



Beijing 2008



**Go 2008 Olympics!  
Go China!**



Authors: *Minye Zhang and Di Lu*

All errors are our own. Copyright notice: Free to use. Just give the credit to the authors. Email correspondence to: [zhangminye@gmail.com](mailto:zhangminye@gmail.com)

# People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国

(Simplified Chinese characters)

中華人民共和國

(Traditional Chinese characters)

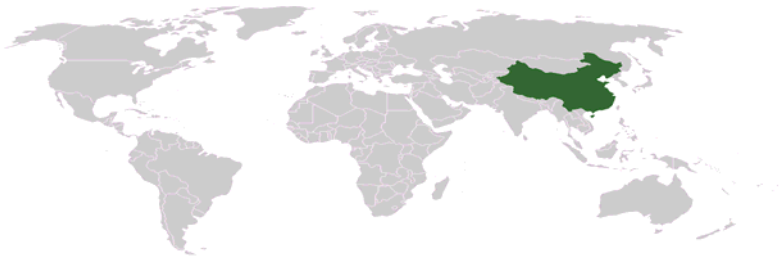
Flag



Emblem



## Anthem: March of the Volunteers



- Establishment: Oct 1, 1949
- Capital: Beijing
- President: Hu, Jintao
- Area: 9.64 million km<sup>2</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Population: 1,32 billion (1<sup>st</sup>)
- GDP (PPP) 2007\*
  - Total \$7.043 trillion (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Per capita \$7,660 (67<sup>th</sup>)
- GDP (nominal) 2007\*
  - Total \$3.42 trillion (4<sup>th</sup>)
  - Per capita \$2,800 (101<sup>st</sup>)
- GDP Growth (real)\*
  - 2007: 12.4%
  - 1978-2007: 9.67%
- Currency: Yuan, Hong Kong dollar, Macanese pataca

\* Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao are not included.



# History of China

## Civilization Origin & Development (3000BC-1842)

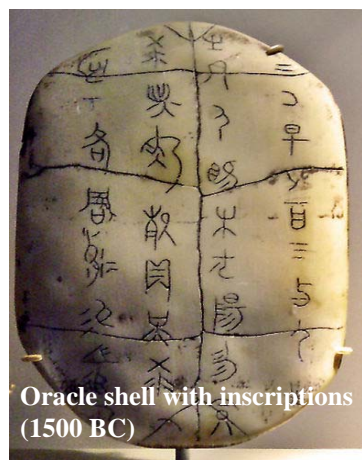
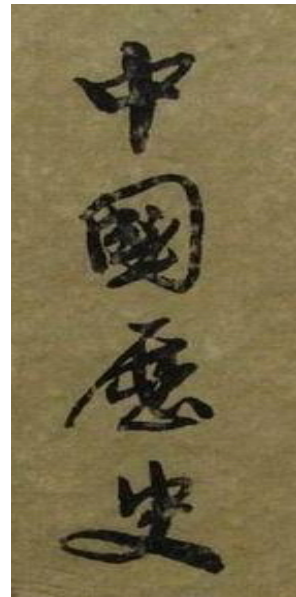
China is one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations. The history as recorded extends back about 5,000 years ago. Recorded history dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century BC.

The Great Wall (200 BC - 220 BC)

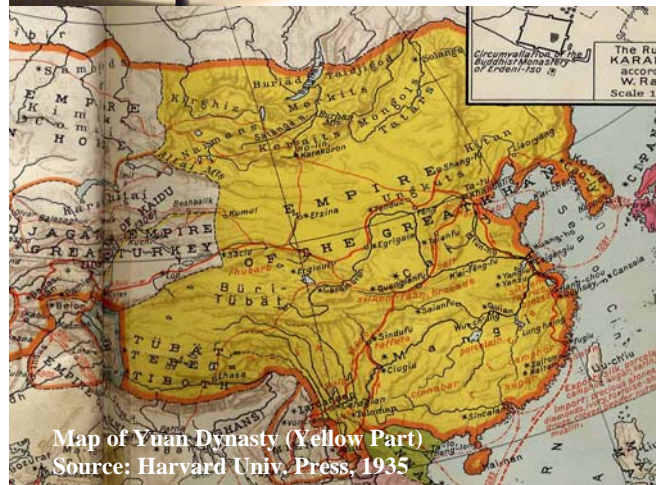


In 221 BC, *Qin Shi Huang* first united China and established the Qin Dynasty. The Great Wall was built to protect the northern borders.

Successive dynasties developed brilliant civilization that enabled China to control the large territory. In Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Xinjiang (Huigu), Tibet (Tubat) and Mongolia became China's territory.



Oracle shell with inscriptions (1500 BC)



Map of Yuan Dynasty (Yellow Part)  
Source: Harvard Univ. Press, 1935

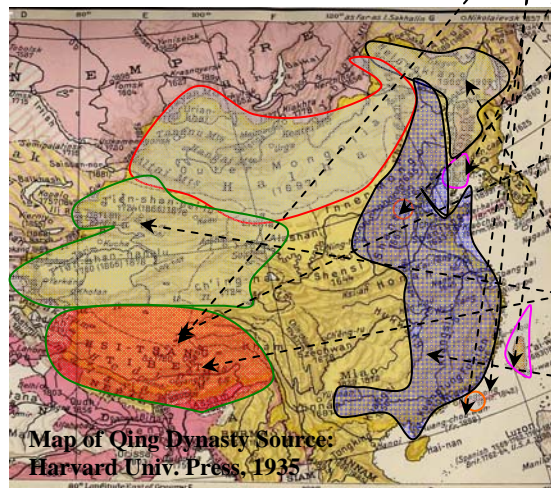
## External Pressure, Separation, and Civil War (1842-1951)

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the last ruling dynasty--Qing (1644–1912) control weakened and prosperity diminished. Starting from 1842 to 1951, invasions, occupations, and wars are the history themes.



Famous French l cartoon from the late 1890s. A pie representing China is divided among UK, Germany, Russia, France and Japan.

- The First Opium War (1838-1842): Forced China to import opium. Hong Kong Island was ceded to British. Europeans, Japan, and the U.S. seized coastal ports as a step to complete colonial control.
- The Second Opium War (1856-1860): Kowloon was ceded to British. British-French troops looted and burnt the Summer Palace and the Old Summer Palace.
- In 1888, Britain launched first invasion into Tibet as an attempt to build up an exclusive colonial influence on Tibet.
- Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895): China ceded the Liaodong Peninsula, Taiwan and the Pescadores Islands to Japan.
- Eight-Nation Alliance invasion (1900): Beijing was looted. China paid extensive amounts of indemnity.
- 1903-1904, Britain launched second invasion into Tibet. The 13th Dalai Lama fled, thus was deposed by the central government.
- Russo-Japan War (1904-1905): Japan seized China's northeast.
- Xinhai Revolution (1912): The Qing Dynasty collapsed. China lost the effective control of Tibet and Mongolia.
- Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945): More pains!
- Civil War (1945-1951): P.R. China is founded in 1949. Tibet returned to China in 1951.



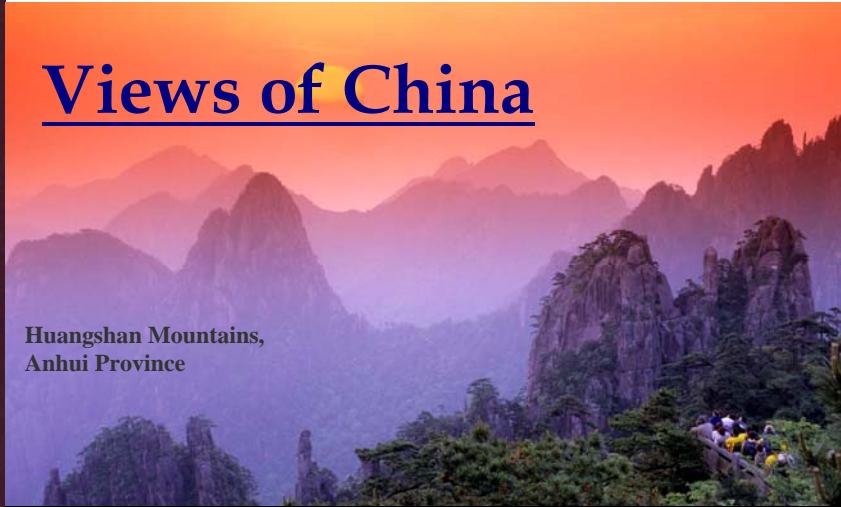
Map of Qing Dynasty Source:  
Harvard Univ. Press, 1935



中国风景

Views of China

Huangshan Mountains, Anhui Province



Li River, Guangxi Province



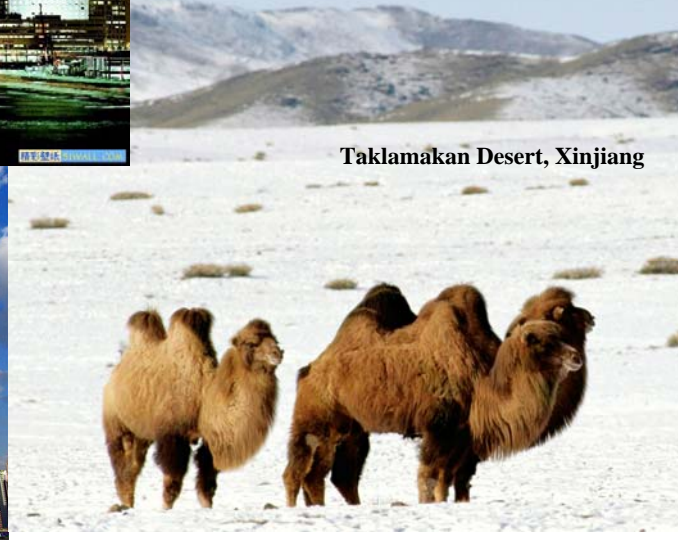
Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong SAR



The Summer Palace, Beijing



Taklamakan Desert, Xinjiang



Lujiazui, Shanghai



An unknown valley, Sichuan



Guangzhou, Guangdong Province





Potala Palace, Tibet



All Chinese currency carries five languages: Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Uigur, and Zhuang. The picture of Potala Palace, Tibet, is printed on the China's 50 Yuan currency notes (the 5<sup>th</sup> edition)

# Nationalities

## Minority Nationalities in China

China is a united and multi-national country. Officially, China has 56 nationality groups, including Han Chinese. Non-Han groups, referred to as the “minority nationalities” constitute only about 9.4% of China’s population.

## Policy toward Minorities

The Chinese government adopts the policy of equality, unity and mutual assistance among different nationalities and respects and protects the religious freedom and customs.

## Special Rights and Preferences

Special preferences only applied to minorities are:

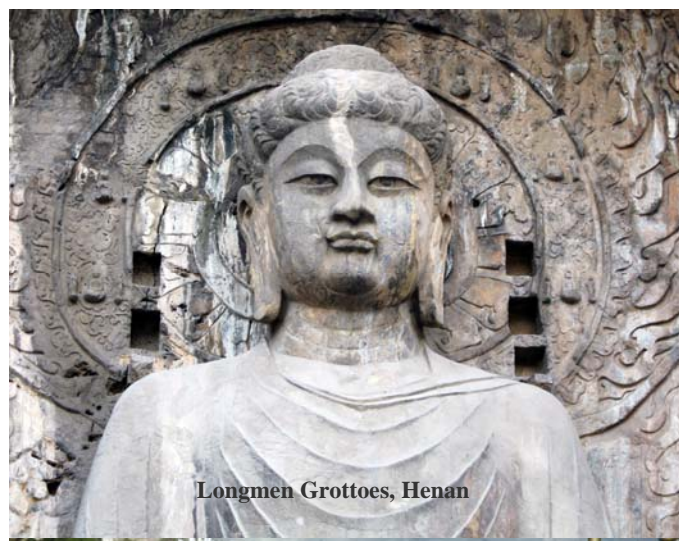
- Free health insurance and endowment insurance.
- Free primary and high school education.
- Favorable income tax policy. For example, all peasants and shepherds in Tibet are qualified for the income tax exemption and the corporation income tax rate in Tibet is reduced by 3% from current rates.
- One-child-policy is only applied to Han Chinese. That’s why the population ratio of minorities increased to 9.4% in 2005, from 4% in 1978.
- Lower APR (2% off) when raising debts from state-owned banks.
- Priority in education and employment admission, and public housing application.
- ... (still a lot of)

# 宗教与民族

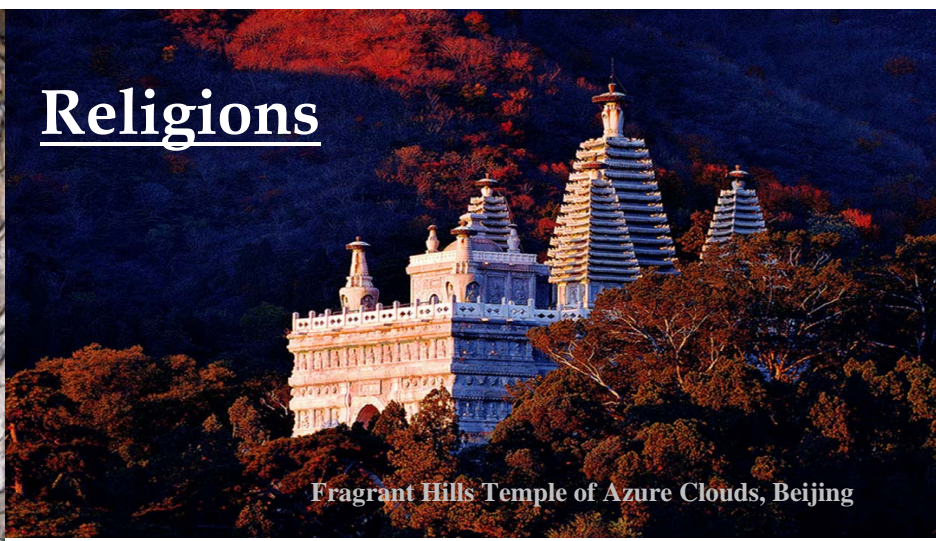




# Religions



Longmen Grottoes, Henan



Fragrant Hills Temple of Azure Clouds, Beijing

## Religion Policy

The Constitution stipulates: "Citizens of the P. R. China enjoy freedom of religion. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens because they do, or do not believe in religion. The state protects normal religious activities."

## Major Religions

- Buddhism: About 200,000 Buddhist monks and nuns, about 13,000 temples, 33 Buddhist colleges.
- Tibetan Buddhism: Mainly spread in Tibet and Qinghai Province with some 7 million believers.
- Islam: Nearly 20 million believers. More than 30,000 mosques with over 40,000 imams or ahungs.
- Taoism: 1,500 temples with over 25,000 Taoist.
- Catholicism: More than 100 parishes, some 5 million believers, nearly 5,000 cathedrals.
- Christianity: About ten million Christian believers, 18 thousand priests and 12 churches.

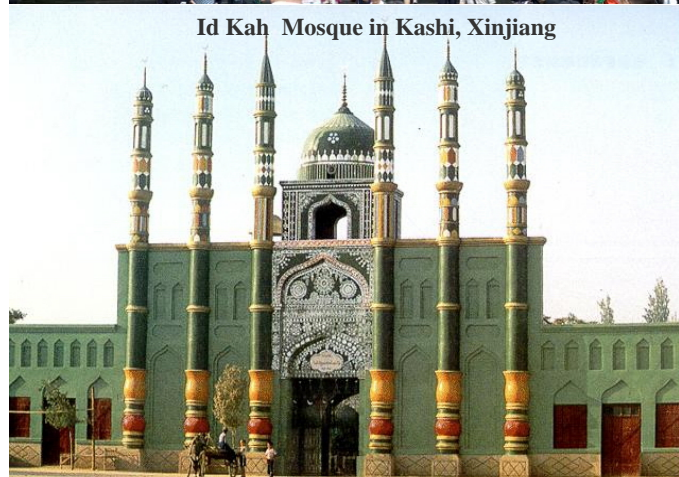


Prayers in Lhasa, Tibet

## 宗教与民族



Shangqin Taoist Temple, Henan



Id Kah Mosque in Kashi, Xinjiang



choir in a Shanghai Church

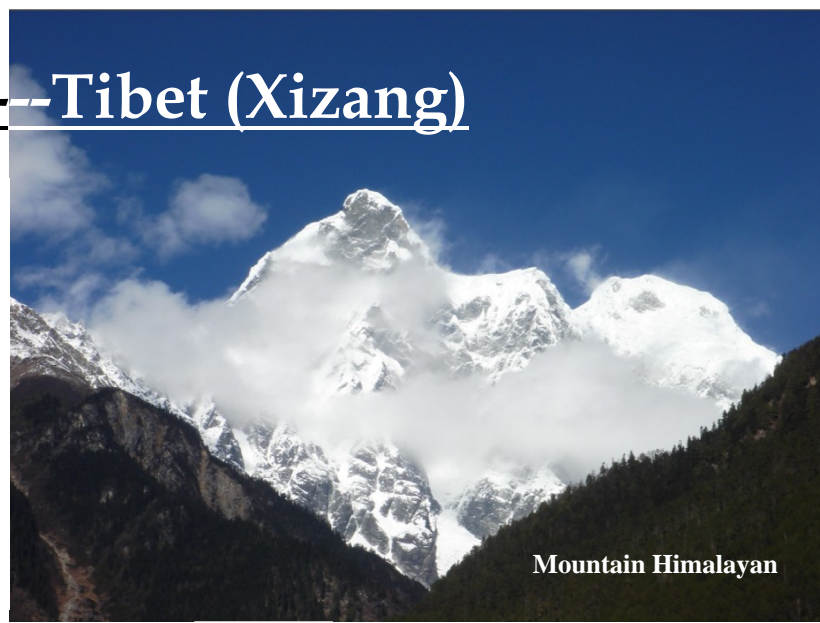
Ritual in a Shanghai cathedral



# The Roof of the World -- Tibet (Xizang)

**T**ibet is a plateau region over the west of China. With an average elevation of 4,900 metres (16,000 ft), it is the highest region on the Earth.

The climate of Tibet is characterized as high-cold, severely dry, windy, low oxygen, and strong solar radiation. Year-round temperatures average subzero, plunging to around  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter.



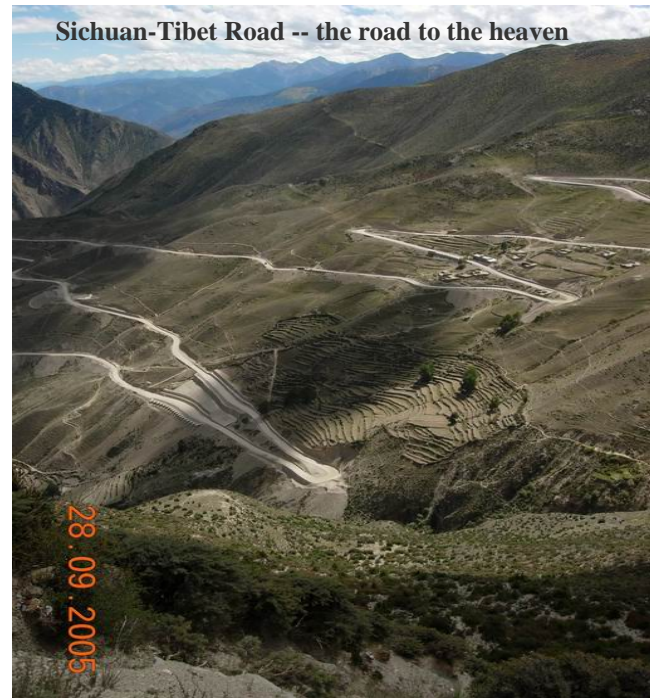
Mountain Himalayan

Frozen earth and freezing wind



As a result of this extremely inhospitable environment, Tibet is one of the harshest places for human existence. It is one of the least populated regions in the world. The economy of Tibet is dominated by self-sufficient subsistence agriculture. Due to limited arable land, livestock-raising is the primary industry.

Sichuan-Tibet Road -- the road to the heaven



Although the Sino-Tibet Relations has lasted for thousands of years, because of the geographical obstacles, the inter-communication between them is heavily blocked by the high mountains, snow, and landslides.

The harshest climate, forbidding terrain, and remote location emerged the unique Tibetan Buddhism that came to dominate nearly all aspects of secular life.

A Fresco in Patala Palace



An elder Tibetan civilian, walking and praying





# The Past of Tibet (Pre-1959)

Before the 1959 reform, Tibet was a society of feudal serfdom and theocracy. Western travelers described it as Western European serfdom in Middle Ages.

- **Theocracy**

Monasteries dominate the secular society. Dalai Lama is the highest leader in his territory. Therefore, the Tibetan feudal serf system under the integration of religion and politics was a dictatorship of monks and aristocrats.

- **Three Strata and Nine Grades**

According to the old *Tibet Thirteen-Article Code* and the *Sixteen-Article Code*, Tibetan people are divided into three strata in nine grades according to their family background and social status. “The life value of the top stratum people is worth his weight in gold ... that of the lowest is just worth a grass rope.”

The top stratum is the ruling class, or serf owners. They were composed of high-level monks, aristocrats, and high-level officials. They constituted 5% of Tibet’s population but possessed almost all the farmland, pastures, forests, mountains and rivers, and most of the livestock. The remaining grades are serfs, which account for 95% of the population but only possessed 5% of the whole wealth. The lowest grade is slave. Slaves are treated as “talking animals” with extreme brutality.

- **Gender Discrimination**

Women are classified as the low stratum.

- **Closed and Self-sufficient Economy**

Old Tibetan economy was dominated by self-sufficient agriculture and livestock raising sector. Productivity is low.

- **Privileges are not human rights!**

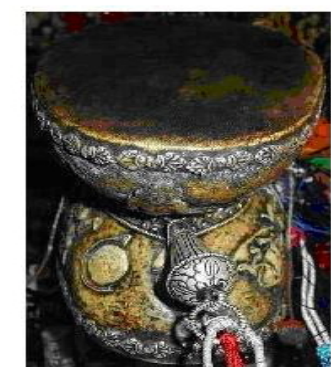
Extreme poverty, high infant mortality, and short life expectancy prevailed. Are those human rights?



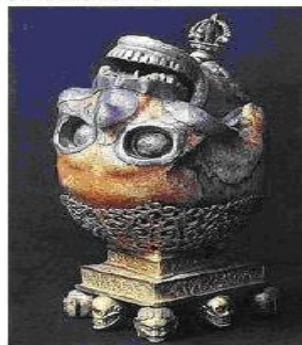
A piece of human child skin



A piece of adult human skin and two pieces of children's skin.



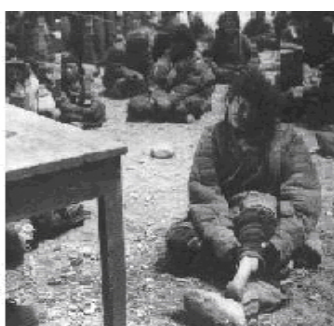
A Tibetan Buddhist instrument (drum) made by a virgin girl's skin



A Tibetan Buddhist instrument made by human skull



Two chained slaves



A slave whose feet were cut off by his master



Slaves whose arms were cut off by their masters



Potala Palace, Tibet



# Tibet Today

## - With Smiles and Hopes

### Tax and Fiscal Support\*

From 1959, the Central Chinese government exempts Tibet from all taxation and provides 94.9% of Tibet's government fiscal expenditure.

### Aid and Build Plan\*\*

Chinese Central government setups an enormous aid and build plan for Tibet which have been carried out by both the central government and other provincial governments. From 1984 to 2005, the accumulative value of this plan is 40.8 billion Yuan (5.8 billion USD) which supports 1,009 projects.

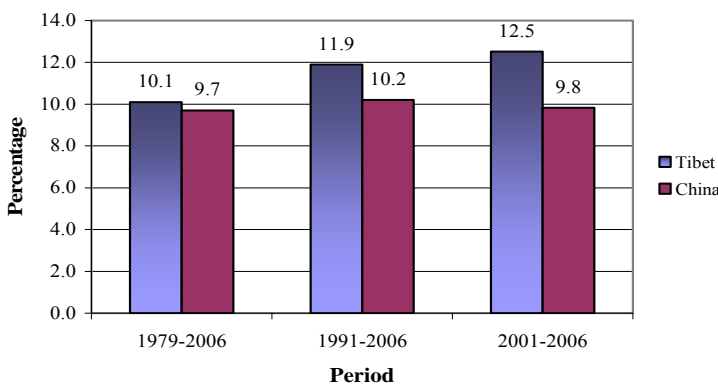
### 1951 to 2006, what change?!

1951 see the return of Tibet to China.  
 1959 see the Dalai Lama's rebellion and the overthrow of the theocracy.  
 2006 see the tremendous changes...

### Statistics Comparison between 1951 and 2006\*#

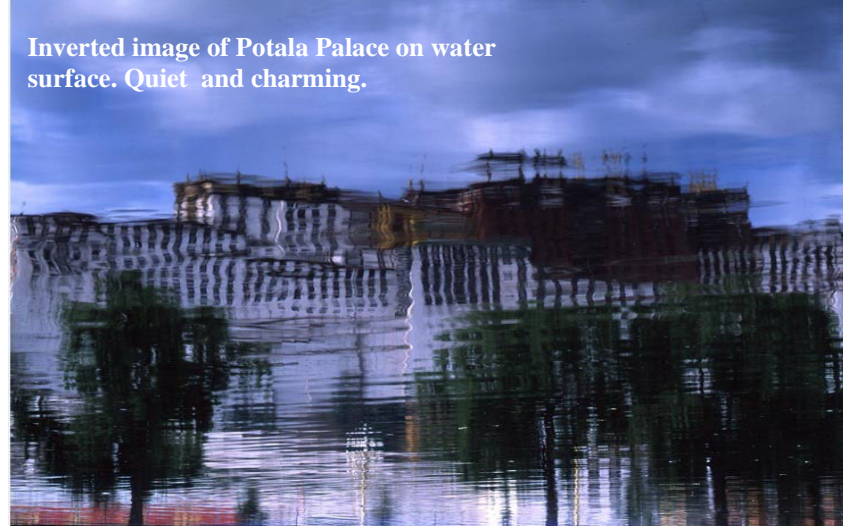
	1951	2006
Infant mortality per Thousand	430	35
Life expectancy	37	67
GDP (Billion Yuan)	<0.3	29.1
GDP per capita (Yuan)	<200	10356.23
Tibet Population	970,000	2,810,000
Ratio of Tibetan to Tibet's Total Population	95%	93%

### Average GDP Growth Rate

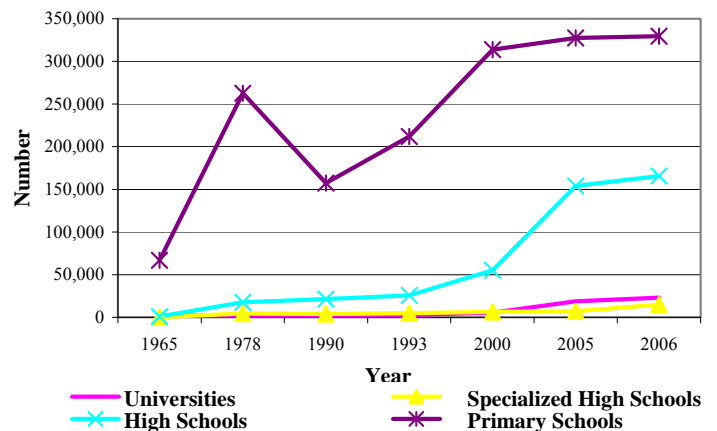


\* Tibet Autonomous Region Write Book, 2004.

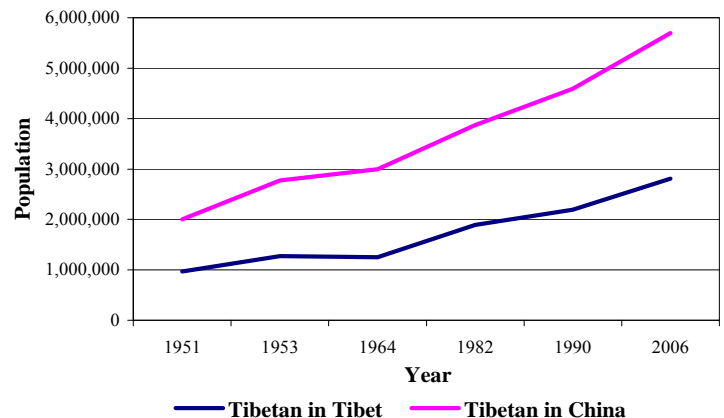
# Statistics data are from Tibet Statistical Yearbook 2007 and China Statistical Yearbook 2007



### Students Enrollment in Tibet



### Tibetan Population over Time





**The World's Olympics! China's Tibet!**  
***Beijing 2008 Olympics Welcomes You!***  
***China Welcomes You!***

