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Tartar, Bashkurt, Chuvash, Yakut and other Turkic dialects.
- ▣ The alphabet is some sort of Arabic.

food



food

samsa



food





QIYMA KEBAB
RESTAURANT UYGHUR

food

polo



noodles



food



laghman

food



Water mellons

Music



Dutar/dotar



- a long-necked plucked lute with two nylon (formerly silk) strings tuned a fifth or sometimes a fourth apart, with seventeen chromatic frets. The dutar is beautifully decorated, like all Uyghur lutes, with settings in horn or bone. It is used to accompany folksongs, and as a supporting instrument in the muqam. A dutar can be found in almost every Uyghur home, and is the sole instrument which Uyghur women have traditionally played. It is played glissando, mainly on the upper string but with some heterophony from the thumb on the lower string.

Rawap

- Rawap is the most popular instrument among the Uighur instruments
- It has a banjo type sound.



Tanbir/Tambur

The word tambur comes from the Arabic 'tunbur,' and it is widely believed that this comes from the Sumerian word 'pantur,' a semispherical stringed instrument with a long stem. Another view is that it comes from the words (tabla, tabl, tabl, tabul etc.) for percussion instruments that have been used since the very earliest times. There is mention in the Hittite civilisation of a stringed instrument called a 'TIBULA.' It is generally agreed that this was in all probability a long-stemmed stringed instrument. Texts from those times reveal that it was used to accompany the spoken word and dancing.



def



Khushtar

The Khushtar's beautiful form and resonate sound has made it a mainstay of Uyghur Orchestras. In recent years, it has also gained in popularity among mainstream Chinese as well as with many westerners.

The Khushtar is named for the carved bird that is placed on top of the handle. Khush means bird, and tar means strings. The sound of a Khushtar is very clear and resonate, reminiscent of a birdsong.

The Khushtar evolved, in ancient Kashgar, from the venerable Ghijek instrument, taking on the lower tones as its specialty. In ancient times, during the heyday of the Silk Road, the Khushtar was called the Ashtar.

Amazingly, this musical instrument was actually lost for some generations. However, after meticulous research, the Khushtar has been brought back to the forefront and is crafted once again according to tradition.



Thanks



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- ▣ You can check the link below for more information on the socioeconomical situation and its ethnic divisions in the link below:

<http://www.jstor.org/view/00703370/di009188/00p00325/2?frame=noframe&userID=83d741e7@caltech.edu/01cce4401e0050b3366&dpi=3&config=jstor>