

A Brief Brochure of Tibet



Tibet Welcome You to Visit by taking train/airplane, or self-driving



The Facts of Tibet and the Dalai Lama A Pamphlet for Better Understanding

Historic Background of Tibet and Its Status within China

1. In the Tang Dynasty, the princess Wencheng (Tibetan *Mung-chang Kung-co*) married the king of Tibet, Songtsän Gampo (604-650 AD) in 641 AD.
2. In 1206, Genghis Khan included Tibet in his empire. In the mid-1600's, the Mongols allowed the Dalai Lama (meaning "a monk filled with wisdom") to have political power within Tibet. This was done after he was named the head of the Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism in the 15th century. Ever since then, Tibet has been incorporated into the territory of China's feudal dynasties, the Ming and the Qing.
3. From 1911-1950, China's control of the Tibet region was loosened but not lost due to the civil war and anti-Japanese invasion war (World War II). The government, Republic of China (1911-1949), never gave up the territory of Tibet and never recognized Tibet as an independent region.
4. In 1950 the 14th Dalai Lama appointed Nga-Bou Nga-Wang Jig-Me as the leader of a delegation to Beijing to negotiate with the new Chinese government and made *The Seventeen Point Agreement* (wikipedia: *Seventeen Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet*) which was the same as what happened in history since the time of Genghis Khan established Yuan Dynasty. Thus, Tibet was peacefully liberated in 1951.

Pre-1959 Tibet-Serfdom

Historically the period when Dalai Lamas ruled Tibet before 1959-reforms, has been deemed a Lamaist (Buddhist) theocracy, accompanying serfdom. Comparably, in the modern world, the Taliban state in Afghanistan (1996-2001) was also theocratic governance.

Specifically the majority of the rural population was serfs in 1953. Tied to the land, they were allotted only a small parcel to grow their own food. Serfs and other peasants were illiterate and generally went without schooling or medical care. They spent most of their time laboring for the monasteries and individual high-ranking lamas, or for a secular aristocracy that numbered not more than 200 families.

In effect, they were owned by their masters who told them what crops to grow and what animals to raise. They could not get married without the consent of their lord or lama. A serf might easily be separated from his family should the owner send him to work in a distant location. Serfs could be sold by their masters, or subjected to torture and death.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Examples_of_feudalism#Tibet_2813th_century_until_1959.29)

Tibet after 1959

In 1951, when China regained effective control of Tibet and thereafter in 1959, reforms were taken to free Tibetan serfs
(Note for comparison: *in the same year, Hawaii was admitted to the Union on August 21, 1959, making it the 50th state of USA. After statehood, Hawaii quickly became a modern state with a construction boom and rapidly growing economy. In recent decades, the state government has implemented programs to promote Hawaiian culture.*)

This liberation of serfs in Tibet was the same movement as the American Civil War (1861-1864) to end the slavery in the United States under the Lincoln presidency. Tibet, as part of China, is equally treated as the rest provinces, the same way as US federal government treat California, Texas and Hawaii equally to New England 13 states and all the rest states.

Tibetan exiles trained in a CIA camp in Colorado clashed with Chinese forces in 1959 during the celebration of the Tibetan New Year, after which the 14th Dalai Lama, with CIA help, went into political exile in India. After 1959, the CIA trained Tibetan guerrillas and provided funds and weapons for the fight against China. The so-called "uprising" in Tibet was actually attempts by the serf owners to try to restore the serfdom in Tibet.

In 1965, the area that had been under the control of the Dalai Lama's government was renamed to the Tibet Autonomous Region or TAR and chairmen of TAR are Tibetans.

The CIA's support to the Tibetan exiles stopped when Richard Nixon decided to seek rapprochement with China in the early 1970s. Kenneth Conboy and James Morrison, in *The CIA's Secret War in Tibet*, reveal how the CIA encouraged Tibet's revolt against China and eventually came to control its fledgling resistance movement. The New York Times reported on October 2, 1998 that the Dalai Lama's administration acknowledged that it received \$1.7 million a year in the 1960s from the CIA. (For more detail: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Tibet)

Terrorism, in the modern sense, is violence against civilians to achieve political or ideological objectives by creating fear.

A group called the **Tibet Youth Congress** has been gradually developed into the Al-Qaeda-like organization. The riot in Lhasa, Tibet, on March 14, 2008, was not a peaceful demonstration, but a terrorist attack against civilians on the Lhasa's streets.

The Dalai Lama, a front man for "non-violence", had refused to condemn the violence initially and later even threatened to have more severe violence, i.e. the militant wings of his groups launch terrorist attacks against innocent civilians and infrastructures.

The Dalai Lama agrees that "Tibet is a part of the People's Republic of China. It is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China. Tibetan culture and Buddhism are part of Chinese culture." (www.telegraph.co.uk) While the US government repeatedly urges China to have dialogue with Dalai Lama, the long-neglected fact remains: the Dalai Lama needs to dismiss the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamsala, India, along with its parliament and other governmental organizations and abolish its constitution, in order to support his claims.

Ten Facts You May Not Know About the Dalai Lama and Tibet

Fact #1: Tibet became part of China in the 14 century, 130 years before Columbus discovered America.

Fact #2: Tibetans suffered serfdom under the regime of the Dalai Lama before 1959. The Dalai Lama and the ruling class who made up of 5% of Tibetan population owned all the land, while the rest 95% of Tibetans were slaves, treated as "things" or property by the Dalai Lama and other slave owners. They even had leg-irons on their bodies to be prevented from fleeing.

Fact #3: It is not invasion. China peacefully freed Tibet (1951) and Tibetan slaves (1959) from a long-time serfdom regime through a negotiation process with the Dalai Lama and his representatives. Tibet has since then re-controlled as part of China, Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region (TAR).

Fact #4: The Dalai Lama was appointed by the Chinese government as the Vice Chair of National People's Congress in 1954 and continued to execute the autonomous power in Tibet until 1959.

Fact #5: For over fifty years, Tibet, as the "Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region (TAR)" of China, is totally tax-free! China never levied a penny on Tibetans' business or incomes or any properties.

Fact #6: For over fifty years, Chinese government has funded infrastructures include roads, railroad, bridges, electricity lines, water and sewer systems, public schools, hospitals and clinics, and recreational facilities, many of which are totally free to Tibetans.

Fact #7: Ever since 2001, China has launched a "Help Tibet" Partnership Program to encourage businesses and other local governments in wealthier part of China to invest in Tibet and to help promote the economic growth in Tibet. The capital investment totaled over \$900 million dollars in the past seven years.

Fact #8: Tibetans are protected by the Constitution of China to practice their religions. The overwhelming majorities of those Tibetans who venture across the Himalayas each year to India are NOT refugees, but are pilgrims, and most of them do so with the intention of returning.

Fact #9: The Dalai Lama condemns that the Chinese government causes "genocide". Is real? Rather, the cost of violent riots since March 14th, 2008: 5 hospitals, 7 public schools, 908 local business stores, 120 homes, 64 cars, and 18 PRECIOUS LIVES of civilians.

Fact #10: It is CIA who has been funding, training and arming the Tibetan protestors since fifty years ago. And you know where the CIA money comes from, do you?

Listen to this person who figured out the true Tibet by himself:

"Before I came, 'free Tibet' seemed to be such an obvious idea...now I have been here and have talked to so many Tibetans, I am not at all sure whether Tibet needs to be an independent state and I am not at all convinced that most of the Tibetans even want that."

--- John Moge, Producer of Tibet Diary: Tibet in Two Americans' Eyes (Video).

Available at: <http://newschecker.blogspot.com/2007/12/tibet-diary/tibet-in-two-americans-eyes>
(Note: All the above information was collected/edited by student volunteers. Accuracy has been strongly sought.)

Tibet: Myth and Reality

Myth 1: Tibet was a de facto independent nation after 1911 and before the 1950s. The Chinese communist government invaded Tibet.

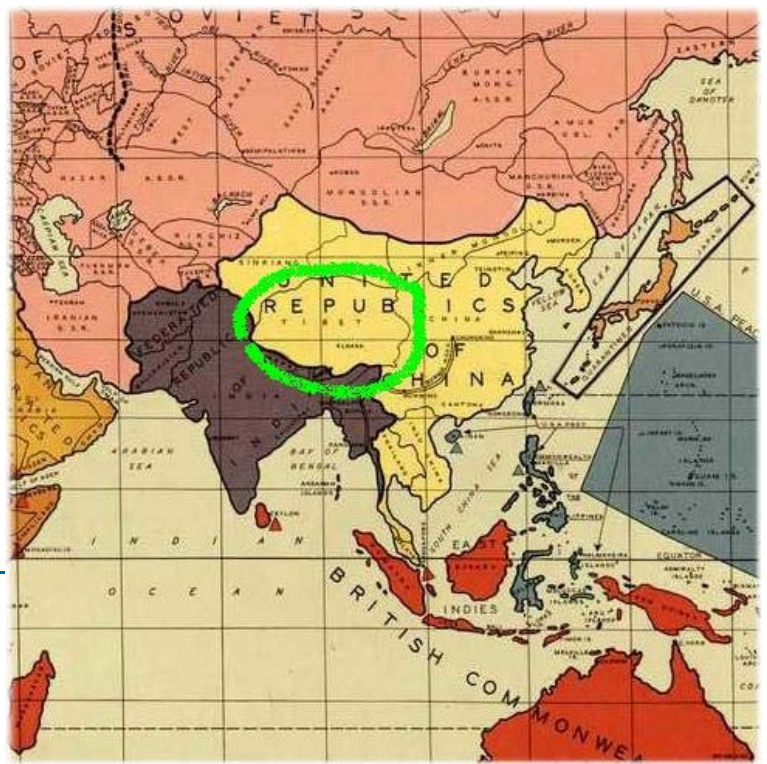
Fact : “Tibet has been a part of China ever since it was merged into that country in 1239, when the Mongols began creating the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). ...China's hold on this area sometimes appeared somewhat loose, but neither the Chinese nor many Tibetans have ever denied that Tibet has been a part of China from the Yuan Dynasty to this very day.” - *Stockwell , Foster, Tibet: Myth and Reality*

In 1941, the world community, including the U.S., acknowledged that Tibet was a part of China.



Map of Asia (A.D. 1892)

This historical map is maintained by the University of Texas at Austin and is available for download at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/>



Outline of Post-War New World Map

by Maurice Gomberg, 1941

Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington DC.

The whole map is available online

<http://images.asc.ohio-state.edu/is/image/eHistory/world/images/maps2/1942world1600.jpg?qlt=100&wid=1600>

For additional references, see:

- Explorations in Tibet, National Geographic, Sept 1903
- Goldstein, Melvyn C., A History of Modern Tibet: 1913-1951, 1989, p239
- Grunfeld, A. Tom, The Making of Modern Tibet, M.E. Sharpe, 1996, p245

Tibet: Myth and Reality

Myth 2: Tibet had been free during Dalai Lama's reign.

Fact : “Before the Democratic Reform of 1959, Tibet had long been a serfdom society under the despotic political religious rule of lamas and nobles, a society that was darker and crueler than the European serfdom of the Middle Ages. At that time, more than 90 percent of the Tibetan population was made up of serfs. They had no land or freedom, and their survival depended on estate holder's manors. Normally, the serf owners had penitentiaries or private prisons on their manorial grounds, as did large monasteries.

Punishments were extremely savage and cruel, including gouging out eyes, cutting off ears, hands and feet, pulling out tendons and throwing people into water. **Before the 1950s, Tibet was one of the regions witnessing the most serious violations of human rights in the world.** “ - **The Tibet Myth** Condensed from *Friendly Feudalism: The Tibet Myth* by Dr. Michael Parenti. <http://www.michaelparenti.org/Tibet.html>



During Dalai Lama's reign, Tibetan serfs were commonly punished by mutilation.

For additional references, see:: A. Tom Grunfeld, *The Making of Modern Tibet* pp12-15



Serfs routinely deprived of personal liberty during Dalai Lama's reign.



Less than 10% of the ethnic Tibetans lived with extravagance prior to 1959 while the remaining 90-95% were serfs.

Tibet: Myth and Reality

Myth 3: Tibet is under government suppression today and must be freed.

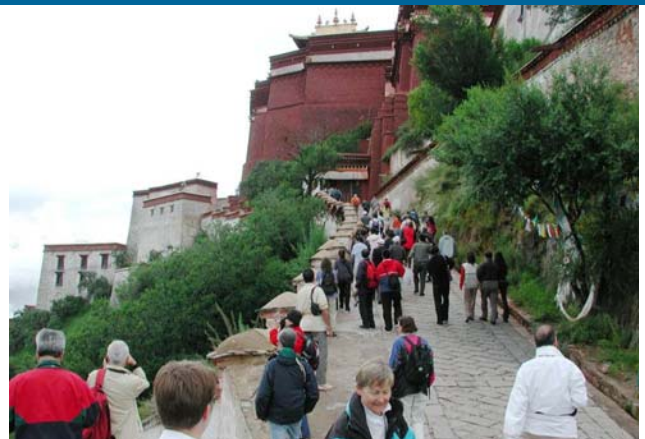
Fact : “A FIVE DAY visit to the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) in July 2000 provided me a rare journalistic opportunity to attempt some *reality testing* of Dharmasala's main campaign themes... Here, the reality testing is not against what the protagonists and victims of the 'independent Tibet' campaign *feel* or *believe*, but against what is systematically put out by the campaign as *defining themes*. Even if they have little formal official backing, these themes have acquired some kind of cult status on the world stage and shaped the perceptions of considerable numbers of people who have no contact with the realities of Tibet.”

- N. Ram, *Regarding the Tibet Reality*, Indian's National Magazine “Frontline ” Volume 17 - Issue 18, Sep. 02 - 15, 2000
- <http://www.flonnet.com/fl1718/17180040.htm>



The Potala Palace, the holiest site for Tibetans, after renovation. Beijing poured millions of dollars into the renovation of Potala as part of its efforts to promote Tibetan culture and religion. Potala was listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

“Who really can believe that a million former serfs - more than 90% of the population - are unhappy about having the shackles of serfdom removed? They now care for their own herds and farmland, marry whomever they wish without first getting their landlord's permission, aren't punished for disrespecting these same landlords, own their own homes, attend school, and have relatively modern hospitals, paved roads, airports and modern industries.” - Foster Stockwell



The Potala Palace welcomes tens of thousands of domestic and foreign tourists each year and remains the symbol of the thriving Tibetan culture and religion.

Photos source:

http://www.carto.net/neumann/travelling/china_tibet_2001/17_potala/

Myth 4: Thousands of Tibetan refugees flee China each year.

Fact : The vast majority of the some 3000 “refugees” claimed by the Tibetan Government-in-Exile did NOT cross the border into India/Nepal for cultural or political reasons. They should properly be classified as student migrants or religious pilgrims. Many went to India in order to receive a secular education in English with possible career prospects overseas. Others wanted an opportunity to receive a blessing from Dalai Lama, perceived by religious Tibetans as a living God. Just as Muslims and Catholics have thrown aside other considerations when their religious duties call, Tibetan Buddhists respond similarly. In fact, many of the 3000 Tibetans who cross into Nepal/India every year eventually return to Tibet after receiving a personal blessing from the Dalai Lama.

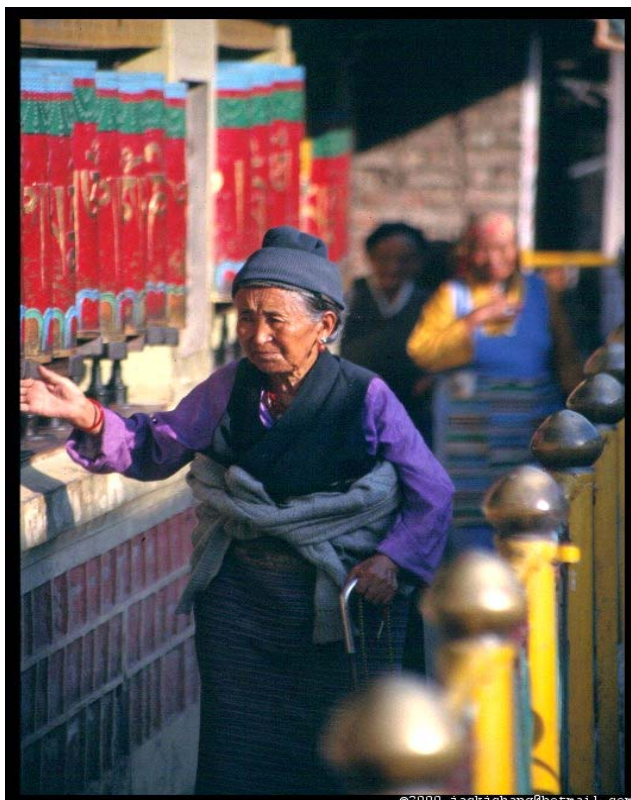


Tibetan pilgrims near the Potala Palace in Lhasa, China. Photo by Phillip Roelli

Yet the Tibetan Government-in-Exile fraudulently claims that all these Tibetans who arrive in Dharamsala are “refugees.” In order to maintain

sympathy and financial support

from Western patrons, it needs to maintain a constant influx of arriving "refugees". To that end, it enticed poor Tibetans to make the journey to India by financing their trip, promised to provide their children with an education as well as religious blessings from the Dalai Lama himself.



Tibetan pilgrim in Dharamsala, India. Photo by Jack Chang.

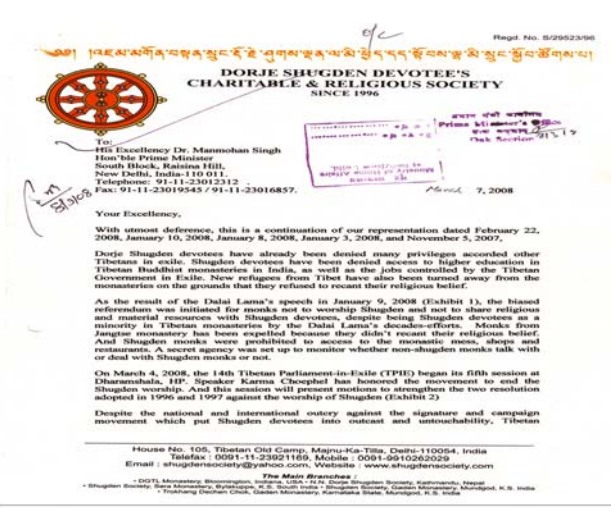
For further reading, see *The Problem with ‘Rich Refugees’: Sponsorship, Capital, and the Informal Economy of Tibetan Refugees* (Modern Asian Studies, 2006), by Audrey Prost, of the Department of Anthropology, University College London.

Tibet: Myth and Reality

Myth 5: The Dalai Lama advocates for religious freedom.

Fact : To the Dalai Lama, religious freedom means the freedom to worship only in what he believes. He used his position as the political and religious leader of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile to suppress the growing influence of Dorje Shugden worship, a rival branch of Tibetan Buddhism, in Dharamsala.

The following are excerpt from Dorje Shugden Society's Letter to Indian Prime Minister pleading for survival on March 7, 2008:



“Dorje Shugden devotees have already been denied many privileges accorded other Tibetans in exile. Shugden devotees have been denied access to higher education in Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in India, as well as the jobs controlled by the Tibetan Government in Exile. New refugees from Tibet have also been turned away from the monasteries on the grounds that they refused to recant their religious belief.”

“As the result of the Dalai Lama’s speech in January 9, 2008.. The biased referendum was initiated for monks not to worship Shugden...”

“We love and practice peace, harmony and tolerance. This distinctly demonstrates in the ongoing tense scenarios in the monasteries. **And a single word of the Dalai Lama can completely solve**

the ongoing Shugden Issue.”

“With utmost respect, we appeal to your government to send notice to the concerned offices to **end the discrimination, abuses and new Buddhist apartheid against Shugden devotees, and let these Buddhist monks live peacefully and enjoy their religious freedom as enshrined in the noble constitution.**”

The complete letter could be found under <http://dorjeshugden.com/forum/index.php?topic=187.0>

Obligations To The Truth & Discipline of Verification

-principle of Journalism

The Tibetan Government-in-Exile and the Western media were quick to brand the recent arson, looting, and random killing by the rioters in Lhasa and other parts of China in March 2008 as yet another “a peaceful protest” that was subject to the “violent crackdown” by the Chinese government. When it became apparent that the riot was anything but peaceful and that the Chinese riot police exercised restraint, the Western media modified its rhetoric to “brutal crackdown of a protest that began peacefully” that was “framed by China as a law-and-order issue.” The Tibetan Government-in-Exile went further and had the following to say:

“The Tibetans were non-violent from the beginning to the end. From the Tibetans’ perspective, violence means doing harm to human lives...The Hans could run away after being beat up. It was beating only, not harming their lives. Those killed were due to accidents...The Han Chinese didn’t run away; instead, they hid; so they were accidentally burned to death. And those who set fire on the buildings didn’t know there were people hiding upstairs, and both Tibetans and Hans were burned to death. All of these were accidents, not massacre.”

-- Dawa Tsering, Chief of China Affairs, Tibetan Government-in-Exile, during an interview by Radio France International, recording and translation available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cp6l6yTi9M>.



Lhasa, China—March 2008

Monks were attacking riot police who were shielding themselves and the stores. Photo was taken by a bystander.



Lhasa, China—March 15 2008

Mobs were burning flags on the street., some carrying knives and chains. Photo was taken by a bystander.



Lhasa, China—March 2008

An innocent civilian was attacked by mobs on the street. Photo was taken by a bystander.

Principles of Journalism require news organizations to commit loyalty to citizens. The coverage should not be slanted for friends or advertisers and should represent all constituent groups in society. This booklet hopefully could be served as a supplement to the mainstream media coverage on Tibet issue and the 14th Dalai Lama, so you can make a sound judgment without being misled and misinformed.



We seek peace, knowing that peace is the soil of freedom.

Truth: To See, or Not To See



Dalai with his good friend and top adviser
Heinrich Harrer
the **Nazi** SS Officer
Death squad leader

The beginning of wisdom is found
WISDOM? in doubting; by
doubting we
come to the question, and by seek-
ing we may come upon the truth.

—Pierre Abelard

COMPASSION?

How much com-
passion have
slave masters
given to those
from whom they
took the skin,
bones, limbs
and eyes?



Lama's Damaru consists of two
human skulls. Membranes over
both sides are young girl's skin.

Trumpet made
from a human
femur thigh bone

